



(photo by James Parker)

## Someone You Should Meet ...

**Name:** Angela G. Johnson  
**Job Title:** Skip tracing  
**Hometown:** Winston-Salem  
**Describe Yourself in one word:** "Loveable"  
**Hobbies:** Horseback riding, dancing, singing and bowling  
**Favorite Book:** "Chances" by Jackie Collins  
**Favorite Movie:** "Lady Sings the Blues"  
**Person admires most:** Grandmother, Pauline Stephens  
**Career Goal:** "To be the best that I can be."

(If you are single, at least 18 years old, doing something positive in the community, employed and interested in appearing in this column, or if you know someone who meets these criteria, please send your name and daytime telephone number to: Someone You Should Meet, Winston-Salem Chronicle, P.O. Box 2151, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.)

## Agreements not available

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After three separate requests, the NAACP refused to send a copy as well. First, Fred Rasheed, the NAACP's national economic director and director of the Operation Fair Share Program, said copies of all of the Fair Share agreements would be mailed. When those didn't arrive, and Rasheed's office was contacted a second time, Rasheed's secretary said the agreements are confidential.

Upon a third call to his office a week later, Rasheed said the agreements are confidential at the request of the companies, not the NAACP. Rasheed suggested that the best way to get copies would be to ask the companies directly.

The *Chronicle* has since requested copies of Fair Share agreements from Hardee's Fast Food Systems, Stop and Shop Companies Inc. and Bi-Lo Grocery Stores, three of the 23 firms the NAACP said it has negotiated agreements with since the Fair Share program started in December 1981.

When asked initially for his company's Fair Share agreement, John Merritt of Hardee's said he would be "happy to send one." But Merritt said last weekend at the NAACP state conference in Charlotte that it would not be in his firm's best interest to release the document now.

Aileen Gorman, vice president of public affairs at Stop and Shop Companies Inc., said, "We don't feel there is any need to put this into the press."

Gorman said she would send a copy of the press release her company sent after the agreement was signed, but that she would not send a copy of the actual agreement.

A Bi-Lo representative who also attended the NAACP conference said she would mail a copy of her company's agreement but, by press time Wednesday, it hadn't arrived.

Rasheed said the NAACP would not release the Fair Share agreements because "I think it would be counterproductive to what we are trying to do." The agreements, said Rasheed, are "done in a spirit of cooperation between these companies and the NAACP."

Copies of the actual agreements also have not been made available to the local NAACP office. Pat Hairston, president of the local branch, said he has not received any Fair Share agreements, but has received press releases or synopses of the agreements.

"Looks to me like some kind of smoke screen," said Alderman Virginia Newell, who said she also has tried to obtain copies of Fair Share agreements. "How can we work on a local level to implement something we know nothing about?"

Newell said she requested copies of the agreements the NAACP had signed with other food stores when regional NAACP director Earl Shinhoster came to Winston-Salem shortly after the NAACP voted to boycott Food Lion during the summer.

"He was apprehensive when I called for others who had signed agreements ... and (copies of other

Fair Share agreements signed with grocery stores) were never forthcoming," said Newell. "I told him I was not going to honor the boycott until they told me what was in the other agreements. And he didn't address the issue at all and I never got any copies."

"Why should we have something that important in the dark? Why should it be a secret?"

Walter Marshall, vice president of the local chapter, said the agreements aren't public documents.

"The NAACP is fulfilling its obligation to the public," said Marshall. "They shouldn't make them (Fair Share agreements) any more public than PUSH or SCLC does."

Many times the companies are afraid to release the documents, said Marshall, because they fear "white backlash."

"Let the ghost of racism sleep," said Marshall. "The less you publicize it, the better. Part of the agreement is that you don't make an issue of it."

Marshall said Rasheed might release copies of the agreements after the issue dies down. But for now, Marshall said, Rasheed is angry at the *Chronicle* for publishing an article saying Food Lion didn't agree to a Fair Share pact, as the NAACP had reported, but signed a nonbinding statement of principles instead.

That statement, said Eugene McKinley, Food Lion's vice president for human resources, should not be confused with the NAACP's standard Fair Share agreements and binds the company to do nothing it isn't already doing.

"The point is," said Marshall, "Rasheed doesn't trust y'all (the *Chronicle*). He doesn't think the press is interested in the public interest as much as it is in selling newspapers."

If he were in charge, Marshall said, all NAACP members would be given copies of all agreements, but since the Operation Fair Share program is fairly new, the specifics haven't been perfected.

"This is something new and the organization has not really polished it," Marshall said. "The organization is trying to point direction for itself."

Still, said Newell, an organization as "highly respected" and "reputable" as the NAACP cannot afford negative publicity.

"If this kind of thing continues, you will have a cloud over it," said Newell. "And this can't be. We don't have all our rights yet."

The NAACP launched Operation Fair Share on Dec. 11, 1981. The program, according to NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks in a 1983 interview in *Black Enterprise* magazine, is "an economic development program demanding that the private sector make a commitment to hire and promote blacks at all levels of management, appoint blacks to corporate boards, set up minority procurement programs and make greater use of black financial institutions."

To date, the NAACP says it has signed 23 Fair Share agreements, many of them with utility companies and grocery stores.

## Jesse unwelcome

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reporters asked one of the students why he declined to shake Helms' hand, and the student, who refused to give his name, responded, "Why should I put my hand in the dirt?"

Inside the auditorium, Helms' speech to a mostly-white audience -- that included fewer than 50 students -- lasted about 10 minutes, and was interspersed with vigorous applause by his white listeners.

"I wish I knew at least one of the students outside who refused to come in," said Helms. "They will not learn anything about what I said by standing out there. You have nothing to lose by listening to those with whom you disagree."

"I didn't come here with the anticipation of getting any votes. I came here to let them (students) know where I stand."

But it seemed the students already knew where he stood. During a rushed question-and-answer period, they questioned Helms about his positions against civil rights legislation, social programs, a Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and aid to minority colleges.

When a student asked Helms why he came to Livingstone to speak, Helms called the question a "political statement."

"I came here because I wanted to meet with the black students," Helms said. "... Minorities, and particularly the black race, are being and have been used politically. You have promising politicians who have been promising you everything in the world but what have they delivered? They have locked you into welfare."

On the King holiday, Helms said, "I oppose a holiday for anybody. I would oppose a holiday for my hero, Thomas Jefferson. Martin Luther King would be elevated to the status of George Washington (with a holiday in his honor). It's a holiday so you can take off and go fishing."

Grier, who said he has changed

his party affiliation from Democratic to Republican, said he disagrees with Helms for not supporting a King holiday, but that he nevertheless supports Helms and urges others to support him. Grier said he agrees with Helms on two issues -- abortion and school prayer -- but could not name any other views that he and the senior North Carolina senator share.

Grier said, "If you believe in God, that's all you need. God said, 'I will supply all your needs.'"

Helms was invited to Livingstone as part of an on-going Wednesday lecture series. James B. Ewers, Livingstone's dean of student affairs, said the school also invited Gov. Hunt but that he turned down the invitation and instead sent one of his aides. Ewers said the lecture series is an educational forum and is designed to present diverse points of view to the students, some with which they agree, others with which they disagree.

"This forum is to allow students to develop linkage with topics and persons that have significance at the federal, state and local level," he said.

But many of the students felt Helms should not have been in-

vited. "I feel he (Helms) is using the school to get the black vote," said Claysie Dawkins. "He has never been to a black school before."

Said student Dennis Summers: "If we went inside, we would be giving the impression that we are supporting him and that's not true. The students had no say-so in his coming."

Winston-Salem resident Willie Anderson, president of the Forsyth County Association of Classroom Teachers, agreed. "The kind of support (Helms) has for these students is the same Velma Barfield has for her lovers," Anderson said.

But one student said she came to hear what Helms had to say.

"We aren't going to learn anything by staying outside," said Lynn Atkinson.

After the election, Helms said, he wants to attempt to bridge the gap between himself and the black community.

"After this election, we can embark on an effort to establish a common denominator across this county -- faith in the Lord," said Helms. "Certainly, we are not gonna understand each other if we don't listen."

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