

JUL 30 1982

CHARLOTTE and MECKLENBURG COUNTY
CHARLOTTE, N. C. 28202

12 Bishops To Attend AME Zion Conference Here

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National Study Shows

Low Funding Threatens Defense Rights Of Poor!



MRS. JESSIE MCCOMBS

...1982 Churchwoman of the Year

100 Attend Post's Eighth Anniversary Celebration

By Mac Thrower
Post Staff Writer
The Charlotte Post celebrated its eighth anniversary and the conclusion of the annual "Churchwoman of the Year" contest this past Friday with a banquet held at McDonald's Cafeteria.

Dr. H. S. Diggs, the guest speaker, Bob Davis, master of ceremonies, and Bill Johnson, editor and publisher of The Post, all stressed what became the main theme of the event: Cooperation between black churches, businesses and newspapers.

The highlight of the evening came with the announcement of the winners of the "Churchwoman of the Year" contest. Mrs. Jessie McCombs, of Memorial United Presbyterian, the first place winner, received a cash prize of \$1,967.50 to be awarded to her church; she also received prizes for herself worth \$605.00.

Mrs. Gale Miller, of Gethsemane Baptist, finished second and garnered \$309.84 for her church. The prizes she received are valued at \$190.00.

East Stonewall AME Zion's churchwoman, Lula Watson, took third place and gained \$116.51 for her church and prizes in the amount of \$100 for herself.

The Post also honored 10 of its top advertisers at the banquet. Plaques were given to the following advertisers in recognition of their support: Al Adams of Professional Beauty Supply, David Allen of American Dry Cleaners, Nathan-

iel Black of Kings and Queens Lounge, Norm Greene of Buffalo Tire Company, Don Hill of Peaks' Drugs, Sam Johnson of Sam Johnson Lincoln-Mercury, Alex McMillian of Harris-Teeter, John McNair of Wachovia Bank, Dave and Carolyn Moore of Tarts, and Robert Wells of Sears.

Bob Davis, chairman of the Mecklenburg Democratic Party, handled his duties as master of ceremonies deftly, and Post staffer Jackie Carr entertained the crowd of over 100 with an evocative solo vocal performance of "The Long Road."

The guest speaker, Dr. H. S. Diggs, pastor of Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, delivered a forceful talk filled with amusing anecdotes, pointed observations about the deterioration of society, and appeals for unity, discipline and love within the black community.

Dr. Diggs also called for support of The Post as "the

voice of the black community": "Read the daily papers," he advised, "but if you want to know what black people are doing—read The Charlotte Post."

"History has shown," Dr. Diggs declared in urging blacks to unite behind the efforts of black churches, schools, businesses and newspapers, "that we have to do for ourselves."

Bill Johnson, the editor and publisher of The Post, expressed pleasure with the outcome of the "Churchwoman of the Year" campaign: "We are grateful and appreciative to the women and their churches who have made it possible for The Post to reach 765 more families each week." (A total of 765 subscriptions to The Post were sold by the churchwomen during the eight weeks of the contest.)

"It shows what can be accomplished when black churches, businesses and newspapers work together," Johnson added.

Beginning Here Sunday

Pentecostal Temple Church Of God To Host 24th Holy Convocation

The theme for the 24th Annual Holy Convocation of the North Carolina Conference Church of God in Christ will be "The Family In Perspective."

The conference to occur August 1-8 at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, 1401 Parkwood Ave., where Bishop J. Howard Sherman, D.D. pastors, will open with Convocation Music. Choirs, soloists and artists from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee will perform.

On August 2 Civic Night will include local civic leaders. County Commissioner Bob Walton, pastor of St. Paul United Presbyterian Church, and Bishop W. T. Bowers, who pastors Glorious Fire Baptist Church of America,



Bishop J. O. Patterson Sr.
...Nat'l. Presiding Bishop
will both address the convention.

August 5 will feature Bishop James Oglethorpe Patterson Sr., presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. (of Memphis, Tenn.).

Chairman Blasts East, Helms Vote

"The actions of Senators Jesse Helms and John East with regard to legislation doubling the cigarette tax speak a lot louder than their empty rhetoric."

This comment was part of a statement released today by Democratic Party Chairman, Senator Russell Walker of Asheville, who charged the two Republican senators with sabotage of the tobacco industry.

"Our two Republican senators would have us believe that they did everything in their power to defeat the tax increase and protect the interests of North Carolina tobacco farmers."

"Twice this week, Helms and East cast votes in favor of doubling the cigarette tax. The first vote came on Wednesday, when their votes helped to defeat a Democratic sponsored amendment that would have eliminated the cigarette tax increase from the Republican tax package."

Chairman Walker continued, "Then late last night or early this morning, when a final vote came on the overall tax package, Helms and East joined their Republican colleagues in voting for the bill."

"So our two Senators are now undeniably on record as having voted to double the cigarette tax, a tax that could mean the loss of thousands of jobs in the state they purport to represent."

"Fortunately, this regressive tax has not yet cleared the House, where people like Charlie Rose, Charlie Whitley and Ike Andrews can be counted on to fight it."



ENGAGING REGINA DRAKEFORD
...Myers Park senior

Regina Drakeford Is Beauty Of Week

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
History has always fascinated our beauty Regina Drakeford. Reaching back into time has allowed her to defeat a Democratic sponsored amendment that would have eliminated the cigarette tax increase from the Republican tax package.

"I like to know more background on how the world used to be. I think we should know some facts about our history," Ms. Drakeford explained.

In observing immediate history our alert beauty realizes that unity is the key to any problem. "As far as our community is concerned I feel that blacks

should come together. I want us to stop going against each other. Act as one and not as separates." Ms. Drakeford has noticed many instances of life. Many of her lessons were taught by her family members. "I enjoyed growing up in a large family," she began. "I admire my mother, Queen Drakeford. She talks to me and she is there when I need her."

"Even though I have a quick temper at times I love to love people. Sometimes I give so much love that I get my feelings hurt," she continued.

A rising 12th grader at Myers Park Senior High School Ms. Drakeford has participated in the NAACP, Soanish Club, the "Y" Club and the Vogue Organization. She was also a member of Project Aries and second period Student Council.

Her favorite teacher is Ms. Mason, a dynamic instructor who taught her in the 10th grade. "She understood me and talked to me. No other teacher took time to see what was wrong with me."

Attending St. Mark's United Methodist Church, where Rev. Paul Perkins is pastor, is one activity our beauty deems important.

A member of the Youth Group and Junior Choir Ms. Drakeford recently returned from a church-related senior high assembly. "We discussed our Christian lives and conducted activities and games to understand ourselves better," she explained. Her philosophy of life was taken from the Bible and she believes: "You reap what you sow."

On the way up the ladder to success Ms. Drakeford will know how to treat others.

Professor Norman Lefstein Says Crisis Approaching

By David Williamson
Special To The Post
CHAPEL HILL - Grossly inadequate funding of criminal defense services for the poor is threatening the constitutionally guaranteed right of many Americans to effective legal representation, according to a new national study.

The study, conducted for the American Bar Association by Norman Lefstein, professor of law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, shows that in many state courts, lack of money often deprives defendants of counsel—altogether—or makes the defense they receive extremely deficient.

"Unfortunately, there is mounting evidence that the financial problems of defense services are approaching crisis proportions in some parts of the country," Lefstein said. The duty of states to provide lawyers for poor defendants is ample reason for correcting the deficiencies, he said. But besides depriving individuals of their constitutional rights, inadequate representation creates significant problems for the entire criminal justice system.

"Most importantly, there is considerable risk of wrongful conviction of the innocent and of accused persons receiving vastly unequal treatment, depending on their wealth or poverty," he said.

The UNC-CH legal scholar undertook his study in 1979 after the ABA House of Delegates recommended establishment of an independent, federally funded Center for Defense Services. The purpose of the center would be to strengthen through grants and contracts, all forms of defense services for the poor in state courts.

The ABA's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants felt that up-to-date information on defense service financing and on the problems created by inadequate funding would help to clarify the need for the center.

It selected Lefstein to conduct the research because he is former director of the public defender service in Washington, D.C., and he helped to revise the association's latest edition of "Standards for Providing Defense Services and the Defense Function."

Among his findings was that the amount of money per capita spent defending the poor varies tremendously from state to state. Alaska and California, for example, spent national highs of \$8.18 and \$3.94 for each state resident during 1980-81. North Carolina,

29th in the United States, spent \$1.34 per person, and Mississippi and Alabama spent national lows of \$.48 and \$.45, respectively. Fees paid to private lawyers defending indigent clients also varied widely, from \$12.50 per in-court hour in Connecticut to \$50 per in-court hour in North Dakota.



Mrs. Lonnie Miller
...Chorale directress

Charlotte Community Chorale Returns

The Greater Charlotte Community Chorale continues its quest to sing God's praises. The Chorale returned to Charlotte last week after a spirit-filled weekend in Pensacola, Florida. This is the fifth consecutive year the Chorale has performed in Pensacola, at the Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church. Rev. Benny A. Hemphill, a former Charlotte resident, is pastor.

The Chorale was organized five years ago under the direction of Mrs. Lonnie Miller. The group consists of professionals and para-professionals who are interested in spreading God's word through song.

The Chorale is in the process of completing its calendar for the year. Organizations interested in the Chorale's participation may contact Mrs. Bobbie Parks at 375-2558.

Mental Health Service Plans Four Workshops

The Mecklenburg Mental Health Service, 501 Billingsley Road, will offer four workshops during the month of August and September. On Tuesday, August 3, and 10, a workshop will be conducted about anxiety from 7-9 p.m. The fee is \$7.50.

For information on effective communication as part of your career attend the workshops on August 11 and 18, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Four sessions have been arranged for a workshop on how to overcome depression. On August 11, 18 and 25 and September 1, learn about guilt, anxiety, anger and self-esteem, as they relate to depression. The fee is \$10.

TURTLE-TALK

Looking ahead is a good way to keep from falling behind.