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TONIA DEWALT

—South Mecklenburg senior

Tonia Dewalt Has An Unusual Gifted Mind!

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
Charlotte truly has a gift of minds, one being Tonia Dewalt, a senior at South Mecklenburg.

Presently, she sports a 3.71 average and is planning to major in pre-law and speech and minor in business administration.

"I plan to become a business lawyer. In this way I can help people - not only the innocent but those victimized by criminals as well. The profession will enable me to better society."

Ms. Dewalt was accepted at Bennett College with a scholarship and to A&T State University, but plans to attend Johnson C. Smith University on a full four-year academic scholarship. Her next step is to attend Columbia University's Law School.

"I realize that you have to go after what you want. Because if you want it badly enough you can reach it."

Ms. Dewalt, one of two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Dewalt, attends Mt. Carmel Baptist Church where Rev. Leon Riddick pastors. There, she is active in singing on the Young Adult Choir. She also founded the Sunday morning day care at the church for pre-school children. "I really love children," Ms. Dewalt stated.

She is a member of the Political Action Committee, the National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP, the BETA Club and is a member of the Red Cross and Student Government.

ment at school. She was also a Delta Sigma Theta debutante.

"I enjoy community activities," she began. For relaxation, Ms. Dewalt enjoys listening to good music, reading novels and dancing. Her favorite entertainer is Deniece Williams.

In addition to the scholarship Ms. Dewalt received, she has numerous other honors and awards. She has been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students; Who's Who Among Community Leaders; and was honored by International Youth in Achievement. She was also nominated for Who's Who Among Intellectuals.

She has been positively influenced by her father, Freddie Dewalt, Andrew Young and Patsy Rice. All three have encouraged her in a specific portion of her life.

Perhaps these three have been instrumental in molding the conscientious young

lady. She is willing to turn the world to a more positive place to exist. Her political views are outstanding considering her age. But in talking with her one gets the impression that political and foreign matters have been her concern for years.

Nationally, Ms. Dewalt would like to see the U.S. foreign policy changed. "We should have more open communication and less underhanded deeds," she commented. As for criminal acts she does not agree with capital punishment. She has, however, taken a firm stand on the punishment for sexual offenders. "I'm not in favor of capital punishment but I am in favor of castration."

Ms. Dewalt strikes one as being a person bound to reach a certain influential destiny. She has planned to complete her juris doctorate in five years. At the end of this time Charlotte will certainly be blessed upon her return.

Blacks Call For Tougher Crime Laws

Nearly 75 percent of blacks surveyed are calling for stiffer penalties for criminals and more money allocated for halting the rising crime rate, according to a poll by the National Opinion Research Center. While they make up only 12 percent of the U.S. population, blacks are the victims of an alarming percentage of the violent crimes committed (42.3 percent of all murders, 23 percent of robberies and 18 percent of aggravated assaults). The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) believes this is due mainly to a higher unemployment rate among blacks and generally lower socio-economic conditions which makes them more susceptible to attack.

While NOBLE's governing board will not meet until this summer to discuss crime problems and solutions, the group's executive director has indicated NOBLE is especially supportive of President Reagan's efforts to help the victims of crime and to assist state and local law enforcement programs in crime prevention. President Reagan's anti-crime package would update the federal criminal code, make it easier to enforce, and make it as tough as possible on criminals.

Change the insanity defense to place the burden on the defendant to prove insanity with clear and convincing evidence. The burden is now on the prosecution to prove the defendant is sane.



The Historian Committee at Walls Memorial AME Zion Church was instrumental in contributing valuable in-

formation to the history book on Walls entitled "We've Come This Far By Faith." (Photo By Timothy McMullen)

Finds Bright Side

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
To stretch our minds back in time is a task many would prefer to avoid. For some there is the shocking history of brutality towards family members placed in bondage. Members of Walls Memorial AME Zion Church reached for their genesis - a project that took six years to complete.

Now that they have grasped that history they have found that the spiritual side of their ancestral church family has a bright side.

From taped responses of present-day senior citizens of the church, from copies of old newspaper clippings and city court house papers; and from the AME Zion Church history, Walls has formulated a work of art.

Members of the church like Lillie Means, chair-

person of the church's Centennial Steering Committee of the church, Carrie Hudson, Frankie White, Sherrow N. Hines and, of course, the pastor of the church, Rev. J. White, acquired the history. Other members of the steering committee who aided include Cheryl McCullough, Arnetta Dawkins, Charles Means, Julia Cureton, Thelma Clawson, Lewis Clawson and William Givens.

The 100th year of the church is being celebrated this year with various activities. The last event, held in April, was an historical pageant written and directed by Walls Memorial church member, Arnetta Dawkins. In May a special Mother's Day service will be held (May 13) as well as the Children's Choir Concert (May 20).

The planning of this year's centennial events

took much time. But perhaps the most tedious job was compiling the history of the church.

Rev. J. T. White had already asked Lillie Means to head the research. Both researched by looking into old books at the library, from old church bulletins stored away in the attics of the church's senior citizens, from telephone conversations and from old newspaper clippings. Some information, Mrs. Means said, could not be found from city records. "Many files were destroyed by fire in the 1800's in Charlotte," she informed.

Much information was gathered from resources close at hand. "We got all the senior citizens together and had brainstorming sessions to jog their memories and we taped the conversations," Rev. White stated.

Before the sessions, Rev. White and Mrs. Means had prepared purpose questions. They first talked to individuals who had lived in the Little Hope-Mt. Calvary setting. "We then moved to the next setting of Mother Walls, Statesville," Mrs. Means explained.

The members of Walls who helped formulate the history of Walls Memorial include Carrie Hutson, Arnetta Dawkins, E. A. White, Josephine Morris, William Clawson, Ella Givens, Lewis Clawson, Worth Williams, Haze Moore and Greely Richardson.

One of the founding families of the church - the Clawsons - still has four members in the church. Older family names from the history of the church also include the Ingrams, Rays, Cuthbertsons, Stewards, Weldons, Pettices, Browns, McCoys; and beginning in the 1900's the Whites, Richardson, Means, Reeves, Givens, Monroes, Beavers and the McKinnays.

Walls' historical background will be placed in book form and published.

Culp Says 55% To Vote At 111 Sites

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

Twenty thousand additional people have registered to vote in Mecklenburg County since the November 8, 1983 election.

Few people eligible to vote want to miss out on the most exciting elections to take place in many years. "I think the primary, May 8, will be more meaningful to voters than in 1976 when Jimmy Carter ran for President," stated Bill Culp, supervisor of elections for Mecklenburg County.

According to Culp, the turnout in 1976 was 36 percent. In just five days, 50-55 percent of the voting population will probably fill the 110 voting sites in the city and county.

What's stirring residents in this area to make them talk about hardly being able to wait to get to the polls Tuesday? First it's the Presidential primary. However, Culp explained, having local candidates in both parties running for governor is a contributing factor as well. Eddie Knox, a Democrat, and Jim Martin, a Republican, are candidates within the 9th District. Knox is of Charlotte, Martin of Mooresville.

Finally, the 9th District race for U.S. Congress which is drawing national recognition and support will increase the number of people reporting to vote. The Lt. Governor's race is also significant to most voters.

"No doubt the Presidential, congressional and gubernatorial races are overshadowing the other races which are taking place," Culp noted. He was referring to the board of county commissioners primary and the non-partisan election for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education.

Even the primary race for U.S. Senator is considered somewhat less exciting at this point. Three Democrats and two Republicans are battling for the seat. Nevertheless, most political analysts are indicating the political war is really between Sen. Jesse Helms and Gov. Jim Hunt, and those results won't be revealed until November.

Candidates for the Associate Justice of Supreme Court and Judge of Court of Appeals don't campaign much so that race arouses little if any excitement. "If a second primary is necessary, it will be held June 5, along with the primaries for State House and Senate," Culp indicated. A runoff among Democratic candidates for governor and 9th District Congress, and among Republicans for Lt. Governor is likely," Culp added.

Knox Labels Accusations "Nasty Politics"

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
Former Mayor Eddie Knox stated recently, accusations he is an "anti-gun person" is "nasty politics."

According to the Democratic candidate for governor, some gun association members in the state believe he is against the right to bear arms. Knox remarked, "I believe people should have the right to own guns to protect their businesses and their homes. However, if people want to transport a handgun from their home or business, they should have a permit."

Knox stated enacting such a bill would "prevent people of bad moral character from enjoying this privilege" (transporting handguns). Knox continued, "We have lost more people in the United States as a result of fire arms than we lost in Vietnam War for the same period of time."



Eddie Knox
...Making great strides

The nasty politics which Knox referred to has not in his estimation hurt his campaign, though he believes that was the intent of some of his opponents and their supporters.

When asked about reports sifted from the Greensboro area revealing

incidents of Knox's past political actions, he stated his campaign has still made "great strides" in that vicinity. "We've built a good coalition in the black community, and tried to earn respect," Knox assured.

The close-at-hand elec-

tion is conjuring up memories of when Knox ran against Mayor Harvey Gantt in Charlotte's 1979 mayoral race. The tactics which Knox used were considered by Gantt and others as displaying racial overtones.

Nevertheless, Mayor Harvey Gantt endorsed Knox recently. Knox claims endorsements by Gantt and black community leaders inform people across the state of his good record. He mentioned his accomplishments as mayor in the areas of housing, employment, minority business

affairs, and human services.

"My record will show that I have done more to involve blacks in top government positions than any of my opponents. The attorney general, (Rufus Edmisten) heads 33 top positions, but he hasn't hired any blacks to fill them," Knox stressed.

He noted Rufus Edmisten who was the Secretary of Commerce, hired "two blacks in his department."

Knox will remain in Charlotte Saturday to campaign at precinct meetings.

Jackson To Speak Here

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
Supervisor of Elections, Bill Culp, reported recently, 60-65 percent of black voters will come out for the primary election Tuesday.

Culp stated Jesse Jackson's bid for President is the most significant reason

blacks are expected in large numbers. The Presidential candidate will visit Charlotte Saturday, according to his N.C. press secretary, Clara Williams.

"Around 1 p.m. Saturday, Jackson will meet with the presidents of com-

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TURTLE-TALK



Whatever it is that keeps people from getting rich... most of us have it.