

Angela Simpson Believes Blacks Are Better At Telling Their "Own Stories"

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

Angela Simpson knew for a long time discovering literature by and about blacks in a bookstore took some digging.

"I like to read, and I found it wasn't easy to find books about blacks that were written by blacks," Ms. Simpson stated. She added, "Books by Maya Angelou and James Baldwin aren't too difficult to locate and that's good. But there are hundreds of books published that can't be found in the average bookstore. If you do find a book about Africa," she exemplified, "it's probably written by a white author."

Simpson believes blacks are better at telling their "own stories." "Blacks need to know what true Africans have to say about their continent. Blacks need to see the pictures that another black took while in Africa." That's when, according to Simpson, not only blacks but all people will get the real story about African and Afro-American culture.

Simpson isn't the type to realize a need and not do something about it. When she moved to Charlotte from Savannah, GA. (she's originally from Hampton, VA), she viewed it as a progressive city. "I've always wanted to own a business so I decided to open UnderCover Book Source. It's doing well," she admitted.

UnderCover Book Source is described by Simpson as revealing a proud Afro-American heritage. Located at 115 East Blvd., it is without a doubt unlike any book store in Charlotte.

Added to the well-known collections of Angelou and Baldwin, J.A. Rogers, Mike Fields, Chancellor Williams, Zora Neale Hurston, and many other black authors are now right at home in Charlotte.

NANBPW Closes Year

The Charlotte Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPW) closed its official club year with a gala affair at the home of Peggy Beckwith, 1041 Oaklawn Ave. on June 30.

Outgoing President, Sarah Stevenson, was presented a plaque and an engraved tray for her years of loyal and dedicated service to the Club. Presentors were Clara Mitchell and Carrie Murray.

The following Club officers for 1984-85 were installed by Sarah Stevenson: President, Anna Hood; First Vice President, Connie Smith; Second Vice President, Peggy Beckwith; Director of Youth, Debra Rouse; Secretary, Oussie Floyd; Treasurer, Shirley Smalls; Director of Resources, Carrie Murray; Director of Communications, Sarah Coleman. Other officers are: Corresponding Secretary, Geraldine Powe; Financial Secretary, Jane Neal; Chaplain, Hester Jones; Parliamentarian, Marian Campbell; and Sergeant at Arms, Betty McCain.

A highlight in the meeting was a salute to Club member, Ocie P. Harrison, who recently retired as Administrative Assistant to the President at Johnson C. Smith University. She was given a money tree and a Certificate of Merit for outstanding and loyal service to the Club.

Incoming President, Anna Hood, challenged the ladies to continue the journey that was started in 1977 when the Charlotte Club was founded. She stated that, "members of NANBPW are Ombudswomen—who are to stand firm and true, women who are to relieve human suffering and humiliation, and women who are to carry on a quest for justice and freedom under the banner of NANBPW." She further challenged the ladies that "more than ever before when cutbacks are prominent in jobs, affirmative action plans are being attacked on many fronts, it is imperative that



ANGELA SIMPSON

...Displays materials

The bookshelves in UnderCover Book Source are lined with information about black scientists, inventors, engineers and doctors. "Go into a bookstore and you'll find cookbooks about American, German and even Russian cuisine," Simpson laughed. "But will you find as much about African or Caribbean cooking?" She answered her own question with an emphatic "no!" At least that was the situation until UnderCover opened; now there is a selection about the art of cooking as well.

Instead of Harlequin Romances, Simpson's store is stocked with a series about black romances known as Heartline. "They're all

about love," she added still laughing, "but let people have the opportunity to read about blacks in love."

Simpson stressed there's a significant volume of black literature that's been ignored by retailers. "That's one reason I came up with the name UnderCover for my store," she explained. "Books about blacks have been kept under cover too long." Other reasons for Simpson's store name included the wealth of information which can be found under the cover of a book; and finally she revealed most people are attracted to businesses with a suggestive touch to their names.

Whether one or all the above, Simpson's strategy has attracted a mass of customers in five weeks' business time. "They're good customers," Simpson assured. "They're selective and inquisitive." Simpson stated her customers know what they want and she's already made some special orders for people who've been looking for particular books for a long time.

Her customers are pleased to have an assortment of greeting cards which identify with blacks. Even the counting and alphabet books for children are illustrated with other black children. "These books allow parents and their children to identify with themselves," Simpson proudly noted.

The store owner has other projects in mind which she plans to initiate through her business. They include Saturday morning storytelling for children, a book club, a community board for people to announce events or introduce their businesses, and a display room containing items invented by blacks. One service which Simpson is especially excited about introducing is tutoring for adults who can't read. UnderCover is open every Sunday, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., and Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. The telephone number is 376-7209.



Mrs. Anna Hood
.....Incoming president

NANBPW members continue to work together in providing scholarships in top dollar amounts; continue to assist in programs for youth, continue to care for the elderly, continue to support the NAACP, the Legal Defense Education Fund, the YWCA, The Urban League, Sickle Cell Association and others." She also reminded the ladies of the need and urgency of getting involved in the affairs of the City by serving on boards, councils and committees. Many of the ladies already are on city-wide boards, but the need still exists for other volunteers.

Committee chairpersons were announced as follows: Amenities, Johnnie Collins; Awards-Scholarships, Sarah Stevenson; By-Laws, Marian Campbell; Communications-Community Relations, Sarah Coleman; Founder's Day, Ocie Harrison; Historical, Clara Mitchell; Membership, Peggy Beckwith; Youth, Debra Rouse; Program, Connie Smith; Resources, Carrie Murray; Budget-Finance-Fundraising, Shirley Thomas.

A full program of service is being planned. Details will be forthcoming.

JCSU Graduate Chosen "Miss Black America"

Johnson C. Smith University graduate Lydia Sharon Garrett was selected as a candidate for Miss Black America at the 17th annual ceremonies to be held in Philadelphia, PA, on Sunday, August 24th. The ceremony and competition will be syndicated for national viewing in August.

Garrett impressed judges with her philosophy of "reaching back to pull up a brother and sister along the way."

Lydia graduated in 1981 with a BA in Communications. She is currently employed in a public relations capacity for the Columbia, South Carolina library. The Columbia native came to J.C. Smith after graduating from C.A. Johnson High School in 1977.

Garrett was recruited to Smith by swimming coach Charlie Cox. She was a member of the girl's swim team that won the Historically Black College national championship in 1980.

"She is all of five feet tall, but was a fierce competitor," noted Cox. "She put in her maximum effort at whatever she was involved in."

"Lydia always had something going," recalled former cheerleader moderator Ossibelle Dixon. "She earned good marks in my book for her effort and attitude as a cheerleader and a student."

Garrett was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

"We are tremendously pleased that one of our graduates has attained such an honor," remarked Johnson C. Smith University president Dr. Robert L. Albright. "I am confident that she will represent all Smithites well in her role as Miss Black America. All of us are proud and wish her well."

THE
CHARLOTTE
POST



Vacation Bible School at Little Rock AME Zion Church was a time for learning and fellowship for participants. Above students and teachers take a break from the journey into the Bible's lessons with snacks. Director of the Vacation Bible School is Ms. Rippy. (Photo by Bernard Reeves)

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NOTICE

TO: Black persons formerly employed by Harris-Teeter Supermarket between July 20, 1974 and July 13, 1982 (who are not currently employed) at its Distribution Center (warehouse) and retail grocery store numbers 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 22, 39, 52, 59, 62, 66, and 83 located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. READ THIS CAREFULLY, THIS COULD AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS.

1. Paul Lilly, a black person formerly employed by Harris-Teeter Supermarket filed an action (Lilly v. Harris-Teeter Supermarket, C-C-79-191) in the United States District Court on June 18, 1978 against Harris-Teeter Supermarket. In this action Mr. Lilly alleged racial discrimination in employment by the defendant against himself and other black employees. Edward Porter, a black person who unsuccessfully sought employment at Harris-Teeter, filed an action (Porter v. Harris-Teeter Supermarket, C-C-79-137) on April 27, 1979 in the United States District Court against Harris-Teeter alleging that he was denied employment because of his race. Richard Gregory, a former black employee of Harris-Teeter, filed an action (Gregory v. Harris-Teeter Supermarket, C-C-79-130) on April 25, 1979 in the United States District Court against Harris-Teeter alleging that he had been demoted and constructively discharged because of his race. These plaintiffs sought injunctive relief, including back pay declaratory relief, attorney's fees, and costs for themselves and the class.

2. Richard Gregory, Richard Burch, Willie Covington, William Carrothers, Tresevant Goodwin, Christopher McKinney, Phillip Reed, John LeGrand, Ken Bailey, Frank Sullivan, James Mobley, Shirley Gatewood, Jerome Gary, Curtis Jones, Woodrow McManus, Roy Torrence, Hazel Fisher, John Johnson, Willie Hunt, Michael McVay and Roosevelt Patterson, black persons either formerly employed or currently employed by Harris-Teeter in various positions, joined the Lilly action on August 3, 1979. They alleged that the defendant discriminated against them and other blacks in employment.

3. Lilly, Porter, and Gregory plaintiffs sought to represent a class of black persons who have been or may have been discriminated against by the defendant in employment in the area of termination and promotion.

4. The three actions were put together for trial.

5. The three actions were tried together between January 28 and February 21, 1980.

By Order dated July 22, 1977, the Court certified a class consisting of the following:

Plaintiff, and all blacks currently employed by defendant Harris-Teeter in its Mecklenburg County facilities; all blacks employed by Harris-Teeter in its Mecklenburg facilities at any time since July 20, 1974, who are not currently employed, and any blacks who are hired in the future, all of whom have been or will be subjected to racial discrimination by Harris-Teeter in its employment policies of hiring, hiring into certain jobs, racially segregated job classifications, promotions, interviewing, termination, and discipline.

You were sent notice of this certification.

7. The Court entered a Memorandum of Decision on August 15, 1980. In this Memorandum the Court announced its decisions as to the claims of the plaintiffs and the claims of class discrimination.

8. The Court ruled that some plaintiffs had been discriminated against. It also ruled that other plaintiffs had not been discriminated against.

9. The Court found that the defendants had discriminated against the class in promotions and terminations.

10. The Court has redefined the class as: Plaintiffs Lilly, Gregory, Reed, Mobley, McKinney, Torrence, Patterson, Jones, Johnson, Gatewood, Sullivan, Bailey, and LeGrand; and all blacks currently employed by Harris-Teeter at its warehouse and store numbers 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 22, 39, 52, 53, 55, 59, 62, 66, and 83 located in Mecklenburg County; and all blacks employed by Harris-Teeter (at said warehouse and stores) at any time since July 20, 1974 who are not currently employed, all of whom have been or may be subjected to racial discrimination by Harris-Teeter in its employment policies and practices in reference to terminations and promotions.

11. The Court has certified the class described in paragraph 10.

12. The Court entered its Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Judgment, and Order of Reference to a Special Master on July 13, 1982.

13. In a decision dated October 14, 1982, a panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit held that the class certified by the District Court should be limited to termination class. Persons with promotion claims are no longer within the class definition. The class is limited to termination claims.

14. If you are black person formerly employed by Harris-Teeter (i.e., you no longer work there) at its warehouse or retail grocery store numbers 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 22, 39, 53, 55, 62, 66, and 83 located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and you believe AT ANY TIME BETWEEN July 24, 1974 and July 13, 1982, that you were fired because of your race, you may be a member of the class.

15. If you are a person who fits the description of paragraph 14, read the following paragraphs very carefully.

16. If you believe that you have been or may have been discriminated against in termination, then you can present a claim before a Special Master who will be appointed by the Court to hear your claim.

17. The only claims that will be considered are those involving termination which occurred between July 24, 1974 and July 13, 1982. NO OTHER TYPE OF CLAIMS WILL BE CONSIDERED.

18. If you want to present a claim, YOU MUST FILL OUT THE ATTACHED CLAIM FORM, SIGN IT, AND EITHER BRING IT BY OR MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS SET FORTH BELOW NO LATER THAN July 16, 1984.

Clerk of Court
United States District Court
Room 204
Federal Courthouse (Old Post Office Building)
401 West Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

19. If you fail to file a claim form in time, you may lose the right to present the claim.

20. After you have filed your claim form you will be notified of each future step. Make sure that you provide a complete address and telephone number on the spaces provided for same on the claim form.

21. As a class member, you are presumed to have been discriminated against. This presumption can be overcome by the employer. If you win your claim, you may be entitled to back pay, front pay, reinstatement, placement in the correct job, attorney's fees, or other relief. If you lose, you will not get any type of relief.

22. As a class member, you are represented by:

Michael A. Sheely
Attorney at Law
418 Law Building
730 East Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Telephone: (704) 376-6591

If you have any questions about this Notice or its contents, call Mr. Sheely. Mr. Sheely will help you present your claim. If you want an attorney of your choice, you are free to choose one.

23. You are bound by the Judgment of the Court if you are a class member. The Judgment as reflected by paragraph 9 is that there was discrimination against black employees in terminations. You have the right to opt out (drop out) of the class. If you drop out of the class, you cannot file a claim form. In order to drop out of the class, you must do so in writing by no later than July 16, 1984. You must send your written notification to the address given in paragraph 18. Please put the name of the case and the number of the case as it appears on the top of the first page of this Notice when you write your request to drop out.

This the 4 day of June, 1984.

James B. McMillan
United States District Court Judge

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Dickerson Utility, Inc. is soliciting sub-contractor bids from MBE and WBE contractors for Sanitary Sewer Construction, Mallard Creek. Outfall Ph-II, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Dept., Charlotte, N.C. to be bid July 17, 1984 at 4:00 p.m. Sub-bids for Clearing & Grubbing, Grass, Manholes, Pipe Laying, Drilling and Shooting Rock, Material Hauling, Misc., Rip-Rap, 5 in. bent pipes, Installation and other.
Please contact:
Bill Norwood
Dickerson Utility, Inc.
P. O. Box 400
Monroe, N.C. 28110
Tele. (704) 289-3111
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