

Lawrence J. Toliver To Keynote Charlotte Post's Banquet

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

Each year, the Churchworker of the Year banquet has brought distinguished guest speakers to the center stage. Each speaker, in his own, yet dynamic way, addressed the concerns facing the black population and some remedies to those concerns.

Tony Brown, the syndicated journalist and talk show host, Matt Snorton, vice president of the First National Bank of Chicago, and Norman Pettis, former Dallas Cowboys football player and entrepreneur, past speakers of the Churchworker of the Year banquet, came from various parts of the country to participate in the Charlotte Post's annual affair.

This year's banquet will be different. Instead of bringing in a speaker from somewhere else to address the audience Friday, July 26, when the Churchworker of the Year banquet is held at the Marriott Hotel (Tyvola Rd.), the message for the evening will be presented by a newcomer to Charlotte, Lawrence J. Toliver, vice president of Small Business Affairs at the Chamber of Commerce.

Toliver comes to Charlotte from



Lawrence J. Toliver
.....COCC vice president

Greenville, S.C., where he developed a small business department at the Chamber of Commerce there. Basically his job is to do what he did in Greenville here in Charlotte. As the first black vice president to

hold this position, Toliver asserted, "My division is a new one and it is my responsibility to get it off the ground and make it a solid part of the Chamber."

"One of my main objectives as vice president is to help small businesses grow into larger businesses," Toliver stated that although he has only been here for four and a half months, he is very impressed with Charlotte's black entrepreneurs. "I think Charlotte has a good, solid core of black businesspersons."

In helping the small business grow, Toliver plans seminars, focusing on the business owner of the new business owner; there is a monthly newsletter, Small Business Spotlight, and a quarterly newsletter, Network, that keeps the small business owner informed. Each year awards and recognition is given to the minority entrepreneur of the year and the small businessperson of the year.

Toliver added that there were discount programs between businesses affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce and that special attention was paid to helping blacks and women get involved in fields they were not fully involved in

before, like real estate development and the recycling business.

"We also have an on-site visitation program to acquaint minority and women business owners with the major companies in town," added Toliver.

The programs that Toliver has initiated since he came to work for the Chamber are only part of his job. He is also responsible for the staffing of the division, as well as the staff of the Business Opportunity Network division (BON) which has a manager, secretary, and administrative assistant.

According to Toliver, there was definitely a necessity for the development of his division. "When you consider that 85 to 90 percent of the businesses in this area are small, then it's only natural that there are programs that recognize this significance," Toliver further explained that businesses with 50 employees or less were considered small businesses.

Toliver, who has the title of vice president, says that he is more of a public relations person than anything else. "I help the small company do public relations that they wouldn't ordinarily do."

See TOLIVER On Page 16A



Dr. David A. Dowdy
.....Cardiology specialist

Dr. David Dowdy Is Still Practicing In Charlotte

In Charlotte

Dr. David A. Dowdy is still a practicing physician in the Charlotte area. With his office located at 951 South Independence Blvd., Dr. Dowdy specializes in internal medicine and cardiology.

The telephones have been ringing off the hook, reported a spokesperson from the doctor's office, with people asking about the misinformation printed in the June 20 issue of the Charlotte Post.

The article about Dr. Dowdy being the Black Women's Caucus speaker failed to mention that his employment with the Department of Human Services in Washington, D.C., was a previous position. We regret the error.

Sandra Ragin

Continued From Page 1A

Sandra's parents are deceased and it was her sister, Eleanor, who raised her. "Where I am today I have her to thank for it," admits Sandra. "I learned independence from her. She always told me, 'Nobody's going to give you anything. Everything you get you're going to have to work for.'"

Sandra says she admires her sister for her concerned discipline and she also credits her sister-in-law for her helpful involvement. "I thank her for teaching me to be my own woman," Sandra offers.

The baby in her family, Sandra also has two other sisters, Corene Smith and Jacqueline Ragin, and two brothers, Leroy and Greg Ragin. "I enjoy being the youngest," smiles Sandra. "Older brothers and sisters always help out in time of need."

Being the youngest in a family of much older siblings also made Sandra grow up very fast, she states. "I tend to be very serious minded because of that," she concludes. Her serious thoughts these days concern the hostage situation. "I don't understand why Lebanon has involved the U.S. when we have nothing to do with their situation," she ponders. "Anyway, I kept my car lights on the other day to show my concern for the hostages."

Though serious minded now, Sandra intimates that she may be shedding that image in the future. "I see myself as remaining single," she projects, "and living the carefree life!"

Tennis Tournament

Kerry Dorenfield, ranked number one in the USTA Mid-Atlantic region, was the big winner Saturday in the 10th annual Greater BATCH Tennis Tournament as he walked away with the singles' title with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Wibowo Hadisubrato, a UNCC tennis team member.

Dorenfield played his college tennis as the number two player for Virginia Tech University.

Becky Blackburn, a Gardner-Webb tennis player, beat Daisy Battle, ranked number one, in the 16 and under girls' singles in Belgium, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, to win the title.

Arif Zaman defeated Rick Norwood, 7-5, 6-1, to take the junior boy 16's. David Lindal defeated Matthew Smith, 6-4, 6-3, to take the junior boy's 12's. Ritchie Cuthbertson defeated Comyrton Cuthbertson, 6-7, 6-1, 7-5, to win the junior boy 10's.

Wibowo Hadisubrato and Brian Meighan defeated Don Mabe and Paul Graham, 6-4, 6-3, to win the men's doubles title.

Brenda Styles and Brenda Jefferson defeated Vickie Schillo and Virginia Draper, 6-4, 6-3, to win the ladies' doubles title.

Matthew Smith and Dave Lindal defeated Terry Neal and Melvin Cuthbertson, 6-1, 6-0, to win the junior boy doubles.

Ernie Felder and Brenda Styles defeated Colletta Bryce and Tommy Davis, 6-4, 6-2, to win the mixed doubles title.

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