

## SPORTS

### Sickle Cell Anemia Big Winner in Par Busters' Tournament

Mrs. Beckwith

Story On Page 9A

## MUSIC

### Thomas Moore Will Lead Old-Fashioned Sing-A-Long

Story On Page 5B

## ISSUES

### Emergence Of White Patriot Party Concerns Black Community Leaders

Story On Page 11A

Senator Watt

AUG - 9 1985

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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

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## Nation's 107 Black Colleges To Ask Alumni For \$8 Million

Graduates of the nation's 107 black colleges and universities are being asked to contribute over 18 million this September to increase financial support for black higher education through a creative fund raising project initiated by the Council of National Alumni Associations.

"The more than 800,000 graduates of historically black colleges are being urged to send a minimum of \$10 to their respective alma maters on September 30 to show that they are willing to pay financially to keep their schools open and to preserve this part of our valuable history," said Hilliard L. Lackey, CNAA vice president and national coordinator of the fund raising project named "Payback '85."

"Just imagine the number of delinquent accounts that can be paid and the number of scholarships that can come from \$8 million," said Lackey, who also serves as director of alumni affairs at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss.

"What better way is there to honor black colleges and universities than to have the graduates of these institutions give back a small amount to the institution that gave them so much in life."

The fund raiser is being held in conjunction with National Historic Black College Day, which has been celebrated annually in Washington, D.C., since 1980 to focus attention on the need to preserve black institutions of higher learning.

These black colleges have graduated more than 80 percent of the black graduates even though black colleges have only 43 percent of the black college enrollment, Lackey added.

"That doesn't mean that black institutions are superior to historically white colleges and universities," Lackey continued. "That simply means that black institutions have developed a special ability to graduate disadvantaged students without a sacrifice to their academic achievement."

"Studies have indicated that the grades of black college graduates in advanced degree programs at white institutions match those of black



Dr. Robert Albright  
J.C. Smith University president

students who were graduated from the traditional white institutions." Black colleges, in addition to graduating the majority of all black

graduates, have virtually trained all of the black leadership in this country, Lackey said.

Eighty-five percent of the coun-

try's black lawyers were graduated from black colleges, 85 percent of all black physicians, 75 percent of all blacks with earned doctorates, 75 percent of all black officers in the American armed services, 50 percent of all black executives, and 80 percent of the black judges.

Despite the tremendous success records of black institutions, these schools are still being hampered by a severe lack of funds, inflation, mergers and school closings, he acknowledged.

Contributions for the fund raising project should be made payable to the respective institution, earmarked Payback '85, and mailed to the school's Office of Alumni Affairs. Non-alumni gifts are acceptable and may be mailed to the historically black institution of the donor's choice.

CNAA will have a national telephone hook-up on September 30 to keep tabs on funds reported to each campus, and will announce the individual totals and grand total at the Annual Black College Day Rally in Washington, D.C.

For more information, please contact Lackey at the JSU Office of Alumni Affairs, P. O. Box 17746, Jackson, Miss. 39217 or telephone 601-968-2281.

## NAACP Will Honor Clark S. Brown

The North Carolina State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will honor Clark S. Brown at its annual Freedom Fund Dinner August 10 at the Winston-Salem Convention Center.

Brown will receive the Kelly M. Alexander Sr. Humanitarian Award at the 6 p.m. affair.

The speaker will be George State Senator Julian Bond. Tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased from local branches across the state.

Brown was born in Roanoke, Va., and attended the public schools there. He also studied at the City College of New York and Renouard College of Embalming in New York

City. He is a licensed funeral director and embalmer in three states, a licensed real estate broker, owner and operator of Clark S. Brown and Sons Funeral Home in Winston-Salem since 1930.

For 15 years Brown was Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of North Carolina; for 14 years, Grand Associate Patron of the Order of Eastern Star; organized Prince Hall Day in North Carolina for Masons. Proceeds from Prince Hall Day are divided between the N.C. Chapter of the NAACP, the national organization of the NAACP, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Brown has served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, the

Northwestern Bank, the American Red Cross, the Retail Merchants Association, the Patterson Avenue and Metropolitan YMCA, The Salvation Army, the Winston-Salem Housing Authority, the Civil Defense and Preparedness Commission, and 23 years on the City Recreation Commission.

He has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina, and as a trustee of N.C. Central University, Winston-Salem State University and Shaw University.

He is a member of First Baptist Church, where he has served on the Trustee Board for 40 years, and as chairman for over 15 years.

## Charlotte Area Ministers Talk About Multiplicity Of Church Denominations

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer

There's no denying that religious denominations are many and varied in the United States. The most recent Charlotte area Yellow Pages lists 72 distinct sub-headings under the general category of "churches."

Why the proliferation of Christian churches when Christ founded one Church? Are so many variations on one theme a scandal or do they represent a more positive message? Interviews with three local ministers and the dean of a Bible college reveal their belief that many of the differences are based on peripheral, rather than central, issues, and that, perhaps, the diversity enhances, rather than detracts from the Christian message and mission.

Vice president and dean of East Coast Bible College, Sammy Oxendine, states, "I think the break that Luther made was doctrinal, and that set a precedent. Most of the Christian faith accepts the Bible as the Word of God," he notes, but adds that, from there, it's a matter of interpretation. "As many denominations as there are, you've got that many reasons" for their breaking away from another church body.

Oxendine believes that in many instances, church government is the main source of disagreement. "Ninety percent of the pastors of non-denominational churches probably came out of mainline denominations," he asserts. For most of



Rev. Retoy Gaston  
"A lot of branches"

these, the reasons for separation pertain more to government than to doctrine. Some dislike the notion of funds collected locally being sent to a centralized church government. Others don't want to be told how to run their churches, he suggests.

The Rev. Retoy Gaston, pastor of Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, comments, "The Word is left to interpretation, and that leaves a lot of leeway for discussion and differences of opinion," adding, "We've gotten dogmatic about what ought to be."

Noting that "Jesus left no denominations," the Rev. Gaston adds, "Denominations are man-



Rev. Jeremiah Robinson Sr.  
"Better if one"

made and of the opinions of men, rather than the Word of God. Men have made a hierarchy."

He explains that some denominations are the result of protest, while others have come about because of a "lack of what men believe to be the true mission of the church." Many elements of religion, he believes, are not authorized by tradition, and "a lot has gotten in our way in terms of the true Word."

Despite that, Clinton Chapel's pastor thinks the multitude of denominations may be good. "I think it's positive in the sense that there is enough for all the differences of opinion. It's broad enough to reach



Rev. Larry Allen  
"Common foundation"

every perspective."

He continues, "I look upon Christianity as a tree with a lot of branches that all go back to one point, the root." That root, he says, is the central piece of scripture that "Jesus died for your sins."

The pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, the Rev. Jeremiah Robinson Sr., agrees that religious denominations spring from different interpretations of the Bible. Although the Rev. Robinson believes "it would be better if there was one church working for one goal, headed by Christ as leader," he thinks having multiple denominations is a

See MINISTERS On Page 4A



Sonya Laney  
"An 'Extravagant Model'"

## Sonya Laney Is An Award-Winning Model

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

When Sonya Laney was 13 years of age, one of her teachers asked if she would model for Belk department store. At the time, Sonya was apprehensive about the request. "I was afraid of being in front of so many people," she remembers. However, she forged ahead anyway. "After my first appearance on stage and with practice, I've become more comfortable," assures 18-year-old Sonya.

So comfortable, in fact, that this young lady is now an award-winning model. She has picked up first place honors from the Terry Straite Modeling Agency, and the Charlotte District Pageant. She was also recently named "Extravagant Model" at the Marriott City Center.

She had an interest in modeling since she was very young, Sonya admits. "But I really didn't pursue it until after I graduated from high school," she explains. A 1985 graduate of West Charlotte High, Sonya will attend the American Business and Fashion Institute this September.

Planning to be a fashion merchandising and retail management student at the school, Sonya also projects that she will transfer in a year to the AB&F school in Atlanta, Ga. "The opportunities are much greater there," she reasons.

Her ambitions are to become a fashion buyer and part-time professional model. Why not full-time, for a girl with such obvious talents? "If it gets to that point, all right," Sonya relates. "But I'm striving to become a buyer because

you always have to have something to fall back on as a model. In this profession nothing is promised to you. It's very competitive."

Helping Sonya in her modeling endeavors is her teacher, Bettina Goldsmith. As an instructor in modeling, Sonya says, Mrs. Goldsmith puts major emphasis on exercise. "To keep limber," assures Sonya. "She also tells me to never say can't." And to show that she's learned her lesson well, when asked whether she considers modeling hard, Sonya replies, "I'm getting over the difficulty of it. I don't consider it hard. Hard is not in my vocabulary."

And that's an understatement for a young lady who lifts weights for relaxation. Sonya tells, "I took weightlifting while in high school because it was the only class that would fit in my schedule. I liked it. I've decided to take it up outside of school, probably at the YWCA."

"I also like running," Sonya adds. Another hobby for Sonya is shopping. In true model tradition, this week's beauty contends, "I like clothes that go beyond the ordinary." Her preference is always "high fashion."

Sonya says she is "kind, nice and outgoing." She "loves being around others and meeting people" and she likes helping people. These are possibly traits she's picked up from her mother, Betty Laney, who Sonya claims is the one person she most admires and would like to emulate. "My mother is the perfect pattern, I want to go by," Sonya asserts.

An only child, this week's beauty says, "It has its advantages."

Presently, Sonya is preparing for a major fashion show that will be held in September at the Adam's Mark Hotel. "It is going to be the best one I've been in yet," she enthuses. Over 100 area models tried out for this show, Sonya says, but the count has now been narrowed to 30. "Everyone is working very hard and competing against each other," she states. "There's a lot of pressure but I like it. That's all a part of a good fashion show."

Far in the future, Sonya sees herself as owning a boutique in Atlanta and possibly gracing the cover of Vogue or Ebony magazines. For now, if she could have anything she wanted it would be "a 1985 candy apple Camaro."

TITLE-TALK



If you can't see good in people,  
see nothing.