

# NNPA

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University's journalism department; Ron Rogers, a black editorial cartoonist; Greg Lewis, a reporter for the *Greensboro News & Record*; Ruthell Howard, a reporter for the *Carolina Peacemaker* in Greensboro; David Bulla, the *Chronicle's* sports editor, and Dr. Richard Moore, director of information services at North Carolina A&T State University.

"We're expecting the workshops to be informative, lively and even entertaining," Johnson said. "We're hoping that the people can leave here with some information they can use at their individual newspapers."

The Charles B. Armstrong NNPA Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 21, at 8 a.m. at the Winston Lake Golf Course and will be open to the public. Pro golfer

Jim Thorpe will conduct a mini-clinic during the tournament.

Trophies will be awarded and there will be free beer at the tournament, which will be sponsored by the Adolph Coors Co.

The entry fee is \$25.

Saturday night, convention participants and the public will be treated to a "jazz explosion," said Ernest H. Pitt, the *Chronicle's* publisher and one of the NNPA convention organizers.

The concert will feature Angela Bofill, Lonnie Liston Smith and Stanley Clarke.

Pitt said the concert will be held at the Stevens Center, and will be sponsored by the local corporate community. Proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the NNPA Minority Scholarship Fund, he said.

The corporate sponsors include RJR Nabisco Inc., The Hanes Group, Wachovia Bank and

Trust Co., Piedmont Publishing Co., Summit Communications Inc. and Integon.

"We expect to realize about \$30,000 from the concert that will go to minority journalists," Pitt said. "The money from the Winston-Salem corporate community will supplement funds already earmarked for scholarships and is a tremendous gesture on their part."

Pitt said that there will be two shows: one at 7 p.m. and one at 10 p.m.

"We're hoping to fill both shows," he said. "If we can get 2,000 people to respond to this program, then we will have our \$30,000."

Pitt, who thought of having the concert to raise money for scholarships, said that he plans to suggest that the NNPA make it an annual event.

"Whenever we have a conven-

tion, I think we should have a concert," he said. "The net result is to attract able and qualified people to the black press."

"This is very important," Pitt said of the concert. "It means a lot not only for the NNPA but for our community as well. I'm appealing to our community to get their tickets and get them early. The entertainers are good. It's going to be a good show."

Advance tickets are \$15 for orchestra seats, \$13 for balcony seats. Tickets at the door will be \$16 for orchestra seats and \$15 for balcony seats, Pitt said.

Miss Bofill is a vocalist whose latest album is "Tell Me Tomorrow." She easily switches from jazz-pop songs to ballads to hip-hop.

She has studied at Hartford's Hart College of Music and at the Manhattan School of Music.

Her debut album, released in

1978, was titled "Angie." Albums since then have included "Let Me Be The One," "Teaser," "Something About You" and "Too Tough."

Smith, who has been dubbed a "master keyboardist," has returned after a three-year break to release his album "Dreams of Tomorrow" on the Doctor Jazz record label.

His introduction to music came from his father, an original member of the Harmonizing Four Gospel quartet.

Clarke, known for his bass playing, has been noted as "the man who rewrote the book on modern bass playing." His new album is "Time Exposure" on the Epic label.

Clarke has performed on the albums of other artists as well as several LPs of his own. He has played on the albums of Aretha Franklin, Quincy Jones, Santana

and Paul McCartney.

He was named Jazz Bassist of the Year by *Playboy* magazine's 1983 music poll.

The NNPA was established in 1940 by John H. Sengstacke, editor and publisher of the *Chicago Defender*. In an attempt to bring peace to the troubled relations among black publishers, Sengstacke called a meeting. Representatives from 21 newspapers attended and the organization was born as the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association.

The NNPA has continued its efforts to increase communication between the publishers and to improve black newspapers through workshops, symposiums, contests and a news service. The NNPA today consists of about 134 member newspapers, Davis said.

## Jackson's rhetoric

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Ms. Reynolds, in town to attend the regional conference of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, noted, for instance, that Jackson has consistently referred to his family's poverty during his childhood. She contends in her book that he "really wasn't that poor at all." Ms. Reynolds said her research indicates that Jackson's family was one of the few families in his community with a telephone. His father worked in the post office, she said, and the family lived a relatively middle-class existence.

One of the most controversial issues addressed in Ms. Reynolds' book is the relationship between Jackson and King. Jackson maintains he worked and walked side-by-side with the slain civil rights leader. That's questionable, says Ms. Reynolds' book.

"Why is it important to show that it is untrue that Jesse Jackson cradled Dr. King?" she asked. "When Dr. King was killed, Jackson said, 'The blood of my leader is on my shirt.' I talked with people who were actually there and they said he didn't come near Dr. King. That shows his flair for the dramatic."

Concerning Jackson's work with the poor, Ms. Reynolds said that, again, her research does not confirm his claims.

"He says he is the leader of the poor and I've tried to find specific instances of how he helps the poor in concrete terms," she said. "His covenants with those major corporations help those who can help themselves. The poor get rhetoric and good feelings."

But Ms. Reynolds hastened to add that rhetoric and good feelings have their place.

"I suppose all of those things are important," she said. "I'm not at all negating his right to exist. When history is written he will have to be listed as the most important mass leader."

Ms. Reynolds, a former reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, began following Jackson's activities in 1969 and she "has been at it ever since," having met with and interviewed Jackson numerous times. Since she has become very acquainted with the life and times of Jackson, Ms. Reynolds said, she is not surprised by his reaction to her book.

"He has told me many times that he doesn't like it," she said. "I don't know if a writer can write about other people so that they'll like it, unless it is an authorized biography. We always see each other on our own terms. Not many biographies have made people happy."

Be that as it may, Ms. Reynolds plans to keep up with Jackson and hints that if someone else does not write an updated biography, she will work on "Jesse II."

As for "Jesse I," Jackson was not alone in his dislike of Ms. Reynolds' portrait of him. Her "America's David" is actually an updated version of the Jackson biography she first published in 1975. She said that book, "Jesse

Jackson, the Man, the Movement and the Myth," was, for all practical purposes, banned. It was removed from the shelves in Chicago, she said, and many of her book parties promoting the biography were cancelled. She said she even had her life threatened in Chicago after the publication of the first Jackson book.

During the 1984 presidential campaign, however, copies of the first book began selling for a reported \$100 to \$200 apiece. It was then that Ms. Reynolds decided to re-issue the biography, a decision, she said, that required much sacrifice.

"The book sold out during the campaign and I didn't even have a copy because someone had stolen mine," she recalled. "The publisher was making money off my book and I didn't have the rights to it. I mortgaged my home and everything else and I bought the rights to my own book."

Owning the rights to her own book places Ms. Reynolds among a rare class of authors that have sole ownership of their work.

She said her book is "selling well above any expectations I had."

Ms. Reynolds now distributes her book through her own offices. Several chapters of Delta Sigma Theta, of which she is a member, also sell the book as a special project. Ms. Reynolds said those types of efforts are increasing her distribution numbers.

"Things like what the Deltas are doing," she said, "allow me to own my own book."

Despite the questions her findings raise, Ms. Reynolds calls Jackson a "superb candidate." His "flaws are not mortal flaws," she said. In fact, not only does she say that she believes he would have been elected in 1984 if it were not for his race, but that she would support him in another presidential campaign.

During an appearance on the "Tony Brown's Journal" television series in April, Ms. Reynolds explained that Jackson is indeed a viable candidate and that his shortcomings can be overcome.

"Don't kick him for his flaws," she told the live audience. "Let's just say, 'Look, brother, you're not doing this but we'll pick up the slack.' Where are our standards? We've got an actor (in the White House) who said, 'Make my day' and thinks he's in Hollywood. Eisenhower was a general who had killed people. We need people with Jesse Jackson's intelligence."

Even the title of her book, she said, acknowledges Jackson's contributions to this country. The "David" in the book's title, she noted, refers to the biblical David. Just as David was a hero who stood against the giant, Ms. Reynolds said Jackson is a hero who has faced a different kind of giant.

Still, Ms. Reynolds stops short of dubbing Jackson the Martin Luther King of the 1980s. In-

stead, she points out that Jackson is more a reincarnation of Booker T. Washington. Calling him a "made-for-TV, multi-media leader," she said Jackson is more about public relations than King but is forceful and powerful much like Washington.

To many, Ms. Reynolds appears to contradict herself by pointing out Jackson's flaws and inconsistencies -- and, at the same time, acknowledging her support of him as a candidate. She said she presents an "inspection of leadership," which, she said, is

the strength of a democracy.

"Scrutiny of leadership is important," she notes. "We have to check-and-balance leadership because they hold our hopes and dreams. Just because you're black doesn't excuse you from being tested. Black people don't

demand much from their leaders -- only that they can rap good and stand up to white people. I understand why some of us live through Jesse Jackson, and all I am saying is that we should watch closely, be informed and choose our leaders carefully."

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