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32 Pages This Week

NNPA '86 CONVENTION

Below right, Cheryl McNair seemed pensive when Friday's luncheon began. But she was beaming, top right, by the program's end (photos by James Parker).



Above left, Angela Bofill wows 'em in the Stevens Center (photo by Joe Daniels). Bottom left, syndicated cartoonist Ron Rogers discusses his craft at a workshop (photo by Art Blue).

"You are wielding a lot of power every time you write a story. We have an obligation to print the truth. Sometimes, the truth will hurt."
-- Milton Jordan

Publishers honor Ron McNair's widow

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

CHERYL McNAIR, the widow of astronaut Ronald McNair, received \$5,000 for college scholarships from the National Newspaper Publishers Association last Friday at the organization's 46th annual convention, its first in North Carolina.

The check will go to the Ron McNair Scholarship Foundation Inc., which was established after McNair was killed in the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in January.

NNPA President Christopher H. Bennett presented the check to Mrs. McNair, who seemed reserved when the Hyatt Winston-Salem luncheon began, but smiled broadly by its end. "We are proud of his contribution to our community and to the world," Bennett said of McNair.

The foundation will provide four-year college scholarships, said Mrs. McNair, chairperson of the foundation. "The foundation wants to help these students achieve their goals," she said.

Mrs. McNair said the foundation has received approximately \$50,000 thus far for scholarships. "This has been overwhelming," she said. "I have found strength that so many

people have been motivated by Ron. Their kindness and caring have carried me and made me feel very good."

Mrs. McNair also is working with the spouses of the Challenger crew to begin a children's science museum in Houston, where she lives.

"I would like the space program to continue," Mrs. McNair said. "Ron would like that. It should be continued with some improvements and the safety of human beings in mind."

Mrs. McNair said she was impressed by her husband's intelligence and compassion.

McNair earned a degree in physics *magna cum laude* from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro in 1971. He received his doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston in 1976.

McNair was a crew member on the space shuttle Columbia during its January 1984 flight.

"He had an ability to relate to and inspire youths and people of all backgrounds," Mrs. McNair said.

Before Mrs. McNair spoke, Dr. Stuart Ahrens, an associate professor at A&T who runs the school's Student Space Shuttle

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They said it couldn't be done, so Sengstacke did it

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Never say never to a man like John H. Sengstacke. He'll always accept the challenge.

The founder of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, editor and publisher of the *Chicago Defender* and architect of a newspaper empire reflected on his past last week during the NNPA's 46th annual convention.

Sengstacke, who is 73 and does not look it, recalled at least two occasions when he was challenged to do what most felt couldn't be done.

During the late 1930s, he said,

he was concerned about the lack of communication among black newspaper publishers.

"Whatever they were fighting about, don't ask me," he said. "They didn't want to talk to one another. I guess they thought they would let some secrets out."

That's when Sengstacke got the idea to bring the publishers together for a meeting.

Sengstacke said that his uncle, Robert Sengstacke Abbott, founder of the *Defender*, was skeptical.

"So I went around the country, and I got all the young publishers and talked to them,

and they agreed to get together," he said.

First Meeting

And meet they did. On Feb. 29, 1940, about 26 publishers came together in Chicago to form what was later called the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, then the National Newspaper Publishers Association, Sengstacke said.

While presiding over that first meeting, Sengstacke said, he received a call that his uncle had died. "But I was happy that my uncle knew that I had gotten them together when he said it

couldn't be done," he said.

The NNPA has continued to meet for nearly five decades, and its membership has grown to 134.

Making It A Daily

Sengstacke proved the soothsayers wrong a second time when he decided to turn the *Defender* into a daily 30 years ago.

"Everybody said that it couldn't be done," he said. "I'm not just talking about blacks, but *Time* magazine did an article about it. They all said that it couldn't be done."

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Pioneer newspaperman and NNPA founder John Sengstacke: "There is still a need for the black press" (photo by James Parker).

New historical society founded to preserve city's black history

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Society for the Study of Afro-American History, in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County has been in the making for more than four years.

A Winston-Salem-based group, its main objective is not only to collect and preserve the black history of Winston-Salem, but to display it as well.

"This society will not only impact on Black Winston-Salem," said Herman Aldridge, secretary of the society. "We want to develop and collect anything dealing with the black develop-

ment so blacks and whites can use it.

"Our aim is to show that blacks have a sense of worth and dignity and have been a part of the development of this community," he said.

Aldridge said the society has a constitution and bylaws and is certified as a corporation by the state.

The society is currently seeking tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. It has already achieved this status from the state.

William J. Rice, president of the society, said that in 1982 a

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Dr. William J. Rice will head the new society studying local Afro-American history (photo by James Parker).

Economic promised land?

Is Long Island No. 1 among blacks?

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Black Americans have the best economic prospects if they live on Long Island, N.Y., and tend to fare worst in Buffalo, N.Y., according to a study of the 48 communities with the largest black populations.

But while the top and bottom communities are both in the North, Southern cities tended to rank higher for blacks, while Northern industrial communities didn't fare as well overall, according to the study published in the July edition of *American Demographics* magazine.

Following Long Island among the five best economic communities for blacks were Miami, Columbia, S.C., Richmond, Va.,

and Newport News-Hampton, Va., the study by William O'Hare of Washington's Joint Center for Political Studies reported.

Buffalo, Newark, N.J., Milwaukee, Chicago and Cleveland were the bottom five communities in the ranking published by the magazine, which reports on population and economic statistical trends.

O'Hare's analysis was based on nine economic factors concentrating on income and homeownership comparisons between blacks and whites. He used statistics from the 1980 census to compare the communities.

While he ranks the 48 metropolitan areas which contain 100,000 blacks or more, O'Hare notes that he is only comparing

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