

**In Durham, Saturday**

**Noted Black Women To Address Conference**

Two nationally known black women will be speakers for the "Black Women and the Vote" conference on Saturday, June 23, in Durham.

The conference, which will be held at North Carolina Central University, will feature Geraldine Gray Thompson, executive director of the Voter Education Project, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia, as its luncheon awards speaker.

Ms. Althea T. L. Simmons, director of the Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will also be featured as the keynote speaker for the one-day conference.

As executive director, Mrs. Thompson is responsible for overseeing the operations of the nonpartisan, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization which sponsors and conducts voter registration and education campaigns in eleven southern states, provides technical assistance to elected officials, and conducts political and public policy research.

Prior to this position, Mrs. Thompson was the Regional Administrator of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's largest region, Region IV.

She has also served as Director of Federal Relations for the City of Atlanta; coordinator of the ten southern states for the Carter-Mondale campaign in 1976; special assistant to the Mayor for Community Affairs; co-coordinator of the Maynard Jackson for Mayor 1983 campaign; associate director of the Atlanta NAACP; and director of scheduling for the 1972 Andrew Young for Congress campaign.

Mrs. Thompson has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 1979 Young Person of the Year Award given by the Atlanta Omega Chapter of the Y's Men International; the Collections of Life and Heritage Award for Achievement in Government; the Department of HUD's two top awards, the Distinguished Service Award, 1981 and the Cer-

tificate of Merit, 1980; and the first Congressional Award for Exemplary Service to the Public, 1981.

The Memphis, Tennessee native is an honors graduate of LeMoyne College in Memphis and Atlanta University.

Keynote speaker, Ms. Simmons, is a graduate of Southern University in Louisiana, the University of Illinois, and Howard University School of Law. She has also studied at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, the American Society for Training and Development, and the American Management Association,

**Program Set**

**Careers Conversations**

"Career Opportunities in an Informational Society" will be the subject of discussion at a "Career Conversations" program sponsored by the Mecklenburg County Women's Commission Thursday, June 28.

The program will be at 5:30 p.m. at Valentino's, 3014 E. Independence Blvd., and it will begin with a reception sponsored by United Carolina Bank.

Dinner will follow at 6 p.m., and at 7 p.m. Doris Cromartie, Assistant Secretary for Women in Economic Development, N.C. Department of Commerce, will speak on career opportunities for women in an informational society.

The program has been planned to provide an opportunity for women interested in changing careers or starting or re-entering a career to meet other women in various career areas. Informal discussions will take place over dinner, and following Ms. Cromartie's speech, concerning career areas, requirements for employment, etc. Career women will be present from such fields as retail and whole-

sale sales, education, administrative secretarial-word processing, communications, small business operations, travel, health care, banking, and law enforcement.

After working as a college teacher and newspaper woman, Ms. Simmons joined the NAACP staff, and after 23 years with the NAACP, she has served as National Educational Director, National Training Director, and Special Voter Registration Drive Director.

Before assuming her present position, Ms. Simmons served as Associate Director of Branch and Field Services where she had the responsibility of supervising the

NAACP's nation-wide network of branches, field staff, membership, and youth and college division.

Ms. Simmons then moved on to become the Washington Bureau Director of the NAACP in 1979.

Both women will address the conference which will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5:30 p.m.

Three workshops will also be held which will address the topics: Voter Education; Issues, Politics and the Women's Vote; and Challenges and Opportunities for Women in Politics.

The conference is being sponsored by the North Carolina Voter Education Project in conjunction with the Women's Vote Project

of the Voter Education Project in Atlanta, Georgia.

As part of the activities, awards will be presented to North Carolina black females for their political, social, and economic contributions throughout the state. Individual counties will also be recognized for their registration activities.

The registration fee for the conference will be \$10.00 which includes workshops and lunch.

Individuals and organization representatives wishing to attend the conference should contact John Edwards, director of the North Carolina Voter Education Project, Inc. at (919) 683-3233.



Beta Omicron Sigma Chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. recently inducted into the Beta Omicron Sigma Sorority's Philo Club seven new members. The Philos are a part of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. The ceremony was held at Gethesemane AME Zion Church. The Philo Regional Coordinator, Mrs. Mamie Haywood of Raleigh, N.C. conducted the ceremony.

Following the induction ceremony a reception was held for the new members in the church's Fellowship Hall.

The new Philo Members pictured above from left to right are: Mrs. Cubia Spaulding, Mrs. Rosalee Corley, Ms. Cathey McIlwain, Mrs. Flossie North, Mrs. Mary Harris, Mrs. Mamie Haywood, Mrs. Mary Vaughn and Ms. Peggy McClain.

**Fayetteville To Host Negro Women's Club Convention**

The North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, Inc. and Youth Federation of Girls will hold their Seventy-Fifth Annual Convention at the Holiday Inn of Fayetteville I-95 & 53 Fayetteville NC, June 21, 22, and 23.

The convention theme is: "A New Beginning in Accelerating our Support and Involvement in Education and Human Need." The Southwestern District will Host the Convention. Mrs. Retha Jones is the Southeastern District president.

**WHO WE ARE**

In 1909, less than 50 years following the Emancipation Proclamation, when even the American woman's suffrage movement was in its youth, a small group of Afro American women from the state of North Carolina met in Charlotte, North Carolina to organize a league of clubs known as the North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Club Inc. Not only did this effort aim at uniting Negro women's and girl's clubs throughout the

state but also enriching the lives of its members and advancing both the spiritual and social status of the race.

They were inspired by women like Mary Church Terrell, first president of the National Association of Colored Women, who so eloquently publicized the effects of the convict lease system and the denial of public accommodations to the Afro-American;

Margaret Washington, wife of Booker Washington and President of the Afro-American Federation of Colored Women, who made the nation aware that many of our children were receiving less than four months of schooling a year.

North Carolina pioneers, including Charlotte Hawkins Brown (our founder) conceived and initiated a series of service projects which were unique in their day. Young black people, faced with problems such as teenage pregnancy, delinquency, and orphanage were denied service through the major social welfare agencies. Thus the creation of Efland

Home for Wayward Girls by the N.C. Federation of Negro Women and their support to Oxford Orphanage for Colored Children and Morris Training School for Boys gave many youth a second chance to become useful citizens.

In the 75 years since the founding of the organization, the membership has grown to include 1,200 individuals represented by 90 affiliated organizations, is a symbol of success embodied in the group's motto: "Lifting As We Climb." Nevertheless, we find that the conditions which inspired us, the need to support those causes which tear at the heart of our community remain the same. Thus we have updated our services so that our efforts have meaning in the modern world.

Today, the North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, Inc. supports activities for boys and girls at youth correctional centers, the Sickle Cell Foundation and the NAACP.



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