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THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, January 10, 1985

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Tonya Strong
Olympic High senior

Tonya Strong Already Studying Cosmetology

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

The field of hair care and styling can expect another professional among its ranks in Tonya Strong. This 17 year old, Olympic High School senior is already studying cosmetology. Her plans are to complete training after graduation this year and then take the state board exam.

Her interest in hairstyling began when she was young. "I messed up all my baby dolls' hair," laughs Tonya. But she has become more adept at the trade now, she assures. "I love the act of doing hair," she claims. "It's important to me to help others achieve the look they want."

Though Tonya receives excellent training in school, she doesn't get to practice her trade much at home. She is the only girl in a family with four brothers, ages six, 13 and 14, and 20. Being the only girl isn't too great, she's decided. "I have to do all the cleaning," states Tonya.

She also does a lot of babysitting for her younger brothers. Yet Tonya says she does have time to do her favorite activities such as going skating and to the movies and talking on the telephone with her friends. "We talk about what happened yesterday; what happened today and possibly what may happen tomorrow," Tonya reveals.

This young lady says she likes to go to dances but not to parties. And she likes music, all types, especially soul and gospel. Her favorite radio stations are WPEG and WQCC.

Not only does she enjoy listening to gospel, but Tonya is also an excellent singer of the spiritual music. She sings with the Disciples of Christ Choir of St. Paul Baptist Church.

Another interest of Tonya's is clothes. This lucky girl's mother makes all her clothes. This fact

allows her to always be outfitted in the latest, chic fashions.

However, that's not the reason Tonya says her mother is her favorite person. "I look up to her," she comments concerning her mother, Mattie Studivant. "I take the advice she gives me. After all, they say, 'mother knows best,'" Tonya relates.

Tonya's father, Giles Strong, is a supervisor at Johnson C. Smith University. "I enjoy the time we spend together," she adds.

About herself, Tonya admits she likes solitude. "I like to be myself," she points out. "I don't mingle with big crowds."

She wants most in life to "be happy in the near and far future," claims Tonya. She would also like to see peace in the world and food supplied for the people of Ethiopia.

1984 Was "Rough Year"

Alexander: Blacks Can No Longer Afford To Be Captive Of One Political Party

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

"It has been a rough year," reflects Kelly Alexander Jr., glancing back on 1984.

As North Carolina State President of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), Alexander has taken note, of course, of the advancements blacks have made in 1984. He concludes that the overall picture is "murky."

"In terms of major problems," says Alexander, "there has been a general increase of conservatism in the country, not only philosophically which is halting the causes that have benefitted the poor, but also politically resulting in the federal government's lack of enforcement of civil rights."

For example, Alexander cites the setbacks blacks have experienced last year. "Desegregation decrees have been overturned," he lists. "The President granted tax credits and exemptions to segregated schools and those who send their children to them. And there was the Memphis Firefighters v. Stotts landmark case." (The Firefighters v. Stotts case enforced the "last hired, first fired" concept which will adversely affect the job security of large numbers of blacks

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

In less than a week, people all across the country will pay tribute to a great leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Marches, memorial programs and all types of activities have been scheduled to honor the man who died for equality, who suffered for justice and who taught the whole world the message of love.

Charlotte will be no exception. Already, the stage is set for an unforgettable birthday celebration. Beginning Sunday, January 13, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Black Student Union will sponsor a worship and remembrance service at 6 p.m. in McKnight Hall. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Clifford Jones of Friendship Baptist Church.

On Monday, January 14, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee has planned a celebration to commemorate the birth of Dr. King. The seventh annual celebration will be held at Little Rock AME Zion Church, 401 N. McDowell St.

An art exhibit and soup service will set off the evening's activities. The art work scheduled to be featured is the art work of local elementary, junior and senior high school students. This segment of the program will last from 5:30 until 6:45 p.m.

At 7 p.m. the main program will commence. Dr. Leon C. Riddick, chairman of the Community Relations Committee, will preside over the program. After the prelude by organist Steven Cooper and invocation by Rev. William White, the key address will come from five individuals who were prominent in the community's civil rights struggle. Marion Cannon, Dorothy Scoggins, Charles Jones, Kitty Huffman and Kelly Alexander Sr. are the chosen speakers.

Special presentations will be made by Jack Bullard, director of the Community Relations Committee. Also, during the service an offering will be taken and the proceeds will

be donated to the Crisis Assistance Ministry, in Dr. King's honor, to help in its services to the needy of the community.

This celebration is being planned in conjunction with Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Charlotte, the Afro-American Cultural Center, the local chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews,

WBTB, Little Rock AME Zion Church, the Charlotte Area Clergy Association and the Christian Ministers' Fellowship. The purpose of the celebration is to bring together citizens of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and surrounding communities to pay tribute to Dr. King's memory and to recommit to his "dream."

Johnson C. Smith University's plans for King's birthday celebration will begin Tuesday, January 15. A full schedule of events has been set for the day. Beginning at 10 a.m., a convocation service will be held at the University Church. The speaker for this event is tentatively Delang Rackard, a local citizen known for his striking rendition of Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches.

Throughout the day, an art exhibit featuring works of King and other works of black artists taken from the university's library will be showcased.

From 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m., a film festival will be held in the Science Hall, room 107. Film clips of Dr. King in various phases of the civil rights movement will be highlighted.

At 3 p.m. the Lyceum Dance Group will present a Cultural Dance upstairs in the Student Union.

The culminating activity begins at 6 p.m. with a candlelight march beginning from the entrance of the University proceeding to the school's church. At 7 p.m., a worship service will be held. As of this writing the speaker is yet to be announced.

Admission to all these events is free and the public is cordially invited to attend.

For Civil Rights

Economists Advocate Minority Coalitions In Fight

Blacks must form coalitions with other minority groups - including women - if they are to make further gains in the fight for equal rights, says the Black Enterprise magazine Board of Economists.

Their recommendation is part of "The Annual Economic Outlook for Black America: 1985" appearing in the magazine's January issue. The "Outlook" examines the overall economic prospects for black America and analyzes such specific components of the economy as income, employment, trade policy, and the stability of the dollar worldwide.

The recent Supreme Court decision in Memphis Firefighters v. Stotts, which ruled that federal courts could not bypass "bona fide seniority systems" in favor of minority workers hired through affirmative action programs, poses a major setback for affirmative action, in the opinion of the Black Enterprise Board.

Says Dr. Phyllis A. Wallace, Professor and Co-Director of the Industrial Relations Section, Sloan School of Management, M.I.T., and a member of the Board of Economists, "Immediately after the Memphis decision, the Reagan Administration saw this as a chance to turn back the clock not only on seniority



DR. MARTIN L. KING JR.
...Slain Civil Rights leader

layoff issues but on a variety of affirmative action procedures that for the past 20 years the courts have ruled on."

"I think the Memphis case is just the beginning, and the private sector will clearly go the way of the public sector," warns Black Enterprise Publisher Earl G. Graves, also a member of the Board.

As relative newcomers to the public sector, blacks lack strong ties to public sector unions, notes Wallace, and may be laid off in massive numbers if state and local governments are forced to take belt-tightening measures.

Wallace suggests that blacks unite with other minorities, especially white women, to ensure that affirmative action measures are kept intact.

"Blacks initially bore the brunt of (civil rights) legislation. They were on the front lines," says Wallace. "Now it's time for black men and women to work with other groups and let them step forward to do the fighting."

Dr. Bernard E. Anderson, another member of the Board and Director of Social Sciences Division at the Rockefeller Foundation, goes one step further and recommends that the coalitions be based on shared issues, such as comparable pay. "We have to assess what we have to trade and (work to) form coalitions that bring results that (can) give us a share of the decisions that are economically beneficial."

field, columnist for the Michigan Chronicle. He wrote on December 8, 1984, "Civil rights and social justice are no longer at the bottom of the nation's agenda, where Mr. Reagan placed them at the beginning of his first term in 1980. Surely you must know that with the Reagan landslide victory, civil rights and social justice are no longer even on the national agenda."

Sheffield went on to urge, "What all this means is that we are in a period now when we need our most effective leaders, men and women who can really articulate the needs and interests of the black community and also galvanize our people."

What is the NAACP's strategy for resurfacing and reconstructing hope in the black community? With Alexander, the discussion begins with politics. For it was, after promises, promises, in the political arena that blacks confronted their biggest disappointments of 1984.

In retrospect many have concluded that blacks suffered from the "putting all your eggs in one basket" syndrome. "Blacks made a great mistake in their partisan views of supporting the Democratic Party," remarks Alexander, who admits he is a Democrat.

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Supreme Court has increased its conservative perspective with the addition of Reagan appointments. In agreement with Alexander's assessment of 1984 is Horace Shef-



Kelly Alexander Jr.
NAACP state president

who were employed through Affirmative Action Programs.)

More decisions such as those passed down in the Stotts case are likely, predicts Alexander, as the

Supreme Court has increased its conservative perspective with the addition of Reagan appointments. In agreement with Alexander's assessment of 1984 is Horace Shef-

field, columnist for the Michigan Chronicle. He wrote on December 8, 1984, "Civil rights and social justice are no longer at the bottom of the nation's agenda, where Mr. Reagan placed them at the beginning of his first term in 1980. Surely you must know that with the Reagan landslide victory, civil rights and social justice are no longer even on the national agenda."



Laughter is the shortest distance between people.