



Dr. Bertha Maxwell, chairperson of the Afro-American and African Studies Department at UNCC challenges the members of Gamma Phi Delta to be "catalysts for change" at the sorority's recent 26th Southern

Regional Conference. Gamma Phi Delta used as their theme, "Building Bridges for the Future." The conference was held at the Quality Inn.

## Gamma Phi Delta Hosts Annual Conference

By Loretta Manago  
Post Managing Editor

The Beta Eta Chapter of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority recently hosted its organization's 26th Southern Regional Conference at the Quality Inn. Members of the sorority came from Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, and other parts of North Carolina to attend the two-day conference.

The conference opened with registration of its members, proceeded by a meeting of the officers and a formal opening of the conference. Closing this meeting, the Beta Eta chapter sponsored a social hour.

The second day of the conference opened with committee meetings and reports given by the regional director, Rose Cochrane, and assistant regional director, Willie Jones. National officers were recognized, highlights of the 1985 Boule were given and members of the sorority participated in a sing-along before breaking into different workshop sessions.

At noon, a memorial service was

held, which led into the community luncheon and program.

After the invocation was given by Rev. Retoy Gaston, pastor of Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, and a welcome by the local chapter president, Lula Gaskin, greetings were bestowed upon the Gamma Phi Delta sorority by Mayor Harvey Gantt, assistant city manager, Don Steger, CMS School Board Member, Sarah Stevenson, and Dr. Gwyn Davis, medical professional.

The guest speaker for the luncheon was Dr. Bertha Maxwell, chairperson of the Afro-American and African Studies Department at UNCC. Using the conference theme, "Building Bridges For The Future," Dr. Maxwell relayed that while there is a black mayor in Charlotte and black members on the School Board, there is still rampant unemployment among black teens and hunger throughout the country. Using the author David Copperfield's words, "these are the best of times, yet the worst of times," Dr. Maxwell challenged the sorority to be a catalyst for change.

Dr. Maxwell warned that with the present administration seeking to eliminate affirmative action, some very difficult times were ahead. She expressed her concern that blacks should be acting rather than reacting to change.

Her charge to the sorority was that they be facilitators of change. Being concerned about the adverse situations facing blacks was the first step to take and with that concern, Dr. Maxwell opined that a request for change be expressed.

Commenting that blacks have not been taught to deal with conflict, Dr. Maxwell then proceeded to show her listeners how to resolve conflicts without destroying relationships. She openly embraced honesty, compromise and self-expression as healthy tools in bringing about change. Her audience, which responsively received her remarks, gave Dr. Maxwell a standing ovation at the conclusion of her speech.

Sorority member Naomi White responded to Dr. Maxwell's speech.

### At JCSU

## Mildred Swift Is Temporary Instructor

By Eleaf Frazier

Mildred Dwiggin Swift, a native of Charlotte, is a temporary instructor in sociology and social work this year. She is replacing Helen Caldwell, who is on leave to conduct doctoral studies.

Mrs. Swift attended Biddleville Elementary School and once acted in a play in Biddle Auditorium. The university was the center of social events in the community at the time, she recalled.

Following her elementary schooling, her family moved to New York. Later, she received a bachelor's degree in sociology at Virginia State University and a master's of social work degree at Atlanta University.

She worked in three social service agencies in Hartford, Connecticut, and earned a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Connecticut.

Mrs. Swift was a practicum instructor in the School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma from 1975 to 1981. She supervised training units of graduate and undergraduate students and taught continuing education classes to adults. She also worked as a writer for the



Mildred D. Swift  
.....Replaces Helen Caldwell

Black Chronical, a statewide weekly Black newspaper published in Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Swift returned to Charlotte in 1982, studied taxes and accounting at

Central Piedmont Community College, and worked in securities and insurance at Waddell and Reed.

She is happy to be back in the classroom teaching social work.

"It's rough out there in the work world, and the students need to be prepared," she remarked.

"I see such high potential in the students, and I try to bring out that potential," she added. "Now that we have this new era of excellence, the students should take advantage of all the opportunities Smith has to offer."

Mrs. Swift's hobbies include free-lance writing, postcard collecting, gardening and home restoration.

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