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Profile Of The Week

Vinroot

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Donna Dowdy
....JCSU Student

Donna Dowdy Likes

To Help Those In Need

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

While she's waiting to begin her junior year at Johnson C. Smith University, Donna Dowdy is working this summer at NCNB, uptown, in the bank's financial service and collections department.

At Smith, Donna is an early childhood education major. She's taken this course of study following in the footsteps of her mother. "My mother is an elementary school teacher at Hidden Valley Elementary School," relates Donna. "And she's inspired me to become a teacher. I enjoy watching her with the kids. Plus I like children anyway."

However, on second thought Donna also admits she thoroughly enjoys working at the bank. "It's really a pleasure talking to the clients and the people at the bank are very nice," she explains. "Sometimes I think I may change my major to business administration," she reveals.

At 20-years of age, this week's beauty confesses she's a little indecisive about her ultimate career goal so she's leaving her options open.

What she is sure about is her enjoyment of attending JCSU. "It's great meeting students from different states," she says of the college experience. Pretty popular on campus, Donna was second

attendant to Miss Freshman Class in her freshman year and she was a Golden Girl for the university's marching band her sophomore year.

This coed's preferred extra-curricular activities include swimming, meeting new people, dancing, and playing the piano. Donna's been playing for 12 years and she's skilled at both modern and classical music. Classical music, especially the compositions of Bach and Beethoven, she likes best.

She describes herself as a "very warm-hearted person." "I like to help anyone in need," Donna elaborates. "I'm also open-minded and an easy person to talk to."

The eldest child in her family, this week's beauty has one younger sister, Sherron, 10-years-old. Donna enjoys being the older sister in this relationship. "Sherron looks up to me," Donna smiles. Donna also agrees that, being eldest, she's responsible for setting a good example for her sister.

Donna's parents have set an excellent example for her, she points out and she's picked them as the people she most admires. "My mom and dad are always there when I need them and I can always talk to them whenever I have a problem." Donna's parents are Lewis and Patricia Dowdy.

There was a time Donna reveals, when she thought having such understanding parents as support was not very important. "When I first came to school, I was living on campus and I thought I could make it on my own. But I've learned, I'll always need my parents," she admits.

These days, Donna contends she gives a lot of thought to her future prospects. "I often think about what I want to be in life," she relates. Whether to be a teacher or a business person, this week's beauty says the decision is difficult. But that's life.

If Donna follows her own advice though, she'll probably be all right. She suggests, "Be yourself. And don't let anyone try to bring you down when you're out to achieve something."

TURTLE-TALK



The greater the obstacle the more glory in overcoming.

Does Upward Mobility Mean Forgetting Black Roots?

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Does upward mobility mean forgetting black roots? Have middle-class African-Americans fled from their poor neighbors?

Syndicated columnist and television host Tony Brown stated earlier this year, "We ran away from them because we thought that's what integration was about—moving up, getting away from other black people."

What about in Charlotte?

Salimah Majeed is a sociology and social work professor at UNCC. What she sees is that many African-Americans who benefitted from the civil rights movement have realized that their children "are not in tune with their own black culture and heritage." They haven't been taught, she says, what the sixties was all about.

"Parents are now having to decide how they can have both—how can they raise their children to be in touch with the black community and culture and still have the benefits" of their success, she states.

Majeed stresses the importance of staying in touch with one's heritage. "Your cultural heritage is an important part of who you are," she comments.

In addition, she says, "No matter how far you go economically, as long as the majority are still poor, you can't escape those people. You have a responsibility."

She points out that those who have succeeded have done so because of the help of others. "No one has made it totally on his own," she reflects.

Social responsibility is not just a matter of altruism, either. "Either we raise people through education, or we pay through the criminal justice or social welfare systems," she remarks.

Also, Majeed adds, "Society sees us as one. In many instances when we come in contact with people who may not know your degrees, where



Dr. Spurgeon Webber
.....Not necessarily true

you live, they may see you as a stereotypical African-American.

"As long as the masses see African-Americans as underclass, that affects us all," and is one reason why those who are succeeding have a responsibility to help those left behind, she says.

Dr. Spurgeon Webber, dentist, believes it's not necessarily true that upward mobility means forgetting one's roots.

Upward mobility, he says, "places one in a position of more responsibility. You're more capable of doing more for black people." He echoes Majeed's belief that today's success is dependent on others who came before.

"The blacks I know are aware of all of this," he says. "They involve themselves politically." They're also aware of economic power and use it to benefit the larger black community, he says. The organizations he belongs to emphasize the value of education.

Webber believes upwardly mobile blacks should help others because



Beatrice Thompson
.....Because of circumstances

"We're responsible for helping our own." That responsibility includes helping youth become capable of carrying on the responsibility in future years, he says.

Duke Power's media representative, Beatrice Thompson, believes some blacks "forget" because of circumstances. She likens it to being a peninsula that gets cut off at the top. "Young blacks become stranded in the business environment," she says. The balance between business and "who you are as a black person" can be precarious, she remarks.

"We need to remember where we came from, but we shouldn't feel guilty about trying to succeed," Thompson adds.

She says there's always an obligation to help others because "you didn't get there by yourself." Even if you cannot help financially, you have a mind and a voice and no excuse, she states.

Darryl Lloyd, WBTV's weather reporter, believes forgetting one's roots may sometimes happen with

upwardly mobile blacks, but he adds that's true of people in general and not a problem peculiar to blacks.

The obligation to help the less fortunate is there, he says, but "the responsibility should be left to the individual to do in whatever way they choose."

People in general, he says, have a responsibility to help each other. "If I'm in a good position, I'm in a position to help someone else professionally," he comments.

All four respondents agree that where one chooses to live is no reflection on how that person feels about his or her heritage.

"People should live where they choose," Webber states. "It doesn't mean you forget your roots. You can involve yourself through your fraternity, sorority, or church."

Majeed adds that while living in non-black communities doesn't mean African-Americans have forgotten their roots, it is important that they make a conscious effort to expose their children to their cultural heritage.

"South Africa Women's Day" Program Planned

By Janice Davidson
Special To The Post

On Saturday, August 9, women in South Africa will stage rallies and demonstrations to show their opposition to apartheid.

Here in Charlotte, local groups will sponsor a brunch and program to commemorate the 30th anniversary of South African Women's Day, to be held at McDonald's Cafeteria, 2812 Beatties Ford Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Charlotteans for a Free South Africa, along with the local chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club and other community, civic, and religious organizations, will sponsor the event.

Featured speaker will be Veronica Motsepe Alexander of South Africa. The program will include a film about women in South Africa, "South Africa Belongs to Us!", and musical selections by Sandra Jones and Deborah Brewer. Dr. Bertha Maxwell will emcee the program.

Mrs. Alexander grew up in South Africa. She met her future husband, North Carolina NAACP leader Kelly Alexander Jr., when he visited South Africa on a fact-finding mission in 1977. She is currently studying at Queens College, and serves on the board of WomanReach and as vice chairman of the local NAACP Women's Auxiliary. The Alexanders are



Veronica Motsepe Alexander
....South Africa native

members of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

The program will benefit the hundreds of men, women, and children who are political prisoners and detainees in South Africa, with proceeds designated for International Defense and Aid Fund for South Africa.

South Africa is a land abundant in

natural resources and riches, yet marred by constant struggle and turmoil, with a growing rebellion against the stronghold of an apartheid-ruled government.

On August 9, 1986, over 20,000 South African women of all racial groups assembled in the capital of Pretoria to protest against the extension of the hated "pass

laws" to women.

The pass laws were designed to keep blacks segregated, to separate black families, and to restrict blacks' movement and labor within certain confined areas.

August 9, designated Women's Day in South Africa, marks an important event in the history of the struggle for justice, freedom and democracy in that country.

"We hope that you will join us on that day to express your solidarity," said Stella Nkomo, chair of the planning committee.

Tickets are \$10 and \$15 (patrons), with reservations due by August 4. Tickets are available at Under-Cover BookSource, 115 East Blvd., Park Road and Uptown YWCA, or by calling Cindy Patton at 597-7467 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Crime Prevention

The Mecklenburg County Crime Prevention Association will be holding its quarterly meeting Thursday, August 14, at the First Baptist Church educational building, located at 301 South Davidson St., Charlotte, 7:30.

All interested citizens are invited to attend!

Prison inmates from the N.C. Department of Corrections, which participates in the "Think Smart" program, will be sharing with us their views on "The life of a criminal and how he sees our correctional institutes."