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# THE CHARLOTTE POST

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## Constitutional Violations Mar Charlotte NAACP Elections

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

The December 18, 1986 Branch election conducted by the Charlotte Branch of the NAACP consisted of so many NAACP Constitutional violations, in retrospect the entire election process appears to be a travesty.

At least that's the implication expressed by James Lamont, the Charlotte Branch's 1986 Election Supervisor, who claims about the election, "There were several things that weren't done properly." And it is also the opinion of Paul Recard, one of the presidential candidates of the 1986 election, who, following the election, submitted a formal complaint to the NAACP National Office, citing, "gross discrepancies in the December 1986 Biennial election" specifically three rule violations and one general impropriety.

On the other hand, upholding the rightness of the election is the Branch's past president Kelly Alexander Jr., and Mary Clarke, who won the Branch's presidential election at the December election. Calling Recard's complaint a "monumental case of sour grapes," Alexander contends, "A number of (Recard's) allegations were false and easily refuted." Clarke maintains, "I have no problems with how the election was handled. I'm not aware of any violations."

Clarke adamantly states, "I have no comment on how things should have been handled. William Penn handles the violations and if anything was wrong with the election he would have explained it."

The fact is William Penn, Director of Branches and Field Services of the NAACP National Office, did not refute nor explain any of the specific allegations brought up in Recard's complaint. Recard's three rule violations concerned charges of improper notification of the election to Branch members; his exclusion from an important election eve meeting; and the unavailability of a verifiable list of voter-eligible Branch members—all of which are accurate Constitutional violations.

Penn, however, dismissed Recard's entire complaint on a procedure violation, without much investigation into the charges. Contacted at his office in Baltimore, Md., Penn stated, "The



Kelly Alexander Jr.



Mary Clarke



Paul Recard



Allegations surrounding the 1986 Charlotte Branch NAACP election crack the surface of the

local chapter exposing other questionable practices.

complaint was not filed under the policies and procedures of the Constitution. We made our determination that the complaint was not valid because the number of signatures on it were not in accordance with Article V of the Constitution."

Penn added he was not concerned or involved with the matter any further. He admitted as far as he was concerned the complainant had no further recourse. "I'm not going to go into it," Penn abruptly concluded.

Penn's refusal to get involved or refute the points expressed in Recard's complaint has served to fuel a continuing controversy about the 1986 Branch election with Recard claiming his allegations have merit and that he did file his complaint in accordance with the proper NAACP Constitutional procedures. At the same time, Alexander argues the allegations are not substantial and

Recard in filing the complaint, "simply failed to avail himself of the necessary procedures."

The primary point of contention and the one on which the complaint was dismissed was the fact Recard's complaint petition contained only 10 signatures when the Constitution states, in event of election controversy, "In Branches with members exceeding 1,000 such complaints must be signed by at least 25 members of the Branch in good standing." Both Alexander and Penn claim the membership of the Charlotte Branch totaled over 1,000 thereby making the complaint immediately invalid.

Recard, however, points to information he received regarding the membership total combined with how the election was held saying these things reflect a membership total of less than 1,000. He holds forth the Eighth Membership Report he says was

issued in October and November 1986 that clearly lists the Branch membership total at 933. Since this was the total given in November 1986, 30 days prior to the election when according to the Constitution all eligible voters should be determined, Recard acquired the number of signatures on his petition to coincide with a membership less than 1,000.

Also, the way the election was carried out does not hold with the Constitutional rules set for a Branch of over 1,000 members. Stated in the Constitution, a Branch of 1,000 or more members should provide voting booths for the casting of votes: The Charlotte branch election did not have voting booths, rather votes were cast in an open, paper box. This fact is verified by the election supervisor. Then too, stated in the Constitution, for a membership over 1,000, "such booths shall be open See VIOLATIONS page 8A



Shena Falls  
UNCC Student

## Shena Falls Feels Her Possibilities Are Limitless

By Russell Clark  
Post Staff Writer

"The limit is the sky," replies Shena Falls when discussing her career possibilities in her UNC-Charlotte dormitory. A senior majoring in business administration, she plans to work her way up the ladder of success.

"When I graduate this coming May, I plan to take an entry level position with a company to get my foot in the door and get some experience. With a business degree, I can do a lot of different things because there are a lot of different career paths that I can turn to. Whether it be on the corporate level or in human services, the experience is the most important thing," mentions the 23-year-old Virgo.

A native of Walkertown, (near Winston Salem) she is a 1981 graduate of East Forsyth High School where she was a member of the French Club and a Eagleette. In her senior year in high school, the self-reliant beauty of the week

conducted her own college search program.

"I did a lot of college research in high school," she recalls. "I've always wanted to major in business and I applied at UNCC after I found out that it had a business department. Another good thing is that it's only an hour and a half away from home and I didn't want to be in a strain trying to get home to see my family," relates Shena who rooms with three young ladies.

"My sister is one of my roommates and we get along fine. We are also best friends and we've been through a lot together," she interjects.

The daughter of James and Valerie Harris of Walkertown, she has one younger sister, Natchia 21 who is studying criminal justice at UNCC and a younger brother James, 14. "We have a very close-knit family and I try to go home to visit at least once a month. My mother is very special."

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## Jackson Charges: "Japan Is Driving America Off The Road"

Saying that Japan is "driving America off the road" with its ever increasing share of the American car market, the Rev. Jesse Jackson has called for a "change in formula" in the way that America relates economically to Japan and for a restructuring of priorities in the American

marketplace.

Jackson's comments came at a Unity Luncheon sponsored by Dollars & Sense magazine for the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers national convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Delivering a major address on Japan and the American automobile industry, Rev. Jackson said that Japan's increasing direct investment in the United States and powerful economic resources makes it able to purchase some of our leading defense contractors, which threatens our national sovereignty and security.

"There must be a new formula between this country and Japan Inc. and Korea Inc.," Jackson stressed. "When they were down after the War and we were a factor in their being down, a kind of international affirmative action



Rev. Jesse Jackson

program was put in order to help them, but once the people you help hit surplus, it triggers a new formula."

In addition, Jackson called for

a new formula to build the Amer-

ican industrial family so that industry, government, workers and consumers have converging interests, as they do in Japan. "If this relationship were different, the American public would be more inclined to buy domestic cars over imports because they would be getting more than a car. You would get your tax base, hospital base, school base and maybe such a relationship would become protective, as opposed to protectionist," Jackson said.

Citing Dollars & Sense research statistics showing that blacks own only 13 of the 18,000 import dealerships operating in America, Jackson called for a new formula between Japan and black America, and called for an international economic covenant to be signed between America's

black community and Japan's auto producers.

"Blacks buy \$1.3 billion worth of new Japanese cars annually, but they don't reinvest in our community," added Jackson, noting that he has begun a negotiation campaign with a number of Japanese firms to work out an economic covenant and would be willing to leverage a selective patronage campaign against them to make such a covenant a reality.

"We would be ridiculous to keep demanding economic justice of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler for the black community and go another month without confronting the Japanese in Japan, in our communities, or at the place where they come off the ship because our lives are at stake," Jackson warned. "We must have parity and make it clear that the

Japanese either cut us in or cut it out. We are going to keep this pressure on Japan and Korean because it's right. We're talking about simple justice and a fair return on black economic investment. If we can demand it of our own government, we can demand it of any government in the world."

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