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Fashion Special  
Debuts Next Week



Colandra Dooley Mixes  
Sports With Studies  
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Sheronda Watkins...  
enjoys helping others.

## Sheronda Watkins Advises Peers To Take Life A Step At A Time

By Russell Clark  
Post Staff Writer

"I want to become a doctor because I like helping others," says 16-year-old Sheronda Renee Watkins, a junior at Charlotte Catholic High School.

At school, she is active in the Red Cross, Right to Life and Students Against Driving Drunk (S.A.D.D.) organizations which are geared towards helping people. "We travel around to other schools and put up posters against drinking and driving. We also talk to the students about other issues," asserts the enthusiastic beauty this week who is the treasurer of all three organizations.

Despite of her commitment to her extracurricular activities, she makes time for studying and brings home A's and B's on her

report cards. Her courses include Computer Programming, Chemistry, U.S. History, Religion, American Literature and Algebra II which is currently her favorite subject. She also works as an office assistant and a sprinter on the track team.

Born to Nelson and Mary Watkins of Charlotte, she has two sisters Sherry and Shiffon and one brother Rick.

"Our family is very close and we spend a lot of time together. At home we watch a lot of television together, and we also travel a lot," mentions Sheronda who likes watching A.C.C. basketball. The Watkins' are members of the Saint Ann's Catholic Church where she is active in a special "Peer Ministry" group.

"We travel around to other churches and share our faith with

youth groups. There are about 60 members and we also do fun community projects and go on retreats," she notes with enthusiasm.

When not busy, Sheronda enjoys reading, dancing and listening to music. "My favorite group is the New Edition because I've always liked their style of music. I also like Luther Vandross and Freddie Jackson."

According to Sheronda, one of the current battles that the her generation battles is trying to grow up too fast. "I've noticed that a lot of people my age try to act older than what they really are. I just wish that they would slow down and take life a step at a time. We should enjoy our teenage years because we will have plenty of time to be adults if we live."

## LDF Receives \$1.3 Million

New York, NY - The Rockefeller Foundation, in an effort to strengthen the legal programs and fiscal health of one of its long-time grantees, has awarded the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) a major grant of \$1.3 million. These funds, available over a five-year period, will support the

**Seminar**  
Registration begins at 7:30 p.m.; the program lasts until 4 p.m. The fee is \$25 for nonmembers, \$20 for members and \$10 for allied health students.

The Charlotte Medical Assistants and the Mecklenburg County Medical Society are sponsoring a seminar on Saturday, March 21 in the auditorium of Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

organization's civil rights litigation and the improvement of the organization's financial planning and management practices.

"In recent years, LDF has strained its resources to the limit in order to defend past gains won by black Americans against current attack by a federal government hostile to civil rights," said LDF Director-Counsel Julius Chambers. "The Rockefeller grant is immensely important because it recognizes the significance of long-term financial stability for our civil rights efforts. Especially by awarding us funds for administrative improvement -- which tends not to be a 'sexy' area for the foundation community -- the Rockefeller Foundation has enabled us to strengthen our infrastructure, which in turn will buttress our legal programs. Both components are essential to our future legal successes."

The grant, of which \$1.125 million was presented to the Legal Defense Fund in January, has an unusual three-part structure. A total of \$125,000 has been given outright to support 1986 litigation. Another million has been earmarked for immediate investment into what will first serve as a five-year declining fund (specific amounts, decreasing by

10% each year, may be withdrawn to help finance litigation) after 1991, the remainder of the invested sum will constitute a Program Reserve Fund.

The third portion of \$175,000 will be allocated over the next three years to carry out recommendations made by the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse in a Rockefeller-funded audit of the organization performed last year. It is to be applied toward long-term program planning, administrative reforms, the recruitment of a development director and technical assistance from Price Waterhouse.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., has been called the "major legal arm of the civil rights movement." It was founded by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1940 but has been a separate and distinct organization for over 25 years with its own programs, Board of Directors, staff and budget. LDF provides free representation for individuals and classes in a wide-ranging legal program that challenges discrimination in education, employment, housing, health care, voting rights, and administration of criminal justice.

## NAACP Complainers Vow To Remain Active

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

NAACP Constitutional rule-bending and outright transgressions, nepotism and financial subterfuge are some of the complaints members of the Charlotte Branch NAACP say have plagued the organization under the administration of Kelly Alexander Jr., president of the Branch from 1982 to 1986.

Incidents concerning and the results of the Branch's last election gave rise to a ground swell of grievances from Branch members. But at the same time, persons who spoke out against what they perceived as the wrongs inherent in the local organization, remain firm in their commitment to NAACP.

Though Alexander has said he believes the members who spoke out against his type of leadership will "withdraw and disappear" from the Branch now that they've publicized their concerns, the persons involved say that will not be the case.

They remain firm in their commitment to the what the NAACP has stood for since its inception in 1909. And they say they will remain active in the Branch as they work to amend its problems so it can carry on the purposes and aims for which it was designed.

Anna Hood, a member of the Charlotte Branch for several years, became an intrinsically involved member in 1980. She initially was the Branch's Membership Director and was responsible for increasing the membership from less than 400 to over 1,000. Hood is currently a member of the Branch's executive committee.

Hood spoke out against the financial management of the Charlotte Branch and other unfair practices she saw in operation but says she will not give up participation in the organization. "I will stay involved because of the overall purpose of the group," she relates. "I'm hoping someday the Branch will be what it's suppose to be. The NAACP has done a lot for our people nationally and I'm staying for that reason."

Paul Recard, a member of the NAACP since the 1950's became a member of the Charlotte Branch in 1982 when he moved to this city. He was involved in the Branch's first Life Membership Luncheon at which time he sold a fully paid Life Membership (\$500) and secured three other subscribing Life Members. Recard has been a member of the Branch's Membership Committee and Legal Redress Committee. He was also elected Third Vice President in 1984 and served for one term. Recard says he has not missed a Branch meeting since he has been a member plus he attends every state NAACP function at his own expense.

Recard was one of the first persons to come forward exposing the violations that occurred during the Branch's 1986 election. He was also the person responsible for sending a formal complaint to the NAACP National Office. The problems, however, have not shaken his resolve to remain with the organization. "There's no question I will stay involved with the NAACP," he



The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has served as a champion for the causes of black people. The Charlotte Branch's present internal problems do not obscure the organization's worthy objectives according to Branch members and that's why they'll remain active.



Earl Shinholster  
...Regional Director



Paul Recard



Anthony Herring

tells. "On the national level it is the best civil rights organization that has ever existed for black people."

General Frazier was one of the persons who pointed to nepotism and other unjustifiable practices at work within the Charlotte Branch. But she, too, has every intention of remaining with the organization. She became a member of the NAACP in 1968 when she lived in Baltimore, Md. Joining the Charlotte Branch in 1982, Frazier eventually became the Membership Committee chairperson and with the help of Hood, Frazier became the top membership solicitor in Mecklenburg County. She was chosen the NAACP "Mother of the Year" for Mecklenburg in 1985. A full paid Life Member, Frazier is now subscribing to a Golden Heritage Membership (\$1,000).

The fact that Alexander would say these persons in particular would probably leave the organization because they've pointed out the Branch's problems seems incongruent in light of their reputations with the NAACP. But several inconsistencies in Alexander's statements have become apparent.

For one, assessments he has given of a few of the Branch members who have voiced complaints about the Local Branch do not seem plausible. About Recard, Alexander described, "His activity is 'zig-zaggy.' He maintains a presence with spotty results." However, many members have described Recard as an exem-

plary member saying he has been a great help to the organization, a "staunch member," one who never misses a meeting, and a person who is "very vocal and articulate in meetings." Recard, himself, says he would not dignify Alexander's statement with a response. "My reputation stands for itself," he maintains.

Further into his assessment of the complainers, Alexander noted that James Lamont was merely an "attende" of Branch meetings, implying that Lamont was not very active. Yet Alexander displayed belief in Lamont's abilities when he designated Lamont as Election Supervisor for the 1986 Election. Lamont did subsequently speak out against Alexander's misguidance during the election.

Secondly, Alexander has claimed it was not nepotism that made a way for his family members to hold almost all official positions in the local Branch. He said his family members and his business employees who occupy the positions are well-suited and qualified for the posts they hold. But it has been learned that the Branch's administrative duties have been lax. As of March, no year-end membership report has been issued. The Branch's monthly newsletter has not been composed since November 1986. There have been complaints that members receive mailed notifications of meetings late or not at all. For the last Branch meeting

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