

CPCC Program Opens New Doors For Adults

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MWBE Bill Get Voted Down By Mecklenburg Delegation

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Mona McIlwain PHOTO BY PEELERS
...Plans to become C.P.A.

The Future's All Set For Mona McIlwain

By Russell Clark
Post Staff Writer

While projecting her future with a confident but gentle voice, Mona Tameka McIlwain says she aims to make a lot of money as a Certified Public Accountant.

"Accounting is a good field because you not only learn how to budget your own money, but you get a chance to help other people with their taxes and other needs," asserts the 17-year-old beauty of the week. "When I graduate from high school next year, I plan to attend UNCC because they have a very solid business department. Afterwards, I plan to move to a larger city so that I can eventually establish my own C.P.A. firm and hopefully start a modeling career."

As a 11th-grader at West Mecklenburg High School, she is currently taking a full class load and her courses include, Accounting I, English, Geometry, Science by Investigation, U.S. History and Spanish I which is her favorite. "I've already taken three years of French, but Spanish is much easier and challenging for me," mentions Mona who brings home A's and B's on her report cards, answers Mona, a report card, the Indians Girls Track Team.

Born to James and Sallie McIlwain of West Charlotte, she has one brother, Rip, 21. "My brother and I have a very open relationship and we can relate to each other's problems. If I need some advice about guys, he helps me and when he needs some advice about handling girls he asks me. Our parents give us the freedom to make our own decisions and try to teach us how to be independent should something happen to them," relates the energetic Capricorn.

When she's not busy, she enjoys dancing, modeling, shopping, swimming, talking on the telephone and tennis. "I also enjoy listening to Rapp music because of the deep bass sound and the story that rappers tell through their songs. I like the way they explain what life is all about in their songs."

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Urban League Chief Takes Aim At Reagan Administration

Raleigh, NC - National Urban League Chief Executive Officer John Jacob called his organization's recently released report on "Black America" one of the most important studies completed in a long time.

Speaking to alumni, students, faculty and friends at St. Augustine's College during the Raleigh, NC school's 120th annual Founder's Day Convocation, Jacob called the future of historically Black Colleges "at risk today, along with the future of Black People in America and all of the country."

He said that the Urban League's report on Black America showed that black people "are besieged by raw racism, persistent economic depression and a continued erosion of past gains."

Jacob told the audience of the historically black college that America identified racism as a national disease, and took some healthy measures to combat it. Now, he said, America has lapsed into an indifference, and false notion that the disease was healed.

He criticized the current administration in Washington for peddling the myth of "a color-blind society, and sent strong signals that civil rights concerns were no longer on the national agenda."

He urged President Reagan to insist that racism has no place in America, and act constructively to help end the economic depression in Black America.

According to the Urban League report which was released to the public last week, despite the economic recovery which currently exists, Black America has not profited from that recovery. He said the report points out that one-half of all black children grow up in poverty; over a third of all blacks are still poor (two million more blacks became poor in the past seven years); black family income is only 58% of that of whites; and 10% of the black households have less than 10% of the wealth of America.

Progress For Blacks Called "Inadequate"

Washington, DC - In a far reaching report issued at a press conference recently, a group of prominent black scholars clarifies "public discussion and confusion" about black community directions. Entitled "Black Initiative and Governmental Responsibility," the report takes issue with "one-sided emphases and single-minded approaches" and instead advocates a combination of heightened efforts by blacks themselves and increased, more focused government action.

Co-chaired by Duke University historian John Hope Franklin and Georgetown University professor of law Eleanor Holmes Norton, the Committee on Policy for Racial Justice consists of 30 distinguished black scholars from around the nation who meet periodically under the aegis of the Joint Center for Political Studies to review the condition of blacks in American society.

The committee offers a tripartite framework for the "new agenda" which black organizations are debating:

"the need for blacks to draw more explicitly and openly upon the rich and vibrant tradition of black values that continue to sustain them;

"the need for blacks to mobilize and, in some instances, redirect the strong self-help tradition that is hard at work but too often hidden from public view; and

"the need to lay out the much obscured case for government's responsibility for disadvantaged citizens in a stable democracy and indicate specific steps that government should take.

The report emphasizes "the black community's values as a basis for action," then turns to the black community itself as the "agent of change, and to the government to meet its responsibility in addressing "new challenges" - loss of jobs, educational deficiency, childhood poverty and welfare dependency facing the nation as a whole and blacks disproportionately.

The scholars advocate "a judicious, concurrent, and sustained mix of both black self-help efforts and public and private assistance from the nation as a whole to meet the complicated problems that have produced a so-called black underclass." The report acknowledged the "genuine progress" blacks have made, but its emphasis is on the one-third of blacks who remain poor.

The Bureau's latest annual population estimates by ages, sex, and race indicate that blacks totaled 29.4 million in 1986 compared with 26.8 million in the 1980 census. Only 15% of the growth was from immigration.

The black population has been growing faster than the total population and its proportion rose

from 11.8% in 1980 to 12.2 in 1986.

Here are other findings from the report for 1986:



John Jacob
... "Black colleges at risk"

Jacob said, "While all of this and more is going on around us, the federal courts are being stacked with ultra-conservatives, and blacks are largely excluded from appointments to the judicial benches.

He added the report shows that the (federal) administration's proposed budget indicates more of the same.

"More and more money is being sought for military and defense budgets, while self-help programs continue to undergo the Reagan budget axe," he added.

He said these included additional cuts to low income housing programs and nutrition programs, causing low income women, infants and children, and elderly

people to go without basic food aid.

"This is the same administration that launched a drug program last year that now wants to cut drug programs by 20%," he said.

He added that Mr. Reagan's newly proposed budget also proposes slashing 40% from federal spending on student financial aid. "Translating that into reality means thousands of low income young people will either have to defer going to college, or drop out of school altogether" and he said this will hit the historically black college the hardest, because black students are the largest number of college students drawing from such aid.

Jacob said he is confident that

structure of blacks, "the extended family system (that) flourishes today, and historical and existing examples of the self-help tradition ... so embedded in the black heritage as to be virtually synonymous with it."

The scholars contrast the long history of past and continuing black self-initiated contributions, to government action which it says has been "important, both recent and modest." Especially since 1981, the federal government "has retreated on all fronts, deepening black problems."

The Steering Committee, composed of members Louise Sellers, Annie Cherry, Nasif Majeed, Sarah Funderburke, Rev. Earl Johnson, Evalyne Carrington, Donald Johnson and Elenor Washington will salute one of Charlotte's distinguished citizens, Lem Long Jr., owner of Long & Son Funeral Home on Friday, April 3 at 7 p.m. at McDonald's Cafeteria.

A successful businessman, Long is active civically, economically, socially and religiously. While successfully building his business, Long has devoted a great deal of his time serving others and helping them to secure loans as well as build churches.

the Congress of the United States will not go along with such an unfair cutting.

"A recent poll shows that there is equal concern among black and white Americans on the major problems facing the country," he revealed.

He called those concerns, according to the Urban Leagues' report, unemployment, drug abuse and the high cost of living. He urged Black America to help themselves first.

"While it is important to have a partnership between the people and government, there is only so much government can do. The rest, we black people have to do ourselves," he confirmed.

Jacob said the private sector has a responsibility as well.

"It's time the private sector picked up the ball and started running with it," he added.

"Anyone who thinks that the private sector can evade the problem is dead wrong," he reminded.

He called on historically black colleges, to use the reservoir of talent on those campuses and in American communities to lead the way. He praised St. Augustine's College for being a leader in enriching those reservoirs.

Jacob was awarded during the Convocation the President's Scroll of merit by Robinson for his service to the nation and the Urban League.



Lem Long Jr.

Committee To Salute Lem Long

The Steering Committee, composed of members Louise Sellers, Annie Cherry, Nasif Majeed, Sarah Funderburke, Rev. Earl Johnson, Evalyne Carrington, Donald Johnson and Elenor Washington will salute one of Charlotte's distinguished citizens, Lem Long Jr., owner of Long & Son Funeral Home on Friday, April 3 at 7 p.m. at McDonald's Cafeteria.

A successful businessman, Long is active civically, economically, socially and religiously. While successfully building his business, Long has devoted a great deal of his time serving others and helping them to secure loans as well as build churches.

He is chairman of the board of directors of the West Trade-Beatties Ford Merchants Association, the chairman of the board of directors of the Mechanics & Farmers Bank and a member of the board of directors of the Mechanics & Farmers Bank.

At the salute to Lem Long, an Humanitarian Foundation will be established in his honor.

TURTLE-TALK



Any fool can make a rule and any fool will mind it.