

## Fashion For Mist Behavin' Features Black Designers

By LORA VANDERHALL  
Lifestyles Editor

From distinguished African designs to urban contemporary fashions...designer Lateefa Rashida weaves style and comfort into her creations.

Rashida will be one of the many black designers featured in "Fashion for Mist Behavin'," which will be held on Saturday, February 4, 8 p.m. at the Adams Mark Hotel, to benefit the Afro-American Cultural Center.

"Fashion for Mist Behavin'" is sponsored by Canadian Mist to salute black fashion designers.

Rashida, the only Charlottean designer in the show, has been designing since she was 15 years-old.

"I have always wanted to be a fashion designer but I started out being a hair model for Hair Original, before I really got into designing," said Rashida.

After graduating Myers Park High, Rashida began to pursue her dream of becoming a fashion designer.

Rashida, 35, has not had very much formal training but she did attend Fashion Institute of Technology in New York for a short period of time.

In 1985, Rashida moved back to Charlotte after spending five years in New York and five years New Orleans.

One of her most creative designs was made while she was in school.

"I designed this outfit I call 'the bag.'"

The bag is a loose fitting jumpsuit with drawstrings on the sleeves. The pants zip up the side and gather at the ankle with drawstrings.

Rashida has an interesting outlook on fashion.

"My concept of fashion is to enhance the imagination of how people should view women, not merely as sexual objects or displayed mannequins...but to create a texture designed motion for today's progressive woman," she said.

Rashida is a fashion designer for women who are aware of their body's reflection.

When designing, she uses natural materials such as linen and cotton.

"Whatever material you choose it should move with your body. If you have some nice fabric and you make a dress...it should have a nice feel so that you'll enjoy wearing it."

Rashida says that some of her most creative ideas come when she is doing one of her favorite past times, which is fishing.

"It gives me time to think, to create; it's very peaceful," she said.

Rashida has fought personal obstacles to pursue her career.



Designer Lateefa Rashida (above) is working on the top for a two piece outfit that has diaper pants to match.

"I try to avoid negative people. I remember one time a teacher told me that I should learn how to type because I would never make it as a designer."

With her mother's assistance as a child and God's creative ideas she has been able to make some exciting designs.

"I feel great about being the only local designer in the show. There are a lot of talented black designers in this area...I was just blessed," she concludes.

She says she hopes the show will be enjoyable for the audience and create some interest in her designs.

Some of her designs for Saturday include a red ultrasuede, double-breasted suit, a black and floral print dress of a polyester-velvet blend and a three-piece black and white pant suit.

Some of the local models for the show are Jalyne Strong of The Charlotte Post, Michael Saunders of WPEG radio, Rick Jackson of WPCQ-TV and Ange-

la Simpson of GM Productions.

National designers include Kevin-Robert, Zulma, Reginald Thomas and North Carolina native Sterlin Capricio.

Additional designers featured in "Fashion for Mist Behavin'" are Barbara Bates, David Byrd, Danita Carter, Martin Elliott, Greg Gonzon, Keith Kendall, Carlos Lewis, Dexter Luroi, SPY, Faye Sowell, Eugene Stevens and Willi Smith/Willi Wear.

In 1987, the fashion show was featured in Mobile and Birmingham, Alabama, where Canadian mist contributed \$10,000 to the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Sickle Cell Disease Association and \$9,000 to the Birmingham Urban League.

Tickets for the show are \$10 per person. Advance tickets are available at UNC Charlotte's Cone Center, Caribbean Records and the Afro-American Cultural Center.

For additional information call the Afro-American Cultural Center at 374-1565.



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Lateefa has been designing for the past 20 years. She is wearing a print body wrap made of three

yards of tear drop material. The wrap can be worn in a variety of styles.



Photo/LANEY

About 300 people gathered at the Embassy Suites Hotel to celebrate Dan McLaurin's 70th birthday. Pictured above (l-r) Dan McLaurin,

Sen. Jim Richardson and Yvonne Danette McLaurin.

## Friends Surprise McLaurin

By LORA VANDERHALL  
Lifestyles Editor

Dan McLaurin was recently honored with a surprise party for his 70th birthday at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

The party was hosted by his wife, Bettye McConnaughey McLaurin, and daughter Yvonne Danette McLaurin.

A group of more than 20 persons assisted with the preparations.

With Senator Jim Richardson presiding, June McLaurin Jeffers began the celebration with a chronological history of Dan McLaurin's life.

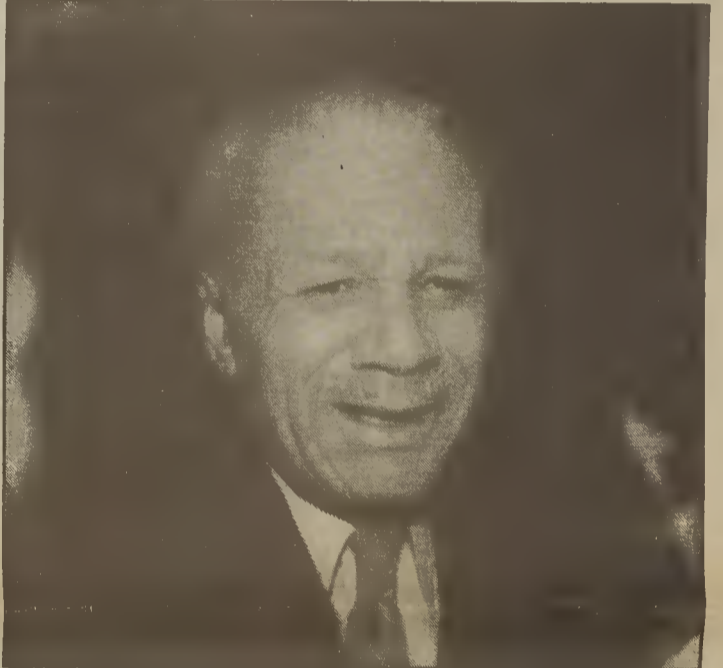
The invocation was given by Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, and the Omega Ensemble provided the music.

The group sang "Some Enchanted Evening," "There Is Nothing Like A Dame," and "Climb Every Mountain."

Harold Lassiter, Ann Thompson, Gloria Miller, Elizabeth Dargan, Vernice Morgan, Calvin Brown and Leroy Miller shared with McLaurin in a segment called "Dan, Do You Remember When...?"

McLaurin's nephew, David McLaurin, who is and actor in Las Angeles, sent a special video presentation for the occasion.

The video was a jazz version of "Danny Boy" with David on saxophone. David is currently in one of the Miller Lite commercials.



McLaurin

Photo/LANEY

The guest enjoyed a variety of heavy hors d'oeuvres, fruits, cheeses and birthday cake.

The room was beautifully decorated with McLaurin's fraternity colors of purple and gold.

About 300 family members and friends attend the party. Guest came from Texas, Washington, Maryland, South Caroli-

na, Durham, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Concord and Lumberton.

Following the party, out-of-town guest were invited to an after party.

McLaurin, who has retired from the Charlotte Area Fund, said, "I was more than surprised...I was shocked."



Pictured above are some of the group members of "Leaders of Tomorrow" along with coordinator

Vivian Williams (c).

## The Leaders Of Tomorrow Make Plans For A Weekend Ski Retreat

Special To The Post

The Leaders of Tomorrow, a group organized to expose young men to business and provide enrichment opportunities, is planning a weekend retreat to the Appalachian Ski Resort on February 11 and 12.

The parents of the group members have planned this retreat and it will be a first time ski experience for many.

Throughout the weekend, there will be learning sessions on team building, working through peer pressure and leadership skills. Some of the teachers for the session will include, school board member Arthur Griffin and several parents; Richard Barnes, John Webb and

Tolly Kennon.

Vivian Williams, organizer of the group, said, "To date a total of 23 creative, dedicated, energetic and risk taking students, age 13-18 are active participants in the group."

The group activities are focused on problem-solving, interpersonal skills, communications and planning skills.

An emphasis is also placed on community service, committee work and learning to be responsible for oneself and others.

Williams believes the workshops, seminars, mini courses, outdoor adventures and special event s help students learn the basic skills to be successful leaders and group members.

Members of the group include: Cedric Chambers, Billy Clement, Sean Young, John Clement, Tarius Dolby, Lin Fisher, Taj Ferguson, Anthony Foxx, Adam Gantt, William Haygood, Anthony Jones, Derek Barnes, Travis Littles, Allye Kennon, Bert McCain, Shawn Polk, Troy Scarborough, George Battle, Jason Watt, John Webb, Ashley Williams, Warren Williams and James Wilson, Jr.

Space is available for ten additional persons to participate in this ski weekend retreat.

For further details, parents should contact Vivian Williams at 392-1540 or Mamie Barnes at 568-6816 no later than Tuesday, February 7.