

People

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Close-Up

Parents address social problems

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Picketing in front of city hall or blasting the Board of Aldermen for making unpopular decisions is not the way Concerned Mothers Fighting For Justice (CMFFJ) go about getting things done.

Formed four years ago after the murders of 26 black youth in Atlanta, several black women in the community called a press conference to address the problem of the parent's role in keeping children off the streets. From there, goals and purposes blossomed.

Lee Faye Mack, a single mother of six children, serves as president of CMFFJ and Khalida Lovelle, a single mother of three, chairs CMFFJ's board of directors.

"When we first organized we were very low-keyed," says Mack. "You better be low-keyed in this town if you want to get organized, set goals and recruit reliable people."

Since forming, the group, consisting mostly of single mothers and several fathers, boasts an active roster of 25 members, says Lovelle. The group is made up of people from all walks of life, including attorneys, secretaries, teachers and welfare recipients.

"We're only a support group," says Lovelle, "but I don't believe you have to have government funds to be effective and filter information, and you don't have to have a structured building, either."

The group members meet monthly at Mack's home. Exchanging ideas about motherhood, life and the facts of it are a few of the topics they wrestle with. In addition, says Mack, the group serves as a source of advice to mothers who aren't knowledgeable about legal services available to them. Because CMFFJ monitors laws that affect women in the country, the city of Winston-Salem has nominated the group for membership into the National

Center on Family and Law, a lobbying group that monitors and speaks out against the ill effects society and its laws have on the family.

"We recognize the fact that women in North Carolina have been on the struggling toe," says Mack. "North Carolina had the last and the slowest court system to implement laws that affect women and deal with the matter of garnishing a father's check when he doesn't pay child support."

"We're concerned with housing and the education of our children," she says, "and we're concerned about mothers who don't take care of their children and about babies having babies."

Mack says many times the discussion and workshop

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sessions serve as a basis for counseling women who aren't aware of the consequences of unmarried couples living together, adultery, sexual permissiveness and failing to use contraceptives.

Next week, Mack will represent the group in Raleigh at a workshop session with the state's Human Relations Department.

The only money the group has ever really had in its possession was when it raised \$300 to assist the city of Atlanta in finding the killer of the 26 youths a few years ago. This summer, says Lovelle, the group will kick off another fund-raising campaign through Kibatu, the reading program for underprivileged children. Funds raised will sponsor a bus trip for the children to tour Atlanta



Lee Faye Mack, president of Concerned Mothers Fighting For Justice, says the closer families and stronger morals would negate the need for organizations such as the one she heads (photo by James Parker).

this summer.

"If by chance we got money with no strings attached," says Lovelle, "I'd like to see us build a school that dealt with teaching parents how to be good parents and I'd like to see that school in the black community."

Mack says many family problems today are a result of a loss of family closeness and lack of morals. If this weren't the case, she says, organizations such as CMFFJ

wouldn't be needed.

"This whole thing grew out of a sincere group of people who are sincere about their lives and their children's lives," says Mack.

"We've had people who wanted to take our ideas and put them to work," she says, "but that was done in the '60s and '70s and it didn't help. Look at CETA. It didn't solve the problem; it was just a Band-Aid."

Social Notes

Assemblymen honored

The Coalition for Progressive Legislation recently honored the members of the North Carolina General Assembly at a dinner at the Sheraton-Crabtree Motor Inn in Raleigh.

Each of the 12 black members of the General Assembly, including Rep. C.B. Hauser and Rep. Annie Brown Kennedy, was presented with a plaque saluting and commending them for the contributions to racial justice and equality.

Keynoting the \$50 a plate awards dinner was Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Berry. Funds raised from the dinner will go to a lobbyist who will help to maximize the black community's thrust and input into the legislative process.

The Rev. Leon White of the Commission of Racial Justice delivered the invocation. Greetings were brought by Dr. Milton Quigless of the Old North State Medical Society and Dr. Lavonia Allison of the N.C. Black Leadership Caucus. Dr. Betty Sutton of the Old North State Dental Society introduced the speaker and attorney Irving Joyner, president of the Association of Black

Lawyers, presided and presented the plaques, along with Miss Sarah Fields, president of the Black Social Workers.

Mrs. June McLaurin Jeffers of the Funeral Directors and Morticians made closing remarks and the Rev. Floyd McKissick delivered the benediction. Musical entertainment was rendered by the Harold Jefferys Jazz Ensemble.

Organizations that are currently members of the coalition are the N.C. Black Leadership Caucus, the N.C. Association of Black Lawyers, the Old North State Medical and Dental Societies and the N.C. Black Legislative Caucus.

The N.C. Association of Black Social Workers, the N.C. Association of Minority Public Officials, the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of N.C. Inc. and the N.C.-Virginia Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ are also members.

The coalition pledges itself to the coordination of business of black people in the N.C. General Assembly and solicits the support and active participation of all blacks in this effort.

Theatre Guild sponsors reception for members

On Sunday, April 22, at 7 p.m., the N.C. Black Repertory Company Theatre Guild will sponsor a reception for Guild members and their friends in the Arts Council Theatre Lobby.

Entertainment will be provided by the Black Rep Orchestra under the direction of Joe Daniels and David Allen.

Featured at the reception will be the Black Rep Singers. They are Carlotta Samuels, Latonya Black, Connye Florance, Toni Tupponce, Sharon Wilson, Charles Springs, Brian Womble, Elliot Lowery,

Sharon Beck, Barbara Jenkins and the Rev. John Heath. Also featured will be the Black Rep Dancers. They are Stanley Reynolds, Kim Williams and Robin Littlejohn.

The cast from "Medal of Honor Rag," the Rep's next production, which will star New York actor Frank Barrett, will also be guests at the reception. Others attending the reception will be Ken Connors and Larry Leon Hamlin, producer and artistic director for the Company.

The public is invited to attend.



Left to right are Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Wheeler, parents; Mr. and Mrs. William Merle Carroll, bride and groom, with the bride's son, Richard Dunlap; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence McKee, the bride's godparents; and Mrs. William Earl.

Newlyweds honored at reception

A week of pre-wedding and post-wedding festivities culminated for Mr. and Mrs. William Merle Carroll, Saturday, April 14, at the home of the bride's godparents, Mrs. and Mrs. Clarence McKee, which was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Wheeler, the bride's mother and stepfather.

The new bride, the former Mrs. Ritchie Dunlap Graham of Winston-Salem, and the groom were married April 1 in Washington, D.C.

Approximately 150 guests attending the evening

affair, which carried a spring theme amid tropical decorations, lavender mums, a unity candelabra and carnations.

Miss Louise Smith, head hostess, greeted guests and formally introduced Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, the family of the bride and others who traveled from cities in the state, Virginia, Georgia, Washington and Europe to attend the reception.

Mrs. Modesta Earl, president of the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, saluted Mrs. Carroll, who is a member of the sorority,

with an inspiring message and presented her with a bouquet of red and white carnations.

Dr. Kenneth R. Williams, chancellor emeritus of Winston-Salem State University, offered the wedding prayer and blessed the couple, as Miss Angela Jones, violinist, played Malotte's, Lord's Prayer.

Hosts for the wedding reception buffet, which featured a spring garden menu, were Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Wheeler. The caterer was Mr. Charles McIntyre.

Mrs. Earl and Mrs. Alice Carter were the registrars for the guest book; Mrs. Ulysses Wilson and Mrs. William H. McGee received the gifts; Mrs. Joseph Lowery and Mrs. Edward Joyner poured punch; Mrs. James Lindsay and Mrs. Oliver Wheeler served the cake, and Mrs. Joseph Vernon Carter was the hostess for the buffet line.

As guests departed, the hostess gave each lady cymbidium atop a lavender napkin with the names of the bride and groom and the date of the wedding embossed in gold lettering.

Chamber honors N.C. Mutual Life

North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company received the monthly salute and Business Award during special ceremonies April 4.

Each month, the award is presented to a deserving Forsyth County business by the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and

the Hyatt Winston-Salem. At the awards luncheon, district sales manager C.P. Booker and sales manager W.A. Barber accepted the honor for N.C. Mutual.

Representing the Chamber were Executive Vice President Charlie Webb and officer Dee Smith of R.J.

Reynolds Tobacco Co. predominantly black managed life insurance companies.

Organized in 1899, the company currently operates in 15 states and the District of Columbia. The Winston-Salem district office has 23 employees.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

- *A free six-week weight control program sponsored by the Forsyth Agricultural Service beginning today from 10 a.m. until noon and will continue on May 1, 10, 17, 24 and 31. The class will meet at 1450 Fairchild Drive. For information call the extension office at 784-1111.
- *King Solomon Consistory No. 54 will hold its annual Maundy Thursday service at the Masonic Hall at 14th Street and Highland Avenue at 7 p.m. Sobline Princes and peers are invited. Consistory's annual Easter Sunday morning service will be at Galilee Baptist Church at 5 a.m. April 22. This service is open to the public. The illustrious Commander-in-Chief H. L. Ward, 33rd degree, is asking both the brethren and assembly to be present and on time.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

- *The Big Four Alumni Basketball Tournament (Atkins, Anderson, Carver and Paisley high schools formerly senior high schools) will be held tonight and tomorrow night at Atkins High School. Games will be played each night from 7:30 p.m. For more information contact the Atkins High School Football Club, Inc., at 784-1111.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

- *The Schola Temple No. 170 will hold its meeting today at 2 p.m. All those who wish to be present and on time should arrive at the meeting at 1:30 p.m. For more information contact the Schola Temple at 784-1111.

MONDAY, APRIL 23

- *The Les Bonnes Filles Club will meet at 11 a.m. for brunch and games at the home of Mrs. Small at 4641 Beck Mt. Road.

PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICE

- *Any members or anyone knowing the whereabouts of any members of the 1953 Class of Atkins High School please contact the following members by name and address: Barbara Isaiah, 784-1111; Lewis T. Hines, 767-9430; or the Rev. Joseph Small, 784-1096.
- *Any members or anyone knowing the whereabouts of any members of the 1974 Class of Atkins High School please call 768-8991 or write Leonard, P.O. Box 633, Watauga, N.C. 28685. Give names and addresses.
- *Registration for the Winston-Salem Track Club will begin last Tuesday at Winston-Salem State University. Those who wish to become members should come by during the registration period.

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