

People

Community Calendar, Close-Up, Social Notes, Community News

Close-Up

Walking to fight against birth defects

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Saturday at 8 a.m., registration will begin at Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem for "Walk Piedmont," which is the local segment of "Walk America," a nationwide walk-a-thon to raise money to aid the March of Dimes in its fight against birth defects.

"Walk Piedmont" will be held in Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point and Burlington. Participants in the walk for the Greater Triad March of Dimes, which spans 10 counties, will begin their 10-mile hike at 9 a.m. from the stadium.

However, the old method of pledging money for walkers who walk a designated number of miles has been discontinued as of last year, says Bonnie Mellette, executive director of the March of Dimes office in Winston-Salem.

"When people were pledging money," she says, "the participants had to go back and collect the money from donors and a lot of times they (walkers) had trouble getting all the money that was pledged."

"We (March of Dimes) were only getting 60 percent of the pledged amount," Mellette says. "Now they're just asking for donations and gathering the money to take a 10-mile hike."

Over 100 businesses in the Triad have agreed to take part in the walk, but Mellette says because her office was consumed with just getting the event underway, soliciting support from local black businesses was overlooked.

"I'm a bit frustrated because we didn't think to target black business," she says. "But per-

sonally I don't think of black or white businesses because all the money will go towards the March of Dimes programs."

Although it's not too late to volunteer for the walk, Mellette says there has been a tremendous response and an outpouring of participation from black fraternities and sororities at Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina A&T and High Point College.

"What that says to me is that the black community is interested in things that enhance the quality of life," she says.

In 1983, the 10 counties of the Triad joined

"I'm a bit frustrated because we didn't think to target black businesses, but personally I don't think of black or white businesses because all the money will go towards March of Dimes programs."

-- Bonnie Mellette

together to form the Greater Triad Chapter. The chapter's first poster child is 5-year-old Artreice Westmoreland of Winston-Salem.

On Saturday, says Mellette, Artreice will be on hand at the walk from 11:30 a.m. to noon to thank all who have volunteered their services and donated money to the March of Dimes.

Also, for those unable to attend the day's events or participate in the march, Channel 12, a co-sponsor of the event, will tune in periodically to update the activities, says Jerry Kenion, promotions manager for WXII.

Cut-ins into Saturday's programming will

give viewers live coverage of the march in Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point. A taped version of the Burlington march will be flown in, Kenion says.

"This is our big community project of the year," she says, "but it's really a year-round commitment. No one will be off at the station Saturday. If they're not working, they'll be walking."

Other businesses participating in the march are Wachovia, which will have 850 of its employees tee-shirted for the walk, Cone Mills, Blue Bell, Jefferson Standard and a host of others, says Mellette.

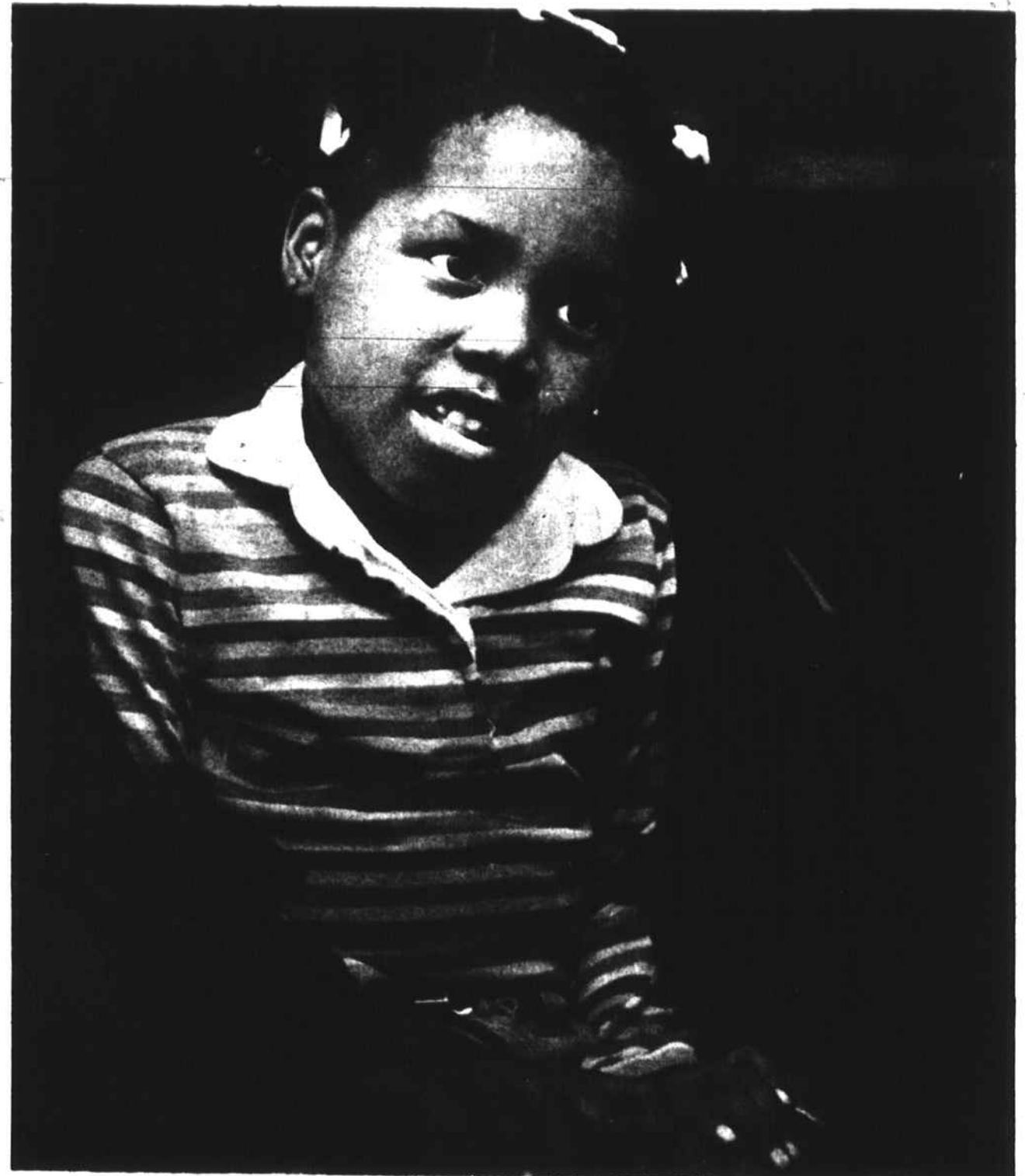
Bands, balloons and clowns will also highlight the day, but for those who may become exhausted or suffer injury, Mellette says three checkpoints will be set up and manned by trained firemen to assist the walkers.

"We try to take extremely good care of our walkers," she says, "and if they just can't make it, we'll have 'poop-out vehicles' driven by the Army Reserve on hand."

Over 3,000 are expected to participate in the walk, says the executive director, but she says the March of Dimes is still accepting registrations and donations for others who would like to participate.

Velma Westmoreland, Artreice's mother, had made plans to participate in the march, but is now sidelined due to an illness. She is, however, sponsoring someone to take her place.

"Birth defects happen to us (blacks), too," says Westmoreland. "I really wasn't involved either until it happened to my child."



As the poster child for the Greater Triad Chapter of the March of Dimes, Artreice Westmoreland will be on hand Saturday for Walk Piedmont, a birth defects fund-raiser (photo by Joe Daniels).

Social Notes

Ladies to host seminar

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction recently held a community seminar and breakfast to discuss the topic "The Needs of the Family in 1984" at Winston-Salem State University.

Over 125 community members attended the seminar, which focused on the legal, economic, political and social needs of the family.

The speakers, all members of TLOD, were the state Reps. Annie Brown Kennedy and Margaret Tennille, Aldermen Virginia Newell and Vivian Burke; attorney Meyressa Schoonmaker; County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff; Florence Creque, assistant director of Community Development for the city; Joan Cardwell, secretary for the Forsyth County Elections Board and Margo Wharton.

Mrs. Thelma Small gave the welcome and Dr. Manderline Scales gave the occasion, followed by a prayer by Mrs. Chlories Shore. Mrs. Velma Friend introduced program participants and Mrs. Burke gave the summary.

Local political candidates and their representatives also attended the seminar, handing out campaign literature and addressing the audience.

Certificates were presented to community organizations with the

highest attendance. Those receiving the awards were The Task Force on Families, Experiment in Self-Reliance Inc. and Scott's Family Care Home No. 2.

All persons attending the seminar were given souvenirs provided by the Flonnie Anderson Theatrical Association, The Forsyth County Health Department, The Tarheel Association of Storytellers, the Environmental Protection Agency, WSSU, Forsyth County Mental Health Association, Winston Mutual Life Insurance Co. and Dorsey Laboratories.

Some of the community organizations represented at the seminar were The Book Club of Today, Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Better Idea Community Club, Flora Buffs Garden Club, the Winston-Salem Chapter of the Moles, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Council on the Status of Women, Jack and Jill of America, Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Alpha Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the Winston-Salem Urban League.

Dr. Scales served as chairperson for the seminar. Dr. Callie Coaxum is the local chapter president of TLOD and Mrs. Thelma Small is the chapter organizer.

Flora Buffs Club meets

The Flora Buffs Garden Club recently met at the home of Mrs. Gloria King, where members took part in a flower show and exchanged plants from their collections.

Serving as hostess was Mrs. C.J. Washington.

Plans were finalized for the club's participation in the upcoming annual flower show June 2 at the Rupert Bell Recreation Center.

Mrs. Jo Ann Falls, Forsyth County Agricultural Extension Agent, also met with the group and discussed consumer education.

The Flora Buffs recognized Mrs. Gladys Oldham, a group member, on her recent award for Excellence in Teaching.

Members of the Flora Buffs program committee are Mrs. Ann Dew, Mrs. Modesta Earl, Mrs. King, Mrs. Tressie Springs, Mrs. Esther Rockett and Mrs. Morece Wade. Mrs. Doris Hartsfield is president.



The newly installed officers and members of the Retiree Association of the Armed Forces are, front row, left to right, Howard L. Lowe, Clifford Moore, Louis Williams, Charlie Jones and Otho Darden; back row, left to right, George R. Grady Sr., chaplain; Roosevelt Bennett, vice president; Everett Thurston, treasurer; Charles Gwyn, president, and Rupert Bell Jr., sgt. at arms. Not pictured are Bobby Ingram and William Merchison. Any local person with 20 years honorable service is invited to join the group (photo by James Parker).

WXII receives award for conservation stories

WXII is the first television station ever to receive the Conservation Communicator of the Year Award from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and the Governor's office.

The award was one of three recent awards given to the station. The Southeastern District of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and

Winston-Salem State University also honored WXII with awards.

Newscenter 12's John Stubbendorf accepted the Conservation Communicator of the Year Award from Governor Jim Hunt at a ceremony in the Governor's Office. Lt. Governor Jimmy Green also made a formal presentation to WXII during an awards ceremony at the 39th annual North Carolina

Wildlife Federation convention in Raleigh.

WXII was chosen for the award based on a series of 1983 conservation stories on Newscenter 12.

At a March 26 luncheon, Dr. Thomas Hearn, president of Wake Forests University, presented WXII Vice President and General Manager Reynard Corley with the CASE Exceptional Achievement Award for 1984. WXII was honored for its series of public ser-

vice announcements congratulating Wake Forest on its 150th anniversary. The series was cited for its exceptional impact, originality and technical excellence.

WSSU honored the station with the Business Industry Cluster Award during the Cluster's March meeting. This award was given to WXII because of the station's contributions to WSSU, including guest speakers and public service announcements.

1984 Miss Afro-American Pageant opens in June

The United Negro College Fund Inter-Alumni Council (Miami Chapter) and the Greater St. Bunnaventure of America Inc. are presently accepting applications for participation in the 1984 Miss Afro-American Pageant.

Black campus queens from across the nation may partake in one of the world's newest and most unique pageants of date and vie for the prestigious Miss Afro-American title, plus an array of prizes and scholarships, including a

trip to London courtesy of Air Florida.

The Miss Afro-American Collegiate Pageant, which was conceived as a part of the great American dream, will be held in Miami, Fla., June 23 for an exciting weekend of pageantry.

Pamela Young, Miss Afro-American 1983 said she had a dream only one week before the pageant that she would win. "The Miss Afro-American Pageant proves that dreams really do come true," she said.

Miss Young was recently honored in Miami with colorful, "Salute to the Queen," ceremony.

Marching bands, singers, dancers, South Florida dignitaries, high school queens, college queens and the Florida Memorial College Ambassador Chorale welcomed Miss Afro-American to the state of Florida.

Andrus Boyd Grayson, president and founder of the pageant, said, "These campus queens are great role models for our

children. They are indeed winners, intelligent, educated, talented and marvelously regal."

Applications must be postmarked by May 21. For additional information, contact pageant headquarters at (305) 358-7471.

Business, social and civic organizations interested in advertising in the Miss Afro-American souvenir brochure may do so by also contacting pageant headquarters. Closing date for advertisers is June 8.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

...the public is invited.

...intermediate and advanced...

...offered at the 14th Street Recreation...

...Registration begins May 1 at the...

...located at 2020 N.E. 14th St...

...Dorothina Scales is the instr...

...Salvation Army Boys' Club is an...

...age for 7-9 year olds. Registration...

...and will run through April 30...

...of the Salvation Army Boys' Club...

...for information, call 788-5761.

...you would like to have some free...

...American Cancer Society is in need of volunteers...

...in the office, at home or at a special event...

...information, call 761-1524.

...Community Action Center has the...

...Salvation Army Boys' Club needs...

...to obtain its Fellowship at Ch...

...program and use to conduct a Du...

...Education program. Schedules...

...the business needs. For more infor...