

Close-Up

Leon Scales: Keeping 'em honest

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

In May 1953 five black law enforcement officers met in Durham to discuss their roles as professional agents of the law. That meeting led to an organization that today protects the rights of police officers in their work.

The North State Law Enforcement Officers Association is a non-profit organization devoted to

"We don't back foolishness. As officers, we know who we are and what we're supposed to do. If an officer is doing his job and following the regulations, there is no reason for him to be discriminated against, and we'll look into it. But if an officer goes out and is arrested for DUI or something like that and loses his rank, then he has no reason to complain."

-- Leon Scales

furthering the education and training of minority law enforcement officers. It also serves as a watchdog to protect against racial discrimination.

"We try to protect the welfare and rights of other officers and members to help prevent discrimination," says Leon Scales, president of the organization's local chapter. "We try to make sure that law

enforcement officers are not denied promotions and positions simply because of their race."

Scales, a sergeant at the Winston-Salem sheriff's office, says some officers have been reluctant to become involved with the association because they doubt its credibility. He says their suspicions are unfounded.

"A lot of people are afraid of it (the organization) because it's all black," Scales says. "They fear their jobs or whatever, which is not really a problem. We're not an organization anyone has to hang their heads about. We're well-organized. Our members range from regular officers to police chiefs."

Scales notes that Johnell Ruston, the police chief in East Spencer, is a member of the organization and that the deputy police chief in Greensboro is president of the state organization.

Since its founding, the association has monitored and investigated charges of discrimination which have been brought by minority officers. Scales says suits have been filed against two North Carolina cities, but he declines to name the cities.

"We initiated suits against those two cities after we looked into the complaints the minority officers brought," he says. "In those cities, blacks have been promoted as a result of the suits. We also entered a class-action suit against the state of North Carolina, which was settled out of court after about three or four years."



Leon Scales says his law enforcement officers' association provides a service for all officers (photo by James Parker).

The association, says Scales, prides itself on its effective organizational structure. The group has attracted the attention of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, which represents black law enforcement officers on a national level. Scales says, however, that his organiza-

tion has elected to remain a state organization rather than be absorbed by a national organization.

"Our organization was formed in this state, and we wanted to keep it that way," Scales says. "By staying a state organization, we are better able to Please see page A11

Social Notes

Dr. Mable McLean encourages AKAs to look to the future

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's 78th anniversary was celebrated by members of the Winston-Salem, Lexington and Salisbury graduate chapters and the undergraduate chapters of Winston-Salem State University and Livingstone College Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Holiday Inn North.

The observance was coordinated by Phi Omega, the alumna chapter of Winston-Salem. Alletis Bryant served as chairman of the program committee and as mistress of ceremonies.

The luncheon's keynote speaker was Dr. Mable P. McLean, president of Barber-Scotia College in Concord. Her address was called

"Remembering the Glorious Past and Projecting for the Future."

Her speech challenged her sorority sisters to keep the doors of black history ajar and to use the past as a foundation for the present, the prelude to and landmark of the future.

Other program participants included Janet Wheeler, Phi Omega basileus, Pauline Jackson, Theldora Small, Bernice Davenport and Dr. Barbara K. Phillips, former national president of the sorority.

Fifty-year members were honored at the service, and Dr. Lillian Lewis was recognized for 64 years of service to Alpha Kappa Alpha.



Local basileus Janet Wheeler, left, committee chairman Alletis Bryant, center, and guest speaker Dr. Mable P. McLean pause for a photograph during Alpha Kappa Alpha's Founders' Day observance (photo by James Parker).

Geneva Brown, Barbara H. Brown and Carol Greene also served on the Founders' Day committee.

Winston-Salem Urban League seeks minority viewpoint in annual essay contest

The Winston-Salem Urban League, in conjunction with Grand Met and National Urban League, is sponsoring its annual essay contest for 1986.

Local Urban League President Thomas Elijah says that the purpose of the event is to "foster national awareness of the benefits and opportunities derived from education and the free-enterprise system."

The topic for this year's essay is "The Minority Viewpoint: The Role of Family, Community and

Student in Motivating Minorities Toward Achieving Academic Excellence."

Fifteen academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded to winners, payable to an accredited institution of higher learning.

All entries must be submitted to the Urban League and postmarked no later than March 28.

Participants must be entering college freshmen or undergraduate students who will

be attending accredited institutions during 1986-87.

Interested students should con-

tact the Winston-Salem Urban League at 725-5614 for more information.

Along the Garden Path Club meets

The Along the Garden Path Garden Club met Jan. 20 at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Kelly O.P. Goodwin.

The president called the meeting to order with a prayer and the singing of "We Shall Overcome" in honor of Dr. Mar-

tin Luther King Jr. Mrs. Goodwin read the minutes of the previous meeting; Ruth Shoof gave the treasurer's report.

The meeting's agenda included a report from the garden council Please see page A11

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

• The Metropolitan North Carolina District Opera Auditions will be held in Crawford Hall at the North Carolina School of the Arts as part of "Opera Day" at 12:30 p.m. Admission is a \$1 donation. For more information call 725-2022.

• The Piedmont Opera Theatre will host its Fifth Annual Opera Day Dinner at the Old Town Country Club. The three audition winners will sing, as well as soprano Kathryn Jennings and baritone Ronald Campbell. Tickets for the dinner are \$35 per person and may be obtained by calling the opera office at 725-2022.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

• The Stevens Center of the North Carolina School of the Arts will present Sandra Reaves-Phillips and her one-woman show, "The Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz," at 8 p.m. Ms. Reaves-Phillips will bring to life several great blues singers, including Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Ethel Waters, Billie Holiday and Mahalia Jackson. Tickets are \$11 for orchestra seats and \$9 for balcony seats; they are available at the center's box office. For more information call 721-1945.

• Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County will have a dedication service for its first house at 3:30 p.m. at 1327 Thurmond St. The guest speaker will be Dr. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit Christian housing ministry dedicated to helping low-income families improve their housing conditions. In case of bad weather, the ceremonies will be held in Saints Home United Methodist Church on Thurmond Street. For more information call 722-2001.

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

• The Artworks Gallery Inc., 217 W. Sixth St., will present Martha M. Dunigan, assemblages and tents, and Katherine M. Hullivan, works on paper, at the gallery through March 22. A reception will be held Friday, Feb. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information call 723-5890.

• The YWCA's Mother's Network will feature a program on sleep problems in the young child from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Dr. Tom Peters, child psychiatrist at Forsyth/Stokes Mental Health Center, will be the guest speaker. The fee is \$1.50 for members and \$2.25 for non-members. Babysitting is available. For more information call 722-5138.

• The La Leche League of Winston-Salem will present a discussion on "Are There Foods I Should Avoid If I Breastfeed My Baby?" at 7:30 p.m. at 310 Hillsboro Drive. The discussion will include suggestions about nutrition for nursing mothers and their families. For more information call 983-3331.

• The Forsyth Health Education Council will meet at the Central YMCA. The program will begin at 8 a.m. with refreshments and a period of sharing and fellowship. Dr. William A. Lambeth Jr. will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "The Doctor-Patient Relationship." For more information call 722-1163.

• The YWCA's Tuesday Night Out will present a program entitled "A Rational Discussion of AIDS" at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Sam Pegram, specialist in infectious diseases at Bowman Gray School of Medicine. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a fitness class, followed by a whirlpool, sauna session and light dinner. The fee is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members. The fee

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About Town

Adventurous 'Cope' production to be staged by NCBRC

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
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The North Carolina Black Repertory Company this weekend will present what its executive director calls the troupe's "most adventurous undertaking" to date.

Larry Leon Hamlin, the company's director, says the local production of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" will be a must-see for all area residents. The NCBRC production of Vinette Carroll's hit Broadway musical opens Friday, Feb. 7, at 8 p.m. at the Arts Council Theatre and will run through Sunday, Feb. 9.

Bringing a play of "Cope" 's caliber to Winston-Salem was a type of gift to local residents in recognition of Black History Month. Hamlin says the produc-



Vinette Carroll, left, and Mabel Robinson go over last-minute "shop talk" during the national production of Miss Carroll's "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" (photo by Ken Howard).

tion is expensive and will be a risk for the NCBRC, but he feels it is

a fitting tribute to Black History Month. He has assembled an im-

pressive cast of performers from New York and from the Triad. Hamlin was also able to assemble a directing team that includes members of the original production.

Mabel Robinson, a member of the original Broadway production of "Cope," will direct the local performances. Ms. Robinson has been critically acclaimed in the theatre world as a director, choreographer and actress. A faculty member at the North Carolina School of the Arts, Ms. Robinson has also directed the national and international touring productions of "Cope."

As an actress/dancer, Ms. Robinson has appeared in the hit Broadway musical "Your Arms Too Short to Box with God," another work by Vinette Carroll. Please see page A10