



Local NAACP chapter accepts lifetime member

Ora M. Rutland presented her final payment on an NAACP Life Membership to C.B. Hauser, chapter life membership chairman, May 25. She made her initial payment Aug. 26, 1996. A life membership costs \$500. The Life Membership program is the financial life blood of the NAACP. It is recommended that a life membership be paid for in installments of \$50 over a 10-year period. Speaking of Rutland's payment record, Hauser said, "I have been soliciting NAACP Life Memberships for more than 20 years. There have been a few individuals and organizations which make a one-time payment of \$500 for a life membership, but most subscribers make annual or an occasional payment until the \$500 is paid. Ms. Rutland is the first one of my subscribers to make eight consecutive monthly payments and a final payment of \$100. Rutland is retired from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

'The Glory of Gospel' auditions set for June 21

Director/choreographer Mabel Robinson is seeking strong gospel singers and dancers to perform for the 1997 National Black Theatre Festival's production "The Glory of Gospel," produced by Larry Leon Hamlin and the North Carolina Black Repertory Company. The audition date will be June 21 at 2:30 p.m. at the Anderson

Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

Be prepared to sing an up-tempo selection, preferably gospel, and a ballad. Cassette tracks can be used as accompaniment; however, be prepared to sing a capella if requested (An accompanist will also be provided).

The National Black Theatre

Festival is an event that brings together the black theaters of the world and attracts more than 50 celebrities.

If you plan to attend the audition or if you have any questions, please contact Elliott D. Lowery at The North Carolina Black Repertory Company office, (910) 723-2266, Monday through Friday between noon and 5 p.m.

Women of Purpose to sponsor women's conference

Dr. Millicent Thompson, of Philadelphia, will again be a keynote speaker for the 1997 Women's Conference, sponsored by the Women of Purpose Ministries (WOP) of Cleveland Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 945 Cleveland Ave., on Friday, June 13. Thompson is the senior pastor of the Baptist Worship Center in Philadelphia, and the award-winning author of two books. She received the 1995 Christian Women of Excellence award for her book "Don't Die in the Winter ... Your Season Is Coming."

Thompson, who is a much-sought-after revivalist and conference speaker across the country, is returning to the city after a powerful and anointing message during last year's conference.

Another keynote speaker for the WOP Conference '97 will be Dr. Patricia Bailey, of Atlanta. Bailey is president/director of Master's Touch Ministries International. Her ministry has affected the lives of many in over 20 countries around the world. She will be the featured speaker opening the conference Thursday night.

This year's conference will be held Thursday through Saturday, June 12-14, at Cleveland Avenue Christian Church in Winston-Salem. The theme is "Women called according to His own purpose and grace" (II Timothy 1:9). Other conference speakers include the Rev. Sheldon M. McCarter, pastor of CACC, and Evangelist Audrey McCarter-Hedgepeth, of Morning Star Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Rocky Mount, N.C. The conference will culminate on Saturday, June 14, when Thompson speaks for the closing session.

Operation Will Power recognizes school pledgees

A press conference was held at the central office of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools recently, to recognize schools whose students made pledges to Operation Will Power. Operation Will Power of Statement, Inc., is a charitable, educational, non-profit organization organized to encourage students and citizens of the United States (as well as others within its borders) who have not participated in drugs, violence, imprisonment, or gun use, due to the danger they engender for the individual as well as the country. Three schools, Diggs, First Assembly, and Carver High, were each presented a check in the amount of \$1,000, for having the highest percentage of their students pledge to be "free." They represented the elementary, middle, and high school. The principals of these schools expressed their appreciation to Operation Will Power and accepted the checks on behalf of the school and students. Representatives from the police department, community and the Board of Statement Inc., were in attendance.

Dr. Martin, superintendent of schools, expressed his thanks to Operation Will Power for the positive image that it has had on the schools, and his willingness to support this worthwhile effort. A total of 14 schools participated in Operation Will Power.

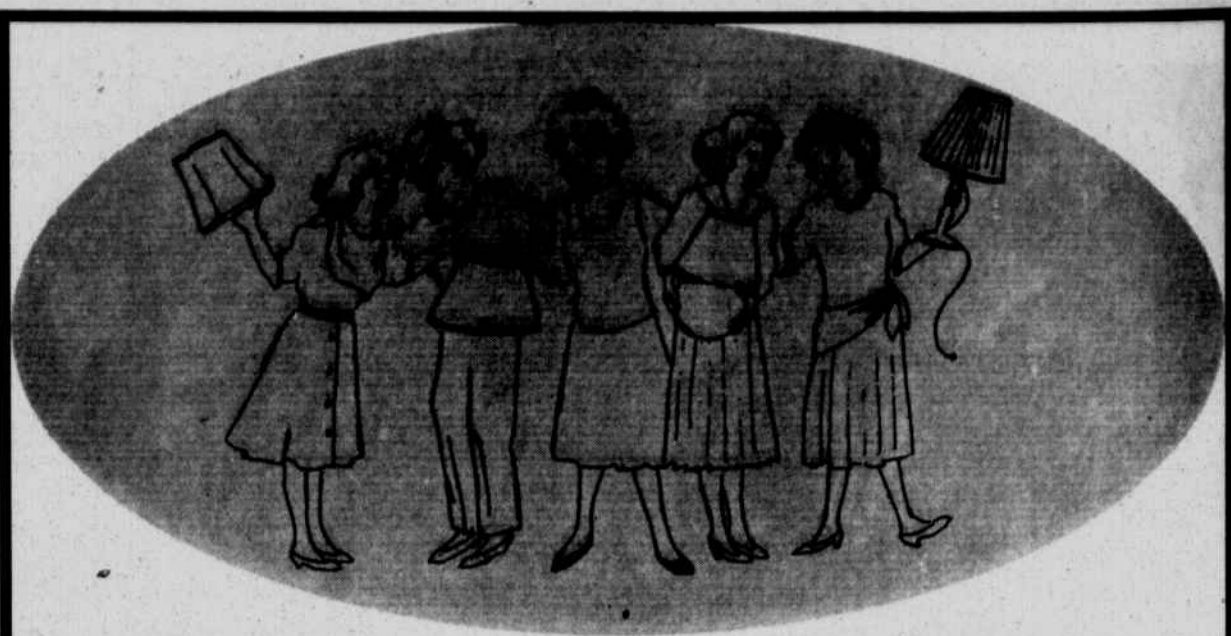
A total of 6,256 pledges were made. Operation Will Power was able to make the donation to the schools because of grants from First Baptist Downtown and Centenary United Methodist Churches. The schools that participated were: Clemmons, Diggs, First Assembly and Old Richmond Elementary Schools; Ashley, Cook, First Assembly, Hanes-Lowrance, LEAP Academy, Northwest, and Philo Middle Schools; and Carver, Glenn, and Reynolds High Schools.

Dr. Lartey, CEO of Operation Will Power, announced that Vacation Bible School Youth Freedom Drive has been initiated. This drive seeks to collaborate with churches so as to set aside a day when young people, who are free of drugs, violence, imprisonment, and gun use can

be identified and enlisted in the program of Operation Will Power. The Winston-Salem District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, at their district conference, held June 7, a St. John AME Zion Church in Thomasville, N.C., endorsed and embraced the idea of the VBS Youth Freedom Drive. Dr. Horace Walser, presiding elder of the district, challenged the ministers of the 21 churches of the Winston-Salem District and the conference to set a goal of 2,000 to be enlisted in this drive. A total of 653 was recorded at the conference.

For additional information, call 724-9411 or 924-0759.

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