

# people

Social Notes, Service News, Club News

## Close-up

### 'Feathers' — A Comedy That Has Meaning For All

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

"Contrary to popular belief, we are the first dinner theatre in Winston-Salem," says Nell Britton.

Britton, founder, producer and director of Nell Lite Productions Dinner Theatre, is currently playing host to Winston audiences through Nov. 13 at the VIP Catering Room on Robin Hood Circle.

The production, "Hope Is A Thing With Feathers, is an award-winning Broadway play by Richard Harriott.

The story takes place in a park in any city audience members would desire it to be.

The all-male cast of nine portrays derelicts and transients who spend the night together in a park include local community talent that range from a social worker to a city alderman.

"The reason I wanted to have a community dinner theatre was to give the people in the community a chance to act as a family," says Britton. "Dinner is the one meal the whole family eats together and people seem to be more receptive afterwards."

Britton, who has been teaching drama herself for 20 years, says that what makes her dinner theatre so different from the rest is that the actors are involved with the audience. "The actors really participate in the audience," she says. "When they're finished, they step right off the stage with their costumes and mingle."

And indeed they do. Even before the production begins, actors are seen mingling with the crowd. In fact, unless you know the actors, it's hard to determine who's an actor or a patron, until, of course, the house lights are dimmed and the production gets underway.

The whole atmosphere of the dinner theatre is quaint and cozy. For patrons who desire wine and cheese before the main course, an entree is theirs for the tasting.

But Britton says that because of the somewhat sophisticated air of a dinner theatre, many blacks in the community tend to shy away from such productions.

"We do dress it up with linen table cloths and stem ware," she says. "A lot of blacks are scared off by that, but if you get them in here the first time, it's easy to get them back."

With the exception of the lamp post, the wooden benches and leaves, the stage is relatively bare. Most of the props in the production are left to the audience's im-



Cast members from the Nell-Lite Production Co. Dinner Theatre's rendition of "Hope Is A Thing With Feathers," Clifton Graves and J.W. Smith. The award-winning Broadway production, written by Richard Harriott, will run through Nov. 13 (photo by James Parker)



Nell Britton, founder, producer and director of Nell-Lite Productions.

agination.

"Feathers" is a comedy that has a meaning for all, says Britton. "With blacks, we tend to feel that we always have to have a serious message," she says. "This play is about derelicts, who all represent different backgrounds. "People, not just black or white, can identify with these characters and you don't have to be a bum to relate to them."

An accomplished actor herself, Britton says she urges community participation in her seasonal productions. "This dinner theatre gives the young and old an opportunity to get into, be it acting or set design," she says.

Members of the cast include George Johnson, Cornelius Flood, Rickey Baskett, Clifton Graves, Hal Tise, Marty Penn, J.W. Smith, Don Garner and Larry Womble.

Tickets for the dinner theatre are \$12.50 and may be purchased by calling 767-6064.

## Social Notes

### National Council Of Negro Women Hosts Annual Tea

Winston-Salem Section of the National Council of Negro Women recently held its annual International Tea at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Arts.

Members of the council displayed tables representing varying cultures of the United States, Sweden, China, Spain, Mexico and Nigeria while competing for the honor of having the most creative table presentation and attendance.

The tables were decorated with interesting articles, many of which were authentic relics of the countries as well as their traditional foods.

Council members Mabel Johnson and Louise Davis represented China, while Roxanna Pitts and Alice Reynolds, representing Nigeria, went one step fur-

ther by dressing in native costumes.

A surprise treat during the tea was the appearance of Mrs. Sarah Ephraim, a retired teacher. Mrs. Ephraim's husband was an African chief and she shared her experiences about life in Africa with the audience.

The judges for the occasion were Barbara Hayes, Lula Jenkins, Lena Jeffries and Gertrude Murchinson.

Nigeria won the award for the most outstanding table, with China taking second place.

Captains and co-captains of the tables were Minnie Webb and Mildred Shouse, United States; Louise Davis and Mabel Johnson, China; Sue Porter and Willie Lowe, Spain; Roxanna Pitts and Alice Reynolds,

Nigeria. Patricia Stanley, Linda Jordan, Ellen Davis, Mary Muldrow, Elizabeth Tilley, Dr. Manderline Scales and Theldora Small-Scippio, all advisors to the Youth Group, helped with the table representing Sweden, which was sponsored by the youth. The Youth Group received the award for the largest attendance.

Mistress of Ceremonies was Martha Gillis, first vice-president of the council; Dr. Scales, president emeritus, brought the greetings from the general membership of the council, along with Miss NCNW, Mrs. Mabel Johnson and Mrs. Thelma Small-Scippio, winner of the most outstanding table for last year's Tea and former vice-

president of the council. The program also included installation of new officers.

The International Tea Committee consisted of Martha Gillis, chairperson, Sue Porter, Alice Reynolds and Patricia Stanley.

Hostess were Sandra Holman, Sue Porter, Patricia Stanley, Lillie

Giles, Mary Walker, Jacqueline Young, Doris Noble, Joan Cardwell, Willie Lowe, Hattie Ruff and Theldora Small-Scippio.

The Rev. Otis Donaldson presided over the installation of officers ceremony, and the Rev. David Hedgley gave the benediction.

Savannah Jones is president of the local section.

### Security Forum Held

The Clyde Bolling Post No. 55 hosted a National Security Forum recently at the Post Home.

Guest speaker was LTC James Miller, deputy commander, 317 Combat Support Group of Pope Air Force Base in Fort Bragg. Members attending were

Martha F. Gillis, auxiliary president, Mary Thomas, Doris Noble, Naomia Lone, Alice James, Lillie Hardy, Aither Neely, Almeana Little, Henry Wilson, W.L. Wright, commander, Robert Smith, Southern Prysock, H.B. Jones and Todd Samuels.



Alma S. Keen

### Keen Elected To Board

Alma S. Keen, a retired teacher, was recently elected chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Winston-Salem Housing Authority.

Keen has been a member of the Board since 1975. She serves in various community and religious organizations and has been active in politics for many years.

She succeeds Dalton D. Ruffin, a Wachovia bank executive, whose term expired this year.

Other members of the board are Carl A Dull Jr., corporate executive at Integon; G. Hobart Johnson,

retired R.J. Reynolds Industries official and stockbroker; Clark S. Brown, funeral home director, and Dr. David H. Burr, pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

Housing Authority commissioners have policy making responsibilities in two vital areas, administrative policy affecting the organization and the conduct of the agency or the authority and to monitor the pertinent program policies used as guidelines to carry out the local housing and renewal programs in conjunction with the Housing Authority staff.



Jannifer Coley Dumas

### Coley-Dumas

Jannifer Sheryl Coley and Everett E. Dumas were united in marriage Oct. 29 at a high noon ceremony at Fort Meade Chapel Center in Fort Meade, Md., with Major C. Cooper officiating.

Coley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wesley Gray Sr. and Dumas is the son of Ms. Katie Dumas of Lumberton, Miss.

The bride is a graduate of Parkland Sr. High School and attended North Carolina Central University and Winston-Salem State University. She is presently attending the University of Maryland and is employed by the U.S. Government.

The groom is a graduate of Lumberton High School

in Lumberton, Miss., and is a U.S. Army staff sergeant at Fort Meade, Md.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Mrs. Clarence J. Hart served as her sister's matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Miss Melissa Taylor, Mrs. Henry Washington and Mrs. Michael Thompson. The bride's daughter, Shanika Yanva Gray, served as flower girl.

SFC Floyd C. Ivory, served as the groom's best man. Ushers were Eugene Aube and Carlton Campbell. Groomsmen were Joseph R. Nicholson, David Beanregard and Willie Mickens.

The couple will live in Fort Meade, Md.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Registration for adult education classes will be held today and Friday at East Winston Restaurant. The free classes will be held in the morning and evening. Call 722-0918 for more information.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion will host a pot luck dinner for all veterans and their family members at 6 p.m. at the Post home.

The Forsyth Pliers and Quilters Guild Inc. will sponsor a workshop and lecture at Miller Park Recreation Center from 9 a.m. to noon. The workshop, entitled "Color Workshop," will be conducted by Carla Hassel. A lecture will follow the workshop from 1:30-3 p.m. For additional information call 945-9784.

The YWCA will sponsor Student Holiday Fun Day from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for children 5-12 at Glade Street YWCA.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

The Concern Women For Justice Inc. of Forsyth County will hold a meeting at Reynolds Galleria at 7 p.m. The group will be making plans for a Christmas trip to the N.C. Correctional Center for Women.

The Delta Arts Center will offer a beginner's workshop on "Children in Television Commercials" at the center at 1611 E. Third St. The six-week workshop will be held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 722-2625 for additional information.

Beneath The Elms Ice Skating Rink and the Greater Downtown Associations are sponsoring "Merchants Day" in celebration of National Ice Skating Month. Anyone who makes a purchase at a downtown store today can take 30 cents off the admission price and free skate rental.

The Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. will sponsor a "Money Management and Investment Seminar" at the Communication Building Auditorium at Winston-Salem University from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information call Annette Wilson at 724-3946.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company will hold auditions for the opening production of the fifth season at 7:30 p.m. in the company's studio at the Hanes Community Center at 610 Coliseum Dr. The opening play will be Lonne Elderkin's "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men."

The East Winston Branch Library will celebrate its 29th Anniversary at 3 p.m. at the library at 110 S. Seventh St. Poet Maya Angelou and County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff will be the special guests. Musical entertainment will be provided by The Healing Force.

The Winston-Salem Lupus Chapter will meet at 2:30 p.m. at Highland Presbyterian Church Activities Building. Dr. Douglas Metcalf will be the guest speaker.

NOW (National Organization for Women) will hold its Autumn Auction from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Design. Rep. Margaret Tennille will be the honorary chairperson.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Dottie Butler, program coordinator for Rape Response, will be the guest speaker at the NOW monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Glade Street YWCA.

"A Women's Response to Nuclear Disarmament" is the November topic of the YWCA's Contemporary Women's Series at 12:15 p.m. at the Glade Street YWCA.

The Add Health to Our Years Exercise Club for senior citizens will meet at the Winston-Salem Urban League Senior Center at 514 N. Trade St. from 10-11:30 a.m.

Bowling games for the Fall Local Special Olympics Games will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Major League Lanes. For more information call Josselyn Griggs at 727-2063.

Please see page A7

The Chronicle welcomes Community Calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Community Calendar, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The deadline for announcements is Mondays at 5:30.