

Close-Up

'The Contract' writer comes to town

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

One noted New York playwright has traded in his way of life, which brought me down South."

Freeman says a residency provides playwrights with consistency in their work and allows them to continually be "working about it."

Now a published playwright, Freeman says he was "won over" to writing plays. Before trying his hand at writing, Freeman taught remedial education classes, and it was during that time that he began writing plays.

"I started reading drama while I was teaching, and I wrote a play for my students, which they performed," he says. "It became so popular with everyone that we started getting invitations to perform in various places, and we were involved in quite a few performances. After that little escapade my heart was won over to play writing and I decided that that was what I wanted to do with my life."

Obviously an artist who loves his craft, Freeman describes writing plays as "the sum total of the capacities of expression" and "the only avocation that can contain all the different ways I can express myself."

Though Freeman speaks fondly of his chosen career field, he admits that it is not easy to begin in the field or to maintain a position in it over a period of time. He says guilds are not always of much assistance and as an example notes that in New York one actors' guild can represent as many as 4,500 people.

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Playwright Nathan Ross Freeman: An artist is not one who says something, an artist is one who has something to say (photo by James Parker).

challenges of writing a play that is of critical value, marketing the play and competing against all of the other plays. Still, he says, "consistency of work -- that is the greatest challenge."

The opportunity to work in residence is one that excites Freeman, and he is enthusiastic about work-

ing with the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, which he calls "a true leader in black theatre." As the resident playwright, he will write original plays to be produced by the company, and he will coordinate the company's residency program. Please see page A9

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

- The Winston-Salem Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. at 635 Meadowbrook Drive. For more information call W.L. Funderburk at 767-3428.
- The Forsyth/Stokes/Davie Medical Society will continue its panel presentations on drugs, drinking and adolescence at 7:30 p.m. at Bowman Gray School of Medicine's Babcock Auditorium on Hawthorne Road. Topics will include "What Parents Should Know About Alcohol," "What Parents Should Know About Marijuana" and other topics. The presentation will be repeated Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the same time and place. For more information call the society at 760-1234.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

- The Winston-Salem NAACP's youth branch will sponsor a "Safety-First Workshop" at 3 p.m. at the East Winston Branch Library. The workshop will address crime and fire prevention and drug and alcohol abuse. For more information call the library at 727-2202 or Ann Simmons, NAACP youth adviser, at 725-4960.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

- The Atkins High School Class of 1966 will meet at the home of Rutherford Moorman for a general meeting. Officers will be elected and there will be a potluck dinner. For more information call Rutherford Moorman at 744-0927.

- The Davidson County Black Women's Club will observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Dunbar School Auditorium on Smith Avenue in Lexington at 1 p.m. Guest speaker will be Martin Luther King III. For ticket information call (704) 731-6538.

MONDAY, JAN. 13

- The second session of the Art-Is House Program, sponsored by Urban Arts of the Arts Council Inc. will begin today. The Art-Is House offers a community cultural arts program that provides training for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County youth ages 6 to 16 in the performing and visual arts. Classes are offered in dance, drama, photography, pottery, piano, drawing and painting and are held at the Art-Is House, 740 N. Cleveland Ave., and at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Design. The session beginning this month is a continuation of the fall program. Students who participated in the fall program will be given first consideration. Children and parents who are interested in the program should contact Urban Arts at 722-0966 by Jan. 9.

- The East Winston Branch Library will continue its Monday Night Law Series at 7 p.m. with Attorney Hazel Mack of the Legal Aid Society. Her topic will be "Tenants' and Landlords' Rights." For more information call the library at 727-2202.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Forsyth County will hold its monthly orientation for volunteers at 7 p.m. at 610 Coliseum Drive. For more information call 724-7993.

- The La Leche League will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. at 225 Staffordshire Road. The topic will be "The Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties." For more information please see page A8

Social Notes

Louise Wilson named Hanes Group/McLean award winner

Louise G. Wilson, retired executive director of the Winston-Salem Experiment in Self-Reliance, has been named the 1986 winner of the Hanes Group/Charles McLean Community Service Award.

The award, sponsored by Hanes Group, recognizes members of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County community who provide services and motivate people to improve their quality of life. It was named in honor of Charles McLean, retired state field secretary of the NAACP.

"We initiated this award as a way of recognizing people in our community who are so willing to share their time, their talent and their resources to make Winston-Salem and Forsyth County a better place to live," says Paul

Fulton, president of Hanes Group.

In the early 1960s, Mrs. Wilson gave up her teaching position to become actively involved in the civil rights movement.

When she joined ESR in 1965, Mrs. Wilson worked to develop a local support base for the program and to identify the community needs the organization could meet. From her early research, Mrs. Wilson guided ESR in developing priorities which included housing, job training, feeding the elderly, budget counseling, emergency assistance and community organization.

In addition to her work with ESR, Mrs. Wilson has been involved in numerous organizations and projects such as the Forsyth County Prison Ministry,



Louise Wilson

Project Upward Bound, Inmate Family Ministry and the Forsyth Technical College Individualized

Learning Center.

She has served on the Board of Directors for First Home Federal Savings and Loan and the United Way.

Mrs. Wilson is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church.

She and her husband, Dr. David Wilson, have five children and three grandchildren.

Previous winners of the award include the Rev. David R. Hedgley, Moses Lucas, Robert Eller and Sarah Vernon.

The Hanes Group/Charles McLean Award is presented annually during the Winston-Salem NAACP branch's Freedom Fund Banquet.

This year's banquet will be held Sunday, Jan. 12, at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

About Town

Mary Shuler realizes lifelong dream of caring for youngsters

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Of all the dreams she's ever had, the biggest for Mary McCormick Shuler has been to have a house full of children that she can care for.

Finally, her dream has come true. As a day-care teacher she has the opportunity to care for several small children on a daily basis.

Mrs. Shuler says that for as long as she can remember she has loved little babies. In addition to the children who attend her day care, she has two children of her own. She has a daughter, Valerie McCormick, and a son, Anthony McCormick.

Affectionately called "Mama Mary" by her "kids," Mrs. Shuler has cared for many local adults during their childhood days.

Mrs. Shuler, who is also a foster parent, babysits the young children from early in the morning when their parents leave for work until they return in the evenings.

When not keeping children in her home, Mrs. Shuler keeps busy at her church, New Bethel Baptist, where she is assistant director of the Spiritual Choir and director of the primary department. ...

Arthur Coleman was honored recently with a surprise birthday party planned by his wife, Pearl, and his daughter, Tammy.

Family and friends gathered to help Coleman celebrate his 50th birthday. ...

The Telephone Pioneers of America, Winston-Salem Council, recently donated \$1,000 to the Ronald McDonald House on South Hawthorne Road.

The house is one of 80 in the nation and the first in Winston-Salem. It houses the parents and families of critically ill children who are hospitalized.

The donation will help defray the ongoing expenses of the home. The Telephone Pioneers of America is an organization of AT&T employees with 17 or more years of service. ...

Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Benson celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends at a special program held Dec. 27 at the 14th Street Community Center.

The couple's children attending included Mary Jordan, Margretta Key, Roxie Benson, George Bernard, John Henry Benson Jr., Queen Brown, Alice Lindsay and Leroy Benson. ... Please see page A7



Mary M. Shuler beams while surrounded by some of her "kids." She is pictured with, left to right, youngsters Jermaine Lewis, Crystal Jessup, Debra Jessup and twins Sherrod and Shernard Shore (photo by James Parker).