

# COMMUNITY

## Ohio-Based Black Brothers Group Preaches Non-Violence

▲ Group met with youth at school community center

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Black youths can stop wanton violence and drug abuse by soul searching instead of depending on government to solve problems, according to motivational speakers who came to the city last week.

"There is no magical solution. No one will come out the sky to save you," said Marlon "Shack" Shackelford. "The cure for AIDS, violence, drug abuse is right here in this room. Don't look for solutions outside of yourself."

Shackelford and his partner Alfred "Coach" Powell, of Dayton, Ohio, formed Black Brothers Involvement Inc. in 1985 because they were tired of the "stereotypical labels put on black men."

Shackelford and Powell spoke to teen-agers at LIFT Academy, Forsyth County Jail and the William C. Sims Center last week, discourag-

ing the use of drugs and alcohol.

Shackelford said that many young black men are groomed into becoming drug dealers because the public-school system doesn't educate them.

"It starts in school where they teach you how not to read and write," he said. "Drugs is the richest business in the country. If you can't out slick the slicksters, the system is designed for you to strike out because they make money off of you."

Powell, who decoded the words and symbols on alcoholic beverages, said they had to have private security — in addition to the three police officers present — because they were threatened not to share that information.

"This stuff will kill you — even Colt 45 malt liquor," he said. "Every time you put that in your mouth you symbolically blow your brains out. Only information is going to free you."

Khalid Griggs, director of Citizens Coalition for a Better Tomorrow and sponsor of the speakers, said he brought them in because violence in Winston-Salem was steadily increasing.

"They have a very unique approach that speak to the very essence of our community," Griggs said. "I was very impressed with their track record of working with the (Los Angeles) gang truce and other hard-core elements. Fortunately, here in Winston-Salem we have not gotten to the level of madness like other cities this size."

Shackelford was very critical of the criminal justice and school systems, but he also placed a lot of the blame on blacks.

"You think you have it hard because you live in the ghetto," he said. "You don't have it hard; you make it hard because the ghetto is a state of mind."



Alfred Powell talks with youths at Sims Center.

## African-American Summit To Get Underway

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
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African Americans in Forsyth County will convene to discuss how to empower their children and communities at the upcoming African-American Summit on March 18-19.

The first meeting to be called a summit by blacks in Forsyth County was held in Charlotte in 1990.

Joycelyn Johnson, East Ward alderman and a member of the summit's steering committee, said this year the meeting will be held in Winston-Salem to make sure all segments of the black community are represented.

"This is a follow up to what was started before," Johnson said. "We want to expand beyond that meeting and make it more open and widespread to everyone."

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County African-American Summit will be held March 18-19 at the Anderson Center at Winston-Salem State University. The two-day summit will have workshops to address four primary areas: education, economic development, criminal justice and housing.

Johnson said there will also be a youth forum and an emphasis placed on health care, but not through a formal workshop.

The Rev. Lee Faye Mack, also a member of the steering committee, said the summit will provide a much-needed opportunity for the black community to come together and develop an agenda for the next decade.

"It is very necessary," she said. "We have a lot of tribes and it is time for the black community to come together in a unified effort — regardless to what level you're on — and make plans for our future and our children's future."

Mack said that churches must maintain their role as the "most important institution in the black community" and do so by educating the people showing them the proper deeds in order to receive God's blessings.

"God is going to bless us but if we don't have the know-how to go get it, then who's going to teach you how to go get the blessings?" she said. "It's our job to do it."

The summit's guest speaker on Friday night will be the Rev. John H. Adams, presiding bishop of the Seventh Episcopal District of South Carolina. Advance registration for the summit (including all sessions and meals) is \$15 before March 11. After this date, the registration fee will be \$20.

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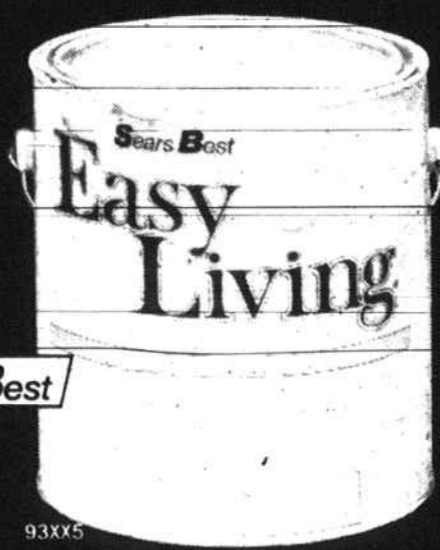
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