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Leathers' Lashes Out at Police

▲ Ex-Officer blames firing on unsubstantiated rumors

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The former officer shot last week by a colleague says that he was fired from the Winston-Salem Police Department because of a rumor.

"I put my life on the line for seven and

half years, and I was terminated because of a rumor," said Rodney Leathers, who was dismissed last summer. "I was black, and I was terminated."

Leathers, 31, is recovering from a gunshot wound to his abdomen at N.C. Baptist Hospital, where police are guarding his room and are screening his visitors.

While not commenting directly on Leathers' dismissal, Police Chief George L. Sweat called his accusations "ridiculous" and "outrageous."

"You are talking about a wounded ex-

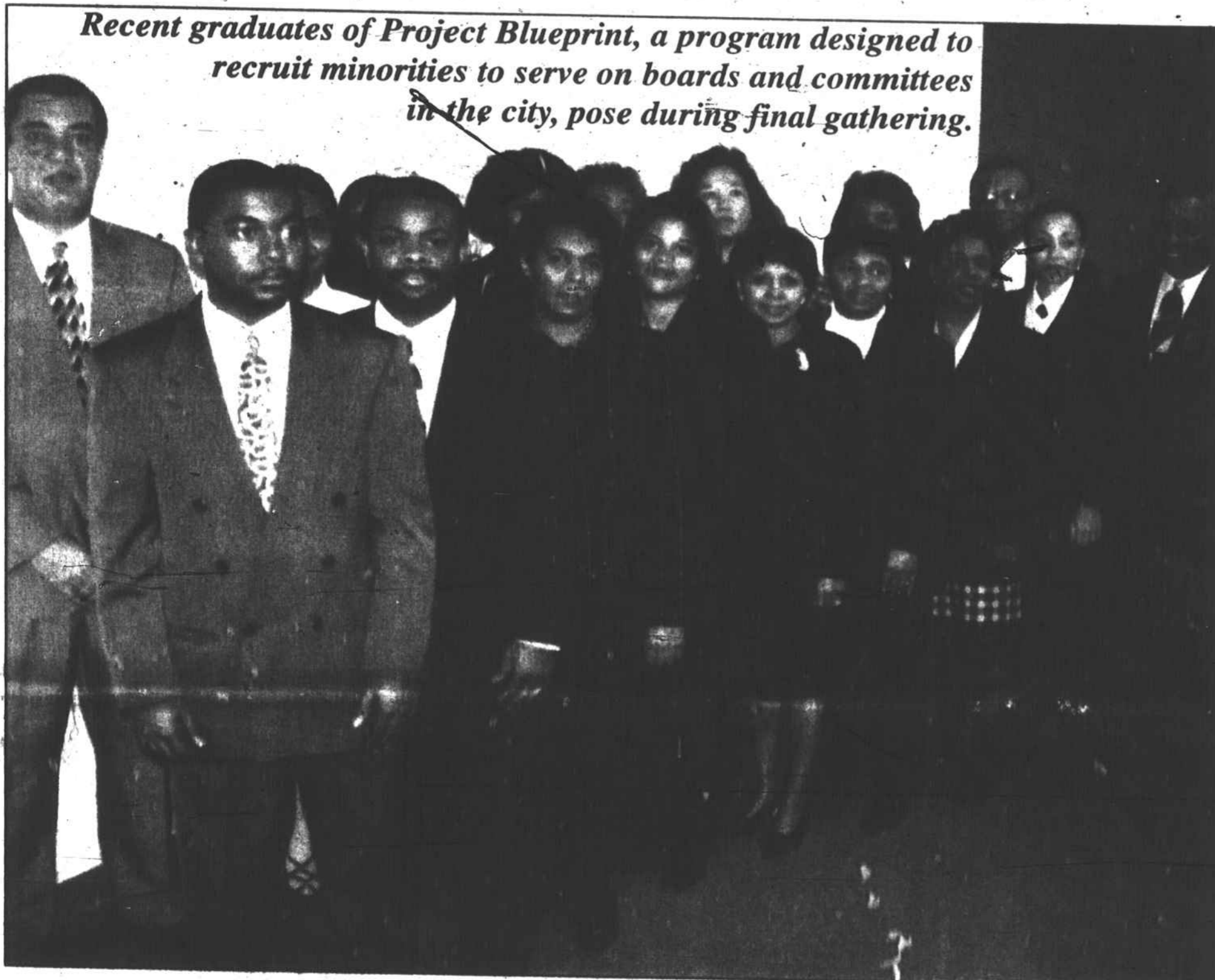
see LEATHERS page 9



Oliver D. Redd
28 Years of Service



Sarah Puryear
24 Years of Service



Recent graduates of Project Blueprint, a program designed to recruit minorities to serve on boards and committees in the city, pose during final gathering.

Two Veteran Officers Retire

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Two of the highest ranking African Americans in the Winston-Salem Police Department have retired from the force. Assistant Police Chief Oliver D. Redd, the head of the administrative services bureau, and Sarah Puryear, the director of the management information division, officially retired Dec. 31, 1995.

A source close to the police department told the Chronicle that Redd and Puryear resigned. Redd said that neither he nor Puryear was forced to resign and that they chose to retire.

"I am through," Redd said on his first day in retirement. "I had enough time to retire. I decided to try something else. I was not forced to resign or

retire." Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke confirmed on Tuesday that Redd and Puryear retired.

Redd, 51, served on the police force for more than 28 years. He joined the department as a patrolman in December 1967. He rose through the ranks, eventually earning an annual salary of \$68,245.

Redd said that his retirement was not affected by a recent report stating he owed \$1,863 in child support for his 16-year-old daughter.

"That story had nothing to do with this at all," he said. "I am the last in my rookie class to retire," Redd said. "It is just time for me to move on."

Redd had planned to retire

see TWO page 8

Blueprint Grads

Program Increases Minority Participation

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Norman Williams, the director of auxiliary services at Winston-Salem State University, received the tools he needed from Project Blueprint to be an effective member and chairman of the Southeast Winston Rescue Squad.

"The focus of the program was to acquaint minorities with serving on non-profit boards," said Williams, a 1992 graduate of Project Blueprint. "The program is necessary to increase the representation of African

Americans on boards."

Project Blueprint graduated its fall 1996 class of 18 members recently at a ceremony in Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University. It is a program of the United Way of Forsyth County's Volunteer Center. Its purpose is to help the United Way of Forsyth County and more than 300 non-profit agencies recruit minorities to serve on their boards and committees.

"All of these graduates received strong training on serv-

see BLUEPRINT page 9



Left are State Auditor Ralph Campbell Jr. and Twana C. Wellman of the United Way Volunteer Center. Campbell was the keynote speaker at the Project Blueprint graduation.

Students Mourn Death of Player

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

A Parkland High School student collapsed during basketball practice Tuesday and later died at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. James Rumph, 15, was pronounced dead at 3:55 p.m., said Selwyn Burns, a nursing supervisor at the hospital.

"He had been practicing for five minutes when he collapsed," she said.

An autopsy was scheduled at the hospital on Wednesday to determine the cause of death.

"He was practicing with the ninth-grade team and doing an ordinary drill," said Fred



Parkland student James Rumph

see STUDENT page 8

Emancipation

Use Observance to Secure Future

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

African Americans must use the observance of Emancipation Day to lay the foundation so their children and grandchildren can build for the future, the secretary for the N.C. Department of Administration told nearly 400 people gathered to commemorate the 133rd anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

"We can celebrate the implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation that freed our ancestors," Dr. Katie G. Dorsett told the audience at the United Metropolitan Church. "They had to take responsibility for freedom won and freedom sought. They had to continue fighting on for they found out

see EMANCIPATION page 9



Harold L. Kennedy, president of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association, Dr. Katie G. Dorsett, the secretary of the state Administration Department, and Dr. J. Donald Ballard, pastor at United Metropolitan Baptist Church, gather after the Emancipation Celebration ceremony at the church.

CLASSIFIEDS	22
OPINION	10
ENTERTAINMENT	16
OBITUARIES	21
SPORTS	13

This Week in Black History

January 11, 1961

Riot, University of Georgia.

Two black students

Charlayne Hunter and

Hamilton Homes

were suspended

but a federal

court ordered

them reinstated.



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