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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Lawyer Dies At 39

By A.C. TURNER
Post Staff Writer

Wayne C. Alexander, a Charlotte attorney, died Wednesday morning in his home as a result of a suspected self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head according to Cmdr. Bruce Treadway of the Charlotte Police.

Medics responded to a call from his residence but were unsuccessful in their attempts to revive him.

Mr. Alexander, 39, was a practicing attorney at law with 15 years experience. He was a law school graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Formerly he was the assistant to the city attorney of Charlotte and former assistant to the U.S. attorney of the North Carolina Western District.

The areas of law that he spe-



Alexander

cialized in were personal injury, criminal law, auto accident, wrongful death, and criminal defense.

Earlier this year Mr. Alexander represented the family of Jake King in an alleged wrongful death case. King, a resident of the Cherry community, was shot and killed by a white police offi-

cer even though he was unarmed.

Last summer Mr. Alexander represented Carolyn Mason, owner of Balloon-a-Grains, when she was excluded from the list of Springfest vendors.

Mason was the only black vendor with the annual spring festival and felt her exclusion from the list was racially motivated. Mr. Alexander helped her retrieve her spot as a vendor.

Mr. Alexander was married to Vi Alexander, Charlotte's budget director. They have a son, Kwame, 10, and a seven-year-old daughter, Aisha.

Mr. Alexander's wake will be held today at Gethsemane Baptist Church. The funeral will take place Friday at 12:30 p.m. at the same location.

Students Feed Needy

By MILLICENT LINK
Post Staff Writer

The teen outreach class of Northwest Middle School knows the true meaning of Christmas.

The class was responsible for raising over 1,000 cans of non-perishable food items.

The food raised by the 30 students will benefit residents of the homeless shelter of Charlotte.

The kick-off for the drive began December 8 with WPEG-FM 98 morning personality, Skip Murphy.

Murphy presented the students of Northwest with a motivational speech on helping less fortunate people.

Toney Smith, facilitator of the teen outreach program said, "Our main focus is to give back to the community. There are so many less fortunate people out there that need our help."

The class has been involved in a number of volunteer projects. These projects include volun-

teering at the public library, Howell Mental Retarded Center, and Loaves and Fishes.

Smith said the teen outreach president has been instrumental in encouraging the students to participate in volunteer activities.

"Amber Jackson motivated the students to get involved with the food drive," said Smith.

Jackson, an eighth grader, read stories of underprivileged families to the group.

"I am very elated about the results of the food drive," said Smith. The teachers have also been very supportive in helping with the drive."

The drive turned into a competition between classes. The winner of the contest won a pizza party.

The sixth grade class of Elizabeth Pickens was victorious in raising 382 nonperishable food items.

Ten Outreach is an umbrella organization of the Cities and

Schools program.

Cities and Schools is geared toward helping at-risk students.

This program is designed to help students develop self-confidence and improve their self-esteem.

"Life skills is what the class is all about," said Smith.

Smith, who has been employed at Northwest for three years, enjoys working with these special students. "I love working with this class. You tend to get emotionally involved," said Smith.

Not only do the students participate in volunteer activities but they are provided with mentors from the business community as well. Employees of First Union National Bank have committed to spending time with students of teen outreach.



John Patton, Rosa Baxton and Frank Dunlap (left to right) decorate potholders at the Charlotte Family Outreach Adult Care Center. The

program is billed as an outlet for senior citizens to interact with each other.

Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

Center Keeps Elderly Active

By GWENDOLYN DANIELS
Post Staff Writer

Charlotte's Family Outreach Adult Care Center tries to make sure that growing older doesn't mean growing lonely.

The center, which opened in 1984, is a place where adults can come during the day to fellowship with others, make creative art, exercise and share past and present experiences. Although many of the center's participants are older adults, any adult over the age 18 is eligible to join.

Lydia Johnkin, the program director, said the center helps adults socialize and gives them a chance to be active.

"This gives them a sense of self-worth and they have something to share with their families at the end of the day," Johnkin said.

Johnkin said the center also provides a sense of security for family members or caregivers who have to work and aren't

able to be home with adults who may have physical or mental handicaps. Some of the participants simply need a place where they can feel productive.

"Many people are caught in the sandwich generation, which means they are raising children and caring for adults. There is a need for child care as well as adult care," she said.

Before a participant is accepted, the family is interviewed in order to make an assessment of their needs. A medical examination form and release forms for field trips are required. Participants spend from two to five days a week other adults who share common experiences and interests.

The center helps to rehabilitate older adults who are ill, lonely or isolated. It also provides a therapeutic program which helps to maintain or improve the physical and mental functioning of participants.

One unique aspect of the pro-

gram is Bible study. The staff and participants join in together for study time and prayer. Johnkin said some adults aren't able to attend church on Sundays, so the study is an important part of the program.

"Often times this is their stimulation for the week that they wouldn't get otherwise," she said.

Activities director Pearl Mason said her love for older adults makes it easier for her to relate to participants. Mason said she uses different approaches to making them feel comfortable with her.

"The more simple I can be the better they perceive me," Mason said.

Getting personal with the participants and encouraging them to talk openly is what Mason does best.

"I keep them laughing and we talk about their home situation, the situation at the center. I let

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Photo/Ernest James

Students and teachers at Northwestern Junior High collected canned goods for the needy.

Abernathy Will Attend March, Welcome Or Not

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy said he'll attend the 25th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march, even though he may not be invited because of his controversial book about Martin Luther King Jr.

"I'm going to go even if I'm not on any program they may come up with," Abernathy said.

The Atlanta minister's claims in his book of sexual improprieties by King angered many civil rights leaders.

Abernathy said during a telephone interview this week with The Montgomery Advertiser that he considered Selma to have been "the second most important event in the history of the civil rights movement." He

said demonstrations in Birmingham that led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 were more important.

U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a national leader of the Selma event, said an "open invitation" is being sent to all who took part in the local demonstrations.

"We're not refusing to invite anyone," the congressman said. "We want everyone to come back and participate in the progress that's been made in Alabama during the past 25 years."

A three-week commemoration is planned in March to coincide with the Selma-to-Montgomery march date. Organizers are considering a variety of activities, including workshops and roundtable discussions with leaders who were in Selma in

1965. Lewis said he was unaware of any specific event that might include Abernathy or anyone else who took part in the Selma protests.

"I'm sure there will be open discussions during the celebration and, as far as I'm concerned, our purpose is to include, not exclude people," Lewis said.

Abernathy was among many who participated in the events leading to passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Lewis was at the front of the first march that was turned back at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge by club-swinging state troopers. King arrived to lead the second march that went all the way to Montgomery after the path was cleared by a federal court.

Rawls' "Parade Of Stars" Celebrates 10th Year On Air

HOLLYWOOD -- The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) will celebrate a decade of telethon success on Saturday, December 30, when some of the entertainment world's top performers appear on a special 10th anniversary edition of the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon. WBTV will broadcast the telethon from 6 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Led by telethon host and Grammy-award winning singer, Lou Rawls, the 1989 "Parade of Stars" promises to continue its tradition of providing spectacular entertainment during the holiday season.

The telethon's 10-year milestone signals a successful partnership between UNCF, Rawls, the entertainment industry and leading U. S. corporations.

The "Parade of Stars" has been an outstanding team effort for

the past decade," says Rawls, who provided the initiative to make the telethon an annual star-studded event. "Everyone involved has truly made a difference to help keep the doors of opportunity open for today's youth," Rawls noted.

Since the show's inception in 1979, more than \$65 million in cash and pledges has been raised to benefit the 41 private, historically Black colleges and universities supported by UNCF.

Celebrities from stage and screen -- singers, dancers, actors and comedians -- will take center stage at the Aquarius theatre in Hollywood and the Desert Inn in Las Vegas for seven hours of nonstop energetic performances. Among the greats scheduled to appear will be Bill Cosby, Bob Hope, Patti LaBelle, Lou Gossett, Jr., Julio

Iglesias, Lola Falana, Frank Sinatra, Charley Pride, Anita Baker and Gregory Peck.

Co-hosts for the "Parade of Stars" include the versatile Marilyn McCoo, a telethon anchor since 1983, along with popular television game show host Alex Trebek. Sharing co-host duties from Las Vegas will be supreme song stylist Nancy Wilson and Ed McMahon, who first served as co-host 10 years ago.

Known for showcasing a variety of talent that appeals to a broad viewing audience, the Parade of Stars telethon will once again feature contemporary artist along with vintage greats. Telethon viewers will be treated to musical sounds ranging from adult contemporary and rhythm and blues, to gospel, pop and country.

Contributions to the "Lou

Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon, the only national telethon to assist an educational cause, benefit the colleges and universities of the United Negro College Fund, which serve 46,000 students. Graduates of UNCF schools, that include such notables as former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and Mayor-elect Maynard Jackson, novelists Frank Yerby and Alice Walker, filmmaker Spike Lee and international human rights champion The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., have made significant contributions to America and the world.

Christopher F. Edley, president and chief executive officer of UNCF, says the telethon has significantly increased the public's awareness of UNCF colleges and has also increased n-

tributions to the College Fund.

More than 20 million people are expected to watch the holiday television special, which is being produced by Sam Riddle Productions.

The 10th annual "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" is made possi-

ble with the support of its national and founding sponsor, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. Each year Anheuser-Busch underwrites the production of the telethon and through its Budweiser brand, the company provides national promotional, advertising and marketing support.

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