

Close-Up

Young dancers tapped in to success

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Neither major heart surgery nor an outbreak of chickenpox can stop a Dancers Unlimited recital. Despite the fact that the show's directress had heart surgery only a little over a month before the performance, and despite the fact that a large portion of the cast came down with chickenpox just before and during the recital, the show went on — and in grand style.

"I'm just giving the children what I wanted when I was growing up but didn't have. I didn't have any professional training while I was growing up. I looked at television, and most of mine is self-taught. Being black and brought up in the projects, dancing came naturally."

— Wyena Matthews

Dancers Unlimited, founded in 1981 by Wyena Matthews, is a troupe of young dancers who spend a year preparing for their end-of-the-year recital under the watchful eye of Ms. Matthews.

For one hour a week during the school year, she coaches, coaxes, inspires and raps to the students who attend her free dance classes. It is her gift to young people whom she says might not otherwise experience a variety of dance methods.

"This whole idea started in 1981 when my daughter and one of her friends were in a Kaleidoscope show at the convention center," says Ms. Matthews, who says she pulled the name for the group out of the air. "Everybody was doing the bug-a-loo or whatever they were calling those dances, and they all looked the same. There was no variety. So I said, 'Let's do something a little calmer and a little different.' I taught them two interpretive dances using more graceful dancing, and they were the only ones whose dance routines were unique, and they felt real good about it. They really started this whole thing."

From that impromptu beginning, Ms. Matthews formed Dancers Unlimited with two dancers and now directs a cast of 45 dancers which boasts a repertoire of 100 routines.

On the surface Dancers Unlimited appears much the same as any other dance group. But it's not. And it takes but one viewing of the group's recital to realize that fact.

"We're different because it's black youth between the ages of 2 and 21 doing ballet, tap and interpretive dancing," she says. "It's dancing that's done so that everyone can understand it. Our dancing illustrates the words of the music or the song. With most dances you have to explain what the music and the dance are trying to say."

"We don't do real heavy ballet or real heavy tap. We don't do a lot of contemporary dancing, and



Future Ballerina

Members of the Dancers Unlimited troupe rehearse one of their recital routines (photo by James Parker).

maybe that's because I'm old-fashioned in a way. Parents can see their kids shake their torsos any time, so we wanted to do something different. There's a great variety of music. There's no way you can be bored."

The young dancers, who don an array of

costumes for their performances, display their talents in the variety of the routines they are able to perform.

As they trade their leotards and ballet shoes for cowboy outfits in the transition from an inter- Please see page A11

Social Notes

McNeil and Jones celebrate nuptials with host of family, friends

A prewedding reception in honor of Sandra Miller McNeil and Lafayette Glen Jones of Chicago was held June 27 at the Holiday Inn North.

Ms. McNeil is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller of Winston-Salem.

Jones is the son of Mrs. Lafayette Jones of Buffalo, N.Y.

Among the guests attending the reception were Dr. Rebecca Wills, Tara Jones, Mae Campbell, all of Los Angeles, and Blondell Cox of London.

Also attending were Grayson Mitchell, Shirley McElroy Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Luster, Alvin



Glen Jones and Sandra McNeil exchange loving glances on the eve of their wedding at a prewedding reception given by their family and friends (photo by James Parker).

Robinson and Nedra Sims of Chicago.

Other guests were Joan Shingles of New York City, Cornell McBride of Atlanta, Dr. Melba Swafford of Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dudley of Greensboro, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Hatley of Pittsburgh and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Driver of Virginia Beach, Va.

More than 100 friends and family members from across the United States attended the affair.

Martha Young, Billy Phillips and Camille and Jon Derrick Allen of Winston-Salem were the hosts of the reception.

Forsyth County Library schedules N.C. Shakespeare Festival theater seminars

The Forsyth County Public Library will hold a series of Shakespeare seminars presented by the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival in commemoration of the professional theater's upcoming 10th Anniversary Summer Season.

The seminar series, titled "Shakespeare: The Lunatic, the Lover, the Poet and the Play," is intended for a general audience and is designed to lead participants to a fuller appreciation and understanding of the playwright's world and works.

History, literature and philosophy will be used extensively in the seminars to sharpen critical and interpretive skills in play reading and theatergoing.

The Forsyth County Public

Library is one of 12 North Carolina libraries selected to hold the seminars.

Dr. John Moehlimann, associate professor of English at High Point College, will conduct the seminars at the library.

The series begins at the library July 14, and participants who enroll for the seminars will be required to attend the sessions each Monday for four consecutive weeks. Each session will meet from 7 to 9 p.m., with a break for refreshments.

Topics covered will be Shakespeare's world, life, theater and work and a study of "The Tempest," his last play.

Each participant will be expected to attend an NCSF performance of "The Tempest" Aug.

16 or 17 at the High Point Theatre as a fifth session of the seminar. The registration fee is \$10 and covers seminar material, a script of "The Tempest" and a

ticket to the production.

Brochures and registration forms are available at the library. For more information call 727-2264.

Delta Fine Arts Inc. elects new officers

The Delta Fine Arts Board of Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts Inc. met on June 25 at the Delta Arts Center to elect officers for the 1986-87 program year.

Elected were Louise Smith, president; Andrea Garner, vice president; Beverly Spainhour, recording secretary; Selma Edwards, corresponding secretary, and Billie Matthews, treasurer.

Four new members were elected to the board. They are Jackie Ballentine, Rhonda Covington, Selma Edwards and

Hellena Tidwell.

Other board members are Grace Knight, Peggy Lanier, Seleh Wyche-Smith and Ruth Washington.

Simona Allen and Wilma Lassiter are consultants to the board.

Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts Inc. recently received an \$8,000 grant from the Winston-Salem Foundation's Community Arts Fund. The purpose of the grant is to expand programs at the Delta Arts Center.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JULY 8

• The La Leche League of Winston-Salem will hold its July meeting at 7:30 p.m. at 1239 S. Hawthorne Road. The topic will be "Nutrition and Weaning." For more information call 768-1447.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

• The Forsyth County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Forsyth County Public Library, 660 W. Fifth St. Christopher Small will present a program titled "Pickett's Charge — A Misnomer." The program is free and open to the public.

• The Glade Street YWCA is offering a stress management workshop from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Participants will learn about positive and negative stress, with emphasis on specific relaxation techniques to cope with stress. There is a fee of \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. The program is part of the Y's Wellness Workshop series being held during the summer months. For more information call 722-5138.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

• The "Pink Broomstick" mastectomy support group will meet for a picnic lunch at Miller Park Shelter No. 5 at 11 a.m. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish. Drinks will be provided. The free event is sponsored by the Forsyth Cancer Service. For more information call 725-7421.

• Martha Isenberg will conduct a two-class series on microwave cooking from 10 a.m. to noon at the Agricultural Extension Service, 1450 Fairchild Drive. The class will cover how the microwave works, basic techniques of microwaving, and cooking vegetables and breads. The second class will be held July 17. Class size is limited, and there is a \$2 fee. To preregister, call Linda Dunn at 767-8213.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

• The Tiny Indian Football Club Inc. will hold a yard sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the East Winston Shopping center. There will be plants, clothing, small appliances and other items for sale. The rain date for the event will be July 19. For more information call 748-8635.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The Sawtooth Center for Visual Design is holding registration for classes in wheelthrowing, ceramics, landscape painting, portrait study, drawing and photographic darkroom techniques. For more information call 723-7395.

• The American Diabetes Association has begun planning its programs for youth for the 1986-87 year. Activities currently planned include a trip to Discovery Place, a skating party and a picnic, as well as educational activities for children and teens with diabetes. Youth and their parents who are interested in participating in or planning activities for the coming year should call 744-5935.

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 Monday at 5:30 p.m.

About Town

Young Winston-Salem resident prepping for life as Ivy-Leaguer

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem native Reginald Bryant Sellars recently graduated from New Hampshire's Phillips Exeter Academy and will continue his education at Yale University in the fall.

Sellars, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Sellars of Winston-Salem, says he enjoyed his years at Exeter and is looking forward to attending Yale.

"I enjoyed Exeter a lot, academically, socially and athletically," says Sellars, who was active on several sports teams. "I chose Yale because when I visited it, I really liked it.



Reginald Sellars

Everyone talks about the prestige, but I'm just looking forward to going to a good school."

Sellars says he will "probably major in business or economics" at Yale.

A senior co-captain of the Exeter football team, Sellars was awarded the Robert C. Mason Football Trophy as the team's Most Valuable Player. During his senior year, he broke nine school records and tied two others while playing on the offense, defense and special teams.

Described by his coaches as an "exceptionally versatile athlete," Sellars says that at times it was difficult to juggle his academic

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