

BUSINESS

Like Father, Like Son

Youngster masters mechanics of Brake World business

PEOPLE

Festival Finale

Area residents, talent, spirit add to Theatre Festival's success

42 Pages This Week

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Gunmen ruin family festival

Children, adults take cover under apparent gang attack

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

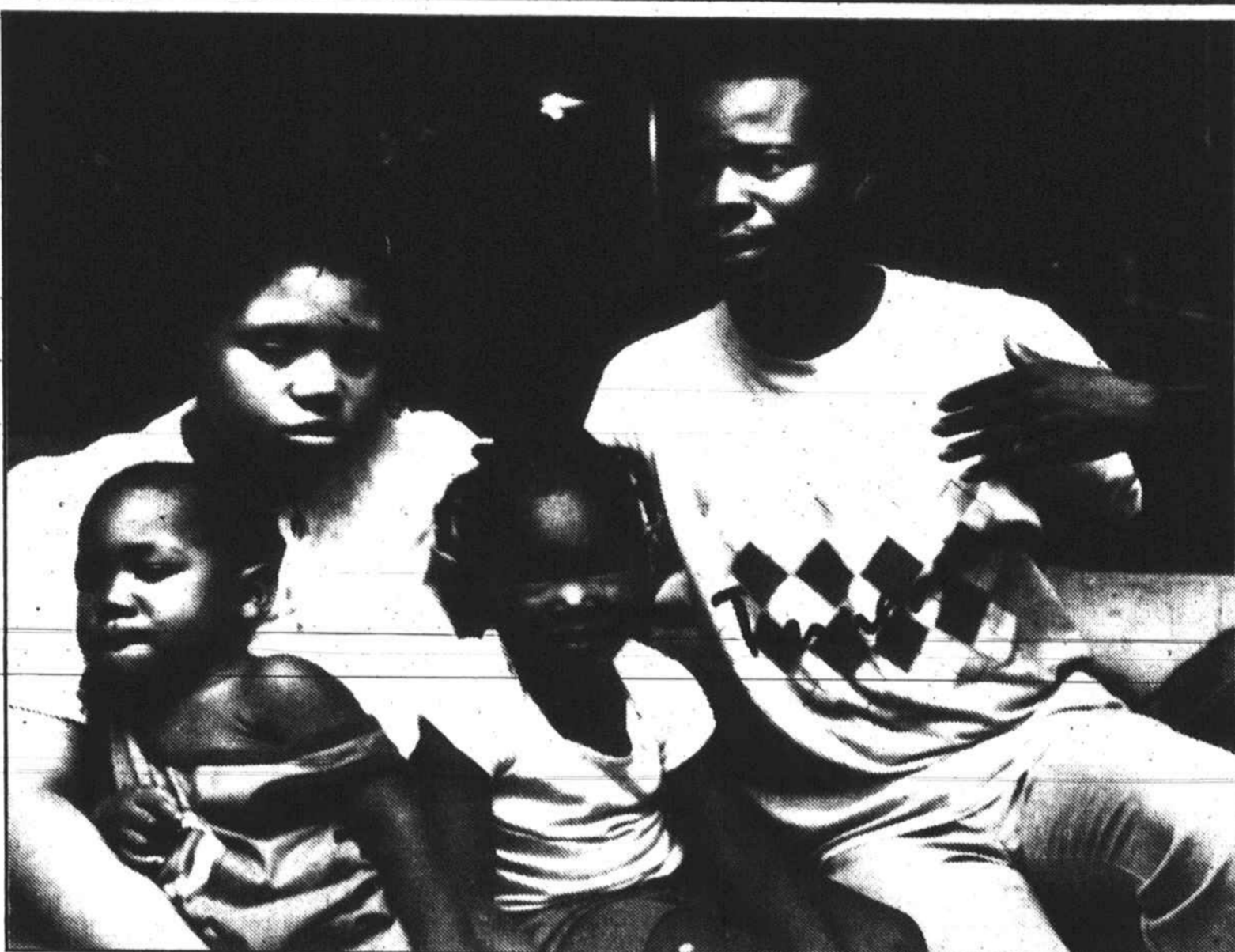
John and Debra Hunter are on a mission to unite and better the city's predominantly Afro-American neighborhoods by teaching children and their parents Biblical and traditional morals.

On Sunday night their mission was interrupted as the Hunters and the 50 children attending a film festival in their front yard had to hit the ground and take cover from flying bullets.

"Sunday night we were closing out our family film festival and we had refreshments, snacks and drinks for the 50 youth who were here," Mr. Hunter explained. "We had the equipment set up in our front yard. At about 10:30 about four car loads of guys pulled up at the corner of Ansonia and Short streets and they had shot guns, rifles and something that looked like a machine gun.

"One of the guys said, 'Where is he?' like they were looking for somebody. That guy started coming towards the house until one of the other brothers told him there were kids over here. Then this guy began shooting. That's when I told the kids to get down and take cover."

About two to three police squad cars arrived on the scene and Mr. and Mrs. Hunter gathered the children and hurried into the house and, hopefully,



John L. Hunter explains how he and his family (from left) Debra, Johnnell and Debraille had to take cover from flying bullets in front of his home at 2531 Ansonia St. Sunday night.

safety, he said.

"My wife took the girls into the back room and the boys and I were in here, the living room," he explained. "All of us laying on our bellies as guns were going off everywhere. We started praying real

hard." After about 30 minutes the commotion died down and Mr. Hunter said he thought he could

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Post added to decrease learning gap

By ANGELA WRIGHT
Chronicle Managing Editor

Details are sketchy, but a newly created position in the city/county school system is designed to increase the achievement levels of minority and average students, according to school officials.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education approved a budget request Monday from Superintendent Larry D. Coble that included provisions for more than 70 new positions. One of the new slots is for a director of minority/average child achievement.

"We have been looking at the gap between the test scores of black and white students," said Dr. Coble. "We're going to try to find someone who knows about the delivery of instructional services and the way children learn. We're looking for someone who can advise us on learning styles and the use of technology."

In making his recommendation to the board's budget, finance and audit committee Monday, prior to the full board meeting, Dr. Coble issued a statement which read in part: "This school system could, thru a consistent plan aimed at some of the problems for minorities and impoverished students, design a plan that trains administrators and teachers toward better teaching methods for these groups. Unless we come up with a plan, many black and

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Roadway proposal incites stiff opposition from SE residents

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Residents in southeast Winston-Salem rallied together Monday night in opposition to a roadway proposal that would force the city to demolish at least 15 houses.

City staff proposed that the Board of Aldermen approve a project to widen Clemmonsville Road to five lanes or build a new road along the north side of Woodcote Street between U.S. 311 and Old Lexington Road. Both projects would cost about the same, \$2.2 million.

One of the roadway projects is needed because state officials plan to close ramps at the Old Lexington Road exit sometime next year to meet federal spacing requirement standards. The state has agreed to put up \$1.5 million for either project.

If the city opts to widen Clemmonsville Road, nine homeowners would have to be relocated and their homes demolished. The proposal

to build a new road along Woodcote Street in the Easton Community would require the city wiping out 14 homes on the north side of that street.

Residents weren't pleased with either proposal and some suggested

"It seems to me that the people we vote in think more of business than the people that voted them in."

-- Calvin Campbell

that the city buy out the whole community and rezone it for industry.

"There seems to be a big emphasis on access for the AT&T building," said Calvin Campbell of 750 E. Clemmonsville Road. "AT&T will be closed completely down in December. What plan does the city have for that plant?"

J. Allen Joines, city development director, said the property on Old Lexington Road is being actively marketed by many business-recruiting

agencies in the city.

Rick L. Weddle, president of Winston-Salem Business Inc., said the Woodcote road construction plan is the city's best bet. Mr. Weddle's company is the primary economic recruiter in Forsyth County.

"We think that it's absolutely imperative that good vehicular access be to this location if we are going to bring businesses to that facility," Mr. Weddle told aldermen.

Alderman Vivian H. Burke asked Mr. Weddle if any company had expressed interest in locating in the AT&T building. He did not name a company but said "it's a very difficult facility to sell because it's so very large, so very unique. It will take all the tricks we have and all the help we can muster up."

Mr. Campbell said many of his neighbors are retired, have their homes paid for and don't want to move.

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...And it was a good week!

\$1,000,000 brought in by festival

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Larry Leon Hamlin is whistling a happy tune in the wake of last week's National Black Theatre Festival, and he's whistling it to the tune of \$1 million.

Mr. Hamlin said Wednesday that, although the paperwork from the festival still is being completed, early indications are that the festival "generated about \$1 million." And that figure, he said, does not even take into account the additional revenue generated in the local community. Mr. Hamlin, the festival's producer, said that he expects that all of the goods and services consumed by festival participants produced an additional \$1 million in the local community.

The management at the Stouffer Winston Plaza Hotel, which served as the official headquarters for the six-day festival, was more than pleased with the impact the festival had on its monthly volume of business.

"It was spectacular. It was nothing less than spectacular for this hotel," said Thomas L. Marel-

lo, general manager of the hotel. "It absolutely made a major impact on our month from a revenue and occupancy standpoint."

Mr. Marello said that the festival crowd was larger than anticipated and the volume of guests pushed the hotel's occupancy rate to well over 90 percent. He said, also, that the hotel staff was at 100 percent.

Early in the week, some of the festival's workshops were drawing larger than anticipated audiences and meeting room schedules were reworked to accommodate the crowds.

"It far exceeded any of our expectations. We expected no more than 50 people at each workshop, but the Tuesday workshop was full and we had to start rearranging things," said Pat Degrafinreid, the hotel's catering sales manager. "I guess you just can't describe just how tremendous the response was to this entire event."

Mr. Hamlin admitted that the turnout for the festival exceeded even his expectations. But he said he feels the festival remained true to its purpose of uniting black theater companies from across the country and celebrating their



Larry Leon Hamlin, festival producer, and actress Cicely Tyson discuss the merits of black theatre during last week's festival.

mutual spirit.

"I think we certainly had a special bonding among the theater companies in a very profound way," said Mr. Hamlin, the

founder and artistic director of the North Carolina Black Repertory Co. "But I think it had a way of

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Local woman files suit against Greyhound Inc.

By ANGELA WRIGHT
Chronicle Managing Editor

A woman who says she and her two daughters were forced to ride in the back of a bus because they are Afro-Americans is seeking damages against Greyhound Lines Inc. for violations of her civil rights.

Vickie H. Hairston barely beat a three year statute of limitations when she filed her complaint last week in Forsyth County Superior Court.

The alleged incident took place in August 1986 as Mrs. Hairston and her daughters, Jemithra and Joy (then 11 and 4 years old), were making a cross-country trip to Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. Hairston said she and her daughters had boarded a Greyhound bus in Winston-Salem on Aug. 15 and had arrived in Cheyenne, Wyoming on Aug. 17. She said that a new driver boarded the bus in Cheyenne and that while traveling from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Rawl-ings, Wyoming the bus driver harassed her and her children.

"When he started his route, he took my tickets and asked me why I had so many," said Mrs. Hairston. "I explained to him that I was traveling across country. He told me to wait until all the others had boarded the bus, then when he told me to get on and he returned my tickets, they were all in disarray."

Mrs. Hairston said she and her daughters sat behind the driver. She said the driver kept fumbling with his rear view mirror and muttering to himself.

"Then he began eating sunflower seeds," said Mrs. Hairston, "and opened the side window and spat them out so the seeds were flying back into our faces." Mrs. Hairston said that the driver also told her 11-year-old daughter that she could not chew her gum.

Mrs. Hairston said she dismissed all of the driver's actions until the driver told her he wished to talk with her when they got to a rest stop in Rawlings, Wyoming.

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