

Homeless from page A1

"When I first volunteered I was somewhat in therapy for myself," he said. "I came here as a person who understands junkies. I have worked with prostitutes. I deal with people."

Ford sold his landscaping business when he became the assistant director of the shelter. In January 1992, one of the shelter's directors resigned and Ford applied for the position and persuaded his employers that his life experiences made him highly qualified.

"I told them that I'm the one who could relate to the people," he said. "I've been down that path before. I even told them that they needed me."

One of the main reasons Ford decided to quit his destructive habits and continue his education was his desire to help others. He credits God with enabling him to change his life which, in turn, has made him a role model for others.

"My spirituality is my total existence. I was at death's door, but God gave life back into me. I am truly blessed. I am very underpaid but I am wealthy," said Ford.

While in prison, Ford continued to sell drugs and was once caught selling drugs 10 days after being paroled. He began preaching to other prisoners and decided that he wanted to be a member of the Outreach Ministry. He earned his equivalency degree while incarcerated.

Now in his second year at Shaw, Ford has received four scholarships including a \$10,000 Orville Redenbacher award, a Gold Medal award for students who have grade point averages between 3.75-4.0, an unlimited scholarship from the

Scholastic All-American Collegiate Program and a \$3,000 scholarship from Winn-Dixie. He plans to continue his education at Wake Forest University with a major in criminal justice.

He said the support of his wife and five children has encouraged him to succeed.

"I couldn't do it without her," said Ford, who met his wife, Anita, as a pen pal in prison. Anita Ford, who was also a high school dropout, recently received her nursing degree from Winston-Salem State University.

It was partly due to his wife's decision to return to school that Ford decided to further his education.

"I'm around a lot of college graduates," he said, referring to members of her family. "I felt so out of place." Ford was also encouraged by close individuals such as the late Rev. David L. Wilson, former pastor of the Sovereign Grace Tabernacle Church, who he describes as a "minister who believed in change."

Ford uses his personal wisdom to encourage others to straighten out their lives. He regularly speaks at schools and colleges about homelessness.

He has created the self-discipline necessary to regain control of his life.

"When you quit something, you need to develop a hatred against it," he said. "I hate drugs but I love drug addicts. I mingle with them and let them know that I love them. There are people who do care and I hope that I am one of them."



Charles Ford says he has turned his life around.

Woman Wounded In Fight At Shelter

BY SABRINA JONES
Chronicle Staff Writer

An argument between two women turned violent last week at a homeless shelter, leaving one woman severely cut with a boxcutter, police said.

Wanda Kay Newmon of 1072 E. 17th St. was charged with assault with a deadly weapon after she attacked Sonya Johnson, a resident at the facility located at 930 N. Patterson Ave., said Sgt. W.G. Miller. Newmon was later released from custody on her own cognizance. Johnson was treated and released from North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

The attack occurred last Thursday afternoon, when Newmon saw Johnson talking with her boyfriend, Walter Green. The wounded woman also had a knife but was not able to use it against her attacker.

William Adkerson, director of the center, said the incident was unusual and was the first of its kind to occur since he has been at the shelter.

Newmon has been barred permanently from the center.



David Lash (left), tennis instructor, shows a student how to grip a racket.

Center Offers Tennis Lessons

The Martin Luther King Jr. community center will offer tennis lessons to youths on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Kimberly Park neighborhood tennis courts.

Participants should be 8 to 15 years old.

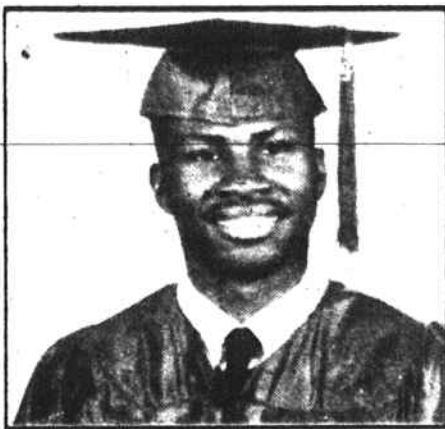
David Lash is the instructor. For information call Bill English, center supervisor, at 727-2740.

Salem Sets Fund-Raising Record

Salem Academy and College finished a record-setting fiscal year in fund-raising on June 30. Donations during the year totaled more than \$6.1 million—nearly doubling the previous record of \$3.1 million set in 1986-87.

The \$6.1 million included a record \$802,784 for the annual fund, which provides money to Salem for unrestricted, ongoing support. Total giving was bolstered by a \$100,000 gift from the Salem College Class of 1948. Class members raised the money in honor of their 45th reunion in May, also setting a new record for reunion giving. The total also included a \$150,000 gift from the Wachovia Corporation, its first payment toward a pledge of \$500,000 for Salem's upcoming "Window to the Future" capital campaign.

All of the \$6.1 million was donated by private sources, said W. James Harman, Salem's director of institutional advancement. Alumnae and friends donated 90 percent of the money. Corporations and other organizations donated 4.3 percent. Foundations contributed 5.7 percent.



Jeremiah Hopes

▲ Hopes Heads to UNCG

Jeremiah Hopes, the son of Brenda Hopes, is a recent graduate of North Forsyth High School. He graduated as an honor student with a grade point average of 3.6. He ranks No. 16 out of 290 graduates.

During his four years in high school, Hopes was active in the Key Club, U.S.A.A., P.C.A. and Today's Youth Alive. He was also a member of the cross country and track teams.

Hopes' most memorable experience at North was the Christian club, Today's Youth Alive, where he served as president. The club helps students sustain optimism in a diverse and turbulent high school atmosphere.

Hopes plans to continue his education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He plans to

pursue a degree in sociology.

▲ Seminar Held

Sandra M. Sheldon of Winston-Salem, a grades K-8 speech and language pathology teacher at Speas Elementary School, recently attended a seminar at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

Sheldon was one of 18 North Carolina teachers participating in "Listening to Nature: The Eastern and Western Traditions," June 27 through July 2, conducted by NCCAT senior fellow Chris Shea.

NCCAT, a unit of the University of North Carolina, provides intellectual renewal experiences for teachers in a year-round series of interdisciplinary seminars. Teachers from every county in the state have participated in center programs since NCCAT was established in 1985.

▲ Photo Exhibit Coming

Theatre fans will line up to see "Black Theatre in Photographs: Scenes from the 20th Century Stage" — an exhibition opening July 19 at the Delta Arts Center, located at 227 W. Fourth St. The exhibition is touring nationally under the auspices of the Schomburg Center Traveling Exhibition Program. It will remain on view through Aug. 13.

This free-standing panel exhibit offers a selection of over 100 photographs of stage productions, playbills and posters from the Schomburg Center's collections that illuminate the accomplishments of African-American actors, writers and directors. From the successful Williams and Walker musicals that splashed onto Broadway in the early 1900s to "A Soldier's Play," the 1982 Pulitzer Prize winner, the exhibition scans African-American productions and plays featuring black performers, providing insight into trends and important developments in the theatre.

During the 1970s the Negro Ensemble Company, a major force in Black theatre today, took such plays as "The River Niger," "Home" and "First Breeze of Summer" to Broadway.

Photographer Bert Andrews, a key documentarian of black theatre, has provided the Schomburg Center with many of the theatrical photographs on display from the early 1960's to the 1980s.

For information call Jackie Black at 722-2625.

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