

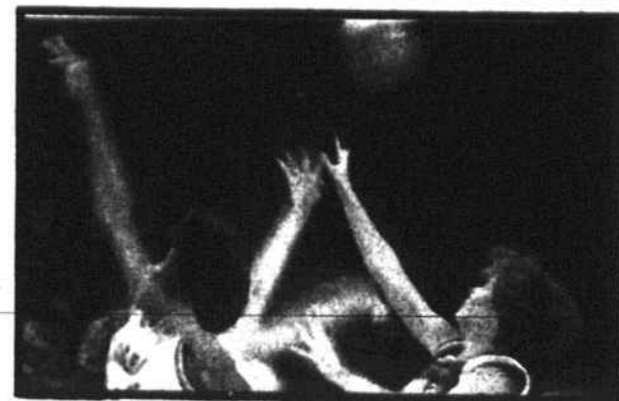


Taking an Oath

Recruits of the city's police department are sworn in. A5

Shooting Hoops

City hosts fast-paced, East-West All-Star basketball tourney. B1



Winston-Salem

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1991

Powerful news without a struggle

VOL. XIX No. 17

Suspect Served 3 Months of 20-Year Sentence

Shooting suspect released from prison in March

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Managing Editor

A suspect in the shooting of 6-year-old Talonda Lanier was paroled earlier this year after serving only 3-1/2 months of a 20-year sentence, records show.

Michael "Shane" Barber, 18, of 3801 S. Main St., was convicted on March 16, 1992, of receiving stolen goods and breaking and entering, both felonies, but was given a suspended sentence and placed on probation, according to court records. He received a 10-year sentence on both counts. After violating

his probation, Barber was sent to the Western Youth Institution in Morganton in December. Because he was sentenced as a youthful offender — he was 16 at the time — Barber was automatically eligible for parole.

"Based on the information we had, the parole board decided he would be granted youthful-offender status, making him immediately eligible for parole, and he was granted it after serving approximately three and a half months," said Samuel Boyd, executive director of the state Parole Commission.

sion.

Had Barber not been granted the special status, he would not have been eligible for parole so quickly, Boyd said.

"He probably would have



Talonda Lanier

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Second Suspect Beaten In Jail Cell after Arrest

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Managing Editor

Shannon Wayne Huffman, who allegedly shot 6-year-old Talonda Lanier in a "senseless" act of violence last month, was beaten by three Forsyth County Jail inmates a day after he was

incarcerated, an official said.

The official, Maj. Michael S. Schweitzer, the county's Director of Corrections, said Huffman was treated for his injuries at Forsyth Memorial Hospital, although his injuries were not

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NEWS WEEK NEWS AT A GLANCE

Smith Files for Alderman

Norma T. Smith and Jocelyn Johnson, two politically active African Americans, want to be alderman of the East ward. Smith, a computer consultant at Winston-Salem State University, filed with the Forsyth County Board of Elections yesterday to run for Alderman Virginia Newell's seat.

Complete story A3

Crossing 52 Initiative

Panelists at the third forum of People for Racial Reconciliation, a part of the Crossing 52 initiative, told more than 300 people at Mt. Zion Baptist Church last week that ending racism in society is the key to ending racism in the classroom. The panel, mostly comprised of educators, agreed that racism still exists in the school system, but they disagreed on the prevalence and effects of it.

Complete story A3

PolyGram Buys Motown

LONDON (AP) — The Dutch recording and entertainment group PolyGram announced that it will buy Motown Records Co., the world's leading black music label, for \$301 million. PolyGram NV, which is majority-owned by Dutch Philips Electronics NV, said the purchase agreement will cover Motown's current roster of more than 30 artists, including Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder.

Complete story A14

Crisis Control Ministries

Velma Tyrance joined Crisis Control Ministries to make a difference. For years, she had been involved in social work in New York City, but she now enjoys the slower pace. She recently joined Crisis Control as the director of services.

Complete story A6

Breaking Color Barrier

In 1954, while black Americans celebrated the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision, area blacks had an additional history-maker to celebrate. Seven years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in major league baseball, a 6-foot-5, modest first baseman from Greensboro became the first black to play for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Complete story A4

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

On August 1, 1940, Benjamin E. Mays, "the greatest schoolmaster of his generation," was named president of Morehouse College.

National Black Theatre Festival Kicks Off

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

District Court Judge Loretta Biggs, awed by the presence of some of the world's most treasured celebrities at the opening-night gala of the National Black Theatre Festival, stood by an entrance of the banquet hall at the Benton Convention Center after the event armed with a camera and giggling nervously.

"I'm taking the pictures," she said. Biggs then pointed to a little girl standing closer to the door who carried a pen and pad. "And she's getting the autograph."

And so it went for at least those two. No doubt the many others — the crowd was estimated at 1,400 — were in some ways affected, changed, by so many stars and the credibility their presence lent the festival.

Larry Leon Hamlin, the founder of the National Black Theatre Festival and the artistic director of the N.C. Black Repertory Co., was emcee throughout the evening and introduced the notables who presented awards of recognition to other notables. Most of them knew each other and had worked with and had been inspired by each other.

Lloyd Richards, the theatrical director perhaps best known for directing all of August Wilson's Broadway plays ("Fences" and "Two

Trains Running"), received the festival's director award.

Wilson, Lonnie Elder III, Ron Milner and Ntozaka Shange were some of the writers who received awards and/or spoke.

Singer and actress Della Reese, who serves as the festival's co-chair with Harry Belafonte, talked about how friends returning from the last festival in 1991 bragged about how much fun they had. She said she jumped at the opportunity to come and participate in this year's festival.

Now, she told the crowd, she was standing before them and in the presence of the other celebrities with "little goose bumps up and down my arms."

"Thank God and you for having me here," she said.

The evening's climax came with the presentation of the festival's Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented by Belafonte to Poitier.

Belafonte began his comments by mimicking the previous speakers who shared anecdotes about their relationships with Poitier. One actor mentioned being so poor that he and three others, including Poitier, had to share a hot dog, and Belafonte said he'll "never forget when we were having a hot dog ..." The audience chuckled.

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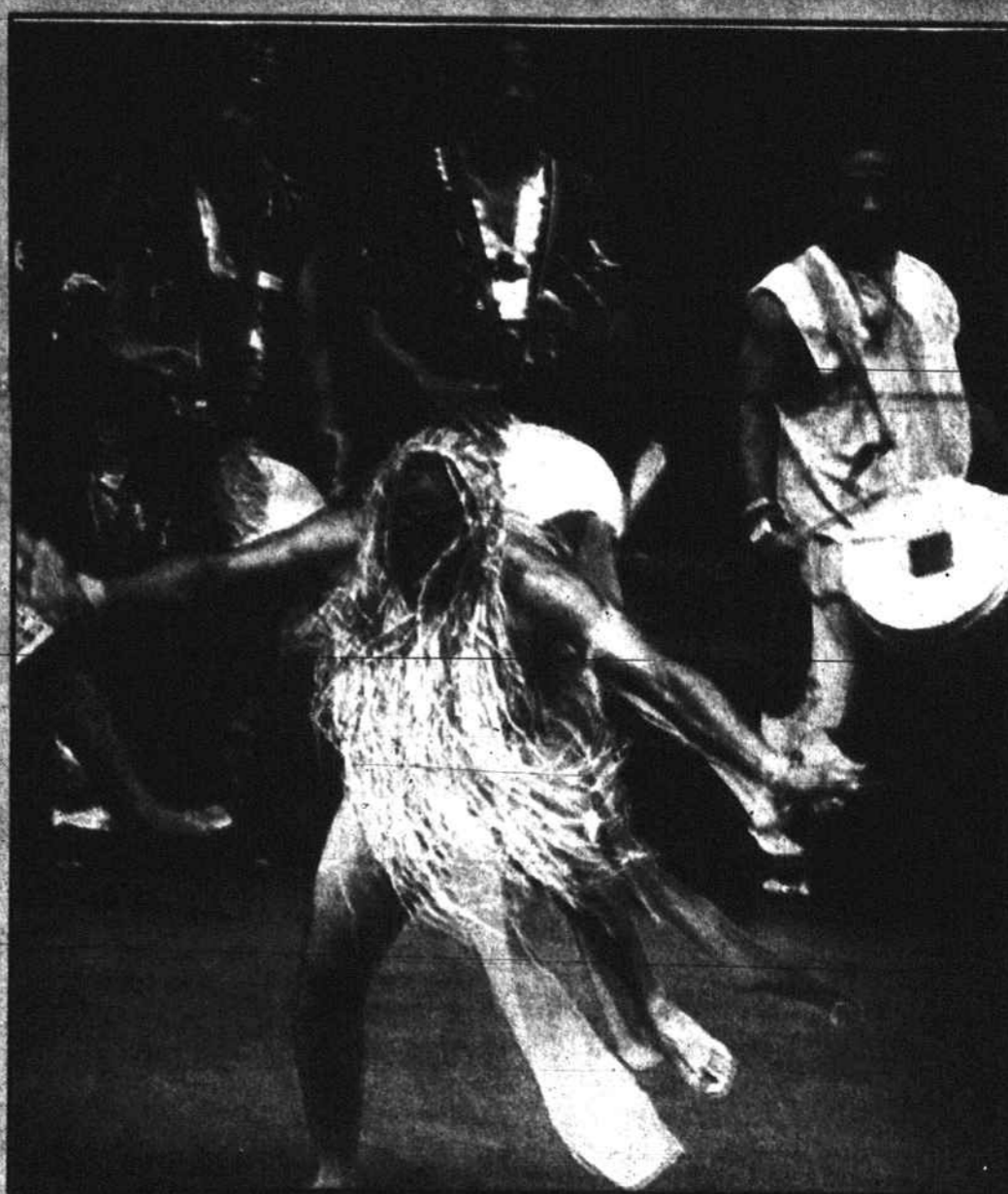


Photo by Mike Cunningham

Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble performs at the National Black Theatre Festival.

Tuxedos, Sequins Aplenty as Stars Come Out

By SABBINA JONES
Chronicle Staff Writer

Downtown Winston-Salem is considerably livelier this week.

Thanks to the National Black Theatre Festival, celebrities and out-of-towners from across the nation have descended upon the usually calm city turned miniature Hollywood.

"We're full," said Lara Tate, a front-desk clerk at the Adam's Mark Hotel, formerly the Stouffer's, the

official headquarters for the festival. "It keeps us busy."

It is estimated that well over 20,000 people will attend this year's event.

"I didn't expect to see so many people," said an awe-struck Ron Carter of Richmond, Va. This is the first time that the music composer for the play "The Blacks" has been to the festival. He said that while he was walking from the hotel, he spotted Della Reese.

"A lot of influential people are going to be here," he said. "It should be nice."

Nice is not the word that Frances Jackson, who has traveled all the way from Los Angeles to see her son perform in "Monk 'n Bud," would use to describe the remarkable event.

"I think it's magnificent," she said. "It's wonderful to see so many beautiful black people."

In the same hotel where guests were filing in from all parts of the country and abroad, Honorary Chairman Sidney Poitier and co-chairs Harry Belafonte and Reese, along with other famous faces, were

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Educators Dismayed over Expulsion Rates

Minorities account for 72% of suspensions

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Nearly three-fourths of the students recommended for expulsion from the city/county school system the past school year were African American, and over half of those were young men, year-end figures show.

The overall figure of 646 expulsion recommendations represents an 18 percent increase over the 1991-92 figure of 549, according to information released by

the school system's Department of Administration.

A breakdown by school shows that the highest number of students — 68 — recommended for expulsion was at North Forsyth High School. The middle school that recommended the most for expulsion — 30 — was Paisley Middle School. The highest number for a high school was actually Independence High — an optional facility for the student expelled from mainstream classes. But once recommended for expulsion from

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HIGH SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

SCHOOL	WHITE	MINORITY	TOTAL
CAREER CTR	1	4	5
EAST	18	26	44
GLEN	7	21	28
INDEPENDEN	24	57	81
MT. TABOR	15	27	42
NORTH	27	41	68
PARKLAND	10	25	35
REYNOLDS	7	51	58
SOUTH PARK	0	3	3
WEST	22	28	50
TOTAL	182	464	646

Source: Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools