

Bobby Brown promotes movie in court

DECATUR, Ga. — Singer Bobby Brown used a criminal court appearance Friday to promote his new movie and sign autographs. State court Judge Wayne Purdom allowed Brown to remain free on bond on charges of driving under the influence and failure to appear in court. Brown, whose attorney said Friday he was not prepared to plead, is free at least until his next court appearance this week.

Brown, who was approached by numerous fans in the courtroom after the hearing, apologized to anyone he may have hurt.

"I'm just looking forward to performing and touring. That's what I'm looking to do. I'm a lot better at that than driving," Brown said.

Brown was arrested in Atlanta early last Thursday on charges of possessing less than an ounce of marijuana, speeding and having no driver's license or proof of insurance.

His appearance Friday in Decatur was for charges dating to 1997: failing to appear in court, DUI, speeding, failing to maintain a lane and having no proof of insurance.

"Stay away from drugs, don't drink and drive, don't do anything you're not supposed to do, go to school and eat your vegetables," Brown said.

His upcoming movie, "Guns and Roses," will be released next year, he said.



Brown

Caltech has only 3 black freshmen this year, which is the lowest rate in nation

(Special to the NNPA) — The California Institute of Technology currently has the lowest percentage of black freshmen among the nation's top 25 universities, according to a new survey conducted five years after affirmative action was banned in the state's college admissions.

The survey, conducted by the "Journal of Blacks in Higher Education," found that only three of 13 prospective black students that were accepted by Caltech actually enrolled. The school is still trying to recover from Proposition 2090, which changed admissions requirements.

"If a prospective African-American student comes and sees very few (peers), that makes it more difficult. We initially had a very similar problem with women," Caltech mathematics professor Gary Lorden told reporters.

Caltech has made numerous attempts to boost minority enrollment over the years, including the establishment of a presidential scholarship that considered diversity. However, the largest class of African-Americans never exceeded eight.

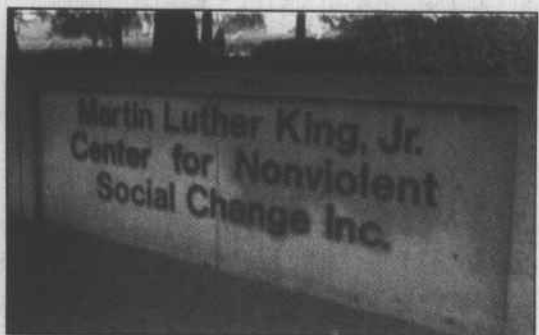
In contrast, 63 black students enrolled at academic rival Massachusetts Institute of Technology this year. A staggering 443 black applicants applied to the institution, compared with only 44 at Caltech.

Caltech officials say there are new measures to increase the numbers, including new staff to focus on minority affairs, help administrators create scholarships and expanded faculty and student outreach.

"Change doesn't happen overnight," Miriam Feldblum, a special assistant to Caltech President David Baltimore, told reporters. "But we are very optimistic about all the different initiatives we've put in place."

The survey also found that black enrollment declined by 6.6 percent at the University of California, Berkeley, where 142 black freshmen are 3.9 percent of the class.

The leading schools in the survey were Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Stanford University, all with black freshman classes of more than 10 percent.



Denny's to raise a million for King Center

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — The King Center in Atlanta will be the next beneficiary of a \$1 million fund-raising campaign by Denny's, the restaurant chain stung by charges of racism a decade ago.

The money will be used to encourage volunteerism, including creation of a database of volunteer opportunities in every postal code. Ray Hood-Phillips, chief diversity officer for Denny's, said Friday.

In the 1990s, the South Carolina-based company's restaurants were accused of making blacks prepay for meals, not serving them as quickly as whites and sometimes not serving blacks at all.

A \$54 million settlement of a class-action lawsuit led to reforms. The grant to the King Center is part of the company's "Reignite the Dream" program, which sets aside 20 cents for every All-American Slam breakfast Denny's sells for a particular grant recipient.

Last year's recipient was the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn. The company will begin collecting for the King Center in January. It should take about a year to raise the \$1 million, company officials said.

The center was established in 1968 by Coretta Scott King to advance the legacy of her husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

— Compiled from staff and wire reports

Agency creating homeowners

BY COURTNEY GALLARD
THE CHRONICLE

For the last 10 years, Constance Hill and her family have been renting various places to live in Winston-Salem. Hill works for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system and always dreamed of owning a home of her own. But she had doubts because of her modest income.

Hill's dream came true last year, thanks to the Housing Partnership. She and her multi-generational family of five, which includes two elderly relatives whom she cares for, moved into a brand new five-bedroom house.

"Everything else just fell in place. It was just a miracle," said Hill of the assistance she received from the Housing Partnership in buying her first home in Sunbridge, a new housing development in the southern part of the city.

The Housing Partnership of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inc., organized in 1997, is a non-profit development and finance corporation that collaborates with community partners to create affordable housing for modest income families throughout Forsyth County. The Forsyth County Housing Department, the Department of Commerce in Raleigh, Southern Community Bank, Wachovia, BB&T, Ramey Development, USDA Rural Development, the city of Winston-Salem and others are among the partners of the Housing Partnership.

The Housing Partnership develops housing that is comparable to housing in surrounding neighborhoods. Buyers come



Photos courtesy of Housing Partnership

Constance Hill, is pictured with her family on the lot where their future home (shown above) would stand: Left to right: Hill's aunt Penelope Chenoweth; Constance Hill; John-Nawo, Hill's foster son; Hill's father, Henry Hill; and James Clark, Hill's foster son.

such as the Hills, purchase and move into single-family homes. Gaddy says that Hill is one of many success stories that have evolved out of the Housing Partnership.

"We have strong families (in developments), families who work just like you and I at the hospitals, in the school system... They work for local industries just like we do," said Gaddy, who holds monthly informational sessions for potential home buyers around the city. As a result, everyone from elderly to new parents and even single working professionals come through the doors of the Housing Partnership.

Hill says she learned of the Housing Partnership through a class she attended last year. At the time, purchasing a home seemed to be obtainable, but in the distant future. Area banks quickly informed Hill that she qualified for only a three-bedroom house when she said she needed a five-bedroom house.

"Before (meeting) Olivia, I didn't think it would happen. Financially I was not in a position — there was no way to buy a home at least not when I did and not with the home I now have and with the amount of bedrooms and the space I have," Hill said.

The Housing Partnership, Hill says, pointed her in the direction of various loans and resources that would allow her to purchase a home that would sufficiently suit her living needs.

Clients like Hill turn to the Housing Partnership to purchase their first house, Gaddy says, mainly because of the special financing that they offer. If eligi-

from a wide range of household income brackets and may select their own lenders and financing packages.

Since January, Olivia Gaddy, marketing coordinator for the Housing Partnership, has helped more than 30 families.

See Housing on A9

Officer cleared of wrongdoing in shooting

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Forsyth County District Attorney Tom Keith announced last week that his office would not be bringing charges against a Winston-Salem police officer who shot an unarmed 14-year-old boy



Keith

after stopping the boy for allegedly stealing a car.

Lt. Wilson Weaver is now back on patrol.

His duties had been curtailed while the State Bureau of Investigation looked into the matter. A Police Department investigation also cleared Weaver, a veteran of the department.

The SBI is always called in to investigate shootings by officers. The SBI's findings were turned over to Keith to determine if charges were warranted. The DA's office is pursuing charges against Jesse Grooms, the teenage driver. Grooms' court date is Nov. 21.

Weaver and two other officers

stopped a car driven by Grooms July 27 near Rupert Bell Park. According to the DA's findings, Grooms was shot because he refused to comply with officers' orders. Weaver, according to the DA's findings, intentionally discharged his weapon after Grooms reached toward the direction of the gearshift. The report says that Weaver feared that he would be dragged if the driver began to move the car. Weaver also feared

that other officers and possibly civilians could have been injured if the car was put in drive or reverse, according to the report. Grooms stayed in the hospital for a week after the shooting.

"Lt. Weaver's actions were reasonable under the totality of the circumstances and...therefore he was justified in using deadly force," states a news release by the DA's office.

Although the officer and

teenager involved in this incident are both African-American, the incident garnered the attention of the local branch of the NAACP and the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity.

The groups held a news conference in the summer urging investigators to weigh the facts objectively. Police Chief Linda Davis and Assistant Chief Pat Norris also met with the groups a few days after the shooting.

"I've been an Allegacy member

since 1977. When I was ready to buy a vacation home, I could have gone to any lender, but I went to Allegacy. Their mortgage rates are so competitive and my loan officer made a suggestion that saved me thousands in financing costs."

David Tate

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INDEX

OPINION.....	A6
SPORTS.....	B1
RELIGION.....	B6
CLASSIFIEDS.....	B10
HEALTH.....	C3
ENTERTAINMENT.....	C7
CALENDAR.....	C9

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