



Steiv Semion, guest director-choreographer for the Little Theatre production of "Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope" was a featured dancer in the movie

version of "The Wiz." He has also appeared on Soul Train, The Midnight Special, and in three different productions of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope."

Little Theatre Auditions Set For First Black Play

The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem will hold auditions for its two summer musicals this month in the Hanes Community center on Coliseum Drive.

Auditions for the musical DON'T BOTHER ME, I CAN'T COPE are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, the 17-18. Steiv Semien, the guest director-choreographer, will be looking for six males and six females who can sing

and dance. Harry Wheeler, band director at East Forsyth Senior High, will be the Musical Director. Urban Arts will co-sponsor the production which opens July 19.

Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope, by Micki Grant, is a dynamic mixture of rock, ballad, calypso, and ballad music. It utilizes a dozen singer-dancers through twenty numbers. It is a forthright

black show. Finally, it is the black experience set to vibrant song and dance. "... Zesty and Fun... Lively score and lyrics... deserves a wide audience." --Clive Barnes, NY Times. "... The kind of show at which you want to blow kisses." --Time. "... Sends you home wanting to snap your fingers and click your heels." -- NY Daily News. In 1972, Micki Grant

received an obie (off-Broadway) for best music and lyrics. Alex Bradford was honored at the same time for his distinguished performance. Scripts are available at the main public library for reading prior to auditions. Adults should prepare a song from a musical and bring either the sheet music or an accompanist. Appointments are required and may be made by calling 725-4001.

NAACP Holds 2nd Youth Conference

The North Carolina State Youth Conference of the NAACP will have its Second Annual Youth of the Year Celebration Saturday, June 17, 1978 at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C. The days activities will include workshops on education, employment, life skills

and sex. Special workshops will deal with the NAACP today and an advisor's training workshop. And a Blue and Gold Coed Volleyball game will end the afternoon's activities. The workshops will have consultants from the N.C. Agricultural Extension

tion, Bennett College, the U.S. Navy, University Television, the Carolina Peacemaker, the NAACP departments of communication, field services and ACT-SO: Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technical, Scientific Scholarship Olympics, Planned Parenthood of Charlotte and

American Federal Savings and Loan. The speaker for the evening program will be Ms. Althea T.L. Simmons, Associate Director for Branch and Field Services. A seasoned Director, Legislative Advocate, Special Field Representative, Field Director, Summer Projects Director and Director of NAACP National Voter Registration Project.

Ms. Simmons, a former college teacher and newspaper woman, was a graduate of Southern University (La.) in business education and holds an M.S. degree in marketing from the University of Illinois and a J.D. degree from the Howard University School of Law.

The winner of the Youth of the Year contest will be selected and named the NAACP Youth of the Year. The winner will receive a trip to the 69th National Convention in Portland, Ore. July 1 through 8. The other participants will receive trips to tour the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. August 3 through 5 and a special trip aboard a U.S. Naval Ship in Norfolk, Va. will be given to the young man who raises the most money. All participants will be presented to the Adult Conference on June 18 at the NAACP Annual Freedom Day Celebration at the Raleigh Civic Center at which time the speaker will be the NAACP's New Executive Director, Benjamin L. Hooks.

Anyone interested in participating please contact T. Dianne Bellamy-Small, State Youth President 273-0372.

Wilmington 10 Parolee Proclaims His Innocence

One member of the Wilmington 10, William "Joe" Wright, was released on parole a few days ago. He is the first of the 9 Black men to be released following the reduction of sentences by the North Carolina Governor last January. The Wilmington 10 are civil rights workers who were convicted on 1971 arson charges during racial disturbances in Wilmington, N.C. They have been defined as 'Political Prisoners' by Amnesty International and thousands of supporters here and abroad who feel that all evidence shows that they were criminally railroaded for their community protests.

against racism and repression. He intends to become a lawyer and continue the struggle against racism and repression. Speaking with members of the press, he stated, "The intolerable conditions of racism and political repression which led to my unjust conviction and incarceration still exist and must be changed. I plan to continue my efforts to bring that change about."

The National Wilmington 10 Defense Committee has commented that his release indicates a small victory for the people. National Coordinator, Imani Kazana, states, "These people would not be eligible for parole now if the people had not pressured the Governor into reducing their sentences. People power is freeing them and continued people power can exonerate them."

While citing a victory, however, supporters say that their struggle is far from over pointing out that this case's principle defendant, Rev. Ben Chavis, will not be eligible for parole for nearly two years. "We will not

stop until all of the Wilmington 10 are free for trying to make things better in this country. Jimmy Carter must be forced to implement a domestic human rights policy," said Ms. Kazana, referring to current efforts to involve the U.S. Justice Department in the pending appeals in federal courts. Except for Rev. Chavis, the other 8 male defendants will become eligible for parole within the next 4 months. The only white, female defendant was totally freed from parole this past January.

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