

# African Festival Could Be Last

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

Since 1974, the African Folk Festival has been one of the highlights of summer in Winston-Salem. But this year's gala could be the last one because the job of the person who has organized the event is being phased out. Amatula Saleem, dance specialist with the City Recreation Department, had her job cut out of the budget when the Board of Aldermen slashed 2½ cents off the property tax rate proposed by City Manager Orville Powell.

Participants in some of the dance classes taught by Ms. Saleem at city recreation centers protested the move on Monday night's meeting of the aldermen and the matter has been referred to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Right now, the dance specialist has been told her job ends at the end of the summer. Because of the uncertainty, she says "I don't know what's going to happen to the festival next year."

The event has drawn as many as 3,000 for a day of cultural enrichment

and entertainment and Saleem is expecting one of the largest crowds for this year's festival this weekend at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

Activities will last from 2 to 8 p.m. They include:

2-2:30 p.m. -- music with Johnell Hunter as DJ; dancers from various recreation centers on the patio; African drummers in Kimberly Park and karate and boxing on the grass outside the center.

2:30 - 4 p.m. Jazz Trans-It and a

delegation consisting of city human relations director Herman Aldridge, Larry Palmer, director of minority affairs at Wake Forest University and Rachel Jackson, member of the Human Relations Commission, will give greetings.

3:45 p.m. Silver Streak, a local drum ensemble, and the Patterson Avenue "Y" Cadets.

4-4:30 p.m. AYD Dancers from Greensboro and the New Urban Arts Dancers, Otessia II Dancer from the teen dance workshop.



## Reunited

And that is exactly what happened when Epic recording artist Patti LaBelle performed at the Beacon Theatre in New York City a few days ago. Saving the best for last, Patti came back for an encore of "You Are My Friend" and invited former LaBelle member, Sade Dash to join her for a rousing duet.

The unexpected moment brought the crowd of 3,500 roaring to a historical state of frenzy as the crowds descended to the stage for a closer view of the momentous happening.

LaBelle, the powerhouse trio that shocked airwaves with their rendition of "Lady Marmalade" [voulez vous coucher avec moi?], decided to call it splitsville in early 1977.

## Billy Rowe's Notebook

The rumors are that you should not invite Tatum O'Neil and Diana Ross to the same happening. Like she would not have liked it had her dad, Ryan O'Neil, showed up with the "Mahogany" lady at the dinner Michael Jackson took her to celebrate the group's latest album, "Destiny," going gold... Drop a get well sentiment to James Mitchell, Frances' spouse who has been in the Gracie Square Hosp. since early May. She's a member of the Secret Friends which may be the reason she took so long to tell us that Mitch is ailing...Manson Melton has finally sold his N.Y. home and is headed for his old Kentucky on in which he plans to live a life of retired east...Dame Margot Fonteyn, the durable balleromane will come all the way from London to H'wood to include Sammy Davis, Jr. and Fred Astaire in her teevee series documenting the history of "The Dance..." "Raisin," which many thought had broken the French taboo against "cause" black American stage offering, closed last week after a short run. After a well received opening, it failed to arouse sufficient public interest...CBS Records after partied Teddy Pendergrass after his recent performance at Madison Square Garden to the delight of some top

VIPs...Eddie Heywood, in town to personally promote a for friends only album, denied that his posh cove home in Martha's Vineyard is for sale...More than a few convention attendees are sure there is a feud going on between two top civil rights leaders. One of them was the only person in a crowded ballroom who didn't stand when the other was introduced...STAY LOOSE.

## Summer School Presents Three Productions

Summer school students in the Mt. Tabor Special Interest program will present three musical productions July 24 through 28.

On Tuesday, July 24, the fourth and fifth grade group will present "Entertainment Now and Then" at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The second and third grades will stage "Let George Do It" on Wednesday, July 25 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Older students will present "Hello Dolly" in performances July 26, 27, and 28 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

All performances will be in the Mt. Tabor High School Auditorium and are open to the public at no charge.

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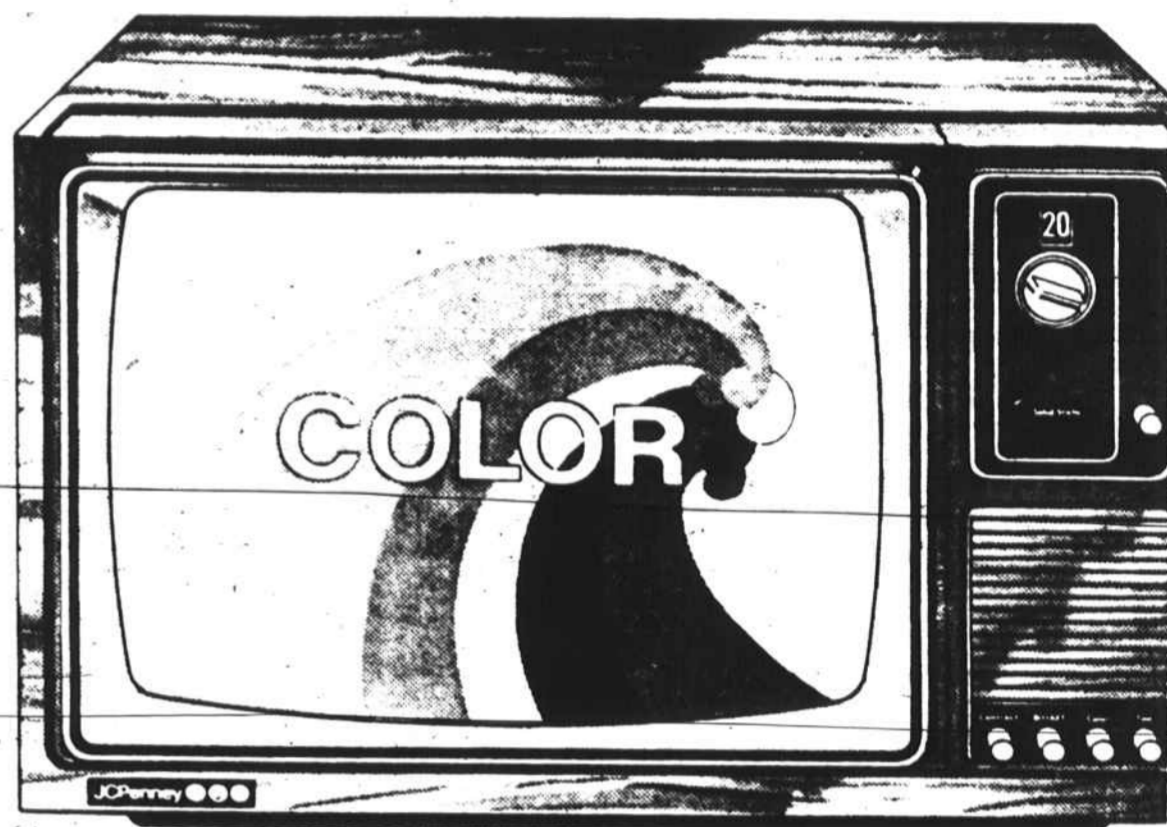
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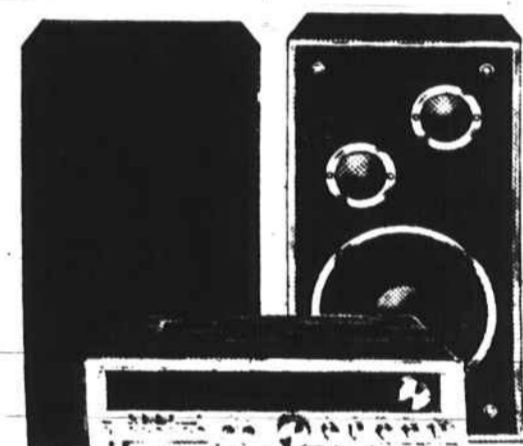
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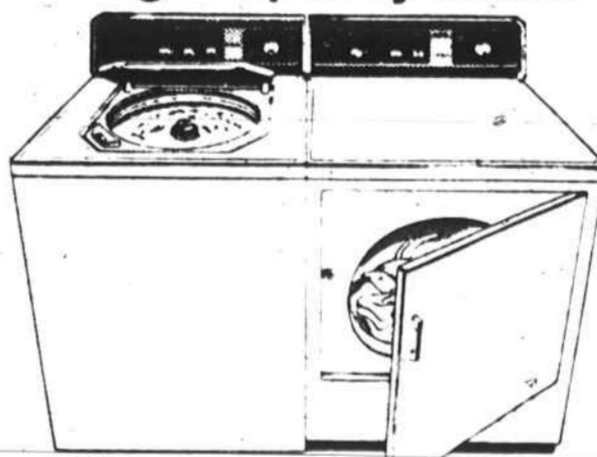
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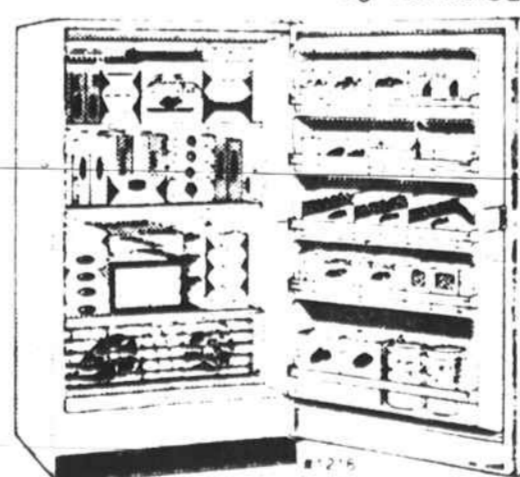
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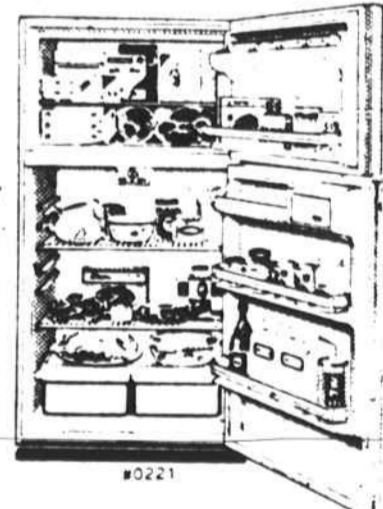


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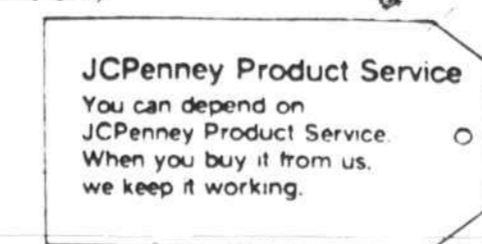
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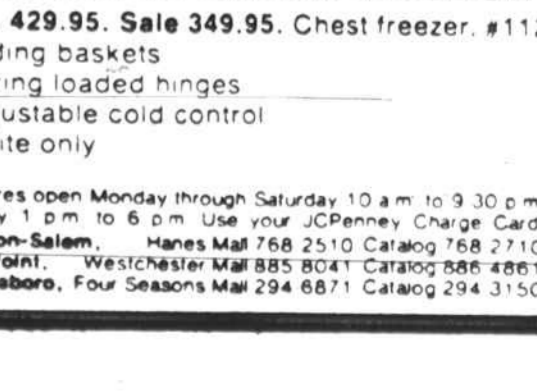
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