

Theatre Festival Needs an Additional \$300K

The 1993 National Black Theatre Festival, to be held in Winston-Salem Aug. 2-7, is seeking an additional \$300,000 to break even. Larry Leon Hamlin, the producer and artistic director of the festival, has sent out an appeal to local businesses for financial support.

"Several corporations and businesses have shown their commitment to the arts," said Hamlin. "This year's festival is larger and more expensive, with a total cost of \$1,000,000. We need additional financial support. Our target date for raising the additional funds is July 23.

"This festival is a major event

for Winston-Salem, as it brings in thousands of tourists and millions of dollars," added Hamlin. Statistics from the 1991 National Black Theatre Festival support Hamlin's contentions. More than 20,000 people descended upon Winston-Salem that year. Visitors and guests spent nearly four million dollars at area hotels and stores.

Hamlin explained that ticket sales from the 82 performances at the festival are not enough to cover the overhead. Since its beginning in 1989, the average theatrical production costs at the festival continue to escalate. "Even if we sell every

ticket, and that's not possible since we give many away to the underserved," said Hamlin. "That is why more business support is necessary."

Businesses or individuals that desire to make a cash or in-kind contribution (donation of supplies, services or equipment) before July 23 should contact the 1993 National Black Theatre Festival offices at 723-2266 and ask for Larry Leon Hamlin. There exists a need for a variety of tools and materials including hand tools, paint, lumber and power tools. Contributions are tax deductible.

Gallery Features Works by Actress

Diggs Gallery on the campus of Winston-Salem State University will showcase and exhibition featuring paintings by actress Janet Duboise and artist LaVon Van Williams Jr. July 24 through Aug. 21.

"Paintbrush Diplomacy: Chil-

Verticle Hold's Versatility

ented. In addition to being the lead vocalist for the group, Stone also plays saxophone, vibes and drums. Bruno is the group's percussionist and also plays keyboards and vibraphone. Bright handles keyboards, drums and violin.

The tightness of Vertical Hold's sound is due in part to their close eight-year union. The ties are strong and solid — Bright and Bruno were high school buddies, attending the renowned Music and Art High in New York. A year after graduation, in walks Stone, who

was riding high from her successful career as a rapper with one of the first female rap groups, Sequence. That group went gold in 1979 with "Funk You Up" for Sugar Hill Records. In the studio with Bright and Bruno, she penned a few lyrics to their music and the notes fell into place. In fact, that first collaboration "I've Been Watchin' You," is on this debut album.

Through the years, while working on their own sound, the trio has written and worked for various

Salem. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. Free admission.

An opening reception will be held July 24 from 5-7 p.m. For information call 750-2458.

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artists, from Gladys Knight to Diane Reeves. Stone also sang and played saxophone for Lenny Kravitz and toured with Paisley Park artist Jill Jones

"We're kind of studio buffs," Angie explains, "when we'd get together, we'd always talk of finally getting our own record deal as a group." Bruno adds, "what we're doing, using real instrumentation and hard R&B grooves is so happening. It's 'real music,' we can't help but be on top."

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League Named After Alderman

The Martin Luther King Jr. community center recently dedicated and renamed its 2nd Annual Basketball League in honor of Alderman Nelson Malloy.

The two gentlemen felt that a positive role model out of Kimberly Park community would be necessary in naming the league.

Bill English, center supervisor, and Bryant McCorkle, league founder, said the league was renamed in Malloy's honor because he is a positive role model from the Kimberly Park community.

The league has six teams for men, ages 18-30, and plays games on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

For more information call Bryant McCorkle or Bill English at 727-2740.

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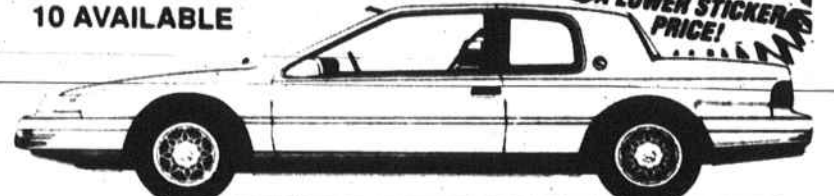
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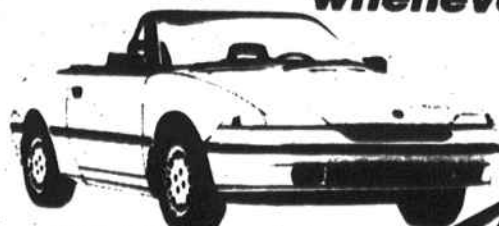
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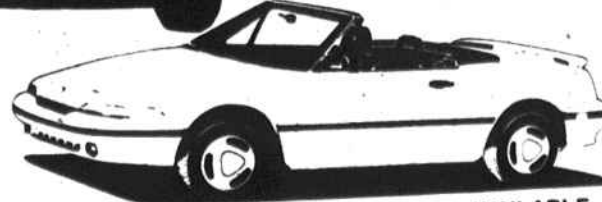
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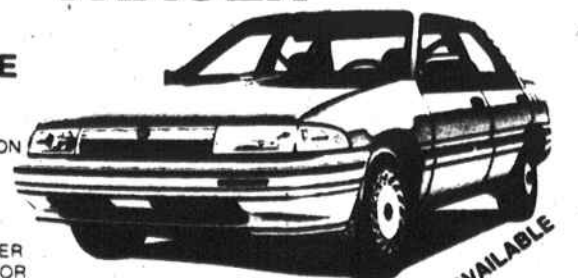
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