



Brandon Miller



Jackie Miller



Tyreece Davis

## Three Toddlers Drown

were pronounced dead. Davis said that prior to the incident, a group of children had been swimming in the pool. After they left, Brandon and Jackie were left inside the house with Monique and Avan. They managed to get to the pool while Monique was watching television, Davis said. Relatives couldn't reach Fredrinna Miller because her phone was off the hook; Avan had to call a neighbor, who

told her the bad news. "I told her she must be joking," she said. "I started out the back door and lost everything I had on hurrying out." Fredrinna said Jackie appeared last Thursday night in a dream. "Seems like she was trying to tell me something. She couldn't talk yet, but it seems like she was trying to tell me to love Monique," she said.

from page A1

Earl Davis, the grandfather of the boy that drowned three days later, said he was living a "nightmare." "I only wish it was a dream," he said. His wife, Devora, told him that she and two friends were on the patio in the backyard while a 3-year-old grandson and Tyreece played near the above-ground pool. Moments later, Devora looked and saw the child floating in the pool.

## Two Men Dead

thing to do with people's business." The violence that exploded when 50 to 100 people were partying at a "drink house" — a rented dwelling at the end of the street that dead-ends at U.S. 52 where weekend drinking and loud music are a regular occurrence — has astonished and saddened members of the community.

"I think it's awful; something needs to be done about it. They just started returning during the last two months, but it has never been this bad," said another neighbor. Although she was frightened by Sunday's killings, 67-year-old Izora T. Glenn said it's too late for her to move to safer surroundings. She said she has lived there for 33 years.

**'I Can't Believe It'**  
"We are a church-going community, and we don't need this. They're not our age group and are not our type of people," she said, referring to the young party. "There were just droves of them running down the street. I thought, wouldn't it have been wonderful if they were coming from church instead of from a place that caused two people to lose their lives. That's sad."

At the Samuels' household, a different kind of sadness has invaded the lives of the close-knit family. Steven Samuels, affectionately known as "Steve," was the youngest of three boys and one girl. Those closest to him still cannot believe that their little brother is dead.

"I don't really know what happened. It's just mad. The police haven't told us anything," said his cousin, Alonzo Tart, 21. "We were like brothers. I still can't believe it happened."

sister-in-law: "My first thought is that I hope the guys who did it are punished. He was easy-going and laid-back. As a father he was totally devoted to his son."

The Samuels clan has a large number of cousins, uncles and aunts who live in Winston-Salem and neighboring cities. The family does not distinguish between its members, who act as sisters and brothers. There is a consensus that Stephen, a brother to them all, will be greatly missed.

"When they called, it was 'Oh no, not Steve,'" said Michael K. Howell, Steven's uncle. "If they knew who they killed, they would be very sorry." "I still have a ways to go," said Ethel Samuels, Stephen's mother. "I feel numb like I have nothing inside. My body won't move with me anymore."

Steven, a 1989 graduate of Mt. Tabor High School, played football and basketball. He built the stylish, two end tables and coffee table that sit in the living room at his mother's home. He occasionally played the piano in his church. He decided not to follow the path of his two older brothers, who have both served in the military.

"Steve never liked to follow orders from anyone but his family. He was real soft-hearted. He took his son everywhere with him. All of my boys are quiet and easy. I have a lot of love to give. I have been blessed with sweet children," said his mother.

**'A Wild Shooting'**  
The mood was also somber at the home of "Tiger" Bitting's cousin, where family members from out of town and Winston-Salem have gathered to grieve the loss of a

from page A1

the wrong place at the wrong time. "It was just a wild shooting that went down," said Gloria Bitting, Waddell's mother, who lives in Raleigh. "I still don't know what happened." Waddell's grandmother, Gwendolyn Sorell, who also lives in Raleigh, said she considered him a son. While Waddell was living with her along with his two brothers in Raleigh, she worked two jobs to put him and his older brother through high school.

"My blood pressure went up; I won't be right for a long time. He was my favorite grandboy. They should tear the house down," she said, referring to the weekend hang-out that will be forever scarred with the memory of the two victims.

"He was a good guy," said Constance Jacobs, who described Waddell as a "favorite cousin." "He didn't carry any guns or knives," she said. For Carol Young, the young man's aunt, the incident has been twice as painful, since she actually saw her nephew's dead body at the scene of the crime.

"It has been so hard," she said. "I was there when they put his body in the body bag. He had tear stains on his face like he had been begging for his life."

Waddell's death does not only affect the lives of his relatives. The unidentified neighbor who saw the body of the murdered young man upon her neighbor's porch also grieves for the victim of a senseless killing.

"He was a very nice kid; never caused anyone no harm," she said. "He was a character, fun and nice."

## Womble to Run

arial staff for personal needs. Wallschleger said it appeared Womble was more interested in using his office as a "stepping stone."

"I don't spend my time responding to stuff like that," Womble replied.

During the interview at his home, Womble, 52, pointed in the direction of neighbors who surround him on Salem Lake Road and emphasized that most of them, about 55 percent, are white.

"They (his constituents) don't look at me as a black person, but as an alderman," he said. "I don't favor blacks; I favor the issues."

He added: "The Southeast ward is a microcosm of America. We have less busing than any other ward."

Among the accomplishments he said he is proudest of as an alderman was his work in separating the functions of the public safety program. At one time, police officers were required to respond to fires and had to help put them out. The police disliked the program — "they had two masters" — and the "citizens in general were saying

public safety wasn't working," Womble said.

He said he also worked to help re-establish the neighborhood foot patrol and was especially elated that the board recently approved the allocation of funds to hire 16 new foot patrol officers. In his ward, which Womble won by 100 votes in 1989, he said he is proud of his work in helping to build the ward's two new recreation centers and the new facility housing Forest Park Elementary School, which he said the school board wanted to close until the residents voiced their concern.

Womble said people can accomplish most anything if they "band together with a single purpose."

Womble said the criticism that followed the report of using the city secretary for personal work, including a letter to President Clinton seeking the ambassadorship of Kenya, will not jeopardize his chances for re-election. He shrugged off reports that he was in the job market as "testing the waters."

"There were no other names in

from page A1

the hat from Winston-Salem," he said, referring to jobs in the Clinton administration. "My first and only obligation is being alderman for the people of the Southeast ward."

He added: "If something had materialized, I probably would've turned it down."

He also said that the letter he wrote to the All-American city officials — which was blamed for the denial of the All-American designation — won't hurt his re-election chances.

He said the letter was written on behalf of the people, and that his critics are "attacking not me, but the people." The critics, he said, are beginning to realize that what he said in the letter was true.

Womble was raised in East Winston by his grandparents. He was asked what drives him to be so active in politics and community affairs.

"It gives me a sense of making a contribution," he said. "It gives me a sense of helping my fellow human being, of making life better for everybody, including especially the down-trodden."



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