

Smith Files Candidacy for East Ward Alderman Seat

▲ Smith, Johnson set to battle for Newell's seat in November

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Norma T. Smith and Jocelyn Johnson, two politically active African Americans, both want to be aldermen of the East ward.

Smith, a 45-year-old computer consultant at Winston-Salem State University, filed with the Forsyth County Board of Elections yesterday to run for Alderman Virginia Newell's seat.

"I think we need to continue to go in the direction in which we started," Smith said.

Johnson, a social worker at Baptist Hospital, threw her hat in the ring early last month, shortly after Newell decided not to run for reelection. Smith said at least two others, including a Republican, have or will soon decide to vie for the seat. Some say Johnson, a well-known activist, appears to have the edge.

"I don't want to talk about Ms. Johnson. I want this to be a positive campaign. I want people to vote for me because I think I can do a good job. I don't think it necessary to tear down or negate the activities of another campaign," said Smith, the

divorced mother of a 15-year-old daughter. "I can bring a vision to East Winston. A vision of a thriving, vibrant East Winston. The plans are already out there, they just need implementation."

She is opposed to the construction of more low-income housing in the ward. "We can't just talk exclusively about that. I think we need more mixed housing," she said.

She said that people who live in low- and moderate-income homes tend to be more sensitive to the community at large, and the infrastructure in those communities — streets,

lights, etc. — gets repaired faster.

She said she didn't mean to sound insensitive to the poor's needs, but "it's the way our society addresses things. People tend to write off poor people."

Smith, who has never run for office before, also believes that East ward residents should be more sensitive to the community's preservation. "Right now, all I hear is tear down, tear down. A lot of the structures have history," she said.

When told that most of the historic structures in East Winston have already been demolished, Smith

replied: "That just means we have to be all the more diligent."

On crime, she said: "I wish I had the answer to the crime problem. I do feel that to make any impact calls for early intervention."

Smith, chairman of the East Winston Economic Task Force, said her first taste of politics came when she served as campaign manager for Newell's second run for alderman. Her mother was Newell's campaign manager during the alderman's first run.

Smith, a graduate of Morgan State University in Baltimore, is a native of Winston-Salem and lives on Kentucky Avenue. Her daughter,



Norma Tanner Smith

Natasha, is a sophomore at Salem Academy.

Discussion on Race Relations Focuses on Black Student-Athletes

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Panelists at the third forum of People for Racial Reconciliation, a part of the Crossing 52 initiative, told more than 300 people at Mt. Zion Baptist Church last week that ending racism in society is the key to ending racism in the classroom.

The panel, mostly comprised of educators, agreed that racism still exists in the school system, but they disagreed on the prevalence and effects of it.

"We are a mirror of what's happening in the community," said Jim Wilhelm, division director for high schools. "The students mirror what's in the home and the community."

Denise McDonald, of the school system's program services, said race relations are better because people are talking about it.

"It appears to be worse because

people are being vocal," she said. "I think it's healthy for the issue to be in the forefront."

Talking about the problem and solving the problem are two different things, said the Rev. Carlton Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church. He said blacks are hurt in the school system because society never established integration, only desegregation.

"Undoubtedly, things are better that blacks and whites are in the same system," he said. "But blacks lost a lot in desegregation. Segregation had higher expectations of black students."

Earline Parmon, director of LIFT Academy, said the need is to get black males away from focusing on athletics as a means of scholarship and steered on a more solid course of science and math.

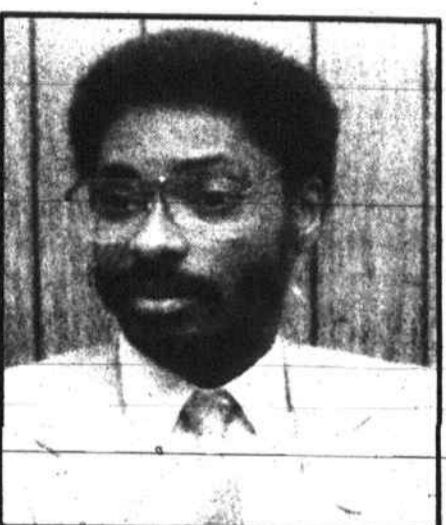
"Big, black, husky males are



Earline Parmon

being used the whole season to run touchdowns but can't read," she said. "They are being prostituted by football."

Parmon criticized teachers for not recognizing the difference between the races and the need to



Rev. Carlton Eversley

stop treating adolescents as adults.

"A lot of black males have told me they go to school knowing people don't expect them to perform," she said. "African-American students are different, but adolescents are different period."

Eversley wants to mandate sensitivity training for teachers of all races to become knowledgeable of cultural differences.

"When African-American children are getting expelled in grades

K, 1 and 2, what we're dealing with is at-risk teachers, not at-risk students," he said. "If you can't deal with our children and teach them, then you shouldn't be teaching."

Educators Dismayed over Expulsion from page A1

Independence, a student is permanently excluded from the entire system. The student does, however, have the chance to re-apply the following year.

Geneva Brown, one of the school board's African-American members, said of the findings: "It didn't have anything I didn't expect."

She called the figures "alarming" and said they may even be worse if the expulsion figures for elementary school were considered.

"It says to me something is not working ... Kids are being kicked out because people don't understand them."

Brown said that the school system will always have students who will have serious problems, but most of the ones who get kicked out are those whose behavior can be

modified.

Teachers are going to have to be more tolerant, she said, "unless they want to see crime escalate." Students who are expelled usually turn to crime, she said.

"The answers come with people knowing how to treat people," she said. She said that she is in favor of teachers being re-trained.

"I grant you, we need some things that talk about the contributions of blacks, but that's not all we need," she said.

Board member Walter Marshall echoed Brown's comments on the connection between school expulsion and crime. The figures for black males indicate that "we're not really doing anything to deal with that group."

"This community cannot feel safe until the problem with this pop-

ulation is dealt with," he said. He called the figures "terrible" and "symptomatic of something bigger."

Said Elsa Woods, director of middle schools: "My personal opinion is that this is a reflection of what's going on in society. There are more crimes committed in society in general, so there are more committed in school."

She also blamed joblessness and the frustrations inherent in a situation where a parent can't support his family. The school-aged child is affected by that frustration and carries it to school, she said.

"If things aren't good at home, they're not good in school," Woods said.

Officials at Hanes Middle School recommended that 23 students be expelled this past school year, the third highest of the middle

schools. Of the 23, 21 students were black.

Ron Montaquila, Hanes' principal, blames that disproportionate number on "economics."

"If I had to pick one reason, I'd say economics. It's a result of the situation they're living in," he said.

He said the school has a considerable number of students who live in the Piedmont Circle public housing community. But while he blamed poverty for the disparity, he also said that students from the same community were also making the honor roll.

Montaquila attributes the high number of expulsion recommendations in general to the school's status as the last stop for a troubled youth before being sent to Petree, the middle school counterpart for Independence.

Suspect Served 3 Months from page A1

had to serve had he been sentenced otherwise," he said.

The five-member parole board, which is appointed by the governor, does not give reasons for granting parole, only when it denies parole.

A new parole board began its four-year term June 30.

Barber and Shannon Wayne Huffman, 16, of 222 E. Devonshire St., are accused of the July 10 shoot-

ing that left Talonda Lanier in a coma for a more than a week. A bullet was removed from her head last week.

The shooting occurred shortly after Saidet Lanier, the child's 21-year-old mother, pulled to the side of Interstate 40 to rest. They had traveled from Snow Hill and were en route to Killeen, Tex., where Lanier is an army private.

The two men allegedly sprayed the car with bullets and sped off. Because Lanier chased the car and memorized the license plate number, two men were arrested later that day.

Barber and Shane are being held in the Forsyth County Jail under \$200,000 bond. Because Barber is a parole violator, he cannot be released until the case is resolved.



Michael Barber

Second Suspect Beaten in Jail Cell from page A1

considered serious.

"Since that incident we've administratively segregated him," Schweitzer said. "That means he's housed by himself in a single cell ... to protect him."

Huffman, 16, of 222 E. Devonshire St., and Michael "Shane" Barber, 18, of 3801 S. Main St., have been held in the county jail in lieu of \$200,000 bail since the July 10 shooting. They are charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, causing serious injury.

The shooting occurred during the early morning hours when the family stopped to rest beneath an overpass on Interstate 40. The family — Talonda, her mother, Saidet Lanier, and her sister Adrienne Lanier — had been visiting relatives in Snow Hill and was returning to Killeen, Texas, where Saidet Lanier

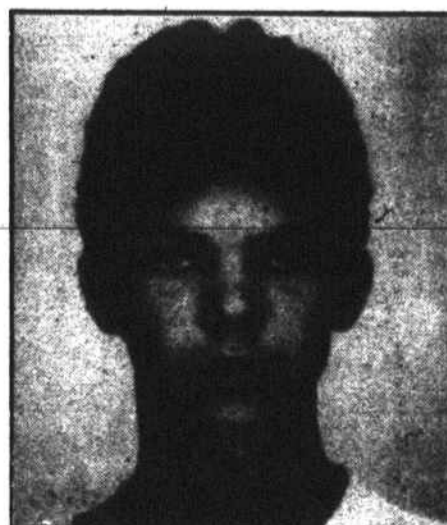
is an army private at Fort Hood.

After the shooting, Talonda lay in a coma for several days. Last week, doctors at Forsyth Memorial Hospital removed the bullet from her head and said she was steadily improving.

In all likelihood, Schweitzer said, the assault on Huffman stemmed from the shooting.

"This was a senseless act that he allegedly was involved in," he said. "The other inmates know that he allegedly took part in that act."

Only one of the three inmates were disciplined, he said. One was released before the hearing was completed; authorities could not come up with conclusive evidence linking the other man to the beating, Schweitzer said. The disciplined inmate, Larone Crockett, was placed in isolation from July 16 through



Shannon Huffman

Aug. 9, he said.

Huffman is white; Lanier and the three men who allegedly attacked him are black.

"I don't think race had anything to do with it," Schweitzer said.

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