

Hamlin and Hudson Feud Over National Black Theatre Festival Behind the Scenes

▲ Disagreement resolved over money donated by Arts Council

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Folks from the National Black Theatre Festival and the Arts Council are at odds over the amount of money the Arts Council funded to the 1993 festival.

David Hudson, director of the Arts Council, in a June 14 letter to Larry Leon Hamlin, founder and artistic director of the festival, wrote of "disappointment regarding the failure to mention the Arts Council among the major festival sponsors at the kick-off ceremony."

In the letter, Hudson claimed that the Arts Council gave \$75,000 in financial assistance for the 1993-94 year.

Hamlin, angered by the letter, of which a carbon copy was sent to five members of the Hamlin's fundraising committee, responded in a September letter denying that the Arts Council gave that amount to the festival.



Larry Leon Hamlin

"The real truth of the matter," Hamlin wrote, "is that the Festival receives \$2,000 to \$4,000 from The Arts Council through its Project Assistance Program. The Festival receives its funding from other sources. Can we be honest and just here?"

Hamlin didn't deny receiving huge grants from the Arts Council,

but stated in the letter that the companies listed as major contributors of the Festival were "those entities that give 'directly' to the Festival in a substantial way."

Hamlin sent a copy of his letter to more than 40 people, the majority of whom are board members of the Arts Council. Last week, Hudson said that he and Hamlin had met and resolved the issue.

"That whole issue has been resolved months ago," Hudson said in a brief telephone interview. "The relationship between the National Black Theatre Festival and the Arts Council is just great now."

Hamlin agreed that the relationship now is smoother after the two met and Hudson apologized.

"I created a document that clearly defined our position," Hamlin said in an interview. "They should help us to grow and spread the arts."

Hamlin, director of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company,

the only black-funded member of the Arts Council, said the company's visibility has increased and it has increased the revenue into the city.

"The festival generates \$45 million for this city. No other (arts) group has that kind of impact on the city," he said. "We get pretty good funding from the corporate and business community, but I would like to see more."

Hamlin said he wasn't trying to shun the Arts Council nor did he know whether the Arts Council was attempting to usurp from him the NBTF. He said he only wrote the letter to present the facts.

"All I wanted was the truth. Larry Leon Hamlin and the North Carolina Black Repertory Company are known all across the country and there's nothing anyone can do about it," said Hamlin. "The biggest thing happening in the arts right now is black. They should try to do everything to increase the visibility of Winston-Salem across the country."

CIAA Tickets Go On Sale Dec. 18 at LJVM

Tickets for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament, which will be held in Winston-Salem Feb. 24-28, will go on sale at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum - Saturday, Dec. 18.

which allows entry to all of the games, is \$85.

The coliseum's ticket booth will not accept telephone orders or personal checks.

The ticket booth normally opens at 10 a.m.

The price for a book of tickets,

Ashley School Notes
Ashley Middle School Burger King Night will be Dec. 14, 5-7 p.m. Join at the Kernersville Burger King or the Burger King in Winston-Salem on Martin Luther King Drive. Also, the school will hold its Christmas PTSA meeting at 7 p.m. Drawing for the \$1,000 holiday raffle will be at this time. Tickets are \$1 and may be purchased at BB&T banks and from students.

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Community EVENTS CALENDAR DECEMBER

How to Schedule Your Events: Send your information, concisely and neatly printed or typed, to the *Chronicle* Calendar, 617 N. Liberty St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102, before 5:00 p.m., the Monday preceding the week in which your event will occur. Our FAX number is (919) 723-9173.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 11
5:30 p.m. — The Special Population & Programs Unit of WS Recreation and Parks Department will be sponsoring a "Deaf Jamboree" at Reynolds Park Recreation Center. For more information call the Elms at 727-2505.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12
4 p.m. — The Atkins High School Class Reunion Group 1946-1951 will be having a covered dish meeting and planning session at the home of its coordinator, Amos W. Harper, Jr., 2007 K Court Ave. For more information call 722-1244 or 723-8149.

MONDAY, DEC. 13
7:30 p.m. — The Special Populations and Programs Unit of the WS Recreation & Parks Department will be sponsoring the WS Community Band Christmas Concerts at Hanes Mall. Admission is free. For more information call the Elms at 727-2505.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14
2:30 p.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave., will present a program "A.I.D.S. and H.I.V. in Forsyth County." The program will be discussed by Monica Paitself of the AIDS Task Force of Winston-Salem, Inc. It is free and open to the public. For more information call 727-2975.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15
1 p.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave., will present a program "Child Care Resources and Referral Registration." The program will be provided by Denise Battle of the Work/Family Resource Center. It is free and open to the public. For more information call 727-2975.
2 p.m. — The 1993 Board of Equalization and Review will be meeting in the Assessor's Office, Courthouse Square.
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7:30 p.m. — The YMCA invites the public to attend a performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the YMCA, 1201 Glade Street. The performance is free. Donation will be accepted with proceeds going to the YMCA. Light refreshments will be served. Please register to attend the performance by calling the YMCA at 722-5138. Seating available on a first-come-first-served basis the night of the performance.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16
2 p.m. — The 1993 Board of Equalization and Review will be meeting in the Assessor's Office, Courthouse Square.
7:30 p.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave., will present a program "Youth Incentive and Youth in Government Programs" at 2:30 p.m. The program will be discussed by Michael McIntyre of the Winston Lake Family YMCA. It is free and open to the public. For more information call 727-2975.
8 p.m. — The Winston-Salem Cinema Society presents *In the Soup*. The film will be showing at the Stevens Center at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 and are available the night of the show. For more information call 873-4995.

UPCOMING
• The Martin Luther King Club will be having a member and guest Christian dinner on Dec. 17 at 1 p.m. at the Martin Luther Community Center, 2001 Pittsburgh Ave.
• The William C. Sims Recreation Center, 1201 Alder Street, will be sponsoring a "Collector's Show" on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2-4 p.m. For all collector's young and old bring your collection to the center on Saturday Dec. 18 at 1:30 p.m. To participate in the show call Ben Piggott at 727-2837.
• The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave., will present a program "Youth Incentive and Youth in Government Programs" at 2:30 p.m. The program will be discussed by Michael McIntyre of the Winston Lake Family YMCA. It is free and open to the public. For more information call 727-2975.
• The William C. Sims Recreation Center, 1201 Alder Street, will be hosting a Family Night Christmas Party for Parents and Children on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. The party is Sponsored by Step One. Children must be accompanied by parents before they can come to the party. For more information call 727-2837.

ONGOING
• The Project Breakthrough needs supportive volunteer advocates to serve as mediators, interpreters, guides and liaisons in assisting highly motivated families seeking to escape the cycle of poverty. For more information call Self-Reliance 722-9400 or Downtown Church Ministry 722-5128.

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