

Winston-Salem Chronicle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1994

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

75 CENTS

25



Tonya Holman holds daughter, Johnnae

Family Mourns Boy's Death

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

If there was anger at those considered responsible for Christopher Holman's death, it was temporarily overwhelmed by grief Sunday afternoon as the 7-year-old was eulogized at services attended by a standing-room-only crowd of family and friends in the Gilmore's Funeral Home chapel.

The passion of pain was reserved for

the memory of the first-grader who was killed Feb. 9 after he got off a school bus and crossed Cleveland Avenue. The cries were for the youngster whose life was cut short so early by an accident some say could have been prevented.

"He said he wanted to be a rapper... Christopher's mother, Tonya Renee Holman, said after the funeral. "He said he wanted to make some money for me."

Carroll Burgess, Christopher's father, said that when he last saw his son over the

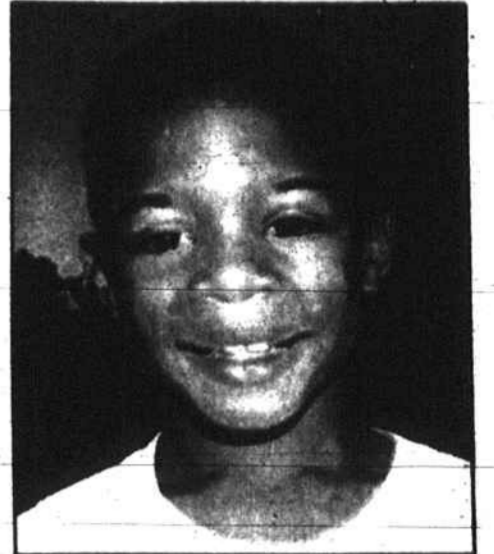
weekend, the last thing his son said to him was, "I love you, Daddy."

"It could have been prevented," Burgess said about the accident.

Tonya Holman described Christopher, the oldest of her three children, as being "intelligent" and "lovable."

Both Burgess and Holman expressed outrage at those responsible for their son's death. Holman said that she didn't know if

see FAMILY A3



Chris Holman

HAWS Patrol Unit Provides Safety, Assistance

▲ After community safety program began last March, residents say they feel safer

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Harrison Davis grew up in Happy Hill Gardens.

He understands the stress and sometimes deplorable conditions that people in public housing live under, but he also knows they produced some of the best people in the city.

"I remember how it once was," Davis said. "(Public housing) were some of the best communities in our city and had some of the best people living there."

Davis, a former senior officer with the Winston-Salem Police Department, teamed up with Thaddeous Cook, an ex-police sergeant, last year to work with the community-safety unit formed by the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem.

Davis said he joined the community-safety unit because of his "strong desire to get (public housing) back the way it should be."

Sue Wahid, administrative assistant to the program, said the five-member team provides security, fire safety, counseling and access to community-service agencies for the residents of public housing as well as some high-rise apartments for the elderly.

"At first people were afraid to come out at night," she said. "After a while some were feeling better and the children are playing more. There is good feeling of hope now."

The program started last March with only Davis and Cook. Since then, the



Yvette Johnson (center) talks with safety-control officers (l to r) Vince Cloud, Thaddeous Cook, Sue Wahid, Harrison Davis.

housing authority has added Derrick Green who assist in patrolling the areas, and Vince Cloud, a former fire captain, to instruct residents on fire safety and escape plans.

Shirley Young, a resident of Piedmont Park, said that since the community-safety program started she has

noticed less crime in the area. "At one time there was shooting every night," she said. "People would drive crazy and pull their guns out and just shoot in the air. It's unbelievable sometimes."

Young said that now the kids are not as violent as they once were because the

community-safety unit patrols the area frequently.

Cook said their law-enforcement background helps them identify problems before a serious matter erupts.

"We are into the preventive mode

see HAWS A3

City Gets in Shape for the CIAA Tourney

▲ Week-long event is expected to attract 20,000 and net city \$8 million

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Every year for the last 10 years, Ed and Miriam McCarter have closed their business, packed their bags and headed for wherever the week-long Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Tournament was being held.

This year, they're keeping their business open and staying home.

"We're going to be here and think positively," said Miriam McCarter, who with husband Ed co-owns Special Occasions, an African-American book and gift shop on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

Thinking positive seems to be in the air as Winston-Salem prepares itself for the approximately 20,000 people who will descend on the city when the CIAA Tournament comes to town next week.

"The community has responded beautifully to this gargantuan task to host this thing," said Mayor Martha S. Wood, one of those credited with helping lure the tournament from Richmond, Va., to Winston-Salem.

"We're certainly ready," she added, "and we need all the citizens to roll out the welcome."

The promise of raising over \$200,000 in scholarship money for CIAA member schools helped lure the tournament to Winston-Salem.

Camille Roddy, a city employee who has been working with the Chamber of Commerce, said that the promised funds have been raised from about 50 area businesses. A check will be awarded to the CIAA sometime during the tournament. The 14 CIAA schools will divide the \$224,000, she said. The businesses who contributed will be disclosed sometime

see CITY A6

Black Russian to Speak About Race, Family Heritage at WFU

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Yelena Khanga said she didn't feel like a minority in Russia, although the country has very few blacks. But she still had the desire to know more about her family tree.

Khanga, a black woman born and raised in Russia, came to the United States four years ago to trace her family roots.

She will recall her family search in a lecture at Wake Forest University on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. in the Benson University Center.

"I wondered if I was a black who happened to be born in Russia, or a Russian who happened to be black," Khanga said by phone this week from her New York home. "Russians are very sentimental and they love to talk about their relatives. So I really wanted to know about my relatives."

Khanga said there are very few blacks in Russia, but that it wasn't hard to connect with Russians don't

focus on skin color.

"The number (of blacks) is so small nobody keeps track," she said. "We're not a minority in Russia because you're looked at by nationality not by the color of your skin."

As a result of her research, Khanga penned the book "Soul to Soul: The Story of a Black Russian American Family 1865-1992." Khanga, a journalist in Russia and the United States, traces her American roots to a former slave and a Polish immigrant. Her mother's parents moved from the United States to the Soviet Union in 1931.

Last November her family reunion was held in Chicago where more than 100 relatives — black and white — attended the gala affair that had photographs featured in Ebony magazine.

Khanga said that when she visits Wake Forest this Sunday, she plans to discuss a wide variety of topics ranging from her book and racial tolerance to life in Russia.

Ernest Wade, director of the school's minority affairs division, said Khanga was chosen because of the unique experiences she has to share.

"We all have our ideas of where black people are from," Wade said. "Now the students can see a black person who grew up in the Soviet Union and the impact it has had on her. I think the students can really profit from that."

Khanga has worked for the *Moscow News* and the *Christian Science Monitor* and occasionally contributes articles to *USA Today*. She is currently lecturing and speaking across the world and negotiating a movie



Yelena Khanga

based on the book.

The lecture is free to the public. For more information, contact the WFU's Office of Minority Affairs at 759-5864.

WHERE TO FIND IT

BUSINESS	B9
CLASSIFIEDS	B12
COMMUNITY NEWS	A4
EDITORIALS	A11
ENTERTAINMENT	B8
OBITUARIES	B10
RELIGION	B11
SPORTS	B1

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

On Feb. 12, 1909, the NAACP was founded. Forty-seven whites and 6 blacks called an organizational meeting on the 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.