

Mendez: Like Winning the Nobel Peace Prize

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Year.

When Jahmela Biggs went to the microphone, she read her mother's acceptance speech flawlessly. In it, Biggs said she was honored to share the award with Dorothy Graham-Wheeler, the executive director of the Best Choice Center. And she said she was honored that the *Chronicle* named her recipient of the award.

Graham-Wheeler said: "I'm standing here not for

what I've done, but for the many people who helped me ... Thank you so much Winston-Salem."

The Rev. John Mendez, the *Chronicle's* Man of the Year, said upon receiving his award, that "to be honored and recognized by the town in which one lives is the greatest honor" he has ever received.

After enduring years of criticism, Mendez said, the *Chronicle* award was the "equivalent of the nobel

prize."

"This award not only encourages me, but all of us who are freedom-loving people," he added.

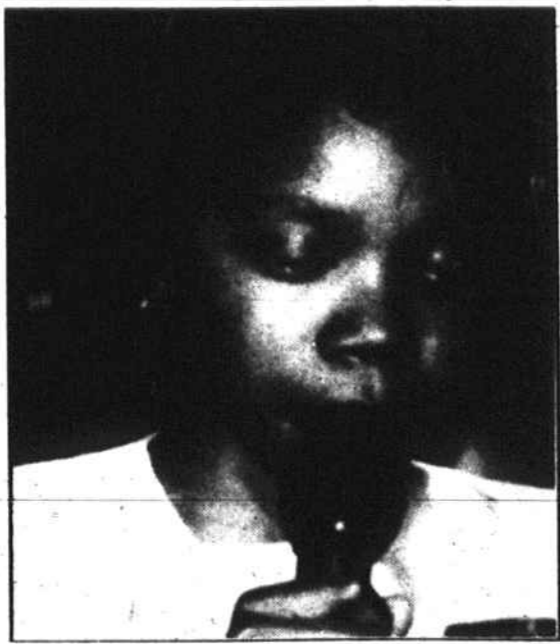
In his closing remarks, *Chronicle* Executive Editor Richard Williams thanked the many community volunteers who tirelessly give of their time and talent. Through their volunteerism, he said, they are paving the way for generations to follow.

"If we properly pave that road and sprinkle in to that blacktop a little love, a little caring, a little character, a little dignity, a little perseverance and a little uplift, then one of these young ushers

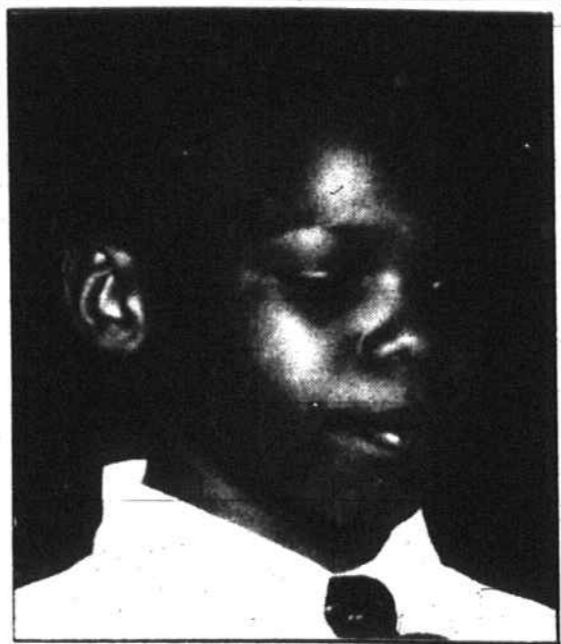
... will one day be a woman or man of the year," he said.



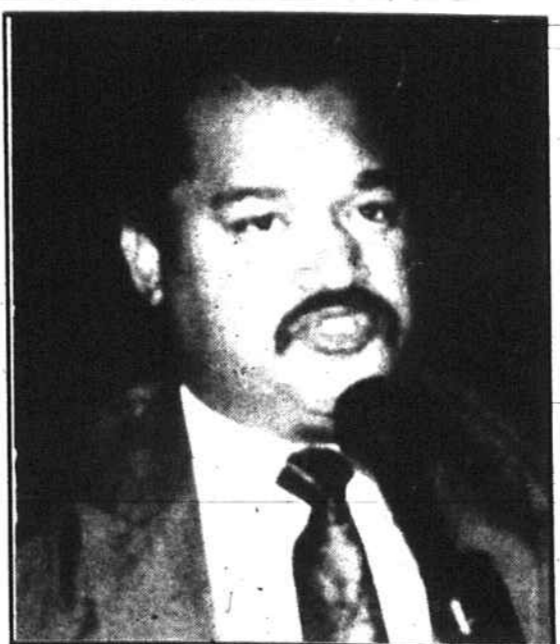
Sidney Omarr Minter



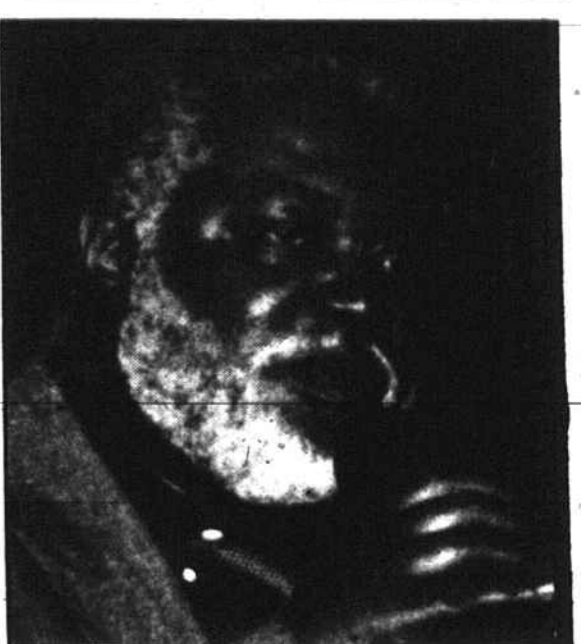
Nicole M. Davenport



Derek Chisholm



Sgt. S.A. Hairston



John Moore



Carmen Russell Bonham



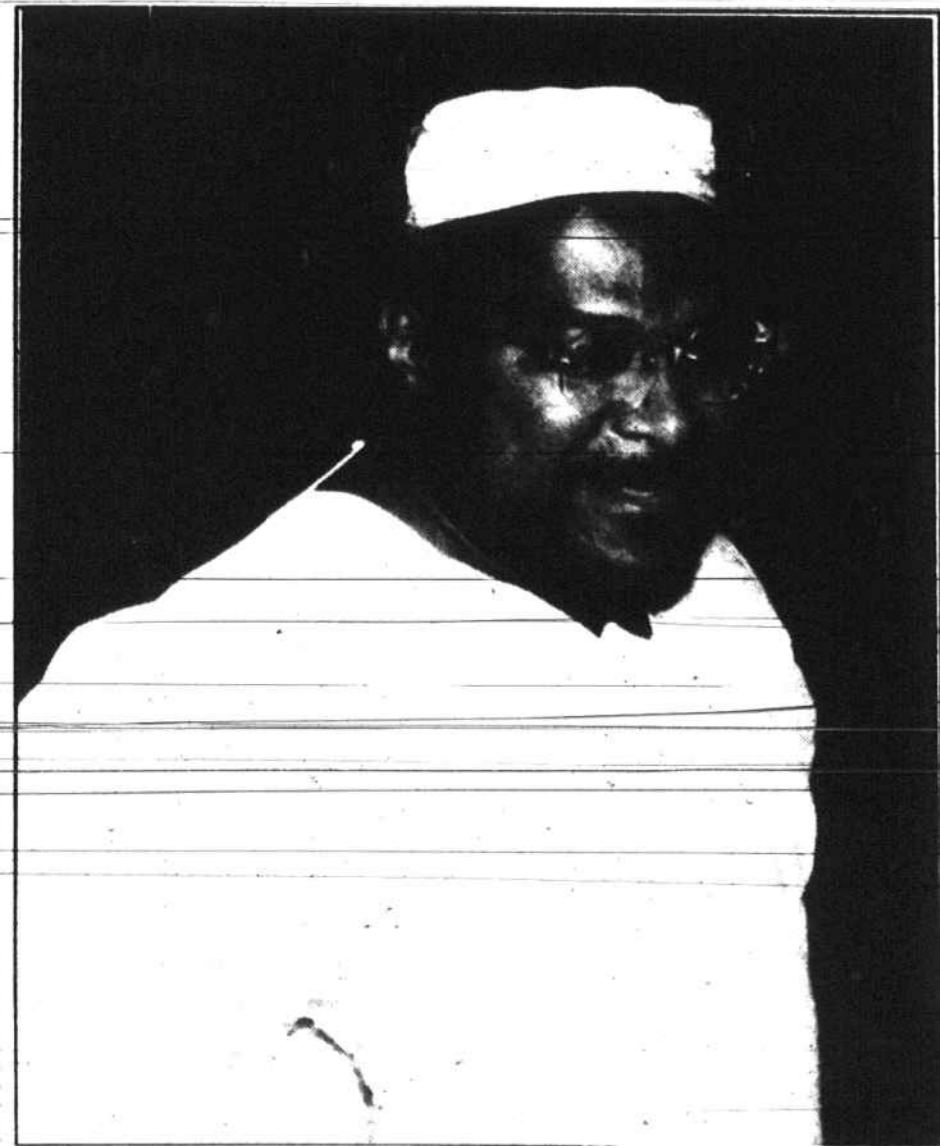
Sarah Mendez



Sharon Fraizer



Robin Littlejohn of Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble



John Mendez: Man of the Year.



Loretta Biggs & Dorothy Graham-Wheeler: co-Women of the Year.



Lois Leggett enjoys the banquet.



D.D. Adams (at podium) with resident-council presidents receive Community Service award.



(From L to R): Kenneth Malette, Randy Johnson and Sharon Fraizer receive Curator of Art awards.