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

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Woman Files Brutality Claim Against Cops

▲ Says several cops beat her at her home

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

A Winston-Salem woman who claims she was beaten by several police officers over the weekend has filed a complaint with the city Human Relations Commission.

Cheryl D. Grimes, 31, of 315 Motor Road, said in the complaint that one police officer called her a "bitch" and told her to "shut her big fat mouth." Another officer picked her up and slammed her to the floor before several other officers jumped on her and began hitting her with fists and night sticks, according to the complaint filed Mon-

day. Police Chief George Sweat did not return telephone calls.

Grimes was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and assault following the incident that occurred about 7 p.m. Friday inside her apartment, police said.

After posting \$3,000 bond, Grimes was treated for bruises to her arms, leg and face at Forsyth Hospital.

Grimes, who is black, filed the complaint against police officers P.L. Skidmore and B.S. Bogle, both of whom are

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Cheryl Grimes

Relatives of Death-Row Inmate Hangs on to Hope

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Eleanor Lyons watched her two sons battle the criminal-justice system two weeks ago, but now she feels it is her faith that is on trial.

Lyons was hit with a double dose of anguish May 6 when her

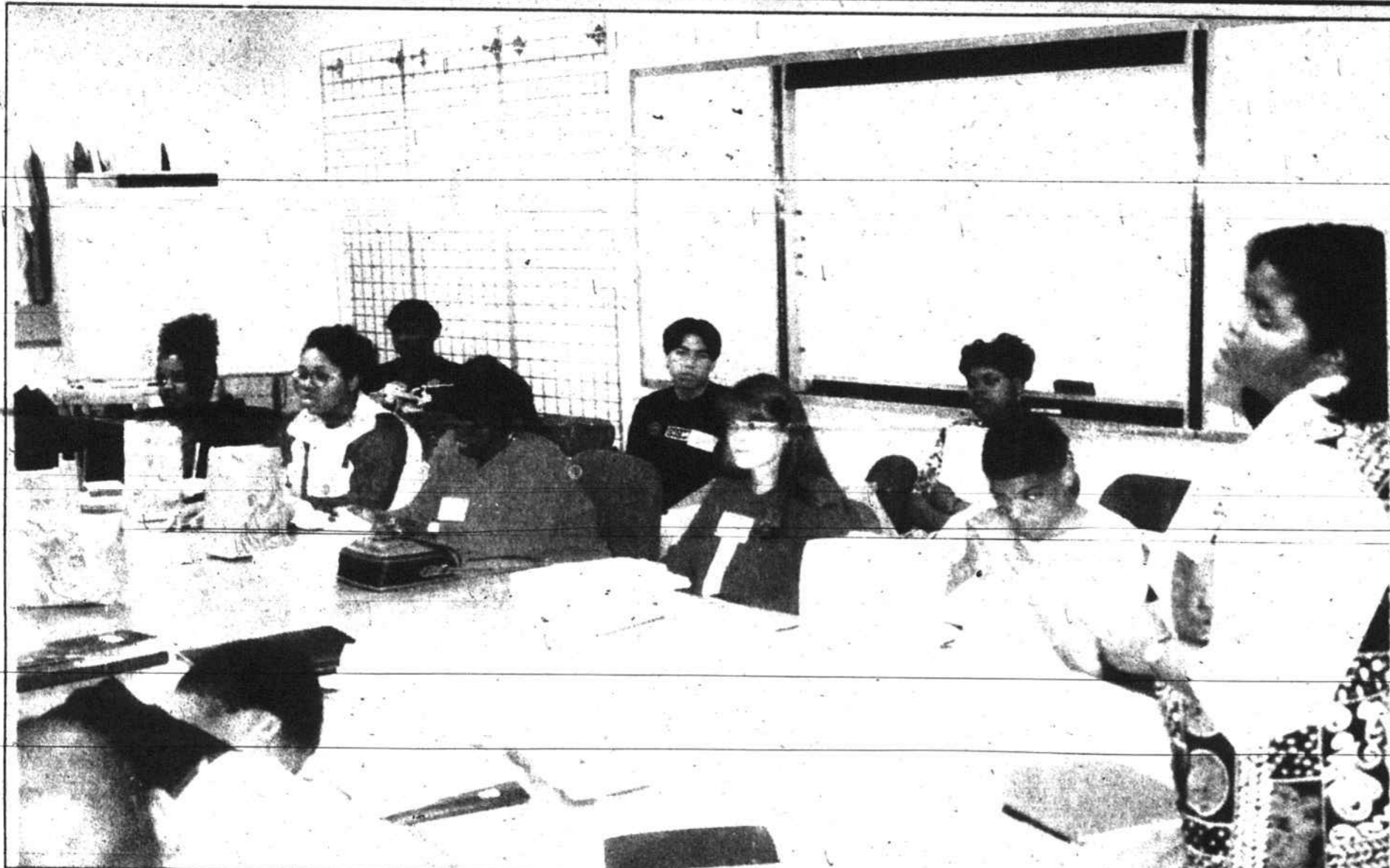
eldest son Robby, 24, was sentenced to death for the Sept. 25 shooting of Stephen W. Stafford, owner of Sam's Curb Market on Ogburn Station Road.

On the day of the sentencing, another son, Damon, was arrested by police for allegedly

see INMATE page 3



Damon Lyons



Students spent Saturday morning listening to business persons at the Business Youth Career Awareness Conference sponsored by Sara Lee.

Today's Scholars — Tomorrow's Leaders

200 Students Attend Business Workshop

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Johnathan Hatcher usually doesn't get up early on Saturday mornings. But this past weekend he was thinking about his future and decided to attend a business conference for students.

"I plan to go into marketing," said Hatcher, a junior at Parkland High School. "They talked about some of the same things we did in our marketing class at school."

Hatcher was one of nearly 200 minority

students attending the Business Youth Career Awareness Conference sponsored by Sara Lee Knit Products.

The program is designed to help prepare middle- and high-school students for careers in the corporate world. Students went through seven sessions focusing on the different aspects of management, including sales, marketing and human resources.

The sessions were conducted by Sara Lee employees who serve as role models and interact with the students to introduce them to corporate careers.

Marc Turner, an operations-management trainee, joined Sara Lee in June after graduating from Winston-Salem State University. Turner, who works in the Greenwood, S.C., plant, stressed the importance of good communication and developing leadership skills.

"You have to be able to work with other people and solve problems," he said. "Problem solving and the ability to influence others is essential in becoming a leader."

Turner said he volunteered to be a role

see STUDENTS page 7

Area Drug Dealers Give Reasons Why

Second of a two-part series

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Tired of being poor and watching his mother struggle to make ends meet, Alex decided seven years ago to join a "street corporation." During that span, he estimates his earnings to be as much as a quarter of a million dollars.

Alex, you see, is a drug dealer. He is one of four area drug dealers who recently agreed to discuss their lifestyles on the condition that their identities not be revealed.

Alex, a 24-year-old Winston-Salem native, is dressed in stereotypical hoodlum-esque garb — Nike sneakers, black sagging jeans, a black t-shirt and two earrings in his left ear — but he has all the characteristics of a well-mannered, home-trained young black man.

While having lunch at K&W Cafeteria, he showed proper etiquette as his hard-core shell momentarily disappeared as he blessed his food before indulging.

"I dropped out of school, and it was hard for me to find employment," he said. "When I started (selling drugs) I had jewelry, money, the latest fashions — all of that. I was fronting for the girls and everybody was praising me."

Alex once owned a Mercedes Benz, a wardrobe full of nice clothes, and paid all the bills for his mother and sister — both of whom lived in different homes.

Although he dropped out of high school, Alex said most drug dealers know how to operate a business because they are "running a street-smart company."

see AREA DRUGS page 3

WSSU Grad Changes Lifestyle

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Stefany Sowell has been a gangsta queen and a drug addict. Now, she is a college graduate and wants to help young people avoid the lifestyle she has worked so hard to overcome.

Sowell graduated on May 7 from Winston-Salem State University with a degree in communications. She wants to share her experiences with youths to help them avoid a life on the streets that will most likely involve drugs, violence, low self-esteem and maybe even prostitution.

"I want to take a personal interest in the young people and help get children off the streets," Sowell said. "This town is too small to have to have all these little kids walking around the way they are."

Sowell has already begun to spread her message to young people. In February, she served as one of the facilitators at a

see WSSU page 3

Top Black Companies Gross over \$10 Billion

▲ 2 local firms on B.E. Top 100 list

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

If anyone's wondering whether there is any substance behind the one-time political catch-phrase "Black Power," they needn't look any further than the cumulative sales figures of the top black-owned businesses in the United States.

The nation's 100 largest black-owned industrial/service companies and 100 top automobile dealers in 1993 broke the \$10 billion gross revenue barrier for the first time, according to a report in the June issue of *Black Enterprise* magazine.

The 1993 gross sales for the see TOP BLACK page 7

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This Week In Black History

May 21-23, 1969
Police and National Guardsmen fired on demonstrators at N.C. A&T, killing one student, injuring five police officers.



WHERE TO FIND IT

Alton Pollard has an Eye-Opening Journey To a New South Africa

Alton B. Pollard, an assistant professor of religion at Wake Forest University, recently visited South Africa where he served as an international monitor for the recently held elections. Following is the account of his experiences.

By ALTON B. POLLARD
Special to the Chronicle

"I feel the power of a nation within me." These were the striking words uttered by

see EYE-OPENING page 13



Alton Pollard (right) has a flat tire on South Africa's rocky terrain.