

# Welcome National Black Theatre Festival Winston-Salem Chronicle

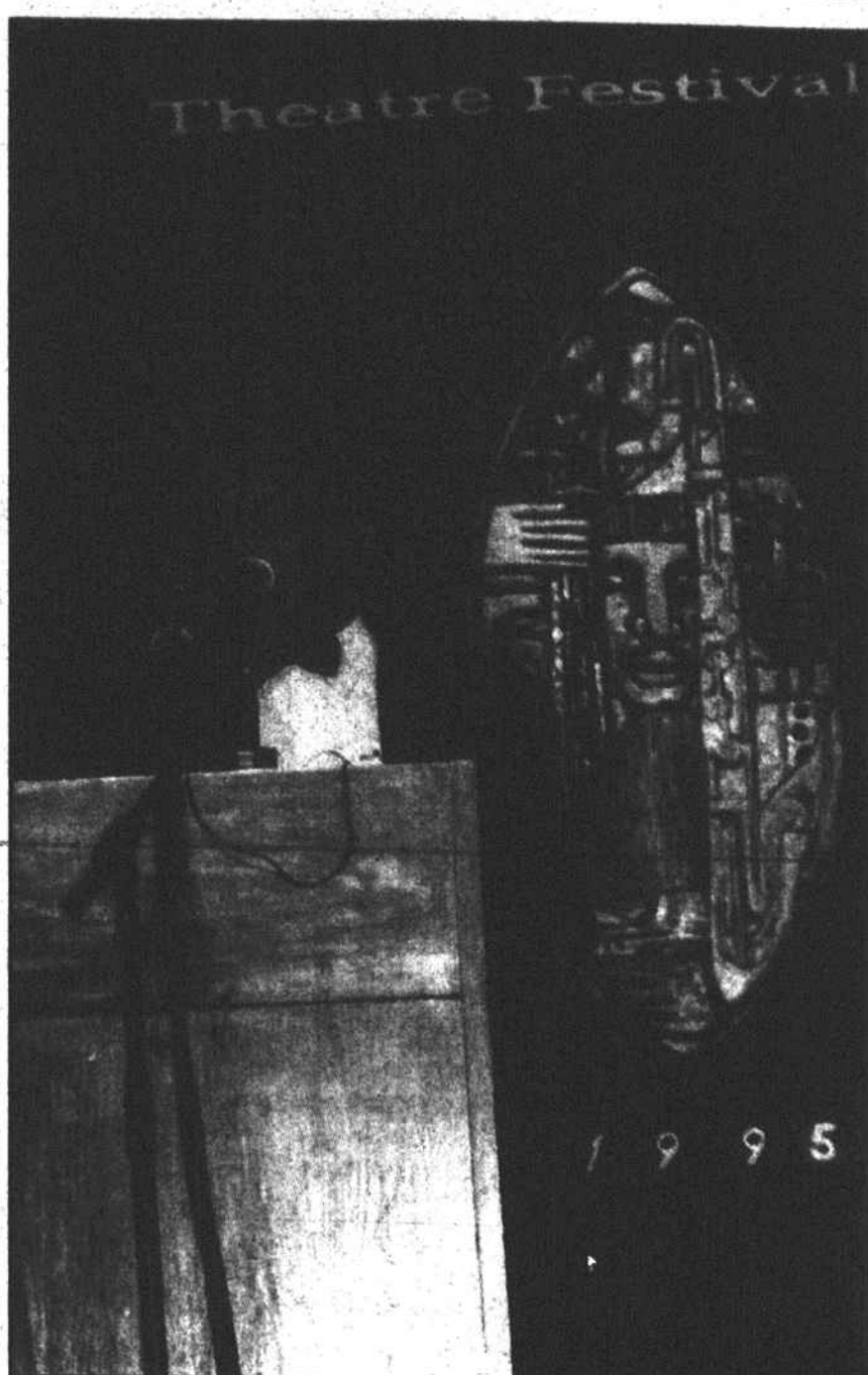
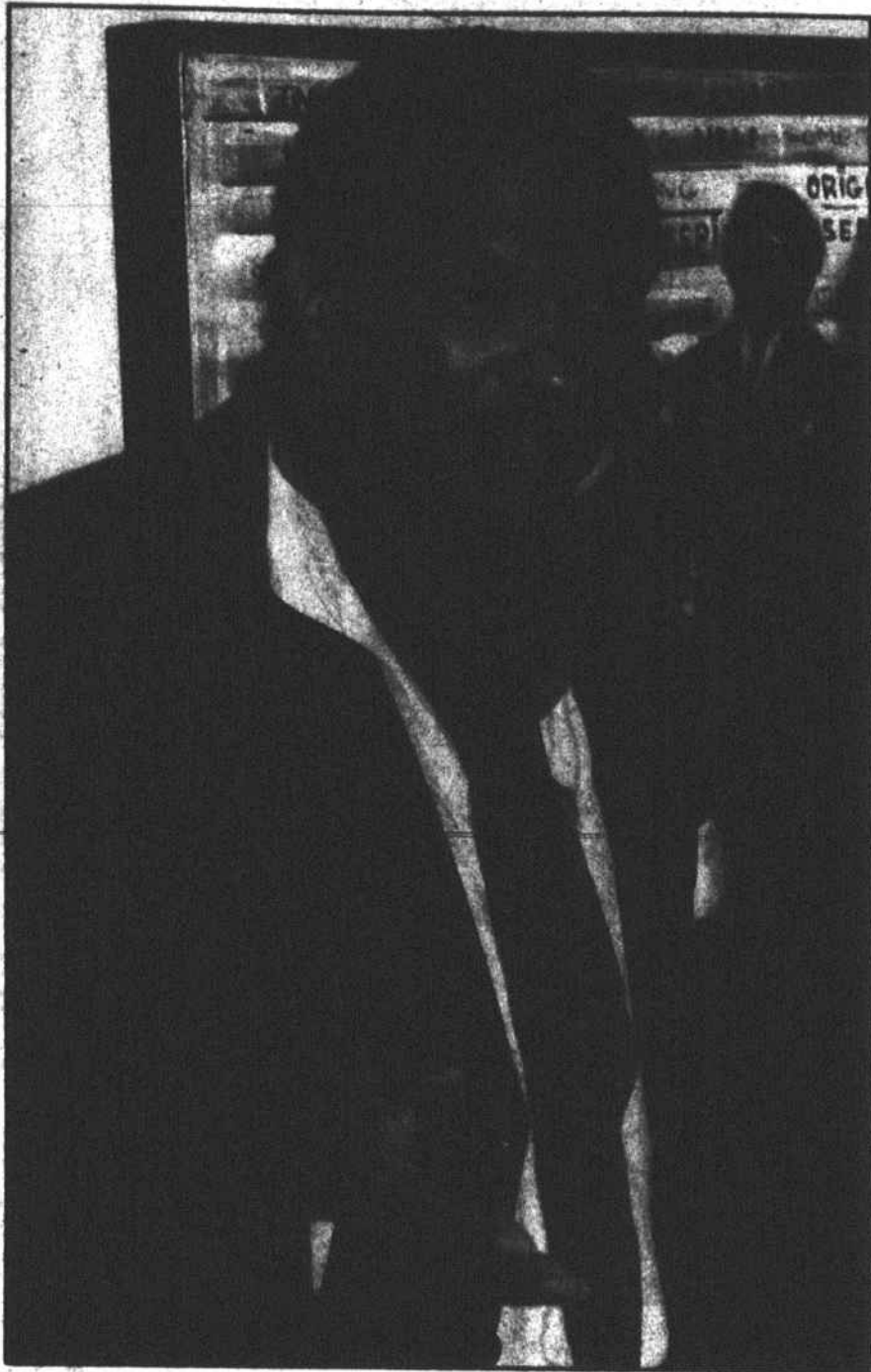
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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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Billy Dee Williams, chairman of the Black Theatre festival and Nick Stewart of "Amos and Andy" fame highlighted the opening gala.

## "A Reunion of Spirit"

▲ Twin City transformed into world stage for black theatre

By VERONICA CLEMONS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Ceremonial drums led celebrities and other special guest of the 1995 Black Theatre Festival to the dais where the international celebration of black theatre would begin.

Women shouted for Billy Dee Williams and Avery Brooks, cheered John Amos, teased Isabel Sanford by calling her "Weezie" and totally immersed themselves in the joy and fantastic event that started a week-long event of plays, workshops and communion.

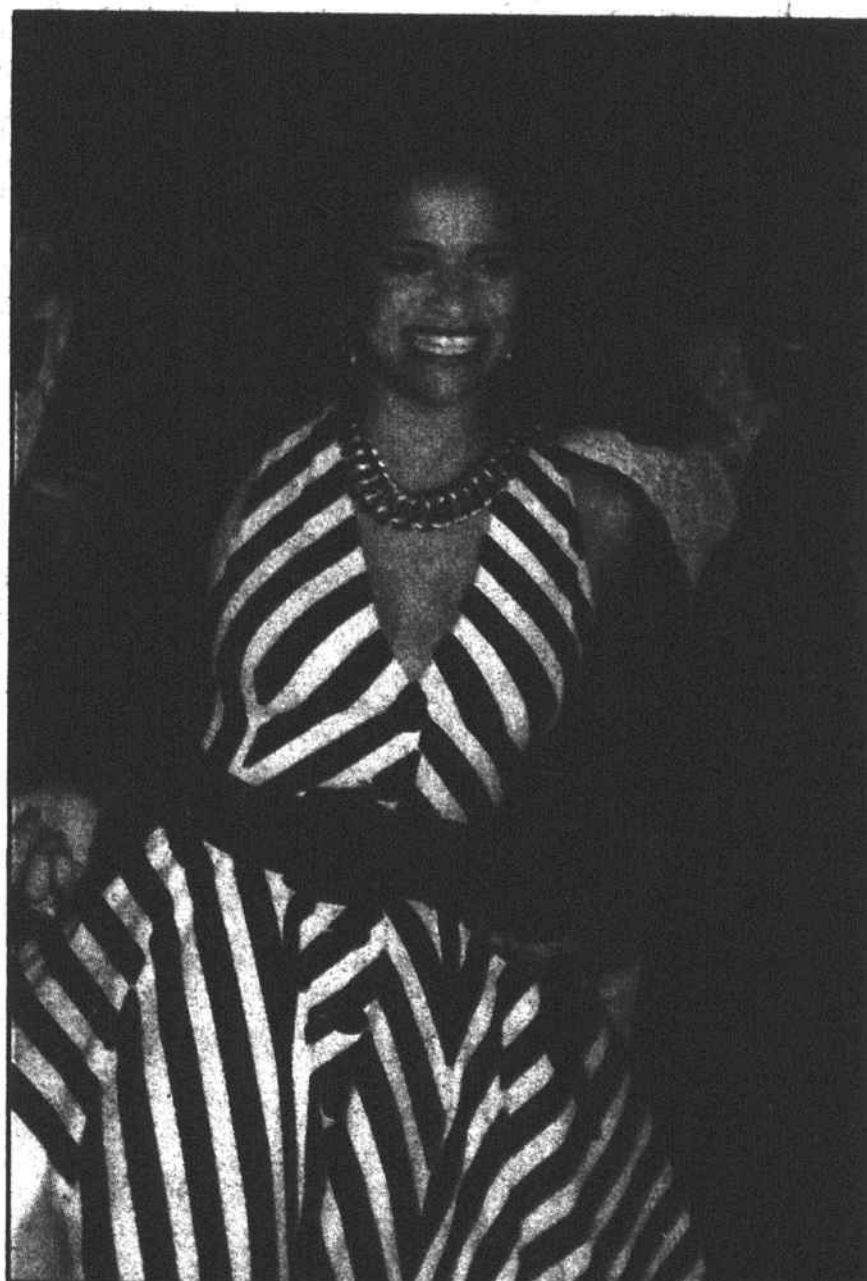
"This is an effort to create our own situation and that's important," said Williams who is this year's honorary chairman. "I want to see it before I drop dead and I hope this is it."

The fourth Festival boasts a theme of "An International Celebration and Reunion of Spirit" which reaches out beyond this country to bring together black theatre companies from around this world.

The gala, which sparkled with sequin dresses, fancy tuxedos and smiles throughout, honored several with awards for their accomplishments in black theatre.

see A REUNION page 6

Debbie Allen, TV star and dancer says city is mecca for African American theatrical talent.



## Blacks Decry Ruling In Subpoena Hearing

▲ Key witness does not have to testify at O.J. Simpson trial

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Local African Americans expressed disbelief with the decision of a Forsyth County Superior Court judge who denied a motion last week to enforce a subpoena that would have compelled a North Carolina School of Arts professor to testify in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles.

"This is bombshell evidence because it impeaches Mark Furhman," said Johnnie Cochran, the lead defense attorney for Simpson. "This is the worst decision in the history of jurisprudence. It was an outrageous ruling, and we are going to appeal. It is always a setback when relevant material is not allowed in a murder trial."

Simpson's defense team was expected to file the appeal this

week with the N.C. Court of Appeals. A three-judge panel will likely hear the case in Winston-Salem.

Judge William Z. Wood ruled that the audio tapes and manuscript of an interview between Los Angeles Detective Mark Furhman and Laura Hart McKinney, a screenwriting teacher at NCSA, were collateral evidence in the double murder trial of Simpson.

"A screenplay is an act of fiction," Wood said as 200 people jammed into the Forsyth County Superior Courtroom last Friday. "He (Furhman) was helping her with dialogue, and therefore the material is not relevant."

McKinney wrote a book entitled "Men Against Women," a fictional account based on the hostility between male and female

see BLACKS page 7

## "We Are Family Day" Another Huge Success!

By JOHN HINTON and  
SHANNON HICKERSON  
Chronicle Staff Writers

About 3,000 people gathered last Saturday at Rupert Bell Park for the Second Annual Winston-Salem Chronicle "We Are Family Day," a celebration of the African-American Family Reunion.

"I am proud to see all of you here today," said Ernest Pitt, the publisher of the Chronicle. "It is so great to see so many friends and acquaintances here with us. This is an opportunity to commune with your family and with other families."

Groups of families assembled under tents and sat under trees to enjoy a day of games, rides, music, food, and fellowship. A warm July sun bolstered the atmosphere of fun that surrounded the park. Participants played bingo, volleyball, and tug-o-war. Children rode a hot air balloon and shetland ponies. Many kids and adults rode a trolley to the tourist sites of Old Salem, Reynolda Manor, Bethabara Park and Sci-Works.

Several people praised the event for giving them a chance to spend time with their families.

Carol Brooks-Daniel, the director of advertising and promotion, says that the event is significant for everyone in the community.

"This is not just a picnic," she told the families. "We want to you bond with your family."

"I would particularly like to thank the sponsors for seeing the need to be a part of Family," Brooks-Daniel said. "Their involvement shows there is actually some hope in recapturing and redefining the word, 'family.'"

Co-sponsors of Family Day are the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, Coca Cola Bottling Co., Food Lion, Planters Lifesavers Companies of Nabisco, Sara Lee Corp., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., Miller Brewing Co., and Waste Management Inc. of Winston-Salem. The contributors were WXII-TV and US Air.

Several people praised the event for giving them a chance to spend time with their families.

see FAMILY page 7

## Students Learn Nonviolent Expression

By SHANNON HICKERSON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Hitting something or cursing somebody out was Abashard Bass' old way of expressing his anger.

But, now, with the help of an after-school violence prevention program sponsored by the Safer Communities Foundation, he feels more in control if he just walks away from an altercation.

"The program gives me something to do to stay out of trouble," Bass said, who will be attending Mount Tabor in the fall. "I learned that you can do anything if you put your mind to it."

About 30 other seventh and eighth

graders at Petree Middle School, an alternative school, took part in this three week-long program to learn violence prevention and how to handle violent situations. The purpose is to work with young children so they understand the causes and increasing factors of violence.

"It's one way of reaching children," said Madlon C. Glenn, who founded the Safer Communities Foundation two years ago to take a positive, active role in violence prevention with children.

Most of the students in the program

see STUDENTS page 6

CLASSIFIEDS	22
OPINION	10
ENTERTAINMENT	17
OBITUARIES	21
SPORTS	13

### This Week in Black History August 5, 1864

John Lawson, a black gunner on flagship of Admiral David Farragut, exhibited marked courage in Battle of Mobile Bay and won a Congressional Medal of Honor.



WHERE TO FIND IT

## Many African Americans Are Unable To Get Mortgage Loans

By JOHN HINTON  
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Homeownership still remains unattainable for many of the state's residents according to a study released today by the Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina.

Although some banks have increased their lending portfolio to be more inclusive, numerous gaps still remain.

The study entitled *An Analysis of 1993 Mortgage Lending Activity to*

African American and Low-Income Household in Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point North Carolina Metropolitan Statistical Area examined the mortgage lending performance of the regions financial institutions that made more than 30 loans.

The analysis of all these institutions was completed using data submitted by the lenders to the federal government.

see MANY page 6