

Tragic Deaths Underscore Need to Address Neighborhood Crime

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

James E. Smith Jr. will never play basketball again.

Smith and his friend, Michael Andrew Nicholson were shot and killed last weekend in a drug-related homicide, police say.

Nicholson died in an East Third St. apartment after he was shot in the head. Police found

Nicholson with his hands tied with a belt in his apartment.

Smith, who was also wounded in the head, died later in North Carolina Baptist Hospital. Smith was found on the floor in a nearby room.

Smith, 19, had gained a reputation as a skillful cager in his East Third Street neighbor in Winston-Salem.

"He played a lot of basketball," said Barry Gwyn, 15, a

freshman at West Forsyth High School. "He was a real nice person and very active."

Police are searching for the suspects in the double murder, which shocked people throughout the city and county.

"We still haven't been able to target anyone yet," said Capt. P.R. Rumble, a police spokesman. "We have been talking to a lot of people, but we still have work to do."

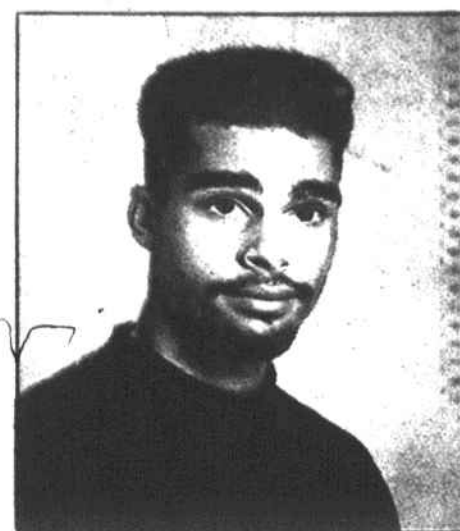
Neighbors reportedly said they heard no shots and first heard of the murders when a man ran into their apartment asking them to call the police.

Off the court, Smith was also known as a scholar.

He graduated from West Forsyth High School in 1993 as an honor student. Smith had attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was taking classes at Winston-Salem



James Smith, Jr.



Michael Nicholson

State University.

Nicholson, 20, took adult

basic education courses at the west campus of Forsyth Techni-

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Jobs Changes Lives Of Winston's Youth

▲ Urge local businesses to save program

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

The Summer Youth Employment Program changed the life of Roderick Howard.

"When I first started the program, I wasn't all that interested in school," Howard told about 50 corporate executives last week. "I was an immature, quiet, laid-back person. My grades improved, and now I am a North Car-

olina Scholar."

Howard spoke to the executives who were gathered at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum Assembly Room last week to hear city and county officials discuss the future of SYEP. Federal cutbacks may eliminate the program.

Howard, a senior at Glenn High

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Roderick Howard, left, a senior at Glenn High School, stands next to Martha Jo Campbell.

Sanders Wants to Defeat Gantt, Retire Sen. Helms

Dr. Charlie Sanders, the retired chief executive officer of Glaxo Inc., wants to retire U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms.

"After 24 years, North Carolina has had enough of Jesse Helms," Sanders said. "He hasn't done anything for the people of North Carolina."

Sanders, a Democrat, visited the Winston-Salem Chronicle this week to spread his campaign message and enhance his appeal among African American voters. Sanders is traveling across the state this week, attracting media attention to his U.S. Senate campaign.

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L.M. "Bud" Baker, left, chief executive of Wachovia Corp., and his wife, Zanna Baker, center, greets Minet Carter, left, a student at the Best Choice Center.

The Best Choice Business People See, Hear, Support Best Choice

▲ Adults Praise Kids for their talent, dedication

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

More than 500 corporate executives gathered in Wachovia's 24-story building last weekend to see and hear the students of the Best Choice Center of Winston-Salem.

The students performed two songs and displayed their art work. The guests wearing tuxedos and evening gowns greeted the children and the volunteers who work at the center.

Don Flow, the center's chairman of the board, praised the vision of Dorothy Gra-

ham-Wheeler, its executive director, and praised the Wachovia Corp. for financially supporting the facility.

"She has given her life to invest in their lives," Flow said.

The guests enjoyed the performances of the children, whose smiles showed their pride.

"It was a wonderful affair," said Patrick Diamond, the district manager of Duke Power Co. in Winston-Salem. "It was very inspiring listening to them sing. The Best Choice Center is absolutely fantastic and very much needed



Dorothy Graham-Wheeler, left, executive director of the Best Choice Center, stands next to her son Tony E. Graham of Columbia, Md.

in our community."

Sheena Poe, an attorney for Integon Insurance and a volunteer tutor at the center, also praised the kids.

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This Week in Black History

March 30, 1923

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority,

founded at Howard

University in

1920,

incorporated



WHERE TO FIND IT

Walkertown Paves the Way, Hires First African American

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

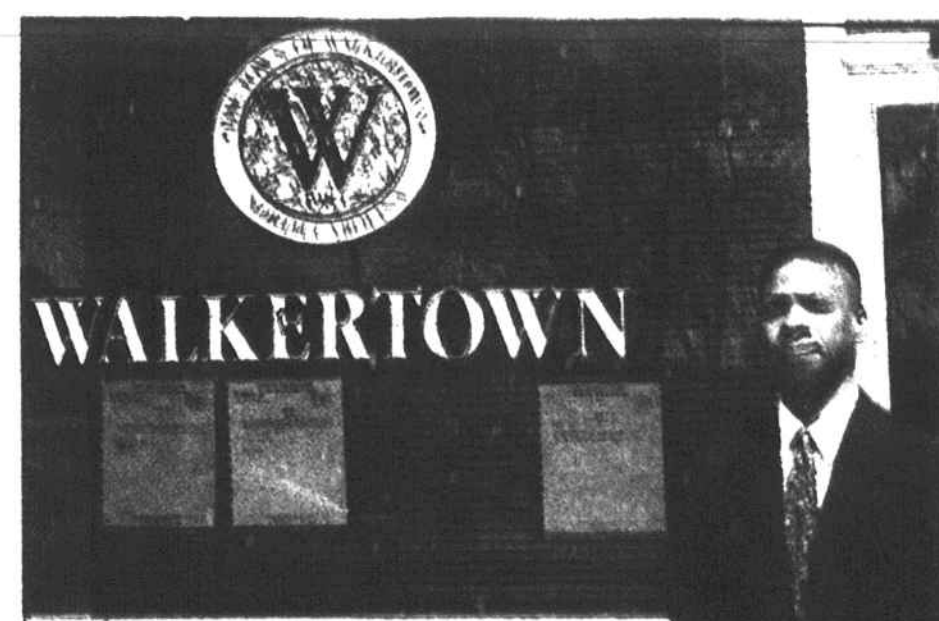
At age 26, Damon Sanders has made history. He is the first African American town manager for Walkertown, a position he assumed earlier this week.

"So far I've been doing a lot of reading and becoming familiar with the town," Sanders said during his first day on the job.

"I had an idea that I was the first African American town manager, but I wasn't sure until I read it in the newspaper," Sanders said.

"People have died and marched for me to be able to have this position, and all the other things I've done are the results of their struggle," Sanders said.

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Damon Sanders stands in front of Walkertown City Building.