

# Carolina Bigfoot?



# Welcome Busta!



# Late night dribbling

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## GOP warned: Be fair in redistricting maps

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

What kind of legislative voting district maps will the Republican leadership of the N.C. General Assembly come up with by Sept. 1, and what's behind a new House bill designed to redistrict state judges? Those are two of the pressing questions hovering over state lawmakers as many gathered for the third Joint Select Committee on

Redistricting today to further consider criteria for new voting maps ordered by a three-judge U.S. District Court panel two weeks ago. Democrats, and members of the general public, during a legislative hearing last week, made it clear that they want an above-board process, free of racial (as ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court) and partisan gerrymandering. Today's committee meeting was scheduled to focus on adopting the criteria to

determine what the revamped maps should look like once redrawn. Democrats are concerned about the process because GOP legislative leaders have rehired Thomas Hofeller, who drew the 2011 maps that the U.S. High Court recently ruled were illegal because 28 North Carolina districts were racially gerrymandered. "That doesn't do much to restore people's trust in the process," said Senate Minority Leader

Dan Blue. At an Aug. 2 press conference, Sen. Ben Clark (D-Cumberland), offered criteria that he and Senate Democratic leadership felt should definitely be considered in the mix, including partisan advantage in redrawing the districts; no splitting of voting districts (except when necessary) to comply with zero deviation population requirements; and ensuring the none of the nine Senate

## GOP chief is blasted over Dems-murder comment

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

If N.C. Republican Party Executive Director Dallas Woodhouse set out to deliberately stir up a hornet's nest of controversy and criticism with his latest racial remarks, he's succeeded.

With no less than the chairman of the N.C. Democratic Party calling Woodhouse "unhinged," Democrats and activists literally lined up Monday to blast the unabashedly partisan Woodhouse for stating in a series of tweets Sunday that Democrats

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## Thousands flock downtown for closing NBTF events

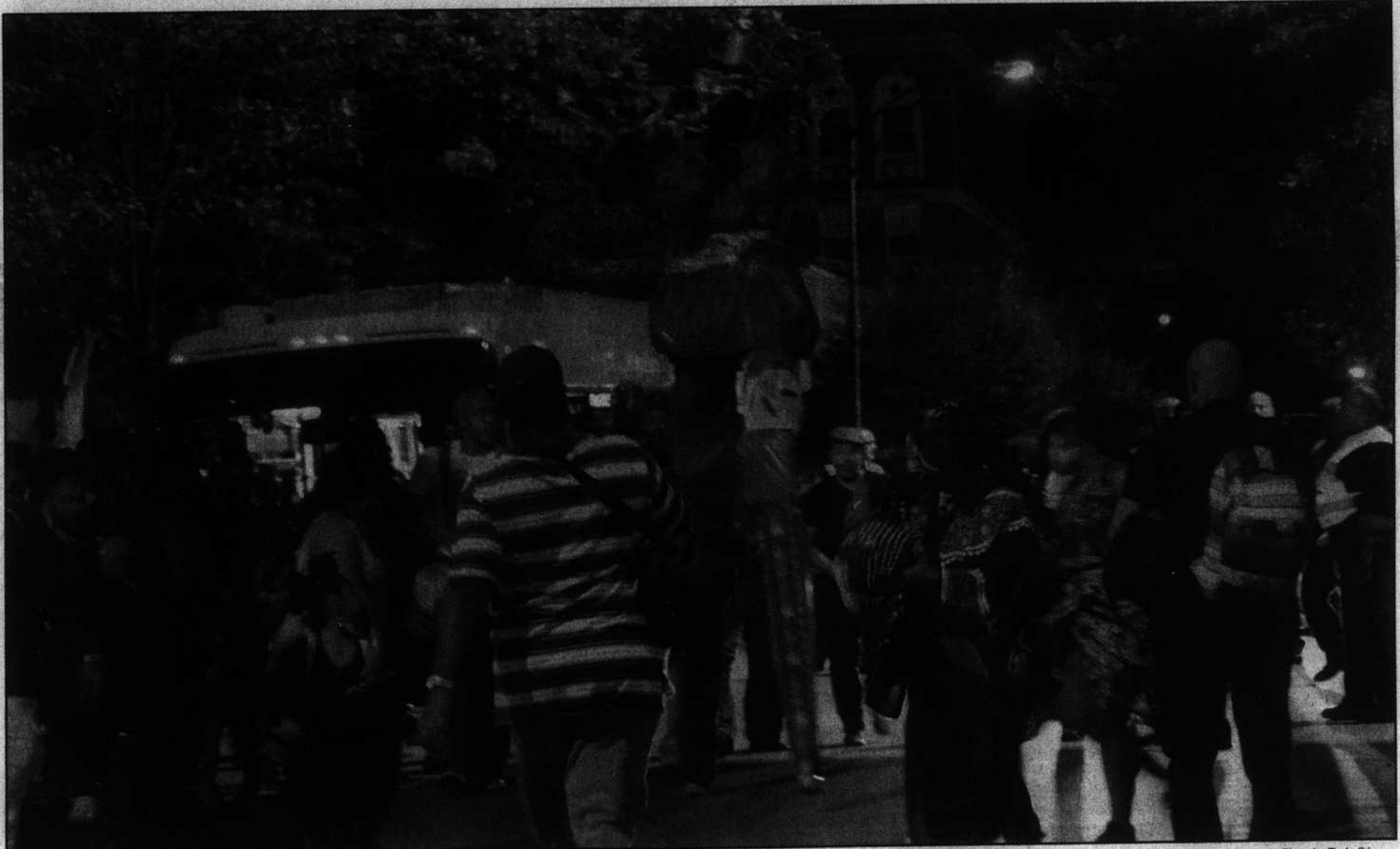


Photo by Tevin Stinson

Festivalgoers navigate the National Black Theatre Festival closing parade on Saturday, Aug. 5.

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

The National Black Theatre Festival closed in exciting fashion last weekend as thousands of people flocked downtown to get a feel of "Black Theatre Holy Ground." Just before midnight on Saturday, Aug. 5, Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble led a star-

studded parade through the streets of the city. The parade began at the Marriott Hotel on North Cherry Street and ended outside the Stevens Center. As the sounds of authentic African music echoed through the streets, bystanders stopped in their tracks to get a glimpse at some of the biggest names in theater and performing arts. The towering performer on stilts caught some eyes as well. "This is wonderful. I think they should have this every year," said a city native outside the Benton Convention Center. "Each year it seems to get better, and right now I think this is exactly what our community needs. Stuff like this can build strong communities."

While standing outside the Stevens Center, author and educator Olasope O. Oyelaran, officially ended the festival. Oyelaran who has been involved with the festival since its inception in 1989, also honored the lives of African Americans who have made major contributions to society. Names like Maya Angelou, Nina Simone, and of course Larry Leon Hamlin echoed from the corner of W. 4th and Marshall Streets when Oyelaran asked the crowd to shout the names of those who influenced them. "Although they are not here physically, they are with us spiritually," Oyelaran said. After the closing ceremony, Otesha and the thou-

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## NBTF launches health initiative to examine disparities

BY ASHLEA HOWARD JONES FOR THE CHRONICLE

The National Black Theater Festival (NBTF) concluded the week on Saturday with a health initiative centered around two plays produced by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company that tackled health disparities within the African-American community. The health initiative, which began at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5, featured live music, breast cancer screenings and medical consultations.



Photo by Ashlea H. Jones

Dr. Patricia Flowers, of the Shades of Hope African-American Outreach Committee of the Susan G. Komen Northwest N.C. region, was at the health initiative spurred by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company.

See Health on A7

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