

Student Gets Science Award

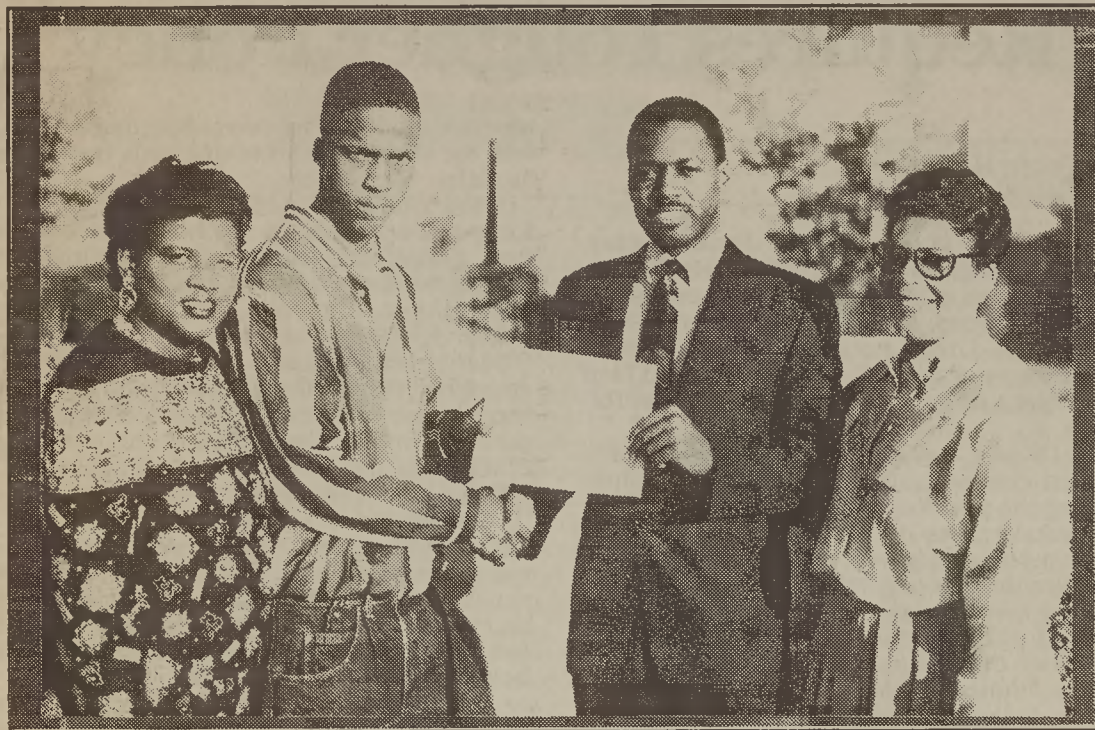


PHOTO PAUL WILLIAMS III

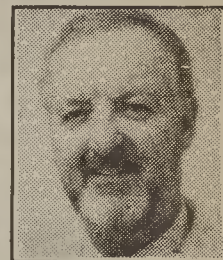
Kejvan Biggs, a student at Independence High School (second from left) recently received a certificate for his academic success in the sciences recently. Making the presentation were (left to right) Dru Thomas, an Independence science teacher, Kejvan, Charlotte dentist Dr. Spurgeon Webber III and Independence teacher Vilma Leake.

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Senator Warms Up To Pact

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun said Saturday she is warming up to the North American Free Trade Agreement, despite labor-movement opposition.

Moseley-Braun, the only black member of the Senate, said NAFTA, which would lift trade barriers between the United States, Mexico and Canada, would increase jobs and trade for Illinois.

"We can have good-paying jobs here," she said. "Part of that is going to depend on our capacity to be competitive in world markets, which means getting rid of trade barriers."

Many politicians and workers - who have been supportive of Moseley-Braun - fear the trade agreement could spell job loss to Mexico.

"When we've gotten rid of

trade barriers in the past, all it's done is increase trade," she said. "As you increase trade, you increase jobs. That's my bottom line."



Moseley-Braun

Moseley-Braun also predicted little partisan bickering among her colleagues during the debate over

President Clinton's health care reform package.

She expects Republicans and Democrats to put aside partisanship because everybody knows the system in place doesn't work.

"There may be some people who are still in opposition and want the status quo," she said. "But for the people who

want reform, this offers the best hope."

Moseley-Braun spoke Saturday after the dedication of the newly restored Henson Robinson House, where her new Springfield office will be located. The 19th century residences is located near Abraham Lincoln House.

Crack Sentence OK: Court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court on Monday turned down a challenge on the ground of racial bias to disparities in sentencing for the crimes of possessing crack and possessing powder cocaine.

The court, without comment, refused to hear an Alabama lawyer's arguments that harsher treatment for crack cocaine convictions amounts to unfair discrimination against blacks.

The court's order left intact Regina Chambers' 1991 federal conviction and 12-year prison sentence for possessing and intending to distribute crack.

Chambers, who is black, was a student at Clark College in Atlanta when arrested along a highway in Alabama. Stopped for speeding, she allowed police to search her car's trunk, where the crack cocaine was found.

In Chambers' appeal, lawyer Susan James contended that a federal sentencing guideline that equates 50 grams of crack with 5,000 grams of powder cocaine "is purposeful discrimination" because Congress and the U.S. Sentencing Commission knew crack is used primarily by blacks and powder cocaine primarily by whites.

Lee Does The Right Thing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Spike Lee, did the right thing Saturday, and married Tanya Lynette Lewis in Manhattan.



Lee

The 36-year-old director of such films as "Malcolm X," "Jungle Fever" and "Do the Right Thing" was married on the outskirts of Harlem in Riverside Church.

Lee, who appears in many of the movies he directs, has also appeared in commercials for Nike with Chicago Bulls basketball player Michael Jordan.

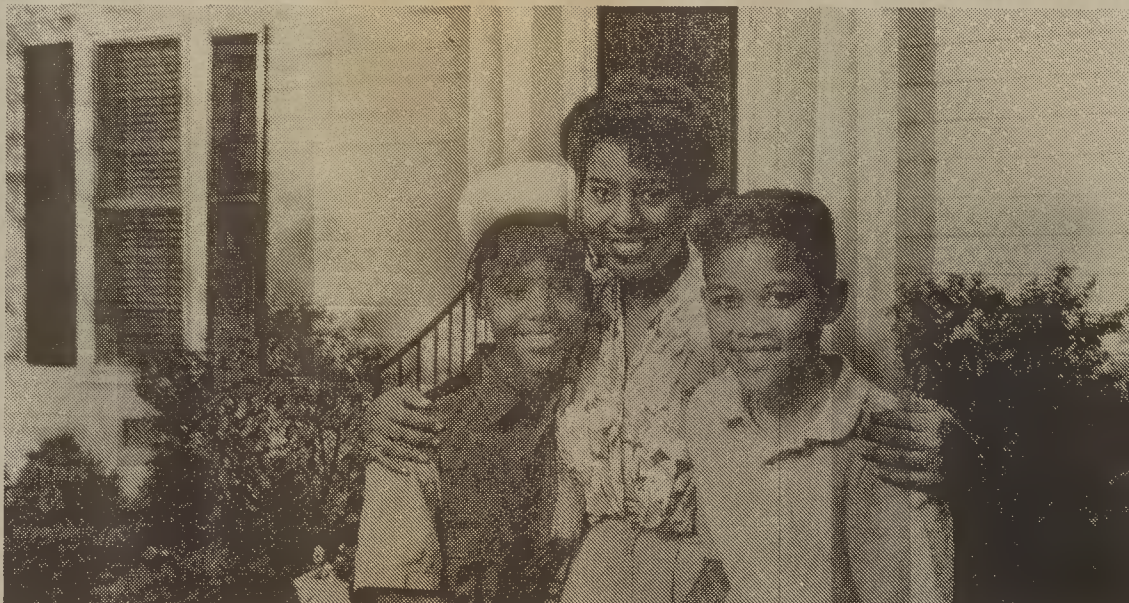
Stevie Wonder and the Boys Choir of Harlem provided some of the music at the ceremony in the church that is the most prominent architectural work along the Hudson River from the George Washington Bridge to

midtown Manhattan.

Among those in attendance were sports analyst Ahmad Rashad, his wife, actress Phylicia Rashad, actor Denzel Washington, and director John Singleton, WNYW-TV reported.

The reception was held at the Museum of Natural History on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

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