

Sonia Sanchez to come to Winston-Salem

On January 25, 1992, The Arts Council will proudly present to this community one of our greatest living African-American writers. A

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ARTS REACH



By REGGIE JOHNSON

poet, mother, activist, and professor, Sonia Sanchez will provide Winston-Salem with a unique opportunity to meet and learn from one of our strongest voices in the African-American literary community. A writer that has never followed anyone's lead, Ms. Sanchez has refused to fall in line with America's literary machinery that seeks to dictate what is "our own." For, as Houston Baker points out, "For the indisputable truth is that when we dis-

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Author writes new Kwanzaa book

Johnnierenia Nia Nelson, a prize-winning author, has created another volume in tribute to the African-American holiday "Kwanzaa." The new book, *Positive Passage: Everyday Kwanzaa Poems*, was developed in part by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts Emerging Arts Fund of the San Diego Community Foundation and includes such poems as "Black Gold," "Masai Men," "Kente Cloth Kwanzaa," and "Why Kwanzaa Was Created."

McDonald's Literary Achievement Awards finalist. Ms. Nelson, an independent scholar, has traveled extensively throughout Africa, Europe, Canada and the Caribbean and is currently completing two works in progress, *The Kwanzaa*

"Kwanzaa," states Ms. Nelson, the most innovative dynamic to emerge from the Black Nationalist Movement of the 1960s, "has been characterized by an egregious dearth of literature. Poetry honoring Kwanzaa and the contributions of Dr. Maulana Karenga was long overdue. The positive images contained in *Positive Passage: Everyday Kwanzaa Poems* exalt our African heritage and racial pride, and emphasize the importance of incorporating the values of the 'Nguzo Saba' into our everyday activities and interactions with our community. *Positive Passage* is an ideal Kwanzaa and/or Christmas gift for family, friends and those very special people on your everyday Kwanzaa list."

Ms. Nelson, a native Chicagoan, earned the coveted Michigan State University Creative Writing Award for Best Collection of Poetry for her volume "21 Years Toward Becoming a Black Woman," while completing her graduate studies. In 1988, she wrote *A Quest for Kwanzaa: Poems*, and was named a

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Woman: New and Selected Poems. A national and international lecturer on black culture and literature, women's liberation, peace and racial justice, Ms. Sanchez is also a contributing editor to *Black Scholar* and the *Journal of African Studies*. Through her works and studies, she has received international recognition and awards including the 1985 American Book Award for *Homegirls and Handgrenades*, and the first Presidential Fellowship at Temple University. Ms. Sanchez has lectured at over 500 universities and colleges in the United States and has traveled extensively, reading her poetry in Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Nicaragua, the People's Republic of China, Norway and Canada.

But beyond the awards and international attention, there are the words. If for no other reason you spend your Saturday with Sonia Sanchez on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, Jan. 25, you

Canons and Black Beauty: Poems About Our People. Positive Passage: Everyday Kwanzaa Poems is now available from the publisher, House of Nia, 4014 Calmoor St., National City, Calif., 91950. The cost is \$7.

should be there for the words of one of the finest poets of our time. With language, Ms. Sanchez reflects the world as she sees it. Through the eyes of a vibrant African-American woman, she presents us with a world colored by her passion and compassion. Her work is moving, militant and evocative, and provides the reader with a tool of understanding and kinship.

As a community, we should take advantage of this chance to meet the author of some of the most important literature that houses the history and heritage of African-Americans as well as the ideas of the future. On January 25, in the Hall Patterson at Winston-Salem

State University, Sonia Sanchez will conduct a free workshop for the public. Pre-registration is required. In the afternoon, Ms. Sanchez will present a reading of her works and attend a reception in her honor hosted by the English Department of Winston-Salem State University. This event is presented in partnership with the Winston-Salem State University Alumni Association and English Department and is made possible by a grant from The Arts Council of North Carolina, a state agency. Tickets for the reading are \$4 and will be available at The Arts Council Office, 305 W. Fourth Street. For more information, call The Arts Council at 722-2585.



Sonia Sanchez

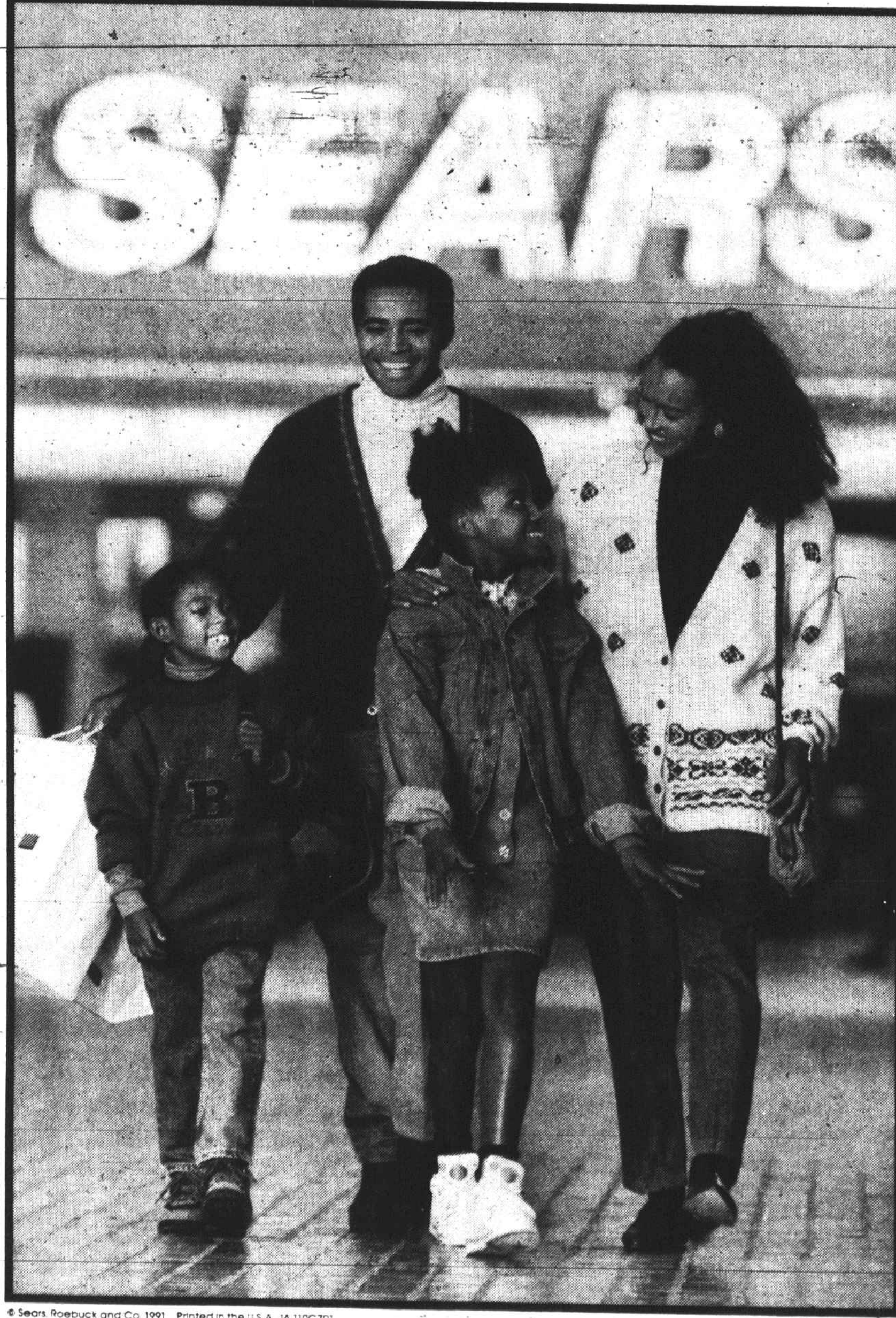
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ROBIN LITTLE JOHN... Dancer
JOHN POINDEXTER IV... Actor
(a host of additional performing artists)

THE EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RESERVATIONS ARE STRONGLY SUGGESTED CALL 723-7907

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