

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Of Interest

'I've Been Down the Road You're Looking At' by K.R. Spoon

K.R. Spoon, a native of Winston-Salem, is a single parent of a daughter. She is a 1986 graduate of N.C. A&T State University with a degree in business administration. In addition, she holds a master's degree in adult education. Raised in a Christian home, she began her writing career with children's poems and short stories. "I've Been Down the Road You're Looking At" is her first novel.

This pulsating novel captures the intense lives of four successful black women as they travel through various walks of their lives. Each woman travels down her path dealing with spirituality, morality choices, and day-to-day issues.

When the unexpected happens, each woman has to confront her past to help her understand the devastating tragedy that has permanently disrupted her life. This book was published by Inspirations Publishing Co. of Winston-Salem and was printed by Morris Publishing Co. To order, call 377-2485.

NCSA dance alumna pens book about her career

N.C. School of the Arts alumna Janie Parker, the former prima ballerina of Houston Ballet, has written a book.

"Generous Hearts and Gentle Spirits/Reflections of a ballerina and her mother" was written over the past five years by Parker and her mother, Dee Parker-Davies. The 320-page book, which contains more than 200 pictures, was recently published by The Pointe Press of Delavan, Wis.

Janie Parker danced professionally for 23 years - three with the Ballet du Grand Theatre de Geneve in Switzerland and 20 with Houston Ballet. She retired from Houston Ballet after the 1996 season.

Parker performed leading roles in many classics, including "Swan Lake," "Coppelia," "The Nutcracker," "Sleeping Beauty," "Giselle" and "Les Sylphides," as well as nearly 100 other works by contemporary choreographers such as Ashton, Balanchine, Robbins, Tetley and Tudor. She appeared in many cities in the United States as well as in Canada, Chile, Mexico, Cuba, China, Japan, Indonesia, Russia and Western Europe. She won a gold medal at the International Ballet Competition in 1982.

According to the publisher, the book begins with the story of Parker's training, which includes her four years of study at NCSA (1968-72, when she received her high school diploma), and continues throughout her professional career. Her mother adds her commentary about her daughter's experiences and offers "information for beginning dancers, their parents, and balletomanes."

Parker currently lives in Houston, Texas.

Men stabbed during rapper's birthday party

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) - Two managers from the Nashville, Tenn., rap music scene were among three people stabbed at a public birthday bash for Athens artist Bubba Sparxxx.

Eric McAnally, the 32-year-old manager of Nashville-based Haystack, was stabbed repeatedly with a broken bottle at the Athens Music Factory, the site of the recent bash. McAnally was stabbed twice in the torso, once in the back and once in the right side but was in good condition two days after the incident.

Sparxxx, whose real name is Warren Anderson Mathis, is a 25-year-old rapper from LaGrange, best known for his hit single "Ugly."

Two other men were treated and released after they were assaulted at the same party. Thomas Leyva, 21, was stabbed in the stomach with an ink pen after confronting a man who groped his girlfriend, police said.

Arthur Smotherman, a 24-year-old artist relations manager for Nashville-based Dirty Bird Records, was surrounded by about 20 men outside the club and stabbed in the arm with a broken beer bottle.

Chad Wilkes, Sparxxx's assistant manager, said there was not enough security for the 800 to 1,000 people who attended the event.

"That's the problem we've been running into," Wilkes said. "When you throw something of this magnitude, people really don't know how to act."

But Eyal Reisin, one of the owners of the club, said the 14 security guards inside the club were adequate. He said he will consider hiring more security to monitor the outside of the club.

No one has been arrested in the attacks, but police said they have identified several suspects.

Public invited to healing arts fund-raiser

GREENSBORO - The public is invited to take a mini-pottery class or painting class, buy a piece of art or just enjoy the healing power of art at a unique fund-raiser.

The day of fun and art is being put on by Art Alliance, and the money raised will go to support the healing arts program of Moses Cone Health System Regional Cancer Center.

The healing arts program uses dance, painting, poetry and other arts as ways of treating the whole person in the fight against cancer.

"Making art is a way of expressing yourself, a healing expression of your emotions," said Sherry Clausen, a program participant. "You may not be able to put these emotions into words, but you can put them into something you make. You need to express those feelings and can't always do it with words, but you can do it with a piece of art."

Participants can buy art made by cancer survivors; enjoy food, dancing and demonstrations; even take their own mini-art classes. Art Quest will be there for the kids on a day dedicated to the healing power of art.

"Many cancer patients start to live life fully. It's a chance to try new things," said Kelly Johnson, who runs the healing arts program. "This is a chance for the community to see how art can be a healing tool for everybody."

The fund-raiser for healing arts will be held on March 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Greensboro Cultural Center, 200 N. Davie Street. This event is sponsored by Art Alliance of Greensboro.

Crossing Over



Irish singer Samantha Mumba has scored bigtime with her first feature film, "The Time Machine," which opened at the top of the box office over the weekend. The movie also stars Guy Pearce, second from right, and Samantha's little brother, Omero. The cast posed with director Simon Wells, a relative of H.G. Wells, whose classic tale the film is based on.

Latin arts fest will run through April

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - The thrumming of Latino drumbeats. The swirl of flamenco dancers' skirts. The blare of mariachi trumpets. The staccato sounds of handclapping. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is holding Latin Arts Fest, its first-ever international arts festival celebrating Latin American cultural and artistic contributions. Sponsored by the International Programs Center and several departments on campus, the festival will feature performances by Central and South American artists on campus throughout the spring semester. The series opened Feb. 24 with a concert. Other events will include workshops and performances by actor/writer Maria Angeles Romero, Latin American dances, flamenco dancers and a mariachi band.

Dr. Deborah Bell, professor of theater, is chair of the festival's organizing committee. Tania

See UNCG on C8

Rebounding

Carey negotiating for a new record label

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Mariah Carey, seeking a career rebound after the back-to-back flops of her debut movie and its soundtrack album, is negotiating with new record companies just weeks after her last label dropped her.

Two of Warner Music Group's labels, Elektra and Warner Bros. Records, are among the companies that have made offers to Carey, according to sources familiar with the talks. Universal Music Group's label Island Def Jam also reportedly is interested.

"She is meeting with a lot of different labels. She's a very smart businesswoman and is taking her time before she makes a decision," Carey's spokeswoman, Cindi Berger, said Friday.

The 31-year-old Grammy winner agreed in January to end a \$100 million contract with Virgin Records with a \$49 million payout after the weak debut of her musical drama "Glitter" and its accompanying soundtrack.

Before that, she suffered a psychological breakdown and was hospitalized for exhaustion.

Any new recording deal is expected to be tens of millions of dollars less and cover fewer albums than her contract with Virgin, which was for four



Carey

albums.

Warner executives would not comment on Carey and calls to Universal were not immediately returned.

Carey's attorney, Donald Passman, said he could not comment on his client's negotiations until a deal was finalized.

Network acquires Sundance Festival hit 'Lift'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

NEW YORK - Showtime Networks has acquired the dramatic film "Lift," directed by DeMane Davis and Khari Streeter (the forces behind "Black & White & Red All Over"). "Lift" will premiere on Showtime on June 26 as a lead in to the third season premiere of the hit Showtime series "Soul Food."



Washington

In an unprecedented transaction, "Lift" will have its basic cable premiere on BET subsequent to its run on Showtime and BET will share the presentation credit on the film. This marks the first time that Showtime and BET have cooperated on an acquisition since Viacom first purchased the BET parent company last year.

"Lift," which was accepted into the writers and directors lab at the prestigious Sundance Institute, was written by Davis based on a story by Davis and Streeter. It then became a hit at the Sundance Film Festival. Starring Kerry Washington ("Save the Last Dance"), Lonette McKee ("Jungle Fever"), "As the World Turns," "For Love of Olivia" and Eugene Byrd ("Once and Again" and Showtime's "Anne Rice's

See 'Lift' on C8

Sharissa CD just OK

There is no half-steppin' with Sharissa

BY S. I. LYNCH
THE CHRONICLE

Years ago Motown set a precedent for what R&B/soul music was. Today Motown is trying to find a niche that places it at the helm once again. In its quest to alter people's current impressions of Motown as a dying breed, the company has formed a joint venture with the Henchmen (a popular hip-hop production team) to freshen and produce some of the sounds of today. Thus we have this new female voice of R&B/hip-hop soul, Sharissa.

Sharissa is a little bit of the new and a lot of the old. She is a hybrid created by mixing some Mary J. Blige and some Shirley Brown. I'm sure she gets a lot of comparisons to Brown and especially Blige, considering her style is reminiscent of

Blige. Sharissa's selections have you recalling songs such as Betty Wright's "No Pain, No Gain" and Millie Jackson's "How Does it Feel the Morning After." The hair color; the slick, street-influenced gear; and the lyrical content of this album culminated with a voice not polished, but engaging. It takes us back to a time when we didn't know what it was we liked about Mary J., but we listened anyway.

Sharissa's debut album, "No Half Steppin'," is honest, vulnerable and resonates an emotional integrity that indicates she sings from personal experiences. On "No Half Steppin'," you hear the heavily influenced '70s soul vibe. The album's first single, "Any Other Night," is probably the strongest on "No Half Steppin'."



Sharissa

See Sharissa on C8