

Federal money will help find missing adults

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

WASHINGTON - The Justice Department has awarded \$1.75 million to establish a national clearinghouse for information on missing adults under legislation inspired by a missing N.C. State University student.

This is the first funding released under Kristen's Law, which Sen. John Edwards sponsored in the Senate and Rep. Sue Myrick of Charlotte steered through the House.

Kristen's Law was named for Kristen Modafferi, a N.C. State University student who was last seen during the summer of 1997 in San Francisco. She disappeared just three weeks after her 18th birthday. Under the law at the time, organizations that help search for missing children were

unable to assist Modafferi's parents because she was an adult.

The young Charlotte woman's disappearance was the subject of nationwide publicity, but thousands of other cases involving young adults are reported to authorities without generating headlines.

"These funds will provide desperately needed assistance to law enforcement and families looking for missing adults," Edwards said. "Kristen's Law will help ensure that when an adult of any age is missing due to foul play, a national effort will be mobilized to help."

The funds were awarded to the Nation's Missing Children Organization and Center for Missing Adults. The Phoenix-based organization was founded in 1994 by Kym Pasqualini. As a child, Pasqualini narrowly escaped being abducted by a knife-wielding stranger. The nonprofit works to prevent abductions and to help families of abduction victims across the country. It distributes photographs of missing people and works with law enforcement agencies to help find missing people.



Edwards

Work of local artist Leo Rucker to be featured at Delta Arts Center

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts Inc. kicks off its summer exhibition series, Two Homegrown Artists, with a one-man show (through Aug. 17) by local painter and muralist Leo Rucker at the Delta Arts Center, 1511 E. Third Street.

Rucker works in pencil, pastels, acrylics and watercolors. His oil paintings are characterized by "photo realism" that captures the heartbeat of his subjects.

The artist's talent was recognized early. He received his first commission at age 5 for a portrait. East Forsyth High School awarded him a scholastic gold key and an art award at his graduation in 1981. He received a degree in commercial art from Rutledge College.

During the '90's, Rucker's work was awarded many prizes, including first prize in the Stokes County Print Competition and selection as the featured artist of the African American Arts Festival in Atlanta, Ga. Works by Rucker have been commissioned by Genesis Outreach Church, Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Ray Agnew, SMSI Marketing. Many Forsyth County residents are familiar with murals created by Rucker and his crew of Artiva interns each summer.

In an artist statement, Rucker said, "The most exciting aspect of being a visual artist is that I can communicate with my observer with the images that I create, as well as to chronicle the history not only by my heritage, but also of the things, places and people that I have traveled with."

Paintings by Ann Bonner of Walkertown will be on view Aug. 24 through Oct. 12.



A piece by Winston-Salem artist Leo Rucker.

Tri-City Track Club gets grant for tutoring program

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Tri-City Project T.E.A.C.H. has been awarded a grant of \$12,000 by the Winston-Salem Foundation. Learnmond "Buddy" Hayes Jr., the club's president, said July 9.

According to Hayes, the grant will be used to expand the tutorial program for the youths involved with the Tri-City Relays Track Club, as well as other youths in the

community.

"Our organization has served over 700 children with our tutorial program since its beginning nearly 10 years ago," Hayes said. "The grant from the Winston-Salem Foundation will give us additional resources to enhance our program. We plan to implement a back-to-school starter program at the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year. This program will give the children assistance in the areas of

math, English and science prior to the start of school."

Project T.E.A.C.H. already has a strong after-school tutorial program in place, and the grant will help recruit more volunteers and staff to assist the children. The funds will also help the club's athletic programs purchase equipment as well as other related expenses. The funds are made available from the Edna B. Parkin Georges Youth Fund and the James and Barbara

Corrigan Advised Fund.

The Tri-City Relays Track Club consistently serves more than 100 children each summer with its Junior Olympic team. Athletes from this program have earned more than \$1 million in scholarship and grant money for their college studies.

Tri-City Project T.E.A.C.H. also recently began a youth cross-country team, which has already fielded national contenders.

"One of our goals is to provide positive activities for our youth on a year-round basis," said Hayes. "We accomplish this with an all-volunteer staff and the support of the community."

Tri-City Project T.E.A.C.H., as it is now known, was formed from the Tri-City Relays Track Club in 1980. It has served more than 5,000 children from Forsyth, Guilford, Davie, Davidson, Stokes, Surry, and Iredell

counties since its inception.

The track club and its cross-country team, the Winston-Salem Wings, keep the athletes in good physical condition while providing them with opportunities to earn grants and scholarships from colleges to further their education.

The tutorial program, Academics & Athletics, provides free tutorial assistance for the students' school-related subjects.

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Some startling African-American health statistics

- Nearly 12 million African Americans suffer from high blood pressure, which prematurely ages the arteries.
- Heart disease continues to be a huge threat to African Americans due to obesity and high blood-pressure rates.
- A disproportionate number of African American seniors suffer from high blood pressure, diabetes and arthritis.
- The prevalence of diabetes is 70 percent more likely in African Americans as compared with Caucasians.
- African Americans require more frequent medical attention than other ethnic groups. Studies show that minorities, often do not have adequate access to information about preventive health care, because health-care professionals often do not make the additional effort to target their messages to people within these communities.