

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### Beyonce covers S.I.

NEW YORK (AP) — Beyonce has hit another high note, claiming the coveted cover shot of this year's Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue in a yellow-and-pink bikini.

"The Dreamgirl As You've Never Seen Her," a cover headline teases. There's also a photo spread inside the magazine.

The 25-year-old singer-actress ("Dreamgirls") posed on a Florida beach in the bikini designed by House of Dereon, the fashion label she started with her mother, Tina Knowles.

The 2007 swimsuit edition continues with a music theme inside, featuring scantily clad models posing with Kanye West, Aerosmith, Kenny Chesney, Gnarlz Barkley and Panic! At the Disco.

A five-page spread featuring Russian Anne Vyalitsyna was shot at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland in September.

"Once the decision was made to have a music hook, one of the first settings to come up was the Rock Hall, because it's such an iconic place," said Sports Illustrated spokesman Rick McCabe. "It was a natural fit."

Vyalitsyna posed with Jon Bon Jovi's motorcycle and other Rock Hall items.

The magazine portrayed the museum with respect, said Todd Mesek, Rock Hall spokesman.

"We felt it would've been an omission if we weren't included," he said.

### Barber joining "Today" family

NEW YORK (AP) — Only days after playing his final NFL game, Tiki Barber, joined NBC Universal on last week for a job that will have him shuttling between the Today show and football analysis in the fall.

Barber, 31, had his choice of broadcasting jobs since he announced he was retiring from the New York Giants. Fox and ABC/ESPN had also sought him.



Barber

"My dream has always been to be on the Today show," Barber said.

He'll be a contributing correspondent on the morning show. He said he's interested in stories on health and technology, and NBC said they'd also like to see him doing human interest stories and those on family issues.

He will also be an analyst on NBC's Football Night in America, the hour-long highlight show that precedes the network's Sunday-night football game. Barber said the ability to stay close to his family in New York made NBC's offer particularly appealing.

NBC, which is owned by the General Electric Co., wouldn't reveal other details of the multiyear deal.

Barber ended his playing career at the Pro Bowl last weekend, scoring a touchdown but also throwing an interception and rushing for only 4 yards.

Barber laid the groundwork for a broadcasting career while still active in the NFL. He was a correspondent for the Fox News Channel morning program Fox & Friends, and has two programs on Sirius Satellite Radio, one on general topics and another on football that he does with his brother, Ronde Barber of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

NBC News President Steve Capus said he thought Barber was "just going to light up the screen."

### Professor's work is on display

LeAnder Canady, an associate professor of visual arts at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, has three artworks on display at the African American Atelier Gallery Inc. His artworks are featured along with 23 local artists. Their works cover a variety of subject matters, creative styles and media. The artworks will be on exhibition until Feb. 28.

The exhibition is annually curated by Dr. Alma S. Adams one of the founding members of the Atelier. The idea for having a space for African American artists to exhibit their work was fostered by the late Eva Hamlin Miller.

### Chinese Cultural Celebration planned at Wake Forest

Wake Forest University will host a Chinese Cultural Celebration, featuring "Tales from the Beijing Opera" from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 4 in Brendle Recital Hall. The public is invited and admission is free.

The celebration will include several performances by local and professional groups, a Chinese fashion show and a colorful theater performance called "Tales from the Beijing Opera."

Members of Hung Gar Kung Fu Academy, a professional martial arts school from Mooresville, will perform the lion dance and a martial arts demonstration. The Twist Drum Troupe of Greensboro will present a traditional Chinese folk dance. A musical troupe from the Greensboro Chinese Association will perform. Local children in traditional costume will perform children's dances, and Wake Forest students will present a fashion show featuring traditional and modern Chinese costumes.

For the past seven years, Wake Forest has hosted a Chinese New Year Festival in January that has drawn more than 2,000 participants. This year, organizers scheduled it in March to decrease the chances of weather-related cancellations and changed the format to allow for the theatrical element.

## Rapper will host Image Awards

Honorees will include Bono, Bill Cosby and Soledad O'Brien

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

LL Cool J will host the 38th NAACP Image Awards, which will air live on Friday, March 2 on FOX. Vicangelo Bulluck, executive producer of the telecast, made the announcement last week.

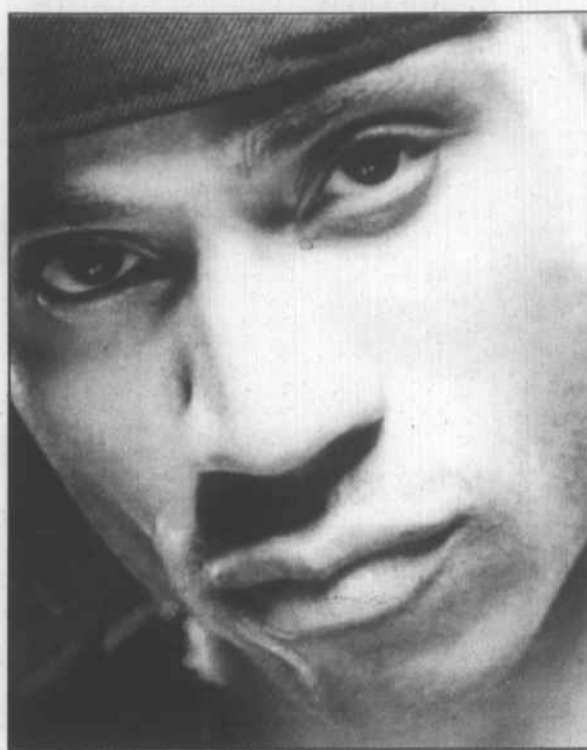
"We are pleased and honored to have LL Cool J host our first live telecast," said Bulluck.

"His humor, intelligence and incredible talent will make the awards an evening to remember."

LL Cool J has had success in all media including music, film and television and has amassed a number of accolades for his work. He is a two-time Grammy Award winner, a NAACP Image Award winner and is a recipient of ShoWest's Male Star of Tomorrow, ASCAP's Golden Note Award and a Soul Train Lifetime Achievement Award.

Releasing his first hit, "I Can't Live Without My Radio," in 1985 at the age of 17, LL Cool J quickly developed his own unique style. His first two albums, "Radio" and "Bigger and Deffer," made him a celebrity, but "Mama Said Knock You Out" established him as one of hip-hop's genuine superstars. Over his career he has released 12 albums. He will release his 13th album, "Exit 13," in May.

In addition to his musical success, LL Cool J starred in his own television sitcom, "In the House" and appeared in several films including "S.W.A.T.," with Samuel L. Jackson and Colin Farrell, "Last Holiday" with Queen Latifah, Oliver Stone's "Any Given Sunday" and "Deliver Us From Eva" with Gabrielle Union. Also an accomplished author, his fitness book, "LL



File Photo

LL Cool J has done music, film and television.

Cool J's Platinum Workout," is currently on the New York Times best seller list.

As previously announced, three outstanding individuals will be honored during the NAACP Image Awards telecast. CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien will receive the President's Award; legendary comedian, actor, author and past Image Award winner Bill Cosby will be inducted into the Image Awards Hall of Fame; and renowned musician and activist Bono will receive the NAACP Chairman's Award.

## Black Cubans topic of event

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies and the National Association of Black Journalists' student chapter at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University will host a special presentation on African Americans and black Cubans, Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 11:30 a.m., at the Memorial Student Union - Stallings Ballroom. The theme is "From Harlem to Havana."



Wickham

IFAJIS Director DeWayne Wickham and a team of journalists from around the country traveled to Cuba earlier this month to study the link between African Americans and black people of Cuba. The tour group will present their findings through a slide show presentation and discussion to students, faculty and invited guests. Panelists include journalist Erin Aubry Kaplan of the Los Angeles Times; columnist Gregory Kane of the Baltimore Sun; columnist Tonyaa Weathersbee of the Florida Times Union and Wickham.

IFAJIS is a university-based program that provides professional development opportunities for mid-career, black journalists and practical news gathering experiences for journalism students. IFAJIS also supports the training, recruitment and retention of black journalists, who continue to be underrepresented in the nation's media, through programs that sharpen their research, news reporting and writing skills.

## Official quits over photo flap

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Photos of the Bahamas' immigration minister embracing Anna Nicole Smith forced the official to resign amid speculation the Playboy Playmate received special treatment when applying for permanent residency on the island nation.

Photos recently appeared in a Bahamas newspaper showing Immigration Minister Shane Gibson on a bed with Smith both fully clothed and embracing her.

"I want to apologize to all persons who may in any way have been offended by anything that I have said, done, or perceived to have said or done," Gibson said on state TV Sunday night. "To the extent that my beloved country has in any way suffered ... I want to apologize to the Bahamian people as a whole."

However, Gibson, who fast-tracked Smith's application for residency, denied any wrongdoing and said he did not have a sexual relationship with Smith.

Smith died on Feb. 8 in Hollywood, Fla. She had based her residency application upon her claimed ownership of a waterfront mansion in the Bahamas. However, the ownership of the property is disputed.

## BACK IN CLASS



BET Photo

BET's hit show "College Hill" will return for a fourth season on Tuesday, March 6 at 10 p.m. This season of the reality show will capture the lives of eight University of the Virgin Islands students, from the classroom to the chaos. These season's stars are JT, Vanessa, "Chicky," Andres, Fallon, Willie, Idesha and Krystal.

## NCCU partners with AAJC for Jazz Institute

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

DURHAM — North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and the African American Jazz Caucus (AAJC) have joined forces in an effort to preserve the integrity of jazz as an African American art form.

"Jazz is a component of the African American culture," said NCCU Chancellor James H. Ammons. "Through this research institute, we will be involved in the kinds of activities that ensure the history of jazz is preserved."

NCCU and AAJC are partnering to form a Jazz Research Institute that will host the Inaugural Annual Summer Jazz Festival/HBCU Summit Conference in Durham, June 20-24, 2007. NCCU and AAJC will begin to develop other initiatives such as a North Carolina Hall of Fame dedicated to highlighting the work of jazz artists from North Carolina.

"We believe that this Festival/Summit will help to



NCCU Photo

Dr. Larry Ridley, executive director of the African American Jazz Caucus (AAJC), takes a moment to chat with Dr. Beverly Washington Jones, NCCU's provost and vice chancellor of Academic Affairs.

breathe new life into the jazz community and provide more concert opportunities for jazz enthusiasts in Durham," said Dr.

Paula Hargrell, chair of the NCCU Music Department. "We look forward to hosting the event along

See Jazz on A11