

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### Stained Glass Playhouse auditions

The Stained Glass Playhouse will hold auditions for its upcoming musical, "A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum." It will be performed on July 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, Aug. 3, 4, 5 in the Playhouse.

Auditions for "A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum" will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19, 7-9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Marvin United Methodist Church. There are roles for 11 featured male singers, 2 female singers and 6 additional female roles. Alvin Tyndall will direct. Call 661-4949 for more information.

The Stained Glass Playhouse, located at 4401 Indiana Avenue, produces a season of four plays per year that are dramatic works with positive messages. The Playhouse provides outstanding, intimate community theater at its best for actors and audiences alike.

### UNCG filmmaker awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

Brett Ingram, a documentary filmmaker and an assistant professor in the Department of Broadcasting and Cinema at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, has been awarded a fellowship in filmmaking from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Results of the Guggenheim Foundation's 83rd annual United States and Canadian competition were announced April 6. Ten fellowships in the field of film and video were awarded this year out of 189 winners chosen from nearly 2,800 applicants.

Guggenheim fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and promise for future accomplishment. Since 1925, the foundation has awarded over \$256 million in fellowships to more than 16,250 individuals in fields from the natural sciences to arts and humanities.

Ingram will be on sabbatical during the 2007-08 academic year to complete his film.

Ingram will use the Fellowship to complete a feature-length documentary portrait of scientific illustrator and visionary artist North Carolina artist Renaldo Kuhler. For more than 40 years, Kuhler has created hundreds of plates for the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and has illustrated flora and fauna for obscure scientific journals and reference books.

Ingram received a BS in electrical engineering from NC State and an MFA in film and video production from UNCG in 1995.

### Madonna ends six-day Africa visit

**LILONGWE, Malawi (AP)** — Madonna jetted out of Malawi on Sunday after a six-day visit to the impoverished homeland of the toddler she wants to adopt, carrying the boy in her arms as she boarded her plane.

Madonna and her husband, the film producer Guy Ritchie, took custody of David Banda last October after finding him in an orphanage. Critics said the 48-year-old star used her celebrity status to circumvent Malawian adoption laws — allegations she denies.

The 20-month-old toddler waved to the bodyguards and driver who had escorted him during the visit. Madonna, wearing her now familiar straw hat, did not look back as she disappeared into the silver jet, with her daughter Lourdes following.

The star and her entourage spent their time visiting orphanages, projects for street children and agricultural development programs as well as opening a new day care center funded by her charity, Raising Malawi.

Madonna, who lives in London, made one visit to the Home of Hope orphanage, where David lived after the death of his mother in childbirth. There was no sign that Madonna had met with Yohane Banda, the peasant farmer who placed his son in the orphanage saying he was too poor to care for him.

It was also unclear whether Yohane Banda met alone with his son, as he had hoped.

David's mother died of complications in childbirth and his two siblings died of malaria in infancy.

Although a coalition of human rights groups challenged Madonna's adoption plans in the courts, many locals say they are happy that the celebrity has drawn attention to Malawi, which usually makes news because of drought, hunger and the occasional political scandal.

### Mt. Tabor arts get \$13,600 from Thrivent Financial

The Mt. Tabor High School Arts Board recently received \$13,600 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to supplement their fund-raiser.

The funding was made possible through volunteers using Thrivent Financial's Care Abounds in Communities program. The fund-raiser supports the Chorus, Band, Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Orchestra at Mt. Tabor High School. Thrivent Financial's Care Abounds in Communities program provides financial support for volunteer projects and fund-raising activities benefiting individuals, families and qualified nonprofit organizations.

"Care Abounds in Communities allows Thrivent Financial members and other interested volunteers to join in service and use the financial resources of Thrivent Financial to serve people and organizations here in our local area," said John Schwabe of the Yadkin River Chapter. The Thrivent Financial's member volunteer group serves those in Forsyth, Stokes and Surry Counties.

"Thrivent chapter activities like this one connect congregations, institutions and volunteers to make a difference in people's lives," Schwabe added.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping nearly 3 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities.

## Book by Triad author picked for community read

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A book by a popular Greensboro author has been named as Forsyth County's community read selection for 2007.

Orson Scott Card's "Ender's Game" is an award-winning tale that explores the high-tech world of Ender Wiggin, who, along with his genius classmates, is recruited to inter-galactic battle school to train as a commander in a

war against Earth's enemies.



Card

The science-fiction novel has been praised for its suspense and its wide appeal among both adults and young people.

Card won the Hugo and Nebula awards for "Ender's Game." His novel has been on the American Library Association's "Best Books for Young Adults" reading list and is currently on the 9th grade reading list for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth

County School System.

To celebrate this year's selection, the Forsyth County Library has planned several related programs, including video gaming tournaments, a sci-fi movie series, a space food taste testing and a Back-to-the-Future Costume Party.

Card will kick off On the Same Page 2007 at the Bookmarks Festival on Saturday, Sept. 8 in Historic Bethabara Park.

For more information, or to volunteer for the project, contact Elizabeth Skinner at 703-3018.



## First black Mrs. California is crowned

Tracie Stafford overcame life of struggle

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wife, entrepreneur, mother of four and Governor Schwarzenegger appointee, Tracie Stafford was crowned Mrs. California in an emotional and enthusiastic ceremony on Saturday, March 31 at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento.

Beauty, brains and boldness easily describe the 40-year-old Sacramentan, but those who know her well say that "integrity and resilience" are the keystones to her life and personality.

Stafford shines as a mentor to women of all ages and lifestyles because of her positive attitude and resilience in overcoming adversity.

"I don't dwell on the challenges or problems in my life, but I am not ashamed to share them with others if it helps them gain new perspective on what can be achieved in spite of obstacles," she said.

Orphaned at the age of 12, along with four siblings, Stafford was taken in by her grandmother and made an early vow to honor her mother's memory and her grandmother's selflessness by becoming the best that she could be.

"Times were tough. My mother was dead, I never knew my father, I was African American, poor and living in an affluent neighborhood where I certainly didn't fit in. No, don't compare me to Oprah ... at least not yet," she laughed.

So how does a wife, mother of four, businesswoman, philanthropist and pageant winner maneuver successfully through life?

"The only true boundaries are those that we place on ourselves. My grandmother taught me that the many challenges we may face due to gender, ethnicity or circumstances are merely God's way of preparing us for the next step of our journey. Based on my background... I must have quite the journey ahead!" said Stafford.

Aside from being an underprivileged orphan, Stafford's family was one of the first to integrate San Leandro, Calif., a suburb of San Francisco in the early 1970's.

"It was one of the toughest times in my life. No matter what I did, it was never enough. I was once told by a teacher, that I should strive to be a good maid as that was what my people generally excelled at."

Surprisingly, that was more hope than was given by a nun who said that she'd never amount to anything if she didn't assimilate.

"To this day," Stafford began, "I have no idea what exactly she meant by that."

Filled with insecurity and a strong dislike for herself, Stafford, at the age of 19, entered into a verbally and physically abusive relationship that lasted over five years.

"Unfortunately, my mother was abused, so when I was struck for the first time, it didn't shock me as it might have someone who had never been exposed to such violence."

What got Stafford out of the abusive relationship you might ask? Love for her, then 3-year-old, daughter Chanel.

"The last time he beat me," Stafford began, "Chanel was in the room. She calmly walked over to her father, and said, 'Daddy, go now.' She then asked if



Stafford

## RAP ROYALTY

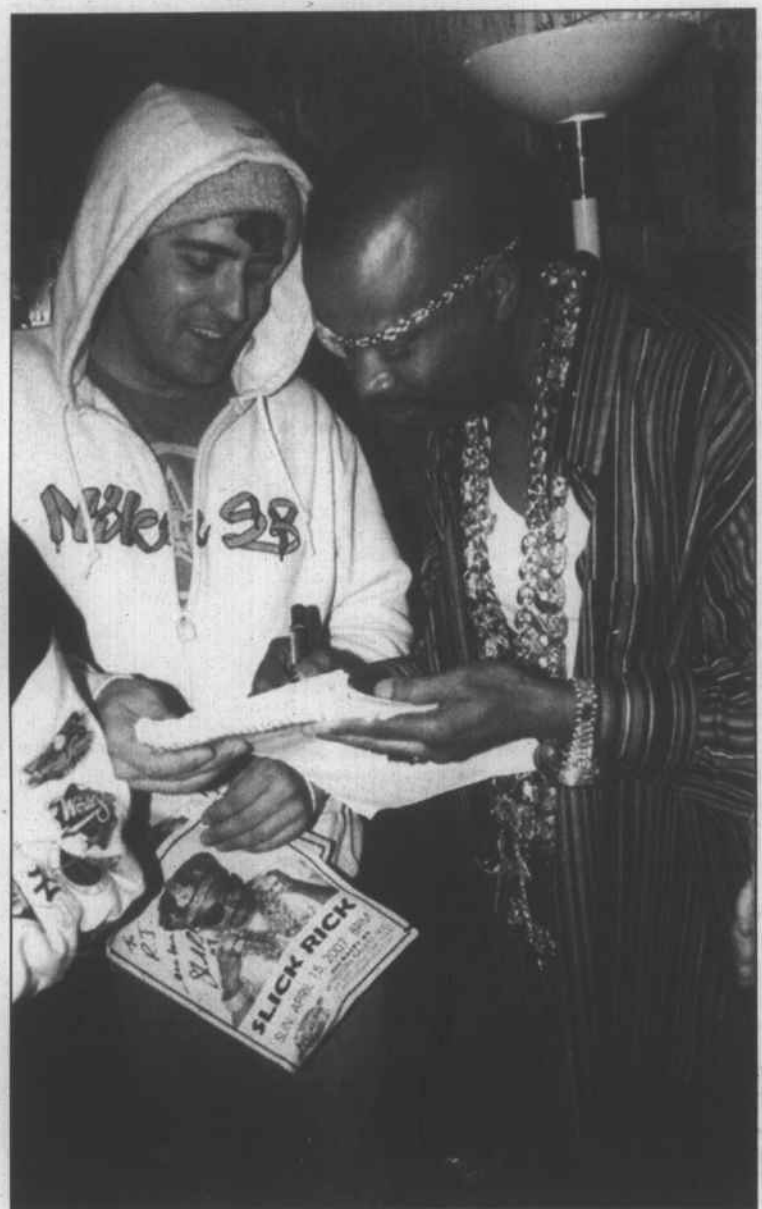


Photo by Jason Pitt

Hip hop legend Slick Rick signs an autograph for a local fan during a recent stop at Ziggy's. A native of the United Kingdom, Slick Rick's accented lyrics scored with fans in the 1980s. His hits include "Children's Story" and "La Di Da Di".

## Slate of comedy stars coming to Joel

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Funniest Damn Comedy Tour Ever is coming to the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum May 11.

The tour features Arnez J., Anthony Anderson, Sommore, Earthquake, Kevin Hart and Rodney Perry.



Anderson

Arnez J is one of the most revered comics to come out of the "BET Comic View" and HBO "Def Comedy

Jam" family, and he's rapidly becoming one of the most talked about comics around. His unique comedic blend also has him being called the "Black Jeffrey Lewis."

Theatergoers fell in love with him as "Simon," a nightclub owner in the play "The Maintenance Man" and in "Friends and Lovers," a play based on the novel written by critically acclaimed playwright Eric Jerome Dickey. He's also been featured on Showtime's "Comedy Club Network," "The Keenan Ivory Wayans Show," Comedy Central's "Make Me Laugh," HBO's "Def Comedy Jam," and as the Host of "BET Comic View." Up next for Arnez J is the Miguel Nunez



Newcomer Rodney Perry performs.

film, "Up Against the 8-Ball," where he plays the funny hotel manager.

Anderson is one of the most sought after comedians and actors in the country. He has easily established himself as a multiple threat — actor, comedian, writer, producer. Anderson has not limited himself merely to making people laugh, but he has also successfully stepped out into the realm of playing dramatic roles. Anderson's

hugely successful acting career has placed him in the films "Romeo Must Die," "Kangaroo Jack," "Two Can Play That Game," "King's Ransom," "Hoodwinked," "Cradle To The Grave," "Barbershop" and "Hustle and Flow," opposite Terrence Howard and this year's Academy Award-winning Best Picture "The Departed," with Leonard