

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Author Blackwell to discuss book

Reynolda House Museum of American Art will host a book talk with Kate Blackwell, author of the debut short-story collection "You Won't Remember This" on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 5:30 p.m. The talk will be followed by a cash bar reception.

In each story, Blackwell looks at life with a direct gaze, and she writes with elegant measured tones and with beautiful melancholy humor.

A Winston-Salem native, Blackwell is a freelance writer and teacher in Washington, D.C. Her stories have been published in multiple literary journals. In addition to writing fictional stories, she has co-authored non-fiction books, and has published several book reviews and travel articles.

"You Won't Remember This," a collection of 12 short-stories, illuminates the lives of men and women who appear unremarkable until they explode quietly on the page. Written in Southern storytelling tradition, the collection touches on such life issues as marriage, adultery, malfeasance, aging, and pregnancy.

The cost of the program is \$8 and \$5 for members and students. For information, please call 336-758-5150 or visit the website at reynoldahouse.org.

Piano talent Sudbin to perform with NC Symphony

Young pianist Yevgeny Sudbin will be the North Carolina Symphony's guest artist in concerts at Memorial Hall in Chapel Hill on Thursday, Jan. 24 and at Meymandi Concert Hall at Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 25 and Jan. 26. All concerts begin at 8 p.m.

Sudbin, who plays with a spine-tingling brilliance that has been compared to that of a young Vladimir Horowitz, is garnering lavish praise from critics and audiences around the world. Of his performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, The Times (London) said: "Once Sudbin leaps up those opening octaves, memories of [other] performances quickly fade...[he] gives us another concerto entirely: exciting, forward looking, with harmonies and structural shifts that constantly take us by surprise." The Daily Telegraph (London) calls him "one of the most fascinating and auspiciously talented pianists of the younger generation," and "potentially one of the greatest pianists of the 21st century."

Other works on the January programs include a collection of music gathered from 18th-century French composer Jean-Philippe Rameau's Ballet Suite No. 1 from Platée, and the concert premiere of Friandises, written for the New York City Ballet and The Juilliard School by highly-regarded contemporary composer Christopher Rouse.

For tickets or more information, visit the Symphony's web site, www.ncsymphony.org or call the box office at 919-733-2750.

Cook tops Chappelle's record

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Dane Cook has broken a Laugh Factory endurance record set less than a month ago by Dave Chappelle.

In what is becoming a heated battle between the two comedians, Cook told jokes at the Sunset Strip comedy club for 7 hours, beating the record Chappelle, 34, set at 6 hours and 12 minutes in December.

Cook went on stage one night last week and continued until nearly 7 a.m. Wednesday, and at one point even sent out for food to keep the audience fed and happy.

"If this rivalry keeps up I'm going to turn the Laugh Factory into a bed and breakfast," club owner Jamie Masada said.

Last April, Cook set a record with an act lasting 3 hours and 50 minutes, breaking a mark set by Richard Pryor in 1980 of 2 hours and 41 minutes. Chappelle broke the record later that month, then broke his own record in December.

Cook, 35, most recently appeared with Steve Carell in the film "Dan in Real Life."

CBS retools 'Early Show'

NEW YORK (AP) - CBS News is asking dozens of its affiliates to take a leap of faith in the morning.

The network relaunched "The Early Show" Monday with a new set, a new leader and an end to the "blended" format where some 43 stations - covering 20 percent of the country - ditched much of the national feed for its own local programming.

With the changes, CBS News executives believe they will finally have a shot at the titanic task of challenging the morning news leaders at NBC's "Today" show and ABC's "Good Morning America."

For many affiliates, it's a risky leap. It means giving up on a format where they led or were competitive in the ratings at 7 a.m. in favor of a network show that has been No. 3 for decades, no matter what CBS has tried to do differently.

"The Early Show" format retains host Harry Smith, who has quietly become a CBS News stalwart and chief substitute in the evening for Katie Couric. He's joined by veteran Julie Chen and newcomer Maggie Rodriguez, who worked in Miami local news for seven years and served a brief apprenticeship at CBS' weekend morning news before moving to "The Early Show" in December. Rodriguez replaced Hannah Storm.

A look at 'Senator No'

UNC-TV to premiere Jesse Helms documentary Tuesday

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

"No American politician is more controversial, beloved in some quarters and hated in others, than Jesse Helms," wrote The Almanac of American Politics as the arch-conservative North Carolina Republican neared the end of his 30-year U.S. Senate career.

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 9 p.m., UNC-TV presents "Senator No: Jesse Helms," a 90-minute biographical documentary from independent filmmaker John Wilson. The film chronicles Helms's life from his humble childhood in Monroe, to his two decades as an outspoken print and television editorialist, to his five contentious terms in the U.S. Senate and the fierce political battles that landed him there.

"Whether you like him or dislike him," political scientist Larry Sabato says in the film, "he was at the heart of the conservative movement that changed America from the 1970s to today."

The documentary traces the origins of Helms's politics, from his Southern Baptist roots in the Jim Crow South to his political baptism in North Carolina's racially charged 1950 U.S. Senate race between liberal Frank Porter Graham and conservative Willis Smith. Trumpeting Old South values as an editorialist and politician, Helms crashes headlong into the civil rights movement, communism, abortion, gay rights - virtually every major issue of his time.

Footage and transcripts of Helms's "Viewpoint" editorials on WRAL-TV include one in which he calls the 1964 Civil Rights Act "the single most dangerous piece of leg-

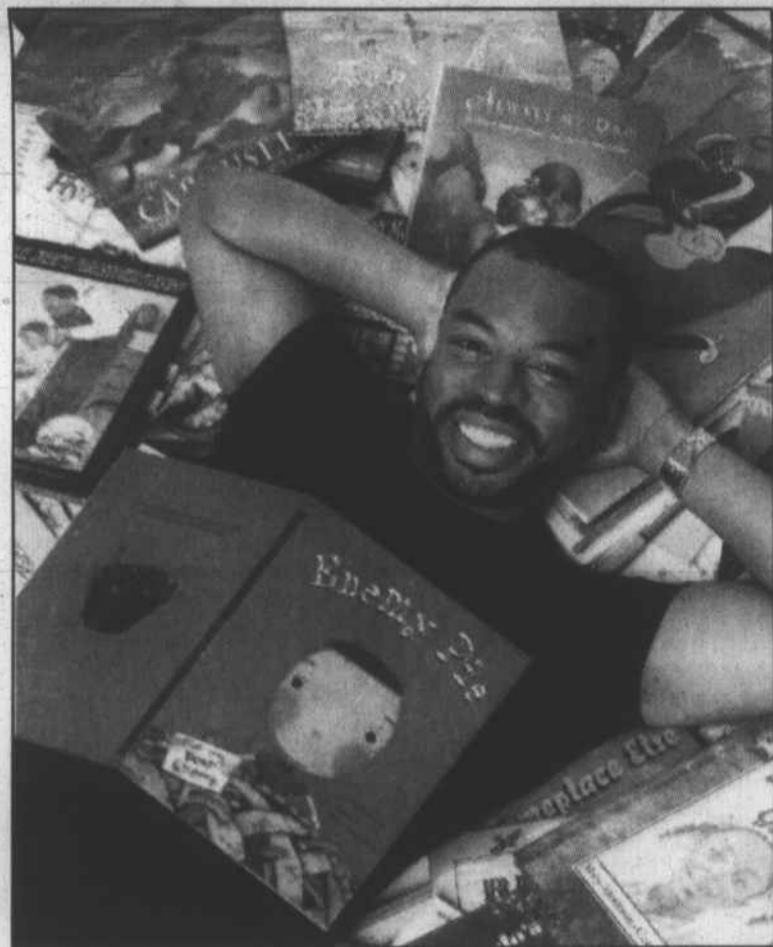


Former Sen. Jesse Helms arrives at a White House in 2002.

See Helms on A13

Burton to headline schools' MLK events

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE



Through his Emmy-winning show "Reading Rainbow," actor LeVar Burton promotes literacy.

Actor LeVar Burton, known for his role as Kunta Kinte in the award-winning television miniseries "Roots" and more recently as host of the PBS show "Reading Rainbow," will speak at Wake Forest University Jan. 21 as part of a weeklong celebration of the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. sponsored by Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State University.

The program, featuring Burton's address titled "On Common Ground: Striving for Unity, Striving for Purpose," will begin at 7 p.m. in Wait Chapel and is free and open to the public. In addition to Burton's speech, the Jan. 21 program will include a video presentation from Maya Angelou, Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest, and performances by the Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State gospel choirs.

"We will commemorate two historical milestones this year: 2007 was the 30th Anniversary of 'Roots' and 2008 is the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King," said Barbee Oakes, director of Wake Forest's Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Burton, host and series producer of "Reading Rainbow," the Emmy Award-winning PBS series for children, is an advocate for literacy. He calls literacy "one of the fundamental building blocks

See Burton on A13

UNCG professor to speak at stamp ceremony

Legendary writer Charles Chestnut once headed Fayetteville State University

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. SallyAnn Ferguson, an English professor at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, has admired and studied novelist Charles W. Chestnut for years.

Chestnut was a black man who could easily have "passed" for white. But he chose instead to embrace his heritage, and to write frankly about racial tensions.

This month, the U.S. Postal Service will honor Chestnut with a stamp in its Black Heritage Series. And Ferguson is proud to mark the occasion by speaking at an all-day event Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Fayetteville State University's Charles Chestnut Library. Chestnut, born in 1858, was the second principal of what is now FSU.

"If you're going to look at 19th-century

American literature, you've got to read Chestnut," said Ferguson. Houghton Mifflin recently published "Charles W. Chestnut: Selected Writings," an edition she edited, in their New Riverside Series on American Literature. She is also writing a full-length critical study of Chestnut's works.

Chestnut grew up in Fayetteville but left the area for Cleveland, Ohio, in 1893. Widely considered the first major black novelist, he published several essays, novels and short story collections including "The Marrow of Tradition," "The House Behind the Cedars" and "The Conjure Woman." "Marrow" is a fictionalized account of the brutal 1898 Wilmington race riots.

"All Chestnut did was deal with facts," Ferguson said.

WXII's Pulitzer new board chair at NCSA

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA) recently elected a new chair of its Board of Trustees: Michael Edgar Pulitzer, Jr., of Winston-Salem.

In addition, Lee A. Chaden, Claire C. Christopher and Jackson D.

"J.D." Wilson, Jr., all of Winston-Salem, and Barbara Goodmon of Raleigh have joined the board.



Pulitzer

Pulitzer is a broadcasting/digital media executive who serves as station manager for WXII TV/Digital Media, which has the network affiliation with NBC and is owned by Hearst Argyle Television. He serves as president of the UNC School Journalism Foundation and is a past president (2002) of the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters. He also is a board member of the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, for which he recently chaired a strategic planning summit. He is a past chairman of the Piedmont Triad Film Commission. He is the current and founding chairman of the Arthritis Foundation of the Carolinas' Piedmont Triad Council and serves on Rotary, Hospice, Youth Opportunities and Piedmont Club boards. He is married to Ramelle Cochrane Pulitzer, owner and director of the Hawthorne Gallery in Winston-Salem.

Chaden has been executive chairman of Hanesbrands Inc. since April 2006. Christopher serves on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, the Weatherspoon Arts Foundation of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the Friends of the Art Board of Sweet Briar College, the Board of the Center for Women Writers of Salem College, and the Reynolda House Museum of American Art Advisory Board.

Wilson is president and CEO of Excalibur Enterprises, Inc., a marketing communications firm based in Winston-Salem that he founded in 1972. Goodmon is president and executive director of the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, which supports nonprofit organizations in their endeavors to enrich the lives and well-being of people in North Carolina.

The NCSA Board of Trustees is composed of 19 citizens with eight members elected by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and four appointed by the governor of North Carolina.

