

# What's happening!

By Bob Johnson

**MONUMENTAL EXPERIENCE...** Many people will move about their daily routine this week with different attitudes about themselves and the people around them. Alex Haley's book "Roots" adapted for and shown on TV by the American Broadcasting Company is the reason for the change. Millions of people watched this week-long, star-studded program, that traced Alex Haley's family back to Africa and Kunta Kinte, encompassing 7 generations.

I happened to be one of the people caught up in the splendid magnetism of it all, which no doubt spurred a lot of conversation with people I came in contact with. After asking around, I received the following responses about the movie:



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"I feel that there might be a lot of stuff behind that story," said Pamela Jinwright, a student at Johnson C. Smith University. "Mr. Haley lets us know of the hardships black people had and how we should strive to get ahead. He also let us know that those people had more sense than we gave them credit for."

Greg McMurray thought the program was very cool and that it's theme was very historical. The photographer - student would like to see more programs like this one to keep us in tune with ourselves.

"Roots was an excellent film," says Delores Barnes, an Elementary School teacher. "It provided much family entertainment. I feel like it really opened the eyes of many citizens about the colonization of our early Americans. Hopefully it will change the way a lot of people think."

I really felt it was a magnificent piece of work."

Kim Johnson, a sixth grade pupil at Merry Oaks School said, "I watched the movie 'Roots' and thought it was very good. It was the best movie I had ever seen. It was a sad movie," asserted the little miss. "And it taught me a lot about slavery."

"The movie 'Roots' was fantastic, the scenery was beautiful and the scenes were very moving," said Carolyn Eubanks, a student at Central Piedmont Community College. "But it's pitiful and very sad to see how whites treated blacks during that time. We have come a long way and I think that we should be thankful to God for bringing us out of that type of bondage."

You saw the movie, what do you think? How do you feel?

**CULTURAL BOOM...** Charlotte is rapidly becoming a major Southeastern metropolis. The new office buildings, the new motels and hotels, the large industries that find the climate and growth factor suitable for business, and the thoroughfares that can zip you in, out and around the city all are evidences of growth. Inherent in this growth however is an increase in population, and an obvious shake up of the complacent attitudes of people who are used to doing the same old thing.

The Black Arts Guild, an infant cultural group, created by this shake up by such non-complacent people as Scheryl Gant, Michael Connor, T.J. Reddy, Vicki Torrey, Carolyn Pratt, Michael Porter, Patrice Carter, Al and Ruby Minter, C.B. Claiborne, Rudolph Carter, Andy Wallace and Tim Vickers, is developing a center for black art. They are searching for artists and other people interested in promoting art in this town. The group also plans to keep talented young folk informed about grants and funds available for artists.

The Guild is making plans now for the production of their first project, Kuumba II, sometime in the spring. Kuumba is a Swahilian term meaning creativity.

For further information about the group, its purpose and how you can become involved, call Carolyn Pratt at 372-6888.

**JAMM AT THE HOUSE...**The Bickett Wade home was used last Saturday night to warm the spirits and bodies of a number of friends and relatives.

The occasion was a birthday party given for Bickett by his lovely wife Jacqueline. "And what a party it was," stated Freddy Spicer who was still reflecting on it at the time I rapped with him.

Freddy wasn't the only person who really got off at this party. Others included Henry Pagan, Beverly Pagan, Jevetta Bruton, Zachariah Bruton, Diane Johnson, Johnny Johnson, Eugene Jones, Carolyn Jones, Anita Wade, Steve Young, Emily Wade, Jonie Wade, Christopher Wade, Jacqueline McCullough, Calvin McCullough, Annetta Queen, Angela Knotts, Gail Spicer, Herbert Spicer, Gary Phine, Donnell Little, Chris Taylor, Jimmy Taylor, James Brewer, George Davis, Alberta Burroughs, and Eric Young.



The Alpha Alpha Chapter of Alpha Pi Chi Sorority, Inc., who, along with members of the Alpha Beta Chapter, recent sponsors of the new Chapter Theta Omega in Lexington, N.C., is holding a meeting on Saturday, February 12, at the home of Soror Roberta Lyles. Officers of the Alpha Alpha Chapter are Virginia Stepteanu, President; Mable Dykes, Vice President; Carolyn Gibson, Recording Secretary; Johnnie Yongue, Corresponding Secretary; Sadie Griggs, Financial Secretary; Ethyle Haynes, Treasurer; Margaret Harris, Historian; Halfe Zanders, Parliamentarian; and Mable Redder, Carnation girl.

## For Energy Conservation MCCC Launches Clothes It Up Week

"Close-it-up...clothes-it-up" is the name of a program that has been launched by the Mecklenburg County Citizens' Committee for Energy Conservation to help local residents conserve energy at home, at work, and in their automobiles.

The committee, in response to needs brought about by one of the County's coldest winters, plus crisis-level natural gas shortages, is sponsoring the distribution of helpful information through the news media and in other ways.

Mary Dawn Liston, chairman of the citizens' committee, urges County residents "to think energy conservation and to cut back energy consumption in every possible way." Three basic approaches are suggested:

1. The committee is asking citizens to "close-it-up," to check their own homes for heat leakage. An open fireplace damper, for instance, draws out as much as 20 percent of a home's warm air per hour.

Ms. Liston, a member of the UNCC Institute of Urban Studies

and Community Service staff, says that only a handful of the 142,000 residents in Mecklenburg County "approach energy efficiency standards." All residents, she says, need to check their homes for heat loss through doors, windows, ceilings, and cracks. Also, she pointed out that uninsulated or underinsulated ceilings are costly to the homeowner and to the community. For this reason homeowners are urged to install insulation, if they have none, or upgrade substandard insulation.

2. The citizens' committee is asking Mecklenburg residents to "clothes-it-up," or dress warmly for every occasion.

"Wearing layers of clothing is 'in,'" says Ms. Liston. And she adds that two light-weight sweaters are warmer than one heavy one. The space between the two sweaters provides insulation and keeps you warmer by about one degree.

3. The committee is asking residents to "cool it," or turn down thermostats during the day and night in the winter.

each degree cooler on the thermostat decreases the heating bill by three percent, according to the committee. Recommended settings are 62 degrees during the day and 55 degrees at night.

Citizens interested in energy-conserving tips should contact the Mecklenburg County Engineering Department, 1501 I-85 North, Telephone 374-3207 or 374-3208. For specific information about insulating your home, contact David Waymer of the Mecklenburg County Agricultural Extension Service, 301 Billingsley Road, telephone 374-2561.

The Mecklenburg County Citizens' Committee for Energy Conservation was appointed by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners to develop energy conservation measures for the public and the private sector.

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