



Catch a rising star

Want to see some of Charlotte's hottest rising stars? Check out the annual Queen City Talent Showcase Friday at Theatre Charlotte, 501 Queens Road. Local singers, dancers, musicians and actors will vie for prizes that include \$1,000 for adult first and \$200 for juniors. The competition begins at 8 p.m. The special guest host will be golden oldie disc jockey Rockin' Ray Gooding. Sponsored by the Charlotte Area Association of Black Journalists, the event will feature music by Upscale, a jazz trio. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Proceeds will benefit CABJ's annual scholarship competition. For tickets or information, call 358-5079 or 258-5086.

Neighbors unite

Did you live in First Ward before 1963? One of Charlotte's oldest neighborhoods, First Ward, was razed in the 1960 to make way for Earle Village - destroying more than 60 years of memories for the area's predominantly African American residents. The First Ward Organization, formed by former First Ward denizens, will host a picnic and dinner Saturday at Hornet's Nest Park on Beatties Ford Road. Festivities begin at 2 p.m. For more information, call 392-4541 or 373-1535.

Emergency assistance program reopens

The Emergency Assistance Program of Mecklenburg County will begin taking appointments for those in need of assistance with rent, utility bills and other emergency services. Interviews begin Wednesday. EAP helps county residents with financial difficulties due to lost hours, lay off or weather crisis. To make an appointment with a representative, call 336-4035.

Tea Time

Got a few hours free Saturday? Check out the Charlotte Chapter of the National MBA Association's golf classic. Some of Charlotte's top golfers will vie for prizes that include a car, a trip to Jamaica and a set of oversized irons. Tea time is set for 9:30 a.m. at Regent Park Golf Club.

Festival of reading set to begin

Got some poetry that's just begging to be published? The Beatties Ford Road Branch Library will hold a lecture series for people interested in being published, Oct. 13-15. For more information, call 336-2882. The Post will host an evening with Connie Briscoe, Oct. 23 at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Briscoe, author of best-sellers "Sisters and Lovers" and "Big Girls Don't Cry," also edits the American Annals of the Deaf. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. Afterwards, Briscoe will meet fans and sign copies of her works. Tickets are \$10. The events are part of Novello.

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A million strong



Local organizers of The Million Woman March hope to send ten buses to the Oct. 25 March. The group has been holding planning sessions since June. Pictured above, group leaders Kenda Feaster, Michelle Massey and Angel Whiteside.

Local women make plans for march

By Jeri Young THE CHARLOTTE POST

On Oct. 24, Charlotte Allen hopes to see scores of African American women gathered at the corner of Sugar Creek Road and North Tryon Street. Enough to fill 10 buses for the Million Woman March. "If they're not here on time, we're going to leave them," Allen, 47, said with a laugh. "We are going to be on the road by 9 a.m. We have a long drive ahead of us." Allen is one of the founders of the Daughters of the Million Woman March, a gathering of women of all color slated for Oct. 25 on Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway. In the spirit of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's 1995 Million Man March, which drew at least 1 million men to Washington, D.C., MWM will mark a renewal for women. "This is an event which will bring our issues to a global level," Tabiyah Ngozi, public relations coordinator for the march, said in an interview last month with The Philadelphia Tribune. "We are encouraging sisters from around the country to bring their issues. We as females are always concerned about our children, our families,

health and medical care and education." Invited guests include Winnie Mandela and Million Woman March founder Phile Chai-neous. Platform issues for the march include a national vow of support for Congressional Black Caucus chair Rep. Maxine Waters as well as a call for schools to address the special needs of African American children. Organizers also hope to bring attention to the plight of women who have been incarcerated, the revival of neighborhood health centers and the need for more black women leaders. These are issues that hit home with members of Daughters of the Million Woman March. Every other Friday, 20 to 30 women meet at the Greenville

Center to talk and share stories. They also plan their trip to Philadelphia. Daughters encompasses women of all backgrounds, brought together by their belief that women can make a difference. "I guess it's a response to the men's march," Mischelle Massey, 30, said. "It shows that women can come together to support a cause that betters them. Togetherness is a big part of the event."

Massey, an engineer for the city of Rock Hill, said she started going to the meetings after she heard about the march. As a black woman in a white male-dominated field, meetings like these are important, she said. "When I heard about the march, I wanted to be part of it," Massey said. "I felt like it was important to women."

Men will be allowed to come, but won't have a significant role. Most will provide security. "We are also asking for those who want to volunteer, either as our entertainment or those who care to do fund raising or give a donation, to do so," Ngozi said.

The fact that the march is being held in Philadelphia, site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, also holds special significance for women.

"We really do need to get together for ourselves and our kids," Allen said. "If we want a better future for our kids, we need to do this."



Minister Robert Muhammad of the Nation of Islam addresses Daughters of the Million Woman March during their weekly meeting. Women interested in attending should call 732-6915 or 241-4140.

Web provides place of mourning

By Patricia J. Mays THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WOODSTOCK, Ga. - The desolate cemetery with its indistinguishable rows of tombstones has taken on a different tone in cyberspace, where more and more grievers are turning to memorialize the dead. The cyberspace cemeteries posted on the World Wide Web allow mourners to share their grief and, in return, strangers who stumble onto the site often respond with poignant thoughts about their own losses or just offer condolences. "This is a wonderful way for people to make contacts, reach out to other people," said Judy Tatelbaum, a psychotherapist and author in Carmel, Calif. "In terms of grief, any possible way people can communicate with other peo-

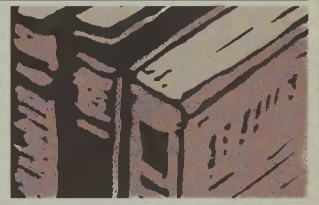
ple will help them heal." The Web sites include memoirs ranging from photographs and biographies to audio clips of the deceased's favorite songs and tributes from friends and relatives. "It's a way for them to say 'Hey, I'm here, I was here, I made a difference,'" said Ben Delaney, president of Sausalito, Calif.-based CyberEdge Information Services, which tracks virtual reality and interactive media trends. "These kind of memorials are way to show others that these people existed." Lois Mickelson of Tacoma, Wash., turned to the Web after her 11-year-old daughter, Carol, died in March 1996 after health problems since birth. Initially she was hesitant about posting Carol's biography and photograph on the Web, but then decide it would be a perfect place to share

her daughter's story with the world. "It's a place for me ... to remember my daughter. I missed mothering my daughter. I missed being able to do things for her," said Mickelson. Carol's page, which has had more than 9,700 visitors on its Virtual Memorials site, chronicles her fight with epilepsy. A photo of the smiling little girl appears on a pink background filled with red hearts on one page. Another page, decorated with Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse in the background, is of Carol's favorite things: Power Rangers, an animated Barney whose eye twinkles, and a bouncing Winnie the Pooh. "It's been very healing for me, doing the memorial. It's been very beneficial and therapeutic in me adjusting to life without my

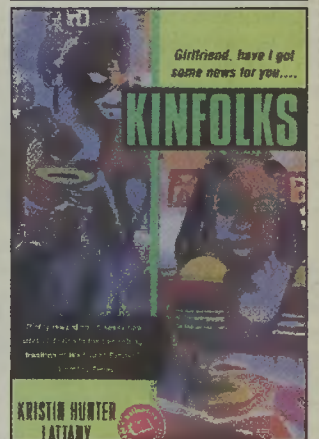
daughter." One browser, Tom Mester, who inadvertently stumbled upon Carol's page, wrote: "Well, I echo the feelings that everyone else has said on this page. I also did not know your little girl, but certainly do feel I know her now." Another attraction of the online gravesites is their broad exposure - accessible any in the world, making it especially convenient for those who couldn't attend the funeral or were unaware of the death. That was the case for Donna Ranallo of Pittsburgh, whose 17-year-old son Charlie died in a traffic accident after the prom in 1995. Charlie's site is filled with messages from school pals, teachers and strangers. "I have received so many beautiful

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Cover To Cover



By Jeri Young THE CHARLOTTE POST Kinfolks Kristin Hunter Lattany Ballentine 1997 \$10.95

There's just something about kinfolk.

The love. The closeness. The kindness. The problems.

In Kinfolks, the hilarious latest book by veteran author Kristin Hunter Lattany, the relationship between siblings and their parents is explored. And exposed.

When the children of two aging single moms get engaged, a shocking secret is revealed.

The kids have the same father - smooth talking, poetry reciting professor and ex-freedom fighter Gene Green. Cherry and Patrice figure if they got suckered by Gene maybe there are more women out there that used his...ah...services.

Of course there are! The rest of the book is a raucous romp throughout the country to find the rest of the "kinfolk." Cute and funny. Definitely worth picking up.

The Assassination of the Black Male Image Earl Ofari Hutchinson Ph.D Touchstone 1997 \$11

Earl Ofari Hutchinson uses his pen as weapon.

In his column for the National Newspaper Publisher's Association, he rages about everything from race to economics - spreading knowledge and making people think.

In his groundbreaking "The Assassination of the Black Male Image," Hutchinson turns his pen to rework the media's view of black men. In the process he steps on many toes and takes the reader on an exhausting journey.

When the book was first published in 1994, it caused a stir. Folks were angry because Hutchinson is an equal opportunity destroyer. He not only "calls out" white America, he also reminds black America of its mistakes.

He disses "Boyz N the Hood," both the movie and the lifestyle. He reminds us of the horror of Chuck Stuart - a white Bostonian who after killing his wife and unborn child, claimed the crime was committed by an African American.

He takes on athletics. "Black men aren't like normal people. With all that muscle and brawn, black men are supposed to be impervious to injury and pain. Even if they come armed with a dozen letters from doctors and specialists supporting their injury claim, it won't stop the owners

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