

# Around Charlotte

Continued from 16A

1623 Carmel Road, 10 a.m.

**• Saturday**  
Mecklenburg County Chemical Dependency Center, 100 Billingsley Road, 10:30 a.m.  
Amethyst Treatment Center, 1716 Sharon Road West, 7 p.m. For ages 13-20 only.  
For more information, call 319-1625.

**Thursday**

•Community Forum, "Twelve Points of Truth," Fighting Back Office, 1500 N. Tryon St., 7 p.m. Presenter, Judy Carter.

**Saturday**

•Concert, Carolina Pro Musica, 10 a.m. International House, 322 Hawthorne Lane.

•Charlotte Celia Sprue meeting, Carolinas Medical Center, third floor dining room 1, 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 336-3493 or 588-6842.

**Sunday**

•The Carolina Panthers

Women's Association will have its annual holiday canned food drive at the Panther-Raider game at Ericsson Stadium. Fans attending the game should bring canned or non-perishable food items with them. Volunteers will be at each gate to collect the items. For those not attending the game, donations can be made at Rhodes Furniture stores through Nov. 7.  
The Salvation Army will have red kettles set-up at the game for those who wish to make monetary donations.

**Tuesday**

•Meeting, Independence Chapter of the American Business Women's Association, Holiday Inn, Independence, Independence Boulevard at Eastway Dr. 6:15 p.m. Guest speaker, Paula Decarbo of ReMax Master Associates.

**Thursday**

•Charlotte East Community Partners will discuss the needs of schools in east Charlotte at 7 p.m. at Garinger High School. Principals, business representa-

tives, PTAs, parents and other interested persons are invited to attend. In addition to an overview of such issues as maintenance and school supplies, there will be breakout groups to discuss specific needs of elementary, middle and high schools. For more information call Susan Lindsay, 537-2269.

•African American art historian Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins will kick off Davidson College's Ethnic Studies Lecture Series with a look at the cross-cultural influences of art in history.

LeFalle-Collins' lecture will examine a Mexican movement of the 1920s and 1930s in which artists created murals that publicly glorified common workers, the indigenous population and their contributions to Mexican history. Several African American artists, including Charles White, Elizabeth Catlett and Hale Woodruff, spent time in Mexico studying the movement, reflected in their subsequent art works.

One of the foremost students of the style was John Biggers of Gastonia, a student of Charles White.

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## 'Drumbeats' warmly received

Continued from 16A

down letters were positive." Lambert says the uniqueness of his book made it easier to publish.

"My book is unique because it deals with Africans and Africa as it relates to Americans," Lambert says. "Some publishers might not have found that interesting, but it worked for others."

Lambert is currently at work on his second novel, which once again delves into the problems of Africans in America. This time, he's writing about Cinque, the Sierra Leonian slave who led the successful revolt of the Amistad.

This book won't take as long, he says. Lambert started earlier this year and hopes to finish in late 1998.

"I think having been a published author, I will definitely be able to be published," Lambert says. "The first book I had to learn as I went along."

*Drumbeats from Kabala is available at Barnes and Noble, Newsstand International, Border and The Heritage House.*

## Child care on Clinton agenda

Continued from 16A

care for their workers. A national registry of child-care workers with criminal records, an idea mentioned in the past by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, will not be proposed, according to administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. Officials expect the conference to set the stage for Clinton's State of the Union speech next year, when he is expected to highlight child care. His administration also plans to include some initiative in next year's budget proposal.

Advocates say they'll be watching. "The proof is in the pudding," said Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund, which has child care at the top of its 1998 legislative agenda. "A White House conference, in and of itself, won't lead to much."

Generally, the federal government has only a small role in child care. One program provides about \$3 billion, mostly to help low-income parents pay bills. States are responsible for setting standards, enforcing them and adding any other money for subsidies.

But across the states, the problems in child care are many, including wide variations in quality and inconsistent regulations that sometimes go unenforced.

Workers are paid an average of just \$6.89 an hour, and they come and go quickly. Nationally, about one-third of workers leave each year. And a forthcoming study by the Families and Work Institute found that in Florida, a state with above-average retention, just 2 percent of teachers remained after four years.

The bottom line, according to a recent University of Colorado study, is that 12 percent of centers provide less than minimal quality care, and only 14 percent are rated good.

Meanwhile, it's expensive. A typical family will spend nearly \$4,000 a year on child care. The poorest end up spending 25 percent of their income.

The problem cuts across class. Middle-class parents may be able to afford child care, but worry whether centers and homes are safe.

For mothers trying to come off welfare and into low-wage jobs, the question is how to pay. Some subsidies are available, depending on the state, but even those

who qualify have the same quality concerns.

"It's probably the worst feeling in the world," said Kim Noyd of Menomonie, Wis., who stopped

trusting centers after her 6-year-old daughter told her that a worker had touched her in a sexual way.

Meanwhile, the working poor are often caught in the middle.

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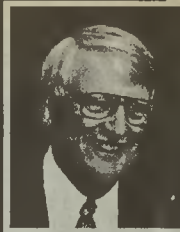
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