

High school teams get to stepping at Cricket Arena



Central Cabarrus High School won last year's Sheila Stewart High School Step Show.

By Cheris F. Hodges
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Young folk will have a foot-stomping good time Saturday.

The fourth annual Sheila Stewart High School Step Show is 7-10 p.m. at Cricket Arena. This year, Stewart partnered with the Mecklenburg County Help Department's "Stomping out Tobacco" program.

"The kids needed to hear a positive message," she said.

The steppers have to include a 15 second message in their routine about the dangers of tobacco.

Stewart, news and public

affairs director at WPEG (97.9 FM), said she started doing the shows because young people needed something to do and to show the public a positive image of young African Americans.

"Here's an event where kids come out and have a good time and cheer on the school of their choice," she said.

Participants will also get a chance to meet some of their favorite radio personalities and celebrities. Judges include Carolina Panthers Ricky Manning, Mike Minter, Muhsin Muhammad and DeShaun Foster as well

as WPEG personalities; Choppa from MTV's "Making The Band II," K-Ci and Jo-Jo, Calvin Richardson and actor Omar Epps.

Stewart expects 8,000 people this year.

Proceeds from the events go to the Sheila Stewart Education Foundation. Stewart said she has assisted 25 students with scholarships, totaling \$15,000.

"My father always stressed the importance of education," she said. "And I promised God if he blessed me with a degree and a successful career, I would give back."

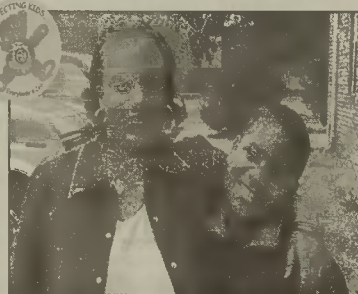
Tickets for the event are \$12 in advance and can be purchased from Ticketmaster at (704) 522-6500, No Grease Barbershops and Jacobs Barbershop.

Kids advocate for other children and themselves

Every child wants a home," says 12-year-old Cronetta. "So help the children in the world because everybody needs a parent."

Cronetta and her brother Robert, age 10 are spokespeople for children in foster care who are waiting for adoptive families in Mecklenburg neighborhoods. They know what it feels like to be waiting - they are waiting for parents to adopt them.

"Cronetta is insightful, engaging, and outgoing - she has a strong sense



Cronetta and Robert are two of many children waiting to be adopted in Mecklenburg County.

of responsibility, appreciates guidance, and has a positive outlook on life," says long-time friend Evelyn Dillard. "Robert has an engaging

smile, pleasant personality and has a special interest in music." Both Cronetta and Robert sing

in the church choir together.

"I love my brother, he's always been part of my life," states Cronetta. "I want to be adopted into the same family with Robert."

If you are interested in finding out more about Cronetta and Robert or other children awaiting adoption, call Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services at 704-336-KIDS (5437).



Communities for Families & Kids
MECKLENBURG COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

Bond from captivity

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ture and never disclose more information than that.

"If it hadn't been for Porter or someone like him, I couldn't have made it," he said.

Cherry didn't trust Halyburton right away. He thought he was a French spy.

Halyburton said it took him a little time to win Cherry's trust. He said once they began to trust one another, they leaned on each other to survive.

"I was self-centered at the time and I only worried about how I was going to survive," the Davidson native said. "But seeing Fred there, and knowing he was worse off than I was, I had to help him and he gave me something important to do."

Like Cherry, Halyburton said if it weren't for his friend, he wouldn't have survived the seven and a half years in captivity.

The men's friendship and horrors of being POWs is chronicled in the new book

"Two Souls Indivisible: The friendship that saved two POWs in Vietnam," written by James Hirsch, author of "Hurricane." The book was released Monday. And the three men made a stop at Davidson College the same day for a book signing.

"I wanted to write a book with a new racial template," Hirsch said. The former journalist said he writes about race because of his travels around the country and sees it is a central issue in American life.

He said Cherry's and Halyburton's story is one of the great race stories in America. "Race often causes great tension, but for these men it created a lasting bond. Fred and Porter are proud of the way they handled themselves."

Save your skin with some care

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men should use a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 4.

"Tightly woven fabrics are also a good defense against burning rays," the web site states.

Some products to consider:

For women-
Super-C Cleanser Gentle Face Wash from Jason: The cleanser includes witch hazel, grape seed, and chamomile extracts to cleanse skin. Has a gentle foaming action, idea for all skin types.

BioVitamin Moisturizer: This moisturizer contains apple peel extract and vitamin C.

For men-
Anthony Logistics glycolic facial cleanser: The cleanser has Aloe Vera gel to soothe, glycolic acid and naturally occurring AHAs to reduce fine lines, and Vitamins A, C, and E to nourish. Together, these ingredients buff away surface cells, leaving skin smooth and ready to shave. Also prevents ingrown hairs

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS: Potential Bidders Information Session

Please join CATS for an informative workshop on bidding, contracts and requirements for the South Corridor Light Rail Project.

May 25, 2004 at 9:00 am

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Govt. Center
600 East 4th Street
Charlotte, North Carolina
City Council Chambers (lobby level)



(704) 336-RIDE
www.ridetransit.org



Topics include: bidding and contract requirements, DBE participation requirements, project overview and project schedule.

There will also be a Corridor Bus Tour at 1:30 pm. To reserve your seat, please call (704) 432-0499 by Friday, May 21.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Green at (704) 336-2267 or via email at jagreen@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

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