

D Section

AA&EE



Part Reading Poetry All Party!



PHOTO: CURTIS WILSON

Soultury Tuesdays combines literary lights, good times

By Cheri F. Hodges

Tuesday isn't just the second day of the week anymore, it's soultry.

At least, Scott Reeves and Danny Eason hope that's how people look at it. Eason and Reeves sponsor Soultury Tuesdays at Wine Up in NoDa. The event is part poetry reading, part book discussion, part wine tasting and all party.

"A friend of mine was telling me that they have a lot of book readings out here," Eason said. "So, I told Scott about it and the idea was for us to have a book discussion here."

The original idea, Eason said, was for different book clubs to come out and discuss books by various authors. But as luck would have it, the first book they chose was by a local author.

"The first night we came, we had Glen Hutchinson. He's a poet and his book was 'Nudity Invades Charlotte,'" Eason said.

Because of the crowd response and the fact that Charlotte is filled with authors, Eason and Reeves decided to focus their soultury readings on local scribes. So far they've held discussions for authors like Cheryl Mayfield Brown and Ahmad Daniels.

But this isn't the library. At Wine Up there's wine tasting, food that Reeves and Eason prepare and giveaways for the patrons.

"A lot of people are starting to respond to having the authors come," Eason said. "Each author we have, we like to do what they like."

Reeves said that because the party's sponsor, Real Eyes Bookstore, hosts authors that come through to do signings, he and Eason wanted to give the readers a chance to get to know the writers better.

"The space is just so small downstairs, we decided to link up and just bring

everybody upstairs for the reading and discussions," Reeves said.

The crowd changes with the type of book that's being discussed, they say. The book discussion aspect of Soultury Tuesdays is two months old, but Soultury Tuesdays is a poetry spot every week.

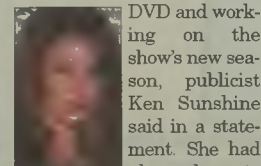
Want to Go? What: Soultury Tuesdays When: Open mic poetry every Tuesday, book discussions every second and fourth Tuesday Where: Wine Up, 3306 North Davidson St. Cost: \$5

Paula Abdul backs down

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Scheduling conflicts will keep Paula Abdul from appearing in the new Fox TV talent contest "So You Think You Can Dance," her publicist said Friday.

Abdul will be too busy promoting an "American Idol"



Abdul DVD and working on the show's new season, publicist Ken Sunshine said in a statement. She had planned to appear as a guest choreographer in several episodes of "So You Think You Can Dance."

"We had not anticipated the time commitment required to successfully produce and appear" in the show, Sunshine said. "It became apparent that her prior commitments ... made it impossible to be part of this new show."

Fox Broadcasting and the show's producers issued a statement saying they "respect Paula's decision to step away."

"We wish her all the best and look forward to working with her soon," the statement read.

The series roughly follows the pattern of "American Idol," with dance contestants competing against each other for \$100,000 and an apartment in New York for a year. Viewers will pick the winner.

Fox and the producers of "American Idol" recently announced they have hired an independent counsel to investigate a claim that Abdul had an affair with an "American Idol" contestant during the show's second season. Abdul has denied former contestant Corey Clark's allegation.

Sunset Jazz something to Shout about

By Cheri F. Hodges

The Pride Sunset Jazz series is back, but different this year.

Usually a Sunday event, the series was interrupted last year when a gunman opened fire at Frazier Park. The new format, which is a part of Charlotte Shout, packs three concerts into one weekend.

"We'd toyed with the idea of (putting the concerts into one weekend) before the violence occurred last year," said series organizer Torrey Feimster. "It's easi-

er for us as a concert organizer to do it in one weekend."

So when Center City Partners asked if Pride Sunset Jazz wanted to be a part of Charlotte Shout, Feimster said it seemed like a good match. "The new format enables us to reach a larger demographic which will include a diverse audience of jazz lovers," he said.

In other words, people who come from other places to experience Charlotte Shout! will now get a taste of Pride Jazz.

Robert Krumbine, executive director of Charlotte Shout, is also pleased about the partnership. "Charlotte Shout is proud to welcome the Pride Jazz Festival as a key component of the celebration. The festival's move out of the summer and into September allows us the opportunity to add a strong and diverse event to Charlotte Shout. Partnering with the Pride Jazz Festival also allows us to bring back one of the cornerstones of Shout as we first envisioned it. Now, jazz is back

at Charlotte Shout." The new Pride Sunset Jazz Series kicks off Sept. 9 with Roland Guerin and the Roland Guerin Quintet at Booth Playhouse. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance and \$15 the night of the show.

On Saturday, Jazz on the Green will be free and held at The Green Uptown on South Tryon Street. The event winds down on Sunday with a \$5 concert at the Mint Museum on Randolph Road.

Feimster said he hopes Please see SUNSET/2D

MOVIE REVIEW

'Four Brothers' only: Action film is loud and mindless fun

By Cheri F. Hodges

John Singleton's latest movie, "Four Brothers" is just that, for brothers.

It's loud, violent and some times crude. Just the kind of mindless action movie than is geared toward men.

The movie opens with Evelyn Mercer, a Detroit foster mother, talking to a little boy stealing candy from a local store. With her wit and wisdom, she teaches the kid a lesson about shoplifting. The little boy goes home and then all heck breaks loose. Two

masked robbers come in and kill the store clerk and Evelyn.

Enter the brothers: Bobby (Mark Wahlberg), Angel (Tyrese Gibson) Jack, (Garrett Hedlund) and Jeremiah (Andre Benjamin - yeah, that dude from OutKast).

Bobby is a hothead who returns to Detroit wanting to know who killed his mother. When he finds out, he wants to put them in the ground with her. If he has to shoot and kill other people to find out who was behind Evelyn's death, then that's what he and his brothers will do.



PHOTO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Andre Benjamin gives a weak performance in Four Brothers.



Babyface's new CD is good song collection

Babyface flashes 'Grown & Sexy' Grown & Sexy Babyface & Clive Davis, Executive Producers Arista/Sony BMG



Now that "Grown & Sexy" is finally out, the jury may still be out. Many were put off with the many delays and moved on to other singers. If so, fans need to come back. Despite the title, "Grown & Sexy" is quite the recording.

There's nothing that's a guaranteed hit, but at least Babyface has gone back to concentrating on the melodies that made him such a sought-after writer and not just trendy fluff. He still dabbles in some silliness, talking of "ghetto chains" and "flossin'" but he keeps that stuff to a minimum.

What Babyface does best is offer good stories coupled with great melodies. His songs deal more with the heart than the libido. "Sorrow For The Stupid Things" finds him on familiar ground. He's had his heart broken because of mistakes and bad actions. It's a heart-tugging story by a contrite lover who's now alone. It's one of the better songs Face has offered in a number of years. "She" has a twofold purpose. He's praising the two loves of his life - his son and wife. He tells his son to be thankful for his parents' love because "you and I would never be." "Good To Be In Love" is simply an ode to being in love. "The Loneliness" is very Stevie Wonder sounding, finding Face pouring his heart out again.

Babyface does flash some bedroom eyes as well. "Tonight It's Goin' Down" is as obvious as it is infectious. "Grown & Sexy" is male posturing at its best.

Face puts a different spin on the breakup song. "Goin' Out of Business," equating an ended relationship to a store closing. It's blunt and comical and tastefully done, as breakups go.

This isn't the perfect package, but "Grown & Sexy" is one of the better collections of songs you'll hear this year.



PHOTO/STOCK MARKET

Ratings

Table with 2 columns: Rating (Classic, Excellent, Good, Fair, Why?, No stars - A mess) and Star count (5 stars, 4 stars, 3 stars, 2 stars, 1 star).

Angel, the pretty boy, is just as violent as Bobby, but a little calmer.

Jack, the baby boy, basically does whatever Bobby says and Jeremiah, who has his own family, tries to be the conscience.

But as the brothers learn the police are less than thorough in their investigation, they take the law into their own hands, shaking the underbelly of Detroit looking for the killers. What they find seems to point to one of their

See FOUR BROTHERS/2D