Cultural Festival Is Slated for April 1 At N. C. Central University

It's not every year that Durhamites awaken from a snowy winter to the music, art, dance, drama, food and good times of a Kuumba Mmelita – a creative cultural revival. On the lawn of North Carolina Central's James E. Shepard Library, a revival of the arts will span the day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. If it rains, the festival will be held the following Sunday.

A family affair, the festival's coordinators, Ms. Barbara Taylor and Ms. Wendy Merritt, have issue an invitation for "us to join together to make our community more beautiful, to strengthen community cohesiveness, and to improve the quality of life for our people through love, creativity, imagination, music and action."

Ms. Taylor and Ms. Merrit – plus the entertainers and artists – are volunteering their services to bring the community together. There are no admission fees.

Both women lead busy lives. Wendy Merritt is the proprietor of LOTUS, a personal shopping service. Barbara Taylor has a daughter, Dan, and is dormitory director at NCCU's Eagleson Hall. She is also a graduate student in counseling.

It's action that these two women are about. Already assembled are an impressive group of musicians, graphic artists, literary artists, fashion designers, you name it, and it's likely to be there. Groups and individuals who have not received their invitations are urged to contact Ms. Taylor at 683-6464 or Ms. Merritt at 286-0695.

"During the course of the day, everybody might be able to find time to come out," said Ms. Merritt, as she listed a who's who of local artists.

On stage will be Ysef and Friends featuring Eve Cornelius, Monseiur and Elmer Gibson, Rachiim Sahu and Les Soundz, featuring Bobby Moss, NCCU's Jazz stage band, New Central Connection, a jazz and rock group, and also Wall Street who have recently cut a new album featuring many compositions of Bill Aurey. JUICE, another group of NCCU students that plays a little of everything between rock and jazz will also perform. Hugh Peterson, who produced the sound track for the premier of JoAnne McKnight's play, "Insense Burners", will be on hand as well.

The enormous amount of musical talent will keep working all day., masters of ceremony, Shangha (Donald Baker), WDBS's host of Maiden Voyage, and WTVD's Minority Affairs Director, Walter Norflett. Norflett regularly hosts a jazz program on WVSP-FM in Warrenton.

Dancers haven't been overlooked. Mrs. Kay Sullivan's group will perform to "Satin Doll" as well as other tunes. A student dance group at NCCU, coached by Ms. Emma Deese, will be on stage as well.

Palywright Rebecca Ransom will direct a preview from "Bobby Bolden Blues", a non-fiction account of the musician's life. Cast for the event will include pianist-composer Yusel Saliim, vocalist Eve Cornelius and Dr. Minnie Forte.

Well versed poets will be on the lawn which is surrounded by tall buildings – making the area almost a natural amphitheatre.

Paintings, ceramics, macrame, jewelry and other graphics and arts will be on display and for sale, featuring artists Sharon Spencer, Viola and Ed Leak, Dora Hinson, Sharon Payne, William O'Farrow, and Don Underhill, Mike Guy, Don Nelson, Alphonso Davis, Mercedes Thompson.

Photographers Alvin Lester and Ted Brooks will display their prints.

There'll be needlepoint and quilting by Melissa Hasty, acrylics by David Jefferson and hair designing by Della McCrae.

There'll be no need to bring that picnic basket, unless you just want to bring food along. Natural foods will be served from two booths staffed by Sunshine Natural Foods, and the Sisterhood. Catering will be Broswy Catering Service, providing refreshments and baloons will be the Swing Phi Swing Fellowship.

Don't worry, kids! Residents of Eagleson of Eagleson Hall will sell popcorn.

Yeah, the coordinators confirm the rumor that cartoonist Sam Morrison will display his imaginative cartoons.

All the way from Nigeria, Kingsley Abajo, Ms. Merritt says, will show artifacts and jewelry from home.

LAST MINUTE CHANGES for Kuumba Mmelita are being discussed by Ms. Barbara Taylor (left) and Ms. Wendy Merritt (right). The cultural revival is set for April 1 on the lawn of NCCU's J. E. Shepard Library. The day's events will begin at 11 a.m., and will include music, dance, food, and many other art forms. Photo by Kelvin A. Bell

Pocket Theatre To Present 'Stone Cutter'

Pocket Theatre and The Not Very Oriental Players will present "The Stonecutter", a play for children and adults at the Durham Arts Council on Saturday, March 24 and April 7 and 2 p.m. Admission is fifty cents for children and one dollar for adults.

"The Stonecutter" is about a lowly stonecutter who one day wishes to be as rich and powerful as a prince who passes by, and about what happens to the stonecutter once he gets his wish.

Based on a Japanese folk talk, the play was developed over the last three months by the entire company and contains many elements of Japanese theatre. According to Artistic Director Coke Ariail, "after having read and researched a lot of material on Japanese theatre, we tried to approximate many of the things we read about and to have fun doing a Western imitation of them. The play contains elements of dance, music, make-up and costuming that should make it both fun and unusual for the audience."

The play was a truly company developed piece with everyone contributing to the directing, music, dance and costuming. Members of the company are Dale Edgerton, Mindy Coke Ariail, Ralph Richmond, Ann Rowles, Jane Leserman, and Didi Pierce.

The theatre is currently seeking additional places in the area to perform, so if you would like to schedule a performance for your group or have a suggestion for a future performance, please call Pocket Theatre at 688-6073.

Loses Crown

[Continued From Page 8]

they'd only played two or three member schools. So we adopted the rule that requires a minimum of eight games a season with member schools.

Laurinburg Institute officials failed to get the school exempted from the ruling for this year's playoffs.

McDuffie said he's considering some type of legal action against the association and its member schools.

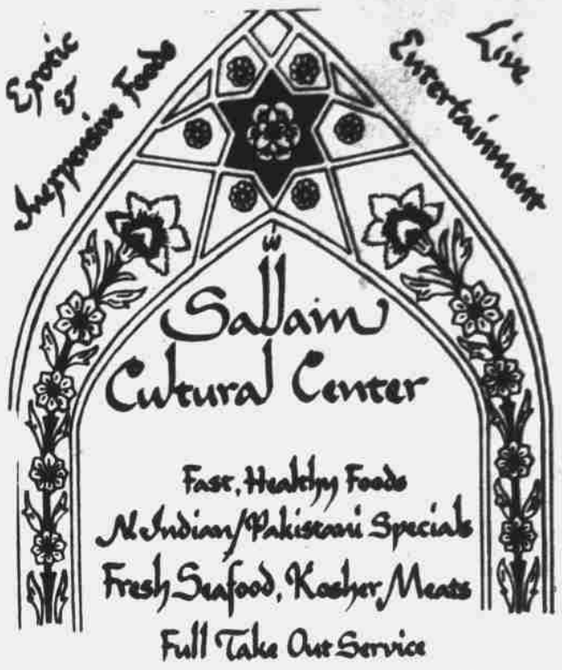
"It's not that playing a basketball game, even a championship game is that important," McDuffie said, "but in principle I don't think we can let this thing go totally unanswered. Besides, our kids deserved a chance to defend their crown, and it really hurt them when they couldn't"

Gil Reynolds, who coaches Laurinburg's high school varsity team, said his players were very disappointed and discouraged when they learned they couldn't play in the championship.

"We can beat the best high school in the state," Reynolds said, "and our boys know that. They feel that these schools just couldn't stand the idea of a black school having the chance to repeat in back-to-back years as state champions.

Laurinburg also won the association's state championship in 1974, and made it to the playoff quarterfinals the following two seasons before winning the crown last year.

In some places people believed that whoever cuts the last sheaf of wheat at harvest time will marry within the year – to someone old.



WDUR ****WDUR****WDUR****WDUR