



ENTERTAINMENT



Art -is and young black writers seeking 1990-91 applicants

Instructors and staff are gearing up for the new year for the Art-Is program and its Saturday morning component, Young Black Writers.

Art-Is is the after-school art instruction program offered by Urban Arts of The Arts Council, Inc. Providing professional instructors for children between the ages of six and fifteen who live in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, Art-Is has targeted October 15 as its opening date. The key words "professional instructors" set the Art-Is program apart from similar programs in the community.

For a yearly registration fee of \$25 per child for two classes, courses will be offered in Piano I (for beginners), Piano II (for experienced students), Dance I (for ages 6 to 10 years), Dance II (for ages 11 to 15 years), drawing and painting. Classes in the Art-Is program will follow the calendar of the public school system, that is when public school is closed, Art-Is classes will also be closed. The exciting year of

instruction will close on April 13 with the Annual Exhibition & Recital for all Art-Is students held in the Arts Council Theater on Coliseum Drive.

We attempt to provide this excellent opportunity to as many students as possible. In order to insure wide participation, initial registration will be limited to two classes per child, and to two children per family. Other children in the same family who wish to participate in the Art-Is program will be placed on a waiting list until after the deadline. In the event that target numbers for each class should not be reached, additional family members may then be admitted to fill vacancies.

Registration is handled in the Arts Council offices at 305 West Fourth Street. Parents may personally submit applications with payment, or may mail them in. It is not our desire to prevent any interested student from participating because of the registration fee. Scholarships are available, and you may inquire

ARTS REACH

By REGGIE JOHNSON



about their availability when your application is submitted.

A popular feature of the after school program includes field trips to local exhibits, performances and demonstrations. The purpose of this component of the Art-Is program is to give culturally disadvantaged children the opportunity to experience the arts through attending exhibits, and performances in the local arts community. By sharing the arts with nontraditional audiences, we embellish the arts community as a whole, but also enrich the quality of life of the audience members. One field trip each month will share performances of annual

performances like "Nutcracker" and "A Christmas Carole" at the Stevens Center downtown.

These popular art classes will be held at St. Benedict's Catholic Church at 1625 East 12 Street. Don't miss out on this opportunity to give a gift to your children that will last a lifetime. It has been our experience that classes fill up fast, so don't wait too long. The deadline for registration is Friday, October 12.

The Young Black Writer's Series is an extension of the Art-Is program. Still in the planning stages, it is anticipated that the YBW series will begin in January

for the first time. These professionals will teach the rudiments of writing from basics of grammar to the process of turning inspiration into the written form. Projected are to include YBW students in Art-Is recital on April 13, 1991 to also give them the experience of participating in a public reading the close of their symposium in June, 1991.

This series of symposiums is designed to identify and encourage black high school students who have a strong desire to sharpen their writing skills. Supported by the local chapter of North Carolina Writer's Network, professional instructors will nurture writing students in order to develop excellence. Because of obstacles faced by black writers who attempt to be published, this project may encourage some to pursue a career in writing, however, more importantly, it will help all participants to build the skills they need to become successful communicators. Symposium leaders Stacie Brown and Millicent King provide positive role models for youth who come into close contact with professional authors, some

The YBW Series taps the strength some students may know they have. It builds self-esteem, as well as creative ability and stirs the imagination to create the most beautiful kind of music in written form. Interested students, adults who may want to encourage a talented young member of our community may contact our office for further information. The Urban Negro College Fund slogan is true... "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste."

Reggie Johnson is the executive director for Urban Arts of the Arts Council Inc.

Copasectics take the Stevens Center by storm leaving a breeze of Vaudeville

Long time arts lover Claudette Weston summed the evening up best, "Oh God, how I love 'em. I just love 'em. Shoot honey this reminds me of Vaudeville, my childhood when I was seven years old learning how to do the "stroll" at the Carolina Theater back when it was over there on Liberty Street. Can you believe how good they are?," as she "strolled" backwards across the lobby of the Stevens Center.

Claudette wasn't alone. The Copasectics hypnotized everyone. By evening's end, Saturday night's crowd would have done almost anything.

The Copasectics made the old folks feel young and the young folk wish they were old. When was the last time you ever heard anybody do that? These guys were so good!

With excellent background music by the Jim Roberts Trio, the Copasectics peacocked their way on stage with extraordinary grace, laced in handsome candy striped jackets, lightly tapping their way into the hearts of an already very big-hearted



ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

audience.

You could tell right away that this would be an evening that no one would soon forget; including the Copasectics.

"Anybody who can walk can tap," said 75 year old Buster Brown, dancing with such simplicity that all of us, just for a second, almost believed him. Then of course he would take off into one of those rather complex "time steps," gracefully moving from one side of the stage to the other, while giving the impression that he wasn't moving at all.

Buster Brown was so smooth that he sometimes made it appear as if the floor was moving — that the floor was the instrument; that the floor was

reaching up to touch the bottoms of his tap shoes.

People were looking at each other as if to say "where is all of that sound coming from?"

Well, it was coming from those five men who had studied, developed, refined and perfected the art of "tapology," as they called it, into a very simple science. They were "sho-nuff" good and they knew it.

Part of the attraction, the lure, and the history of tap goes back to the idea of competition — the idea of showing off. Its a part of the whole experience. You do your thing and then I will do my best to outdo you when I do my thing. Its like trading fours in jazz.

Well imagine, if you can, how such a contest might have unfolded had the players included Mozart, Beethoven, William Grant Still, Haydn, Bach, and Josquin DePres. Or maybe Coltrane, Wes Montgomery, Charlie Parker, Charles Mingus, and Herbie Hancock. Do you get the point?

So it was throughout Saturday Evening, that the five Copasectics created a sense of being home on the block, somewhere in downtown Harlem. It was hot and in the background all you could hear was the music made famous by the orchestra's of Basie and Ellington and the light, rhythmical, incessant, highly syncopated tapping of five guys going after each other. Each vying for the love of the audience — whether they were real or imaginary.

Yes, this was the program. All night long, dancing as light as a monarchs feather. The audience was so appreciative, so receptive, so warm that at one point, Bubba Gaines said, "Ladies and gentlemen, if you

encourage us just a little bit, we will completely destroy ourselves!"

"They are something else. I wonder how old they are?," everyone kept saying, amazed not only by their dexterity, but also by the energy of the septuagenarians.

"You mean to tell me that they are over 70 years of age and they can move like that? You have got to be

kidding," one man said. "Here, having trouble going up and down steps."

Well, leave it to the Copasectics who ended the evening by saying nothing to it. If you can walk, you can tap."

Saturday night, the people of Winston-Salem danced with the Copasectics. Everything was truly copasectic.

Vocalist finally gets his well-earned star



BEHIND THE SCENES

By LISA COLLINS

Marvin Gaye Gets His Star: There was a star-studded crowd on hand for the ceremonies marking Marvin Gaye's getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Among these on hand were Smokey Robinson, Berry Gordy, Frankie Gaye, Marvin's three children, Motown president Jheryl Busby, Whoopi Goldberg, Frankie Beverly, Stevie Wonder, Dick Clark, Lou Rawls and Mary Wilson (who is slated to begin a tour later this month to promote her second book - "Supreme Faith...Someday We'll Be Together"). The celebration was the culmination of a two-year long battle to get the star. Sheridan Broadcasting's Ron Brewington spearheaded the letter writing campaign that got Gaye the star. On behalf of Brewington and the rest of the Marvin Gaye Star Committee, I'd like to say thanks to all of you who wrote letters... Meanwhile, just days later, Nancy Wilson received her star on the Walk of Fame in the presence of family (including daughters Samantha and Sheryl) and a few hundred well-wishers including actresses Dawnn Lewis and Marla Gibbs, O.C. Smith, Sinbad, Joe Williams, Tramaine Hawkins, and Marsha Warfield.

Will Generations be the next victim of the ratings race? With the number of NBC affiliates that have dropped the interracial daytime serial "Generations" from their daily lineups slowly on the rise, the NAACP has joined a campaign to save

"Generations" from the ax. "Generations" was broadcast on 99% of the network's 200 plus affiliated stations after it debuted in March, 1989, but now it is seen only on 92% of the stations. If that trend continues, it will become a matter of economic feasibility.

On the home front: Arsenio Hall purchased the late Rudy Vallee's home in the Hollywood Hills. In an ostentatious show of wealth, Hall was said to have bought the home after never having set foot in it. Instead, he just flew over it in a helicopter. The estate, which was first listed at a whopping \$10 million, was purchased by Arsenio for \$3.5 million. The five bedroom, six bath main house sitting on more than two acres of prime real estate, was built in the 30's and features a tennis court, theater and game room. Marked by secret passageways, it is an estimated 6,000 square feet in size... Actor Dennis Haybert (Navy Seals) and the upcoming controversial "Love Field" (opposite Michele Pfeifer) already knows what his Christmas gift will be as he and his wife are expecting their first child at just about that time.

Screen Version of "Fences": A Project in Waiting: Three years after Paramount purchased the rights to August Wilson's Tony and Pulitzer award-winning play, "Fences," production on the movie is still being held up until both Paramount and Wilson can settle on a

black director, — a condition set by Wilson back in March. Wilson has said he seeks a director who "shares the same cultural sensibilities of the characters," and has passed on a well known white director... Meanwhile, depositions are still being taken in Michael Michelle's lawsuit against Paramount and Eddie Murphy, charging that she was fired from the lead role of "Harlem Nights" after rebuffing Murphy's advances. However, Murphy alleges that Michelle came up with the story after being fired from the set as Murphy's leading lady... By the way, disorderly conduct charges were dropped against hip-hop dynamo Bobby Brown, who was

recently arrested when he got in the way of a confrontation between his brother (who was also arrested) and an Atlanta police officer. Police say the elder Brown cursed and threatened a police officer when the officer tried to calm him... Next week: Did she or didn't she - reports of a baby for Karyn White, and news from Brenda Russell.

Lisa Collins is a free-lance writer and syndicated columnist based in Los Angeles. She has written more than 200 articles on a variety of issues for a number of national publications from Essence to Design magazines. Her background in the field of entertainment reporting is extensive, featuring cover stories and interviews with the likes of Richard Pryor, Michael Jackson, and Prince.



ASTRO-DESTINY

- ☆ **ARIES** Mar. 21 - Apr. 19 Tax matters could prove unsettling. Don't be surprised if you're called in for an audit.
- ☆ **TAURUS** Apr. 20 - May 20 Rumors tend to create a suspicious environment - on the job and at home. Disregard them.
- ☆ **GEMINI** May 21 - June 20 Things are happening faster than usual. Don't panic all that is necessary is to take things step by step.
- ☆ **CANCER** June 21 - July 22 Don't demand perfection. Very few of us are capable of it and besides, it's not the answer this week.
- ☆ **LEO** July 23 - Aug. 22 Take a chance on romance. Travelling down life's highway is better when there are two.
- ☆ **VIRGO** Aug. 23 - Sept. 22 Your sharp wit and the advice of others can produce excellent results for you this week.
- ☆ **LIBRA** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22 If you want that financial gain this week, lend an ear to your relatives, especially the female side.
- ☆ **SCORPIO** Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Expensive whims can put a large hole in your bank account. Give second thoughts to purchases.
- ☆ **SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22 - Dec. 21 Now is the time to make up for the mistakes that have been plaguing you lately. Concentrate!
- ☆ **CAPRICORN** Dec. 22 - Jan. 19 Real estate dealings are in the foreground this week. Buying or selling - you make the right move.
- ☆ **AQUARIUS** Jan. 20 - Feb. 18 Follow your hunches, but be sure your facts and figures are correct. This could be the start of something fabulous.
- ☆ **PISCES** Feb. 19 - Mar. 20 Hurt feelings will be long remembered and held against you. Nothing goes right this week.

Winston-Salem State University presents

1990-91 Lyceum Performing Arts Series

BALTIMORE DANCE THEATER

8 p.m., Tuesday, October 23
K.R. Williams Auditorium
Tickets: \$8, in advance; \$10, at door

Season tickets, \$35; for Senior Citizens, \$25. Groups of 10 or more and Senior Citizens save \$3 when single-show tickets are purchased ahead. All seats are reserved. Call the Box Office at 750-3255.

Make plans now to see...

COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA - Nov. 28
...and in 1991...

NEWARK BOYS CHORUS - Feb. 19
SHIRLEY CAESAR (gospel) - March 5
"MOMMA DON'T" (musical) - April 4