



ENTERTAINMENT A8

Celebrating Black History Month with Urban Arts' events

Urban Arts of The Arts Council Inc. celebrates Black History Month with programs and special events

American writers. This program is going on now through the month of May and is held at the Art-Is House

place Saturday, Feb. 9, in The Arts Council Boardroom, 305 West Fourth St. Complementing our literary workshops and reading program, John Holman, a published author and respected educator, will present, "How to Make Something From Nothing — The Creative Process," on Feb. 16.

This workshop will be held in the May C. Mountcastle Forum of the Sawtooth Building, 226 N. Marshall St. These programs are jointly supported by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a federal agency, and The Arts Council Inc. of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

Both workshops are open to the public, and admission is free. Space is limited so preregistration is required.

To salute the contributions made by African-American artists from the Triad to the rich, artistic heritage of North Carolina, Urban Arts presents The Second Annual Black Artists Invitational Art Exhibition — "Continuing The North Carolina Experience," Feb. 15 through March 15.

The exhibition will be held in the Milton Rhodes Gallery of the Sawtooth Building, 226 N. Marshall

St. This exhibit will showcase 12 established African-Americans who live and produce in the Triad area. Due to the strong influence of African-American culture, socio-economic conditions, and social traditions, art by African-Americans can give a very different slant to visual art interpretation.

The artists featured in this year's show include Francis Baird,

Arcenia Davis, Edward Hale, Van Hinnant, Earnestine Huff, James Huff, James McMillan, James Peck, Marshall Sudderth, Roland Watts, Glenda Wharton-Little, and Cleveland Wright. With this program we hope to present a greater awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the contributions made by these artists and provide an opportunity for their works to be viewed collec-

tively. A reception will be held in honor of the artists on Feb. 21 in the Milton Rhodes Gallery, and the public is invited. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served, and music will be provided by The Joe Robinson Group.

For more information concerning any of the programs listed above, please call (919) 722-5293.

ARTS REACH



By REGGIE JOHNSON

that help us learn from the past and build for the future.

The Young Black Writers' Program, sponsored by Urban Arts of The Arts Council Inc., The North Carolina Writers' Network, and made possible in part by the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a federal agency, is particularly relevant to the concept of commemorating our past. The Young Black Writers' Program is a series of free, creative-writing workshops for black youth, ages 14 through 18.

Those young people participating will have the opportunity to write — poems, plays, short stories, scripts — and a chance to learn about the rich heritage of African-

at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, 1625 East 12th Street. The classes are held the second and fourth Saturday of each month. There are still spaces available, but space is limited.

As part of our seminars, symposiums, workshops, literary workshops and reading programs, we have scheduled two distinguished African-Americans to participate and present their own distinct outlook on important issues in the arts community.

Bing Davis, a nationally known artist and arts educator presently serving as chair of the Art Department at Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio, will present the workshop "Making It As A Visual Artist." This workshop will take

Black Men: Uncertain Futures

Chronicle Wire Report

There are more than 13 million black men in America. They are fathers and sons, postal workers, lawyers, and students. Yet the most familiar image of black men today is that seen on the nightly news, as the victims and perpetrators of crime, violence, and drug abuse. Young black men battle more than stereotypes: they face the challenges of poor education and high unemployment, despair and frustration. What is their future to be? Are there solutions to the problems of this generation? *Black Men: Uncertain Futures*, a national production of Maryland Public Television premiering on PBS Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 10 p.m., hosted and narrated by Noah Nelson, co-anchor for NBC News' "Exposé," looks at these issues and answers these questions.

The one-hour special takes a tough look at a generation of young black men whose chances of landing in jail far outweigh their chances of attending college. Noah Nelson talks with young men across the United States, in inner-city neighborhoods in Baltimore, Los Angeles, Detroit, Miami, Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Min-

neapolis. of a young black male? CNN's Bernard Shaw and others debate the media's impact on the public and on black men's images and sense of themselves.

Black Men: Uncertain Futures moves from perceptions to realities. With facts and interviews, it presents a generation threatened not only by the traditional enemies of unemployment, poor education and racism, but by the new ones: loss of unskilled industrial jobs, fractured families, higher rates of incarceration for blacks than whites for comparative crimes, and lack of economic equality 30 years after the Civil Rights movement.

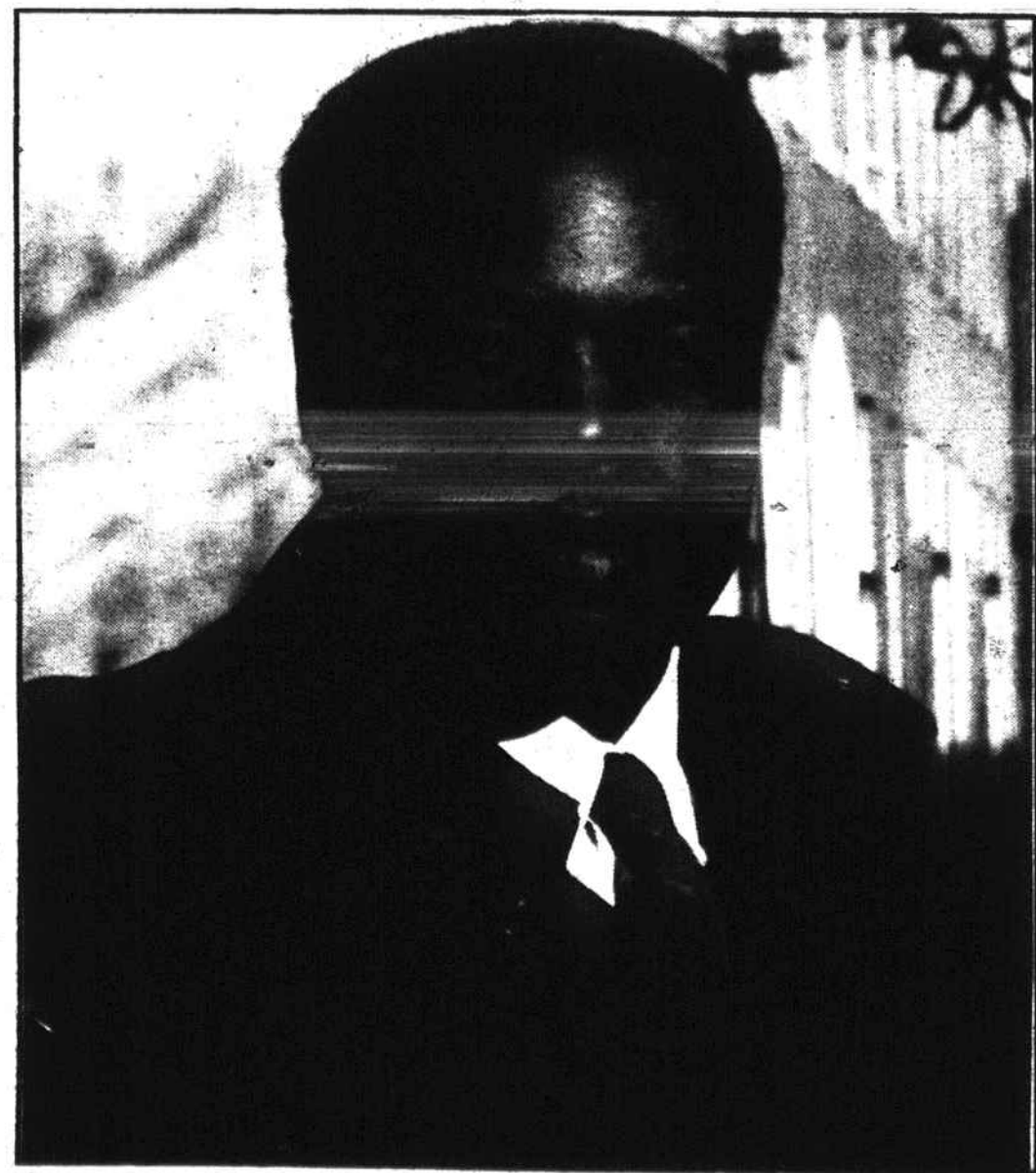
What can education do, and why do so many young men leave school? facts and theories are explored: the lack of male role models and African-American content in schools, perceptions that with success in the larger world comes a separation from the community, and low expectations that are regularly communicated by educators.

The problem also depicts the growth of drug abuse and drug economy. Participants discuss two obvious economic options for these youths: minimum wages for unskilled labor and the lure of quick drug money to purchase the consumer goods the rest of America buys. Even public assistance programs now seem to contribute to the problem.

With all of these harsh realities, what can be done by individuals, communities, and the nation? *Black Men: Uncertain Futures* looks at some of the solutions — theoretical, practical and personal — that exist for young black men, and that their communities have generated. The special meets its own early challenge to the media: it presents black men who are succeeding and who are determined to change the course of young men's futures. It focuses on efforts to change the nature of their education, employment, criminal justice, and self-awareness. The special documents the work of leaders like Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, educational consultant for African-American Images in Chicago; Sadie Flennoy, director of Detroit's Community Volunteer Program; Gary Mendez of the National Endowment for the Development of African-American Males; and Wali Shabazz of the Tampa Urban League Trust. They, and many others, are providing the resources to rebuild futures. It records the work of organizations like 100 Black Men, the African-American Men's Leadership

Council, and Project 2000 that put successful black male mentors back into the community. It records the personal stories of young black men who have survived and succeeded.

All of those interviewed for the special see the future of black men as a priority, and challenge young black men, their communities and the country to make it their priority, too. *Black Men: Uncertain Futures* documents the tremendous resource that now remains unused and unfulfilled. These cries threaten not just a group but the whole — not just a generation but a nation must commit to pursuing solutions if a better future is to come for all Americans.



Noah Nelson will host PBS' *Black Men: Uncertain Futures* Feb. 19.

neapolis.

He also talks with black men who are contributing their expertise and energies to the future of their young counterparts. Participants include Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services; U.S. Representatives John Conyers and John Lewis; Alan Page, NFL Hall of Fame member and president of the Page Education Foundation; John Jacob, executive director of the National Urban League; Joshua Smith, president of Maxima Corporation; and Robert Woodson, National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise.

The program begins with a discussion of the media's portrayal of black men; if more whites commit crimes than blacks, why is the prevailing image of criminals that


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February is Black History Month

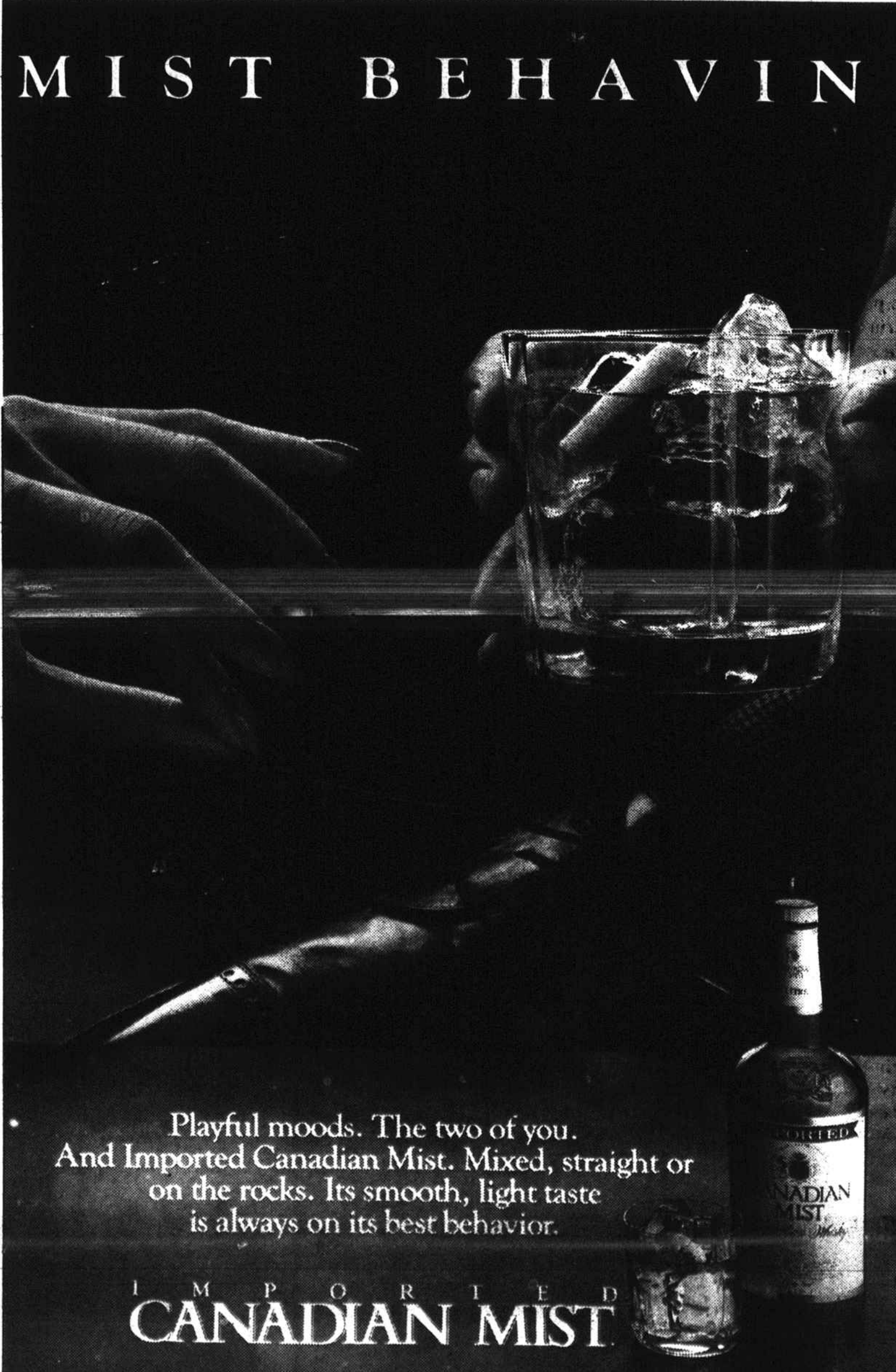
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