

**Tusslin' for a title**

Bulls defeat Pistons in Junior Hornets tournament.

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**100 years young**

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church celebrates first century.

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Black entertainment scarce at Coliseum

▲ For the last year and a half, coliseum directors have been unable to attract black artists to the city.

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Coliseum director Mike Solomon has been unsuccessful in booking shows and concerts geared to African-Americans despite a city set-aside fund created

more than a year ago. The special fund enables the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum and the city to co-sponsor a variety of shows thereby increasing the city's chances of luring shows here.

Since the cancellation of rapper LL Cool J, singers Diana Ross and Smokey Robinson—all in 1990—the coliseum has not entertained many shows geared to black people. Solomon said those cancellations, initiated by the promoters, were due to poor ticket sales and other money losses acts suffer during a tour.

Cancellations as recent as last week came when songstress Natalie Cole pulled out at the last minute.

Also an attempt to bring singer Patti LaBelle fell through because no one could be found to co-promote the act with the city, according to Solomon.

Solomon said while several attempts have and are still being made to bring a variety of performances to the city, it has been extremely difficult to get promoters to book a show at the coliseum because of the close proximity of the Greensboro coliseum.

"For years, most of these acts have been booked in Greensboro, because we didn't have the facilities to accommodate them. Now that we do, it's hard to get promoters to come here when they know they have a

sure thing in Greensboro," he said.

"We've contacted promoters and tried to convince them to come here. To actually take advantage of the set-aside fund we have to have someone go in with us and that's been part of the difficulty," Solomon added.

Solomon said the set-aside money, which is currently being used to co-promote a theatrical production called *TRACKS!*, has not been able to get smaller acts, such as Luther Vandross, to the coliseum. The last co-sponsored concert, other than country music, were

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Reinforcing education through art!



Third graders at Clemmons Elementary School hold up posters they made of South American masks. The project was in conjunction with an on-going process in which art specialist, Ms. B.J. Hoffman, coordinates art projects with what the students are learning in the classroom. The students from left to right are: (bottom row) Brett Bryant, Kevin Cox, Myer Otto, Hayley Petree, Jessica Cline, and Sarah Wood; (center row) Jason Gill, Drew Dosek, Joyce Braun, Butch Long, Laura Trader, Greg Wright, and Bridgette Prevette; (back row) Ms. B.J. Hoffman, Matthew Beroth, Lauren Clauss, Jonas Brown, and Kate Clauss.

Skeleton in Brown's closet?

"I acted in the line of duty."

▲ School Board candidate addresses parent's threat

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor



Geneva Brown

In 1983, when she was principal at Moore Elementary, Geneva Brown's paddle left bruises on a boy. Last week after she filed as a candidate for the board of education, the boy's father, Larry B. Snow, threatened to go public with photographs and a secret tape recording — unless Brown withdrew her name from the race.

Geneva Brown eases into a leather arm chair in her comfortable but modest home and recalls an incident that has sneaked out of the past to haunt her.

It's the kind of nightmare that puts fear in the heart of ordinary citizens who consider running for public office. For most people, it would create a public relations crisis, but Geneva Brown seems to be taking it in stride.

"I love children. A lot of people know my track record at Moore, my concern for children, teachers and parents." She speaks evenly, her voice and face betraying little emotion. "I do not intend to have someone threaten me for an incident I carried out legally in the performance of my job."

For over twenty years, she worked in public schools as a teacher and principal, and was promoted to the central office in 1989 to coordinate programs for at-risk children. Now her title is director of research, planning

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TRACKS! producer wants community support

▲ Producers and local promoters are making last minute attempts to secure sponsors for *TRACKS!* production

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff Writer

ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

Life is short, eat the dessert first!

As long as I can remember, grown folks have always insisted that I eat my dessert last!

"Eat your squash, rutabaga, and eggplant boy. Eat your brussels sprouts and your liver — then you can have some of grandma's pound cake and homemade ice cream," they would always say.

But even as a child, I understood what they were trying to do. They wanted me to know that life would not be a bowl of cherries! To be successful, I needed to both learn and understand the principle of delayed gratification so that I would not fall prey to the temptation of believing that I would get something for nothing.

Instead, I would work hard, save my money, and then there would be time to enjoy life's chocolate cake at the end — That is the proper time to eat chocolate cake!

There is a great deal in this approach. Indeed, it is a principle that many in the recent and even current generation, seem to know little of.

The other day, my children and their friends wanted me to lower the basketball goal so that

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Yolanda King will star in the one-woman production of *TRACKS!* on April 3. The 14-character multi-media production — all played by King — focuses on single-parenting, physical disabilities, substance abuse, and the lack of social and political identity.

pose the economy has caused a dramatic effect on everyone," Brammer said Tuesday.

The 50 percent production costs covered by the city is taken from a grant set-aside to bring "marginal risk" shows to the city.

Coliseum assistant director, Bucky Dame said: "The set-aside fund is there so that the city can bring a variety of entertainment, such as *TRACKS!*"

So far Mutter Evans of WAAA radio station and Larry Leon Hamlin of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company have rallied their support for the production.

"We're making contacts with groups, churches, organizations and businesses to try to raise some support," said Hamlin. Hamlin has given up office space and the use of the NCBRC equipment to Goodlow.

Mutter Evans said: "I'm doing whatever I can to

solicit some sponsors or do whatever else that needs to be done to see that this show is a successful one."

Goodlow said if the corporate sponsorship does not come through, she's hoping the community will buy enough tickets to break even.

"Right now I'm just counting on the community to support the production," said Goodlow.

More about the production

TRACKS! is a multi-character play that will be performed by Yolanda King, the oldest daughter of Dr. King and Coretta Scott King. The performance premiered in Winston-Salem during the 1991 National Black Theater Festival and will return to the area on the eve of the 24th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King.

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