

# ON THE AVANT GARDE

BY TANG NIVRI

## "Rumpshaker"

I don't suppose there's anything wrong with shaking one's rump, tail, behind, derriere, booty, or whatever you call that part of the body we spend most of our time sitting on. God made our behinds like He made everything else.

When I was growing up, I used to shake what little "behind" I had, too. You just couldn't dance very well if you didn't shake your behind in some way or other — besides if you didn't learn to shake your rump right, you ran the risk of being compared to white folks, a fate worse than death.

Thus, I learned to do the jerk, twist and the "mashed potatoes," too. I even learned to do the "bump," a dance whose main feature was to bump up against the booty of your partner. You can imagine the sheer spectacle of seeing some of the smaller "behinds" bumping up against the somewhat larger "behinds" as folks — adults included — did their best to hold their own.

This newest generation, however, seems to be especially captivated not only with "rumpshaking" but making sure that they have an audience. It is simply not enough to shake one's tail feathers at a private party or discotheque, nowadays, the real thrill is to shake your rump while millions gaze on. Everywhere you turn, people are either shaking their rumps or they're grabbing for their crotch.

The other day, I caught Prince on MTV promenading around in one of his many sequined outfits, sporting his little "behind" for us to see — and it really is something to see. In high-heeled shoes, twisting, turning, and snapping in front of the camera, Prince reminded me of that same little boy who lived in my neighborhood that would point to his butt, stick his tongue out, and then run like hell to hide behind his mother's skirt.

As for Prince's "behind," it looked like one of those small country hams I used to see hanging up in the Chinese corner grocery store. The little "butt" was covered with brown and yellow spots, creases, badly in need of being washed. Yet, he was strutting around, showing us his "country ham" as if it was his prized dog! "All I want to do is zoom, zoom, zoom."

The latest fascination with the shaking of behinds is being propelled by a rap group called "Wreck N Effect" whose hit single "All I Want to Do Is Zoom, Zoom, Zoom" has elevated "rumpshaking" to a new low.

The accompanying video presents a whole host of young, supposedly educated, black men and women, who strangely enough, are on the beach dancing and partying, having a good time. (I suppose we are to believe that they are there getting an additional tan.)

As the camera zooms in on one of the women up close and up tight, they gyrate back and forth. The rapper, whose English I don't really understand, keeps saying something over and over about "All I want to do is zoom, zoom, zoom." Meanwhile, the women keep shaking their behinds back and forth in approval as if to say "that all we want to do is 'zoom, zoom, zoom,' too. This is the whole message of the video.

There is a world of difference between those of us who used to shake our behinds and those who are doing most of the shaking now. When we got through doing the jerk, twist or mashed potatoes, we had the good sense to take our rumps home where we zoom, zoom, zoomed in our books. We knew the value of "mindshaking," too.

We were not confused about who we were, where we came from, and where we needed to go in this world. We knew what it would take to be successful in a white man's world, and zoom, zoom, zooming wouldn't get it.

We knew and understood the value of hard work, sacrifice and pain. Those who didn't leave the rumpshaking on the dance floor soon found themselves either doing poorly in school or having flunked all together.

Somehow we knew when to stop. We knew better than to take something as frivolous as rumpshaking into our homes. It would not shape our character.

Unfortunately, too many of our young people are "rumpshaking" instead of "mindshaking," and in the process their ability to compete in a global arena is "zoom, zoom, zooming" right out of the window.

# HRC Probes Racial Complaint

Newman hired a lawyer. "The reason we filed a complaint with human relations is because Mr. Newman was not given any explanation as to why he was denied the property," said Bruce H. Robinson Jr. of Wallace, Newman's attorney. "They didn't provide him any explanation whatsoever. And since we subsequently found out it was sold to a white person, and that was after Mr. Newman placed his bid, I thought they would like to know."

The Human Relations Commission does not have to prove that there was any intentional discrimination. But it gives a complainant the right to sue based on conduct that has the effect of discrimination if a settlement is not reached.

Representatives at Household Finance and Blue Ribbon Realty, however, tell a different story.

Paul Miller, director of collections for Household Realty in Chesapeake, Va., said Newman was told that the house had been sold to Freddie Williams of Jacksonville before Newman placed a down payment on the property.

"We had already accepted Mr. Williams' bid, and Mr. Newman was told that if he wanted to submit a backup offer in case something happened where the initial bid fell through, then he could," Wilson said. "In fact, he went to the records

office and said he wanted to buy the property and was told that the property had been sold."

Household Finance does business in North Carolina as Household Realty.

"We're here in Chesapeake, Va., and we have no idea if a person is black, white, Hispanic or whatever, and really don't care," Wilson said. "If a person has money to buy a property and has approved credit, we think that's the best person to sell to."

Marilyn Tomei, of the North Carolina Real Estate Commission in Raleigh, said a "seller can continue to solicit offers on a property, but has an obligation to tell subsequent offerors that there is a contract pending."

"But the seller and buyer could make it contingent on the failure of the first," she said.

Robinson said that was not the

case. They didn't tell Mr. Newman that there were pending offers," he said. "I haven't seen any of the supporting documentation that would back up their claim that it was done on the up and up. If they got a legitimate explanation, we'd be the first to drop it. We just feel like something's going on that shouldn't have."

"This type of abuse in rural areas have been practiced a long time but has gone unnoticed," he said.

Eldridge Paige of Blue Ribbon Realty said he first drew up a contract with Williams on Oct. 23, and while waiting to see whether Williams qualified, Paige also drew up a contract for Newman.

"You can take as many offers as you can on a property while you're waiting to see if someone's credit is approved," Paige said.

"Once a contract is accepted and

you have two signatures on it, then we do not consider another bid."

Newman's signature is the only one on the purchase contract he signed with Blue Ribbon Realty on Oct. 28, which is the same day Williams closed the deal on the property.

Once Blue Ribbon got the credit report back on Williams, Paige said, "He more than exceeded the requirements needed to purchase that home."

Ralph Scales, a social economic consultant in Clinton, said he got involved after Ammons contacted him. After investigating, Scales suggested that Ammons place a lis pendens on the property, making the realtor aware that a complaint had been noted and that a suit would follow. The lis pendens, filed on Nov. 16, acts as a lien and forbids title insurance from being placed on the home.

# Chronicle Awards Banquet March 6

The Winston-Salem Chronicle will honor its 1992 Man and Woman of the Year at its 10th Annual Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Forsyth Ballroom of the Stouffer Hotel. Awards will also be presented in categories of community service, public safety, curator of African-American art and student journalists.

Ben Piggott, director of the William C. Sims Center in the Happy Hill Gardens community is Man of the Year. Renowned poet and Wake Forest university professor Maya Angelou is Woman of the Year.

Advance tickets may be purchased at the Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St. For information, call 722-8624.

# Chamber Embrasses Gala from page A1

The CIAA headquarters will be the Stouffers, the Marque and the Brookstown Inn.

Harjes said about 60 hotels in Winston-Salem, High Point, Greensboro, Kernersville and Clemmons will be used to house the approximately 25,000 people the event is estimated to attract.

"We did it to response to a need," Harjes said. "Because it's coming to Winston-Salem for the

first time in a number of years, people didn't know what properties existed. We wanted to help them make a decision on where to stay. We make every effort to put them in their choice hotel. People are looking different in a hotel. Some look for location, some look for rates, some look for the amenities like pools and health clubs. It just depends.

"The response since we've

back has been phenomenal. Most of (the callers) are saying that they should have gotten over to the Richmond Center and made a reservation."

The Lawrence Joel Coliseum, where the games will be played, holds 14,200 people and has 6,000 parking spaces. The event will be held the last week in February.

# Speas Loses Out On Job from page A1

reached for comment.

In December, Campbell replaced Jim Weakland, who resigned last summer because of health reasons. In September, the department's supervisor, the Rev. Horace Walser, was demoted and transferred to Lexington. Walser said he was demoted because he was accused of falsifying records and paying a secretary to help him do it.

The appointment was made by Danek, Judge James Harrill, chief district court judge for the 21st district, which includes Forsyth County, and Jim Drennan, director of Administration of Courts. According to state statutes, Danek, as state administrator, makes the appointment to fill the position, but his decision is subject to the approval of Harrill and Drennan.

"She was the best candidate for

the job, given all the circumstances there," Danek said from his Raleigh office. Danek makes the appointments for all of the state's 37 judicial districts.

"She appeared to me to be well-qualified," Harrill said. "She has demonstrated leadership skills and she was a supervisor in High Point."

Harrill said his role in the process was to approve Danek's choice. When asked if he thought Speas was more qualified for the spot, Harrill said, "I don't know if it's appropriate for me to get into that."

Walser, who said he has adjusted well to working in Lexington, said he expected that Campbell would get the position.

"From what I hear, she's been doing an excellent job," Walser said. Danek said that Campbell will initiate the process of filling the

supervisor's position — a job that Speas is eligible to fill. The job has a salary range of \$27,000 to \$43,000.



David Speas

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