

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Reynolda House will sponsor art tour to Charlotte on March 19

Reynolda House, Museum of American Art will sponsor an art tour to Charlotte on March 19, leaving at 8:15 a.m. and returning by 5 p.m.

Arriving at the Mint Museum of Art, participants will take a guided tour of Edward Hopper: the Paris Years, an exhibit that features 45 paintings and 10 works on paper. Organized by The Whitney Museum of Art, it presents the artist's early works, created during three trips to Paris between 1906 and 1910. These early works demonstrate Hopper's realistic technique and early mastery of light.

After lunch at the Bijoux Restaurant, there will be a guided tour of highlights from the permanent collection of the Mint Museum of Craft + Design and Coming of Age, a special exhibition that traces the 65-year development of the museum's collection.

As they view works made from ceramics, fiber, glass, metal and wood, visitors will marvel over the innovation in technique, material and design in these diverse media.

For information and reservations, call 725-5325, ext. 129. Cost of \$45 includes admission, lunch and transportation.

For other museum-sponsored trips, visit www.reynoldahouse.org.

Hispanic League of the Piedmont Triad will hold 'Spanish Nite'

The Hispanic League of the Piedmont Triad (HLPT) will hold the fifth annual "Spanish Nite" on Saturday beginning at 6 p.m. at the Adam's Mark Hotel, Grand Pavilion Room, Cherry Street. Spanish Nite is a formal-attire party and includes dinner, dancing and live music by Los Gatos, Edgar Menendez DJ, and Samedumba.

The HLPT will award scholarships to outstanding Hispanic students in our community in an effort to promote continuing education. Tickets can be reserved by calling 775-HLPT or 924-0316 and are on sale now. Prices are \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members per seat or \$450 per table of 10. No tickets will be sold at the door! Proceeds from this event benefit the HLPT Scholarship Fund.

The HLPT is a nonprofit organization serving Hispanics within the Piedmont Triad area. Its mission is to facilitate the inclusion, education, health and well-being of Hispanics/Latinos, and to become strong advocates of Hispanic/Latino issues within a diverse society, while promoting mutual cultural understanding, diversity and respect.

For more information, contact Maria Garcia at 924-0316.

Photographer will be special guest at library dinner at UNC-G

GREENSBORO - N.C. photographer, preservationist and conservationist Hugh Morton will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner April 1 at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The reception in the Elliott University Center's Cone Ballroom will begin at 6 p.m. and will be followed by dinner. Morton's presentation will begin at 8 p.m.

Reservations are needed by March 15 and can be made by calling Jackson Library at (336) 334-5880. Tickets for the reception, dinner and speech are \$25 for Friends of the Library and \$35 for nonmembers. Persons interested in attending Morton's speech can do so for \$5.

Morton's presentation will feature his photographs of N.C. sports, politics, higher education and the environment during the past 50 years. UNC Press plans to publish a collection of his photographs in the fall.

Morton was a driving force behind the restoration of the Battleship North Carolina at Wilmington and is the owner and developer of Grandfather Mountain, an attraction that draws about 250,000 visitors a year.

"Ownership of land is really about stewardship," Morton told UNC-TV. "There may be a deed at the courthouse that says I own Grandfather Mountain, but I have never thought of myself as owner. I am the legal guardian of Grandfather Mountain, and I consider it is my responsibility to look after it as best I can."

He was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his service in the Pacific during World War II. He received a North Carolina Award for Public Service in 1983, an Outstanding Conservationist Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1997 and the North Carolinian of the Year Award from the N.C. Press Association in 1997.

Rock history coming to WFU

Musician and historian Barry Drake will give a multimedia presentation and lecture titled "60s Rock - When the Music Mattered" March 26 at 7 p.m. in Carswell Hall at Wake Forest University. The event, sponsored by the Wake Forest Student Union, is free and open to the public.

The lecture will celebrate, examine and clarify one of the most interesting decades in American music history. The political turmoil, the social upheaval, the hippie movement, the Vietnam War and the generation gap were all reflected in the popular music of the day from The Beatles to The Supremes, Bob Dylan to The Beach Boys, Jimi Hendrix to The Monkees, and Simon and Garfunkel to The Rolling Stones.

A graduate of Manhattan College, Drake has toured the United States and Europe extensively as a singer/songwriter as well as with his rock 'n' roll lectures on 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s music.



Queen Latifah shares a scene with Mos Def in "Brown Sugar."

Queen Latifah says music is still first love

BY DAVID GERMAIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Queen Latifah seems to have flip-flopped from singer-who-moonlights-as-an-actor to movie-star-who-dabbles-in-music.

There's her Academy Awards nomination for supporting actress in the musical "Chicago," and her first big-screen lead role, in the comedy "Bringing Down the House," co-starring Steve Martin.

But Latifah hopes to return to musical mode later this spring with her first album in five years. The title, "First Love," says it all about how she views her career priorities.

"Publicly, I would probably seem like I'm more an actress now than singer," she said in an interview. "But personally, nah. I'm always going to be music first. It's just in my heart."

"When I'm not working, I make beats in songs as a hobby. Some people will pick up a book or a magazine, read or watch TV or go to the movies. I'll go in the studio in my house



Steve Martin and Queen Latifah in "Bringing Down the House," the top movie at the box office last week.

and just make a beat, or get on the guitar and play the two strings that I can and come up with a melody. That's just what I do."

When choosing movie roles, Latifah, who turns 33 this month, is drawn to tuneful projects. She had a scene-stealing role in last year's hip-hop romance "Brown Sugar." And for "Bringing Down the House," on which she is also an executive producer, she contributed a song and recorded a bonus track for the CD soundtrack.

"Chicago" was a chance to emulate screen idols such as Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Gene Kelly and Danny Kaye in musicals that Latifah, whose given name is Dana Owens, watched growing up in New Jersey.

Musicals were a welcome refuge for a girl whose parents divorced and whose tender nature prompted a cousin to nickname her "Latifah," an Arabic word meaning "sensitive" or "delicate."

"Once you start getting worldly enough, your mind develops enough for you to understand when your mother has that conversation about you being black, and that you're going to have to work twice as hard," Latifah said. "And that you're a female, so you're going to have to work twice as hard. And that there will be people who will come against you just on those two reasons,

See Queen on C10



Nicole Parker and Boris Kodjoe in a scene from an upcoming episode.

Showtime's 'Soul Food' to return with new episodes

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

NEW YORK - Showtime announced recently that it will premiere the fourth season of its critically acclaimed dramatic series "Soul Food" on April 9 at 10 p.m. The series is based on the 1997 hit movie of the same name.

This year, "Soul Food" received 7 NAACP Image Award nominations, more than any other television series - in the categories of Outstanding Drama Series, Outstanding

Supporting Actor in a Drama Series (Boris Kodjoe and Aaron Meeks), Outstanding Supporting Actress (Kimberly Elise) and Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series (Nicole Ari Parker, Malinda Williams and Vanessa Williams). "Soul Food" won the Outstanding Drama Series award last year.

This season, "Soul Food" will feature special guest appearances by Usher ("She's All That"), Terrence Howard ("The Best Man"), Diahann Carroll ("Dynasty") and Kim-

berly Elise. Musical guests will include the legendary Nancy Wilson and Def Soul group LovHer. The series begins production for its fifth season in March.

At the end of season three, Damon (Kojoe) proposed to Teri (Parker) after accepting a high-profile job. Maxine (Vanessa Williams) jeopardized her job to help a woman get into the New Start Program. She confided to Kenny (Rockmond Dunbar), who advised

See 'Soul Food' on C10

Activists want to turn off negative lyrics

BY HERB BOYD
THE AMSTERDAM NEWS

NEW YORK (NNPA) - Seeking to minimize the increasingly destructive impact of certain rap music, a coalition of concerned activists is asking people to turn off their radios until the stations open their play lists to more conscious and uplifting music.

"There is a preponderance of negative and destructive ideas on the radio stations here in New York City and around the nation," said Bob Law, chair of the National Leadership Alliance, at a recent news conference at Abyssinian Baptist Church. "The music they select to play is anti-woman, anti-black, and therefore, anti-life. So, we are asking listeners to turn off their radios every Thursday."

Law, a well-known activist who has led a number of progressive actions, said the play lists at too many of the local stations are geared to "romanticizing the thug life."

"We are not trying to censor the stations and what they play," he said. "What we would like to see is a more balanced list that would include conscious rap music."

Rev. Calvin Butts III, the church's pastor, added:



Butts

See Activists on C10