

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Museum offers courses

Reynolda House, Museum of American Art will offer a new series of continuing education courses beginning in January 2005.

Called Portals of Discovery: Special Studies at Reynolda House, these short-term courses will be offered to the general public. They will expand the museum's nationally recognized education program, which traditionally has attracted students by appealing to a wide range of interests.

All of the educational offerings will take place within the Reynolda House setting: either the main house, in the new wing and galleries, or on the grounds. Courses will be interactive and feature highly qualified instructors from Winston-Salem's colleges and universities as well as gifted independent scholars and experts.

About 20 evening courses will run each season, bringing almost a thousand students into the museum each year. Initial offerings will include creative writing, photography, studio art and art appreciation, and courses that relate to business as well as to life in general.

Future offerings will include dance, interior design, architectural appreciation and leadership.

For those unable to attend the daytime Reynolda House Docent Discovery course, there will be an evening course, which will prepare students to become active volunteers for the museum.

For information about course offerings and a catalog for Portals of Discovery, or to register for a course, call 758-5900 or visit www.reynoldahouse.org. Senior citizen discounts are available.

J-Lo's ex-husband sues her

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An ex-husband of Jennifer Lopez sued her for alleged breach of contract, claiming he was wrongly fired as the manager of her restaurant in Pasadena.

Ojani Noa, a waiter who married Lopez in 1997, filed a lawsuit in Superior Court. They met at a restaurant in Miami where he worked and were married for about a year, advertisement.

Noa quit his job managing the Conga Room in Los Angeles in 2002 to take a job running Lopez's new restaurant, Madres, and was told by her that she would not fire him "without good cause or reason," the lawsuit said.

Noa, who was paid \$1,000 a week, was fired six months after he started the job at Madres, which opened in April 2002, the lawsuit said. It wasn't known why Noa was fired.

"Mr. Noa tried to call Ms. Lopez to find out what prompted this sudden change of events. His calls went unreturned," the lawsuit said.

A phone call to Lopez's publicist was not immediately returned. Noa is seeking unspecified damages.



Lopez

'The Real World' heads to Texas

NEW YORK (AP) — Dude! MTV's "The Real World" is headed to Austin, Texas. "We've been thinking about Austin for a long time," co-creator and executive producer Jon Murray told The Associated Press.

"It's a great college town. It's a great music town. It's just a really young place. People go to college there and just don't want to leave," Murray said.

The show brings together seven strangers between the ages of 18 and 24 to live in a swanky loft or house and films them around the clock, at home and on the town.

The 16th season's seven cast members will start getting real in the Lone Star state early next year. The 24 episodes will begin airing in June.

Murray said Austin has long topped his list of places to all the strangers. Other contenders included Washington, Atlanta, Denver, "somewhere in Montana" and Sydney, Australia.

Mayor Will Wynn said he's been "sworn to secrecy" about "The Real World" address.

Snipes sues NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Action film star Wesley Snipes sued the city Monday, charging that it had no jurisdiction to seek his DNA in a paternity suit filed in Indiana by a woman he said was crack-addicted and mentally ill.

The federal suit seeks to nullify a March arrest warrant filed against the 42-year-old star of the "Blade" trilogy by a New York family court judge, who also is named in the suit, and to prevent Indiana prosecutors from continuing to seek the actor's DNA.

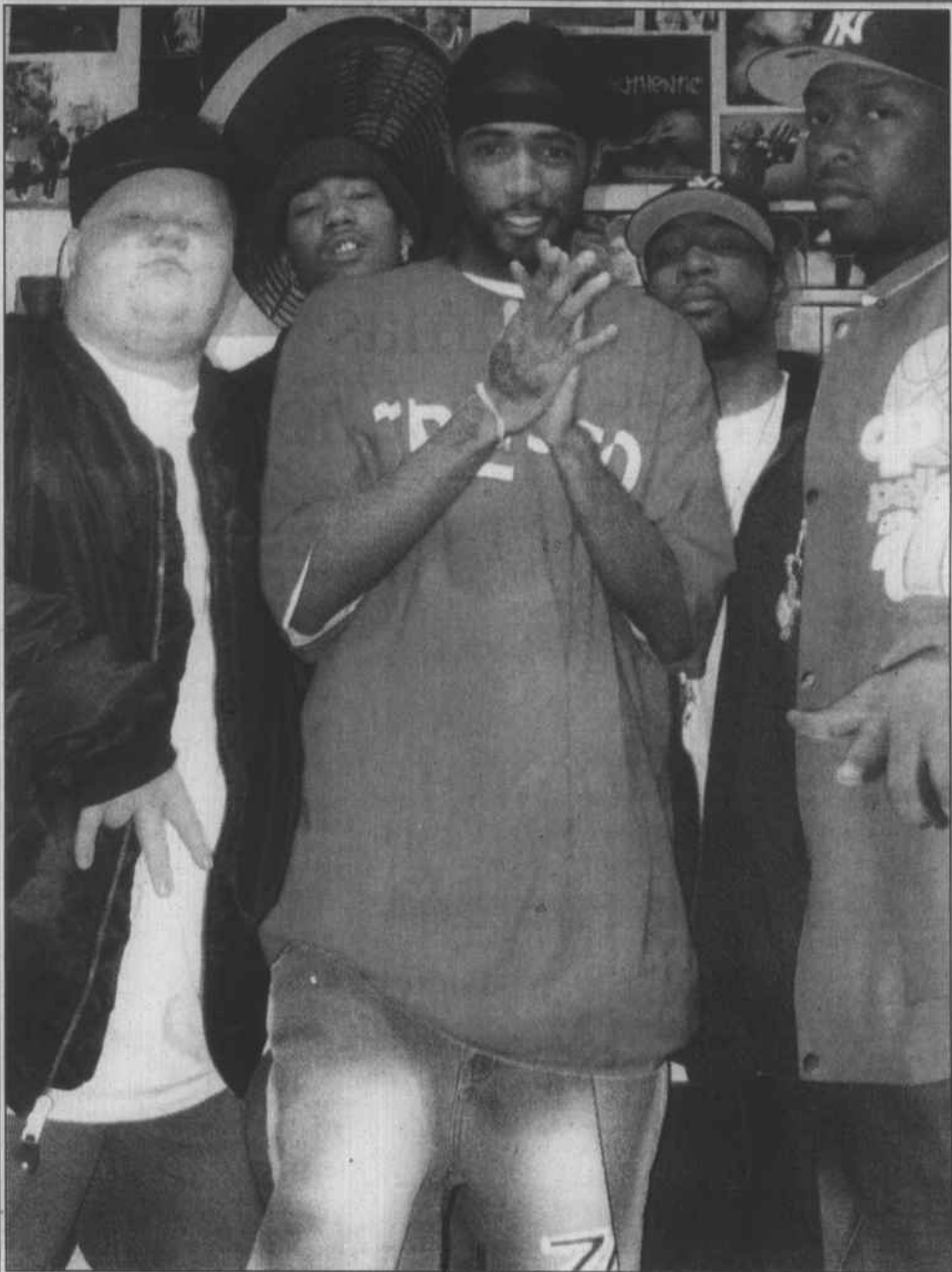
Snipes' lawyer, Robert Bernhoff, said his client lives in Orlando, Fla., so New York City had no jurisdiction to file the warrant.

An attorney for New York, Emily Sweet, said the suit was being evaluated and she could not comment further. A hearing was scheduled for Wednesday.

The arrest warrant stems from a paternity suit filed in 2002 by a 33-year-old woman who claims that she had sex with Snipes in a Chicago crackhouse and that he fathered her 3-year-old son.

Snipes said in his suit that he never met the woman and claimed she was a "mentally ill former crack addict" who had made wild claims in the past involving celebrities such as Prince, Oprah Winfrey and former President Clinton.

Bernhoff accused LaPorte County, Ind., prosecutors, who also are named in the suit, of pursuing the "fantastical" claims of an "obviously delusional" woman because his client was "an important black male celebrity."



Little Rick (center) is flanked by his boys, Glue (from left), BGZ, Billionz and Rodo

Photo by Jaeson Pitt

Little Rick is the Illest Spitta

BY JAESON PITT
THE CHRONICLE

Over toned-down instrumentals in the lounge of Southside Studio, 21-year-old rap veteran Little Rick recently took a moment to discuss the come-up of his group, Ill Spittaz.

Rick, also known as Rick Ruckus, has been bringing just that — the ruckus — since he came to

Winston-Salem in the sixth grade from Washington, D.C. Since then, he has blessed microphones and telephones all over North Carolina, where his name has become synonymous with battle rapping. He started calling 102 JAMZ radio station's "Roll Call" as a freshman at North Forsyth High School, where he bonded with a few aspiring emcees. They eventually formed the group Ill Spittaz.

Rick, who was born Ricardo Thomas, started rapping in 1994 with his cousin two years before he moved to the area. He credits an uncle, who also shared a love for hip-hop, for influencing them. That passion rubbed off on Rick, who promised to transcend what he had learned so that he might in turn influence the youths of his day.

See Little Rick on C7

Real Hotel Rwanda' innkeeper speaks out

BY DOUGLAS J. ROWE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Paul Rusesabagina still has sleepless nights. And when he does nod off, he still has nightmares.

Witnessing wholesale slaughter and narrowly eluding death remains fresh for the hotel manager who saved 1,268 people during Rwanda's genocide a decade ago.

For a long time, he was bitter. Somehow, though, the movie



Rusesabagina

"Hotel Rwanda" has helped him allay some of that pain — which stemmed from the world ignoring the hellish situation.

"Whenever I talk about the genocide, whenever I will see the movie, I see it as if it was happening yesterday, or today in the morning," said Rusesabagina, 50, who now runs a heavy-duty transport business in Zambia.

His family lives in Belgium, where he visits often. A cement bond exists among him, his wife and four children, he says, because they all feel there's almost nothing they can go through now that could top what they've already endured. They can always tell each other: "We have shared worse."

Don Cheadle, who plays Rusesabagina, told The Associated Press he thought he'd find a much more tragic figure.

"I expected to find somebody who was really haunted and really shell-shocked in a way. Because the stories I had read and the tapes I had seen and the accountings I had heard were horrific, and I just

See Hotel on C6

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Many notable African-Americans died in 2004. Their roles varied from entertainers to civil rights leaders to soldiers in Iraq. It's impossible to name them all, but an article on BlackNews.com has published a list and brief bio of some notable blacks who died in 2004.

- Ron O'Neal — Actor whose role as cocaine dealer Youngblood Priest in "Superfly" epitomized "blaxploitation" films; died Jan. 14.



James

- Malachi Favors — Jazz bassist; played with Dizzy Gillespie, Art Ensemble of Chicago; died Jan. 30.

- Earl Ofari Hutchinson Sr. — Pioneer civil rights advocate who was honored by Bill Clinton and at 96 became the oldest African-American male to write his autobiography; died Feb. 15.

- Paul Winfield — Oscar-nominated actor ("Sounder") known for versatility on stage; died March 7.

- J.J. Jackson — Helped usher in music video era as early MTV personality; died March 17.

- Brenda Fassie — South Africa's first black pop star, and activist who gave voice to disenfranchised during apartheid; died May 9.

- Dorothy Van Engle — Early

See Deaths on C6



Isabel Sanford of "The Jeffersons" fame was the first and only African-American woman to receive an Emmy as Best Actress in a comedy series. Here, she is honored with the 2,245th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Jan. 15, 2004.

Photo by Laura Farn/Zuma Press