

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Grants will help colleges jump-start design center

Just weeks after a new study by AngelouEconomics reported a "strong local demand for design incubator space," the Golden LEAF Foundation has awarded the N.C. School of the Arts, Winston-Salem State University, and Forsyth Technical Community College a \$45,000 grant for the Center for Design Innovation.

The funds will be used as "seed money" to "jump-start" the CDI by leasing and outfitting space, according to Jim DeCristo, director of economic development and external affairs at the N.C. School of the Arts.

The Center for Design Innovation, a University of North Carolina inter-institutional collaboration between NCSA and Winston-Salem State University, in partnership with Forsyth Technical Community College, was created in response to a 2003 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, also developed by AngelouEconomics, that recommended that the region pursue a course to accelerate the growth of the emerging design cluster in the Piedmont Triad.

The goals of the CDI—which will specialize in the application of digital design in entertainment, life science, education, product design, and product marketing—are to discover, develop and commercialize innovative technologies; create new high-paying "knowledge economy" jobs to replace jobs being lost in textile, furniture and tobacco manufacturing; and to provide a skilled work force to support the growth of the design cluster. Ultimately, the Piedmont Triad will be known nationally for its pre-eminence in design.

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has approved \$2 million to establish the CDI, while the state has allocated another \$10 million for the construction of a facility at Piedmont Triad Research Park in Winston-Salem.

Peele charged with identity theft

(Knight Ridder) — Fashion model Beverly Peele has been charged with identity theft for allegedly buying about \$10,000 worth of household appliances and furniture with someone else's credit card numbers, reports The Associated Press.

Peele, 30, who has been featured in magazine ads and appeared in the movie "Sweet Friggin' Daisies" and a George Michael music video, was arrested Monday and charged with two counts of grand theft by access card, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said Friday.

The complaint alleges Peele charged furniture, a refrigerator, a washer and dryer, bedding and other items for her home on credit cards that were in a wallet she found in a supermarket. Investigators said she returned the wallet to the owner but first apparently copied the numbers on the charge cards.

Rapper shot while driving

(DETROIT (AP)) — Obie Trice, a protégé of Eminem, was shot early Saturday while driving on a city highway, police said.

Someone in another car shot through the back window of 28-year-old Trice's vehicle as he drove along Lodge Freeway about 1:10 a.m., Michigan State Police Sgt. Mario Gonzales said. There were no suspects in the shooting, which was under investigation, Gonzales said.

The Detroit native continued driving and got off the freeway in the suburb of Southfield, where his girlfriend, also in the vehicle, flagged down police, Gonzales said. The girlfriend wasn't wounded.

Trice was treated at Providence Hospital and released, hospital spokesman Brian Taylor said.

Trice contributed to the song "Drips" on Eminem's 2002 album "The Eminem Show."

Report: Donald Trump considering run for governor

(ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)) — Donald Trump is considering running for governor, a leading Republican said Friday.

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno on Thursday suggested that a big-name candidate could be flirting with entering the 2006 contest. On Friday, he confirmed to News Channel 10 in Albany that he had been referring to Trump.

Bruno told the station he had spoken to the real estate developer and TV personality about a possible run.

Trump's office in New York had no immediate comment.

State GOP Executive Director Ryan Moses said neither he nor state party Chairman Stephen Minarik have had discussions with Trump about running.

Frank McKay, state chairman of the Independence Party, said: "(Trump) is a formidable candidate for anything he decides to run for. We would love to see him run for president of the United States in 2008 as a third-party candidate. I'd do what I could to help give him a strong base here in New York and everywhere else in the country."

Trump flirted with a run for president on the Reform Party ticket in 2000. He has given money to Republicans and Democrats in state races.

Republicans are looking for a candidate with name recognition and money to take on the only announced Democratic candidate, state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Spitzer is far ahead of all candidates for governor in the early polls.

Spitzer won an endorsement Friday from former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, who cited his fellow Democrat's record as a corporate reform.

Black critics pick 'Crash' as top film



"Crash" centers around the lives of several Los Angeles residents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — "Crash," the Los Angeles ensemble drama about the prejudices of intersecting characters, has been selected as the top film of the year by the African-American Film Critics Association.

Besides "Crash," the AAFCA chose nine other movies as the top films of the year: "The Constant Gardener"; "Good Night, Good Luck"; "Brokeback Mountain"; "Sypiana"; "Walk the Line"; "Hustle & Flow"; "Capote"; "Batman Begins"; and "North Country."

"The films selected for 2005 boldly reflect a bridge towards tolerance," AAFCA President Gil Robertson IV said in a statement this week.

Last year, "Ray" was selected by the AAFCA as 2004's best film. The association was founded in 2003.

The AAFCA chose Terrence Howard as best actor for his performance in "Hustle & Flow." Felicity Huffman earned the best-actress recognition for her gender-bending role in "Transamerica."

"Although our organization pays special attention to work by artists of African

See Films on A13

GETTING TO KNOW CIARA

Atlanta sensation opens up

BY DENNIS M. BYRON JR.
THE ATLANTA VOICE

ATLANTA (NNPA) — Plain and simple, Atlanta's multi-platinum "Crunk & B" sensation Ciara is doing her thing!

The just-turned 20-year-old phenomenon has remarkably designed a blueprint for stardom since her sophomore year of high school, and it's unfolding successfully in front of the eyes of millions. While her smash singles including "Goodies," "1, 2 Step" and "Oh" from her "Goodies" album still rock the airwaves, Ciara is currently touring with rock star Gwen Stefani, whose hit "Hollaback Girl" is also in heavy rotation.

The Atlanta Voice caught up with Ciara in New York doing a little holiday shopping in between performances. Known for her uplifting spirit, humbleness and overall good heart, Ciara discussed how she prepared for stardom, offered advice to especially young black people, and talked about what she does to stay grounded and her upcoming "Holladay Jam."

Ciara: You know what? I can say that up until this point, I've always believed in myself and I believed that I would be successful in whatever I went in to. I think that the beginning went fast: It was my first record, "Goodies." I wanted it to be my single so bad because I thought it was a really big record, but I didn't expect that record to go as fast as it did to the top. So that was the beginning for me, and then I kind of started to notice that things were not going to slow down for me. I think it went fast for all the people, like all of my friends and my business partners. It did sell really fast, I can say that much.

Q: Well you are definitely not a candidate for a one-album wonder due to your overall talent and supporters. How do you preserve such an outgoing personality and genuineness in a racy and often shady business?

A: Thank you! I think by not forgetting where I come from. The reality is that you don't know what tomorrow will be, and the cool thing is that I also have family around me to keep me grounded. I constantly try to keep people in my life that keep me positive.

I just try to be observant of everything because the one thing that I can say is that I could get caught up in this industry. I think that every time I remember where I come from, my soul, my family, my origin, there's no way to change. That's what I feel, and I constantly



See Ciara on A13

Ciara performs during the We Ain't Done Yet: Holladay Jam Tour at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 29.



Reynolda House decked for the holidays.

Museum to let visitors explore its nearly 100-year mansion

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Reynolda House Museum of American Art will offer a Reynolda Underground Tour of the historic house and museum on Sundays, January 8 and 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. The home that houses the museum was built by R. J. Reynolds and his wife, Katharine Smith, between 1912 and 1917.

While typical tours feature such rooms as Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds's studies, the dining room, the reception hall and a bedroom and bath, visitors who go "underground" will have the opportunity to see areas usually off-limits to tourists. This guided tour will include the kitchens, laundry facility, the mechanical room, ice-block air-conditioning rooms, squash court, and even spaces below the pool.

Visitors will come up for air as they climb to the former roof deck for a spectacular panoramic view of the estate.

While this is a very special look at the mechanics that made the estate work, visitors are also encouraged to visit other public areas and the two current exhibitions, J.M.W. Turner and Frederic Church: An Atlantic Conversation and Paper, Leather, Wood: Materials and African American Art of the Twentieth Century.

The Reynolda Underground Tour will be offered on Sunday and again on Sunday, Jan. 22, beginning at 2 sharp to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 758-5150 or visit the Web site at www.reynoldahouse.org. Cost is \$12, \$10 for members and students.