

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### Dance for devastated high school is planned

**GREENSBORO** - Eastern Guilford High School, which had its building destroyed in a Nov. 1 fire, will hold its end-of-year dance concert Saturday, June 2, at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro Dance Theater.

Performances at 2 and 7 p.m. will feature modern, jazz and West African works in the theater at Walker Avenue and Kenilworth Street. Tickets are being distributed by the school's 41 dance students.

The dance teacher at Eastern Guilford, Angela Greene, graduated from the high school herself in 1993. "The fall semester was really rough, trying to get the students back together," she said. "We had no costumes and no music."

Greene, who graduated from UNCG in 1997 and is a master's student in the dance department, led a drive to collect CDs and dance wear for her students, work for which she received an Ethel Martus Lawther Alumni Award from UNCG's School of Health and Human Performance.

"Angela has done a masterful job ensuring that the students continue to enjoy the dance experience," said Dr. David Perrin, dean of the School of Health and Human Performance. "We are delighted to help by making our dance theater available for this performance."

"We're really grateful to UNCG for giving us a place to perform," Greene said.

Greene thanks the Greensboro Ballet, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts, Weaver Academy, and Burlington Academy of Dance and Arts for supporting Eastern Guilford's dancers in the difficult months since the fire. The high school's students have been going to class in Browns Summit at the Gateway University Research Park, a project jointly managed by UNCG and North Carolina A&T State University.

### Hampton University Museum gets new director

Vernon S. Courtney has been named the new director of the Hampton University Museum. A Hampton, Va. native, Courtney brings a wealth of knowledge to the new position. His previous position was the director of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce Ohio. He also served for 11 years as assistant director there, responsible for institutional development and general operations.

Having also held previous administrative positions at Wilberforce University and served as the director of foundation relations at Hampton University, Courtney is familiar with university settings. Courtney received his AB degree from Harvard University and holds a M.Ed. degree from Pennsylvania State University, where he also completed doctoral coursework in higher education administration. He has been a member of the boards of the Culture Works Art Consortium and Green County Convention Bureau in Ohio and the Association of African American Museums.

### Lewisville Library will screen film about infamous local murder

The Lewisville Branch Library will have a showing of the newly released film, "A Christmas Family Tragedy," on Tuesday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to delve into this first documentary about the notorious Lawson Family Massacre of Christmas Day 1929 that took place in Stokes County near Germantown. "A Christmas Family Tragedy" is the haunting story of Charlie Lawson, a well-respected and prosperous tobacco farmer who brutally murdered his wife, 6 of his 7 children, and then himself. The mystery of what happened that day has inspired the popular book, "White Christmas, Bloody Christmas, classic bluegrass murder ballads, ghost stories, and family feuds. The film uses interviews with the descendants of the Lawson family and their neighbors, photographs, period recreations, and music to explore the legends and myths surrounding the murders, and what they mean to the remaining family and the community now.

This event is a kick-off to the Library's Adult and Teen Summer Reading Program, which runs June 9 - July 21. Attendees can get a reading log or reading record and sign up for prizes for just reading books during the Summer Sizzles Summer Adult Reading Program or the Teen Summer Reading Program! Check out a book and get started on a summer full of reading!

This event is free and open to the public. A question and answer session with the filmmaker will follow the movie. Call 703-2940 for more information.

### Dancer, actor Carl Wright dies

**CHICAGO (AP)** - Actor Carl Wright, who began his career as a tap dancer and comedian and later appeared in movies including "Barbershop" and "Big Momma's House," has died, his family confirmed Sunday. He was 75.

Wright died of cancer at his home Saturday in Chicago, according to his daughter, Kia Wright.

Wright's film credits also include "Soul Food," "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" and "The Cookout."

Born in Orlando, Fla., Wright traveled the world as a young man working as a tap dancer, and he once danced with a one-legged partner as a team called the Three-Leggers, his daughter said. He also worked as a comedian, emcee and songwriter.

His movie career began late in his life, his daughter said.

Wright is survived by his wife, Shirley, two other daughters and a granddaughter.

## NCSA's "West Side Story" a blockbuster

### Show's run sets new school record

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina School of the Arts' recent production run of "West Side Story" at the Stevens Center grossed approximately \$940,000 and topped 15,000 in attendance, NCSA Chancellor John Mauceri has announced.

After production and associated expenses, the show has netted the School of the Arts approximately \$325,000 for student scholarships. It represents the first time the School has ever generated as much revenue for scholarships with a production.

Mauceri said that the School's critically acclaimed new production to celebrate the 50th anniversary of "West Side Story" will not only assist talented students in attending NCSA, but will also raise the profile of the School around the state and



Noel Grady-Smith, the wife of NCSA faculty member Frank Smith, waits to get into the Stevens Center for "West Side Story" with several local students. Grady-Smith is an arts educator

national. "We are grateful for the support we have received from our enthusiastic audience members, our tireless volunteers, our many

corporate and character sponsors, and all the foundations that made our production possible," said Chancellor Mauceri, who was the show's musical director

and conductor. "Because of them, deserving students will be able to study at NCSA, and the world will know the quality of which the School of the Arts is capable."

Total revenue generated from the show included more than \$110,000 from production underwriters; \$22,000 from corporate sponsors; \$24,000 from character/crew sponsors; \$10,000 from sales of donated T-shirts and posters; \$540,000 from general ticket sales; and \$165,000 from gala ticket sales.

"West Side Story," which played May 3-13, was a Broadway-caliber, collaborative production of the Schools of Dance, Design and Production, Drama, Filmmaking, and Music at the North Carolina School of the Arts. With 46 cast members (dancers, actors and singers), 40 orchestra members, more than 150 crew members, and nearly two dozen faculty members

See NCSA on A11

## UNCG professor uncovers Jackie Kennedy's mystique

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

**GREENSBORO** - Jackie Kennedy has long fascinated Dr. Elizabeth "Jody" Natalie - especially the illusiveness and the mystique of the only First Lady of the modern age who did not leave her papers immediately open to public scrutiny after her death.

Natalie, a communication studies professor at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, recently received a \$1,200 Theodore Sorensen Research Fellowship from the JFK Library in Boston. The grant, named for JFK's special counsel,

will fund her trip to the library this summer to complete archival research for a book, tentatively titled "The Rhetorical Jacqueline Kennedy: The Influence of First Lady Discourse and Image."

Jackie was extremely protective of her personal life, and instructed that her papers remain sealed for 60 years after her death. Natalie tells the story of JFK's Press Secretary, Pierre Salinger, asking Jackie why she never kept a journal: "I don't need to write about my life," Jackie told him. "I need to live my life."

The secrecy has made research difficult for Natalie, whose quest to understand Mrs. Kennedy as a public communicator stemmed from her involvement in the First Ladies Scholars Network, a subgroup of the National Communication Association. She started work on the book eight years ago and hopes to complete the draft by December.

"She's probably the most difficult First Lady to research," Natalie said. "I had very limited access to primary sources. It's a lot of fun though. Almost like detective work."

The book focuses only on Jackie's years in the White House. Much of Natalie's information has come from communications from Mrs. Kennedy to White House insiders and staff members.

Jackie made it clear to staffers that she expected complete privacy, Natalie said. "She sent out a blanket memo to staff that essentially said, 'At the end of this administration, you will return to me any correspondence we have had during this administration.'"

Of course the administration was cut short by JFK's death, and some letters, speech drafts, and memos survived.

Natalie said the uppercrust Jackie, who spoke French fluently, was often criticized by the media



Jackie Kennedy

because they saw the Kennedy White House as "Jacqueline Kennedy trying to be French, or Jacqueline Kennedy trying to be a queen. But I don't think she ever lost sight of the fact that she was part of a democracy rather than a monarchy."

Other than the White House restoration, Jackie didn't have a specific public agenda like most First Ladies have now, Natalie said, but she did have a major and lasting impact on American culture. She exemplified graceful diplomacy, and advocated for historic preservation, the arts and cultural pride.

"I'm looking at the relationship of the First Lady to the public and of the First Lady to the presidency," Natalie said, "because the First Lady really is cast in a support role. She's part of the team that supports the President."

Natalie's book will be the first full documentation of Mrs. Kennedy's public communication.

## Spelman student takes on BET, TV One

Angela Boudreaux says black women being objectified

BY NISA ISLAM MUHAMMAD  
THE FINAL CALL

(NNPA) - "Dear Ms. Lee, when I heard about a letter writing campaign to BET, I knew I had to participate because I am disgusted with images of Black women in the media, particularly those provided by television and music videos. I can no longer tolerate the way women are portrayed and the disgusting way that BET perpetuates this behavior.

"I will never understand how a company that is supposed to be the voice for black people, makes them look worse than any other organization in the world. Some of the videos that are played at BET can be classified as pornographic. The lyrics to the songs, with these outrageous videos, are just as alarming. Black women are all depicted as nothing but sexual objects and their only value stemming from various parts of their bodies."

That's how the "strong letter" begins to Debra Lee, CEO of BET. Angela Boudreaux from Houston, Texas, a sophomore at Spelman College in Atlanta start-



Angela Boudreaux speaks at a recent campus event.

ed her second year of writing letters to express her disdain of the images of black women on TV.

"I started the first one last year at convocation; I was excited and passionate about doing something. I did it for two days, but only got eight letters," she told The Final Call.

What a difference a year makes. This year, convocation came in the middle of the Don

Imus controversy. Mr. Imus called the Rutgers Women's basketball team, "Nappy headed hos" on his radio show.

Those remarks led to his firing by CBS and MSNBC, and a nationwide conversation about those remarks, rap lyrics and the images of black women in the media.

"I created an organization

See Letters on A11



Lopez

## Judge: J. Lopez must submit to deposition

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** - Lawyers fighting over whether Jennifer Lopez knows anything about the origination of a television series about Miami's modeling and nightclub scene may hear from the actress within weeks, though one lawyer promised: "I will not ask for her autograph."

U.S. Magistrate Judge Henry Pitman has ordered the actress to submit to a deposition by June 11 to answer questions posed in a lawsuit brought last year by a television writer who says the actress, UPN and CBS Television stole his idea and created "South Beach."

Writer Jack Bunick claimed in a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Manhattan that the television series that debuted in January 2006 was too similar to a plot he described in 1999 for a pilot episode of a show that would have been called "South Beach Miami."

In February, lawyer Orin Snyder argued for Lopez in court papers that although she was executive producer, Lopez was barely involved in the creation and development of "South Beach" and was only brought in at a later stage to "lend celebrity to the show."

Snyder, who did not return a phone call for comment last Friday, told Pitman he believed Bunick sued Lopez and sought a deposition "for tactical reasons, in an apparent attempt to obtain some perceived leverage by targeting and harassing a celebrity in a case where she has no meaningful testimony to give and no legitimate reason for being named as a defendant in the first place."

Sheldon Farber, a lawyer for Bunick, shot back his own letter to the court saying Lopez was a proper defendant.

"Her celebrity is not a shield for her to use to avoid direct testimony in a case in which she has not been named frivolously," Farber wrote. "I am unaware that one of the perks of fame is protection from legal

See Lopez on A11