

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Methodist Youth Choir to perform at Greensboro College

The North Carolina United Methodist All-State Youth Choir, under the direction of Professor of Music Jonathan Brotherton, will perform at Greensboro College in the Gail Brower Huggins Performance Center at 4 p.m. on June 22.

The performance is free and open to the public.

More than 50 United Methodist high school students throughout North Carolina were chosen through auditions and personal recommendations to form the choir. This is the 14th consecutive year the choir has performed.

The students come to the Greensboro College campus for three days of intensive rehearsals and then embark on a four-day tour of North Carolina United Methodist churches. The Youth Choir Camp draws on a support system of professional musicians from Greensboro College and United Methodist churches throughout the state.

The North Carolina United Methodist All-State Youth Choir program — funded by the Greensboro College Department of Religious Life and by participant tuition — provides opportunities for high school students to be involved in a high-quality music camp in a caring, supportive environment.

Duke's Ball named nation's funniest student

Duke University alumnus Tim Ball and Dan Perrault, of Emerson College, are the winners of RooftopComedy's 1st Annual National College Competition, earning them the titles the "Nation's Funniest College Students."



Ball

Ball and Perrault emerged the winners after the Final Rounds of both the Stand-Up and Short Film competitions that took place in a live broadcast on Saturday, May 31 from the famed Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, Colo., during the Inaugural Aspen RooftopComedy Festival.

The RooftopComedy College Comedy Competition hosted 32 on-campus competitions, 16 regional semi-final contests and two online voting rounds of competition that narrowed down the 600+ comedians and short-film makers to just four in each category, all of whom who went head-to-head on May 31. Votes were cast by both the online and Wheeler Opera House audiences.

Ball, the winner of the Stand-Up Competition, is a 22-year old 2008 graduate of Duke University from Dallas. Perrault, who won the Short Film Category, is a 21-year-old from Hingham, Mass.

Ball's performance and Perrault's short film, can be seen at www.RooftopComedy.com/college.

State is 15th for overseas visitors

North Carolina ranked 15th among all states, its highest ranking ever, in drawing overseas visitors for 2007. The state drew some 358,000 overseas visitors in 2007, according to a report released today by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration and Office of Travel and Tourism Industries.

North Carolina ranked 18th in 2005, the last time it generated a large enough sample to appear in the study, which uses an in-flight survey given to passengers flying into the United States from international destinations other than Canada and Mexico to determine visitation. The North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development has tourism marketing offices in Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as one in Canada. The offices do joint marketing, agent training, promotions and public relations to the key tour operators selling the south to visitors in German Speaking Europe (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) and the United Kingdom.

"In the overseas markets we are gaining steadily and finally eclipsing our pre-2001 numbers," said Lynn Minges, Executive Director of the North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development. "North Carolina proactively works to attract international visitors to our state from Germany and the United Kingdom."

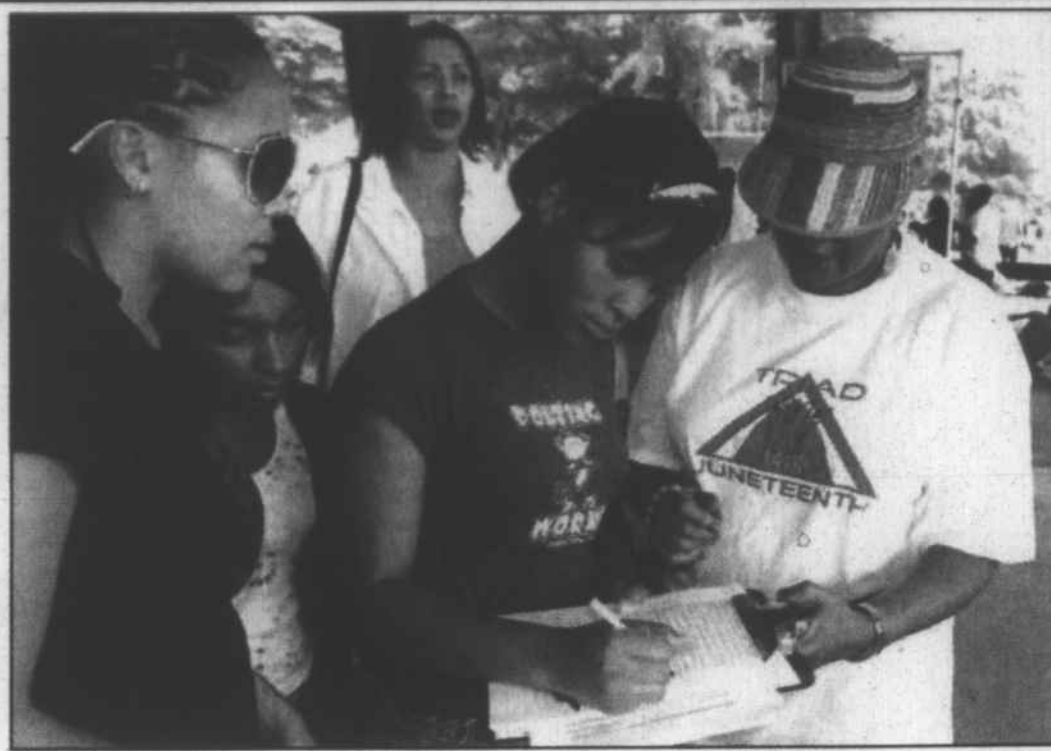
Overseas visitors are important to a state's economic wellness because those visitors typically stay longer and spend significantly more than domestic visitors per trip. According to the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, overseas visitors to North Carolina spend an average of \$3,476 per trip (\$2,568 in North Carolina alone) and stay in the state an average of 12 days, while domestic visitors typically spend \$549 per trip and stay in the state an average of 3.3 days, according to TNS TravelsAmerica.

Locals strike lottery gold

Elizabeth Vidal of Winston-Salem recently had a birthday to remember. She bought a "Triple Money Mania" instant scratch-off ticket for herself and won \$150,000!

Vidal says she has played instant scratch-off games before, but that this was the first time she had bought "Triple Money Mania." She says she scratched off the ticket while sitting in her truck. When she realized she had won the top prize, she says she ran back into the store, screaming with excitement. Vidal plans to use her winnings to buy a new home for her family. She purchased her winning ticket at Kelly's on Peters Creek Parkway in Winston-Salem.

Another Winston-Salem resident also got lucky. In the Saturday, May 31, Powerball drawing, one ticket matched all five white balls and is worth \$200,000. The ticket was sold at Robinhood Tobacco on Robinhood Road.



File Photo

A volunteer gets an attendee to sign a petition pushing for a National Juneteenth Holiday during a 2006 Winston-Salem Juneteenth event.

Slate of Juneteenth events will start soon

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

This year's Triad Juneteenth Celebration will stretch from Winston-Salem, to Greensboro, to High Point.

Triad Cultural Arts, Inc., a Winston-Salem-based non-profit, is joining forces with the Carl Chavis YMCA in High Point and Ujamaa Merchants United, Inc. of Greensboro to stage a series of events to celebrate Juneteenth, a historic holiday that marks the end of slavery in the United States.

Each city will have a celebration to mark the occasion. High Point will start the series of celebrations with a festival on June 20 from 5-8 p.m. at the Mendenhall Station Transportation Terminal, 220 East Commerce Ave. Attendees can call 336-434-5440 or send an e-mail to cfoster@hpcymca.org for more information about that event.

Winston-Salem's celebration will once again be held in Rupert Bell Park. The event will be Saturday, June 21 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The park is at 1501 Mt. Zion Place. For

more information about this event, call 336-793-7462 or e-mail charry@triadculturalarts.org.

Greensboro will close out the series with its celebration on Saturday, June 28 at Festival Park, 200 N. Davie St., from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 336-697-9668 or send an e-mail to patfortune@bellsouth.net for more information.

Each festival will include entertainment by gospel choirs, rhythm and blues bands, African drummers, dancers and vocalists. There will also be activities for children, health screenings, displays set up by community organizations and merchandise and food vendors. All of the festivals will be family-oriented and free and open to the public.

There will be two pre-festival events in Winston-Salem. On Thursday, June 19 at 6 p.m., there will be an opening reception of the Juneteenth Art Exhibition at The Artists Market, 89 West Fifth St. The Juneteenth artwork will be on display at the marker from June 16 - July 20. Also on Thursday, June 19 at the



Joe Robinson

See Juneteenth on A12

Center to show regular folks how to become art collectors

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Thought about collecting art? A popular local art gallery will host a sessions to show you how. The Friends of the Delta Arts Center is calling its three-part series "I Liked It So I Bought It" a crucial crash course on the ins and outs of art collecting.

The first workshop will be held June 20 from 6-8 p.m. "I Liked It So I Bought It. What Is It?" will feature Laurel Tucker Duplessis, a visual artist, lecturer and former curator of the Art and Artifacts Division at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Hampton University Museum. Duplessis is also the author of "Basic Ideas for Collecting African American Art." He will talk about "what is and what is not" fine art and tell would-be collectors, "where to begin."



Laurel Tucker Duplessis

Kerry Davis, a U.S. Postal Service employee who is also a collector, lecturer, consultant and owner of Atlanta's Davis Fine Art, will keynote Aug. 2's "I like it. I want it. How can I afford it?" The workshop will focus on how to start a collection on a shoestring budget. Davis will highlight the techniques she has used to acquire works from prominent artists. Her lecture will also be from 6-8 p.m.

The last program, "I liked it. I bought it. How did I do?" will be a Show-and-Tell event, where attendees are invited to share a piece of art that they have acquired and tell where they found and what drew them to it.

A discussion will be led by Dr. Regenia Perry, a lifelong collector of African American Art. She will talk about her passion for art and her unique approach to collecting. Perry is the first African-American to hold a Ph.D. in art history and is a retired Virginia Commonwealth University professor.

All the workshops will be held at Delta Arts Center, 2611 New Walkertown Rd. The cost for the individual programs is \$20 per person. Admission to all three programs is \$50. Officials say space is limited and that those interested in attending should call Albert Reeves, 336-774-3163, for reservations.

Hollywood meets Southern Goodness

Filmmakers responsible for "Fried Green Tomatoes" get the real thing at Sweet Potatoes

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

There is Hollywood make-believe and then there is the real thing.

The director and producer of the hugely successful 1991 film "Fried Green Tomatoes" found that out recently.

As they dined at Sweet Potatoes restaurant in the heart of the city's arts district, the restaurant's owners, Vivian Joiner and Stephanie Tyson, made a point to bring out their own mouth-watering fried green tomatoes, a specialty on their menu.

Jon Avnet directed and Jordan Kerner produced the film, which starred, among others, North Carolina School of the Arts alumna Mary-Louise Parker and was nominated for two Oscars. Avnet and Kerner are former partners in The Avnet/Kerner Company, which is also behind films like "George of the Jungle," "Up Close and Personal" and "The Mighty Ducks" films.

Kerner is now dean of the School of Filmmaking at the North Carolina School of the Arts and is a huge advocate for North Carolina's film industry.

Avnet, whose other films include "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow," "88 Minutes" and "Inspector Gadget," was Kerner's guest recently in the School of



Photo by Allen Aycock/NCSA

Sam Weisman with restaurant owners Vivian Joiner and Stephanie Tyson — who are holding their famous fried green tomatoes — Jon Avnet and Jordan Kerner.

Filmmaking. Avnet conducted workshops for Glass and First Assistant Director Benita film students along with Director/Producer Allen. Sam Weisman, Storyboard Artist Christopher



Photo by Jake Herles/CNN

CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien in front of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., for a report for the network's landmark "Black in America" initiative.

Morehouse senior wins CNN contest

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Morehouse College senior Travers Johnson has won CNN's Campus iReporter Contest.

His winning entry is called "To Be Young, Gifted and Black in America," and ponders whether it is a good time to be young and black in America.

The contest ran in association with a tour of eight historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to promote CNN's "Black in America," a multi-platform programming initiative.

More than 11,500 students from eight HBCUs participated in the tour,

which included stops at North Carolina Central University and North Carolina A&T. As part of the Campus iReporter Contest, students from each school shared their firsthand accounts of the black experience through video, photo, audio or text submissions. The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) chose one "Campus iReporter" from each school to win a digital video camera. Those winners were then eligible to submit additional footage to compete for the grand prize, also chosen by NABJ. CNN's www.iReport.com site allows everyday people to be reporters by uploading



Johnson

See CNN on A11