



EBONY GROUP AND COMPANY
Charlotte area representatives

Statewide Organization

Cultural Arts Coalition Formed

By O. Imani Uhuru Aka (V.W.P.)
Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, was the scene of the birth of a new and what may prove to be, extremely useful statewide organization.
May 14, is the birthdate of the newly formed, NORTH CAROLINA CULTURAL ARTS COALITION, which is the only statewide organization of black artists or artists of any kind in the entire nation.
The organization was the result of a meeting conceived and coordinated by Patricia Stevens Funderburke, under the auspices of the state Department of Public Instruction.
Present at the meeting, were black artists of various talents, from across the state, including representatives from the Charlotte Area. Attending were visual artists Charles Moody and "Zubar," also, performing artists of the multi-talented Ebony Group and Company, who performed a provocatively spellbinding rendition of James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones."
Pat Funderburke gave some background as to the need of a black arts organization, stating, "there is a tremendous need for the identification of Black artists living in the state of North Carolina. Opportunities for employment and financial assistance are available to them by many agencies and organizations throughout the state. However, these groups seem to have no idea who the artists are nor where they are located." She continued, "furthermore, the artists are either not aware of the existence of many of these agencies or of the benefits they offer. These circumstances have caused an overwhelming lack of communication between the two entities. Consequently, the Black artist has been forced to either leave the state in order

to make a living at his craft or to remain here, supporting himself and his or her family in a field other than that in which he or she has the most talent, expertise and training."
Asked what help she received from the Department of Public Instruction, and what the objectives of the organization would be, she answered "after discussing the artist's plight with the Director of Cul-Arts Division of the Department of Public Instruction, who was seeking Black performers for employment in the public school system, Black artists, and numerous civic leaders it was the general consensus of them all that some type of organization was unquestionably needed." One which would include specific objectives such as:
Having an up-to-date listing of all Black artists living in, trained in, or native to the state.
To provide these artists with a listing of all arts agencies, arts organizations, and potential employers available to them on a statewide and local level.
To provide artists with a listing of granting agencies on a statewide and national level.
To act as a liaison between the artist and institutionalized arts agencies, community theatres, arts associations, radio and TV stations, film production studios and incorporated performing arts groups.

To act as a funding agency for arts activities by members of the organization.
To provide consultation and training in grantmanship, organization of new companies, fund raising, assembling of resumes, audition techniques and any other area helpful to the artist in obtaining employment, visibility and viability.
To coordinate and implement conferences, conventions, fund raising activities, and workshops in the arts and related areas.
To publish a newsletter on a regular basis that will keep the artists informed about the organization's activities, local, state and national arts functions, new artists, employment opportunities, legislation on the arts, and any other relevant information.
The tremendous turnout of artists in response to an invitation extended by Ms. Funderburke indicated to her the possibility of great success for the organization.
At a luncheon celebrating the effort to organize, the gathering was treated to a presentation by Vantile Whitfield, Executive Director of the Expansion Arts Program for the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C. One of the most outstanding aspects of Whitfield's presentation is that upwards of \$60 million dollars are handled by his organization for the needs of those involved in the arts.

Susan Dobson Wins Cone Award

Susan Renee Dodson of 2716 Burntmill Road, Charlotte, has been awarded the Bonnie E. Cone Merit Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Democratic Chairman To Visit Charlotte

Kenneth M. Curtis, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, will be making his first visit to Charlotte, North Carolina since he was elected to head the Democratic Party, this past January.

The former Governor of Maine will be speaking at a luncheon meeting to members of the Democratic National Finance Council from 12:30 until 2 Thursday, May 26 at the Jefferson First Union Tower.

Chairman Curtis will then hold an informal News Conference in the Jefferson First between 2:30 and 3 p.m. It is expected that the Chairman will introduce North Carolinians who are members of the Finance Council, at this time.

At 6 p.m., Chairman Curtis will attend a Barbeque on the ground of the Gaston County Courthouse in Dallas, North Carolina. The Democratic Century Club is sponsoring this event. Chairman Curtis will be the featured speaker.

If you need further information, please call Charlotte Scot at the Democratic National Committee in Washington (202) 797-5900, or, call Jim Patterson in Charlotte: (704) 377-6721.

City, County Receive Arts Council Grant

The City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have received \$5,000 grants each from the N.C. Arts Council, according to a recent press release from the Division of the Arts of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

The N.C. Arts Council awards these grants twice annually to organizations to help support community programming.

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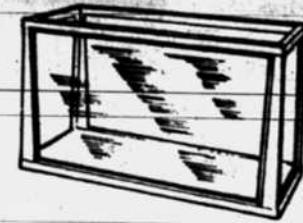
Currently this is UNCC's only scholarship based primarily on merit. However, a campaign is under way to establish the Colvard Merit Scholarship fund in honor of Chancellor and Mrs. D.W. Colvard. A goal of \$500,000 has been set for that scholarship.
UNCC's officials have said that they need more merit funds to compete with universities which offer these prestigious grants to top high school graduates.

Miss Dodson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burt Dodson, Jr. She will graduate in June from South Mecklenburg High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society, the French National Honor Society and the Inter-Club Council. She has worked with handicapped children and with the aged.

She was a nominee for the Governor's School, the Morehead Scholarship at UNC-Chapel Hill, and the Stuart Scholarship at Davidson. She made the "A" honor roll in high school.

Her career plan is to be a hospital administrator.
The Cone Merit Scholarship was established in honor of Dr. Bonnie E. Cone vice chancellor emeritus at UNCC and president of Charlotte College, the predecessor institution.

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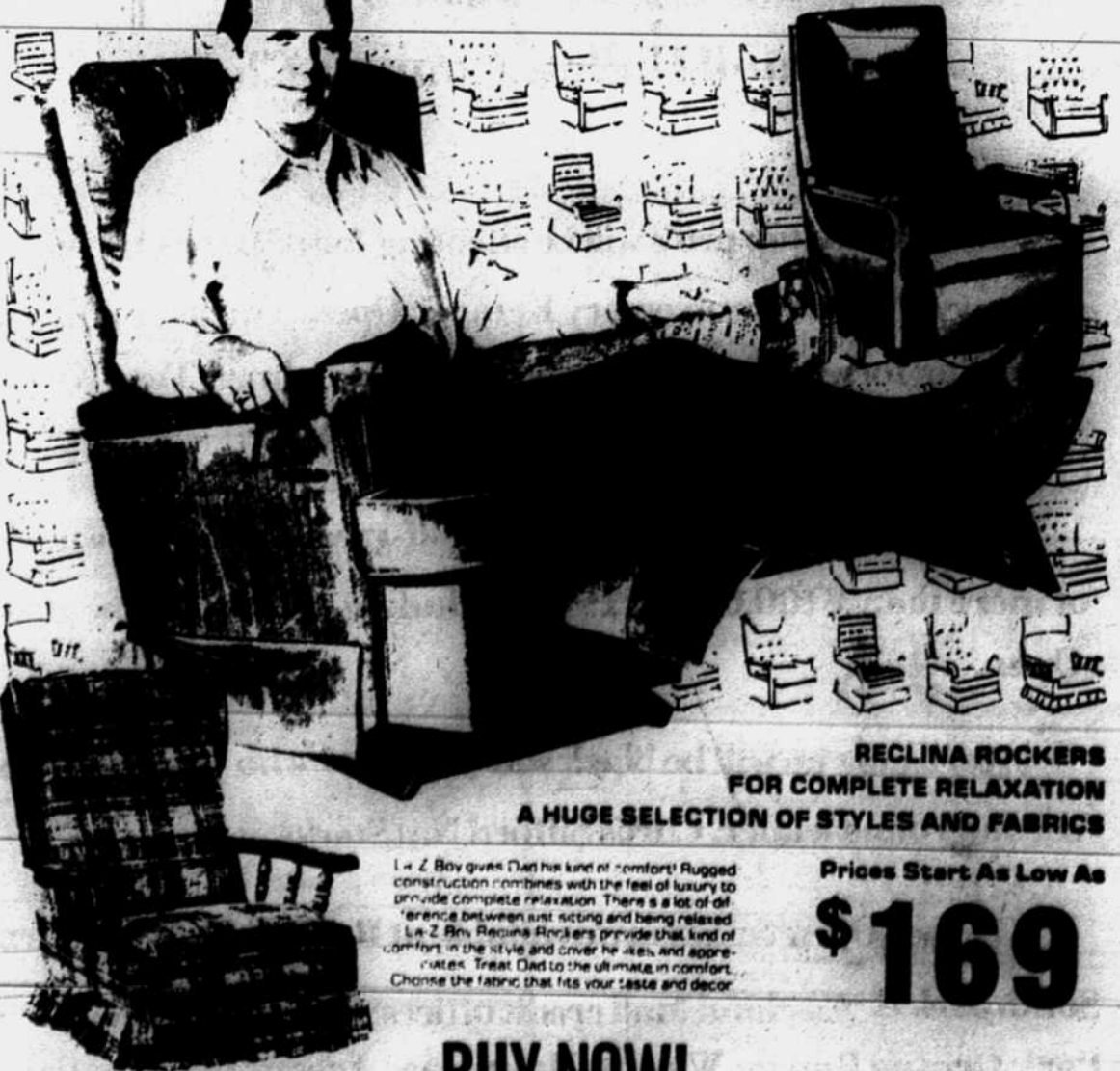


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