

## Partners hope justice is in comics

By Winfred B. Cross  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

If you can't find a decent comic book hero you like, create your own.

That's exactly what Marc Wilson, Edward Horne and Ed "Bear" Francis did. The youthful trio have formed Justice Comics, a minority-themed line of graphic novels.

The premiere issue may be out in the next couple of weeks, or whenever the company works out the financial aspect. The trio is raising funds to print about 1000 copies to sell for around \$2 each.

The issue will feature three storylines, illustrated and written separately by each partner.

"It will not be just ethnic oriented with stories about crime and drugs," says Wilson. "We also have Sci-Fi and medieval. It's mixed with different things."

The book will feature The Merciless, a trench coat-wearing crime fighter who has no problem with dealing with crooks by any means necessary; Mean Streak, an ex-death-row inmate who undergoes a secret government experiment that makes him heal quickly (a '90s "Immortal") and a yet unnamed Sci-Fi series.

"The comics will be very graphic because we wanted to get a message across," Wilson said. "If someone is dealing drugs, we show that and what the consequences are. If you do crime, you're going to pay for it. It's going to be realistic and moralistic. We're trying to move away from the mainstream comics. When something is done, it's done for a purpose."

Wilson said future issues will also deal with racism.

"The Merciless is independent and doesn't pay his girlfriend much attention. But she's white and the two will go through a lot of personal things."

"I've got Asian characters, Hispanic characters and others. We want to appeal to every



Marc Wilson and Edward Horne, partners in Justice Comics.

ethnic group. I'm starting out with The Merciless because he's been around in my mind for the longest in my mind.

Horne describes his Mean Streak character as "kind of a everyday Joe."

"He doesn't wear a costume

and everybody in the neighborhood knows him. He went to prison for murdering a ruthless drug lord. The government comes to him and gets him to go through a cellular regeneration program. It wants to be an army of un-

stoppable soldiers. But Jeremiah Cain has other plans," Horne said.

"There's going to be action, but I like to write, so you'll see a lot of talking head

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## Charlotteans vie for Coors talent crown

By Winfred B. Cross  
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Where will the next Martin Lawrence, En Vogue, Anita Baker or Will Downing come from? Charlotte?

Perhaps. And that new superstar could be discovered as early as Nov. 13. That's when four hopefuls from the Queen City travel to Washington, D.C., to compete in the national finals of the "Super Talent Showcase" sponsored by Coors Extra Gold beer.

Comedian Ken "Tito" Koonce, male vocalist Russell "Tad" Martin, vocal group Debonair and female vocalist Deidre Johnson will represent Charlotte in the national contest. Each won money and prizes in first and semi-final rounds in Charlotte to advance to next week's finals.

For Martin, being in the finals is phenomenal. He's been in Charlotte seven months, the same length of time he's been singing in public.

"Very few people knew I could sing," Martin said. "While I was at (North Carolina A&T State University) I was a jokester. When people heard I was in the contest, they thought I'd be telling jokes."

Martin learned of the contest through his sister Cheryl Walker, who suggested he enter.

"I was very doubtful about entering. Luckily I won the whole thing. Now I'm going to D.C. to bring it on home to Charlotte - like the Panthers did in Chicago."

Martin won the contest with his rendition of "Unchained Melody," originally done by the Righteous Brothers.

"That's the kind of stuff I like doing. I like Johnny Mathis, Otis Redding, the Righteous Brothers and Nat King Cole. I've been told I'm more of a crooner than a singer."

Koonce, known as Tito the dog-gone comic, is trying for his second major accomplishment. Earlier this year he impressed officials with Russell Simmons' "Def Comedy Jam" enough to be in the running for a spot on the show. A win in the Coors contest could put the 36-year-old N.C. Central University graduate in the national spotlight.

The four-month competition, co-sponsored by WPEG FM 98, ended with the semi-final round Sept. 18 at the Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel. Winners received an all-expense paid trip to the finals.

Contestants from Washington, Charlotte, New York, South Carolina, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, will compete in the finals, to be held at George Washington University's Linser Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 and available at TicketMaster locations.



TITO

## Afro Center plans a busy November

By Winfred B. Cross  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Folks at the Afro-American Culture Center will be pretty tired by the end of November. This may prove to be one of their busiest months of the year.

The center kicks off its Family Arts program with a special story hour 10 a.m. Saturday in the Attic Theatre. Native American Jacque Garneau and African American Elisha Minter will tell tales dealing with their own cultural backgrounds.

Later the same evening, the Cultural Movement African Dance Company will give a lecture-demonstration. The group is based in Goldsboro and will do several African dances, chants and games. They will ask the audience to participate, but they warn you - the beat is contagious and you'll want to pat your feet or even participate.

The dance company concentrates on the lifestyles of people from Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Guinea, Senegal and South Africa.

On Nov. 13, the internationally known Grey Seal Puppets will present the well-known story "The Emperor's New Clothes." But there's a twist - all the characters are animals.

"It will not be so much of presenting a puppet show, but introducing kids to the art of puppetry," said Kimberleigh Jordan, arts education specialist at the center. "I think it's great to bring them into our community for people to see." Both programs are free and open to the public.

The work of South Carolina artist Jonathan Green goes on display Nov. 19. The exhibit is titled "From Deep Roots to New Ground: The Gullah Landscapes of Jonathan Green" which features paintings with brilliant colors.

"His work is absolutely beautiful," Jordan said. "It's influenced by his roots in the islands of South Carolina so they

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Grey Seal Puppet



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