

Car cleanliness

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sengers away, but the Looney Tunes coloring book and crayons that were sliding through the corners of the back seat. It also was safe to assume Brooks had not emptied three McDonald's cups alone.

"My goodness! I guess it's true that what's in your car tells about you," Brooks admitted hesitantly while helping her two great-grandchildren, ages 2 and 3, into the car. Brooks had promised the children the hot dogs and hash browns in the grocery bag before stopping to get her husband some batteries.

The McDonald's souvenirs had been left by the "babies" the day before.

Brooks says her vehicle usually is clean, but that's not the case with Max Shaffer's 1984 lima-bean green pickup truck. On any given day, sand and cement can be found surrounding numerous pencils and nails, and seeping into the vents along the dashboard. Wrappers from Little Debbie cakes and dirty coffee cups cover the rubber flooring in the construction worker's vehicle - blueprints are about one foot high on the passenger's side.

Around Charlotte

• The **Carolina Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs** meet Tuesday of the month at the West Charlotte Business Incubator 617 N. Summit Avenue at 6 p.m.

• At 6 p.m. on April 27, the **Brisbane Academy Math & Science Preparatory School** will hold its third annual banquet at the Oasis Temple at University Place. The guest speaker will be NASA Astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris. The master of ceremonies will be Stedman Graham from Stedman Graham and Associates of Chicago. Tickets are \$40. For more information call William or Geraldine White at 598-5208.

• The **Head Start Program** for the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area is now taking applications for the 1996-97 school year school year. Families with incomes below the poverty level are urged to register their three and four year old children born between Oct. 16, 1991 and Oct. 1993. Limited slots are available and priority is given to four year old children. Head Start also serves a limited number of disabled children. For more information call 371-7420, 371-7421, or 371-7436.

• **International House** offers weekly informal language conversations for native speakers and students. There are no registration fees. The languages are Japanese, French, Russian, German, Spanish, English, Italian, and mandarin Chinese. For more information call 333-8099.

• The **Mecklenburg Council on Adolescent Pregnancy** is sponsoring its Third Annual "Hip-Hop" Contest to increase awareness of the importance of preventing teen pregnancy. The contest is open to young people between 10-19 years old. They may enter a soloist or in groups. Contest judges will include personalities from WPEG-98FM and FOX 18/WCCB-TV. The deadline for entries is April 27. Applications are at the Greenville Neighborhood Center, Double Oaks Recreation Center, the Amay James recreation Center, the West Charlotte Recreation Center, and the Johnston YMCA. For information call Townley Moon at 332-6721.

• At 8 a.m. on April 27 the H.L. McCrorey YMCA will have its **Annual Charity Golf Tournament** at the Oak Hill Golf Course at 4800 Oakdale Road. The entry fee is \$75 per person or \$300 per team. For more information call Cedric Thomas at 394-2356.

• From noon to 4 p.m. on April 13, **The Stop The Killing Crusade** will hold a youth rally march from Burns Ave. Elementary School to the Boys and Girls club at 2600 W. Trade St. Drill teams, step teams, youth groups and others are asked to participate. For more information call 394-1154.

• At 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Friday, at **The Afro-American Cultural Center**, 401 N. Tryon St., the Parker Ellington Group presents A Celebration of Black Women in The Arts featuring jazz vocalist Sunny Sumter. Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information call 374-1565.

• The **Garinger High School Class of '63** plans to have its 33rd reunion on July 19 and 20. If you have not been notified, please call Gary or Vickey Baucom at 541-0978.

• At 4:30 p.m. on April 18, the **Family Counseling division of United Family Services** will host "Working With Challenging Children and Adolescents" at

Myers Park Baptist Church. The seminar is open to clergy, teachers, parents, social workers, counselors, and members of the court system. Participants completing the workshop will receive six hours of continuing education credit. The workshop cost is \$90. For more information, call John Jordan at 332-9034.

• The **Black Male Showcase USA Image Award Television Show** will be taped at the Radisson Grand Resort in Fort Mill, S.C. on May 18. The Celebrity Black Tie Gala Ball and Limousine Parade will be on May 17. For more information, call 372-2112.

• From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday beginning on May 7, the **American Red Cross** will be conduct a training class for anyone interested in becoming a certified HIV/AIDS community instructor. Upon completion of the seven-week class, you can join the African American HIV/AIDS Speaker bureau. Kim Lewis will be the instructor and the classes are located on Rozzelles Ferry Road. For more information call 393-2005 or 376-1661.

• From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on April 18, the **Mecklenburg County Women's Commission** will have a Group Counseling and Child Observers of Domestic Violence meeting. Although not required, the mothers of the children will be allowed to participate in a meeting. If you and/or your children would like to participate, call Ellen O'Toole at 336-3790.

• From 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, there will be free tutoring classes at Johnson C. Smith University for students in grades 6-12. The subjects include, general math, Algebra I and II, geometry, calculus, statistics, natural sciences, chemistry and English 1-4. For more information, call Bridgette Harrison at 371-5968 or Twyla Smith at 371-5423.

• April 12-14 at the Charlotte Convention Center, **Loaves and Fishes** will conduct a House Show with the latest ways to redecorate, remodel, and landscape their homes. People can donate \$3 or an equal amount of canned food. Proceeds will be given to Loaves and Fishes to assist their mission of providing emergency food for those in need. For more information, call Tina Berry at 523-4333 or 523-5901.

• At 4 p.m. on April 14, the **Charlotte Mecklenburg Chapter of Las Amigas** will hold its annual pageant at the Greenville Center. Letishia Seabrook will be featured on the program.

• At 5 p.m. on April 15 the **Democratic Woman's Club of Mecklenburg County** will have its general meeting at the Democratic Party Headquarters on 2821 S. Boulevard. They will feature U.S. congressional candidates. For more information, call Sharon Ward at 375-0223 or 537-2757.

• April 12-26 the **Mecklenburg County Women's Commission** will hold its two-week employment training session. The topics will include interviewing, goal setting, financial management, and more. Classes are free and designed for the displaced homemaker or the single parent. For more information, call 336-3210.

• At 3 p.m. on April 27 **Gil McGregor of the Charlotte Hornets** will be the guest speaker. See **AROUND** page 14A

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HOMeward BOUND

Carol Stack, author of *ALL OUR KIN* and *CALL TO HOME*, comes to Borders for a book signing on Tuesday, April 16th, at 7:30pm.

CALL TO HOME (Basic Books, \$21.00) tells the story of black families returning to their rural Southern roots, reversing the decades of exodus to the North, facing many of the problems that caused their flight, determined to not just get by, but improve conditions for themselves and their neighbors. This book offers a rare glimpse of African-American families pulling together and trying to make it.

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