

1D ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Art & Soul, and fashion

By Cheris F. Hodges
 FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Fashion and art have always gone hand and hand.

At this year's Art and Soul Block Party in South Charlotte, the Art Institute of Charlotte and Goodwill are joining forces to show festivalgoers that it doesn't take a lot of money to dress like a million bucks.

"We're trying to show people that you can find very trendy clothes in our stores," said Bruce Lawrence, regional marketing specialist for Goodwill Industries.

The fashion shows, which will feature models from the Art Institute of Charlotte, will showcase the latest

fashion trends and all of the clothes will come from Goodwill stores in the Charlotte area. Lawrence said the show will have the feel the New York Fashion Week shows. They will run in 30-minute stretches during the one-day festival, which is set for Oct. 4.

The biggest thing we want to do is showcase our clothes in a new light," he said. "We have incredible clothes at our stores."

Students from the Art Institute of Charlotte have been working with Goodwill Industries as interns, gaining real world experience about marketing and other tools they learn about in the classroom, said

Please see ART/2D

Sales of rapper's 'Pimp Juice' strong despite boycott



By Jeff Latzke
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — A boycott by several civil rights groups doesn't appear to be affecting the sales of rapper Nelly's new energy drink with a name activists consider distasteful: Pimp Juice.

Project Islamic Hope, a Los Angeles-based activist group led by Najee Ali, has encouraged consumers to boycott the drink and stores that sell it because of the negative meaning the word "pimp" carries. Several other groups have joined the fight.

The neon green, berry-flavored drink was distributed last month to markets in Missouri, Illinois, Florida, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Nevada. A nationwide launch is planned for November, spokeswoman Juliette Harris says. So far, she says, sales have gone well.

"We are completely

sold out and back-ordered and looking to get it back on shelves in October," Harris says. "If you wanted a can, I couldn't get you one right now."

Harris says Nelly does not intend for people to think of the word pimp with its literal definition, but with modified, pop-culture meaning.

"He has never glorified pimping in a literal term," Harris says.

In his song "Pimp Juice," Nelly explains it this way: "Now your pimp juice is anything, attract the opposite sex; it could be money, fame or straight intellect."

Ali calls that argument silly.

"The word pimp has an association in the minds of millions of people with one thing — and that's to exploit women," Ali says.

Ali says Nelly should change the drink's

Please see PIMP/2D

'The Fighting Temptations' has its share of good moments



By Artellia Burch
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Take a little bit of humor, throw in a light-hearted storyline, mix in some soul-thumping music and top it off with one of the best actors in the business and you have "The Fighting Temptations."

The creators didn't attempt to solve all the ills of the world in one script. It simply relayed the message that genuine love, compassion and forgiveness are enough to change lives and situations.

Cuba Gooding Jr. stars as the compulsive liar Darrin Hill, who has spent his time and energy into maintaining a life of deception. Just when things begin to catch up with Hill, he is notified of his aunt's death. Upon receiving his inheritance Hill must form a gospel choir at the same church his mother had been ostracized.

Hill's love interest is Lily, a young single parent played by none other than the Grammy-award winning singer Beyoncé Knowles.

Hill lies and fights opposition from the pastor's sister as he attempts to form a choir that can win the Gospel Explosion.

The humor of Mike Epps and inspiring gospel music is just what's needed to fill the void from the slightly above average story.

Plus cameos from artist like Shirley Caesar, Faith Evans and Ann Nesby help pacify viewers.

"The Fighting Temptations" music satisfies the old-school and new-school taste.

The music selection for Knowles was perfect. And whoever came up the idea of adding

the O'Jays to this movie deserves a raise. The smooth trio harmonious melodies made me reminiscent of days of old.

I applaud the producers of this film for not relying on Knowles to be a great actress. The responsibility for this movie definitely was laid on the shoulders of Gooding and he did a great job.

The all-star cast including heavyweights like Steve Harvey, Gooding, Knowles and Epps are enough for the price of addition.

Overall "The Fighting Temptations" was a decent movie. It's great for a date and perfect for the family.

On a scale of 5, I give "The Fighting Temptations" a three.

"The Fighting Temptations" opened nationwide last week. The movie was filled with cameos by musicians like Shirley Caesar, Ann Nesby and LaTanya Richardson. The movie also starred Cuba Gooding Jr. and Beyoncé Knowles.



PHOTOS/DAVID LEE

'The Blues' shows artistry and passion

By Herbert L. White
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WTVI is kicking off fall with a taste of "The Blues."

The documentary will lead WTVI's fall season beginning on Sunday. In what is being billed as a Blues Television Festival, WTVI will air the series over seven nights at 9 p.m., beginning with Martin Scorsese's film, "Feel Like Going Home" and concluding with Clint Eastwood's "Piano Blues," on Oct. 4.

"The Blues" consists of seven films that capture the essence of the blues while exploring how

the art form influenced people the world over.

Alex Gibney, the series' producer, said: "Through the artistry and passion of these filmmakers, 'The Blues' hopes to link the present and the past by engaging a new generation of viewers and listeners to seek out the music in clubs, festivals and concerts, even as they look back—through books, CDs and archival images—at the origins of the blues. In this way, 'The Blues' will not be the last word on the subject; it will be the 'first word' of a new, more free-wheeling con-

Please see DOCUMENTARY/3D



Aretha Franklin
 So Damn Happy
 Various producers
 Arista Records



It's been 23 years since Aretha debuted on Arista Records for the third part of her career. I still fondly remember "Aretha," which gave us "United Together" and the funky, funky cover of the Do-

obie Brothers' "What A Fool Believes." The woman still had a volcano for a voice that could move earth.

Things have changed a lot since. Aretha's voice has diminished nearly as much as her listening audience. Fifty-year-old women aren't the order of the day at urban radio. But I'll give her credit: she's trying hard to make that fact not so. "So Damn Happy" isn't her best work, but it's still good work. "The Only Thing That's Missing" should tell all that she can hang with the young folk and teach them a thing or two. "Wonderful" is a great cross between old and new school. The title song

is pure old school.

There are other moments when this recording hits stride. "Everybody's Somebody's Fool" is what the doctors (Jam & Lewis) ordered. It's the kind of song Aretha would have killed a decade ago. She still gives the song what it needs. That's where this CD succeeds. Aretha isn't trying to sing as she did in the past. She's working with what she has. And she's still her own best producer. "So Damn Happy" and "You Are My Joy" are the kinds of songs she needs to sing.

There are a couple of contributions by Mary J. Blige and a

few other folks to keep Aretha sounding young, but it's the stuff aimed at older listeners that really succeeds. The queen is still holding court, even if it's a smaller kingdom. She'll always be a queen to me.

Ratings

Classic;	☆☆☆☆☆
Excellent;	☆☆☆☆☆
Good	☆☆☆☆☆
Fair	☆☆☆☆☆
Why?	☆☆☆☆☆
No stars — A mess	☆☆☆☆☆

Caribbean House will present
Pantastic

A Caribbean Music Production

will be held at Great Aunt Stella

Theatre at 926 Elizabeth
 Avenue.

Sugar Aloys and The Charlotte

Caribbean Steel Orchestra will

perform at 7:30 pm.