

D

Section

True believers

Production of 'Eye of God' digs into cults and terrorism



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Actors (seated) Jonavan Adams, Moraya Orija, (standing) Dana Weldon, Carman Couiter, Jai Lavette, AmandaRae Nicastro and Tonya Rogers perform a scene from "The Eyes of God" at a recent rehearsal.

By Cheris F. Hodges
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Playwright Ann Marie Oliva had always wondered what would make a person take someone else's beliefs and become a follower.

So did many of the actors in the play "The Eyes of God."

"It's weird timing," said Moraya Orija, one of the actors. "It seems like in the news now you're hearing about a lot of these cults — that may be a judgmental word — but a lot of these organizations around the coun-

try and I think America as a whole has not paid a lot of attention to these groups I can't think of any play in Charlotte that has touched on this topic."

Oliva's play centers around Joan, a young woman living on the streets of Montreal. She's robbed of her last possessions and accepts shelter in the church home of a religious cult. At the same time, Canadian police and the American FBI are investigating the group for possible terrorist activity.

Oliva said what while the play is about a cult, that word is used only once in the production. It's more about the human element that draws people into this kind of organization.

"I view religion as searching for your humanity," she said.

While Oliva said she respects all religions, she doesn't want anyone to try to sell her their way as the only path to salvation.

Dana Weldon, who said that he

Please see EYE/2D

A & E

Hip hop crowd drawn to 'Scarface'



PHOTO/CELEBRITY9.COM

Al Pacino starred as the obsessive drug lord in the film classic "Scarface."

By Cheris F. Hodges
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Often times I've wondered what is the hip-hop generation's fascination with the 1983 flick "Scarface."

Until Monday, I'd never seen the movie. I'd only know about the famous catch phrases like, "say hello to my little friend."

But watching the platinum edition of the movie on DVD, I saw that it has been sorely misrepresented in hip-hop culture.

"Scarface," despite all of its violence, drugs and sex, is a morality tale.

Here we have Tony Montana, a Cuban immigrant, who comes to the U.S. seeking riches and wanting the American Dream. But he was rotten when he got here, so he linked up with drug lords until he could start his own empire.

But when you make a deal with the devil... Montana learned that every thing has a price and he paid a high one. Despite his money and violent behavior, Tony paid the ultimate price and went out in a horrific way.

That lesson is obviously lost on those guys and some girls who walk around with the

Please see SCARFACE/2D

Wilson follows passion of education opportunity

By Sandy Seawright
THE CHARLOTTE POST

It was a night that featured proclamations from politicians, speeches from university presidents, and check presentations, all in the name of education. But you didn't have to ask your neighbor to know that it was Nancy Wilson who was the highlight of it all.

She sparkled, she bubbled, and sang with ease, without

any trouble. No she didn't sing "Them There Eyes," but Wilson still left the house wanting more after she performed at the Belk Theater for "In Concert With Education."

The event, hosted by the Charlotte Crown Jewels and Piedmont chapters of the Links, was a fundraising benefit to endow scholarships at 51 historically black colleges and universities. For the

10,999 national members of the Links, the event offered an opportunity to get closer to their original goal of \$500,000. At the start of the concert, Southern Area Links President Margaret Thompson-Johnson announced more than \$250,000 had been raised, and the new goal must be \$1 million.

"I believe in a level playing field for children," said Wilson. "I'm here for our

youth...for education. That's all this is about, and all that matters. I do a lot of things for education, because I am a mother and a grandmother and I think it is absolutely necessary I'm glad to see that we as a people are seeing too that our children are educated, that's vital."

Wilson has been involved with the United Negro College Fund for many years,

Please see WILSON/2D

GALLERY REVIEW

Basket exhibit follows form, function

By Sandy Seawright
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Woven Worlds
Basketry from the Clark Field Collection
Mint Museum of Craft & Design
220 North Tryon Street

This exhibit can be viewed from three different perspectives.

It's a collection of 142 North American baskets that all have a functional use including everything from carrying a baby in a woven cradle, encasing a bottle or carrying a large amount of grain or whatever in what is called a Cherokee burden basket that is a foot and a half tall.

Even though these baskets are primarily functional the Indians also took time to make them in a beautiful design. For example, a gift basket made by Choctaw Indian Fannie Battiest in 1937 features a diamond pattern women into the basket. A large cylindrical basket made by the Tlingit Indians features in the design large orange shapes like the capital letter I.

In addition to beauty, these baskets also have humor. The gizzard basket, whose name alone is funny, is named for an internal part of a bird is made to rest on a surface and to have air below part of its base.



PHOTO/MINT MUSEUM

Navajo-style bowls and trays will be on display at the Mint Museum of Craft + Design.

There are baskets for every imaginable function. From the Cheyenne Indians is a

woven gambling tray. With the establishment of a

Please see WOVEN/2D

Neville's quite ordinary in 'Bring It On Home'



Aaron Neville
Bring It On Home - The Soul Classics
Stewart Levine, producer
Burgundy Records



Aaron Neville's voice will always amaze me. How does

something that sweet come out of someone who looks so gruff?

As sweet as his instrument is, it's not enough to lift "Bring It On Home - The Soul Classics" out of the ordinary.

The CD is a great idea. Neville uses music to express his undying devotion to hurricane Katrina's affect on New Orleans and the cleanup effort that will eventually restore the city. The songs he's picked are undeniable classics. They are songs of hope, of tragedy, of love, of lost love and everything in between. There couldn't be a better

selection of songs to reflect the feelings of the country on Katrina - a mixed bag.

But it's also the songs that point out the CD's shortcomings. There are such classics that there's not much you can do to improve them. Some have been done to death - Al Green's "Let's Stay Together," the Temptation's "My Girl" and Sam Cooke's ethereal "You Send Me" - and should be retired. Others, such as Brooke Benton's "Rainy Night In Georgia," Percy Sledge's "When A Man Loves A Woman" and the Impres-

Please see NEVILLE CD/2D



October is month of TV show releases

Includes 'Gimme A Break,' and 'The A Team'

The late Nell Carter gets another run on Oct. 3 when "Gimme A Break, The Complete Second Season" is released. Carter as the big and happy maid to a somewhat boring family was likable, but came off too much like a mammy.

Mr. T and all those gold chains jingles his way through season five of "The A Team." That was on TV five years? Wow. That's on Oct. 10, on which Chris Rock's very funny "Everybody Hates Chris" is also released. The first season was hit and miss funny, but worth getting. CBS dusts off "Simon & Simon" and releases the pleasant "Numb3rs" the same day. Cartoon lovers may appreciate Cartoon Network's "Ed, Edd & Eddy," which also releases Oct. 10.

Nick Cannon's "Wild 'N' Out" gets a second season on DVD Oct. 17. The best part of this rapid show is the hilariously funny Kat Williams. He's worth the cash for this set. CBS' long-running "Murder She Wrote" is only up to the fourth season, so Jessica Fletcher has about a zillion more cousins, nephews and nieces to be accused of murder. Alyssa Milano and crew show up for season six of "Charmed," which seems much more interesting in syndication.

The Justice League loses one member and adds about a thousand Oct. 24 when "Justice League Unlimited" is released. It says season one but it's actually the first two seasons under the new name. This includes the Cadmus story arch and is the best season this Emmy-nominated animated series produced. If you really want fantasy, try "Flavor Of Love." Twenty women vie for the affections of, yep, Flavor Flav. Even George Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic couldn't come up with that special effect. Sixties television favorites "The Adams Family" and "Bewitched" release sets on Oct. 24.

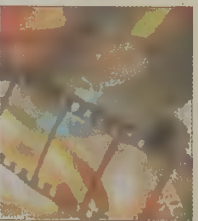


Table with 2 columns: Rating (Classic, Excellent, Good, Fair, Why?, No stars - A mess) and corresponding star icons.

