

# Runtenburg's 'Riverbend' at Melberg Gallery

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na; however my work is not about reliving that experience but the total possessing of it."

Visual art and its appreciation is totally subjective and the interpretations of these paintings is definitely in the viewers mind and eye.

Part of the painting's linen surface will be built up with a construction of thick paint that looks so random you wonder if these pieces, similar to puzzle pieces, might fall

onto the floor. Then another part of the painting will be flat painted space.

"Star and Tide," 2006, is rich with the gusto of life. We get the strong feeling from all of the bold paint strokes that the artists likes to live life to the fullest.

Mary Melberg of the gallery said, "If you met Brian you would think he was a banker or an athlete. You would not think he was a painter."

He seems to have a combination of beauty and the

beast. In "Pine, Palm and River 9" a spirited pink is flanked by two ugly olive drab forms. This seems to be a metaphor for life - something wonderful happens followed by something terrible.

Some of the paintings are almost quiet. "Little Tide 2," 11 inches by 20 inches, is like a little meditation place where the unexpected takes place. For example, two of its painted shapes look like slides of carrot.

The exhibit continues

through December 9. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For additional information, call the gallery at (704) 365-3000.

• Many Charlotteans were deeply saddened two weeks ago to learn of the death of David Ray Chisholm, a homeless artist who pushed a grocery cart around sometimes filled with his paintings. David, as I called him, was an art appreciation student of mine at Central Piedmont Community College in

the late 1980's or early 1990's. He loved and knew a lot about art, and he loved Central Piedmont.

In late August of 2005, coincidentally one Thursday night around 8:30 p.m., I saw David on South Sharon Amity across from the Melberg Gallery. I stopped to encourage him but I was the one who was helped. He said "What have you done with

your art writing? Did you throw it away? It's not to be found."

I had previously written art reviews in Break Magazine for 10 years and Creative Loafing for one year.

David said "call The Charlotte Post. Call them in the morning."

Thanks to editor Herbert White, I am grateful to be writing here for over a year.

## The Charlotte Post

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## Fall warms with romance and mystery

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In this romantic thriller, Savoy tackles some serious issues, but comes with some serious heat between the main characters Alexandra Waters and Zachary Stone, a psychologist and a detective on the trail of a serial killer. Alex and Zach shared a one-

night stand years earlier, but Zach walked away and left Alex heartbroken. But as they work together to find the killer, the passion returns. To complicate matters even more, Alex is the killer's next target.

This is a fast-moving book that you may not want to

read before going to bed. It will keep you up all night.

• "All or Nothing" by Blake Karrington.

Never heard of this author? Well, you may know him better as Dynasty Bookstore owner James Muhammad.

In his debut novel, Karrington writes about a young sin-

gle mother who has to turn to stripping to take care of herself and her baby. This character-driven book makes you rethink judging others by their choices, because as the tag line says, "what wouldn't you do to get ahead."

## CASTING classes for kids and teens

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and specifically designed improvisation exercises. Rediscover and heighten your creativity and imagination! This is a very participatory class - come prepared for any-

thing. This four-week class begins Nov. 29 from 4-5:30 p.m. Cost is \$155 and space is limited.

About the instructor: Bonnie Jones is the award-winning producer of the video "The Uncle Chef Show," a

children's cooking video. Bonnie is the former President of Women in Film (Denver) and her works have been featured at the Santa Clarita Family Film festival and the Burbank Family Film Festival. She has been teaching theatre arts for more than 20

years and has taught classes throughout the United States and is a current member of the Film Arts Foundation. This summer, Jones had a guest-starring role in an International episode of The Inspiration Network.

## Addams Family: They're spooky, kooky and now on DVD

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Munsters" a week later. While the Munsters were sweet in a wacky way, the Addamses were, well creepy and kooky.

Gomez Addams (John Astin) was a mega-rich lawyer who had no problems with spending his fortune on his hot (to him) wife Morticia (Carolyn Jones). Morticia need but utter a word of French and Gomez was all over her. Gomez's mom, Grandma (Blossom Rock) had to be on drugs while Uncle Fester (the wonderful Jackie Coogan) was a bit on the sick side. The children Wednesday (Lisa Loring) and Pugsley (Ken Weatherwax) liked torture and enjoyed playing with tarantulas.

Then there's Lurch (Ted Cassidy), the 7-foot butler whose "you rang" became a part of pop culture.

The show is filled with wicked funny gags, off-color humor and ridiculous situations. The writing is surprisingly good for something so tongue in cheek.

The funniest situations come when the Addams clan rejects what most would find normal. In "Amnesia In The Addams Family," Gomez gets a bump on the head and starts acting like the rest of the world. Each family member tries to cure him by bashing him in the head, which causes him to switch between normal and nutty.

Twenty-two of the original first season episodes are included. The other 12 will be packaged with a few from the second season. The remaining will be part of a third set.

This is the kind of stuff that shouldn't have been funny in 1964, but was. And it's still funny in 2006.

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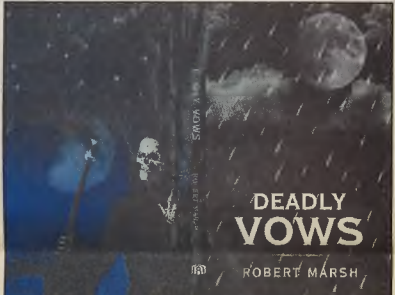
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**FREE TUTORING PROGRAM**

The Education Station outdoor event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, Nov 11th, at Greenville Community Center 1330 Spring Street.

Education Station is the nation's leading provider of No Child Left behind (NCLB) supplemental educational services for schools and school districts. We are serving students in 13 Title-One schools in Charlotte. There are approx 6000 Free/Reduced Lunch students who qualify for FREE Tutoring. Parents are required to register children. This week, CMS conducted 3, Regional Provider Fairs at 3 of the qualifying schools. We saw less than 50 parents/students at each Fair. Last year, less than 800 of approx 6,000 eligible students took advantage of the tutoring opportunity in Charlotte. We must do more to educate families. We must increase No Child Left Behind's exposure to children who need the support. Parents of eligible students will never visit the schools and most won't participate in SES, because they don't know (about it) or understand. Regrettably, some parents who can participate just won't make the time to learn more.

The Hispanic children who sign-up for this program are unable to attend because of transportation issues and/or interpretation barriers with parents. So many parents face transportation struggles, children cannot participate. We must find a way to reach and serve as many children who qualify as possible, because Nationwide, academic growth and retention are highest amongst African-American and Hispanic children. Academic performance gaps and disparities for "People of Color vs. Caucasians" continue at alarming rates. Charlotte-Mecklenburg released numbers this week and performance rates have increased up to 40%, in some cases. Right now, this is FREE TUTORING and free doesn't last...

**Enrollment Deadline - Nov. 17th**

For more information call Sonjia Bell Vaughn @ Education Station (704) 222-6606

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