



2002



PCARA PRODUCTIONS

Presents

**The Nation's FUNNIEST
Gospel Stage PLAY**

**Thank GOD
IT'S SUNDAY!**
A play to be remembered

Pensacola
Saenger Theatre

**Saturday, February 9, 2002
7:00 p.m.**

Thank God It's Sunday!

PCARA Productions is very proud to present to Pensacola and the surrounding areas the nation's funniest gospel stage-play, *Thank God It's Sunday!*

The majority of the working class looks forward to Fridays, and when Friday arrives, will usually say, "Thank God it's Friday!" As we all know Friday is the day we get paid, begin our weekend with parties, mini-week-end trips, sleep in on Saturday and Sunday, and maybe accomplish a few chores or tasks that we didn't do during the week because of work. Well, as Mr. Leroy Williams has masterly created and pointed out with his new production, *Thank God It's Sunday!*, there are a few individuals who actually look forward to Sundays instead of Fridays. You heard me, Sundays!

Thank God It's Sunday! revolves around a Christian-hearted lady who lives for each Sunday so she can get her praise and shout on with the Lord, eat a good Sunday dinner, sit on her front porch in her rocking chair, and enjoy a peaceful afternoon without all the drama she has to put up with during the week.

This unique theatrical production is guaranteed to make you laugh and cry simultaneously, and is enjoyable for the whole family to attend. It would be a safe bet for you to bring plenty of tissues, because you will most definitely need them.

The cast and crew are diligently working to present this awesome production to you on February 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Pensacola Saenger Theatre. If you saw PCARA's last two productions, *Prayer Changes Things* and *Back In the Good Ol' Days*, then I urge you to go out and purchase your tickets soon because this show is sure to be a sell out!

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the following locations: The Sound Shop in University Mall; Broadway Men's Wear on Palafox Street; and all TicketMaster locations. Tickets are \$18.00 in advance and \$20.00 on the day of the show. For more information, call 444-0646. ■



Leroy Williams

'Thank God It's Sunday!' mixes humor, life's lessons

Andy Metzger

News Journal correspondent

Many people are working for the weekend, making popular the phrase "Thank God It's Friday."

But a new play taking stage at the Saenger Theatre on Saturday tells the story of a woman who can't wait till Sunday rolls around.

The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association presents "Thank God It's Sunday!" at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Saenger Theatre.

Written, directed and produced by local playwright Leroy E. Williams, the play blends humor and drama to teach important lessons about life. It tells the story a Christian lady who lives for

Sundays. Unlike people in the work-a-day world, she can't wait to "get her praise and shout on with the Lord," eat a good Sunday dinner and sit on her front porch in her favorite chair to enjoy a peaceful afternoon without all the weekday drama.

Filled with laughter and tears, "Thank God It's Sunday!" offers an enjoyable experience for the whole family.

Cast members are Julius Benson, Leon Blandon, Chris Buskey, Charisse A. Charles, Paula Dean, Darin Franklin, Renaud Harper, Kenneth Jackson, Anita Johnson, Tawana McMillan, Sherri Louise Mouton, Robin Peagler, Evelyn Rankin, Darrell Sidney, Karen Sigler,

Tyrieca Warren, Cynthia Westmoreland, Tamara L. Whiten, Monique Wiggins and Leroy E. Williams Jr.

Master of ceremonies for the evening is the Rev. Bernard C. Yates, pastor of Pensacola's Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church.

Opening acts include the Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church Choir and guest soloist Maleka West.

Previous productions by Williams and the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association include "Prayer Changes Things," "Back In The Good Ol' Dayz, The Seventies!," "How Johnnie Mae Got Her Groove On" and "Love Ain't Got Nothin' to do With It."



Michael Spooneybarger@PensacolaNewsJournal.com

From left, Sister Willa (Paula Dean) and Sister Hattie (Monique Wiggins) talk to Sister Maggie Bell (Anita Johnson) in the play "Thank God It's Sunday."

'Thank God It's Sunday'

■ **WHEN:** 7 p.m. Saturday.

■ **WHERE:** Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox St.

■ **COST:** \$18 in advance; \$20 day of show. Available at the Saenger Theatre Box Office, Ticketmaster outlets, Heart-dance Christian Music Store in University Mall, Roger's Bar-B-Que at 4708 N. Davis Highway, Odds & Ends at 424 Hancock Lane, and Nu-Look Hair Design at 829 W. Michigan Ave. Charge by phone: 434-7444.

■ **DETAILS:** Saenger Theatre Box Office, 444-7686; Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, 444-0646.

'Thank God It's Sunday' set for February 9th

The expression 'Thank God It's Friday' has been around for sometime; however, thanks to PCARA Productions, the phrase 'Thank God It's Sunday' is fastly becoming a cliché.

"As saints, we face attacks from Satan throughout the week, and Sundays serve as our gas station. We fill up on the Word in order to make it through the week," commented Leroy Williams, director of PCARA. "Our characters are everyday people. And as Christians, we want to show others that you can have a good time with the Lord."

PCARA hit Pensacola last year with "Prayer Changes Things", and February 9th's performance at the Saenger Theatre should prove to be even more entertaining.

"Thank God It's Sunday" is told through the eyes of Sister Maggie Bell (played by Anita Johnson). From Monday to Saturday, Sister Bell witnesses her share of robberies, half-dressed hoochie mamas, gossiping church folk, borrowing neighbors...see the play for more.

"Sister Bell is just happy that it's Sunday. She wants to relax on her porch without having to deal with the drama that she will face the rest of the week," added Johnson.

Tickets are now on sale. You can call 444-0646 for more information. Otherwise, go see the show, look closely and I am sure you will see someone you know.



left: The cast of "Thank God It's Sunday" get ready for their February 9th showing at the Saenger Theatre. above: Leroy Williams as a hoochie mama.



"Thank God It's Sunday" will feature such characters as gossiping old ladies, a two left hands maintenance man and don't want to go to work on Monday men - all told in the eyes of Sis. Maggie Bell.



PCARA CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

By Charisse S. Charles

The Pensacola Community Arts & Recreation Association (PCARA) is celebrating its Fifteenth Anniversary this month. In June of 1987, three young men from Pensacola felt the need to do something positive while giving back to their community. Having grown up around drugs, violence and teen pregnancy, Leroy E. Williams, Jr., President; Brian Guest, First Vice-President; and Julius "Bemp" Benson, Second Vice-President formed PCARA, a NON-PROFIT Association to help the youth of Pensacola. Forming PCARA was not an easy task. It required dedication, a great deal of work and many sacrifices along with the help of several influential individuals in the Pensacola community. The ingredients needed to form PCARA are the same ingredients that have continually made PCARA so successful over the years.



PCARA provides a structured learning environment for students to gain skills through fun. Non-judgmental activities include acting, singing, dancing, drills and field trips. Volunteers from various backgrounds present workshops, bring in speakers and hold rap sessions that address illegal drug use, teen pregnancy and violence prevention. Education, self-awareness and cultural diversity are also emphasized. Hundreds of kids have walked through the doors of PCARA and are today considered to be positive role models. Many have returned and thanked Mr. Williams for giving them something positive to look forward to each week and for helping them achieve their goals while assisting them to bring out some of their hidden talents.

PCARA is also known for its annual events. The Non-Violence Rally "Big Cookout", FunFest, theatrical productions and the Youth Extravaganza. These events have led to an increase in PCARA's membership. Many requests have been made for PCARA to host these events more frequently, not just annually. As much as PCARA would

like to do so, funding is always an issue. Because PCARA is a Non-Profit Association, it depends solely on funds generated by donations and special fund-raisers.

On June 28, 2002, a banquet will be held to celebrate PCARA's Fifteenth Year while recognizing everyone who has been a part of PCARA's success. Some of the honored guests include Dr. J. Paul Rollings, District Program Manager, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and



Mental Health; Eugene Brown, Director of the Escambia/ Pensacola Human Relations Commission; Dr. Isaac Brigham, Vice-President of the Pensacola Junior College Student Affairs; Dick Irwin, Assistant Principal at Brownsville Arts and Sciences Academy; Dr. James

Grant, President of the Pensacola Junior College Secondary Educational; and Escambia County Sheriff Ronald McNesby, just to name a few. The banquet will be held at the Student Center located on the main campus of the Pensacola Junior College and is scheduled to begin promptly at 6:00 pm.

PCARA continues to be very busy and is working hard to pursue its many goals: additional sponsors/funding to continue



Leroy E. Williams, Jr.
president & co-founder of PCARA

holding annual events, workshops and field trips; vans and/or a bus for transportation to and from various activities and a Performing Arts Center will offer everything needed to help our youth express themselves in positive ways while keeping them drug and violence free. It will also open many doors of opportunities for them to advance and succeed in the future.

If you would like to help PCARA attain its many goals, you may remit your monetary donation to: PCARA, P.O. Box 768, Pensacola, FL 32594-0768. If you would like to volunteer your time with PCARA, please call 444-0646 and leave your name and number.

HAPPY FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY PCARA!
Keep up the good work!!!

DTC

PCARA celebrates 15th years with gospel extravaganza

Andy Metzger

News Journal correspondent

The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association will celebrate its 15th anniversary in grand style.

The community organization tonight presents its second annual Youth Gospel Extravaganza at the Saenger Theatre. The event showcases more than 150 talented youth, ages 5 to 19, from throughout the community. Fifteen churches in the greater Pensacola area are providing talent for the program.

But don't think the gospel celebration is all singing. Though filled with inspirational favorites from the rich world of contemporary gospel music, the program also features praise dancing, spiritual miming, skits, drill teams, gospel rap and much more.

Dance is well represented by

Want to go?

■ **WHAT:** Youth Gospel Extravaganza 2002.

■ **WHEN:** 6 p.m. today.

■ **WHERE:** Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Place.

■ **COST:** \$9.

■ **DETAILS:** 444-7686. About Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association: director Leroy Williams, 444-0646.

groups such as Daughters of Virtue & Excellence, Sanctified (D.O.V.E.S.) from Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church.

"What we do is dancing for today's young people," said Phyllis Walker, who instructs the ensemble's eight girls, ages 12-17. "Our



Jim Sands@PensacolaNewsJournal.com

Christal Madison, 13, leads the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Praise Dancers as they rehearse for the gospel extravaganza.

Pastor Bernard C. Yates, teaches us that God made the dance. We dance to magnify the Lord and to teach young people to dance for the Lord."

D.O.V.E.S. conveys a striking

message of spiritual joy and strength through their graceful movements on stage, dancing to the song "He Reigns" by contemporary gospel artist, Kirk Franklin. Another participating dance

group is an eight-member ensemble from the studio In His Steps, located on North Pensacola Boulevard and run by Amy Pernie.

Pernie, a Michigan native who also teaches dance at the Pensacola Naval Air Station Youth Center, has been dancing since age 3 and has studied and performed throughout the United States and Canada.

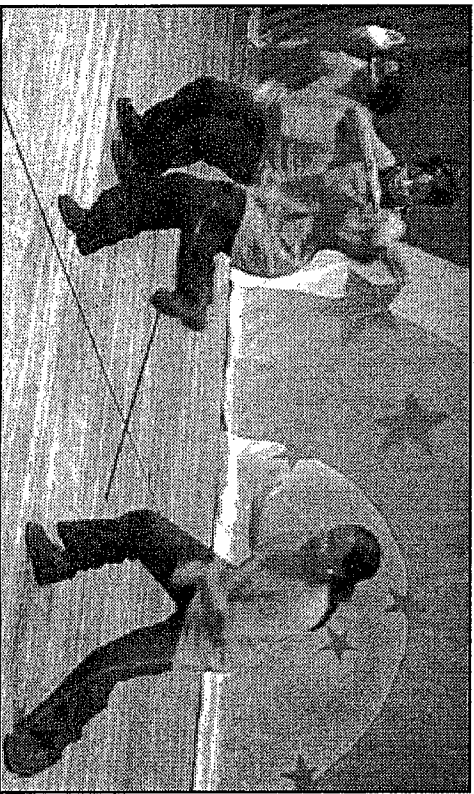
"The biggest glory I want to give is to the Lord," Pernie said. "We want to teach young people to take the arts in all forms and be able to glorify the Lord with them."

In His Steps ensemble member Desiree Martin, 14, has been studying with Pernie since age 9.

"It's been wonderful," Martin said. "Miss Amy is so nice. I love dancing, and we are honored to be a part of this performance, especially being able to perform at the Saenger Theatre."

Community

PCARA Showcases Talented Youth with Gospel Extravaganza



The Whole Armor of God performs a step routine by Diane Pajaud

The Pensacola Arts and Recreation Association (PCARA) showcased a variety of Pensacola's talented youth, June 22nd, to a sold out crowd at the Saenger Theatre.

The second annual Youth Gospel Extravaganza marked PCARA's 15th year anniversary and featured

the talents of more 184 young people. Representing churches, youth groups and other community organiza-

tions throughout Pensacola, the event showcased budding soloists, praise dancers, gospel rappers, steppers and more.

"It was awesome," said PCARA founder, Leroy Williams. "The kids per-

formed to the best of their potential and I think they came out victors."

Williams said he began the Extravaganza to encourage young talent. "The purpose was to showcase Pensacola's most talented youth," he said. "They get exposure from their churches and from other places, but it's very seldom that they get the opportunity to perform at this level. We want to encourage them to keep doing what they are doing."

Williams said he was so impressed with the level of talent displayed that PCARA is developing a monthly show with WBQP TV. "We're calling it 'Showtime with PCARA' and it will showcase talented youth and adults the first Saturday of every month," he said. The only obstacle,

he added, is getting money for the \$450 - \$800 segments.

"Right now we're looking for sponsors. Sponsorship is the only thing holding it

up," said Williams.

PCARA is a community organization with a mission to combat drug abuse, teen pregnancy and violence through alternative programs. Some of those programs include acting, singing, modeling, aerobics and karate.

For more information contact Williams at 444-0646.



PCARA celebrates 15 years of serving the community



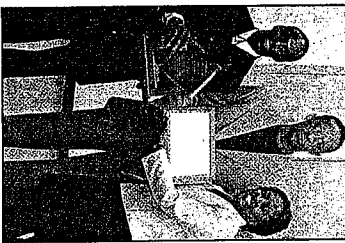
Leroy Williams (c), president of PCARA, invites all PCARA youth on stage during their 15 Year Anniversary Banquet held last Friday at Pensacola Junior College. PCARA also honored patients, cast members and supporters that evening.



The Hurran Relations Commission is one of PCARA's biggest supporters. Rebecca Hale (l) and Randi Broughton accepted awards on behalf of the HRC.



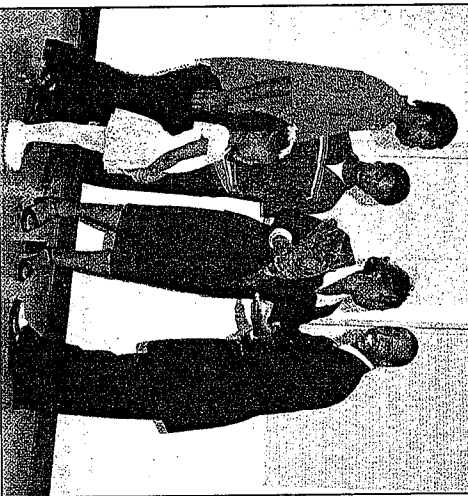
Leroy Williams (l) personally thanks each PCARA officer for their dedication.



Dr. Isaac Brigham accepts an award.



Christina Johnson and Tammy Rolfs of the Medical Career Center share stories of meeting Williams 15 years ago.



Leroy Williams acknowledges the tremendous support he receives from his family.



Fleck Logan



Sheriff Ron McNeshey

PCARA, founded by Leroy Williams, Julius Benson and Brian Guest, celebrated 15 years of having a positive effect in the community last Friday night with a banquet honoring members, cast members, parents and supporters. As Williams proclaimed to serve the community another 15 years, honored guests pledged their continued support.

Those honored included: Tom Barrrell, Linda Thompson, Susan Sweaney, Levin & Papanicomo Family Foundation, Inc., Dr. Gail Honea, Treberna Galatam, Ernest Blord, Doug Green, Jennier Crawford, Dr. Isaac Brigham, Scott Myers, Joseph Ochstner, Sheila Nichols, Dr. Thomas Hutchins, The Medical Career Center, Tammy Rolfs, Christina Johnson, Linda Moore, Robert Hill, Dick Erwin, Sandra Rush, Al Henderson, Ann McKimney, Randi Broughton, Randi Broughton, Rebecca Hale, Eugene Brown, Barbara Hoard, Dr. J. Paul Rollings, Sheriff Ron McNeshey, Alfred Alston, Dr. James Grant, Rev. Bernard Yates and Angel McKillian.

Awards were also given to Guest (V.P.), Paula Dean (mentor), Cynthia Westmoreland (secretary) and Williams (president) for their service to the organization.

For entertainment, a number of youth groups performed throughout the evening.



Anita Johnson sings a spiritual with cast members of PCARA in the background.

Weather Forecast

Thursday Thunderstorms High: 86 Low: 75	Friday Thunderstorms High: 88 Low: 75
Saturday Thunderstorms High: 86 Low: 75	Sunday Thunderstorms High: 88 Low: 75
Monday Partly Cloudy High: 91 Low: 72	Tuesday Partly Cloudy High: 88 Low: 75

THE Independent Voice

SERVING THE PEOPLE ALONG THE GULF COAST

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PCARA held its annual 'Big Cookout' despite threatening thunderstorms



Photos from PCARA's Big Cookout held Saturday at Terry Wayne Park. PCARA provided free food and family entertainment for the event. Area youth showcased their talents through song and dance.



19 - December 31, 2002

COMMUNITY

THE
Independence
BRIGHTER TOMORROW KNOW YOUR OWN LAND

Men and Women recognize seniors at Christmas time



NE 980 Radio
or City Council
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re Christmas.'



The Christian Women Interdenominational Ministries held their annual Senior Citizens Christmas Gala December 12th at the Garden Center. (Above) PCARA members perform "The Big Church Fight" (Below) Seniors enjoy the evening.





Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association

2001



'Prayer' shows effects on lives

Andy Metzger
News Journal correspondent

The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association on Saturday will present two performances of this gospel stage play, written, directed and produced by local playwright Leroy E. Williams Jr.

"Prayer Changes Things" has been described as "spiritually uplifting" and has as its main theme the power

that prayer has in people's lives.

The show features acting, singing and dancing, and will open with a performance by guest soloist Tai, a young, contemporary gospel singer.

The production features a 37-member cast, including six dancers, with accompaniment provided by music director/pianist Debra Stanley, guitarist Ronald McGraw and drummer Keith D. Thomas

Want to go?

- **WHEN:** 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday.
- **WHERE:** Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox.
- **COST:** \$16 in advance; \$18 day of show.
- **DETAILS:** 444-7686.

Charisse Charles is stage manager, with Brenda Savage as assistant stage man-

ager, Brian Guest and Chris Randolph as stage technicians and Wendy Bennett and Brenda English as sound/light technicians.

Serving as masters of ceremony are Rick Joyner, a radio personality for Life Broadcasting whose show is heard in 45 cities throughout the country, and the Rev. Bernard C. Yates, pastor at Pensacola's Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church.



Jim Sands@PensacolaNewsJournal.com

Paula Dean, playing Mary, strikes Chris R. Meteye, playing Joe, during a scene titled "I Won't Take it Anymore" in the play "Prayer Changes Things."

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS BRINGS POSITIVE MESSAGE TO PENSACOLA

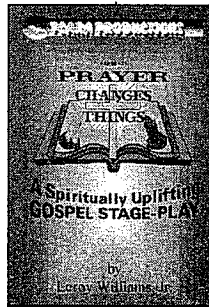
By Charisse Charles

On February 10, 2001, The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association presented the spiritually uplifting gospel, stage play, *Prayer Changes Things* at the Saenger Theatre before a sell-out crowd at its 7:00 p.m. show, and before a crowd of over 550 people at its 2:00 p.m. matinee show. The play focuses on the power of prayer and how praying and believing what you are seeking can change any given situation into something positive and enlightening.

Many consider this play to be one of the best productions Leroy Williams has written, directed, produced and promoted. Playgoer Jacqueline Clausell says: "I really enjoyed it. As always, I laughed and then cried. But it was really great." Williams says he was inspired by God to write *Prayer Changes Things*.

Over 45 cast members and stage crew comprised the production. The play was emceed by Rick Joyner, a radio personality for the Life Broadcasting, whose show is heard in 45 cities throughout the country, and the Rev. Bernard C. Yates, pastor at Pensacola's Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church. The play also featured guest soloist Tai, a young contemporary gospel singer, and many gospel tunes performed by various cast members throughout the play and accompanied by pianists Debra Stanley and Justin Williams.

Leroy Williams intends to present the following productions in the near future: *Thank God It's Sunday, FAITH*, and *Back In the Good Ol' Days, 80s*. I encourage those of you who did not see *Prayer Changes Things* to do so when it returns in the near future.





Jim Sands@PensacolaNewsJournal.com

Actors rehearse a scene from the gospel stage play "Prayer Changes Things," which was performed here in February. The play will make a return engagement in May.

'Prayer Changes Things' to return

The gospel stage play "Prayer Changes Things" got so much audience response that it's returning for a repeat performance in May.

Presented by the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, the play was scheduled for one show in February but had to add a matinee after a sellout.

Now "Prayer Changes Things" will be staged on Mother's Day, May 13. It begins at 4 p.m. at the Saenger Theatre in downtown Pensacola.

Luther Barnes and his choir, the Red Budds, also will be featured.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission in advance and \$22 the day of the show.

Tickets are available at HeartDance Christian Music in University Mall; Rodger's Bar-B-Que, 4708 N. Davis Highway; Odds & Ends, 424 Hancock Lane; the Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Place; Nu-Look Hair Design, 829 W. Michigan Ave.; and all Ticketmaster locations.

Charge by phone: 434-7444. Details: 444-0646.

Prayer Changes Things Returns to the Saenger May 13

There is a young Pensacola boy whose uncle lies in a coma—it's a tough time for his entire family. One evening last February, he saw *Prayer Changes Things* at the Saenger Theatre. He's surrounded by 1,801 other theatre goers—it's exciting to be at a show that's sold out. He enjoys the beautiful singing and soaks in the message. Once home, he sits his parents down and announces that they must continue to pray for the uncle. This young boy is convinced that prayer does work, and as a result, he provides his family with renewed hope.

This and a dozen other stories were relayed to this writer when she spoke with the cast of *Prayer Changes Things*, a play written, directed and produced by Pensacola Community Arts and

Recreation Association (PCARA) executive director Leroy Williams. After playing to a sell out crowd last February 10 (the first time a local group has sold out the Saenger) and a crowd of 500 for the matinee, Williams has decided to bring the play back.

"It's not so much us wanting to bring the play back as the community wanting us to come back," says Williams. So on May 13 (Mother's Day) at 4 p.m., *Prayer Changes Things* will once again play at the Saenger.

"It's about keeping the

faith," one cast member says of the play's theme.

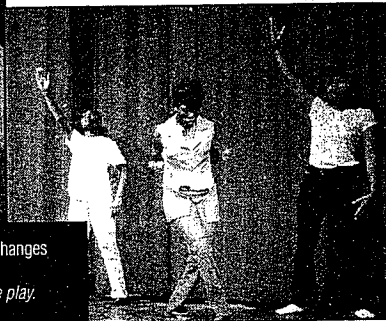
Another cast member points to the negative images that bombard the public; from the nightly news to the morning newspaper—negative stories do not cease. "This play shows another visual," he says. He emphasizes that these visuals show a different ending than those in the media.

Yes, it's a play about faith, but the entire cast is emphatic that those of all backgrounds and persuasions will enjoy its message. And for those that saw February's production, there are some changes. Luther Barnes and the Redd Budd Gospel Choir are traveling down from North Carolina to enhance the already beautiful singing.

"A lot of people are here because they love what they are doing," says Williams. Experience the enthusiasm. Tickets are available at the Saenger Theatre Box Office for \$20 or \$22 the day of the show.



Left: Cast of *Prayer Changes Things*.
Right: Rehearsing the play.



UPLIFTING PLAY

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME



Cast members, rehearse roles in "Prayer Changes Things," a production playing at the Saenger Theatre May 13.

"Prayer Changes Things"

Back by popular demand, the spiritually uplifting gospel play "Prayer Changes Things" will return to the Saenger Theatre on Mother's Day.

Leroy Williams, president of Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, wrote, directed and produced the production.

"I've been writing for 13 years," he says. "You know how you just try something and find out that it's your calling? That's what happened to me. Writing 'Prayer Changes Things' was just something that God placed on my heart to do."

The drama deals with the power of prayer when it's applied to life's ordinary problems. It made its debut at the Saenger Feb. 10.

"The first show sold out, and we added a matinee, which almost sold out," Williams says. "We're booked for June 15 in Panama City, then in Mobile on Father's Day. Just recently, we got a tentative contract to perform the play in Barbados." The play has also enjoyed success in Niceville.

Williams says the show is popular because "it portrays a series of situations in everyday life that everyone faces" and because the drama shows how prayer can affect those situations.

"The response has been good because people can relate so well to most of the situations, if not all of them," Williams says. "When it comes to needing prayer, we can all understand. Parents have told me that their small children could follow the play. People who want to see it again told their friends and family."

Stage manager Charisse Charles says, "One scenario focuses on losing a

job. Every time you pick up the paper these days, you read about how this company is laying off 800 or that business is laying off 300. This part of the play shows how God intervenes to make that a blessing." Charles also plays the role of a detective.

The cast of 42 "gives outstanding performances," says Williams, and the play shines with great singing. Renowned professional gospel recording artist Luther Barnes and his choir - the Red Budds - will join the "Prayer Changes Things" cast for the first time for the Mother's Day performance.

"We wanted to give the people who are coming back something different," Williams says. "We took a poll, and his name kept coming up. I really like his music so we contacted him, and he said yes."

"Prayer Changes Things" will be performed at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 13, at the Saenger Theatre.

"People who saw it were impressed and blessed," Williams says. "Buy your tickets early; the show is likely to sell out once again."

Tickets purchased in advance cost \$20 and are available at the Saenger Theatre Box Office, Heartdance Christian Music Store, Roger's Bar-B-Que, Odds & Ends, Nu-Look Hair Design and all Ticketmaster locations. Tickets purchased the day of the play cost \$22.

For more information, call 444-0646 and to charge-by-phone call 434-7444.

Nadonna Jones for The Independent Florida Sun

Coming up

First Youth Extravaganza planned

Everything's coming up ... kids! The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association will present its first Youth Extravaganza at 6 p.m. on June 23.

The event will feature talented youth between the ages of 7 and 18 from the Pensacola area. Youth performances will include praise dancing, instrumentalists, spiritual miming, drill teams, gospel rapping, skits, modeling, poetry reading and singing.

Admission is \$5.
Details: 444-0646.

To submit items to "What's Going On," send information to Life Section, Pensacola News Journal, P.O. Box 12710, Pensacola, FL 32574; e-mail to life@PensacolaNewsJournal.com; or fax to 435-8633.

Extravaganza gives young performers a chance to shine

Kozbi B. Garman
@PensacolaNewsJournal.com

Praise dancing, modeling, singing, gospel rapping — it's got it all — and then some.

The Pensacola Community Arts & Recreation Association is hoping to start a new tradition with its first Youth Extravaganza at 6 p.m. today at the Saenger Theatre.

The group centers all of its activities and goals around the prevention of teen pregnancy, violence and drug abuse, said association president and founder Leroy Williams. He said the extravaganza was created to help showcase Northwest Florida's gifted youth.

"A lot of times our youth don't get a chance to get the exposure they deserve — as far as the performing arts. We wanted to change that," said Williams, who

Want to go?

■ **WHAT:** Pensacola Community Arts & Recreation Association Youth Extravaganza

■ **WHEN:** 6 p.m. today

■ **WHERE:** Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Place

■ **COST:** \$5

■ **DETAILS:** 444-7686.

also is the event's choreographer.

The event is part of the Pensacola Community Arts & Recreation Association's 14th anniversary celebration.

About 130 youth will perform, most of whom are part of the association or are planning to join, said Lakesha Abney, president of the association's

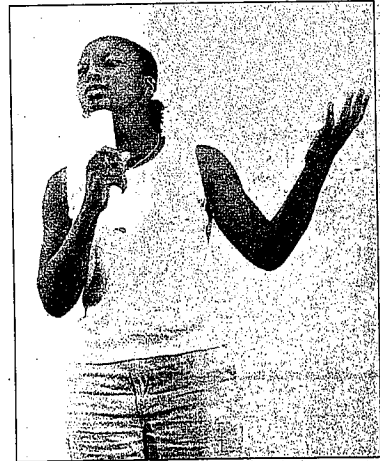
Junior Board.

Lakesha, 16, will be a mime dancer.

"The show is mostly based around gospel, you know, worshipping God. With mime dancing, you take a gospel song and do different hand motions and sing the song along with the tape," Lakesha said.

Lakesha, who has been involved with the association for six years, said being a part of it is a way for a lot of the young people to express their spirituality and individualism.

"The people are the best part. And it's a very positive group," Lakesha said. "They teach a lot of different responsibilities, like how to have a job interview, how to handle people outside your community or inside it. It really helps. It's made a big impression upon my life."



Jim Sands @PensacolaNewsJournal.com

Jaleesa Lindsey of St. John Missionary Baptist Church practices a song during rehearsals for the Youth Extravaganza. Jaleesa and other performers will be on stage tonight at the Pensacola Saenger Theatre.

NORTH BEACH... *continued from page 4*

TALENTED KIDS

Pensacola Community Arts & Recreation Association will host its first annual Youth Extravaganza 6 p.m. Saturday, June 23, at the Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Place. The event will showcase talented youth, ages 7 to 18, from the greater Pensacola community. Performances by the youth will include praise dances, instrumentalists, spiritual miming, drill teams, gospel rap, skits, modeling, poetry readings and singing. The event is open to the general public, and general admission is \$5.

Details: 434-2411 ext. 122.

"So many people can't believe a woman of her caliber is performing in Pensacola. She's just a top-caliber entertainer. One of the best."

— Robert Hill, general manager of radio station WRNE-AM 610



voice of an angel

Associated Press

Yolanda Adams sings during the Essence Music Festival on July 5 in New Orleans. The gospel singer performs here Sunday.

Want to go?

- **WHAT:** Yolanda Adams in concert.
- **WHEN:** 4 p.m. Sunday.
- **WHERE:** Pensacola Civic Center.
- **TICKETS:** \$30, \$25 and \$20 plus service charges, available at Ticketmaster locations.
- **OPENING ACTS:** Gospel comic Sister Cantaloupe, Florida A&M Gospel Choir and more.
- **GOOD CAUSE:** Concert benefits the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association.
- **DETAILS:** 444-0646.

Career highlights

- Four NAACP Image Awards, including awards for Outstanding Female Artist and Outstanding Contemporary Gospel Artist.
- Soul Train Music Award for Best R&B/Soul single, female, for "Open My Heart."
- 1999 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album for "Mountain High ... Valley Low."
- Total of nine Stellar Awards, given

Yolanda Adams will sing praises at Civic Center concert

Troy Moon
@PensacolaNewsJournal.com

Maybe she's an angel. Yolanda Adams sings with a heavenly voice about heavenly blessings. She's one of the most popular gospel vocalists, be it here or somewhere high above on the astral plane.

And Pensacola gets to experience a bit of heaven when the Grammy winning Adams performs at the Pensacola Civic Center on Sunday. Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$30 and are available at area Ticketmaster locations.

The concert is a fund-raiser for the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, a non-profit organization that promotes arts to area youth.

"Praise God, this is a blessing for us," said Leroy Williams, PCARA founder and director.

"This is the biggest thing we've ever done and right now, she is the hottest thing going on, especially in gospel music."

Adams has been one of the hottest names in gospel music since her debut

1987. Adams immediately captured fans and critics alike with a soul-stirring voice that turns inspirational lyrics into religious-charged anthems.

Adams won a Grammy award in 1999 for her album "Mountain High ... Valley Low," which USA Today described as containing "emotion-packed deliveries and a blend of traditional and contemporary styles."

"The word on the street in unbelievable," said Robert Hill, general manager of WRNE-AM 610, a Pensacola station that plays gospel music. "So many people can't believe a woman of her caliber is performing in Pensacola. She's just a top-caliber entertainer. One of the best."

Adams is touring in support of her latest album, "The Experience," which contains the gospel hit "Open My Heart" as well as two versions (one live, one studio) of the classic "I Believe I Can Fly," including one version with R&B great Gerald Levert.

The track with Levert is the only studio cut on "The Experience." The rest is a live

known all along — that the woman's voice is at its best when Adams feeds off the audience to give new life to a song.

Adams, a Houston native, first tasted the limelight when she took over lead vocal duties in the mid-'80s for the Southeast Inspirational Choir. It was with them that Adams caught the ear of influential composer/producer Thomas Whitfield, who guided her through her debut album.

By 1993, with the release of her third album, "Save the World," Adams was a certified soul gospel star, winning a Stellar Award — one of gospel's highest honors.

Since then, Adams has won a slew of Stellar Awards, Dove Awards, Essence Awards, Soul Train Awards and a Grammy.

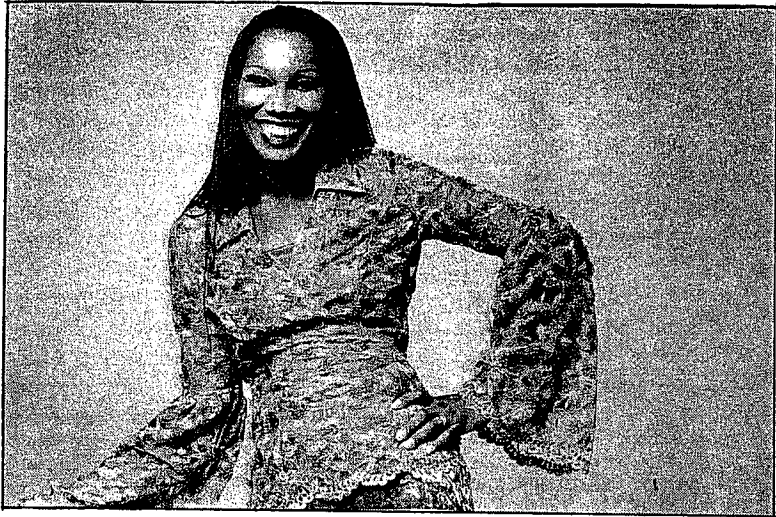
But don't think this is your grandmother's gospel. Adams music is a mixture of sweet-soul and pumped-up hip-hop, with mainstream producers such as Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis at the controls. The result is a sound that appeals to the secular as well as the saved.

"She's a major market singer who can truly bring audiences together," Hill said. "When it comes to gospel, Yolanda is one of the best. At least in the top five."



Williams

GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA!!!



Yolanda Adams

The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association (PCARA) is sponsoring its first annual Gospel Benefit Concert featuring grammy award winning gospel superstar Yolanda Adams, gospel comic sister Cantaloupe, FAMU Gospel Choir, Contemporary Gospel recording artist Tai and gospel soloist Anita Johnson.

The organization was started 14 years ago by Leroy Williams (the president of PCARA).--Who quickly joined forces with Brian Johnson (vice president), and Julius Benson (second vice president) and the organization has been growing ever since. Leroy Williams states that the community of Pensacola help to raise him, care for him, and helped to steer him in the right direction. Williams goes further to discuss his need to give back to the community, that has given so much to him.

Williams, Johnson and Benson along with other

organization a success for fourteen years. PCARA offers workshops on prevention methods for; teen pregnancy, drugs, violence, and related life issues that teenagers experience in everyday life. PCARA uses several different ways as a means to reach out to the students throughout the community, such as; work shops, guest speakers, field trips, rap sessions, etc. The group offers acting, singing, modeling, boxing, and much more as a way for the young people to express themselves.

The association is funded by plays written and directed by Leroy Williams and performed by the members of the organization. "It would be nice for the community to come out and support our efforts as we celebrate our fourteen year anniversary," states Williams. "PCARA constantly provides a quality of service, unsuppressed in our dedication to aid and encourage the safe and full development of youth of

self to others will advance the well being of man, our community, and the world."

*Meetings are scheduled every Wednesday @ 6p.m.

*Location-- 29 South Spring Street, Pensacola, FL 32501.

This benefit concert will take place on Sunday, July 15, 2001, at the Pensacola Civic Center at 4:00P.M. Tickets can be purchased at the Civic Center Box Office, Sound Shop in University Mall and all Ticketmaster locations or charge by phone at 434-7444.

All proceeds from this concert will benefit the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association.

For more information on the concert or PCARA please call Leroy Williams at 444-0646.

"We need your support to give our kids what they truly deserve:

A tomorrow worth living!" (PCARA'S Slogan)

PCARA brings Yolanda Adams to Pensacola



Local gospel group, New Generation from Englewood Baptist Church, opened the Yolanda Adams concert held at the Pensacola Civic Center on Sunday.

by Al Henderson
Independent Voice staff writer

In perhaps an unprecedented move for the Pensacola area, LeRoy Williams, president of

PCARA, sponsored a gospel concert with Grammy Award winner Yolanda Adams July 15th at the Pensacola Civic Center. The event featured a number of local artists and also includ-

ed gospel comedian Trina Jeffrie who portrays Sister Cantaloupe.

"I really enjoyed myself. The music was great, and the fellowship was awesome," commented Tara McClean. "Although I came to see Yolanda (Adams), I was pleased with the local talent as well."

For Michael Davenport, the spirit filled event was truly a blessing.

"I have been going through," said Davenport with tears in his eyes.

"Tonight reminded me to turn my problems over to the Lord, and he will work things out."

Davenport and others in attendance participated in an alter call at the closing of Adams' set.

"We didn't plan this. The spirit just moved us," said Adams about the impromptu worship service.

Despite the audience's satisfaction with the performers, the attendance level was well below projections.

"We fell short about \$20,000," explained Williams to those in attendance. "We want to continue to bring in great productions such as this one, but we need the community's support."

PCARA, a non-funded, non-profit organization geared toward developing artistic skills of youth, has been functioning for 14 years. The group is accepting donations to help cover the tremendous cost involved with the production. **Anyone interested can call 444-0646.**

Sister Cantaloupe

This comedian is blessed with the ability to make people laugh without using profanity, and Pensacolians did just that on Sunday.

"God has truly blessed me to be able to perform in such a capacity," explained the Texas native Trina Jeffrie.

Jeffrie's character, Sister Cantaloupe, is an elderly woman who thrives on gos-

sip and tells it like it is. "We all remember having to raise that finger to walk out of church during service. Those are the life instances I take and turn them into comical situations," added Jeffrie.

Jeffrie's jokes included a hair weave alter call, cella-ka (cellular) phone gossip and much more.

Tai Oney

Oney admits that he is taking the road less traveled, but he hopes to make that road well traveled by teenagers.

"I feel that I am doing what God wants me to do,

and that is to show people that you don't have to be a certain age to worship the Lord," stated the 16-year-old singer from Panama City. Oney performed at the concert on Sunday.



Tai Oney



Letter From the Editor: Starting at Home: Community in Pensacola

In light of the tragic events in New York City and Washington, D.C., people begin to question the likelihood of a peaceful society. No individual is immune to violence. That does not mean that we start living our lives in fear of what could happen. Just the opposite.

Many politicians and leaders point out that this is the time to focus on community. We do not live in a vacuum. We are here for one another.

With this in mind, the *Downtown Crowd* appreciates those groups who actively create community here in downtown Pensacola.

Look through the pages of the newspaper. You'll find community events that volunteers have spent hundreds of hours organizing: the Haunted House Walking Tours; Jazz, Spirits and Angel Food at St. Michael's Cemetery; and Gulf Coast Chorale's "Sing for the Cure," which will raise funds for breast cancer programs. In the end, these events bring our community together.

This month's cover with some pictures from Pensacola Opera's Fall Fantasy I, represents another volunteer-organized event

meant to create a culturally rich community in our city.

Then there are those events that actively foster community in terms of the message they try to get out. Take for example the

Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association's (PCARA) Annual Big Cookout. Yes, picnic goers will get lots of free food and enjoy live entertainment but the reason for the cookout is the socially-just kicker—it's the Eighth Annual United Together for Non-Violence Day.

"PCARA felt that this is something that should happen," says Leroy Williams, executive director of PCARA. "Violence has really erupted in the school system. It's everywhere, and nobody seems to be doing anything about it. PCARA wanted to do

something to help promote nonviolence and a drug-free community."

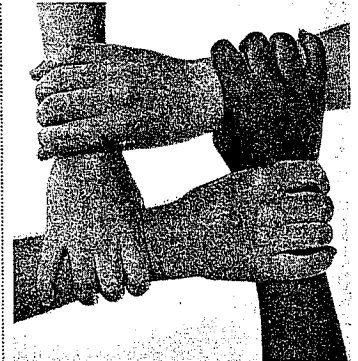
The speakers this year include a victim of crime, a victim of violence and a victim of drug abuse. Williams says that their testi-

monies are quite moving, helping picnic goers envision a common goal: how the community as a whole can work together to combat drug abuse and violence.

Who attends the cookout? "The most we have had at one time was 3,000,"

says Williams. While the numbers are impressive, the beauty of this event is that it draws people from all over Pensacola. "It's always just ordinary people taking a day out in the park. There's a mixed crowd of black, white, young, old, people from at-risk areas, people from wealthy areas."

The Big Cookout on October 6 is at the Terry Wayne East Youth Ball Park on West Jackson Street, between "J" and "K" Streets. 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the free food and entertainment. Call 444-0646 for additional information.



I've talked with Leroy a few times and met him once. He's an energetic and interesting man with a real mission to foster a positive community here in Pensacola. And I thank him for that.

-Rosemary Malcolm

edit@burchellpublishing.com

433-1166



"The purpose today is to do our part to bring the community out to say 'Let's love and respect one another.'"

— Brian Guest, vice president of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association



Jim Sands@PensacolaNewsJournal.com

Hundreds of people attend the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association's Big Cookout at Terry Wayne East Youth Ball Park on Saturday. The event included live music, speakers, fun and food.



Quiana Riley, 2, plays Saturday at Terry Wayne East Youth Ball Park.

Youths celebrate peace

Ashley Branch
@PensacolaNewsJournal.com

Despite gray skies, nearly 1,700 people gathered at Terry Wayne East Youth Ball Park on Saturday for food, fun and a message of nonviolence and unity.

The eighth annual Big Cookout, sponsored by Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, gave locals an opportunity to meet and come together for gospel music, dancing, slam poetry and guest speakers. Representatives of the Escambia

County Health Department, the Army, the Lupus Foundation and other groups distributed information.

"We want everyone to love and support each other to have a nonviolent community," said Brian Guest, vice president of the organization. "The purpose today is to do our part to bring the community out to say 'Let's love and respect one another.'"

Paula Déan, volunteer coordinator for the association, said much of the crowd was drawn by the food. But, more

important was getting folks to hear the message that people should work toward a drug-free and nonviolent community.

Tyron Bender, 45, of Pensacola, knows the significance of spreading those messages. This year, his 19-year-old son, Hardie, was stabbed to death.

Bender, wearing a T-shirt with Hardie's photo on it, watched performances from the ballfield.

"To me, it is a wake-up call

See YOUTHS, 3C

Youths celebrate peace on day of fun, learning

FROM 1C

for young people and old people," Bender said. "Today is a nice thing if people have their eyes and ears open when they come out here. Maybe this will have an impact on someone."

Pensacola resident Denise Washington, 42, said the rally was a positive step for the area. She said it is important that a community unite to raise their children and keep them away from bad habits.

"It takes not just the father and mother, but all the fathers and all

"It's (the rally) inspirational for the kids and gives them some direction. I feel it's a good influence, and it's turning them around and helping them better themselves."

— Denise Washington

the mothers. It's (the rally) inspirational for the kids and gives them some direction," Washington said. "I feel it's a good influence, and it's turning them around and helping them better themselves."

Ruth Freeman, 53, of Pensacola, said the impact of the association

already is evident: Her two grandsons are members of the group, and they performed during the rally.

"It's been nothing but good," Freeman said. "It is so giving of them to have this and all of the other things they do."

PCARA hosts 8th Annual 'Big Cookout' for community



Pictured left to right: (l-r) La-Tevia McBride (6 mos.) bounces on her mother La-Tesha's lap while Denise and Jamila Washington enjoy the entertainment as well. Englewood Baptist Church's New Generations performed at the event. Imani Smart (4) sings a song for the audience. These youngsters wait for their chance to jump and flip inside the air tents.

by: Nafeesa Shahid
Independent Voice contributing writer

PC.A.R.A. held its 8th Annual "Big Cookout" at Terry Wayne Park on Saturday (October 6, 2001). The event included free food and games, over 15 performances from local groups and a diverse number of agency participation.

PC.A.R.A., which stands for Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, held the event to teach the community about the importance of a drug-free, crime-free, violence-free, tobacco-free society. Many different sponsors supported it and many of Pensacola's agencies supported the event by volunteering and doing demonstrations.

"I am always excited and thankful to have such great support from the community both sponsors and participants," said LeRoy Williams, founder/president of PCARA. "When you come to the community the right way, the community will open its arms to you with

unity and love. And that is our theme this year—Unity and Love."

The community sure did show love on Saturday. Even though it was threatening to rain, the crowd was big and cheerful and the food was good. Smoke was wafting off the grill sending the aroma of hamburgers and hotdogs all over the park. Children played in the Bounce houses and on the field in the football game, others watched the performers on stage. The air was humming with community love as the firefighters gave a tour of their red fire engine to the children and parents.

J.D. Hurry, Pensacola firefighter for 5 years, was dressed in uniform for the kids. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to educate both children and parents on what to do in a fire,"

said Hurry. "We place emphasis on children at these types of events because they might have to save the lives of their parents someday."

The children seemed to be drinking in the information as they sat inside the fire engine with the firefighters and were shown the many gadgets, allowed to blow the horn, and shown safety tips. "They showed me all the big equipment and stuff, and I asked them a lot of questions," said 7-year-old Shantayr Booker, a 2nd grader at Oakcrest Elementary School. Shantayr's main question was why does the fire department turn on the red lights and sirens. "They said 'to keep people safe' (while in route)."

Firefighters are not the only ones trying to keep the community a safe place, a lot of the volunteers were scattered about the Terry Wayne Park trying to keep things running smoothly. Volunteers were happy they could lend a hand. Raveen Tolbert, Community Service

Director of the University of West Florida's African-American Student Association (A.A.S.A.), was happy to include the "Big Cookout" among one of the association's many events scheduled for the year. "It is very important for [members of A.A.S.A.] to participate in events such as this one," said Tolbert. "Not only are we networking and establishing contacts, but we are also working to improve our community. It is our responsibility and that is why we work with outreach groups such as Milk and Honey and Big Brothers/Big Sisters."

Joseph Leonard, President of the Pensacola Junior College Florida African American Student Association explains, "We knew there was a need for more volunteers, so we wanted to help wherever needed...Our group is reorganizing and making a concerted effort to become more active in the community."

Charisse Charles, a member of PCARA, said, "The Big Cookout is our way

of saying thanks to the community for their support. It also gives our many sponsors a chance to see that PCARA is involved in a variety of activities and is more than just acting."

Although acting was not performed that day, many of the parents, children, volunteers, and single members of the community enjoyed the many different acts of talent performed on Saturday. From the step-pers and praise dancers to the euphonic singers and the presentation of the Three Wise Men, the event was a delight for the entire family.

The "Big Cookout" is not

a babysitting fest but more so a family outing. Parents as well as children enjoy the event. Michael Higgins, who attended with his 2-year-old daughter Briana, said, "It is something positive to do, and I don't have to be concerned about foul language, drugs or fights... I would encourage other parents to come out next year."



Leroy Williams



Charisse Charles

PCARA Lights Up the Runway

by Marilyn Fairley
Independent Voice contributing writer

The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association (PCARA) hosted a Benefit Dinner and Fashion Show on Saturday, November 17, 2001, at the Pensacola Junior College Student Center.

Leroy Williams, director of PCARA, describes PCARA's fourteen-year success record. "PCARA is an organization which believes in giving back to the community," said Williams. "That is one reason for our success. God has blessed us, and we want to be a blessing to others."

Williams' philosophy for overcoming obstacles and reaching your goal is up front and direct. "Hold fast to what you believe," he said. "Don't let anyone deter your goals. There are a lot of negative people out there who will discourage you if you let them. Don't listen to them; follow your dreams."

Williams future dream for PCARA is to see more children get involved and to acquire PCARA's own performing arts center.

PCARA members were

flamboyant as they sashayed down an illuminated runway sporting urban and casual wear, dressy wear, formal wear and African wear.

Over one hundred guests were mesmerized by the awesome designer fashions contributed by local shops and boutiques. Among the contributors were: Talinda's Designs, Broadway Men's Wear, Tuxedo Showcase, Wilson's Leather, D&M Fashions, M & N Fashions and Viola's Men's Apparel.

During intermission, guests were treated to a scrumptious dinner catered by Darlene Durant. Other entertainment included Anita Johnson, a local vocalist. Johnson captivated the audience as she sang "The Wind Beneath My Wings." The PCARA Praise Team also contributed to the event with a dynamic miming performance.

The gala affair was well orchestrated and intriguing. PCARA is making headlines and moving up in the realm of performing arts. They are presently preparing for their next upcoming attraction, "Thank God It's Sunday." For more information, call 444-0646.



Music, fashion and dinner to benefit arts and recreation

Get your fill of fashion with a little music and food all the while helping area teens fight for peace and safety.

The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association will present a dinner and fashion show at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Pensacola Junior College Student Center, 1000 College Blvd.

The event will feature a line-up of fall, winter and year-round fashions from a variety of women's and men's clothing stores in Pensacola.

All proceeds will benefit PCARA and its continuing efforts for the prevention of illegal drug use, teen pregnancy and violence among youth in Northwest Florida.

There is a \$15 donation per person. Details: 444-0646.

ARTS • CULTURE • HISTORY

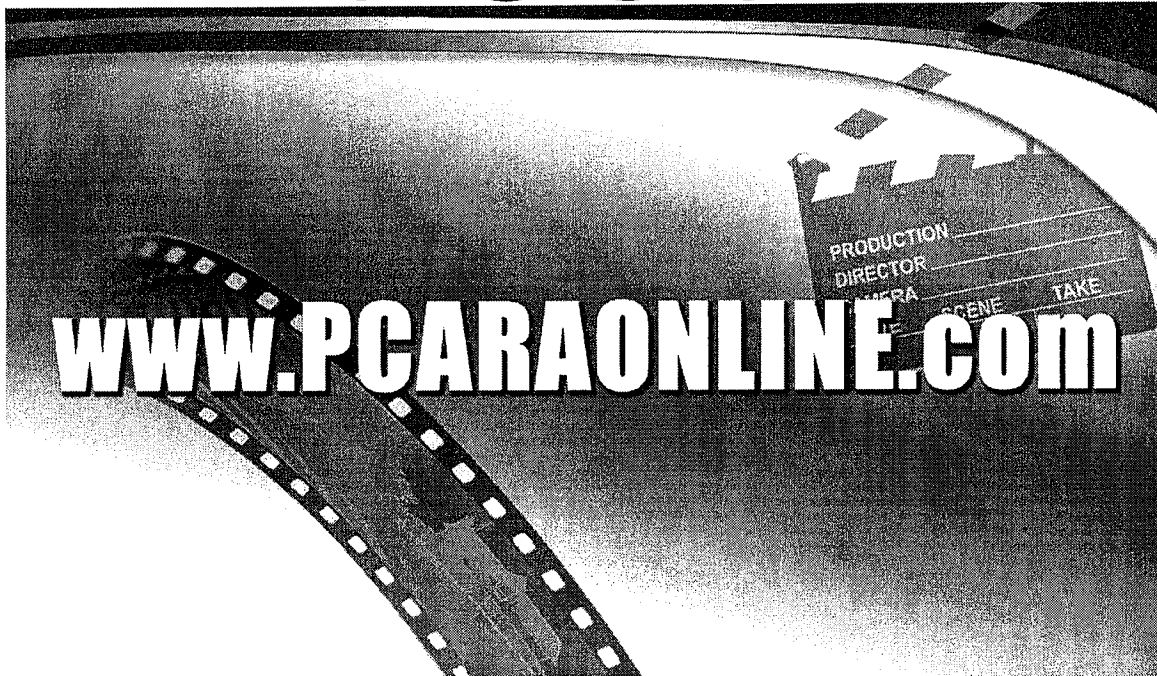
December 06 - December 19, 2001



Members of PCARA performed the play "The Church Fight" for senior citizens last Saturday at Booker T Washington High School. PCARA was part of "Celebrating Seniors Christmas Gala" sponsored by Christian Women Interdenominational Ministries.



2000



Remember 'Back In The Good Ol' Dayz, The Seventies!'



Chris Buskey (l) plays a preacher in the upcoming play "Back In The Good Ol' Dayz, The Seventies." He tells his classmates his occupation and nearly shocks them to death. (Funny)

by: Al Henderson
Pensacola Voice staff writer

Believe it or not, there was a time when video games did not exist, and television was not an accepted form of baby sitting. Heck, I still remember my mom's old Black & White TV; you know the one with the clothes hanger covered with aluminum foil used for then, we played stick ball with a piece of wood from the apartment banister as our bat, marbles (remember cat eyes and dummies?), red light green light, sandlot football, freeze tag, dodge ball, jump rope (remember the rope burns?), bingo -- that's my car, and hide and go seek (we changed the name as we got older - smile). Man, I remember sporting an afro (now its just a fro), braids, plats, duck (shag) and of course, maps. But there was no fun in those good school clothes. You bet-not (that's braided switch moma talk) get caught outside playing in those good clothes, and all your homework betta be done. That was "Back In The Good Ol' Dayz, The

Seventies!" I can go on and on reminiscing my early childhood years, but I don't want to give away all of the memorable details that went on back in the seventies. However, for those people still interested in hearing more, I have an even better solution. On March 11th, PCARA Productions is presenting a funny comedy stage play at the Saenger 8:00 p.m. -- "A Must See!"

About The Show

Written and directed by Leroy Williams, "Back In The Good Ol' Dayz, The Seventies" is a story about a group of neighborhood friends and classmates who reunite for their twentieth year high school class reunion. The deep-south play, which features local actors and actresses - young and old, is aimed at reaching a diverse age group.

"The play gives the older generation an opportunity to remember the things they went through as youngsters, and it serves as a learning experience for the younger generation," explained Williams. "As parents, we tell our kids about our childhood experiences, but they

never grasp the full picture. This production gives them a chance to see our memories."

"Back In The Good Ol' Dayz, The Seventies" opens with a couple, Rick Lamar Lewis, Jr. (played by Keith Autrey) and his wife of twenty years Velma (Kirston Hardley), celebrating their anniversary and practicing dance steps (robot, bump, etc.) to oldies but goodies (Marvin Gaye, Al Green -- you feel me). Their 17-year-old daughter, Lakievia (Veronica Lee), comes home with her two friends and is both embarrassed and humored by what she feels to be caveman maneuvers. The plight between young and old begins and carries on throughout seven-hilarious scenes that are estimated to last over two hours.

"Things are a lot different now than what they use to be. The music is different;

the cost of living is different...The play is about going back and reflecting on people having a good time," explained Charisse Charles (co-producer), who plays Gail.

Comments From Performers

Charles - Gail does a lot of the dancing in the play, but when asked about the dance steps she says she wants "them to be a surprise. As a kid, I danced a lot, and the old school music brings back those memories."

Lee (13) - This 8th grade Ferry Pass Middle School student has been in over seven productions with PCARA. "I love performing on stage. I get an unexplainable feeling when I'm acting, but I would not be able to perform if I did not have the

support of my parents...I actually play two parts - Lakievia and Pat. They (her roles) give me a chance to relate better to my parents."

Ticket Information

Tickets are available at Mitchell's Formal Wear in University and Cordova Mall and at all Ticketmaster locations.

For more information, call 444-0646.

Want To Go

What: "Back In The Good Ol' Dayz, The Seventies"

When: March 11, 2000

Where: Saenger Theatre

Time: 8:00 p.m.



Rick pulls out a paddle after his daughter, Lakievia (2nd from right - played by Veronica Lee), and her friends, Ken (Marcus Savage) and Sheronda (rehearsed by Lakesha Abney), make fun of him and his wife's dancing.



Leroy Williams (l), director, looks on as Rick Lamar Lewis, Jr. (played by Keith Autrey) and his wife of twenty years Velma (Kirston Hardley) practice dance steps.

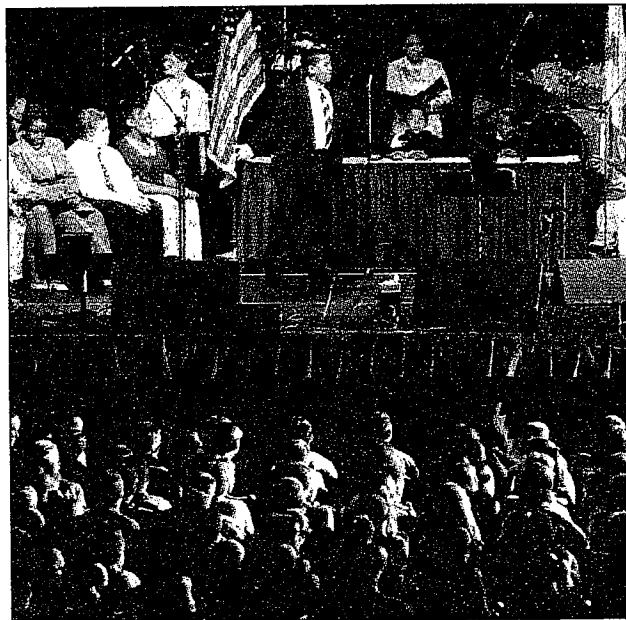
CALENDAR

TUESDAY

■ **Middle School Red Ribbon Rally:** 10 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 17, Pensacola Civic Center. Features Southern Heat and the Pensacola Arts and Recreation Association Youth Performers.

■ **Red Ribbon Block Party:** 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 17, Wedgewood Middle School, 3420 Pinestead Road. Features Southern Heat, free food and games.

Say no to drugs



LES HASSELL/News Journal photo
Students from the Escambia and Santa Rosa county school districts watch "Drugs: You Make the Decision," a play from the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association on Tuesday during the Red Ribbon Rally at the Pensacola Civic Center.