

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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April 2005

McConnell AFB, Kansas

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Giving the Gift

931st Airman regular blood donor

Courtesy photo



Tech. Sgt. Randy Brown, 931st historian, finds an opportunity to smile while attached to a machine designed to collect platelets from blood, a two-hour process he regularly volunteers to endure.

TECH SGT. DAVID BRUMLEY

931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Americans celebrate Red Cross Month every March. This year's celebrations are now over, but for one 931st member, supporting Red Cross means more than an annual event.

Tech. Sgt. Randy Brown, the 931st historian, regularly volunteers to sit for two hours attached to a contraption that doesn't even allow him to scratch his nose.

He's been performing this self-appointed mission for the last 13 years. "I've always tried to make it at least once a month, but now that my schedule is a little steadier I go more often," he said.

Sgt. Brown doesn't just give blood, he donates by a method called apheresis. "The difference in giving blood this way is the white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells are separated. They then put the red blood cells right back into your system," he said. The hardest part is it requires both arms to be immobilized with needles in both, and can take more than two hours to complete. But the hassle allows Brown to give more. Separating out platelets allows more to be taken at one donation.

"When you take the platelets out of the whole blood, it takes about 12 people to be equivalent to one person giving platelets directly," said Bree Cox, Communication Manager for the American Red Cross Central Plains Region Blood Services. By re-depositing the red blood cells back into

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931st Air Refueling
Group**

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The *Kanza Spirit* is mailed each month to all 931st ARG members on file with Personnel. Members not receiving their copy should check with their administration section to ensure their filed address is correct.

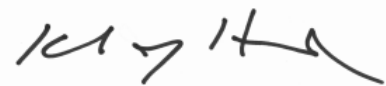
COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to the 931st Air Refueling Group's new majors. Please give the following major selects a big handshake when you see them around the campus: Maj. (select) Travis Clark, Maj. (select) Suzanne Jones, Maj. (select) Michael Kleespie, Maj. (select) Leah Schmidt, and Maj. (select) Eric Long. Congratulations on a well earned promotion. On the Group's enlisted side of the team, please congratulate Senior Master Sgt. Ken Girty and Tech. Sgt Cynthia Hoffman on their recent well earned promotions!

Our fantastic 10th Anniversary Celebration is rapidly approaching. I am pleased to announce that Col. (retired) Vik Malling, our first commander, will be the guest speaker! Please take the time to sign up for this very special event. It promises to be a very entertaining evening with a lot of old friends and companions. Also, don't forget the two golf tournaments. The first tourney will be held April 15, the Friday before the unit training assembly. This one is a fund raiser for the anniversary celebration and will be a great time. Hey, what a great way to start a UTA weekend!

The second tourney is part of the anniversary celebration and will be held May 20, the day before the anniversary UTA. This one ought to be a fantastic time as we get together with 931st members past and present. So come on out and witness my awesome golfing skills (naught) and have some fun with your fellow teammates. See Senior Master Sgt. Diane Hiebert or Master Sgt. Bryan Lawley for all the golfing details. Again, thanks to the organizing committee for their hard work in putting this event together.

Think safety and have a terrific UTA!



Karl J. Hurdle, Colonel
931st ARG Commander

Fraud, Waste & Abuse

To file a fraud, waste or abuse complaint with the Air Force, call (316) 759-3192 or toll free (800) 424-9098.

UTA SCHEDULE

Next UTA: April 16-17

May 21-22

June 11-12

July 16-17

Newcomers now meet six months later

Col. Karl J. Hurdle, 931st Commander (bottom, second from right) meets with some of the Group's newest Airmen during the March unit training assembly. Col. Hurdle implemented the new meetings, which are scheduled to take place every UTA to follow up with Airmen six-months after they join the Group. At Col. Hurdle's left is Col. Clay Childs, 931st Deputy Commander, and at his right is Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Tytanic, Command Chief of the 507th Air Refueling Wing, the 931st's parent unit at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaaap

TECH SGT. JASON SCHAAAP 931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 931st's newest Airmen are now getting an opportunity to let the Group's leaders know how they like things at their new Air Force family.

Col. Karl J. Hurdle, 931st Commander, has instituted a six-month follow-up session for all newcomers.

"It's something we used to do when I was at Tinker (Air Force Base)," Col. Hurdle said. "We have a newcomers class and then send Airmen to their work area. This is a way to follow up and see how things are going."

Senior Airman Jon Shonebarger attended the 931st's newcomer class

six months before the last unit training assembly. His supervisor at the Civil Engineer Squadron sent him back for another one when he showed up for work in March.

"I thought I was going to the same class all over again," Airman Shonebarger said.

He, like many Group members, was not aware of the follow-up, which was implemented after he joined. When the meeting was over, Airman Shonebarger said he was happy it wasn't a repeat of the same thing and he believed the follow-up was a good idea.

"It seemed like there was a genuine interest in what we had to say," he said.

Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Tytanic,

Command Chief at the 931st's parent unit, the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker AFB, Okla., also has accompanied Col. Hurdle to the follow-up meetings. He said the meetings are proving to be valuable at both the 931st and 507th.

"We make sure Airmen know there will be no reprisal for anything they say," Chief Tytanic said. "Some months all you hear is good things; other months there are issues to be addressed. If a process looks like it's broken, we're going to look into it."

The follow-up meetings are scheduled for Saturday mornings of every UTA. All Airmen who go through the newcomers class are now told they will be invited to a follow-up six months later.

Fit-to-Fight retesting scheduled for this UTA

Passing score needed for in-residence PME

In a memo from Maj. Gen Robert E. Duignan, 4th Air Force Commander, distributed last month, a policy effective immediately stated that individuals who are submitting to attend the Airman Leadership School, Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy in residence, as a minimum are required to have a passing fitness score of 75 prior to attending applicable school.

Group members who didn't pass the first 931st mass fitness test six months ago are required to retest no later than the April unit training assembly. Members of the **18th Air Refueling Squadron** and the **Aircraft Maintenance Squadron** are scheduled to retest **10 a.m. Sunday** of the April UTA. **All other members** who need to retest are scheduled for **2 p.m. Saturday**. Questions concerning retesting or other Fit-to-Fight issues should be directed to section fitness monitors listed below:

18th ARS-Maj Murgage ext.3466, SSgt Whiting ext.3747
AMF-SrA Collins-ext. 3377, LtCol Hooper-ext. 3377
AMXS-SMSgt Campbell ext. 5565, TSgt McGill ext. 3687
MSF-SMSgt Summers ext. 5423, MSgt Lorenz ext. 3625
OSF-MSgt Harper ext. 5979, TSgt Kincaid ext. 4409
CES-MSgt Croninger ext. 5298, TSgt Agnew ext. 5499
ARG-Maj Fruck ext. 3704



THE AVIATOR

STARRING A 931st AIRMAN

TECH SGT. JASON SCHAAP
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A week after the April unit training assembly, the Military Support Flight's Staff Sgt. Freddie Kincaid will be punching in for another weekend gig. That's when the Aviators, the new professional indoor football team in Wichita, Kan., are scheduled to play their first game.

Sgt. Kincaid is a lineman for the Aviators. He made the team's final cut last month as one of only two players listed on its roster without college football experience. He hasn't played organized football since his days at Southeast High School in Wichita. But when he saw an Aviators ad in the paper looking for players it was too good to pass up.

"I went to almost every Stealth game last year," he said, referring to the indoor football team the Aviators replaced. "I always wondered if I was good enough to be out there playing."

Sgt. Kincaid proved he was good enough, scoring well on tryout drills with athleticism not typical for the heavier frames carried by linemen. "I knew he would make (the cut)," his older sister, Tech. Sgt. Roxanne Kincaid, said. "Because he's success-

ful in everything he tries for."

Tech. Sgt. Kincaid works in the 931st's Operations Support Flight and was the one who talked her little brother into joining the 931st when he came off active duty. She claims she has been his "loudest" fan ever since his high school days when he played football, baseball and basketball, the sport Freddie said he actually enjoys the most. "I had to give up basketball when I stopped growing," he joked.

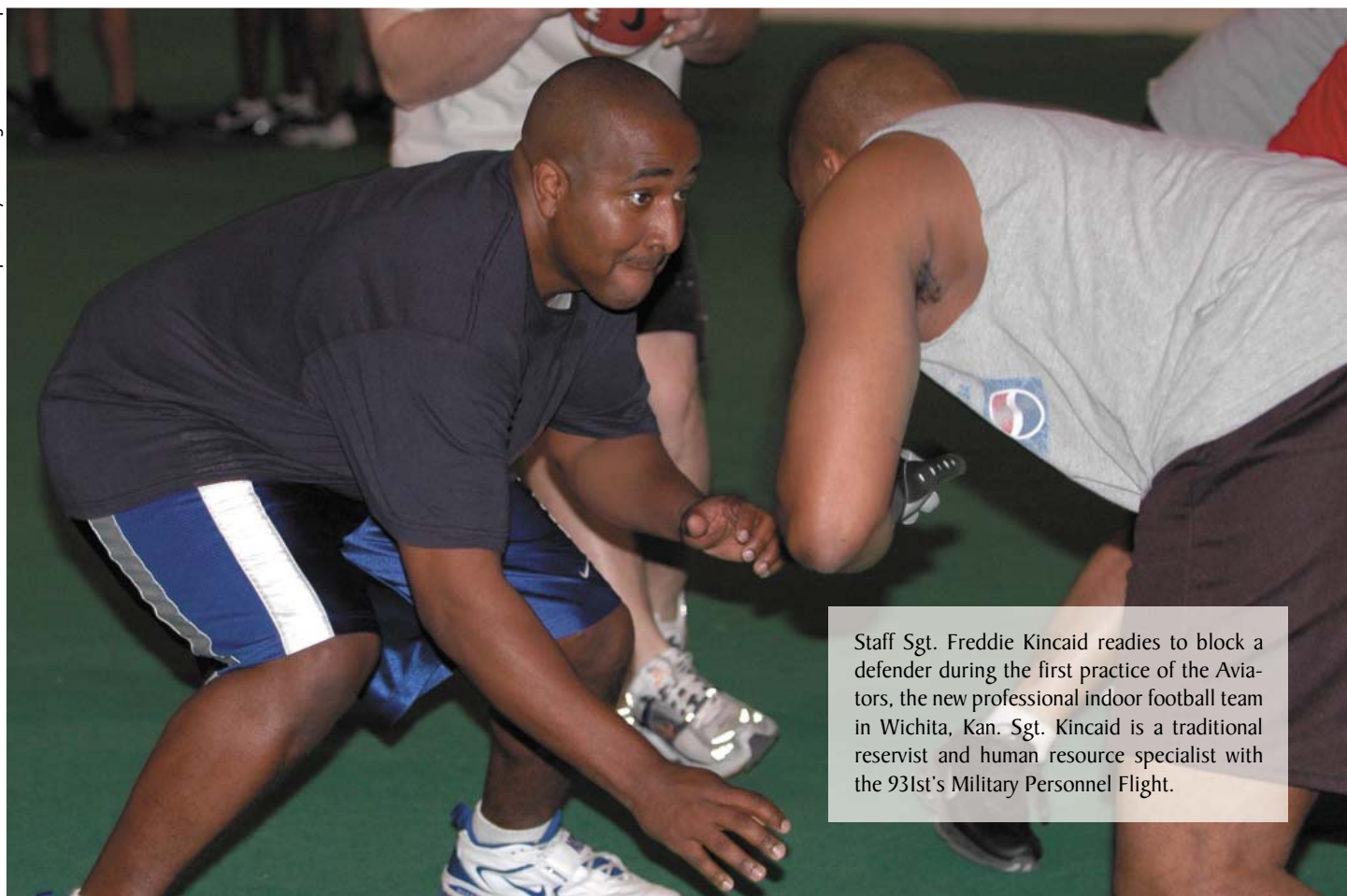
His baseball skills were good enough to get him a scholarship at Abilene Christian University in Texas where he played for a year before joining the Air Force, following the footsteps of his sister Roxanne and his father who retired at McConnell AFB as a senior master sergeant.

"We're all real proud of him," his big sister said. "The whole family will be at the first game and I'll probably still be the loudest one in the stands."

For Group members who want to compete with Tech. Sgt. Kincaid in rooting her brother and the Aviators on, their first game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Apr. 23 at the Kansas Coliseum. Tickets are available online at www.selectaseat.com or by calling (800) 362-3247.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap



Staff Sgt. Freddie Kincaid readies to block a defender during the first practice of the Aviators, the new professional indoor football team in Wichita, Kan. Sgt. Kincaid is a traditional reservist and human resource specialist with the 931st's Military Personnel Flight.

HRDC delivers free food to AEF rotation

photo by Master Sgt. Robert Lorenz



Col. Karl J. Hurdle, 931st ARG Commander, helps hand out free lunches to Airmen leaving McConnell AFB for an air expeditionary force rotation into Turkey last month. The lunches were donated by the 931st Human Resource Development Council and the McConnell African-American Heritage Association.

COMPILED BY STAFF

931ST ARG HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Some Group members participating in last month's air expeditionary force deployments received an unexpected surprise. Col. Karl J. Hurdle, 931st Commander, and Lt. Col. James Brock Jr., Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander, led a delivery of free lunches to nearly 30 Airmen bound for 15 hours of flight and a 15-day tour in Turkey.

AMXS' Master Sgt. Ray Patterson, a member of the Human Resource Development Council, suggested giving the meals as a way of promoting concern for Airmen's health and well-being, a main HRDC focal point. He coordinated with Ms. Carolyn Wallace from the McConnell African-American Heritage Association to establish donated funds needed to pay for the lunches.

Col. Hurdle also added to the contribution by not just delivering the lunches but actually jumping onboard with the second AEF rotation for the flight over. After a short visit with the troops, he flew back with the first rotation returnees for 31 hours and approximately 6500 miles of flying in four days.

Lt. Col. Brock, who had recently assumed command, expressed his regret about not being able to go to Turkey too. "This is the second AEF that I missed," he said. "One from Homestead (AFB), now McConnell. I am saddened by the fact that my new troops (departed) for Turkey without me."

Lt. Col. Brock may have to wait a while for his next AEF opportunity. The last of the 931st's AEF participants returned March 21, marking the end of yet another successful 931st mission, said Col. Hurdle. The Group's next scheduled AEF requirement is in two years.

Recognizing Airmen focus from HRDC to AFRC

COL. CLAY CHILDS

931ST ARG DEPUTY COMMANDER

HRDC stands for Human Resources Development Council. It is chaired by the Group's Deputy Commander and it's about taking care of our people, promoting diversity and making the 931st a place where people WANT to work.

HRDC is getting a lot of attention from 4th Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command. The command wants us to recognize the valuable contribution each individual makes to the success of this unit and the Air Force mission. The HRDC is a venue for doing that.

However, in one hour, once a

month, during the unit training assembly, it is impossible for HRDC to do it all. The good news is much of this work is already being done. The HRDC just needs to know who is doing it and how!

I am asking each commander to recognize the importance of active HRDC participation from your unit. HRDC members will be asked to report on their unit's efforts to recognize people, take care of others, and/or recruit. Make sure your unit's efforts are being recognized by the group. Some examples include unit commander/first sergeant recognition programs, social events, family recognition and support programs, speaking at schools, partici-

pation in heritage and history events, visiting hospitals, community involvement, and JROTC tours to name a few.

To energize this, I will also be asking members to recommend individuals that deserve a commander's coin and forward that information to the group commander.

Have an idea? Looking for support? HRDC is a direct line to your group leadership to get recognition and support for your hard-working folks. Know your unit HRDC representative and/or offer to be one. HRDC—it's one way of showing how the 931st takes care its people, its community, and why this is a great place to work.

UTA last chance to donate to Air Force Assistance Fund

The Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign ends Apr. 17 at the 931st ARG. The organizations benefiting from the campaign include the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widow's Fund, the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. The charities benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired servicemembers, surviving spouses and families. The 931st AFAF representatives are Master Sgt. Johnny Stephenson at ext. 3743, Staff Sgt. Cynthia Hoffman at ext. 4819 and Tech. Sgt. Cherry McCord at ext. 3358.

TSP open season to become unlimited

The next Thrift Savings Plan open season will usher in a new era of unlimited enrollment opportunities. After Apr. 15, servicemembers can use MyPay and civilian employees can use the Employee Benefit Information System to enroll in TSP any time of the year. For more information, visit: www.tsp.gov

Beware credit card scam

All Bank of America government credit card holders are being warned about an email scam. The emails look like official emails from Bank of America but they ask holders to log into a web site that records credit card and personal information. Recipients of such emails are urged to immediately report them by calling the customer service number on the back of their Bank of America credit card.

OJT program offers alternative to earning GI Bill benefits

The GI Bill On-The-Job Training Program offers Reservists an alternative way to use education and training benefits. Reservists being trained for a new job can receive monthly training benefits from the Veterans Affairs in addition to their regular salary, up to \$216 tax-free. Call **1-888-GI-BILL-1** for more information or go online to: www.gibill.va.gov

Toll-free number changed

The McConnell AFB toll-free number for official business is now **(888) 708-3885**. To reach Family Readiness dial "1," the UTA billeting manager dial "2," and the operator dial "9."

'Andro' supplement prohibited

Airmen are no longer allowed to take androstenedione to increase muscle mass. Under a new law, 'andro,' as it is commonly called, is classified as a Schedule III controlled substance, meaning the government defines it as having a potential for abuse.

Group members can contact the Aero Medicine Flight at **(316) 759-3435** for more information.

Cell phone/PDA guidance given on use in uniform

A recent email sent out by the 931st ARG first sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Mack Housman, gave the following guidance concerning cellular telephones and personal digital assistants:

- they must be a solid conservative color: black, silver, dark blue or gray
- devices that are two-tone will be covered in a black case
- only one device may be worn on the uniform belt, clipped to the waistband or purse or carried in the left hand
- the hands-free headset is not authorized
- cell phones will not be used while walking in uniform

Contact Sgt. Housman at **(316) 759-3717** for more information.

SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Newcomers

Capt Lea Shivley
Aero Medicine Flight

TSgt Dennis O'Kelley
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SSgt Michael Woodward
Civil Engineer Squadron

SrA Michael Smith
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

A1C Jason Garcia
Civil Engineer Squadron

A1C Jennifer Huston
Headquarters

Promotions

SMSgt Ken Girty
18th Air Refueling Squadron

TSgt Cindy Hoffman
Military Support Flight

SrA Sean Ake
Civil Engineer Squadron

SrA Jessica Moffett
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Golf tournaments scheduled, fees due for anniversary bash

Two golf tournaments have been scheduled to raise money for the upcoming 10th Anniversary Celebration of the 931st Air Refueling Group. The tournaments are scheduled for the Fridays before the April and May unit training assemblies. The first tournament in April is open to everyone but the May tournament is limited to current and former members of the 931st. Both tournaments are scheduled to be 18-hole scrambles and begin with a shotgun start at noon.

Cost for both tournaments is \$35 and includes green fees, cart, a beverage and a gift bag. Prizes will also be awarded for longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin. To register and/or get more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Di-



ane Hiebert at (316) 759-3747 or Master Sgt. Bryan Lawley at (316) 759-5441.

Group members are also being reminded that all registration fees for

the celebration in May are due to be paid by the end of the April UTA. Fees can be paid to the representatives listed below:

- ARG** - SMSgt Donna Lorenz
TSgt Randolph Brown
Maj Sam Schofield
- AMF** - SMSgt Barb Schwerman
- AMX** - Ms. Vickie Hayden
MSgt Bryan Lawley
- 18th ARS** - TSgt Sue Tarr
- CES** - MSgt Lloyd Thompson
- MSF** - MSgt Bob Lorenz
MSgt Alma Fewlass
- OSF** - Lt Col William Eaton



Registration is \$11 for the celebration meal only, \$15 for the meal and anniversary coin and \$5 for the coin only. Group members can register online on the 931st web site (www.afrc.af.mil/931arg/) or by calling Senior Master Sgt. Donna Lorenz (316) 759-3796.

Giving the Gift from page 1

the system, the body can give blood in as few as three days. This is much shorter than the 56-day recovery period required by the more common practice of donating whole blood.

The separated blood is then given to patients with weakened immune systems, such as cancer victims, to help boost their system while they fight for their life.

According to Ms. Cox, the platelet donations only last about five days compared to 42 days for normal whole blood donations, which increases the need for givers like Sgt. Brown.

The commitment by Sgt. Brown to

give blood started when a friend of his came down with cancer. "After I found out about the cancer I wanted to help out in any way I could and giving blood in this manner was the best way," he said. "I've been blessed with a healthy body and donating blood was the one way I could contribute."

If Sgt. Brown's health is a blessing, Ms. Cox considers his time at the Red Cross a blessing twice over.

"You are giving the gift of life when you are donating blood," she said. "When you donate platelets you are going above and beyond."

(Photo right) Tech. Sgt. Randy Brown, 931st historian, goes through old photos from the Group's past. Sgt. Brown regularly endures the long process of donating platelets at his local Red Cross.

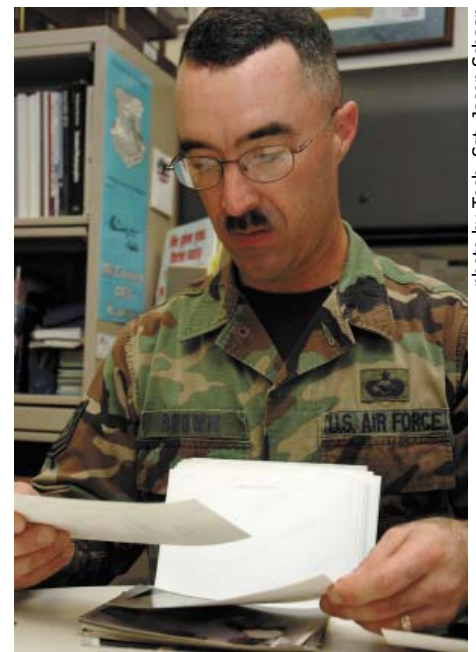


photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaaap

Family Fun Fest

April 16 — The Seventh Annual Family Festival of Fun is scheduled at McConnell AFB's Robert J. Dole Community Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free and open to all servicemembers and their families. Scheduled activities include inflatable attractions, pony rides, Humvee and fire truck rides and free food and drinks. Call **(316) 759-4305** for more information.

Shrine Circus

April 15 & 16 — The show that has entertained generations comes to the Kansas Coliseum for three days of shows, including evening shows starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Call the McConnell ITT office at **(316)-759-6344** or Select-A-Seat at **(800) 362-3247** for ticket and event information, or go online to:

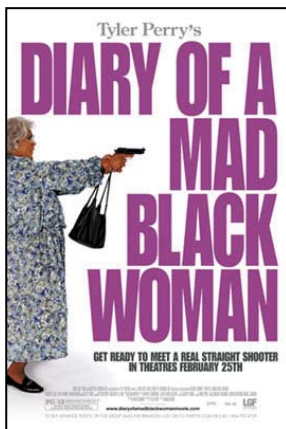
www.selectaseat.com

Sound of Music

April 15 & 16 — The Rodgers & Hammerstein's family classic comes to Crown Uptown Professional Dinner Theatre, the only year-round professional theatre in Wichita. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Dinner begins 6 p.m. and shows begin 7:30 p.m. Call **(316) 681-1566** for tickets and reservations or for more information visit the theatre Web site at:

www.crownuptown.com

At the Movies



DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 7pm
1 hr. 56 min. A gun-toting grandma helps her recently-divorced granddaughter see the comedy in her bad circumstances.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for drug content, thematic elements, crude sexual references and some violence



BE COOL

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 7pm
1 hr. 54 min. John Travolta is Chili Palmer once again in this follow-up to the hit "Get Shorty." This time around, Chili, one-time gangster turned movie producer, turns his attention to finding the next big music act.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for violence, sensuality and language including sexual references

Movies are shown at the McConnell Air Force Base Theater and are subject to change.

Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

McConnell Movie Line - (316) 759-4181

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