

Well, we're going to risk it and heartily suggest you head up to Goucher College tonight for a reading by novelist/memoirist Kathryn Harrison (*Envy, The Kiss*) and tomorrow for one by Karr, all part of the 11th annual Mid-Atlantic Creative Nonfiction Summer Writers' Conference. Chick lit, however, still sucks. (Christopher Skokna)

FRIDAY 11

SPLOTCH TELL-A-VISION EXHIBITION

Through Aug. 24, opening reception 6:30 P.M. Aug. 11, 3-7 P.M. Thursdays, 11 A.M.-7 P.M. Friday through Sunday, Current Gallery, 30 S. Calvert St., (410) 244-7003, www.currentspace.com, free.

Spotch, an online submission-based publication, presents some new reality TV, but wait, it's not what you think. Instead of placing several incompatible people together to rile each other's nerves for a couple months, the curators of *Tell-A-Vision* sought to connect artists with the same vision in the same space. The exhibit features the work of various artists, including photographers, sculptors, and painters, who express their views on culture and perceptions of reality. Featured artists include Marc Alain, Adeye Deresse, Chelsea Harris, John Kudos, Andrew Liang, Kien Nguyen, Gabriel Ries, Jonathan Watkins, and Anastasia Wong. From canvas to clay, these artists delve into the world around them to tell stories all their own. (Dariece Jones)

SATURDAY 12

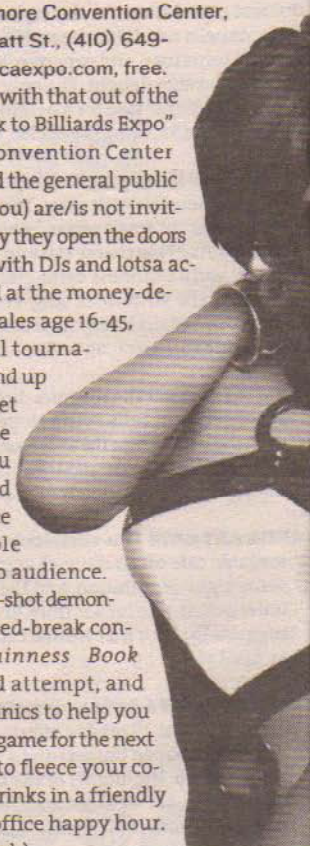
NAIJA FEST

Noon-8 P.M., Patterson Park, Eastern and Linwood avenues, (410) 608-0420, www.nyamaryland.org, \$5, children under 10 free. Besides the warm weather and school being out of session, the best part of summer in Baltimore is the abundance of street festivals. After a while, though, the constant food fests start to feel re-

dundant. How many times can you eat crab cakes and Italian sausage with peppers anyway? If you are ready for a change, check out Naija Fest, a celebration of Nigerian culture presented by the Nigerian Youth Association of Maryland. The festival features local African bands, traditional dances, masquerades, fashion shows, and art exhibits. Authentic African cuisine will also be served, including jollof rice and suya. Yum, suya. (John Nagle)

BALLBUSTERS POOL PARTY

1-8 P.M., Baltimore Convention Center, Hall D, 1 W. Pratt St., (410) 649-7000, www.bcaexpo.com, free. Balls, heh. OK, with that out of the way, the "Back to Billiards Expo" is on at the Convention Center right now, and the general public (that means you) are/is not invited, but Saturday they open the doors for an event with DJs and lotsa activities aimed at the money-demographic males age 16-45, plus an 8-Ball tournament that'll end up on ESPN, so get your face in the place if you wanna try and place your face in the Cable Teevee studio audience. Check out trick-shot demonstrations, speed-break contests, a Guinness Book world-record attempt, and some mini-clinics to help you sharpen your game for the next time you try to fleece your co-workers for drinks in a friendly game at the office happy hour. (Joe MacScratch)



HEAD SOUTH WITH YOUR GANG!

RASCAL