



SPORTS

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THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE

The new reality in General Assembly

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - Black lawmakers who are mostly Democrats will deal with a new reality when the N.C. General Assembly convenes on Jan. 26.

In the November mid-term elections, Republicans won a historic victory, taking over the majority in both sides of the state Legislature for the first time in more than a century.

Eric Heberlig, professor of political science at UNC Charlotte, said black legislators will be among the hardest hit by this historic shift.

"In Congress, power is based substantially on being in the majority party and on being senior members of the majority party because that party usually takes over your committee chairs and subcommittee chairs," he said. "Blacks in Congress are overwhelmingly Democrats. There are only two black Republicans who are both newly elected, and blacks tend to be in safe democratic districts so they can serve long periods of time and gain seniority. So, of all the groups or factions in Congress, the Black Caucus is one of the most dramatically affected by the Republican takeover."

Democratic Sen. Malcolm Graham agrees. "Those who are in the majority set the agenda or place items on agenda that are important to them. Some of the central issues that we care about such as education, health and human services, and juvenile justice will now be in the hands and control of the Republican Party. We don't have the votes to overturn them or set the agenda, so we will have to work across the aisle with our Republican colleagues to try to make the best public policy and to work in the best interest of the entire community."

Sen. Floyd McKissick, D-Durham, chair of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus, said it will be important to be strategic.

"It's going to be a particularly different political landscape in that we will be challenged to make certain as the budget is prepared that critical programs are not sacrificed, and it looks like right now we have a deficit between \$3.7 billion to \$4 billion," he said. "We have to be tactical in identifying those issues that are most important to our constituents, and we have to put forth persuasive and rational reasons why those things should not be sacrificed, even in difficult financial times."

He added that the Caucus is particularly concerned about education. "We have got to make sure education remains a high priority. To get out of the recession and have

Please see **NEW/2A**

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR



Gwendolyn Wicker has a special heart for the elderly, whom she says are neglected.

Durham woman ministers, inspires

Wicker helps seniors live to the fullest

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE
Know Your Neighbor is a monthly feature highlighting the extraordinary deeds of ordinary people.

DURHAM - Gwendolyn Wicker saw a void in care for local seniors and began to fill it.

"When I came to Durham, I saw how when people get a certain age people forget them and leave them behind, so I took initiative to sit down and spend time with them as much as possible," she said.

Wicker grew up in a close-knit community in Rockingham, reared by a father who was a minister and a businessman, and a mother who worked in a hosiery mill. Her parents were married for over 50 years. She is the eldest of nine children. Her parents had five children and then adopted four more.

Wicker is married to the Rev. Norris Wicker, and she has three children from a previous marriage and a 12-year-old foster child. She moved to Durham to find a better job and living conditions. She earned a sociology degree at Livingstone College in Salisbury and studied early childhood development at N.C. Central.

She opened Deacon Woodrow Morman Senior Center in east Durham a few years ago and renamed it Ambassador Senior Fellowship.

"The people in the east Durham area are forgotten. They're very low income; a lot of people aren't able to afford transportation to go to other areas, and so we opened one right in that neighborhood," she said. "I felt like they needed a place to let their hair down and be themselves in their own area."

Wicker works with limited funding as a nonprofit to pick up seniors once a week to take them to the senior center and give them a hot meal, do arts and crafts, See **WICKER/2A**

Merger develops new vision

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - The Clarence E. Lightner Youth Leadership Foundation, formed to pay tribute to the first and only black mayor of Raleigh, merged with the Triangle YMCA Y Achievers leadership development program for teens last year to form the Clarence E. Lightner YMCA Achievers program.

Since then, both groups have developed a collaborative vision.

"The first year of most any merger is an opportunity to strengthen the foundation of the organization, and for volunteers and staff to become familiar with each other and sort of cement the common vision for expectation and that has been the work to

date," YMCA CEO Doug McMillan said.

Lightner (1921-2002) served as mayor of Raleigh from 1973-75. Born in Raleigh on Aug. 15, 1921, to Calvin E. Lightner and Mamie Blackmond, he was educated in Raleigh Public Schools. He graduated from N.C. Central and Echols College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia. After a tour of duty in the U.S. Army, he returned home to manage Lightner Funeral Home for 45 years.

He was an active member of associations for learning who earned honorary doctoral degrees from Shaw University and St. Augustine's College for his support of education. And he was known as a committed leader and visionary statesman for his commit-

ment to encouraging youth to make the right choices in life. A board of corporate executives, educators and elected officials established a Youth Leadership Foundation in honor of his legacy of leadership and community service.

The foundation started to teach middle school students the importance of civic participation and community service. A Youth Leadership Academy began with 30 students and doubled in size as it taught leadership concepts of financial literacy, team building and public speaking.

"One of the beautiful things about the program is the collaboration of the foundation board includes Clarence's son Bruce Lightner, along with YMCA board and staff, continuing to be dedicated to development. See **MERGER/3A**

Civil rights advocate dies

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - Former N.C. Auditor Ralph Campbell, a public servant and trailblazer, died Jan. 11 while battling lung cancer. He was 64.

His younger brother, Bill Campbell, said Ralph was receiving extraordinary care from the Raleigh/Duke facility where he was treated for chemotherapy, radiation and intensive care the last two weeks of his life. He had a sudden decline Tuesday evening.



Campbell

"He represented a generation that understood the civil rights struggle, and he was one who was willing to devote his life to eliminating our society of prejudice and discrimination," Congressman G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., a close friend, said. "I've known Ralph Campbell all of my life. His father and my father were pioneers in the Civil Rights Movement, so we were products of families that were deeply rooted in the African-American community. He had a tremendous sense of history."

Born on Dec. 7, 1946, Campbell was the first child of the late Ralph Campbell Sr. and June Campbell, who both fought to blaze trails for civil rights in North Carolina.

See **FIRST/3A**

Robinson to lead Duke's MLK Day

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - Author Randall Robinson, who led a nationwide campaign to end apartheid in South Africa and has advocated on behalf of African and Caribbean nations, will give the keynote address for Duke University's Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration.

The Jan. 16 speech at 3 p.m. in Duke Chapel is part of a program in the chapel celebrating King's life that will include music and dance. The program is free and open to the public.



Robinson

Robinson has been a vocal critic of U.S. foreign policy in Africa and the Caribbean. In 1979, he established TransAfrica, an organization that helped promote progressive U.S. policies. As president of TransAfrica, Robinson spearheaded the "Free South Africa" movement, a national campaign to end apartheid. In 1994, he led a campaign to end military rule in Haiti that resulted in power being returned to Haiti's first democratically elected government, which was later overthrown.

Other campus events, which are all free and open to the public, include:

- Jan. 13, 7 p.m.: "Citizen King," a film about the last five years of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life will be screened in the Rare Book Room in Perkins Library;

- Jan. 14, noon: Duke Divinity School Professor Richard Lischer will answer questions from online viewers about King's life and legacy during a live "Office Hours" webcast on Duke's Ustream channel, ustream.tv/dukeuniversity;

- Jan. 14, 6 p.m.: A reception and advance screening of "Freedom Riders," a PBS documentary film, will be held at the Nasher Museum of Art,

See **MLK/2A**



Pastor says fight for equality is not over.

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Wicker helps kids and seniors live fuller lives

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and field trips. She said "to see their smiling faces" motivates her to keep going despite financial challenges, because it makes her feel like she's done something to make their day special.

She also does missionary work through her church, Victorious Praise Church of God and Christ, that includes visiting those who are sick or in rest homes.

"We have so many people in the rest home that don't have any family or anything, so when I go to the rest home I see everybody. But those who don't have family, I try to spend a little more time with them."

Her dedication to ministering to the elderly was recognized last fall when she was awarded the 2010 Senior Outreach Lamplighter Award. In addition to working with seniors, Wicker is also a founding member of two charter schools: Healthy Start Academy and Research Triangle Charter Academy.

"I've known Gwen since she helped start the charter school in 1976," said Liz Morey, executive director of Healthy Start Academy. "With the school luncheon program, she's been instrumental in making sure we started the breakfast program to ensure kids get good breakfast in the morning. She's just a wonderful, warm, caring person. She's always thinking of others. She's always wanting to do the right thing, and she's always trying to set a really good example for everyone, but especially for the children."

New reality

Continued from page 1A
jobs, we need to have our people adequately educated. And that's true not only for K-12, but community colleges and universities because people go to them to further their career outlook by being able to get new skill sets or completing their education."

Democrat Rep. Kelly Alexander, D-Mecklenburg, said it is not simply a black and white issue.

"I don't think there's going to be a difference based upon race or anything," he said. "It's different based on the reality that the GOP has the majority in both houses of the legislature, and, therefore, whatever their particular policies are - if they really want to enforce them - they have the power to do it. The most you can do is try to slow down the train by speaking out specifically about the issues, doing everything you can to heighten the contradictions, and make modifications in policies if possible."

MLK

Continued from page 1A
with remarks by filmmaker Laurens Grant;

• Jan. 16, 11 a.m.: Lischer will deliver a sermon referencing the life of King during the Duke Chapel Sunday worship service;

• Jan. 18, noon: Dr. Lynda Szczech will give a talk, "Kidney Disease: Racial Disparities From the Inside Out," in Duke Hospital's North Pavilion;

• Jan. 20, 5:30 p.m.: Opening reception and artist's talk for the art exhibition "Hank Willis Thomas: Hope and Question Bridge" at the John Hope Franklin Center. Art historian Richard Powell will introduce Willis, a contemporary visual artist.

Wicker operated Gwen's Daycare on Denfield Street in Durham for about 18 years before she closed it to focus on working in Durham Public Schools as an assistant teacher and co-founding the two charter schools. She said she wanted to give children a choice where they could go to school for a better education through the

charter schools because she didn't want their dreams inhibited.

Wicker is known for her work in the community, receiving recognition with a volunteer award and Keeper of the Dream Award (1999) from the city of Durham. She has also served on numerous boards and committees, including former chair of

the Durham Martin Luther King Steering Committee, Association of Foster Parents and the NAACP.

"I see Mrs. Wicker as a model community neighbor, as she interacts and provides for children as well as senior adults," said Wendell Andrews, who has known Wicker for 14 years through her work in the church and civic activ-

ities. "She has passion for people, especially children and the adult population, and she assists them when in need. She's caring, and she gives of her time, her energy and her resources."

City Councilwoman Cora Cole-McFadden has known Wicker for many years.

"She's really committed

to whatever she sets out to do. Her work with Durham MLK Steering Committee stands out the most, how she helped to bring about unity and cohesiveness in that organization when she chaired it. Then, she's so involved in the church that her commitment to her pastor and congregation is just admirable."

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First black State Auditor dies

Continued from page 1A

His parents pushed his younger brother, Bill Campbell, a former mayor of Atlanta, to become the first black student to integrate the all-white Murphey School in Raleigh.

A native of Raleigh, Campbell graduated from Saint Augustine's College with a business degree in administration.

From 1977-86, he worked as a field auditor for the N.C. Department of Revenue and from 1986-90 as a plan auditor for the state Health Benefits Office.

In the meantime, he ran for political office. He was first elected in 1985 to the Raleigh City Council and reelected three additional times, serving as mayor pro tem from 1989-91. He left to run for State Auditor in 1992, and he blazed a trail becoming the first black to serve on the N.C. Council of State. He was reelected to the same office in 1996 and 2000. He ran for a fourth term in 2004 but was narrowly defeated by Les Merritt.

"He was a determined public servant who took his job seriously. He wanted to be the best auditor that N.C. ever had," said Brad Thompson, a long-time friend. "He accepted

Merger brings new focus

Continued from page 1A

oping youth in the Triangle to be leaders," said James White, vice president of leadership development at the YMCA. "Through a variety of opportunities, youth are taught to develop traits true of Clarence Lightner, who was a leader in education, philanthropy, community service and civic engagement."

The YMCA's original Y Achievers program began with Leo Marsh, a civil rights trailblazer and executive out of the Harlem YMCA who developed a program in the 1970s targeting African-American teenagers to become future leaders.

"What's happened is that the culture that we live in and world we live in 2011 is very different than the culture of the '70s, so one of the things that's the beauty of this program, while it continues to be sensitive to some unique needs of ethnic youth, the scope goes beyond African-American youth to Hispanic youth and youth period," White said.

McMillan said the partnership also allows them to appeal to a broader community of kids, because the Lightner Foundation focused on starting with middle school and the Y Achiever focuses on high school. Now, they can connect the two together.

"The Lightner program had worked with one staff connecting independently to kids. However, we can multiply the hands by working with staff at several different branches of the YMCA. We have learned an awful lot, and the volunteers of the Lightner Foundation also have gained an understanding of the capacity of the Y. Building that foundation is what I'm most proud of right now. Good things will come in the future."

challenges in his life also, and he did it with humor. He did it with a determination that he was going to confront it and do the best that he could."

Campbell leaves behind younger brothers, Bill and Eddie, his sister Mildred Christmas, and a host of family and friends.

"Ralph lived a life in the public arena so people

know so very much about him, but he was thoughtful, sensitive, caring as a brother, and our [family] loss is so personal, but it is also a great void for the public that he loved serving so much," Bill Campbell said.

Campbell's body will lie in state at the State Capitol Rotunda Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A wake, visitation of community and appreciation ceremony will be held later that day at 7 p.m. at Fletcher Hall, Progress Energy Center. The funeral is Jan. 15 at noon at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Raleigh.

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The Triangle TRIBUNE

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Calling it as we see it

The passing of Ralph Campbell touches us on so many levels.

A man of honor, pride, trust and compassion is gone, but more than that, Campbell was a rebel - from the day he was born. He didn't have a choice. His parents, Ralph Sr. and June Campbell, were trailblazers for civil rights in N.C., and they taught their children well.

Campbell didn't let segregation, bigotry or racial hatred stop him from achieving many firsts in the state. More importantly, he didn't take the journey alone. He cared about the injustices in the black community. Your problem was his problem; your hurt was his hurt; his solution was your solution.

He was part of the "Oval Table Gang" to desegregate Raleigh schools and demand equality in employment, health and politics. He and the entire Campbell clan understood the dangerous waters they were treading, but justice had to prevail. And it did, slowly, but it did. Bill Campbell integrated all-white Murphey School in Raleigh.

Ralph Campbell broke color barriers in state politics because he knew that's where the deals were made, where the power was to get things done. And he was relentless - to a fault to some but a comfort to others.

Now, we pray that he is being comforted and rewarded for a life well done.

A tragedy and my apology

My cell phone pinged on Saturday to say I had a message. I was in the middle of lunch and chose to ignore it. When I picked it up a couple of hours later, I felt the same sickness that millions did upon learning that Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford was shot in an assassination attempt.

Television news bubbled over with fact, spin and interpretation. Would all 435 members of Congress need ramped-up security? Was hate speech the basis of this shooting? I even saw Neil Boortz, the peripatetic Atlanta lawyer and talk show host suggest that President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama had been guilty of some of the same hate speech that the right has been accused of. Puh-lease.

The talk about hate speech, however, is important, and I'm going to own my part of it and apologize. A bazillion years ago (actually in 1992) I made a wisecrack about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Anyone who knows me would see it as a wisecrack, but those who don't saw it as hate speech. Here's the background. Thomas said he would live to be 120 to stay on the court to frustrate liberals. I replied that the average black man had a life expectancy of about 65, and that if his wife fed him lots of butter and eggs ingredients for high cholesterol and heart trouble, he'd die an early death.

Conservatives called it a death wish. Death by breakfast, I responded, still in jest, as if someone were standing over Thomas with an Uzi forcing him to eat that butter and eggs. The wisecrack has to be taken even less seriously if Justice Thomas' purported commitment to physical fitness and working out is taken into consideration.

No matter and no excuses. My comment about Thomas was in poor taste. Out of line. Out of order. I am sorry if the words I spoke at all contributed to the climate in which we live, to the vitriol that has poisoned the atmosphere. My apology does not mitigate or reduce my contempt for Thomas and for his arrogant dismissal of liberals and for the African-American community. If I could do it all over, I'd have wished him the bacon and eggs or simply made reference to the black male life expectancy rate and his own hubris, but left out the comment about his early death. The fact is that none of us should joke about death. It just isn't funny.

To be sure, the right has had a great time distorting my words, and they've disseminated them widely. And anytime a liberal makes an inappropriate comment, they take their media machine and work it overtime. These conservatives invoke free speech when pastors pray for President Obama's death from their pulpits. These same conservatives say they aren't racist when they use images of apes to describe the first family. These conservatives have both fingerprints and footprints in the poisoned language that poses as free speech. Yet it is true that it takes sticks and twigs, not just logs and trees, to build a fire. Was my comment one of the twigs?

It has taken me nearly two decades and an attempted assassination to understand the damage that my wisecrack might have caused not just to Justice Thomas but to the public discourse. I hope it won't take our nation two more decades to understand and embrace the notion of speech civility, even for, political opponents. Every day, and in every way, I tell my students, faculty and staff that I value civility. Yet, my comment about Thomas was not only uncivil, it was ugly and unnecessary. And, it really wasn't that funny. I regret it. I apologize for it. I wish I could take it back.

A dynamic young congresswoman is fighting for her life, and I am among those who will fall to my knees in prayer for her each day. The assassin who shot her also took out a federal judge, a 9-year-old girl, a congressional aide and others. A dozen more were wounded.

Scores of lives will never be the same. Even as we pray for Gabrielle Gifford, we need to fight to restrict easy access to guns. And, we all need to be reminded to tone it down.

The Triangle Tribune
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Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.

"I have begun the struggle and I can't turn back. I have reached the point of no return." - Martin Luther King Jr.

The white leadership had done everything possible to stem the boycott of their segregated bus system by the black citizens of Montgomery, Ala. Inevitably, the city leaders resorted to what had always worked in the past: the use of police power.



JOHN W.
WHITEHEAD

The date was Jan. 26, 1956. It was in the afternoon, and the young minister of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church was on his way home with two fellow church members. The acknowledged leader of the highly controversial boycott, he was put on notice to follow the traffic laws meticulously. There was no reason to make himself an easy target for arrest. But, as fate would have it, the police targeted the young minister, and he was arrested. "Get out King; you are under arrest for speeding 30 miles an hour in a 25-mile zone."

Thus begins Martin Luther King Jr.'s journey toward jail. The moment of truth had arrived for the young minister. Warned that he could be made to disappear by the authorities, fear began to grip King. As he writes in his book, *Stride Toward Freedom* (1958):

"As we drove off, presumably to the city jail, a feeling of panic began to come over me. I had always had the impression that the jail was in the downtown section of Montgomery. Yet, after riding for a while, I noticed that we were going in a different direction. The more we rode the farther we were from the center of town. In a few minutes we turned into a dark and dingy street that I had never seen and headed under a desolate old bridge. By this time I was convinced that these men were carrying me to some faraway spot to dump me off.

"But this couldn't be," I said to myself. "These men are officers of the law." Then I began to wonder whether they were driving me out to some waiting mob, planning to use the excuse later on that they had been overpowered. I found

myself trembling within and without. Silently, I asked God to give me the strength to endure whatever came."

This was at the height of segregation in the American system. It was a time when blacks, if they got out of line, at a minimum faced jail time. Only a month earlier, Rosa Parks, a seamstress, had refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus to a white man. This violation of the segregation law brought a swift arrest.

But now it was King who was perceived as the troublemaker and, more importantly, the head of a burgeoning movement. Cut off the head and the movement dies. Understanding this, King began to panic as his ride with the police continued:

"By this time we were passing under the bridge. I was sure now that I was going to meet my fateful hour on the other side. But, as I looked up, I noticed a glaring light in the distance, and soon I saw the words 'Montgomery City Jail.' I was so relieved that it was some time before I realized the irony of my position: going to jail at that moment seemed like going to some safe haven!"

As the jail doors slammed shut behind King, he felt a strong inner peace. "For the moment, strange gusts of emotion swept through me like cold winds on an open prairie. For the first time in my life, I had been thrown behind bars."

Soon, King's bail was posted, and King was free to leave. But King's rendezvous with jail cells was just beginning. More importantly, the movement that began in Montgomery was moving beyond state borders. A nationwide movement with a capital M was under way. This made King even more of a target.

Several weeks later, King happened to be in Nashville, Tenn., giving a lecture when he learned that he and several others had been indicted by a grand jury for violating Montgomery's segregation laws. He immediately booked a flight home, stopping over to see his father in Atlanta. Martin Luther King Sr. recognized that a new threat was upon them. No longer was jail time the thing to fear. It was death.

"My father, so unafraid for himself," writes King, "had fallen into a

constant state of terror for me and my family."

Earlier, King's home in Montgomery had been bombed, and the police were watching his every move. After the bombing, King's mother had taken to bed under doctor's orders. King's father brought some of Atlanta's leading citizens into his home to speak with his son about the dangers of returning to Montgomery. But King knew that courage in the face of tyranny is often all that the oppressed have at their disposal. It was time, as King said, to take a stand.

As he told those assembled, "My friends and associates are being arrested. It would be the height of cowardice for me to stay away. I would rather be in jail 10 years than desert my people now. I have begun the struggle, and I can't turn back. I have reached the point of no return."

Upon arrival in Montgomery, King headed for the jailhouse only to discover that the others indicted with him had the day before surrendered for arrest. "A once fear-ridden people had been transformed. Those who had previously trembled before the law were now proud to be arrested for the cause of freedom."

Against incredible odds and without a shot being fired by the blacks of Montgomery, they had won the right to be treated equally on the city's buses. Before long, the movement would grow to amazing proportions, compelling a government that had previously refused to hear their pleas to take notice and heed their demands. These brave people would eventually transform the face of America, led by a man who believed in nonviolent resistance to government oppression - a man who believed that governments must listen to and heed our demands - a man who would have turned 82 on Jan. 15 had he not been gunned down in his prime by an assassin's bullet.

Yet, while King was with us for only a short time, his legacy has been far-reaching. Indeed, one of the most important and timely lessons he imparted was that when government fails to listen, then it is within our power as a free people to press for change through peaceful, nonviolent resistance.

Blacks in the White House before Obama

On Jan. 20, 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the first black president of the United States. Upon waving farewell to George Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush, the Obamas moved their family into the White House. For many Americans, the history of African-Americans in the White House began in 2009. Not true.



GARY L.
FLOWERS

Dr. Clarence Lusane, political science professor at American University, has written a book titled *The Black History of the White House*, which historically honors the contribution of African-Americans as free and enslaved people within the most celebrated house in the U.S.

Lusane, aside from his formal scholarship, is no stranger to the black community. Either directly or indirectly, he has worked with many of the member organizations of the Black Leadership

Forum, among them the TransAfrica Forum and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

Prior to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW being the address of the White House, the first president's house was in New York and Philadelphia, respectively. For years, archeological evidence and the relentless efforts by progressive African-Americans in Philadelphia have pointed toward a full public recognition that, despite historic omissions and falsehoods in the teaching of American history in classrooms, enslaved black people were forcibly worked for free within the home of a sitting president. Many.

Two in particular, a black lady named Oney Judd and a man named Hercules are featured in the book. According to Lusane, President George Washington's words and deeds did not match on the subject of slavery. While Washington spoke of his opposition to the institution of slavery, he enslaved Judd and other

African-Americans.

One evening, Judd simply walked out of the rear door of the House while Washington and his wife Martha ate dinner. Following a search, Judd was found and was offered her freedom if she would return to bondage. She simply replied, "I am already free," and did not return.

In another case, Hercules emancipated himself by escaping the bondage of Washington while on a trip from Philadelphia to the Mount Vernon, Va., private plantation of Washington.

Both cases are featured in the book that should be required reading in Sunday schools and public school systems. Until American education exposes students to all history, pleasant and unpleasant, our nation will not be able to fully address the issue of race.

Gary L. Flowers, executive director and CEO of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc.



Business
Briefs

Banks skim cash from low-income customers

By Wade
Henderson
NNPA COLUMNIST

Even as U.S. banks struggle to repair their reputation, two of the biggest continue a practice that is unconscionable. JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo approve debit card transactions when account holders have a negative balance, allowing the banks to rake in \$35 fees for transactions that average only \$17.

They cloak this practice in the guise of overdraft protection, even as their software systems manipulate account balancing to maximize fees. They re-order transactions to yield as many of those \$35 fees as possible when a customer

carries a negative balance for a day.

Chase's new policy of limiting those charges to three fees per day is a miserly improvement. They can still charge a customer \$102 per day in overdraft fees.

The impact of these practices is great: the biggest banks are claiming an ever-greater share of the market and setting the standard for industry practices. The cost is concentrated in an ever more vulnerable population of Americans living paycheck to paycheck. That population now includes half of all Americans, according to a survey by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation. It is also concentrated in communities of color, where the fore-

closure and unemployment crisis have eroded savings that families might have used to protect themselves from these abusive financial practices.

Unfair bank overdraft fees contribute to high levels of Americans being unbanked or under banked. Surveys find that overdraft fees are a significant reason people leave the banking system. A 2008 Harvard study found that excessive overdraft fees cause virtually all involuntary bank account closures. When a person closes a bank account this way, it can be difficult to open a new account in the future.

So for short-term gain, these practices are causing long-term harm, both for the Americans who

drop out of the system and for the banks themselves who are chasing away their customer base.

Overall, Americans pay \$24 billion in unfair overdraft fees annually. I recently joined four other leaders of national civil rights organizations in asking Chase and Wells Fargo to stop their unfair practices immediately. Those leaders included Lisa Hasewaga of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, Janet Murguia of the National Council of La Raza, Cy Richardson of the National Urban League and Hilary Shelton of the NAACP.

Together, we have asked Chase and Wells Fargo to join Bank of America and Citigroup in ending over-

draft fees on debit card transactions. We also asked Chase and Wells Fargo to stop re-ordering transactions to maximize fees, to limit the number and frequency of fees to six per year, and to give every customer the lowest cost option for overdraft coverage available.

If the big banks want to repair their reputations, they must earn our trust. Citibank and Bank of America do the right thing when it comes to overdrafts. Why aren't Chase and Wells Fargo?

Wade Henderson is president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons.

Positive cash flow in Afghanistan

By James
Clingman
NNPA COLUMNIST

Why are we sacrificing more lives in a war that has no identifiable victory in sight? They say we will leave when we "win," but what does that look like? Do we really believe we can win, and do we think the Afghan people will miraculously change to our way of thinking and our way of doing things when we leave?

You would think that nearly 5,000 lives lost in the Iraq war, which was based on a lie and cost taxpayers nearly \$1 trillion, would be a pretty good hint for us to stop the current madness in Afghanistan. So, why are we still there?

Osama bin Laden, as far as our intelligence can tell and if he is still alive, is somewhere in

Pakistan. Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan, is corrupt and living very well with all the cash being dumped in his country. As was the case in Iraq, billions of dollars are being wasted each week as we continue to use more than 100,000 soldiers to fight against a relatively small group of Al-Qaeda

Here's the bottom line: As usual, the arms dealers and the other usual suspects from the Iraq war are the beneficiaries of the \$2 billion per week price of this war. No-bid contracts abound, and the cash is flowing like Niagara Falls into the coffers of the same folks who lost \$9 billion in cash in Iraq - money that still has not been accounted for. Can you imagine what \$2 billion per week would do for our economy right now?

It was recently reported that the U.S. created 1.4 million jobs during the

past year - in India, China and other nations - not in our own country. What's up with that? How many jobs could we create in 52 weeks with \$104 billion?

All of this in the face of political hypocrites standing with hand over heart praising the young men and women who are risking and losing their lives in our latest quagmire. They say how much they appreciate and honor the soldiers for their service to this country, but they refuse to pay them for their service, and they silently stand by as many soldiers who are blessed to return home find themselves homeless and mired in poverty. So much for honoring their service to this country, huh?

War is and always has been about profiteering and cash flow for a chosen few. Obviously, the

war lobbyists and the companies that profit from the deaths of our soldiers are stronger than any of us could ever imagine. They control this game, and the war is not over until they say it's over. We railed against George Bush for Iraq; now Barack Obama has committed to the war in Afghanistan because, as he once said, "That's where we should have been in the first place." That was then; this is now. Why are we there now? It must be the MONEY.

Our economy, at least for most of us, is in very bad shape. Many people in this country are suffering financially and, as a result, physically and psychologically. Millions are unemployed and without even the hope of going back to work. Gasoline is now on the

rise again, reaching nearly \$4 per gallon in some areas. (It's interesting that no one is speaking out against this issue to any large degree, the way they did when Bush was president.)

All of this, and we are stuck in Afghanistan spending \$2 billion a week on a war that has no victory in its future.

There is a definitely positive cash flow in Afghanistan, and it's flowing to the well-oiled war machine driven by the warmongers and their political puppets. How is your cash flow, black America? Are things going good for you? How about you young soldiers out there? Have you found a home yet? Has some of that cash flow reached you yet? What about senior citizens? No cost-of-living increases for you - two years in a row. You doin' all right?

Revitalize a job search in 2011

STAFF REPORTS

With the nation's unemployment rate dropping to 9.4 percent in December, those who have spent months looking for work might begin to feel a bit more optimistic. Now is the perfect time to put the frustrations of last year's job search behind you and start fresh.

Robert Half offers five tips for revitalizing a lengthy job search in the new year.

1. **Reconsider the chronological resume.** A new format, such as one that highlights skills versus work history, may be more productive.

2. **Invest in new packaging.** If an extended search in a particular industry or field isn't yielding results, focus on repackaging your transferable skills for a different industry or type of role.

3. **Switch up your networking.** People tend to focus on certain groups or techniques (e.g., using LinkedIn to make connections or attending regular trade association meetings). Look for different groups to join and new ways to meet people outside of your usual circle.

4. **Get a second opinion.** Do you get lots of interviews but no second calls? Ask a friend with good professionals judgment to give you feedback on your interview performance. Or perhaps your resume hasn't landed you any interviews. Have a recruiter or trusted friend give you their ideas.

5. **Expand your reach.** Some parts of the country are recovering faster than others. If your search isn't working in a particular area, look at a move to a different city. Large staffing firms who have offices nationwide can connect you with jobs outside of your immediate locale.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL
MEETING FOR IMPROVING VEHICULAR SAFETY
AND TRAFFIC OPERATIONS AT ALSTON AVENUE (NC
55) AND LAWSON STREETTIP Project No. W-511 WBS No. 41874.1.1
Durham County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold the above Public Informational Meeting on January 18, 2011 between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Russell Memorial CME Church, 703 South Alston Avenue, Durham, 27701-4303

The purpose of this meeting is for NCDOT representatives to provide information and answer questions regarding this project. The opportunity to submit written comments will also be provided. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours.

NCDOT proposes to construct left turn lanes onto Alston Avenue (NC 55) at Lawson Street. This project will improve vehicular safety and operations at this intersection.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Ben Upshaw, PE, Division Design Engineer at 2612 N. Duke Street, Durham, 27704, phone (919) 220-4600, fax (919) 560-3371 or email bjupshaw@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Mr. Upshaw as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

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Black History Month.



N.C. CENTRAL

Lois Deloatch, a longtime fundraiser at Duke University, has been appointed vice chancellor for institutional advancement. Deloatch comes to NCCU having served 20 years at Duke as an associate director of corporate and foundation relations. Before that, she worked as a development project specialist, development officer, major gifts officer and interim director of development for Duke University Libraries. In addition to her fundraising work, she helped to establish the John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African-American Documentation at Duke's Perkins Library.

Deloatch has also maintained a career as a professional vocalist and songwriter, specializing in jazz, blues and spirituals. She has released four recordings and has performed widely in the U.S. and abroad. A native of Northampton County, Deloatch holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Master of Arts from Duke.

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Student art shines at NCCU Art Museum

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - The N.C. Central Art Museum is once again showcasing the work of Durham's best and brightest young artists. Durham's Finest, an annual exhibit from Durham Public Schools students, will run through Jan. 28.

Durham's Finest features works by students in kindergarten through 12th grade; four works represent each school.

"This annual exhibition portrays the true strengths of the art program in the Durham Public Schools," Museum Director Kenneth Rodgers said. "It also illustrates the artistic talent and visual creativity possessed by students in the Durham community. This colorful exhibit truly celebrates the creative endeavors of the area's youth."

Guests had an opportunity to meet the young artists at an opening reception Jan. 8.

The NCCU Art Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 530-6211.



Martin Luther King Holiday events

RALEIGH

Jan. 17:

- 8 a.m. - Interfaith prayer breakfast, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, RTP
- 8:30 a.m. - Community day of service, projects throughout Triangle
- 11 a.m. - Memorial march, State Capitol Building, Edenton Street side
- 12 p.m. - Ecumenical observance, Meymandi Hall, Progress Energy
- 5:30 p.m. - Evening musical celebration, Meymandi Hall

DURHAM

Jan. 17:

- 11 a.m. - celebration march/rally, NC Mutual
- 6 p.m. - annual religious service, King's Park International Church, 1305 Odyssey Dr.

CHAPEL HILL

Jan. 16:

- 6 p.m. - the 26th annual University/Community MLK Memorial Banquet at the Friday Center. Dr. Charles Daye, UNC's first full-time black law professor, is the keynote speaker. Contact: Kirstin Garriss at kgarriss@email.unc.edu.

Jan. 17:

- 9 a.m. - rally, march, service beginning at Franklin Street Post Office and Court Building. The march will end at First Baptist Church, where Benjamin Chavis will speak. E-mail Denise Mitchell at dnmitche@email.unc.edu.

• 1-6 p.m. - Delta Sigma Theta sorority will sponsor its annual MLK Jr. Day Blood Drive at Hargraves Recreation Center, 216 N. Roberson St.

• 7 p.m. - "He Was a Poem, He Was a Song." Explore King's legacy through music, poetry and spoken word at the Stone Center. Contact: Lotticia Mack at 962-9001.

Jan. 18:

• 6 p.m. - MLK Oratorical Contest at Stone Center Auditorium. Student participants will present original monologues on King's activism.

Jan. 19:

• 6:15 p.m. - candlelight vigil at UNC Campus Y, faculty lounge.
• 7:30 p.m. - 30th annual MLK Memorial Lecture at Memorial Hall. CNN Correspondent Soledad O'Brien is the guest speaker. Call (919) 843-3333.

Jan. 20:

• 5 p.m. - Terrence J. Roberts helped break the color barrier at Little Rock Central High. He will speak at Union Auditorium on UNC's campus.
• 7 p.m. - A panel discussion on Central and East Africa, FedEx Global Center, Nelson Mandela Auditorium

Jan. 21:

• 6:30 p.m. - interpretations of Langston Hughes' poem "I, Too, Sing America" at the Great Hall.

Insurance to cover HPV vaccine

OZIOMA NEWS SERVICE

All new health insurance plans now must cover vaccines that protect women from HPV, a sexually transmitted infection that can cause cervical cancer. The new requirement went into effect on Jan. 8, the result of the health care reform law passed by Congress last year and signed by President Barack Obama.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the vaccine for women, ages 13 to 26 - ideally before they become sexually active. Sharon Elliott-Bynum is the executive director of CAARE Inc., which operates a clinic in Durham. She said the new coverage may offer "an increased opportunity to educate [young women] of the availability of the vaccine and its benefits."

But other hurdles remain. "I think the hesitance of most moms to have their underage daughters vaccinated is partly due to cultural, religious and personal biases, not necessarily financial," Elliott-Bynum said.

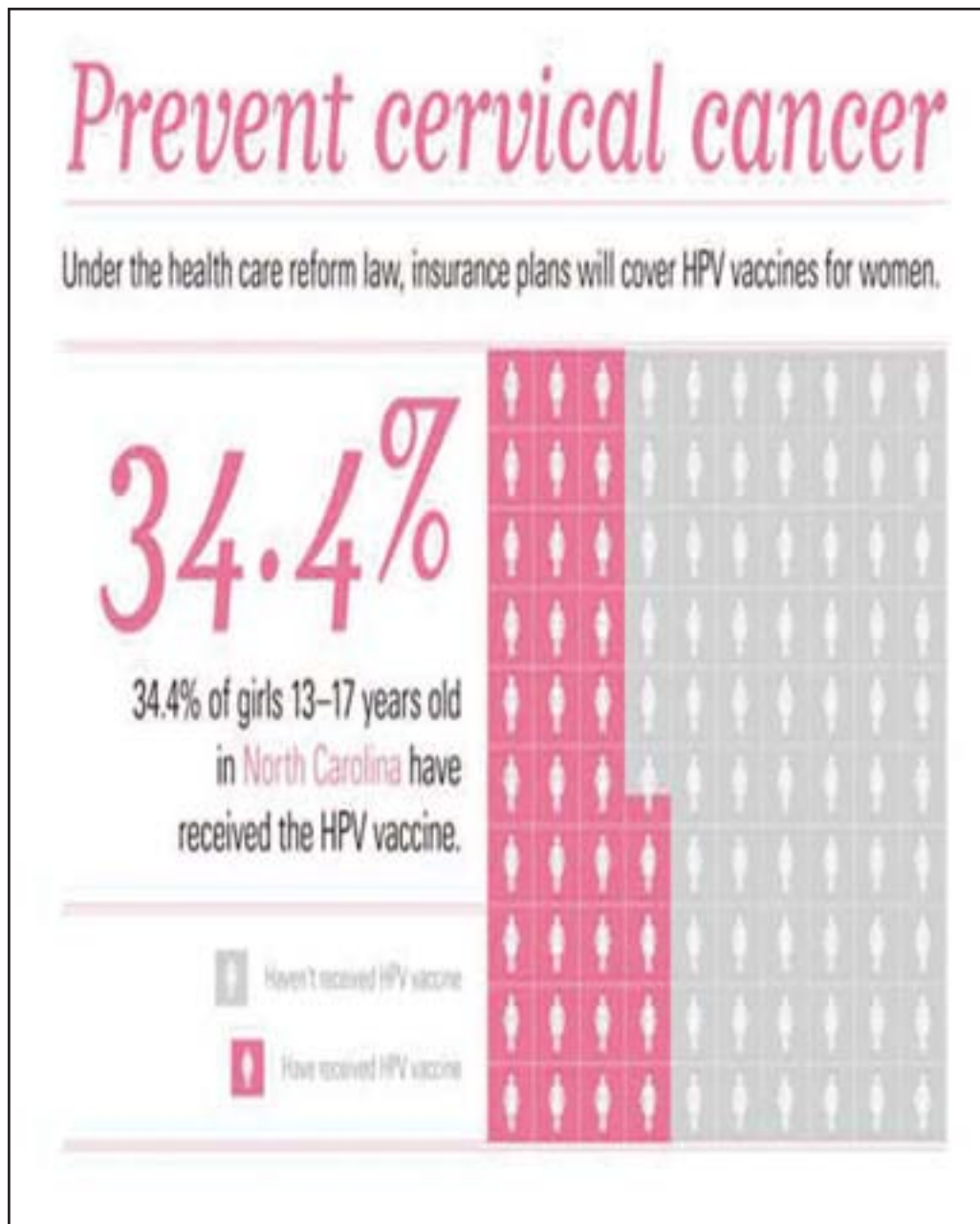
Dr. Lauren Arnold, a researcher at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, said parents need to have their daughters vaccinated early.

"Parents think it is not relevant yet for their children, but the point of the vaccine is to protect you from the disease before you are exposed to it."

Hispanic women have the highest risk for cervical cancer. African-American women are at greater risk for both HPV and cervical cancer than certain other ethnicities as well. African-American women develop cervical cancer about 50 percent more often than white women and are more than twice as likely to die from it. The overall five-year survival rate for cervical cancer among black women is 62 percent, compared to 71 percent for all women, according to the American Cancer Society. In N.C., 36 black women died of cervical cancer in 2007, the most recent year for which data is available.

The good news is that the HPV vaccine can prevent some types of cervical cancer. The vaccine is given as a series of three shots over a period of six months. For the vaccine to be effective, a patient must receive all three shots, similar to the process for immunizing infants.

Women who have had the HPV vaccine still need to have Pap tests, which detect for cervical cancer. Regular screening through Pap tests is important to help improve the chances of surviving cervical cancer.



DURHAM COUNTY

The N.C. Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development has selected the City of Medicine Academy to receive a 2011 Lighthouse Award. The CMA has been designated a school of distinction by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and is part of the N.C. New Schools Project. CMA students are able to attend the local community college to take transfer courses, begin professional certifications such as Med Tech and complete college courses online. Since its 2008 inception, the school has produced a 20 percent increase in student proficiency.

The Lighthouse Award is presented annually to five schools that have furthered student achievement in innovative and creative ways, and have nurtured a positive and supportive school and community climate. The award presentation will be made at the NCASCD Annual Conference Feb. 10 in Pinehurst. The City of Medicine Academy will receive a plaque and a check for \$500.

John Colclough is the new principal at Sandy Ridge Elementary. Colclough, a former DPS elementary and middle school principal, has been the principal at Northern High since 2001. Sandy Ridge will open in August as a choice school with a focus on visual and performing arts.

CHAPTER NEWS Swing Phi Swing



Chapter President Kim Williams of Cary is always on hand to support and motivate the girls in the program.

By Cheryl Kornegay

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Since August 2010, Swing Society has been a busy organization. The program has grown this year to 30 participants and has been involved in several activities: fundraising, academic excellence, social grace and community service. The group's mission is to foster academic excellence and opportunities through scholarship and positive life experiences.

In November, it participated in an Etiquette Day in which girls dressed for success and learned how to set a table both formally and informally. The group also worked on participation in group discussions, interview and speaking skills. After the session, the young ladies set the table informally and enjoyed lunch together.

In December, the girls exchanged gifts from a prior grab bag, received gifts from the Raleigh Graduate Chapter and participated in a discussion about friends, bullies, hygiene and making good/bad choices. Minister Adrienne Keller and Cynthia Watson, MSCW, both members of the chapter, were on hand for more professional advice for the young ladies. The girls donated 11 coats and numerous toys to Interact.



Future leaders of tomorrow

Sports

CIAA's best
separating
from rest in
basketball

*Gaudy records aside,
title fight is far from
being decided just yet*

The CIAA conference season is barely in full bloom and already the haves are separating from the have-nots.

On the women's side, Johnson C. Smith (9-0) is clawing over opponents like nobody's business. And they're not patsies, either. The Lady Golden Bulls have quality non-conference wins over Pfeiffer, Tuskegee, Wingate, Belmont Abbey and so on.

I admit I thought assistant coach Steve Joyner Jr.'s departure to Winston-Salem State would put a serious crimp in coach Vanessa Taylor's offensive scheme, but when you've got the talent and depth Smith has, it doesn't matter who's coaching.

To underscore how balanced the team is, Smith is sixth in team scoring and no player is even in the top 15 in scoring. (LaQwasha Gamble is No. 18.) The one statistic that says it all is defense. JCSU is holding opponents to 54 points per game.

But Taylor has yet to take on St. Augustine's, Joyner at WSSU, Bowie State or Virginia State. Let's see who's still standing then.

The most disappointing women's team so far is Fayetteville State. Somebody said FSU coach Eva Patterson-Heath wants to prove that she can win with her recruits (eight freshmen) instead of former coach Eric Tucker's. T'aint working.

FSU (1-9), Virginia Union (0-9), Lincoln (Pa.) (1-8) and St. Paul's (1-8) are all losing by double-digit margins. That's not the sort of company a defending champion should keep.

On the men's side, the Rams are getting their comeuppance after starting the season 6-0 and being picked to win the South. WSSU has lost to the Tigers and the Bulldogs but still have the best overall record in the conference.

Smith is starting to make a move, and coach Cleo Hill has his best Shaw team since he arrived. A three-point loss at Union is nothing to be ashamed of.

Unlike in seasons' past, where good teams went four, five deep, both divisions have three teams at the top of the class.

In the North, Union, Bowie and Elizabeth City should fight for supremacy. St. Paul's is always the team nobody wants to play in the tournament. Lincoln is new, and the Trojans are coached by George "He's no Dave Robbins" White. 'Nuff said there.

It's Smith, Winston and Shaw over in the South. Two of St. Aug's wins are against St. Paul's and Lincoln. The Falcons will get a wake-up call against the bigger boys. Fayetteville State is too erratic, and Livingstone can't seem to capture the magic of coach James Stinson's first season.

Most disappointing men's team so far? That award has to go to Chowan with one win. The Hawks were this close to knocking off the Falcons in the semifinals last year.

My sleeper? Actually, they are not sleeping on anyone, but I'm picking Shaw to take it all. Last season, it was St. Aug's all the way and coach Lonnie Blow didn't let me down.

Are you listening, coach Hill?



LeVonder Brinkley (center) and her two daughters, Lexandria Avent (left) and LoveN'der Brinkley.

PHOTO/FILE

ABA expands to Triangle

By Bonitta Best
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

DURHAM - The Triangle is about to get another sports franchise.

LeVonder Brinkley and her daughters, Lexandria Avent and LoveN'der Brinkley, are the new owners of the Carolina Jaguars, a professional basketball team of the American Basketball Association.

The group's company, Carolina Cats Sports & Entertainment Group, Inc., will also expand in the Triad with the TreFour Cheetahs and possibly Down East at a later date.

Brinkley, who has a plethora of job titles, said the opportunity was too good to pass up. Instead of the usual outlandish franchise fees, the ABA only requires a \$10,000 finance marketing fee.

"It's not something that we went looking for, it was presented to us because of our love for people and our love for the community," said Brinkley, who lives in Durham. "[ABA Commissioner/CEO Joe Newman] thinks outside the box,

and he looks to bring minority ownership into the ABA."

Over 70 percent of ABA teams are owned by African-Americans, Hispanics, women and Asians.

"It is something we are very proud of," Newman said. "Exclusion because of race had been a part of sports ownership for many years. Only recently have leagues like the NBA, NFL, MLB and others opened ownership opportunities to minorities and that still represents only a very small percentage of ownership. And many of the owners/part owners like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Jay Z, Usher and others get the opportunity because of the fame and money. Diversity of ownership was one of our primary goals. It is a big deal."

Brinkley and staff have been busy since last October working on marketing for the team.

The Jaguars season is expected to start in December and run through March or April, hopefully at N.C. Central's McDougald-McLendon

Gymnasium and a yet-to-be-named venue in Raleigh. (Contract details are still being worked out with NCCU.)

Players will earn between \$275 and \$325 a game and, naturally, the emphasis will be on local athletes who don't make the NBA or other professional teams. The first tryouts are March 12, 3 to 7 p.m. on NCCU's campus.

While basketball is the name in the title, Brinkley said the Jaguars will be about much more.

"We are going to be involved in the community because it's going to be the community's team," she said. "We're going to have cheerleaders, singers and dancers, junior development leagues, financial literacy classes and talent searches. Our motto is 'We are more than just a game,' and our emphasis is on bringing the family back together."

For more information, e-mail Brinkley at levonder.brinkley@gmail.com.

Falcons track returns to familiar spot: First

Elizabeth City State senior defensive end Malcolm Jenkins has earned another honor. The 2010 CIAA Defensive Player of the Year

has been named to the first team of the 2010 Don Hansen NCAA Division II All-Super Region 1 squad. That's quite an honor.

The weather wreaked havoc on the conference

schedule this week, but some teams managed to get out and about.

WOMEN
N.C. Central

Boy, it's been a tough road for the Lady Eagles since their Dec. 18 upset of ranked Liberty. They haven't won since. The women are on a five-game losing streak after a tough one-point home loss to Maryland

Eastern Shore. That really bites the big one. UMES had lost seven straight. NCCU just doesn't seem to have any chemistry, and the squad could sure use last year's freshman sensation Joanna Miller. So far, coach Joli Robinson's new assistant coaching staff hasn't lived up to billing. NCCU has a five-game road stretch coming up, starting at Coppin State this weekend.

In bowling, kudos to sophomore Laverne Jones and senior Toria Silver for their performance in the MEAC Southern Bowling tournament last weekend. The ladies knocked down a combined 1,580 pins to lead NCCU to a third-place win. Roll on, ladies, on roll!

St. Augustine's

The Lady Falcons couldn't See LATEST/3B



Greg Jackson (left) and LeVelle Moton reunite on the basketball court.

Latest rumor links Asberry to Alcorn State

Continued from 1B

make it to Virginia State Monday, but they put a hurting on St. Paul's last weekend, forcing 36 turnovers and drubbing the Lady Tigers 67-43 - their third straight win. St. Aug's travels to winless Virginia Union and then Bowie State - that should be a doozy - before returning home on Monday and taking on Chowan.

winless Virginia Union 53-45. Still, scoring just 53 points against the worst team in the conference ain't saying much.

It'll be interesting to see the outcome of their matchup against Bowie on Jan. 13. The Lady Bears then return home for back-to-back games against Chowan and Elizabeth City State.

MEN N.C. Central

The hype is over. Greg Jackson has come and gone. CC must say both Jackson and LeVelle

Moton represented well in the fashion department (see photo), and the game was OK too.

Moton got his second MEAC win Monday with a hard-fought 67-61 win over UMES. The Eagles (6-8) almost have as many wins as all of last year (7-22). NCCU is back on the road again with games at Coppin, Norfolk and the biggie - N.C. A&T. That matchup should be on TV.

St. Augustine's
Look who's No. 1 again? The Falcons are tops in the first preseason Division II

indoor track and field rankings. Second is Lincoln (Mo.), another HBCU. And speaking of track, Ramon Gittens won both the 60-meter and 200-meter dashes last weekend at George Mason University. St. Aug's is the defending NCAA outdoor

champion. Now, what's up with the George Williams Complex?

Shaw
What did CC say a while back about coach Darrell Asberry? Every time there is a coaching vacancy,

Asberry's name is always somewhere in the mix. The latest rumor is at Alcorn State in the SWAC. Asberry is from Baton Rouge, La, and played and coached at Jackson State. Okey, dokey, here we go again.

Winston-Salem State ready for return of baseball program

STAFF REPORTS

WINSTON-SALEM - After a 37-year hiatus, the Winston-Salem State baseball program wasted little time in preparing for its return to competition.

The team held its first official practice Monday at the C.E. Gaines Center. With Monday being the first official day that baseball teams can open practice, interim head baseball coach Kevin Ritsche didn't want to waste a second.

"I think that the guys are definitely itching to get out there and actually start practicing," Ritsche said. "From the look in their eyes, they're definitely hungry to start playing."

The excitement isn't limited to the players, as the coaching staff will get its first look at the team since fall intersquad sessions.

"I'm definitely ready to see how the guys have improved over the winter workouts as far as strength and conditioning goes with coach Harbor and also the individual work that they did with us," Ritsche said. "The guys came a long way since the end of fall ball. We've only three weeks before our first game."

With the fall yielding a number of pleasant surprises for the coaching staff, the team is geared up to prepare for an exciting season of baseball action.

"We had a lot of guys surprise us in the fall that we didn't expect to come in and be players, but they have come in and earned spots," Ritsche said. "At any given time, we'll have three to four to even five freshmen on the field, but that

doesn't scare me by any means because they earned those spots on the field. I'm excited for us. I'm ready, the guys are definitely ready, and it looks like we'll be ready to go on Feb. 1."

UMES partners with career athletes

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore Athletic Department recently agreed to a multi-year partnership with Career Athletes, which will provide a national representation of unique networking opportunities and career development resources for current and former student-athletes.

"Career Athletes will allow our current student-athletes to network with former student-athletes and form lifelong partnerships and relationships," Coordinator of Student-Athlete Services Linda Baines said.

The online career community network will provide benefits such as mentoring, professional networking, virtual career coaching and 12 years of best practices from the leading and largest career services organization assisting athletes, athletic departments and campus career centers.

Through the first semester of athletics this season, the Hawks have already seen academic and athletic success as there have been seven conference selections, 14 MEAC weekly honors and an ESPN the Magazine District 2 All-Academic Second Team honor in Zoe Bowens of the women's volleyball team.

Youth lacrosse registration

RALEIGH
Youth lacrosse registration is thru Jan. 21. Call 831-6836.

The National Hockey League's All-Star weekend dominates a month of large events at the Raleigh Convention Center. Several events will feature more than 1,000 visitors to downtown Raleigh.

Jan. 10-16: the Big Rock Sports Annual Dealer meeting. The conference is expected to draw more than 2,500 people.

Jan. 19-23: the 2011 National Agents Alliance National Convention.

Jan. 28-29: The all-star weekend is expected to draw more than 20,000 people downtown. The weekend will feature a

Kid's Day on Jan. 28. Events are scheduled on Fayetteville Street and the Convention Center Exhibit Hall. Several concerts are scheduled for the Amphitheater as well, headlined by 3 Doors Down.

The first youth spring baseball umpire clinic is Jan. 27 at Jaycee Park. Call 831-6836.

Raleigh Parks & Recreation will hold registration for youth inline hockey thru Feb. 4 for age divisions 7-10 and 11-14. Register at 831-6836.

DURHAM

Coleman Mitchell Jr. (below) finished this past season as the USA Track & Field Junior Olympic Cross Country National Champion for the Bantam

(age 10 and under) Boys division. The national championships were held last month in Hoover, Ala. The top 237 competitors from across the nation competed on the 3k course at Veterans Park.

Coleman finished with a time of 11:14, besting the nearest competitor by seven seconds. In order to advance to the championships, Coleman finished first in the state and then first in the five-state region representing N.C., S.C., Va., Ga. and Md.

Coleman is a fifth-grader at Creekside Elementary.

Send your sports announcements to *The Tribune* by fax: 688-2740; e-mail: info@triangletribune.com; or mail: 115 Market Street, Suite 360H, Durham, NC 27701.



The Millbrook Wildcats used a suffocating defense to smother cross-town rival Enloe 64-52 in junior varsity action Wednesday night. Millbrook led throughout the game, with its biggest lead at 49-33. The Eagles, led by Adrian Rich and Shadriek Wilson, made a valiant run in the fourth quarter, closing the gap to seven with 4:45 left in the game, but that was a close as they could get.

Dakota Orr led all scorers with 18 points, including a big 3 that cooled off Enloe's fourth-quarter rally. Wilson scored 15 points for Enloe. - Bonitta Best

The Triangle
TRIBUNE
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Playmaker of the Week

Dakota Orr scored 18 points for Millbrook, but the biggest was a 3-pointer in the fourth-quarter that halted Enloe's rally.

Hampton softball signs pitcher

STAFF REPORTS

HAMPTON, Va. - Hampton softball coach Trena Peel has signed standout pitcher Jailynn Jackson, a local product out of Virginia Beach.

"I am very excited about Jailynn joining my pitching staff next year," Peel said. "She was the one diamond in the ruff that I found in this area. She is a great fit for my team, and I feel that she is going to come in and be an impact player."

Jackson, a graduate of First Colonial

High School, was team captain as a junior and senior. She lettered as a freshman before earning second team all-beach district honors as a sophomore. Jackson was named to the first in both her junior and senior seasons.

Jackson, who plans to pursue a degree in psychology, was named to the honor roll each year at First Colonial, where she was also a member of the National English Honor Society. She was also a diversity ambassador and a member of the Young Democrats.

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INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED. Most earn \$50K-\$100K or more. Call our branch office at 919-720-4724. Ask for Brian Rogess or e-mail brian.rogess@insphereis.com. Visit www.insphereis-raleigh.com. <http://www.insphereis-raleigh.com>

PROFESSIONAL

FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR - Town of Carrboro Recreation & Parks Dept. Full-time perm. Manages recreation and parks facilities, budget, admin offices and reservation process; coordinates and develops long term facility planning, fund raising initiatives and partnerships. Requires education and experience equivalent to graduation from a college or university with concentration in recreation administration or related field, park facility and budget experience, computer and public relations skills, and supervisory experience. Serves as staff liaison to town committees/commissions and community organizations. Some night and weekend work to attend meetings and other functions. CPRP and First Aid/CPR certification preferred. Salary range: \$48,493-\$75,165. Closing date: February 4, 2011. For an application contact HR, 301 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510 or visit our website at www.townofcarrboro.org. EOE.

TRANSPORTATION

Drivers- Regional Van Drivers. 35 - 37 cpm based on experience. BCBS Benefits Package. Home EVERY Week. CDL-A with 1 year experience required. Call 888-362-8608, or apply at www.averittcareers.com. Equal Opportunity Employer

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FOR SALE

AUCTIONS

PUBLIC AUCTION- Saturday, January 29 at 10 a.m. 201 S. Central Ave., Locust, NC. (East of Charlotte) Selling Large Furniture Store & Model Home Furnishings. www.ClassicAuctions.com 704-507-1449. NCAF5479

ABSOLUTE AUCTION- Business Liquidation of Brown Orthopaedic Surgery Center- Office Furniture, Medical Equipment and Supply. Pro Gym Equipment. Feb 12, @ 9am. 605 Attain Street, Fuquay-Varina, NC. www.ArkadiAAuction.com -910-297-5045-NCALB# 7734

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RFQ

NORTH CAROLINA ENERGY OFFICE SOLICITATION No. 2011WXSSP
Weatherization Assistance Program; Pre-Qualification of Building Shell Weatherization Service Providers (RECOVERY ACT)

This Invitation to submit applications under the Weatherization Assistance Program is issued by the North Carolina Energy Office. The Energy Office will evaluate each Application in order to create a list of approved subcontractors to perform weatherization work for the Weatherization Assistance Program. The Energy Office will provide this list to its 28 sub-grantees. Public, for-profit, and 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entities that are licensed General Contractors in the State of North Carolina and able to provide the building shell weatherization services are eligible to apply.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. A copy of the full solicitation can be found online at: http://www.energync.net/wdocs/01-04-2011_NC_WAP_Shell_Solicitation.pdf. Questions concerning the request for proposals must be submitted to Yvonne Height at yheight@nccommerce.com. This solicitation has rolling deadlines, starting 2 p.m. Monday Jan. 31, 2011 and continuing monthly at 2 p.m. on the last business day of each month during 2011.

BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Wake County Public School System Purchasing Department at 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC, 27610 until 2:00 PM, EST, January, 31, 2011.

ELECTRIC PENCIL SHARPER

Walnut Creek ES

Complete specifications and bid forms are available on the state's IPS (Interactive Purchasing System) website at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. When making inquiries, please refer to **BID # 251-11-357**.

The Wake County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals reviewed pursuant to this advertisement for bids.

This 11th day of January, 2011

Sealed bids will be received by the Wake County Public School System Purchasing Department at 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC, 27610 until 2:30 PM, EST, January, 31, 2011.

COLUMBIA STUDENT DESK

Walnut Creek ES

Complete specifications and bid forms are available on the state's IPS (Interactive Purchasing System) website at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. When making inquiries, please refer to **BID # 251-11-358**.

The Wake County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals reviewed pursuant to this advertisement for bids.

This 12th day of January, 2011

Sealed bids will be received by the Wake County Public School System Purchasing Department at 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC, 27610 until 3:00 PM, EST, January, 31, 2011.

DESK

Walnut Creek ES

Complete specifications and bid forms are available on the state's IPS (Interactive Purchasing System) website at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. When making inquiries, please refer to **BID # 251-11-359**.

The Wake County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals reviewed pursuant to this advertisement for bids.

This 12th day of January, 2011

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BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Wake County Public School System Purchasing Department at 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC, 27610 until 1:00 PM, EST, February 1st, 2011.

METAL DESK

Walnut Creek ES

Complete specifications and bid forms are available on the state's IPS (Interactive Purchasing System) website at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. When making inquiries, please refer to **BID # 251-11-360**.

The Wake County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals reviewed pursuant to this advertisement for bids.

This 12th day of January, 2011

Sealed bids will be received by the Wake County Public School System Purchasing Department at 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC, 27610 until 2:00 PM, EST, February 10th, 2011.

WOOD DESIGN FURNITURE

Walnut Creek ES

Complete specifications and bid forms are available on the state's IPS (Interactive Purchasing System) website at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. When making inquiries, please refer to **BID # 251-11-361**.

The Wake County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals reviewed pursuant to this advertisement for bids.

This 12th day of January, 2011

Sealed bids will be received by the Wake County Public School System Purchasing Department at 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC, 27610 until 1:00 PM, EST, February 8th, 2011.

FOLDING CHAIRS

Walnut Creek ES

Complete specifications and bid forms are available on the state's IPS (Interactive Purchasing System) website at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. When making inquiries, please refer to **BID # 251-11-364**.

The Wake County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals reviewed pursuant to this advertisement for bids.

This 13th day of January, 2011

Sealed bids will be received by the Wake County Public School System Purchasing Department at 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC, 27610 until 2:30 PM, EST, February 8th, 2011.

FOLDING CHAIRS

Walnut Creek ES

Complete specifications and bid forms are available on the state's IPS (Interactive Purchasing System) website at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. When making inquiries, please refer to **BID # 251-11-365**.

The Wake County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals reviewed pursuant to this advertisement for bids.

This 13th day of January, 2011

D. S. Simmons, Inc., General Contractor, is presently soliciting subcontract bids and material quotes from Women and Minority Business Enterprises for the following project.

East Carolina University
Jenkins Cancer Center, Elevator Modernization
Greenville, NC

For more information contact our Estimating Dept. @ (919) 734-4700.

Bid Date: February 3, 2011@3:00pm

D. S. Simmons, Inc., General Contractor, is presently soliciting subcontract bids and material quotes from Women and Minority Business Enterprises for the following project.

Durham County Administrative Complex - 5th Floor Renovation
Durham, NC

For more information contact our Estimating Dept. @ (919) 734-4700.

Bid Date: February 1, 2011@2:00pm

D. S. Simmons, Inc., General Contractor, is presently soliciting subcontract bids and material quotes from Women and Minority Business Enterprises for the following project.

Vance Granville Community College
Building #1 Renovation
Henderson, NC

For more information contact our Estimating Dept. @ (919) 734-4700.

Bid Date: January 27, 2011@3:00pm

D. S. Simmons, Inc., General Contractor, is presently soliciting subcontract bids and material quotes from Women and Minority Business Enterprises for the following project.

Peace Church- Construction of Children's Building
Wilson, NC

For more information contact our Estimating Dept. @ (919) 734-4700.

Bid Date: February 10, 2011 @3:00pm

AROUND
THE
TRIANGLE

RALEIGH

LAW CONVENTION

The Southern Region Black Law Student Association Convention is Jan. 12-16 in downtown Raleigh. Contact: Alexis Carr at conventioncoordinator.srblsa@gmail.com.

TAXES

A tax information workshop is Jan. 20, 6:30-8 p.m. at Cameron Village Regional Library, 1930 Clark Ave. Call 856-6703

DEMOCRATS

The Wake County Democratic Party will hold its County Executive Committee Meeting Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m. at 700 S. Salisbury St. Call 828-5656.

GRAVES DISEASE

The Graves' Thyroid Disease Foundation will hold a meeting Jan. 22, 2-4 p.m. at Rex Healthcare, 4420 Lake Boone Trail, Assembly Room 1209. Contact: Carol Blue at 886-4339.

FUNDRAISER

Hemophilia of N.C. will host its annual Hearts for Hemophilia Casino Night Jan. 22 at the Museum of Natural Sciences. Visit www.hemophilip.nc.org.

THEATER PLAY

Burning Coal Theatre will perform the world premiere of Blue thru Jan. 30 at the Murphey School, 224 Polk St. Call 834-4001 for performance times.

DURHAM

CANCER SUPPORT

Cornucopia Cancer Support Center will host "Express Yourself" Jan. 18, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 5517 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Suite 1000. Call 401-9333.

BLUES CONCERT

J.W. Jones will perform Jan. 20, 8-11 p.m. at The Blue Note Grill, 4125 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd. Call 401-1979.

CELEBRATION

A community celebration for Michael Palmer, Duke University's assistant vice president for community affairs, is Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at The Community Family Life & Recreation Center at Lyon Park, 1313 Halley St. Call 536-4201.

STOP SMOKING

The Durham Co. Health Dept. will begin its Fresh Start program for smokers who want to quit Jan. 20 to Feb. 10, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at 414 E. Main St. Contact: Joanie Ross, 560-7765.

CAROLINA THEATRE

Jan. 21, 7 p.m. - Radio One presents Family Comedy Tour. Contact: Nannette "Nann McCrimmon, 428-3123.

Jan. 22, 1 & 4 p.m. - Disney's Choo-Choo Soul with Genevieve! Contact: Aaron Bare, 560-3040, ext. 224

NAMI MEETING

The National Alliance for Mental Illness will host a series of classes for family members and their ill relatives beginning Jan. 18 to April 12, 7-9:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3639 Old Chapel Hill Road. Contact: Violette Blumenthal, 490-5236.

HOMEOWNERSHIP

The Durham Affordable Housing Coalition will hold two homeownership workshops: Jan. 24-26, 6-8:45 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Call 683-1185, ext. 41.

VOLUNTEERS

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Durham County is seeking volunteers. Call 536-7247, ext. 5301 or 5303.

Is your favorite pet a cat or do you like all animals in general? Independent Animal Rescue can use your assistance as a cat caregiver.

BOOKS

Author tells of two worlds
between blacks and whites

"A Life Divided"

By Helen Bethea

\$9.99 PB

"A Life Divided" describes the difficulties Bethea encountered due to the color of her skin and her married life, and how she came to overcome them.

Bethea describes how, during the racial segregation era, she had to stop her schooling because of the trouble she went through due to being born into a white family with a different skin color.

She managed some schooling in Dillon, S.C., and later on falls for and marries Chris. She was appalled to see Chris unraveling as a womanizing, abusive, manipula-

tive husband - contrary to his nerdy past. Thirty-two years of marriage ended in divorce after countless dramatic confrontations between the two.

In the end, she received the settlement that set her free of him. She turned to God and mused about the changing social landscape when race and color had now largely become a thing of the past, and - at the time of her writing - a black person was even running for president of the United States.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Bethea was born in Chesterfield County, S.C. Her biological parents were white but she was raised in the black community.



'Psych-ing' out Dule Hill



Hill

By Kam Williams

SPECIAL TO THE AFRO

Dule Hill stars as Burton 'Gus' Guster on the USA Network series "Psych," which airs on Wednesdays at 10 p.m. Best known for his work as Charlie Young on "The West Wing," Hill first came to prominence as The Kid opposite Savion Glover and Jeffrey Wright in the Broadway production of Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk.

Born to Jennifer Garner and Bertholomu Hillshire in Orange, N.J., on May 3, 1975, and raised with his elder brother, Bert, in nearby Sayreville, Hill began attending dance school when he was 3 and

received his first break in 1983 as the understudy to Savion Glover in The Tap Dance Kid on Broadway. He went on to perform the lead role in the musical's national tour alongside Harold Nicholas.

In 1999, he joined the cast of the acclaimed NBC series "The West Wing," playing the personal aide to the president (Martin Sheen) and, subsequently, deputy special assistant to the chief of staff (Allison Janney). During his seven seasons on the series, Hill garnered an Emmy Award nomination and four NAACP Image Award nominations for his work.

Here, he talks about "Psych," a lighthearted, crime-solving series where he plays a private eye whose partner (James Roday) pretends to be clairvoyant.

AFRO: Attorney Bernadette Beekman asks, "Do you believe people have psychic powers?" Have you ever experienced anything psychic in real life?

DH: I do believe that there are a few of those rare folks out there with a sixth sense who really do have psychic powers. But I think the majority of

people who claim to be psychics are frauds. As for myself, I've never experienced anything personally, except on one occasion when I was a kid with a friend of mine who has passed away since. He was spending the night over at my house, and I tried to wake him up because he was mumbling to himself in his sleep. I asked him what he was talking about and he said, "Oh man, I had this dream that your little cousin was here and bothering me by climbing on my back." It turned out that later that day one of my cousins did come over and start messing with him. That was definitely strange. But, besides that, I haven't had any psychic experiences.

AFRO: I guess Miss Cleo of Psychic Friends Network infomercial fame ruined it for real psychics once she was exposed as a fraud.

DH: Yeah, any Jamaican could've told you from the first time they saw the commercial that she was a fake, because her accent was terrible.

AFRO: Children's book author Irene Smalls asks

"Has your role on Psych evolved, and how do you see it evolving further?"

DH: The role has definitely evolved since the pilot season. Steve Franks had always promised that it was going to expand. If you compare the first few episodes from the first season to recent ones, you'll see that the quality of Shawn and Gus' interaction is richer, and that Gus stands up for himself a little more. It's a fuller friendship at this point. As for where the development of my character is headed, I can't say. But I'd really like to see Gus date more. He doesn't necessarily have to succeed at dating, but just step out there, especially now that Shawn and Juliet's relationship is really kicking off. Gus has to start asking 'What am I going to do with my life?'

AFO: Nick also asks, "How much would you say you're like your character, Gus?"

DH: I don't think I'm like Gus at all, really. I don't store lots of trivia in my brain. He knows something about everything, like all these random facts about the 1980s. I think I'm not as

hyped as Gus is. I'm smoother and more laid-back.

AFRO: Editor/legist Patricia Turnier asks "As an expert in tap dance, what would you say needs to be done to put this genre of art back on the map?"

DH: That's an excellent question, although I wouldn't call myself an expert tap dancer. [Laughs] Something I'm constantly turning over in my head is a way of getting tap back into the public eye. I tried to take some baby steps by doing a tap episode on "Psych" this year, but I don't think it's going to be an overnight revival. It's probably going to be something that starts small and builds into a multi-faceted groundswell.

AFRO: How do you feel about being nominated for an NAACP Image Award seven times but never winning?

DH: I'm sort of like the Susan Lucci of the NAACP Awards. [Laughs] So, whenever I get a nomination, I never take it too seriously. It's all good, though.

Relationship coach promises marriage in year or less



Pembleton

By Gregory Dale

AFRO STAFF WRITER

While most women rely on fate to meet their future husbands, an Arizona relationship coach guarantees that her program will help participants find a mate in 12 months or less.

Christine Pembleton, president of Ready to Be a Wife, said her company has helped many women across the U.S. find their soul mates in an amazingly short amount of time. According to Pembleton, her drive to create the company occurred after she was experiencing her own relationship problems.

"I remember being single and saying 'Why is [finding a husband] so difficult?' I didn't think it was supposed to be this way," Pembleton said in a recent interview with

the AFRO. "I realized that I needed to think differently and have a marriage mindset."

Shortly thereafter, she found love and got married. But while her relationship problems were solved, she wanted to help other women who were experiencing similar problems. In 2009, she released the book "Lord, I'm Ready to be a Wife," which later went on to be a best-seller. But while the book targeted Christian women, she wanted to help women of all faiths. That desire led her to create the Ready to Be a Wife firm and the Date to Marry Method program. Under this curriculum, Pembleton formally teaches women the "how to's" of dating.

She said she breaks down the Date to Marry program into three parts: clarify, connect and continue, and enforces these points through a series of tele-seminars, workshops and training programs.

"By clarifying, we help women find what they know they want," Pembleton said. "Most women don't know what their [ideal spouse] looks like. Then with connect, [I teach them] how to connect in a really genuine way. With continue, I help them get over their barriers,

fears and inhibitions. When you do these things, relationships happen naturally."

Her clientele ranges from single mothers to successful business owners and executives who often come to her after having trouble balancing careers and relationships. For these women, Pembleton said she

implements strategies in dating they could relate to.

"[I tell them] it's not that deep, you're not thinking about closing a sale, you're only thinking about meeting new people and building relationships," she said. "I use business references because they understand that."

She said her participants' success following the program is astounding. Her website boasts a bevy of testimonials and praises from a variety of women.

"We have four women who are married now, two people that are engaged to be wed in 2011.

Mouthwatering Gifts

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Fight for equality isn't over

By Bonitta Best
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

DURHAM - The Rev. Charles B. Jackson Sr. said it's time for black Americans to get over having a black man as president of the United States.

That isn't a putdown of President Obama's historic election but a call to let black people know the struggle for equality is far from over.

Jackson's speech, "The Time is Now," was the highlight of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C.'s Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Banquet Jan. 7 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel.

"We can't be naive to think that we've made giant strides in the fulfillment of King's dream," said Jackson, the pastor of Brookland Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C. "Since Obama has been elected, the racial divide is wider now than ever before. The midterm elections were not about local elections, they were not about state elections; it was about the green tea movement sending a message to Obama."

Jackson, a native of West Columbia, S.C., said empowerment begins with economic prosperity. The black race has

too much debt and not enough investment in the community.

"We own less now than in the 1950s, but other races can come into our neighborhoods and own businesses," he continued. "We have it backwards: We buy the things we want and beg for the things we need."

The event also honored the three African-American judges on the N.C. Court of Appeals: Cheri L. Beasley, Wanda G. Bryant and Cressie H. Thigpen. The audience was reminded that two of the three are up for reelection in 2012.

"Most of the criminal and juvenile cases we hear affect people that look like you and me," Beasley said. "Every day, I strive to make sure justice is accessible to all."

Jackson closed out his speech by urging black people to stop depending on others for what they can do for themselves.

"Get out of this 'I-got-mine-you-get-yours' mentality," he said. "Stop hatin' on one another, stop being so jealous of one another; ministry is more than what happens on Sunday mornings. Get up and get out in your community. A change won't happen overnight, but a change will come."



Jackson

A new year

In order to keep your year in balance and harmony, do something that will make you happy each day. In this way, you will experience the essence of taking care of your needs.

If you are not taking care of yourself, how can you permeate an attitude of success? Similarly, look in the mirror and realize there is only one of you. You are unique and strong, and you have the ability to take charge of what you want to do. You must not let anyone hold you back. A new year means that you

have the opportunity to focus on living the very best life and starting over, as well as completing unfinished tasks.

On New Year's Day, I

wrote in my journal and I

ended up with about six pages reflecting on the blessings from last year; it was a good year. In like manner, I wrote about my family and how thankful I am to have them in my life. While I could have used my time more wisely in certain areas, I knew that I had the opportunity to begin again. For sure, I knew that managing my time was paramount, and I had to do more planning. Therefore, I took stock of my spirituality; had I been proactive in my walk with God? Consequently, I needed a spiritual checkup to continue to follow Biblical principles.

A Bible story came to mind about beginning anew. In the New Testament, the Book of Matthew talks about a man called John the Baptist who was a wilderness prophet, a forerunner of Jesus Christ. He preached repentance to the people. He told them they should be the best they could be and to treat people right. Also, if they were not living a life of worthiness, they needed to straighten up their act.

Further, Jesus Christ asked John the Baptist to baptize him because it was the right thing to do. After the baptism, the Heavens opened and the voice of God said "This is my son of whom I am well pleased." A dove appeared as a symbol of purity and wholesomeness (Matthew 3). We want the presence of God to be continually in our lives, and we want God to be pleased with our actions.

Therefore, find a quiet place and think about yourself. Make a change in your attitude to repent of things that you know are wrong. Get a fresh perspective on your life. You should appreciate the fact that you are still here, and you can still continue to fix those issues that haunt you.

While looking at a New Year's Eve program, I saw many talented artists performing. The crowds were cheering, happy and full of life. Therefore, we each have the opportunity to excel in our own right; God gives us the opportunity to win. Thus, we can only win if we get out there and make a difference in all things.

Bible Lesson

Reassurance for God's people

(Isaiah 48:12-22)

This week's treatment of the International Sunday School Lesson is written by Matt Schantz who serves as director of organizational development with a national building supply company in Grand Rapids, Mich.

I don't listen well. Too often I get distracted and I fail truly to hear what someone is saying to me. My daughter has come up with a remedy for this malady. When she senses I am losing focus, she grabs my cheeks and cranks my head in her direction and says, "Daddy, listen to me with your face!"

In this section of Isaiah, God implores his stiff-necked people to listen to him and offers them some good reasons why, "I am the first and the last. My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together" (48:12, 13). I am "your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel" (48:17). "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go" (48:17). In spite of these affirmations, we, like Israel, often turn a deaf ear toward God and go our own way.

Unfulfilled potential

It is sobering to reflect on what might have been. I went through a season of rebellious living during my high school years. Admittedly, it was fun for a time, but in the end the damage to my relationships and to my own character cost me dearly. All of us have unfulfilled potential brought on by sin that keeps us from experiencing God's best.

Isaiah 48:18 reveals God's heart for Israel in this regard: "If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea." God laments Israel's disobedience. He carries a keen awareness of "what could have been" had Israel been faithful. He wanted to shower the Israelites with blessings so they could be a blessing to the rest of the world (Genesis 12:3), but Israel's disobedience could not be ignored. Instead, God disciplined the Israelites by sending them into captivity in Babylon.

Had the Israelites listened to God through the years, their life and circumstances would have been remarkably different. Instead of being enslaved in Babylon, they would have walked in righteousness and known God's peace. But it was not too late. Israel would miss out on much of what God wanted to do for her, but he would not abandon his promise.

Persecution a sign of end times

By Becky Yeh

ONENESSNOW CALIFORNIA CORRESPONDENT

Matthew Sherwood, a Christian who was employed at One Call Locators in Florida, has filed a lawsuit, claiming that his former coworkers harassed him, hacked into his Facebook account and broke into his truck.

Sherwood said his co-worker and boss often told him his God was a joke and that believing that Jesus was crucified on the cross is "garbage." Sherwood alleged his colleagues also changed his Facebook bio to read "Satan is king. All hail Satan! I am officially a Satanist."

According to Dr. Michael Coffman, president of Environmental Perspectives Inc., and author of Rescuing a Broken America, animosity towards Christians is a sign of the last days.

"When it comes to Christianity, basically what you're seeing here is increasing persecution, a total lack of understanding, and actually accusation and demonization of a person who proclaims Christ in any form or way," he said.

Though America was founded on Christian principles, Coffman said Christians will soon be unable to proclaim their faith publicly without facing consequences.

"It's only a matter of time before our very protections are going to be fully lost, and we will be as demonized and persecuted as all the Christians in other nations of the world," the Christian author suggests.

As for Sherwood, he is currently fighting back and is seeking \$15,000 for emotional distress, defamation and invasion of privacy.

Help for Haiti's healing

THE GRIO.COM

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - Marie Cadet has a lot to be thankful for in the new year.

Her visits to Notre Dame d'Altagrace" in Delmas, the capital's only Catholic church left standing after last year's earthquake, has brought her closer to God.

"Of course my faith has been strengthened over the last year," she told theGrio's Jeff Johnson.

And Cadet's not alone.

Many Haitians in the capital city who survived the earthquake, have filled halls of worship — even when the halls were no longer there.

"The earthquake was terrible," said Jean Desinord, head of all Catholic media in Haiti. "And...people need that voice of the church, that can help them to, not only keep faith but also stand up and keep living."

For the last year, Desinord says churches have provided more than just a place to worship.

"The church in Haiti helps the Haitian people, providing tents, foods, medicines," Desinord said of the social work accomplished from churches over the last year.

Roughly 60 percent of Haiti is Roman Catholic - and the country has relied heavily on religious donations since last year's



earthquake.

While money is still coming in, some church leaders say it will be tough to match the outpouring of financial support received in 2010.

"The United Methodist Church of the United States, also from Canada and UK - they don't send plenty, but the amount they did send [it] really made a difference," he said.

The Methodist Church has a strong support system in the United States - something many believers of voodoo in Haiti do not.

Samba L is a voodoo priest and activist. He says religious division, between the local voodoo community and Christian churches, has prevented partnerships that could help Haitians in need.

Nearly 50 people have report-

edly been killed across Haiti because some believe voodoo followers had something to do with the spread of cholera in the countryside.

Accusations Samba says are due to a lack of education.

The Rev. Paul condemns the killings and says Christian churches would work with anyone who puts Haitian lives first.

With uncertainty gripping a broken government, church leaders are confident their institutions can take the lead on the rebuilding process.

And for Marie Cadet, she says the new year means her faith will be tested again.

"I'm asking for hope for my country" Cadet said.

Something most Haitians know will be difficult until the island nation is rebuilt and restored.

CHURCH BRIEFS

RALEIGH COMMUNITY UCC
814 Dixie Trail

The YWCA will launch three Study Circles on race Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. Contact Julia Dawson, 828-3205.

WAKE CHAPEL

3805 Tarheel Club Road
TCP magazine will celebrate its seventh anniver-

sary Jan. 28-29. For schedule and times, call Peggy Tatum at 796-4724.

MORRISVILLE

HENDERSON GROVE
2806 Page Road
A gospel singing program is Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. The public is invited. Call 596-6750.

Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. - a tribute to Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr.

DURHAM WATTS STREET
800 Watts Street

Author and historian Tim Tyson will discuss the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 16 at 11 a.m. The public is invited.

ST. JOSEPH'S AME

2512 Fayetteville Street
A special service honoring Martin Luther King is Jan. 16 at 4 p.m. The theme is "Dream Standing." The Rev. Curtis E. Gatewood will speak. Call 939-6311.

The Durham Civil Rights Workers will hold their 24th annual reunion Jan. 17 at 11:30 a.m. Minnie Forte-Brown will

speak. Contact Lottie Hayes at 544-3939 or R. Kelly Bryant Jr. at 596-7100.

Send your church news to: The Triangle Tribune, 115 Market Street, Suite 360H, Durham, NC 27701; e-mail info@triangletribune.com; or fax 688-2740. Deadline: Tuesday by noon.