

WCCJ is part of Radio One family

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media company in the country," Brown said Wednesday from Denver. "They own about 50 stations in 19 or 20 markets. Radio One is the largest African American owned media company in the country, reaching over 8 million listeners."

Brown said he will be based in Atlanta, but as regional manager will oversee stations throughout the southeast, including WCCJ and three Raleigh-based stations - WQOK, WFXC and WNNL, a gospel station.

Most Radio One stations have urban hip hop, R&B or gospel formats, but Brown said he's not sure what format WCCJ, which currently competes with WBAV in R&B classics, will have in the future.

One scenario has WCCJ con-

verting to a format that competes with WPEG's hip hop flavor. The station switched from smooth jazz last year and doubled its listenership in the latest Arbitron ratings.

"I haven't gone into a needs analysis yet to see what is going to be needed in Raleigh, Charlotte or Atlanta," Brown said. "I don't know all the background. WCCJ is working better than the previous jazz format."

Brown, 43, said his wife Neysa and two children - Dylan, 8, and Drew, 6 - will remain in Charlotte for about a year while he finds a house in Atlanta. That will provide stability for the children, Brown said.

"This is an exciting opportunity," Brown said. "I will be back in Charlotte a lot. I'm not moving the family yet. I've got to look at schools and will keep the family in place through May or June next year."

In Atlanta, Brown will manage WTHA and WAMJ, both FM stations in a pairing similar to WPEG and WBAV.

"For me this is opportunity to

get involved with a company that is going to be a pretty large broadcasting company serving the African American community," said Brown, who worked for 13 years with CBS in New York City before coming to Charlotte.

Liggins is in his mid-30s and very smart, Brown said. "I like the vision he has for the company. They have already made moves getting involved with the Internet and satellite radio."

Pam Summers of Baltimore was also named a regional manager, said Brown, who will report to the company's chief operating officer, Mary Catherine Sneed, whom he replaces as the Atlanta station's manager.

Brown praised the people he has worked with in Charlotte over the years, noting that many of them have gone on to bigger jobs in the industry.

"Working around talented people was part of the reason for my success in Charlotte," Brown said. "We put Charlotte on the map in urban radio."

Brown has served in leadership positions with 100 Black Men,

the Museum of the New South, Charlotte Chamber, Urban League and the Community Building Task Force.

"I am going to make sure special things happen in Charlotte," he said. "You have another company that is going to be very involved in the Charlotte community. It is going to mean great

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Brown

AIDS
Awareness and Education
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Researchers make progress in controlling AIDS

By TINA MOORE
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA - While major advances have been made in treating the virus that causes AIDS, researchers are still working to develop an immunization for the disease, speakers at a University of Pennsylvania symposium said.

"The most important thing is to work on is a vaccine," said researcher David Ho of Rockefeller University.

Ho, who spoke to nearly 200 medical researchers and hospital staff Thursday, was named Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1996 because he helped develop the treatment method of using protease-inhibitor cocktails in the early stages of the disease.

The researchers met at Penn's West Philadelphia campus to discuss inroads in finding a cure and progress in treatment.

The conference especially focused on viral reservoirs, which are areas of the body that contain the virus even when it is virtually undetectable in a patient. Because the virus hasn't disappeared, treatments must be continued. That can be expensive, painful and, at times, unbearable for the patient.

"If you try to just attack the virus, the cells seem to be immune to it," said Dr. Francisco Gonzalez-Scarano, a neurologist at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. "If you look carefully, you see that the virus is still around."

In those cases, he said, "There's no rational way to think about stopping treatment."

While that may sound dire, researchers at the symposium pointed out that huge inroads have been made in treating the virus.

"The fact that we can talk about control is really a testimony to how research has been successful," said James A. Hoxie, MD, director of the Center for AIDS Research.

The year-old center is funded by the National Institutes of Health to connect AIDS researchers from area universities and hospitals. The center has 109 investigators based at Penn, the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania and the Wistar Institute. It is one of 18 such centers in the country.

"It's very dangerous for people to feel that this epidemic is over," Hoxie said. "We are nowhere near a cure for this."

Right now, researchers are studying patients whose immune systems have been able to hold off the virus on their own.

"We have to believe that we are smart enough to figure out how those people are doing that and induce that state," said Dr. Bruce Walker, an immunologist at Harvard University.

Research specialist Jerrold Sulcove works at Penn's immunology department and attended part of the symposium.

"Everyone would love to see a vaccination," he said. "A lot of people are working along those lines."

HIV is a virus that is spread through sexual contact, sharing needles during intravenous drug use, and sometimes through contact with body fluids, i.e., blood, semen, breast milk, urine, etc. The HIV virus causes HIV disease. HIV disease damages your immune system, i.e., your ability to fight off infections and other diseases.

Having HIV disease (or testing "HIV Positive") doesn't mean that you have AIDS. AIDS is a condition that occurs when your body's immune system has become damaged to the point that it can no longer fight off infections.

Persons with AIDS have HIV disease, and, due to the damage to their system, have developed at least one serious disease, like cancer or pneumonia. People with AIDS can, and often do, die from their illness. In partnership with Present Day Ministries and the Mecklenburg County Health Department, The Charlotte Post will provide information about HIV/AIDS in this space each week. We will also increase our reporting on the diseases, which may appear in other parts of the newspaper with our AIDS logo.

Parents angry over letter

By Angela Burrus

CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

RALEIGH - Berdenia Carter of Washington Terrace Apartments expected her daughter and three granddaughters to get a quality education without experiencing the prejudices she faced during the first days of school integration.

And Carter was secure in saying they were receiving the best education at Brentwood Elementary School.

"It's a great school," she said. "The teachers are great and all of (my children) are getting a great education. My daughter is in the first grade and reads on a second grade level."

But this year, the Wake County School Board approved a new reassignment plan transferring nearly 6,000 students to different schools based on income and academic achievement rather than race. The plan would result in transferring 68 Brentwood students, including Carter's children and other children from Washington Terrace, to Joyner Elementary.

Despite the adjustment of transferring, many Washington Terrace parents had no problems sending their children to an exemplary magnet school. That was until their own days of attending a bitter school environment would be relived by their children.

"This go back to the 1970s, when I went to (Enloe High School)," Carter said. "We used to have to ride the city bus because we couldn't ride the school bus."

Joyner PTA co-presidents Holly West and Barrie Shavlik wrote a letter that was circulated at the school protesting the admittance of Brentwood's students by saying they would deteriorate their magnet school status.

The letter stated Joyner had no special programs to offer the students as well as tying up over 80 magnet school applications next year.

"We will only be able to accept 20 of these children whose families are making the effort to come here as magnet families because instead we are being asked to take these 70 children from Brentwood," the letter stated. "These magnet programs were put in place by the School Board 10 years ago to help improve the population at our school and to encourage the neighborhood parents to want to send their children to school at Joyner. Our status as a magnet school is now being diluted by the reassignment of these children from Brentwood."

"At Brentwood, there is a Title I reading program in place which we do not have because we do not qualify. We do not have enough children below grade level in reading to warrant this special reading program and teacher in our school. Unless we are able to get programs like this in place before school starts, we really have nothing to offer these children."

The letter ended with the two planning to form a neighborhood association that would bring a lawsuit against the School Board, based on their findings.

Washington parents were appalled by the notion of their children's presence lowering property values, despite agreeing that Joyner does not have special needs programs that would benefit low-performing students.

"So we had a problem with that because it was more so of a racial thing," Carter said. "Saying that if our kids go to that school, their neighborhood would go down. I could see if they were building a prison, then the poverty level would go down."

"When you ride through over where Joyner is, they got apartments that look worse than what we have over here. It's not like they're living in exclusively lavished homes. But that has nothing to do with education."

Carter questioned Joyner officials about the letter's circulation but Principal Kathleen Marynak told her the school has no control over its distribution.

"I feel like anything that goes through a school goes through a principal," Carter said. "I don't care what you say. The assistant principal said they pulled that letter before it was sent out. Now, if you let a letter go through like that, then that says something about you and your school."

The letter also caused parents and their children concern about attending Joyner.

"(The kids) are all saying that 'we don't want to go to Joyner,'" Carter said. "Why do they want to go to a school where they're not wanted?" "Children have an impact on how parents feel, sometimes too. They tend to hear and feel the same responses."

"I want my (child) to get a good education without going through any problems, without worrying about somebody picking on her," parent Deborah Jenkins added. "I feel I would have to go there with her in the morning and be there when she get out of school. I'm hoping it's not going to be like that but I feel like that."

Meetings were held between Brentwood and Joyner faculty as well as parents. Joyner faculty's assurances that their children will be welcome at the school did not relieve parents' stress.

"If you're going to assign children to a school, why not assign them to a school that is equipped for their needs?" Carter said. "(School officials) said they will get that (in place). Then why don't they already have it?"

School officials refused comment, referring all calls to the communication director of the Central Office, who was out of town.

Joyner PTA members Samuel and Rosalyn Ollison wrote a letter welcoming Washington Terrace students while refuting the letter written by West and Shavlik.

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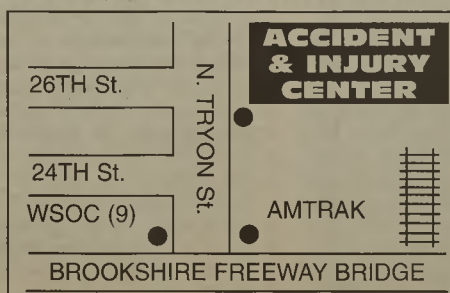


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