

Brown plaintiffs at UNC Charlotte

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Topeka, third-grader Linda Brown had to walk one mile through a railroad switchyard to get to her all-black elementary school, although a white school was seven blocks away. Linda's father, Oliver Brown, tried to enroll

her in the white school, but the principal refused. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People assisted the Browns in challenging the segregation in public schools.

At UNC Charlotte's lecture and reception, Henderson

and Thompson, will provide their personal perspectives and share their experiences before, during and after the legendary decision. The lecture and reception are free to the public; however, advance reservations are necessary by calling the Campus

Activity Board at (704) 687-2450.

For a list of events, log on to the Web site at <http://education.uncc.edu/oeo/Brown%20v%20BOE.htm> or contact the Office of Educational Outreach at UNC Charlotte at (704) 687-2060.

Haiti cuts off diplomatic relations with Jamaica

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TransAfrica President Randall Robinson. "I think the Bush administration hates President Aristide largely because he's not a president to be told what to do by Americans."

As protesters escalated demands for Aristide's return, he boldly moved to Jamaica on Monday, hoping to return home soon. He describes himself as the president of Haiti and continues to insist that he was forced to resign by U. S. officials on Feb. 29 as armed rebel forces closed in on his palace in Port-Au-Prince.

He has urged his followers to peacefully resist the occupation by foreign troops, including 2,000 Americans, and says he is willing to return to power in Haiti. But the Bush Administration insists that Aristide resigned willingly, has pushed ahead for a transitional government until new elections in 2005.

That move, says Ira Kurzban, Aristide's Miami-based attorney, is only Bush's way of getting even for his father, George Herbert Walker Bush, whose administration first helped to oust Aristide in 1991, only to see him reinstated by President Clinton in 1994.

Fletcher points to the official U. S. security strategy as documentation that the U. S. government currently sees itself as being among what he describes as "the cowboy wing of the ruling group."

The 20-page document posted on WhiteHouse.gov,

titled, "The National Security Strategy of the United States of America," states in its overview that "the United States possesses unprecedented— and unequalled—strength and influence in the world" and promises to "expand the circle of development by opening societies and building the infrastructure of Democracy" and to use America's strength to "promote a balance of power that favors freedom."

Fletcher sees that as an extension of the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 that basically holds that it is the United States' "manifest destiny" to rule the Western Hemisphere.

Fletcher says America is essentially stating, "There

will never be a military competitor with the U. S. And if you disagree with the first three points, the U. S. has the right to take you out."

TransAfrica raised its profile as a leading group for Haitian liberation in 1994 when its then president, Randall Robinson, went on a 27-day hunger strike, helping to force Clinton to restore Aristide to power.

"This is a policy of simple meanness. Don't look for rationale in this. You won't find it," Robinson says. "This is a reckless, cruel, stupid American policy that in large part wears the face of the first Black secretary of state in the United States."

Secretary of State Colin Powell was among the first

to defend the Bush administration from charges of a coup d'état.

THE CHARLOTTE POST (USPS 965-500) is published weekly for \$40.00 per year by the Charlotte Post Publishing Co., 1531 Camden Rd. Charlotte, NC 28203-4753. Periodicals postage paid at Charlotte, NC. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **THE CHARLOTTE POST**, PO Box 30144, Charlotte, NC 28230

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