

Collectibles connect to African American history

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"We have to know where we come from to know where we've been," she said.

The Eastland Mall store is one of four shops owned by Elvord and Erersterine Guidry.

Elvord Guidry said while

the stores do not offer many black collectible pieces, he and his wife have a collection of hundreds. They began collecting about three years ago.

"I collect them because it's part of history and it's an investment," he said, noting that the value of such mem-

orabilia increases over time.

In his controversial 1999 book, "Blackface," photographer David Levinthal's enlarged Polaroid shots of stereotypical images provide a close look at black memorabilia.

"Bamboozled," director Spike Lee's satire on the

media's past and present portrayal of blacks, featured many of Levinthal's photographs. The film also features black collectibles, some of which are Lee's own, as explained in the director's commentary.

Guidry said he acquired many of the pieces in his col-

lection through travel, finding the majority in the Pacific Northwest including Oregon and Washington state.

"That's where the factories were," he said, adding that many of the pieces were also made in Japan and Europe.

Guidry said the couple

might eventually open an antiques store, where they will sell black memorabilia.

"As time goes on, people will begin to learn that it's part of history," he said. "If you learn your history, you'll be prone to not let it happen again."

City's employment program offers job workshops for youth

By Amanda Ward
THE CHARLOTTE POST

With school almost out for the summer, thousands of teens will be looking for jobs. In and around Charlotte, there are jobs that will keep them busy.

The Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County's Library Initiative for Youth in Business is hosting the Mayor's Youth Employment Program for people between the ages of 16-21.

The sessions will help teens learn how to apply for a job, prepare a resume, develop good interviewing techniques and search for a job. They will also touch bases on where jobs are available and show teens how the library can be a job-search resource.

"It's hard for teens to find jobs so I think it's good that somebody is finally stepping up to the plate to show the teens here in Charlotte that yes we do care about you, and we care about you so much that we are going to assist you in finding a job for the summer," said Travis Hentz, 22, of Charlotte.

Counselors from Charlotte's Neighborhood Development department will provide job referrals and assist teens in finding a job.

The sessions start June 7 and continue through Aug. 6 at Freedom Regional, West Boulevard, Sugar Creek, Beatties Ford Road and Independence Regional/Plaza Midwood and the Main Library.

Registration is required. To register, call William Mitchell at (704) 336-4445. For a listing of these and other teen programs, visit www.commerceconnection.org/events.

Options endless for college choices

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students make the transition from high school to college. Students are chosen to participate in a five-week program before their first semester and are advised throughout their college careers.

SAFE provides freshmen, particularly students of color, with an upperclassman mentor to help the freshmen adjust academically and socially.

Blowers noted that UNCC's learning communities provide a more intimate atmos-

phere between teachers and students. Students can network with classmates with similar interests, and the majority of learning communities are based area of study.

Harding University High School guidance counselor Betty Stroud said cost is the major factor students take into consideration when applying to college.

Stroud said students weigh the differences between in-state and out-of-state tuition, which usually drives up the cost of college. Charlotte-

Mecklenburg Schools also provides information about colleges, including websites, contact information, scholarship information and application instructions.

CMS's website also provides information on applying to college, with links to the websites of North Carolina colleges and universities, 11 of which are historically black.

In terms of financial aid, students at either type of institution have an array of scholarships available.

Websites like Fastweb and Scholarship.com provide individualized scholarship searches for high school and college students.

Some scholarships are only available to students attending HBCUs. And while UNCF provides financial aid to students at either type of school, direct support is given to 39 private historically black colleges, making tuition 54 percent lower at these schools than at comparable institutions, according to UNCF's website.

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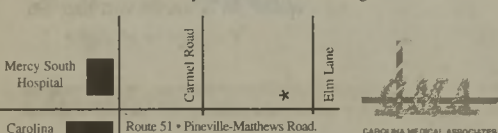
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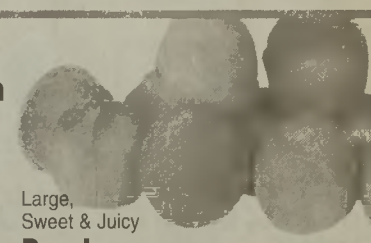
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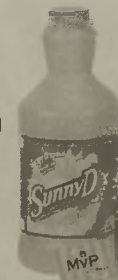


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