

For black men, falling behind is choice many later regret

Continued from page 2A

ality in playing a role in his deliverance from drugs and overall change of lifestyle. He said he has been drug-free for 12 years, and he is working toward a master's degree. He is giving back to the commu-

nity with his business, All About Family Inc., which works with children, adolescents and their families. He plans to open a youth center, as well as a summer camp for rising first through ninth graders.

Baker believes there is hope for those who dropped out of school. "A lot of kids don't understand the value of life," he said. "They say, 'I can do time (in prison).' They just don't know."

"You show a kid some consistency and love, and over a period of time a seed is being planted, and a seed is going to

grow," Baker said. "They'll start doing good things because it's habit-forming."

For more information on any of the mentoring programs, contact Corey Baker at (704) 241-6604; Keith Cradle at (704) 336-5337; Charlotte Rescue Mission at (704) 334-4635.

Opposition to public schools task force plan

Continued from page 1A

ing for Charlotte's low-income, minority youth," they said. Judge (Howard) Manning is right. There is academic genocide under way in our schools and that has to change."

Manning is the Wake County judge overseeing the Leandro case for equitable funding for poorer schools.

The grassroots organizations are the latest to join a growing chorus of opposition to the Chamber-backed task force's recommendation. The League of Women Voters and Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg have also raised concerns about how the proposals, if implemented, would impact public schools.

Creating a two-tier program of neighborhood schools, NAACP/PUFE leaders say, would lead to further academic struggle.

"Because low-income, minority youth in Charlotte-Mecklenburg also live in low-income neighborhoods, they will therefore attend high poverty schools," the statement said. "A half-century of research is clear: high poverty schools are bad for students and drive away good teachers. The best policy is to provide every student a good, socio-economically balanced school. All students perform better in socio-economically balanced schools."

Former Liberia leader arrested

Continued from page 1A

Obasanjo who is currently on a state visit to the United States ordered the immediate repatriation of Taylor back to Liberia, where it is expected that he will be delivered to the tribunal in neighboring Sierra Leone.

In Sierra Leone, he is accused of supporting rebels notorious for hacking off the limbs of civilians in exchange for diamonds to finance the Liberian conflict. An estimated 300,000 died in the wars that spawned a generation of child soldiers.



Former Liberia president Charles Taylor was arrested in Nigeria Tuesday.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!!
704-376-0496

At last, forty can feel fabulous

Tahiti Trim® Plan 40™ A weight loss plan designed exclusively for women over 40. Gilda L. Dockery (distributorships available) 704-549-4595 www.tni.com/dockery

Opportunity Meeting: Embassy Suites S. Tryon • April 8th, 9AM

The only thing better than saving time and money is getting \$50 for doing both.

Now when you open a Free Personal or Free Business Checking Account at SunTrust, we'll welcome you with a \$50 SunTrust Visa® Gift Card. Plus, you'll get Free Online Bill Pay, so you can pay all your bills from your computer, quickly and easily – with no minimum balance requirements or monthly maintenance fees. So hurry to your nearest SunTrust branch, call 866.422.1365, or visit suntrust.com/freechecking, and see why SunTrust is a better bank for your money and your lifestyle.

Free \$50 SunTrust Visa® Gift Card for opening a Free Personal or Free Business Checking Account



SUNTRUST
Seeing beyond money

Open a new Free Checking Account from 2/13/06 through 3/31/06 to receive a redemption certificate for a free \$50 SunTrust Visa® Gift Card. Clients must complete and postmark the redemption certificate included in the new checking account materials no later than 4/21/06. The account must remain open and in good standing as of 5/31/06 in order to qualify for the offer, only one redemption certificate per household. The \$50 SunTrust Visa® Gift Card will be sent to qualifying clients by 7/15/06.

The Visa® Gift Card is accepted everywhere in the United States the Visa® Debit Card is accepted.

SunTrust Bank, Member FDIC. ©2006 SunTrust Banks, Inc. SunTrust and "Seeing beyond money" are service marks of SunTrust Banks, Inc.

The Charlotte Post
People of Prominence
WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

May 4, 2006

Spirit Square
345 North College Street, Charlotte

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
\$75.00/person

Emma Allen, First Charter
Larita Barber, Charlotte Bobcats/Charlotte Sting
Angeline Clinton, Duke Energy
Raichelle Glover, Bank of America
Linda Lockman-Brooks, Lockman Brooks Marketing