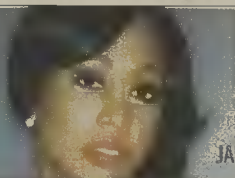


HELLO, SUNSHINE

Charlotte native Sunshine Anderson back with new CD and motivation after five-year hiatus 1D



LOVE-HATE EMPLOYEES

Small business supervisors walk a tightrope handling productive but troublesome employees 6C

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Harry Carson

S.C. State star finally gets into Football Hall



Sports 1C

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IN LIFE



Make waves on land, too

Today's swimwear isn't limited to time in the water. Page 1B

A toast to voting rights victory

Proponents hail federal extension, more work is yet to be done

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, standing behind a wooden podium at a hotel just blocks from the White House, offered a toast. Holding high in the air a half-filled glass of red wine, he said: "We had the commitment, we had the expertise, we had the drive and we had the optimism of the most wonderful civil rights coalition, men and women right here in this room," he said, smiling broadly as the racially-mixed audience cheerfully applauded.

"We also had an incredible team of congressional leaders who were willing to spend hours mastering the substance of these issues and working the politics... And it worked, better than we could possibly have imagined."

Everyone in the chandelied parlor of the Capitol Hilton Hotel had something to celebrate. The bi-partisan bill to reauthorize key sections of the Voting Rights Act for 25 more years had finally been signed by President Bush after months of anticipation and struggle.

Just as there were cheers on this night, there were also pervasive fears, a poignant reminder that, in the Shakespearean words etched above an old entrance to the National Archives a few blocks away on Pennsylvania Avenue, what is past is prologue.

See VOTING/3A

Closing the books on at-risk students

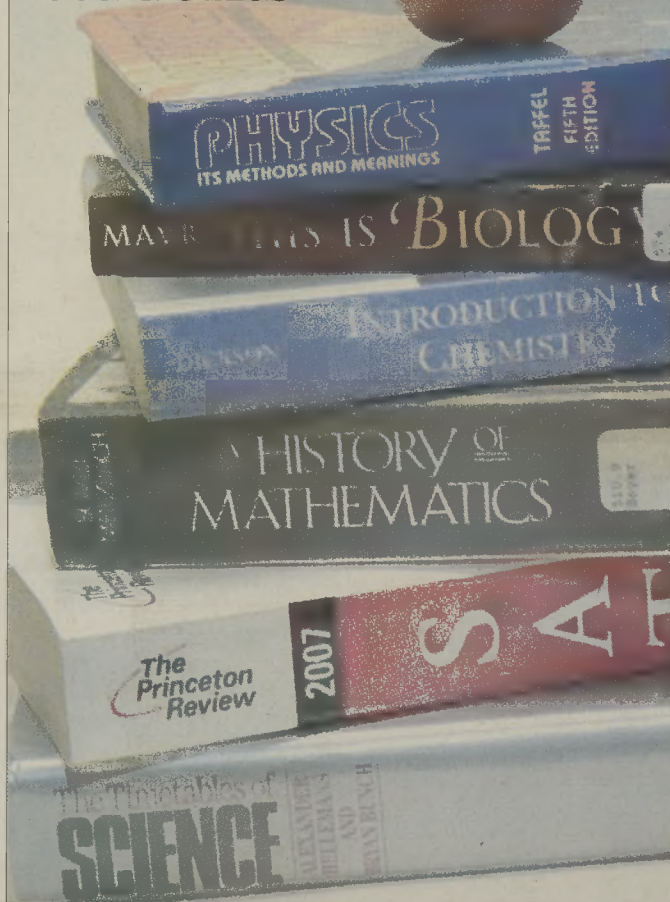


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/CALVIN FERGUSON

Hundreds of students drop out of school, but some are urged out to boost mandated test score results

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Marcus Turner dropped out of Myers Park High School two years ago.

He insists school officials helped.

Turner is one of scores of students who sources in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools say have been coerced or forced off campus in recent years. Turner left Myers Park High, which records obtained by The Post show labeled students as having left for private or public schools outside the district when in fact they were in the county. As a result, Myers Park, CMS's only School of Distinction, had artificially enhanced test scores without being exposed to No Child Left

Behind sanctions based on enrollment.

The Post obtained a copy of 2004-2005 Myers Park dropout records that listed Turner as an in-state transfer.

"[I was kicked out in] February 2005," said Turner, who was an 11th grader at the time. "I was at lunch... and then me and somebody had walked off... just on the side of the school. They said it was some spot on campus that we weren't supposed to be at."

Turner said he was then taken to the office, where he was searched.

"They asked me if they could search me, and I said yeah cause I didn't have anything on me," he said.

Turner said he was not given

a reason as to why he was searched, but was told to submit.

"They searched me and found a [marijuana] seed in my pocket," Turner said. "After I got searched, I got suspended for a week and the day I came back... I had a hearing... in school."

Turner's mother was given a choice: he would either be expelled or prosecuted. "It was either I was going to go through a hearing, get put in jail, or get kicked out for good," he said. "They told me I should just drop out and go to another school."

So he dropped out.

Researchers have found that nearly 1 out of every 3 high school students won't make it to graduation. In North Carolina

Please see AT-RISK/2A

Blackness can lead to death penalty

Study: Juries influenced by stereotypes when deciding fate of some defendants

By Fitzroy A. Sterling
INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Juries in the U.S. tend to hand down the death penalty twice as often to black defendants with stereotypically black features like darker skin, bigger noses and fuller lips, than those perceived to have less stereotypically black features, according to the findings of a new study.

The study, published in the May issue of Psychological Science, the journal of the Association for Psychological Science, noted that previous research already has proven that black defendants in capital cases receive the death sentence more frequently than white defendants. The death penalty is, statistically speaking, unlikely when both the defendant and victim are black.

When the victim is white, however, the matter of race as an influential factor in "death-eligible cases" is emphatically evident, according to the study. A team of educators headed by Stanford University Psychologist Jennifer L. Eberhardt conducted the study, titled "Looking Death worthy."

"Race and the death penalty is a complicated topic," communications director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, David Elliot, said. "In Maryland alone, 60 percent of all homicide victims are black, yet there is only one person currently on death row for the killing of a black person."

The victims of the five defendants executed in that state between 1976, the year the death penalty was reinstated, and April 2006, were all white.

Eberhardt and her team conducted the study by presenting black and white head shots, in slide show format, of black capital defendants in Philadelphia, Pa. between 1979 and 1999. "Naïve" participants judged

Please see STEREOTYPES/3A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

For organ donors, the life you save will be another's

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Would you save a life by giving a piece of yourself?

With a 382 percent increase in the number of African-Americans awaiting organ transplants since 1991, African-Americans are being asked to become donors.

On Tuesday, LifeShare of The Carolinas observed the 10th annual National Minority Donor Awareness Day to increase donor awareness in the U.S., especially among ethnic groups. Activists say education is often a barrier to recruiting black

Please see BLACK ORGAN/6A



J.C. Smith opens camp eyeing an end to 24-game losing streak/1C

INSIDE

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