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# THE CHRONICLE

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Photos by Kevin Walker  
Right: Curtis Scarborough pumps free gas for Tonya Thompson as she reads over a brochure about For You Christ Ministries. The church provided free gas to dozens of people Saturday.

Below: Tiffany Scarborough directs voucher holders to the free gas giveaway with a bright sign.

## Union takes on BET

Church plans to send 10,000-name petition to network's CEO

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Union Baptist Church is joining a growing chorus of people around the nation unhappy with Black Entertainment Television's programming. The church's pastor, Sir Walter Mack Jr., announced this week that he is spearheading a petition drive aimed at getting the station, which is owned by media giant Viacom, to rethink its choices. Mack hopes to get 10,000 signatures from local people by the end of the month.

The effort also hopes to gain support from other churches and community organizations here and around the nation.

Mack was disturbed by commercials that recently aired to promote the channel's BET Awards, which aired June 28 live from Los Angeles. The commercials - which featured married actors Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith and their children - were meant to

See BET on A10

## Court dismissed for teens

Program graduates four young men

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

William Poe can't help but wonder what would have become of his life if he'd stayed on the wrong side of the tracks. He recently completed a year-long program for juvenile drug offenders.

Using drugs no longer interests him anymore, but military life does. Community college is also on his to-do list. He has rearranged his priorities and he now realizes that he can create a future for himself that does not include drugs. Now, he spends his time fishing and catching up with his grandparents.

"Now I feel much better and I'm not falling back on my word," said Poe. "I'm going to



Williams

See Court on A10

## Church blesses drivers with free gas

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Brenay Brown thought that the blue voucher she found secured behind one of her car's windshield wipers had fallen from heaven. The voucher entitled Brown to \$7 of free gas at a station just a hop, skip and jump from the apartment she shares with her boyfriend and their young daughter.



Rev. Wilson

"We are college students. We work. We have a child. Things get hard for us sometimes, so this definitely came in handy," she said, waving the blue voucher. The vouchers did not come from heaven, but from a local church that has worked hard in its short history to reach

out and give back.

For You Christ Ministries bought hundreds of dollars of gas vouchers at the Quality Mart on Peters Creek Parkway. The station donated another \$50 in gas and gave each person who redeemed a voucher a free fountain drink or coffee.

"With gas prices up so high, some people are not able to even get out of their houses to just go around town," said the Rev. Bobby Wilson, pastor and founder of the church. "We wanted to be blessings to some of these people."

Wilson and his church family placed gas vouchers on cars in several new apartment complexes between Peters

See Gas on A5



Former national presidents (clockwise from seated woman) Julia Purnell, Faye Bryant, Mary Shy Scott, Linda White (current president) and Eva Evans.

## AN AKA, ALWAYS

Phillips remembered for service to community and sorority

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

In a life that had been admired by many people, Barbara Phillips wore many, many hats.

She was valedictorian of the Class of 1953 at Atkins High School; an overachiever who earned her Ph.D. from UNC-Greensboro after graduating summa cum laude from Winston-Salem State University; and a devoted educator who guided young people as a teacher, principal, guidance counselor and eventually an assistant superintendent.



Phillips

But it was Phillips' pink and "apple green" hat that she wore most often and proudly - the one that symbolized her great pride in being a member of the nation's oldest African-American sorority.

"(Being a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha) was her life," said Eleanor Phillips-Phipps, Phillips' daughter.

"She believed in its mission to help mankind and to serve."

Phillips passed away July 5 at Forsyth Medical Center. She was

See Phillips on A11

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