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# The Charlotte Post

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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents



Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

**A TOAST TO LITTLES...** Two black civic groups, SounVest and CARJANDE, were the hosts of a celebration in honor of Gene Littles, Assistant Coach and Director of Player Personnel for the Charlotte Hornets, last Friday. Littles, accompanied by his wife, Rita (seated left) was toasted as the unsung

hero of the home team. Among the many guests, sports announcers, Gil McGregor (r) and Steve Martin of WBT Radio, were on hand to let Littles know his efforts are recognized. Carol Anderson (seated right), chairperson of CARJANDE, made a presentation to Littles.

## School Board Continues On Reassignments

By HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board won't freeze pupil reassignments after rejecting a motion to do so until the board states where it stands on assignments.

The board voted 6-3 against African-American member Arthur Griffin's motion to stop all reassignments until the board outlines a policy to deal with the often-controversial transfer of students. Griffin motioned that the board "not act on these proposals at this time, but wait until we come up with a vision statement on pupil assignment."



Griffin

Joe Martin and Jan Richards, an anti-busing advocate, voted for the motion. Martin said passing the motion would signal that "we do not want to do this job until we are going to get it right."

Another Griffin motion, to create a task force to form a five-year assignment outlook by Oct. 1, did pass, however.

As the final step in deciding where students will be assigned next year, the board approved seven of the 11 proposals before it, often by narrow margins. The action capped a month of public discussion and changes to the proposals themselves.

The final pupil assignment vote will result in 363 students being moved to new schools next year. Last year, more than 4,000 of the county's 74,000 students were reassigned.

The board voted down a proposal to make Chantilly Elementary the system's first midway school, equidistant between black and white neighborhoods. The concept, originally champi-

oned by Griffin, is seen as a new tool in keeping the school system desegregated.

The board also agreed to study the midway concept in more detail in June.

Chantilly, located in a racially integrated neighborhood at 701 Briar Creek Road, would have drawn students from black neighborhoods like Double Oaks and white neighborhoods in east Charlotte.

About 900 neighborhood students would have been bused to other schools if the proposal passed.

Chantilly parents argued that the school is an integrated neighborhood school and shouldn't have its students bused to other parts of the county.

When the board voted down the midway proposal, Chantilly parents cheered. South Mecklenburg parents also voted their approval when the board voted to allow their children to stay at Matthews Elementary instead of being moved to the McKee Road and Billingsville pairing of schools.

Pairing involves having black students bused to schools in white neighborhoods from kindergarten to third grade and reversing the scenario from the fourth to sixth grade.

Board member Jane McIntyre said the length of bus rides for the proposed pairing was a factor in her decision to vote against the change.

"My only concern is how long is that bus ride going to be," she said.



## Mother Of Len Bias Urges All Parents To Commit To War On Drug Abuse

By F. ALAN BOYCE  
Associated Press Writer

**RALEIGH (AP)** --- The mother of Len Bias, a Maryland basketball star who died of a cocaine overdose, recently called for a stronger commitment from parents in the war on drugs.

"We have beautiful babies here we are about to lose," Lonise Bias told the Governor's Drug Cabinet. "We need families to get out here."

Mrs. Bias said too many parents "have their heads in the sand and don't want to bother with anything. ... Children need role models to develop the self-esteem to resist drugs," she said.

Instead, they get a daily diet of divorce, sex, violence --- a world as directionless as they are, Mrs. Bias said.

"It's been three years since Len Bias' death," she said. "It's three times worse than it was when he died."

Gov. Jim Gardner, chair of the cabinet, asked how attention could be brought to the problem. But Mrs.

Bias said education alone would not be enough.

"It's just too much," she said. "You just can't put it all on the educational system."

Also at the meeting, the drug cabinet's staff unveiled a draft proposal to mandate drug education in every grade. While Gardner said the draft was for discussion purposes only, it contained some controversial funding proposals including adding a \$100 fine to every felony conviction, allowing taxpayers to earmark state tax refunds to a War on Drugs Fund, and increasing taxes on beer, wine and liquor.

Gardner agreed the General Assembly had passed legislation in 1985 intended to address the problem, but he said it needs fine-tuning.

"We need to tell them, 'You're intent was noble, but in fact it's not cutting it and we need to do more quickly.'"

Joe Dean, secretary of crime control and public safety, said his own children "haven't gotten squat" in terms of drug educa-

tion in first and second grade.

"It's just not happening across the state," he said. "That's my concern."

Scott Penlan, superintendent of schools in Clay County, agreed with Mrs. Bias that parental indifference is a major stumbling block.

"One of the big problems is denial," he said. "They don't want to admit that we have a problem. There's a lot of apathy out there."

Correction Secretary Aaron Johnson agreed with Gardner that the key is going to be funding.

"I think we're going to have to bite the bullet and ask ourselves how much is it going to cost our state to have a good, effective drug education program," he said.

But Tara Sink, a high school student from Charlotte and president of her local chapter of Students Against Drunk Drivers, said the cabinet "seems like it's kind of off-course."

"Adults need to open their eyes

and see it's a big problem and not just 'Say no to drugs,'" she said. "That's not going to help."

Only one adult, Miss Sink's mother, was interested in helping start the SADD chapter, the girl said.

"It's something you're not going to get any publicity out of and you're not going to get any money out of. I guess that's why there wasn't any adult interest," she said.

Miss Sink said drinking is "real acceptable" in high school, with as many as 85 percent of her classmates getting drunk every weekend.

"Education, I think, needs to start in kindergarten," she said. But she added that one way to get the attention of young people might be to revoke their driver's licenses for drug infractions.

Of friends who have lost their licenses for driving while impaired, "the majority of them aren't drinking anymore or drinking to the extent they were drinking," she said.

## City Mourns Comic's Death

By JALYNE STRONG  
Post Editor

The city of Charlotte lost one of its brightest stars with the death of comedian Norman.

C. Smith University. He developed a quick wit and knack for comedy from his mother, who often read and ad-libbed comedy to her sons.

Norman opened a comedy club in Charlotte called the Comedy Inn, while working as an electronics engineer at Jefferson.

He had several appearances on television. Griffin, the comedian, was one of the many who performed at the club.

Norman's death was a shock to the city. He was 40 years old.

His funeral will be held at the city's largest funeral home.

Norman was a member of the city's comedy club.

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Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

**ROLLING OUT THE ROCKER...** Prior to L.A. Laker Kareem Abdul Jabbar's first and last game at the Charlotte Coliseum, Hugo the Hornet presented the basketball player with a rocker in commemoration of his plans for retirement this year.

## Board On Brown's Behalf

A choir made up of other corrections officials

visited houses about 130 handicapped inmates. He spoke for about 20 minutes.

There are a three-member board of Probation, Correction Services, and Parole involving

the Brown's case. Brown was convicted in December in state court in Aiken on two counts of aggravated assault and one count of failure to stop for police.

Circuit Judge Hubert E. Long sentenced Brown to six years in prison for failing to stop for police and suspended two five-year terms for the two counts of assault of a high and aggravated nature.

The three counts each carried a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

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## U.L. Holds Forum For Job Contacts

By HERB WHITE  
Post Staff Writer

Job-seekers and corporations will be eyeing applications and resumes March 23 when the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League sponsors Career Expo '89 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

The program, which is in its second year, is intended to provide high school and college students a forum to make business contacts which could lead to jobs. Students can go to the early sessions from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The late session, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., is for the general public, regardless of educational level. There is no fee or pre-registration for either session, but potential applicants are asked to bring resumes or contact information.

About 40 area businesses are

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