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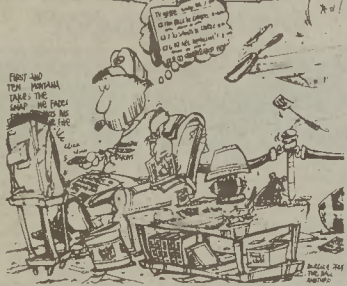
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4, 1993

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Men like football. Women have to live with it. As the gridiron season moves into its serious stages, find out how couples are coping.

Entertainment
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Marc Wilson, founder of Justice Comics, is on a mission to put together his first graphic novel.

Sports
A new NBA era begins. 8B



The Charlotte Hornets, expected by many to challenge for the NBA Central Division title, open Friday against Chicago. The Bulls, minus the recently-retired Michael Jordan, will try to win a fourth straight NBA title.

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Financial consultant Crystal Webster is Beauty of the Month.

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THE STATE OF BLACK CHARLOTTE

Charting the black condition:



• Blacks have a per capita income of \$9,424, compared to \$19,850 for whites.



• 82 of Charlotte's 100 murder victims so far this year were African American. The number of blacks killed in the city in 1988 was 23.



• Blacks make up 67% percent of inhabitants at the Salvation Army Women's Shelter. At the George Shinn Homeless Shelter for Men, 82% of inhabitants are African American.



• Black women represent 63% of all female-headed households in Mecklenburg County.



• 21 of every 1,000 black babies will be stillborn, compared to 7 per 1,000 white babies.

In a city of plenty, progress is halting

By John Minter
POST CORRESPONDENT

Sam Johnson's Lincoln-Mercury dealership on Independence Boulevard is one of the biggest and best in the country.

Bill Simms heads a major division of TransAmerica Corp. and recently was inducted to the Myers Park Country Club.

James Ferguson heads one of the region's largest law firms and has both black and white attorneys on staff.

These African Americans represent the heights achieved by a race brought

to America as slaves and who even today face the racist shards of a shattered national mirror.

As Mecklenburg County's African Americans celebrate their achievements and whites extol the city's rapid economic growth and rise to national prominence, a dark river runs deep nearby.

The river of despair, often confined to five of the city's zip codes - 28205, 28206, 28208, 28216 and 28217 - swamps many African American families.

The most affected areas include the corridors of Graham, Central and Tryon streets in the central city,

out to I-85 and Eastway Drive; an area bounded by Belhaven Boulevard and I-77, and the county's southwest quadrant between Lake Wylie and South Boulevard.

To look at the state of Black Charlotte is to leave the celebration for a moment, to sit beside the water and listen to the silent cries.

The African American community of North Carolina's largest city is tossed about almost daily by the swift and deadly violence in the river's white-water rapids.

Homicides, especially blacks killing blacks and teenagers killing teenagers,

fill news holes on television and in the daily papers. In two of the last three years, at least 100 people were murdered in Charlotte. Neighborhoods cry out for help and efforts such as 100 Black Men, the Young Councilmen's Association and Save the Seed have sprung up.

Local governments have formed Fighting Back, Success by Six and Smart Start.

The school system has instituted special schools for troublemakers and begun intra-school conflict resolution programs.

According to data collected

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Another election, another first

Scarborough breaks through to win at-large council race

By Cassandra Wynn
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Democrat Ella Scarborough pulled off what many political analysts said would be impossible.

In a narrow victory Tuesday over Republican Bill James (32,926 votes to 32,068), Scarborough became the first black woman ever elected at-large to Charlotte City Council. She was the only Democrat to win an at-large seat.



Ella Scarborough is the first African American woman to win an at-large seat on Charlotte city council. She is also the first black elected at-large since in 1985.

"My constituents trusted me and now they trust me to serve a cross section of the community," Scarborough said Wednesday.

"The black vote proved crucial. But I would have loved to see more blacks come out. I thank each one who said they believed in me," she said.

Scarborough, the first African American

at-large winner since Harvey Gantt won the mayor's seat in 1985, decided not to run in District 3 where she was a three-term incumbent. In a bold move, she announced last spring that she would run for an at-large seat.

With the election results vacillating Tuesday night, Scarborough admitted that she had some nervous moments. "I had some doubts at moments," she said. "But God said it could be done. He is the major force in my life."

Scarborough said her priorities this time around are to "focus on the real issues. We are getting caught up on slogan smog. We've jerked to eighth gear with reference to where we are as a city. The question is how do we separate ourselves from other large cities. Safety, crime, transportation and housing are major issues. The thing that will separate us is handling those things well."

Bob Davis, president of the Black Political Caucus, said Scarborough has "grown up" politically.

"She showed political astuteness. We're growing up. We've learned that if you want to win, you have to play the game. She had a non-partisan appeal that, in some instances, caused her to disallow the Democratic

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Martin King III making his own mark in political circles

By Joan Kirchner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA - Martin Luther King III stood before an audience of 15 in a hotel meeting room talking about his grand vision.

As exasperated campaign aides grumbled about the late hour and tiny crowd, candidate King spoke po-



King

lately and earnestly about the dull issues in Fulton County: traffic management, water and sewer systems, government consolidation.

Three decades after Martin Luther King Jr. inspired the nation with his eloquent dream of ra-

cial equality through nonviolence, his 35-year-old namesake is pursuing a career in local politics.

The first son of the slain civil-rights leader, only 10 when his father died, is holding onto his low profile as a member of the Fulton County Commission.

"I don't think that my contribution will ever be as significant as what my father was able to do," the younger King said in an interview.

"If I became president of the United States, I still don't believe that I could overshadow what he did."

"He's clearly not trying to fill his father's shoes," said former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, the man King turns to for fatherly advice. "He's trying to clear his own pathway."

His father's shoes are enormous - he won the Nobel Peace Prize, led the

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