

The Charlotte Post

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Comedian/actor Jamie Foxx ("In Living Color," "Roc"), is one of the hottest acts going. But it takes plenty of hard work to be this funny.

Lifestyles You are what you eat. 7A



The holidays don't have to go to your thighs and hips if you use your head with these calorie-busting ideas.

Sports On the spot. 7B



Johnson C. Smith guard Melvin Abrams has some big shoes to fill this season. The sophomore is expected to replace Columbus "Green Light" Parker, the school's all-time scoring king.

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Maurice Staley of West Charlotte and Colin Harris of South Meck have a couple of things in common: They're in the N.C. 4A playoff chase and they've been selected to the Shrine Bowl.

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"There Is Hope," a locally-produced play that encourages keeping the faith, opens Friday at Ovens Auditorium.

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No one should be surprised about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' record, James Strong contends.

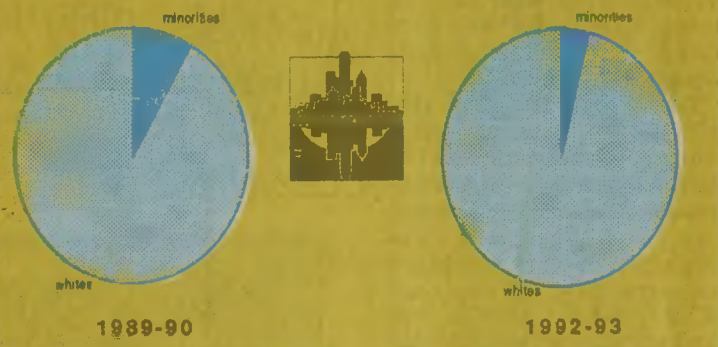
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City contract policy may ignite heated battle

A disparity of contract dollars to minority firms

Minority firms are getting less than half the city compared to three years ago. In fiscal year 1989-90, the total was 8.7%. In fiscal year 1992-93, it was 4%.



By John Minter
POST CORRESPONDENT

The raucous debate over a consultant's finding that Charlotte discriminated against minority contractors likely signals the beginning of a test of city government under a Republican mayor and Republican-controlled City Council.

"It was ugly," is the way one observer described the Monday debate on the \$187,000 study concluded with this statement: "The evidence

compiled in this report clearly shows that the City of Charlotte has been an active and passive participant in the discrimination..." against black-owned businesses.

"Everybody showed their true colors," said local business consultant Bill McCullough.

William Davis, a minority prime contractor, called the debate shocking. "I thought I was back in the 1960's or 1865, before we signed the emancipation," Davis, owner of William B. Davis Inc.,

said. "There was division along racial lines, even among the parties."

While District 4 council representative Nasif Majeed wanted to hurry council to accept the study, Republicans, including Mayor Richard Vinroot, opted to slow the process down.

Majeed argued that since the present council had commissioned the study, it should also vote on its recommendations.

The debate dissolved into a

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BRITAIN'S CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION



PHOTOS/SHERRI BELFIELD-JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY

Blacks have problems across Atlantic, too

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

To be black in Great Britain offers paradoxes much like in the U.S., an English civil rights leader says.

Dame Jocelyn Barrow, deputy chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council in Britain and a veteran of that nation's civil rights movement, told students at Johnson C. Smith University that people of color in England haven't faced the same types of historical racism as in America. For instance, last year's Los Angeles uprising proba-

bly would not have happened on British soil because the officers would've been convicted.

"If Rodney King had been beaten in Great Britain by four policemen, the policemen would've gotten life," she said. "But police brutality is everywhere."

Barrow, who received the female equivalent of knighthood last year, was in Charlotte to explain the status of ethnic minorities in Great Britain. Barrow was vice chairman of the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination in the 1960s and spearheaded movements to pass anti-

discrimination laws in Britain.

About 5% of the nation's 59 million people are non-white, with 2% of them black.

"The black community in Great Britain is still a fairly young community, since we didn't start migrating until after World War II," she said. "It hasn't gone through the same things that you have in America."

Britain has its share of problems. There is growing concern with black-on-black violence, especially in the African-Caribbean community.

"That's an increasing

problem and it doesn't get the publicity of black-on-white crimes," she said. "A lot of the black community is too ashamed to talk about it when it happens."

Blacks, who started emigrating to Britain in search of jobs, have access to much of that nation's society, said Barrow, a native of Trinidad. But most are struggling to make ends meet with a system that still takes race into account when it comes to jobs. Although education is open to all, blacks with degrees have a more difficult time economically than

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Stars And Bars? Never

Ministers want Confederate flag dropped in S.C.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Two days after Confederate battle flag supporters rallied at the capital, an alliance of black ministers has called for the flag to come down from the Statehouse dome.

"To fly a Confederate banner there is to say to the world that the Civil War is still being fought in South Carolina and that equality for all is still more of a goal than reality," the Greater Columbia Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance said Monday.

The ministers endorsed a proposal by state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Columbia, to take the flag from the Statehouse dome and place it near a Confederate memorial on the building's grounds.

Rev. Joseph A. Darby, a leader of the alliance, criticized the attitude at a rally: "All that was missing was the white robes."

The rally was organized by William G. Carter, a Saluda man who ran the S.C. presidential campaign of former Ku Klux Klan wizard David Duke.

South Carolina is the only state to fly the familiar banner with the blue X and red background. Georgia and Mississippi incorporate the flag into their state flags.

The legislature raised the flag in 1962 as part of a centennial celebration of the War Between the States.

Black lawmakers have urged the flag be removed or replaced. But descendants of Confederate soldiers have refused.

State Attorney General Travis Medlock issued an opinion last month that said the flag flies without legal authority.

Astronaut's theme: Science is cool

By Vera Witherspoon
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A space shuttle astronaut told Charlotte youngsters their goals can be among the stars.

But it'll require some knowledge of science and math.

Dr. Bernard Harris, who spoke at Discovery Place as part of a program sponsored by 100 Black Men, said he has high expectations and goals concerning space, astronomy math and sciences.

"I've always dreamed about traveling amongst the stars.

I have been very interested in space since I was about eight or nine years old," he said.

"That is when my astronomy interests started because, I wanted to be an astronaut."

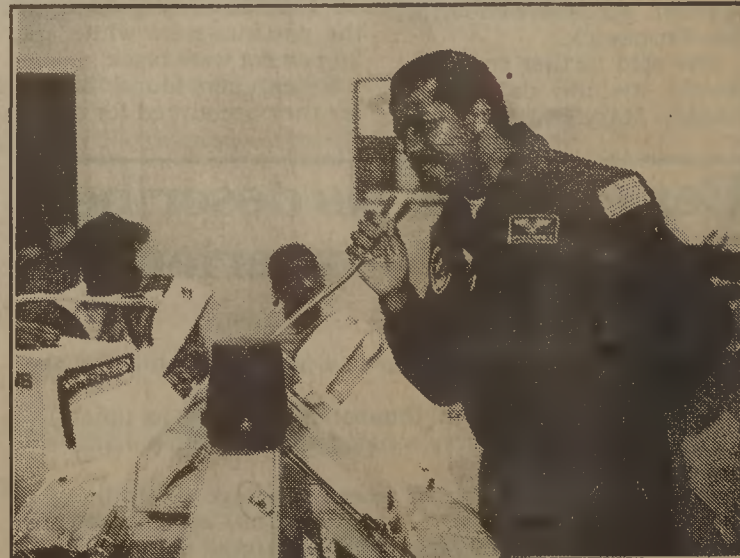
Harris said he believes experimenting and learning is a continuous process. He helps encourage students to learn as much as they can as he does with his space ventures, which was his reason for visiting.

"I tell children in less than 10 to 15 years, nine out of 10 jobs are going to require expertise in math and sciences. If they don't get it now they are going to be left behind," he said.

In 1990, Harris was selected by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) for its astronaut program. He has served as a mission specialist on two space shuttle flights, which wouldn't have happened without a scientific background.

"The NASA selection is a long process. You must major in a hard science, biology, chemistry, physics or medicine," said Harris, who received degrees in biology from the University of Houston and medicine from Texas Tech University. "As a mis-

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PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Astronaut Bernard Harris talked about science, math and space at Discovery Place's Challenger Learning Center.