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Consolidation board seats may not go to blacks

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg consolidation committee will be more representative of westside interests, but three slots opened last week won't necessarily be filled by African Americans.

The 25-member committee is charged with writing a charter for a joint Charlotte and Mecklenburg County governing body.

African American Charlotte

City Council members complained two weeks ago that the board was not representative of African Americans or the westside.



McCrory

Last week, Mayor Pat McCrory got three members of the mostly male and white board to resign, making

room for more diverse representation.



Scarborough

westside includes a very large area and many different types

of people, both racially and culturally. My major concern is representation of all areas of the city."

McCrory said he will wait for council to fill two of the three available seats before making his appointment.

"I will make an appointment based on what I see are any voids," McCrory said. "That's why I'm waiting. Several minority people have called me up, but none of them live on the westside."

Council member Ella

Scarborough said she thinks African Americans should fill the two open council slots that will be filled by the city council. But, Scarborough said, she and other African American council members had not decided who to nominate Monday for the open seats.

"I think it is important that the consciousness of the council has been raised and also responded to," she said. "All areas and all communities will be represented on the committee."

"This committee will shape the next millennium for Charlotte-Mecklenburg and it is important that we have a diverse representation," Scarborough said. "I hope we will make a conscious effort to see than an African American female is appointed. We tend not to put African American females on committees in this city. We need to make a conscious effort to see that they are represented."

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Brazil's 'racial democracy' image is a myth

By Harold Olmos
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SERRA DA BARRIGA, Brazil - The granite statue of the rebel slave leader Zumbi stands in a clearing high in these green hills, a lonely tribute to a broken dream.

Three centuries have passed since Zumbi commanded the Quilombo dos Palmares, the largest community of runaway slaves in the Americas. With nearly 30,000 followers, he shook the foundations of Portugal's slavery-based colonial rule.

But in the end, Zumbi's poorly armed rebels were defeated by 9,000 soldiers and mercenaries supported by cannons. The rebellion was crushed and the runaways' villages burned.

Today, equality remains a distant dream for millions of black and mixed-race Brazilians. And Zumbi again has become a symbol of their struggle.

"Those who say Brazil is not a racist society are denying more than 300 years of slavery," said Zezito de Araujo, a black professor of history at the Federal University of Alagoas in Maceio, 60 miles east of this mountain region.

Brazilian elites have long promoted the nation's self-image as a "racial democracy" where everyone is equal. Black activists say it is nothing more than a myth that comforts the country with the largest black population in South America.

They note that although black and mixed-race people make up nearly half the population of 155 million, few hold top posts in business or government. Of 513 congressmen, only 11 are black.

An overwhelming majority of blacks live in the big-city slums known as "favelas." Most blacks are among the officially recognized 31 million illiterate and, along with



PHOTO MEL FISHER MARITIME HERITAGE SOCIETY

BLOCKADE OF BLACK HISTORY

Slave ship exhibit detoured from Charlotte museum

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

An African American has vetoed the exhibition by Discovery Place of the African slave ship Henrietta Marie, which sank in 1701 35 miles west of Key West, Fla.

Remnants of the Henrietta Marie were found in 1972 by treasure hunter Mel Fisher. Thousands of artifacts and relics, including neck shackles and the ship's bell, have been recovered and are stored at Fisher's Key West museum.

An exhibit of the artifacts and relics has begun a national tour, beginning in Detroit. The tour is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and sponsored in part by the National Association of Black Scuba Divers, which has a local chapter.

However, Discovery Place, which considered showing the artifacts in 1998 during an exhibit about underwater exploration, has decided not to do so, in part because of concerns for the image of African Americans it depicts.

"I have some strong concerns about this particular exhibition," said Rudy Cooper, Discovery Place's vice president of exhibits, research and planning. "If, in fact, we are very much interested in bringing something about African Americans, we should bring something more positive...something on our contributions to science, not a rehash of old history."

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JCSU grad raises \$62,000 for UNCF

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlie Kennedy may be the biggest fan of the United Negro College Fund.

Kennedy, a Winston-Salem pediatrician and Charlotte native, hosted a black benefit in August that raised \$62,000

for UNCF, a fund that supports 41 private black colleges across the U.S.. Winston-Salem socialites anted up \$125 a head for a black-tie affair that was attended by Lou Rawls, host of the national Lou Rawls Parade of Stars telethon. The broadcast airs Saturday on WBTV (channel

3) in Charlotte.

Money from the gala will go to six UNCF schools in North Carolina: Barber-Scotia College in Concord, Bennett College in Greensboro, St. Augustine's College and Shaw University in Raleigh, Livingstone College in Salisbury and Kennedy's alma mater, Johnson C. Smith University.

The Kennedy party, which was the third for UNCF, is his way of giving back to historically black colleges, said John

Kennedy, his brother. "He doesn't do it for the publicity," John Kennedy said. "He just wants to do something positive for the schools."

Special guests at the gala included presidents and other representatives of North Carolina's UNCF schools. Talbert O. Shaw, president of Shaw University, said the party is becoming popular with administrators.

"This is one of the rites of summer that I look forward to with great anticipation," he

told the Winston-Salem Journal. "This is the closest I come to Beverly Hills."

Bernard Franklin, St. Augustine's president, said the efforts of black college graduates like Kennedy are an inspiration to younger generations.

"When we can teach our young people to serve, then truly they can learn how to lead," he said.

Rawls, whose hit songs

See UNCF page 3A

Get out of gangsta rap biz

By Chester Higgins, Sr.
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Washington, D.C. - A crusade against the lyrics of gangsta rap music launched nearly three years ago by The National Political Conference of Black Women, Inc., (NPCBW) has taken on an international thrust.

In a recent letter, C. Delores Tucker, NPCBW chair urged Sir Colin G. Southgate, chairman of Thorn EMI, a giant record producing company (comparable to America's Time Warner) in England, "to discontinue" distribution of gangsta rap.

"This pornographic and violent music contains lyrics that glorify drugs, gang rape, gun toting and violence. It is... offensive to women and to

black women in particular," she wrote.

However, Southgate rejected Tucker's request, replying: "In a democracy, freedom of expression is a cherished right. We may not like what we hear but that doesn't give us the right to suppress what is being said. The response of the industry has been to work with parental groups and other interested parties to strengthen the parental labeling programme (sic) and to ensure that music containing explicit lyrics is branded in a way which is credible, visible and consistent so that the general public may make an informed decision to accept or reject such music."

But Tucker said her organization has pointed out for

years the failure of parental labeling to curb juvenile record purchases. "Over the counter record sales to children continue despite labeling," she said.

According to Billboard magazine, the pop entertainment industry bible, 50 percent of the gangsta rap recordings in this multi-billion dollar market, is sold to teens and underage children.

Tucker insists that she does not want to be a censor. However, she wrote, life in the African-American community consists of more than violence, rape and murder, "that you (Thorn EMI) wish to portray as our day to day reality. One of your artists, currently on trial (in the U.S.) for murder,

See TUCKER page 3A

Vigil recalls Windy Thompson



PHOTO/JAMES BROWN

Women memorialize Windy Gall Thompson, the 32-year-old mother killed Dec. 29, 1993 by Charlotte police Officer Mark Farmer. A memorial service and candlelight vigil was held Friday at Little Rock AME Zion Church. The event was sponsored by Citizens for Justice, a grassroots group formed in response to Thompson's death. Farmer has been cleared by local and federal investigations, but a civil lawsuit has been filed against Farmer and the city of Charlotte.

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E-mail:
charpost@cit.mindspring.com