

# The Charlotte Post

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## Founder watches organization SAVE students

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Angie Bynum threw a pebble into the water seven years ago and the ripples are still rolling outward.

That pebble was a simple concept — students should take control and work to end the violence that seems to ensnare more of them each year.

Bynum sparked creation of the first Students Against Violence Everywhere chapter at West Charlotte High School, after her dear friend Alex Orange was shot and

killed at a party on April 28, 1989.

"I was a student when SAVE was first announced," said Bynum, now a medical office assistant at the Mecklenburg County Jail at Spector Drive. "When I graduated, I just thought it would stay at West Charlotte. I never anticipated it would get this big."

How big? The program was named one of President George Bush's Thousand Points of Light. President Bill Clinton has given the program an award. And N.C. Gov. Jim Hunt declared March SAVE Month.

Not bad as a statement of Bynum's sense of loss and frustration after Orange's death.

"I was getting ready to graduate," Bynum recalled. "It happened at prom time. I said students have to take a stand and say no more killing. I came up with 'Students Against Violence.' Another boy came up with 'Everywhere.'"

The idea germinated from discussion among students and teachers after the Orange shooting devastated the West Charlotte family. Orange was a football player who Bynum had met while the two attend-

ed Ranson Middle School. She was a grade ahead of him. Bynum suggested an organization of students in tribute to Orange.

"We were sitting in the cafeteria coping with it. Football players were crying...big old guys. We lost a really great person. I had seen him Friday morning. I expected to see him on Monday. I arrived at the party after it happened. Another student was telling me he was dead. I was saying 'Oh my God, how did this happen.' How can you see somebody and just hours later they are dead?"

Bynum found out how big the organization had grown several years after leaving West Charlotte.

"I was reading the paper and found out how SAVE had grown when Gary Weart was presented an award by President Clinton in Washington," she said.

The organization is the subject of a half hour documentary, "The S.A.V.E. Story," shown last month on WTVI. The documentary was produced and written by Beverly Penninger.

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PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Angie Bynum started SAVE when her friend Alex Orange was killed April 28, 1989.

## Author, Author



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Charlotte native and Los Angeles Times reporter Sam Fulwood II signs a copy of his new book "Waking From The Dream: My Life In The Black Middle Class" for Cheryl Mayfield at Heritage House in Charlotte. Fulwood, The Times' Washington correspondent, describes his experiences as an African American from McCrory Heights in Charlotte to South Africa.

## Post-game fracas leads into court

Coach's wife alleges fan assaulted her; Harding parents allege racial slurs used

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A ruckus after a heated basketball game between North Mecklenburg and Harding high schools, has resulted in an assault charge against the mother of one of Harding's basketball players.

A first appearance is set Monday for Shirley Outings on charges she choked the wife of North Mecklenburg coach Leroy Holden. Virginia Holden filed that charge on March 13, a month after the Feb. 15 ballgame, which Harding won.

Outings denied the charge and said Wednesday she got into an argument with Coach Holden after he began calling Harding players, including her son, names, including "nigger."

"I never touched anybody," Outings said. "There were three police officers there. They didn't see me touch anybody."

No police reports were filed after the incident, which some described as a near riot. No witnesses were listed on the complaint filed by Virginia Holden with a local magistrate. The case will be heard in Mecklenburg County District Court.

According to an account compiled from interviews this week, the incident came at the end of a hotly contested match between bitter rivals. The Holdens could not be contacted.

Harding had won the last five meetings between the two teams. And one of Harding's star players, center Jerrard Jordan, played at North Mecklenburg for a year before transferring two years

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## America remembers Commerce Secretary

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The remains of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown were returned to the Commerce Department in a driving cold rain Tuesday as his family listened to a Navy band play "Nearer My God To Thee." Brown's family and Vice

President Al Gore walked into the ornate lobby for a private ceremony after eight honor guard pallbearers carried the black casket across a red carpet into the building.



Brown

Just before the body arrived from Dover Air Force Base, Del., mourners stood in an eerie silence outside the building, with the only sound coming from rain hitting hundreds of umbrellas.

"I'm here because Ron Brown is one of the greatest men of this era," said Roy Lewis, who had worked with Brown on Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign and was one of those waiting patiently in the rain.

The funeral was held Wednesday at Washington National Cathedral, with President Clinton delivering the eulogy. Brown, an Army veteran, was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

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PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

'UNCLE SAM' IN BRONZE: A statue of Samuel Billings shows the farmer and businessman holding a crying child. The statue was dedicated last month. Though born a slave, Billings was one of Charlotte's leading citizens.

## After years without one, county names 2 sites after blacks

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

One was born a slave, but later became a landowner and farmer employing many of his neighbors.

The other was a minister whose political acumen and leadership skills served his community well for more than a decade.

To honor their memories, Mecklenburg County has named buildings for the two — the Samuel Billings Center and the Robert L. (Bob) Walton Plaza, formerly the Independence Building at 700 Stonewall St.

The Billings Center, housing the county Mental Health department detoxification center, opened in 1992, a 44,000-square-foot building with 56 beds and more than 120 staff members.

It's named for Samuel Billings, who owned property that is now Grier Heights and for who a school and a road are named.

A statue of Billings was dedicated last month, depicting him holding a crying child in his arms. The likeness was done by Richard Hallier, a bronze sculptor who lives in Boone. The statue cost \$24,250, of which \$20,000 was the public art portion of the bond issue which built the building.

County spokesman John McGillicuddy said no statue is planned for Walton at this time, since the Walton Plaza was not purchased with bond money, which includes the requirement that a portion be used for public art.

Walton was a Mecklenburg County Commissioner who died in July 1994. Walton served on the county board from 1976-78, then from 1980 until his death of a heart attack at age 49. He was the first African American county commissioner.

Jim Richardson, who replaced Walton on the county board of commissioners,

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