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75 CENTS

THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

SERVING CABARRUS, ROWAN AND YORK COUNTIES

Office space spurs NAACP dispute

N.C. chapter moves out of Charlotte, can't use Alexander name

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The N.C. NAACP conference is closing its Charlotte office and dismissing two employees based there.

The board also ended the organization's relationship with

Linda Crites Gaines, who is treasurer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP chapter. Gaines, an accountant, was hired to serve as bookkeeper for the state chapter.

The move, voted on Saturday by the state executive committee, will save the organization

\$3,000, according to acting president Melvin "Skip" Alston.

He said the Greensboro office, which has one employee, will remain open.

The action came as the state conference continued to operate without Kelly Alexander Jr., who is suspended. Alexander,

like his father before him, has headed the state chapter since 1985. Kelly Alexander Sr. was chairman of the national NAACP board of directors when he died in 1985.

The Alexander family owns Alexander Funeral Home, where the state conference

maintained its office. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg chapter's office there is still open.

On Saturday, the state board replaced several committee chairs appointed by the previous board, which was ousted last October. But they served for several months pending an election challenge later thrown out by national NAACP officials.

Alexander was suspended in May pending an audit of the state's financial records, allegedly for failing to cooperate with the incoming state treasurer, maintaining an account requiring only his signature and using checks pre-signed by the previous treasurer after the new treasurer, Z. Ann Hoyle of

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Golden moment in Atlanta

Carolinas connection to mascot

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Who the heck is Whatisit - Izzy to those familiar with the big blue Olympics mascot?

Actually, he's the niece of Bobby and Brenda Height of Charlotte, who have sent their daughter Bridget along to the Games to help escort Izzy around Atlanta.

The full-time Izzy for the past three years has been LaTara Bullock of Raleigh, an East Carolina University mass communications graduate and former Atlanta Falcons cheerleader.

Carolina Panthers fans can forgive her that last one.

Bullock replaced the original Izzy, who gave up the job after the Barcelona games, in 1993. She was chosen for her athleticism and dance abilities, honed in several music videos, early acting experiences and as a Falcon cheerleader.

Bullock is the daughter of Brenda Height's brother and cousin to Bridget, a finance major at N.C. Central University, who just earned her

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PHOTO/BRENDA HEIGHT

LaTara Bullock, aka Izzy, the Olympic mascot, and Bridget Height, her cousin. Bullock's from Raleigh, Height's from Charlotte.



PHOTO/WADE NASH

American sprinter Gail Devers is embraced by coach Bob Kersee after winning the women's 100 meter dash Saturday at Olympic Stadium. Devers, who won the same event four years ago in Barcelona, Spain, held on to her title as "World's fastest woman" by outrunning a field that included Merlene Ottey of Jamaica and Gwen Torrence, an Atlanta resident. More on the Olympics can be found in Sports, page 8B.

12th District wins reprieve in U.S. court

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

North Carolina's outlawed 12th congressional district can remain for one more election.

That assures Rep. Mel Watt, a Charlotte Democrat, of re-election in November, after which the state's 12 congressional districts will be redrawn.

A panel of federal district court judges voted 2-1 to give the General Assembly until April 1, 1997 to redraw congressional districts, which could affect all 12 N.C. representatives. After that, the judges could impose their own plan.

Some observers believe the divided legislature will be unable to agree on redistricting, forcing the judges to settle the issue. Republicans control the N.C. House, while Democrats control the Senate.

Republicans, including the panel's Judge Richard Vorhees, wanted to redraw districts immediately in time for the November elections.

N.C. House Rules Committee chair Richard Morgan submitted a plan which would create two districts with substantial, but less than majority, African American voting-age populations.

Morgan's plan would replace the majority-black 12th District thrown out in June by the U.S. Supreme Court with one which stretches from Charlotte southeast to Robeson County.

The new district would be 51.7 percent white, with 38.6 percent

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Parties pledge to keep race card out of elections

By Curt Anderson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties have pledged, at the request of the nation's black mayors, to discourage race-baiting campaign tactics.

"Unless this stops, America will have the most divided nation in this small and shrinking world," said Mayor Emanuel Cleaver of Kansas City, Mo., president of the National Conference of Black Mayors.

Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour and Don Fowler, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, signed the resolution presented Monday by Cleaver and a bipartisan group of black mayors.

Both party chairmen

released letters supporting the initiative, and Cleaver said both had agreed that some form of the resolution be placed in their respective national party platforms during the August conventions. Cleaver is a member of the Democratic platform committee.

The resolution denounces use of tactics that pander to "illogical fear, mistrust and prejudice of people" and calls on both parties to challenge any candidate who injects the "desperate politics of prejudice" in the fall elections.

"Such irresponsible campaigning contributes to an environment of hate and suspicion, not one of respect and trust," it states in part.

At a news conference,

See RACE on page 2A



PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

New YWCA executive director Judy Diamond (center) is taking to her position with relish. "I'm still learning what the job is," Diamond says. "But it's lots of fun. No two days are alike. It's quite stimulating."

Diamond takes YWCA reins

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The YWCA is having a party of sorts Saturday to show off its new Diamond - Judy Diamond, the new executive director.

Diamond, who took over two weeks ago, is taking to the job like Dominique Dawes on the uneven bars.

"I'm still learning what the job is," Diamond said Tuesday. "But it's lots of fun. No two days are alike. It's quite stimulating."

The YWCA's annual open house at its 3420 Park Road headquarters begins at 10 a.m. Saturday. Until 2 p.m., visitors of all ages will be able to sample

the many activities available, from swims in the pool to yoga and Tae Kwon Do classes.

A 15 percent discount on memberships is being offered during the open house.

Diamond, born Judith Bookhart in New York City, holds a bachelor's degree from Boston University and a master's in education from Harvard University. She was completing work on her doctoral dissertation and looking for a job when the YWCA opportunity came along. She finished her doctoral work last week, she said.

"I'm attempting to continue the wonderful program here when I came," Diamond said.

The Child and Youth Development Programs of the local YWCA serve 650 children and families daily, and the Wellness Program provides health and fitness opportunities for those families and more than 1,000 members. The YWCA's Women's Center, including a residential program, helps over 100 women regain their independence each year.

The YWCA's mission is not only the empowerment of women, children and families, but the elimination of racism.

Diamond's a valuable find for the local YWCA, with her edu-

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