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THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

SERVING CABARRUS, ROWAN AND YORK COUNTIES

## Bank account heart of NAACP audit

### Reconciliation of N.C. books could be finished by September

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The NAACP's audit of N.C. Conference of Branches financial records may center on a checking account maintained by Kelly Alexander Jr. in the name of the civil rights organization.

Alexander is suspended as president of the N.C. conference pending the outcome of an audit by Price Waterhouse, which audited the national organization's books after William Gibson of Columbia was ousted as chairman in 1995.

Acting N.C. president Melvin

"Skip" Alston of Greensboro said auditors have nearly completed the collection of financial records and are planning to begin a reconciliation of the books on Aug. 19. That reconciliation should be complete in about two weeks, Alston said.

At least some portions of the

audit will be released to the public. All N.C. conference branch presidents, board members and other officials will be given audit results.

Alston said the auditors appear to be focusing on transactions involving a Merrill Lynch account, which opened in

1989, and an account at Mechanics & Farmers Bank into which checks meant for the NAACP's scholarship program were deposited.

"The problem centers on the Merrill Lynch account and the scholarship...in terms of who got it and how much and how it was dispersed," Alston said.

"National and state by-laws

state any money transferred from any account has to be done so by check signed by two officers, the president and the treasurer. No check shall be written for any expenditure, if not signed off by voucher by the secretary. Kelly has a check cashing card on that (Merrill Lynch) account which he has been

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## Going for Paralympic gold



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Kater Cornwell of Charlotte will compete for a gold medal in heavyweight powerlifting in the Paralympic Games in Atlanta. Cornwell finished fifth in the same event in Barcelona, Spain four years ago.

## Charlotte athlete going to Atlanta games

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Kater Cornwell carried the Olympic torch on its journey through Charlotte last month.

Next week, he'll compete for a gold medal.

Cornwell, a powerlifter, leaves Monday for Atlanta and the Paralympic Games, the second largest sporting

event in the world.

There's nothing second class about the more than 3,500 athletes with physical disabilities from 127 countries who will compete.

Cornwell qualified with a bench press of 440 pounds.

"It is important to compete in sports and recreation," Cornwell said. "It is the best prescription my doctor could prescribe for me. It has led

me to a new direction in my community. Competition is important for the fellowship and lets me know people with disabilities can be successful in everyday life."

The Paralympic games have been held twice, always after the regular Olympics and in the same venue. The first was in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea. The second was in 1992 in Barcelona, Spain.

Cornwell, competing in the heavyweight category, placed fifth overall in Barcelona, and was first among U.S. athletes.

He's not even expecting to win the gold this year, since another American holds the world record of 518 pounds.

Some 160 power lifters will compete, including a Nigerian team which is finishing their

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## Battle gets reassigned to Eastern N.C

### AME Zion Church Bishop made controversial gift to parishioner

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

AME Zion Bishop George Battle has been re-assigned from the South Carolina and Georgia district to an eastern N.C. district that also includes the Virgin Islands.

Bishop Joseph Johnson, formerly of the district including the Mississippi Delta and other southern states, will replace Battle, said Morgan Tann, editor of the AME Zion newspaper, The Star of Zion.

Tann said Battle's reassignment came during the church's general conference in Washington, D.C., last week. Appointments are first made by a committee of the 12 bishops, which then must be approved by the conference.

The death of one bishop and the retirement of Presiding Prelate Bishop Reuben Speaks of Salisbury meant two new bishops had to be appointed and some reassignments made, Tann said.

Battle's reassignment wasn't officially tied to complaints from some S.C. Zionites about the \$100,000 Battle took from two S.C. conferences to help get a former member of his congregation out of prison.

"It was not discussed at the conference," Tann said. "It never came up."

Battle's \$100,000 contribution from mission funds to convicted embezzler Delores Hairston was criticized by some church members who said they would try to get Battle to pay the money back. They also promised to circulate petitions to have him removed

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## Civil suit in Concord death will continue

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Concord police officers involved in the death of Angelo Robinson will not face criminal charges in the 1993 incident.

Robinson, 24, was repeatedly sprayed with pepper gas, outside a Waffle House on U.S. 29 on July 11. His death sparked a riot and an autopsy revealed Robinson died of bronchial spasm triggered by inhaling the pepper spray.

The death caused Concord police chief Robert Cansler to

suspend the use of pepper spray for nearly two years. Its use has been continued, but with canisters limited to just four short bursts.

His family is continuing a civil lawsuit in the case, which is being handled by attorney James Ferguson of Charlotte.

The attorney said the civil suit alleges that the police wrongfully causing Robinson's death, using excessive force, failing to provide prompt medical care and inflicting emotional distress on the Robinson family.

## Texas redraws majority-minority districts

By Terri Langford  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON - A judicial panel has redrawn the boundaries for 13 congressional districts in Texas, ordering new elections this year in nearly half the state's House races.

The districts include three majority-minority districts - the 18th, 29th and 30th - deemed unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court

because they unlawfully depended on race for their boundaries. In the same ruling, the court struck down North Carolina's mostly-black 12th District, which is represented by Melvin Watt of Charlotte.

The affected Texas districts include seven in the Houston area and six in the Dallas area. In June, the Supreme Court upheld the three-judge panel's decision two years ago

that the 18th in Houston held by Democrat Sheila Jackson Lee, the 29th in Houston held by Democrat Gene Green and the 30th in Dallas held by Democrat Eddie Bernice Johnson were unconstitutional. The judges could have accepted one of the many plans submitted to them by the plaintiffs or other interested parties. The panel decided, however, to draw its own lines and to order new elections. The

judges' map goes beyond the nine to 10 districts many observers, both Democrat and Republican, had expected would be redrawn. But they didn't change some districts that had been considered likely to be changed, including the 12th District in Fort Worth. Voters in the 13 districts will participate in a special election conducted along

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## Genesis Park saying no to crime

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Genesis Park residents held a parade and cook out Tuesday as part of the National Night Out celebration, an anti-crime program.

The annual event encourages neighborhoods to get people out of their homes and into the streets.

"This day was set aside to show that we are against violence and bloodshed of our young people and our brothers and sisters," said Angelia Hailey, president of the Genesis Park neighborhood group.

Genesis Park is the resurgent community once centered on

Wayt Street off Oaklawn Avenue. Streets in the area have been renamed and dozens of homes have been renovated. Some are being sold under a program run by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership.

The cornerstone of the renewal has been the intense police presence to reduce crime in the area, once one of the most drug-infested and violence-ridden communities in the city.

For Genesis Park residents, many of them now homeowners and some new to the area, National Night Out was a celebration of the community's turn around.

They joined neighborhoods

across the country, where marches, fairs, cookouts or simple walks sent a message to criminals that neighbors are determined to get them out of their communities and keep them out.

The Housing Partnership is to be recognized today for its achievements in Genesis Park by assistant Housing and Urban Development secretary Michael Stegman.

Stegman was to discuss Charlotte's participation in the National Homeownership Partnership, which seeks to create 8 million new homeowners nationwide by the end of the year 2000 and boost the homeownership rate to 67.5 percent.



PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

Genesis Park residents got together Tuesday for National Night Out, an anti-crime program. Genesis Park, once one of Charlotte's most dangerous communities, has undergone a major overhaul in recent years.

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