

"No Free Ride" exposes Mfume's complexity/1B

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THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

ALSO SERVING CABARRUS, ROWAN AND YORK COUNTIES

NAACP changes to slow, await Alexander's fate

Acting President says he is being fair with actions, appointments

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENSBORO - More changes are on hold for the NAACP state conference pending a decision on accusations against its suspended president.

State conference acting president, Melvin "Skip" Alston,

said he will comply with a request by the national leadership to slow the pace of change in the state organization until Kelly M. Alexander Jr.'s suspension is resolved.

Alexander has denied any wrongdoing and accused Alston of trying to mount a takeover during the suspen-

sion.

In recent weeks, Alston, who took the post in May, has closed Alexander's Charlotte headquarters and replaced 13 of the 28 committee chairmen who serve on the state's 52-member executive committee.

Alston told the News & Record of Greensboro that

internal politics had nothing to do with the changes.

"It's not politically significant if you're only replacing half the committee chairmen," Alston said. "To keep 15 people shows that I'm trying to be cooperative and trying to be inclusive."

Alston said he will abide by

a request by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People national president Kweisi Mfume to slow the changes for the sake of consensus in the 55,000-member state conference, which is one of the nation's largest and most active.

Alston also has retracted his earlier call for Alexander's resignation.

"I've reconsidered and decided it is not my place to ask him to resign," Alston said.

Mfume did not respond to a request for an interview by the newspaper.

Alston said even before he received Mfume's letter, he tried to be conciliatory in his committee assignments by reappointing Alexander's

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Bachelor and babies



Terry Housch's read Bible outside of his church, Little Rock AME Zion Church. He says prayer helps him care for three foster children, ages one to three.

Bachelor finds babies fill days and nights with work, pride

By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Bachelor Terry Housch's life has changed immensely in these last few months.

He now has three children - boys, aged one to three.

No, he didn't get married. He's a foster parent for the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services.

He has gone from living alone to an existence filled with diapers, and potty training and the terrible twos.

"At first I was leery of how it would work out," Housch said. "But once I got the kids it all fell into place. I credit it to a higher power."

A foster parent for the past year, Housch currently has three toddlers in his care.

He already had one toddler when representatives from

his placement agency announced that two more children needed emergency placement.

"I went to a seminar...they announced they had two kids that needed emergency placement," Housch said. "I thought about it, decided I would give it a try. I pray a lot."

Housch's day generally begins about 5:30 a.m. He wakes first, reads the news-

paper, has his coffee and prepares breakfast. The children wake up on their own at 6:30 a.m.

Everything from bathing to the packing of bags for day care is done the night before.

"I learned from trial and error," said Housch, with a laugh. "Getting up in the morning, trying to get everything together - it didn't work

See KIDS on page 2A

Black spending up, often outpaces whites

By Cliff Edwards
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - Black buying power increased sharply last year, helping black households outpace white households on spending for cars, children's clothing and perishable foods, a new study found.

The shift highlights black consumers' increasing importance to the U.S. economy as they garner more spending money, said Ken Smikle, edi-

tor of the study made by market research firm Target Market News Inc.

"Even though African Americans are only roughly 13 percent of the population, they're starting to have a significant influence on many (business) categories," Smikle said Monday. "When you're talking about billions of dollars to be made or lost, businesses have to sit up and take notice."

Personal income for blacks rose to \$324 billion from \$304.5 billion a year earlier, the Chicago-based research firm estimated.

Previous studies have found the amount of money blacks have to spend is growing faster than that of other U.S. groups. And increasing confidence in the economy has led blacks to loosen their purse strings following a sharp drop in spending on big-ticket

items a year earlier, Smikle said.

"In the past two years, blacks have had a lack of confidence in the economy and their own financial situations, leading them to delay spending," he said. "Now that things seem to be more optimistic, they are making up with postponed purchases."

Black households spent \$10.8 billion last year on new cars and trucks, a 163 percent

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Black candidate joins 9th District race

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

An African American has joined the 9th District Congressional race as a write-in candidate, challenging incumbent Sue Myrick.

Eugene Gay, 36, a Columbia native who moved to Charlotte two years ago, was certified as a write-in candidate on Aug. 6 after getting more than 250 certified signatures.

Gay said, "The climate is right now in the American system for an independent candidate. The American people are fed up with this system of gov-

ernment."

He thinks Myrick is vulnerable. "America is ready for a change," Gay said.

"I will fight hard for legislation that will protect each and every American in the 9th District so that they will have the kind of opportunities that will lead them to their dreams, goals and opportunities," Gay said.

According to a resume provided by Gay, he has been a public accountant since 1983, specializes in problems and resolutions consulting. He attended Midland Technical College in Columbia for a year, (1980-81), majoring in arts and education. He then attended Phillips

College in Columbia two years, graduating in 1983 with a degree in accounting and business administration. He joined the National Association of Accountants in 1983 and is a lifetime member of the NAACP.

In 1983 through 1985, Gay was accounting director for the Salvation Army and was a division manager for Massachusetts Life and Indemnity Insurance Co., 1985-86.

And from 1986-87, an accounting auditor for the S.C. tax commission.

Since 1993, he has been a regional training director for Excel Telecommunications.

By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Denise Dory out as 6 p.m. news anchor

WBTV news anchor Denise Dory has been shifted from the station's 6 p.m. telecast to 5 and 11 p.m., according to station manager and vice president Ron Miller.

Nancy Ross will replace Dory, who is African American, to join Paul Cameron in the prestigious 6 p.m. time slot. Ross will also anchor the 5:30 p.m. broadcast with Bob Knowles.

Dory will co-anchor the 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. news shows with Cameron, who is replacing retired veteran newsman Bob Inman.

Cameron served as the station's sports anchor before accepting the job. Delano Little, weekend sports anchor and reporter, replaces Cameron. Little is also African American.

The new assignments take effect Sept. 2.

"We're very fortunate to have so many talented broadcast journalists to best serve our viewers," Miller said in a press release. "This shows the over-all depth and strength of WBTV News personnel."

The announcement comes a week after Dory's future with the station was being questioned. A press release announcing the Cameron and Little promotions did not mention Dory, who was returning from maternity leave. Miller said Dory would stay

with the station, but would not necessarily anchor the same programs as she had in the past.

Miller's announcement last week came as a surprise to many, including Dory.

She came to the station in March 1995 after anchor Lisa Cooley departed for Los Angeles. She came from WCPO-TV in Cincinnati. She also has worked with two stations in Raleigh.

Ross also joined WBTV in 1995 and has worked in Chicago and ESPN.

The station's move attracted some criticism from African Americans who have become accustomed to having an African American on the main news broadcast at WBTV. The WPEG radio morning show,

hosted by The Breakfast Brothers, drew a number of calls about Dory's fate at the station. The moves were the topic of discussion at several gathering spots.

Miller indicated last week that Little's promotion to sports anchor would satisfy the station's desire to be diverse.



Dory



Little



Gene Gay

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