



◀ *Xtralrg MC spreads gospel though rap/4B*

*Rhonda Mapp leads Charlotte Sting into preseason/1B* ▶

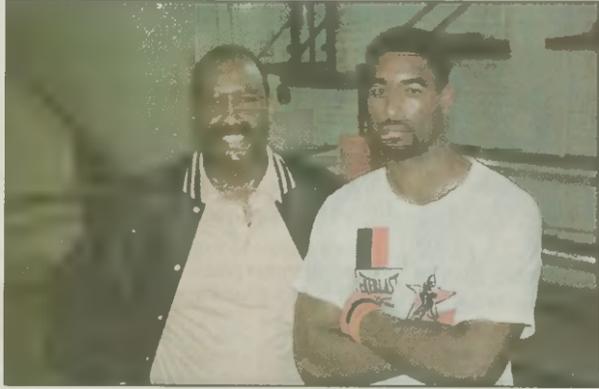


# The Charlotte Post

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THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

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## Circle of influence



Top: Calvin Brock (right), one of the top amateur boxers in the United States, credits his father Calvance with helping him balance sports and academics. "I can't do my whole life just boxing. There's a lot of boxers out here in this world, but only a few make it to the point where they can retire and not have to work again, and you can count those on your fingers." Above: Father and son at the Charlotte Boxing Academy.

### Father's guidance helps son and boxing family

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Calvance Brock is always in his son's corner. Brock, a Charlotte building restoration contractor, trains his son Calvin, 22, one of America's top amateur boxers. But there's more to their relationship than jabs and uppercuts. There's an emphasis on life

beyond boxing. "It's taken a lot of sacrifice and creativity," says Brock, 45. "It's just taken a tremendous amount of commitment. It's been like a never-ending process. We decided that's what we're going to do." Brock's extended family counts on his guidance, too. He volunteers at the Charlotte Boxing Academy, where

youngsters get their first lessons in the sport and life itself. Even more experienced boxers like Charlotte middleweight James McKinney consider the elder Brock to be a father figure. "Calvance is outspoken, he's real creative, a real intelligent man," McKinney said. "I've never met anybody like him. He's real kind and nice. Anything you need, if he can help you, he'll help you." Calvin Brock is 110-31 and ranked No. 1 nationally in the 201-pound class. He advanced to the semifinals of the U.S.

Olympic trials last year, two victories away from earning a spot on the national team. Calvin, who is a senior finance major at UNC Charlotte, hopes to launch his own businesses someday. Sister Alexis, 21, is a student at Central Piedmont Community College. Calvance and his wife Aleen, both Elizabeth City State University graduates, always stressed the importance of education. "It starts at home. My father has his degree, my mother has her degree and basically

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“There's no reason to be selfish and not help somebody else who needs help.”

Calvance Brock, 45, on his work with youth at Charlotte Boxing Academy in addition to training his son Calvin



West Charlotte senior Ebony Singleton (right) is comforted by mother Sherrie Warren at Tuesday's school board hearing.

### West Charlotte decision triggers outrage and tears

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Ebony Singleton burst into tears when she heard Kenneth Simmons would no longer be principal at West Charlotte High School, where she will be a senior next year.

Her tears symbolized the hurt, frustration and anger she and other African American members of the West Charlotte community felt upon Supt. Eric Smith's announcement that Simmons was being replaced. The new West Charlotte principal is Terry Cline, a black middle school principal from Smith's former school system in Newport News, Va.

Simmons called the decision a "modern day lynching."

"It's like southern gentle white women yelling rape," he said. "Everything was about anonymity. The people with concerns have all been anonymous...it's like wearing hoods over their heads."

"I tried in my administration to make all children feel good about themselves. There are those who do not want that to occur. We can successfully teach all children when it is something we choose to do. We have not chosen to."

On Wednesday, Smith met behind closed doors with West Charlotte's



Simmons

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### Citizens review approval seen as a positive first step

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

African Americans are hailing the formation of a citizens review board of Charlotte police action.

And, some already have a favorite to be on the 11-member board: retired N.C. appeals court judge Clifton Johnson.

Council voted 10-1 to set up a board which will investigate complaints about police shootings and mistreatment of citizens, adopting a proposal by District 2 council member Patrick Cannon. Members will serve three-year terms and must not have major criminal records. Five members of the board will be appointed by city council. The mayor and city manager will each appoint three members. Citizens could file complaints with the board within seven days of completion of internal police action on complaints.

The board will consider police shootings, excessive force, improper conduct and improper arrests.

Council will review the board in two years to see if any changes will be made in its operations.

"It was a history-making event," said Dwayne Collins, co-founder of Citizens for Justice, a grassroots organization formed after Windy Gail Thompson was killed by a police officer in December 1993. Citizens for Justice and other groups have pushed for a citizens review board since.

"After four and a half years, I

was glad to see victory (Monday)," Collins said. "The sentiment of the community is that finally, our voices have been heard...our cry has not once again fallen on deaf ears."

Collins said his group will push for changes in state law that would give the citizens review board power to implement disciplinary action.

"The next move is to go to the

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Please Recycle



Former Black Panther Geronimo Pratt was released Tuesday.

### Pratt released after 27 years

By Edward J. Boyer  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SANTA ANA, Calif. — After more than a quarter-century in custody, former Black Panther Party leader Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt strode out of jail Tuesday into a bright afternoon, free on bail and surrounded by other jubilant radical icons of the 1960s.

Pratt, sentenced to life in prison for a murder he has always insisted he did not commit, was released on \$25,000 bail.

The ruling was made by

Superior Court Judge Everett W. Dickey, the same judge who May 29 reversed Pratt's 1972 conviction, ruling that Los Angeles County prosecutors had suppressed material evidence that could have led the jury at Pratt's murder trial to reach a different verdict.

Prosecutors, who are appealing Dickey's ruling, still convinced that Pratt is guilty, did not oppose the bail motion.

Flanked by his attorneys, Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. and Stuart Hanlon, Pratt, 49, raised his fist in the air to hundreds of supporters and well-wishers who

gathered outside the jail after the bail hearing to celebrate his first taste of freedom.

He told them he plans to attend his son's middle school graduation in the Bay Area this week and go to Morgan City, La., to visit his 94-year-old mother.

"I need to see my mother," said the decorated Vietnam War veteran. "I'm a mama's boy."

Pratt, who was arrested 27 years ago, also vowed that his legal team would dedicate itself to finding the killer of Caroline Olsen, the schoolteacher he was

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