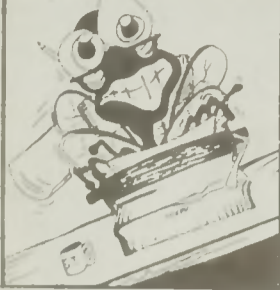


Fly on the Wall



• That's their McDonald's: The McDonald's Cafeteria/hotel/amusement park saga may be taking a turn down the homestretch. Fly's spies have been workin' overtime, and they hear a consortium led by former Charlotte mayor **Harvey Gantt** has laid a cool 100 G's to stop foreclosure proceedings.



Gantt

Word has it that Harv's posse has worked out a deal with AMRESCO, which is handling the McDonald's account. Gantt and his peeps will take control of the whole shooting match, lock, stock and barrel. No word yet on who'll run the West Charlotte landmark, which has known nothing but debt in recent years.

• Speaking of food, why does the Charlotte Convention Center have seven chefs on staff when the city is supposed to be gung-ho about outsourcing services? The Fly is partial to good grub, but these guys can't be cooking 24-7, can they? Maybe somebody in City Hall can hit one of the spies and 'splain some of this.

• That's racin': Everybody in NASCAR country (and those of you who mistake a cool suit for great-looking clothes) knows that a couple of bros, **Julius Erving** and **Joe Washington**, plan to field a Winston Cup team next year.



Erving

And here's a name that could be associated with Dr. J and Little Joe in '98: **Ernie Irvan**. Erving and Washington have told anyone who'll listen or can read Braille that they're looking for a top-shelf jockey for their Ford, and ol' Ern needs a ride after getting dumped by Robert Yates Racing this week. Now, Fly isn't trying to tell the fel-lus how to take care of biz'ness, but Irvan can still swap sheet metal with the best of 'em. Think of the mileage everyone would get put of that affirmative action story.

• That's show business: People are talking more about this weekend's **Tom Joyner** throw-down like it's goin' out of style. But the whole thing hit a behind-the-scenes snafu last week when friends of Big Plays owner **Ray**

See FLY on page 3A

Scarborough surprises everyone

Continued from page 1A

years. I've done that. When I was in the district (3) I said I would move up to at-large and I've done that.

"I'm on the board of directors of the National Black Elected Officials. I've served as chair of the League of Municipalities. We have done what we need to do."

Scarborough did not rule out a run for another elected office in the future and denied a rumored bid this year for mayor.

"I never considered being mayor," she said. "I never wanted to be mayor of the city of Charlotte. I'm going to continue to stay active in the community and continue to serve people in other capacities."

Black Political Caucus chair **Bob Davis** said he was surprised to hear Scarborough was not running for reelection. Davis said he'd heard as late as Tuesday morning that she would run against **Pat McCrory**.

"I was shocked," Davis said of the announcement.

Fellow council member **Malachi Greene** said he, too, was surprised by Scarborough's announcement.

"I knew Ella had higher ambitions," Greene said. "I've talked with her on several occasions about higher offices, but I have never heard her say anything about wanting to be mayor."

Greene said Scarborough probably wanted to spend more time with her two children and perhaps concentrate on her job in community relations with Duke Energy. "It was a pact she had made with her children," Greene said. "I can understand that. Families give up a huge amount when someone is serving in office."

Greene said the Democrats always have to work hard in local elections and Scarborough's reelection was not a given.

"We are going to have to work

hard," Greene said. "I was going to have to work even when Ella was in the race. Her election was not assured."



Greene

Democrats are going to lose control of the city council. Politically, Charlotte is a very competitive city between Republicans and Democrats. Sometimes that has something to do with race. Sometimes it don't."

"People are concerned about Democratic control and black representation being lost. We had to work all the while for all those things. We are going to have to work hard again.

Everybody is going to have to work like the dickens."

District 3 council member **Patrick Cannon**, who succeeded Scarborough, was surprised as well.

"I was awaiting for her to say she was going to do something else," Cannon said. "I did not expect a period at the end of her sentence when she stated she was not going to run for city council at large for the next term."

Cannon said he thinks Scarborough will run for a higher office some day.

"It sounds like council member Scarborough will be keeping her options open politically," he said.

"It is certainly going to disturb some grooves relative to the Democratic strength that is currently in place. It means now that we must strategize on how we will continue to be effective as Democrats on the City Council, either in the majority or the minority."

Muslims embrace Farrakhan and Nation

Continued from page 1A

"They bestowed upon him the title of imam, which is the title of a spiritual leader...one who has intimate knowledge of the Koran and Muslim law."

"After 67 yrs of being divided from Muslims throughout the world based on misconceptions reported in the media, barriers have been eroded. The title of Black Muslims (commonly used to refer to Nation members) has been removed."

"We never used it on ourselves. It was bestowed on us as a way to make distinctions between us and other Muslims. Now those from the east are recognizing that title does not have a place among our people."

As the conference closed Sunday, **Sheik M. Billo**, the grand imam of Cyprus, placed a white turban on Farrakhan's head and said it symbolized his new status.

Farrakhan's recognition as a leader in the worldwide Islamic community is an honor no other African American leader has achieved because of cultural and religious differences, according to Islamic experts. **Malcolm X**, Farrakhan's predecessor as national spokesman for the Nation of Islam, was unable to achieve the same heights because he was assassinated in 1965 at age 39. Some, including **Malcolm's** family, blamed Farrakhan for the assassination, but Farrakhan has since reconciled with them.

"This is beautiful and I hope

today I have worn it well," Farrakhan said of Billo's turban. "And I hope Allah will allow me to live up to what it represents."

The title marks a major turning point in the Islamic community, which began with the **NOILED Million Man March** in 1995 and Farrakhan's 21-nation world tour last year.



Muhammad

"He is the leader of the entire Muslim community," **Syed S. Khundmiri**, executive director of the **Geopolitical Academy, USA** in Burbank, Calif., told **The Chicago Tribune**.

Last weekend's conference drew Muslim religious leaders and scholars from the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Russia. It was the first of the annual gatherings held in the U.S. and was hosted by Farrakhan at the request of **Moammar Gadhafi** of Libya. Gadhafi had given Farrakhan a human rights award when the two met last year. The U.S. government has refused to allow Farrakhan to accept the award's \$250,000 prize and other monies Gadhafi promised to Farrakhan.

Gadhafi addressed the conference via a satellite hook-up, delivering a 50-minute address. He called Farrakhan a "freedom

fighter" and said he had sparked unity rallies in Muslim communities around the world.

The conference was beamed to millions of Muslim across the world via television.

"A lot of that is owed to Minister Farrakhan's work," **Muhammad** said. "One of the things that helped was the **Million Man March**. The eastern leaders were impressed that we could have that kind of gathering."

"On his World Friendship Tour to 21 nations, including Iran, Lybia and Turkey, he extended the olive branch of peace and explained our views."

Ibrahim B. Syed, president of the **Islamic Research Foundation Inc.** of Louisville, Ky., said the new title for Farrakhan removed a significant barrier.

"If you go to Mecca, you are Muslim," Syed said. "If you go to the Nation Of Islam, you are Muslim."

Farrakhan led the call for Islamic unity and a platform of unification, **Muhammad** said. He said that included a call for lifting the economic embargoes on nations such as Iraq, Iran, Cuba, Lybia and Sudan.

"We demand the immediate removal of sanctions that are causing the deaths of defenseless men, women and children," Farrakhan said.

Muhammad said the conference spelled out several action steps including a unified agenda for re-addressing the way Islam

has been historically presented in the education system, devising a banking system to achieve financial stability and dealing with human rights issues in the treatment of women in Islam.

Farrakhan said he wants the next century to be the century of peace, unlike the century of war that was the 20th century. He said he will call a meeting of world leaders on New Year's Day in 2000.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Tom Joyner brings show to town

Continued from page 1A

A listener's brunch will be held on the **Catawba Queen** from 1-3 p.m. Saturday. Entertainment is provided by **Sweet Dreams**. Tickets are \$25.

Joyner will also host the **Smookin' Grooves Tour** Saturday at **Blockbuster Pavilion**. The tour

features **The Roots**, **Cyprus Hill**, **George Clinton** and **Erykah Badu**. Tickets are \$33.50 and \$23.50 and are available at all **TicketMaster** outlets.

Joyner earned the name "The Fly Jock" by commuting between **Dallas** and **Chicago** to do morning and afternoon drive shows for eight years. His nationally-syndi-

cated show, started in 1994, is heard by 3 million listeners daily.

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Refreshing course



PHOTO: DIANNE V. CURTAIN

Water safety instructor **Freddie Clinton** makes a point during a progressive swimming class Wednesday at the **National Youth Sports Program** at **Johnson C. Smith University**. The sports, math and science camp had 510 youth along with another 140 from **Friendship Baptist Church's Youth Opportunity University Program**.

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DR. RICKY A. WOODS, SENIOR MINISTER

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Greetings in the name of our Risen Christ.

This letter is written to express my dreams and hopes for the 8:00 A.M. Early Morning Service at First Baptist Church-West. It is a dream of a place where persons may experience kindness and grace in an often unfriendly world. It is a dream of a diverse worship experience that embraces the wide range of music within the Black church as well as providing sound theological teaching and preaching. It is a dream for the means of growing the membership of first Baptist Church-West as well as growing disciples to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is a dream of creating an oasis of Christian courtesy, brotherly love and bodily unity. It is the hope of providing a place and a people to live out the meaning of their faith to a changeless God in changing times.

We invite you to come and dine on spiritual manna that has been provided and be participants in a dream to live to God's glory and our good. Come and be caught in the grip of His grace.

A fellow dreamer

Ricky A. Woods

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