



Free agent impresses Panthers/1B

'70s soul revival brings the funk/4B



Buick Century ready for the future/14B



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## McDonald's complex closes

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

McDonald's Cafeteria and McDonald's Inn have closed their doors and no one is saying if and when they will reopen.

Customers going to the westside landmarks at Beatties Ford Road Monday found the buildings deserted.

Several groups have tried to buy the bankrupt business, which includes Fun City, a small amuse-

ment center. Charlotte-based NationsBank has been trying to arrange a sale. Amresco, a former NationsBank subsidiary, held the mortgage on the property.

A group including architect and former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt is reportedly the latest suitor. Sources said earlier that group and the bank were within \$700,000 of closing a deal.

Gantt had no comment Wednesday, however.

If the Gantt partnership pre-

vails, sources said Floyd Young's FDY Catering would take over operation of McDonald's Restaurant. But FDY vice president Keith Haywood would not comment Wednesday.

"We don't own that," he said.

The once-thriving restaurant had attracted diners of all races and economic levels, but has declined since founder John McDonald died two years ago. The property is valued as high as \$3 million.

Sales have dropped in recent years as the physical plant deteriorated. Last week, several groups canceled reservations at the hotel, complaining the facility was dirty and disorganized.

McDonald's employees called The Post on Wednesday complaining that they were being cast aside after years of service. Some said they could not even get unemployment benefits because

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McDonald's Cafeteria and McDonald's Inn were silent Wednesday. The bankrupt facility was shut down Monday. PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

## Class focuses on change

Urban League program provides job training

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

They follow different paths, but meet in a common place with a common goal.

On Friday, they will take a giant step forward as graduates of the Urban League's 43rd Computer and Office Systems Training Center class.

The program is so successful, two members left early because they got jobs. Several others in the class of 15 have jobs waiting after ceremonies at the Afro-American Cultural Center.

Kimberly Dawson Munn, 34, entered the program because she's going through a divorce and needed to upgrade her employment skills.

"The Urban League has helped me before as far as going to school," said Munn, who attended Johnson C. Smith University with the Chicago Urban League's help.

"I went back to my source. I wanted to upgrade my skills and computer software knowledge."

The program not only gave her a chance to network, but also provided a needed lift in self-esteem, said Munn, mother of two children, ages 4 and 6.

"I was in a dead-end job," she said. "I was looking for a change in my career. The program gave me a chance to renew my confidence and my self-esteem."

Self-esteem building is an important part of the 16-week program, which features training in computer operations, typing, 10-key skills and business math and English.

Kerry Miller, a 29-year employee of Bell South, taught life skills, focusing on interviewing techniques, resume writing, internships and mentoring.

"I teach the soft skills," said Miller, who began volunteering

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The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League's Computer and Office Systems Training Center class provides necessary skills for participants who are changing careers. Fifteen people graduated from the program's 43rd class. PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

## Farrakhan scheduled for Charlotte visit

By Winfred B. Cross  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte has been added as a stop on Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's National Revival tour.

Minister Robert Muhammad, local representative for Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam, said the visit will "hopefully be sometime in late September, but definitely before Oct. 16."

Farrakhan and Benjamin Muhammad, formerly Benjamin Chavis, are crisscrossing the nation on a revival tour "which embodies the spirit of the Million Man March," Robert Muhammad said. "We are trying to reach everyone who has a spirit for atonement and reconciliation."

Benjamin Muhammad, who spoke in Charlotte last week, will visit about 150 cities on the tour. Farrakhan has plans to visit many of the same cities, Robert Muhammad said.

Robert Muhammad said Owens Auditorium or Grady Cole Center are under consideration.

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## U.S. welfare reform hits immigrants hard

By Ras Al Turner  
THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

When the Welfare Reform Act took effect on April 1, it became immediately apparent that one of the largest group of casualties would be immigrants.

The combined changes of welfare reform and new immigration policies have affected Caribbean immigrants in three pronounced areas; deportation of undocumented immigrants; loss of social security benefits and food stamps and the loss of Medicaid benefits.

In an effort to discourage illegal immigration and punish those who break the law, the laws are now tougher than they have been in years.

Under the Welfare Reform Act, undocumented immigrants who stay in the United States longer than 180 days will be banned from reentering the country for

three years. Those who stay here without authorization for 365 days, will be banned from reentering for 10 years.

Many undocumented immigrants were confused by the new rules and rushed to adjust their status by taking their marriage vows. However, the real deadline to adjust their status is before Sept. 30 at midnight. The countdown for the 180 days and 365 days overstay actually began on April 1, but anyone who is undocumented now and adjusts their

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## Cop beating draws protests

By Kathleen Sampey  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Thousands of protesters marched on a police precinct Saturday where a Haitian immigrant says he was tortured and sodomized with a toilet plunger two weeks ago by two police officers.

"KKK must go!" the protesters chanted on a sweltering August afternoon. Demonstrators, many waving plungers, became increasingly hostile and shouted obscenities and insults at officers who stood impassively outside

the 70th Precinct in Brooklyn.

There was a brief scuffle when some in the emotional crowd tried to storm the barricades outside the precinct, but police reported no arrests or injuries. Many in the predominantly Haitian crowd, which filled the block outside the station house, waved flags from their native land.

Police estimated the crowd at 4,000 people.

Demonstrators engaged in exchanges with officers at the nightclub where the alleged victim, Abner Louima, was arrested for disorderly conduct earlier this

week.

Then they marched two miles to the precinct where they joined a second protest led by mayoral candidate Rev. Al Sharpton. The rally there began at about 12:30 p.m. and stretched into the early evening.

"They look the other way as if it is never going to happen to them," demonstrator Quincy St. George said of the surrounding police. "All of those on duty should be arrested because they heard (Louima) scream."

Louima said that when he was arrested for disorderly conduct earlier this

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A nurse wipes away sweat as Abner Louima, the victim of the alleged torture with a toilet plunger at Brooklyn's 70th Precinct, talks to media at Coney Island Hospital. AP PHOTO/TODD PLITT