



• Super Fly special...Hear Charlotte attorney **James Ferguson** is recovering from a recent heart attack. The esteemed barrister, who has made a career of winning civil rights cases, is making his way back with all deliberate speed. No big deal, he told friends, who are rightly concerned. Yo, Jim, take it easy for a while. Justice needs all the friends she can get.

• Agony of da feet...One of Fly's favorite foils, WPEG news maven **Sheila Stewart**, is headed to sick bay. According to Stewart, she is having surgery on her feet to get rid of bunions and a few corns. Any way, Sheila will be out for about a month recovering and adjusting to her maizeless dogs. Get well soon, homey. Oh by the way, why did comedian and Friday morning Breakfast Brotha guest **Sinbad** and **Lori** "sister-girl-friend-producer" **Mack** have to bust Sheila so bad about the "Boomerang feet?" Mack quipped that Sheila's were the hammer toes that so turned off Eddie Murphy in the movie. Hey, Sheila, you want Fly to buzz over and light in Lori's morning java? She's certainly one to talk. After all, have we seen her sans clogs?



Stewart

• You betta head fo' tha Rockies...Denver Broncos tight end **Shannon Sharpe** and his paramour caused quite a stir leaving Ericsson Stadium a couple of weeks ago. Sharpe, who played his college football at historically-black Savannah State, and his "friend," who was quite blonde and tan, prompted some kinda commotion among fans who apparently aren't used to seeing that kind of Salt N Pepper affection unless it's **Kevin Greene** and **Lamar Lathon** after a quarterback sack. Fly ain't one to gossip, but it was amusing to no end, seeing all those folks - black and white - staring with open mouths while the pair was all hugged up at the players' exit. Asked one spectator, "don't he know this ain't Colorado?" Apparently not.

• **Cary Mitchell**, Charlotte clothier to the NBA stars, had a special guest at last Saturday's Charlotte Sting-Houston Comets WNBA game: Detroit Pistons star **Grant Hill**. Cary showed Mr. Good Guy around and he dropped by to autograph stuff for Sting players after the game. The way Charlotte whupped up on Houston, the ex-Dukie should've asked for their Jane Hancocks. At any rate, look for Mr. Hill and several WNBAers in a new series of McDonald's commercials. And Cary, lemme put a bug in ya ear. Hook me up with a Fly suit, my man.

• Hallowed be thy campaign...**Leonard "Preacherman" Harris** isn't well-known today, but bee-lieve you me, he's gonna be tomorrow. See, the Preacherman is running for the highest office in Charlotte (no, not CEO of NationsBank - that's **Hugh McColl's** gig). Harris wants to be mayor, and he's angling for a shot at Republican champion **Pat McCrory**. Hizzoner is straight-laced and won't provide much drama during election season, but Preacherman's another story. For starters, he's the first convict (at least in a court of law's opinion) to run for local office in many moons. Second, he's on a mission from God. Seems like the Heavenly One told Preacherman to run for mayor and put Charlotte on the path to glory. Fly figures the GOP must be thanking God, too. It's not every day elections get handed over this easily without spending a ton of money.

## Program for job skills

Continued from page 1A

with the Urban League program two years ago.

She said one of her students compared the computer training to having two Super Bowl tickets, but running out of gas or having a flat tire on the way. The life skills portion of the program helps ensure the ticket holder gets to the game, Miller said.

Some students had years of work experience and had been downsized out of jobs, others had inconsistent work histories and some had no job experience at all.

"The hard skills are taught in the classroom environment," Miller said. "The person can have a great proficiency level, but if they don't know how to write a resume, how to conduct them-

## McDonald

Continued from page 1A

state employment taxes had not been paid for them.

The employees said they had been told two weeks ago the restaurant would close down at the end of August, but were then told of this week's closing Sunday afternoon in an employee meeting with McDonald's widow, Eunice McDonald.

Several were angry, saying they are forced to bring check stubs as they filed for unemployment benefits.

"She thinks she had a bunch of fools working for her," said former

cashier **Geraldine Clawson**, who worked at the restaurant 14 years.

"They (Employment Security Commission officials) are saying they are not showing where she paid any taxes at all. They were taking \$36 a week out of my check for hospital insurance and when I tried to get a prescription filled I found out I did not have any insurance."

Evelyn Crawford worries that she won't get unemployment benefits. "None of the employees can draw unemployment," Crawford said.

ESC officials would not com-

ment on the employees complaints. Eunice McDonald, who had been running the complex, could not be reached for comment.

ESC manager **Sherwood Southerland** said employee filings are confidential. ESC takes employees' information and finds out if any benefits are available. Sometimes computer glitches can delay funds' availability.

"We try to trace the wages and have tax unit that does audits and pursues those who haven't paid in," Southerland said.

He said state law requires most employers to pay the unemployment tax.

what the market is like now, compared to when I started in 1972. What employers are looking for, what kind of people they actually need in the job market." Pendergrass overheard her daughter and a friend talking about the Urban League program several years ago.

"I was working and doing well then," she said. "When I got laid off and tried to get back into the job market using skills I had used for 20 years, I was not qualified. I was not as proficient.

"What this program gave me is my stimulus to continue after suffering the layoffs. That really crushes your self-esteem. The Urban League is helping me get back so I can concentrate on what I need to do."

## Farrakhan coming to Charlotte

Continued from page 1A

"We're looking for a facility that will allow anywhere between 2,500 and 3,000 people to be a part of the meeting Minister Farrakhan is going to have," Robert Muhammad said.

"At times he has spoken two to three times in one city," Robert Muhammad said. "The minister will also be coming to address a national day of absence. We'll once again remove ourselves from school, work and shopping. It will

## Beating draws protests

Continued from page 1A

taken to the station house, officers sodomized him with a plunger in a bathroom while shouting racial slurs at him. As a result, the precinct commander has been transferred and 12 officers pulled off active duty as the investigation continues.

Officers **Charles Schwarz**, 31, and **Justin Volpe**, 25, were indicted Friday on charges of aggravated sexual abuse and first-degree assault. Both face up to 50 years in prison if convicted.

Police Commissioner **Howard Saafir** told the CBS Evening News he believed other officers were involved.

"We have one or more individuals or more, at least two, maybe four, maybe five police officers who committed a crime," he said. "They're criminals."

Outside the precinct, police Chief of Patrol **Wilbur Chapman** said: "The relationship between the police and the community has been fractured," he said. "But we're going to work very hard to restore the faith of the community in the 70th Precinct."

One protester was carrying a blown-up picture of Volpe with the words, "Devil in a blue suit." Volpe allegedly used racial slurs while assaulting Louima, and Schwarz allegedly held the 30-year-old man down.

Louima remained in an intensive care unit Saturday, recovering from a tear to his colon and a laceration to his bladder.

He watched the protest on television and "felt very good that people are upset about what happened and that they were making their voices heard," said his lawyer, **Carl Thomas**, who attended the demonstration.

be a day of fasting and praying. It will be a day for people to come in

and communicate with one another and the creator."

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