



Fly on the Wall

You are what you eat... Louis Farrakhan may not get along with everyone, but he has much clout when it comes to other folks' diet. How much, you may query.



Farrakhan

Well, the mere possibility that the Nation of Islam's main man might grab some grub at Renaissance Place restaurant Wednesday led to a change in fare. Not to be seen on the buffet table was pork, that other white meat. Apparently, it didn't bother the patrons, who didn't seem to notice the lack of swine. Now, if the peach cobbler got missing...

Preacher Man still hanging... No matter what you think about Leonard Harris' reasons for joining the fracas that is the this year's mayoral campaign, you gotta admit he's real interesting. In case you've been living on Mars, or South Charlotte, Harris, known throughout Grier Heights as "Preacherman" for street corner oratory, is a Democratic contender for mayor. Anyway, Preacherman, who says God told him to enter the fray, showed his stuff at a recent candidates forum. He actually came off with solid ideas and ways of implementing them. In essence, he's just the opposite of most local pols. Gotta give ya props, though. You da (Preacher) man.

WSOC has pulled off a first for Charlotte TV by hiring a sister sports-caster. Karen Mayes, currently at WTVM in Tampa, Fla., starts at Channel 9 Sept. 22. She'll anchor weekend sports, a gig that once was held by Pat Minnis before he was kicked to the curb over the summer. A Vanderbilt University grad, Mayes was voted Tampa Bay's best TV talking head in 1995, a high point in a career that started in sales.



Mayes



Little

And peep this - girlfriend was once a cheerleader for the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers (or Yuccaneers, for their losing ways). In Fly's dream of dreams, Mayes and WBT's Delano Little would square off in a dueling sports-casters match with Minnis as referee. Loser has to cut Ericsson Stadium grass - with scissors.

Before there was Tiger, there was Charlie... Charlotte native Charlie Sifford, a ground-breaking African American golfer, will be honored for his contributions to sport this month.

Sifford, the first black to earn a Professional Golf Association tour card, is among 12 honorees Sept. 30 at the 12th annual Greater Sports Legends Dinner to benefit the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. The project, made up of 70 scientists, researchers and clinicians, is working to cure paralysis by spinal cord injuries.



Sifford

The Sandman cometh... Fly talled Mayor Pat McCrory "Sandman." Anyway, Fly's spies have gotten some calls about it. Folks just can't figure out why the moniker. Tell you what. Tune into one of those City Council meetings. See if you ain't asleep after about 10 minutes.

Polk and White's resurrection

Continued from page 1A

moved in with their son down the street.

Polk and White slipped into decay while the surrounding University City area blossomed into one of Mecklenburg's most desired living areas. The county's community improvement program secured a \$785,000 federal and state grant to reverse the decay and with volunteer help from the students, embarked on rebuilding the neighborhood.

Katrina Brown of the county community development department helped spearhead the renewal effort.

"I think it is good...it is something that is visual," she said. "People can actually see the work

we have been planning for coming to fruition. They can see the result of their hard work."

The students will rebuild all six houses, under the direction of UNCC College of Architecture. Also joining in the renewal effort are volunteers from First Union Insurance Group, who will help build a sign marking the community entrance off Mallard Creek Road. First Union's University City complex is less than 2 miles from Polk and White.

The Barringer home should be ready in December and they should be able to move in shortly after Christmas.

Money to rejuvenate the community is coming from the N.C. Department of Commerce

Division of Community Assistance.

Donald Barringer moved to Charlotte after graduating from North Mecklenburg High School in 1976. When his father became ill and a house nearby his parents' became available, he returned to Polk and White.

"A lot of this development has really just popped up in the last five years," Barringer said. "A lot of it has been going on probably about 10 years. When I left this was still nothing but fields."

Barringer says a lot of his childhood memories remain in the small community.

"This street still has a lot of the old country setting, without the farming, I guess," he said.

Literacy is a calling for tutor

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"I thought Charlotte would have opportunities and would be a nice place to live as well," said Carter, who works for First Union Corp.'s insurance group.

Though she was looking for work in the business community, and went back to school to Hampton University for a business degree, Carter likes the idea of teaching or training.

"I knew I was going to do some type of volunteer work," she said. "I needed to decide what I wanted to do. When I got here that was on my list of things to do."

She spotted a list of volunteer opportunities during the Christmas holidays and becoming a reading tutor "sounded like something I wanted to do."

Carter took the two-session training in January and met

CPCC's ABLE program

Robinson the following month.

They work together each week, at least one hour, often two.

"It is better to work one-on-one," Carter said of the process.

The keys to helping a student is "attitude," she said. "I think first of all you have to have the attitude you want to help someone. You have to have a positive attitude about what you are doing."

CPCC provides a number of teaching tools for reading, including the Reading for Today series of books.

Carter said she and Robinson are building a word list which the student must be able to read, spell, and use in a sentence. They work on phonetics and language

skills.

Robinson is making progress, Carter said.

"It takes time, but it is something that if you work on it, you can progress," Carter said. "A lot depends on the student."

Robinson has already gotten a better job.

"She can see how with the reading, it will improve her life," Carter said. "I'm glad I followed through on it. It is very rewarding. Sometimes I think I get as much out of it as she does."

For more information about the ABLE program and volunteering to help others learn to read, call Valerie Crockett or Jane Chanon at 330-6715.

McCarty banquet postponed

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Oseola McCarty's spirit of giving will be honored by a Johnson C. Smith University scholarship a little later than expected.

McCarty, who gained national attention when she donated \$150,000 from her savings to Southern Mississippi University, was to be the guest of honor at a banquet Wednesday at the Charlotte

Marriott Executive Park hotel, but it has been postponed because of illness. McCarty, who amassed a small fortune from years of taking in laundry, donated half of the proceeds to Southern Miss for a scholarship for African American students.

McCarty, who never went to college and had never been on the USM campus, made the grant as a way to further education opportunities for stu-

dents.

"I want to help somebody's child go to college," McCarty said. "I just want it to go to someone who will appreciate it and learn."

Proceeds from the banquet will help establish a scholarship fund at JCSU.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for Johnson C. Smith University to continue

See BANQUET on page 3A

We want your news!

The Charlotte Post wants your information on club happenings, concert dates, theatrical performances and any other entertainment briefs for a new listing. Please submit the information by noon Fridays for publishing in the following Thursday's Post. Send typed copy to "It's On," The Charlotte Post, 1531 Camden Road, 28203, or fax at (704) 342-2160.

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