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"Soul Food" a movie, musical feast/5A



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Town split by race, class

By Patrick O'Neill
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

ENFIELD - After several failed tries at firing the town police chief, Enfield Mayor E. Kai Hardaway thought his opportunity had come.

One of the town's three white commissioners was sick, so a vote to fire the chief would be tied 2-2, giving the mayor, who is black, the opportunity to cast the tie-breaking vote to fire the woman who had accused him of being "a crime figure." The chief's claims were never substantiated.

ated. Hardaway was never charged with a crime.

To the surprise of Hardaway and the two black commissioners, none of the white commissioners showed up for the commission meeting. Without a quorum, the meeting was cancelled.

"I just made a mental note of that tactic," Hardaway said.

Today Hardaway, the savvy mayor who champions himself as an advocate for dozens of the town's poorest residents, many of whom lack indoor plumbing in their shanty-like

homes, has used the same tactic to bring national media attention to this small Halifax County town located 60 miles northeast of Raleigh along the 301 corridor near the Virginia line.

Hardaway and black commissioners Bud A. Whitaker and James E. Sledge have refused to attend a town commission meeting since June 16. The trio, who appear to have support among the town's African American majority, have vowed not to return to meetings until the white commissioners agree to act in the

interest of all citizens. Hardaway, who has a long family lineage in Enfield, says the three black politicians plan to boycott commission meetings until November's elections when, with the aid of the state chapter of the NAACP, a strategy is being laid to help blacks gain a majority on the town commission.

In June, Hardaway, Whitaker and Sledge presented a list of 14 items that have come to be known as "Hardaway's Demands." Besides a call for a 5.1 percent pay raise for



Enfield Commissioner Bud A. Whitaker (left) and Mayor E. Kai Hardaway inspect an outhouse. Many homes lack indoor plumbing.

Groundbreaking for black Civil War memorial



AP PHOTO/PATSY LYNCH

Rev. Jerry Moore, left, joins Washington Mayor Marion Barry, second from left, and others during the beginning of construction of the African-American Civil War Memorial last week in Washington. When completed, the memorial will feature a nine-foot, 3,600-pound bronze sculpture entitled Spirit of Freedom, honoring the forgotten black soldiers of the Civil War.

Pratt tries to clear name

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif. - Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, freed after spending 27 years behind bars, is determined to clear his name.

Three months after a judge overturned his murder conviction, the former Black Panther charged with killing a Southern California school teacher wants to prove that J. Edgar Hoover's FBI conspired to put him in prison.

Pratt's supporters, led by Congressman Ronald Dellums, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and a former FBI agent, are calling for congressional hearings into an alleged conspiracy.

They believe FBI documents can prove the agency framed Pratt as part of a conspiracy against the Black Panthers and others perceived as enemies of the U.S. government.

The FBI and House Judiciary Committee chairman Henry Hyde

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FILE PHOTO

Former Black Panther Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt has undertaken a campaign to clear his name by proving the FBI's COINTELPRO program unfairly targeted black activists and organizations for elimination in the 1960s and '70s.

Satcher up for Surgeon General

By Amy Goldstein
THE WASHINGTON POST

President Clinton last week nominated David Satcher as surgeon general, moving to fill a job that has lain vacant for nearly three years and unexpectedly proved one of the most contentious of his administration.

In choosing Satcher, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Clinton tapped a physician who has devoted the bulk of his career to medically underserved communities but has been enough of a Washington insider to already win congressional confirmation once.

The nomination of Satcher, 56, resolves the long-standing question of whether Clinton would attempt to appoint a new surgeon general, a job that congressional Republicans have argued is not needed and that has caused the administration grief in the past.

Clinton's last nominee, obstetrician Henry W. Foster Jr., was rejected by the Senate two years ago after a maelstrom over abortion. The year before, Clinton fired the last person he had named to the job, Joycelyn Elders, because of repeated controversies she had stirred over her views on abortion, masturbation and the legalization of drugs.

But what yesterday's nomination leaves unresolved is whether the job - largely a bully pulpit from which to exhort the government and ordinary Americans to do better on matters from exercise to AIDS - can

prove an effective megaphone after it has become so politically charged.

Clinton's formal announcement of Satcher comes months after his name first surfaced for the job, allowing time for an uncommonly thorough vetting and for potential opposition to surface. If approved, Satcher would also carry the title of assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health and Human Services.

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Primary day first step for some

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte mayoral candidate Leonard "Preacherman" Harris heads the list of African Americans on Tuesday's primary ballot.

Harris, 53, a street preacher once convicted of bank robbery, faces fellow Democrat Jim Harwood, 42, a self-employed salesman, in balloting to decide who will face Mayor Pat McCrory in November. McCrory, a Republican, has primary opposition from Ken Pfenninger, 31, an armored truck driver.

An interesting Democratic contest is the District 3 race between incumbent Charlotte City Council member

Cannon-Sayles council race draws interest

Patrick Cannon and newcomer Yvette Sayles, who has been dogged by allegations that she has ties to Republican conservatives.

There's no Republican candidate in the district, so the primary winner will take the seat.

Sayles reportedly admitted attending strategy breakfasts sponsored by Republican council member Don



Sayles

Reid at the invitation of Reid supporter Tom Bumgardner. And several conservatives say they favor her over Cannon, who spearheaded the drive to establish a citizens review board to monitor police conduct.

"I've gotten encouragement from them, but no financial support," Sayles said of the rumors. "I like to get a perspective of both sides. I like to attend meetings where I can learn."

Sayles, 34, a U.S. Delivery Systems distribution manager, said she did not solicit support from conservatives.

"It is up to the voters now," Sayles

said Wednesday. Cannon, also a newcomer when he ran for the District 3 seat in 1993, is seeking a third term on council. He replaced Ella Scarborough when she gave up the District 3 seat to run at large.

At age 30, Cannon remains the youngest council member.

Another African American, Republican Ricky Reid, faces Steve James in the District 2 primary. Reid, 43, has pre-

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Cannon

McDonald's sold

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

McDonald's Cafeteria and the adjacent hotel were tentatively sold for \$1.25 million Monday to an African American group.

Another black group, headed by former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt, did not bid on the complex.

However, sources said the bid by Baldwin, Shakur and Associates could be upset within 10 days and a representative of the Gantt group, attorney James Ferguson, attended Monday's foreclosure sale. Sources at the auction could not determine

where Baldwin Shakur is based or who owns the firm.

McDonald's restaurant, a westside landmark founded two decades ago by the late John D. McDonald, closed last month and a foreclosure sale was delayed until Monday. African Americans have favored keeping the complex, which anchors the north end of the Northwest business corridor, in black hands.

McDonald's widow, Eunice McDonald has run the restaurant since her husband's death.

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PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

McDonald's Cafeteria and the adjacent hotel were tentatively sold Monday for \$1.25 million.



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