



If you can't jive 'em, buy 'em: You may have noticed a group of folks from the Men's Homeless Shelter hawking The Post at the Square downtown in recent weeks, but that's history. Why, you ask. Fly's spies say **Tim Minor**, project manager for Charlotte Center City Partners, told the hawkers Charlotte has an ordinance prohibiting street sales of newspapers. So the peeps at The Post checked with **Mike Boyd** in the city attorney's office for some 411. No such a thing, he says, and sales continue. End of story, right? Not so fast, amigo. CCP makes a donation to the shelter and the hawkers are Audi downtown. Guess money does talk.

• Didn't you usta be: Spotted former Johnson C. Smith football coach **Ray Lee** and family at a recent football game at Providence High. The spies (who obviously like football as much as the next southerner) tell Fly that homeboy didn't look all toe all up because he ain't coaching. It's a good thing, since the Bulls weren't exactly world-beaters when he was there. Still ain't, either.

• Fly's still waiting to hear whazzup with McDonald's Restaurant. Seems some brothers bid on it, but nobody's talking about who they are and where they be from. The bid was much less than the bank wanted for the McDonald's spread, only about \$1.25 million dead presidents against a \$3 million loan. But then, **Mr. Mac** was the man at the place and with him gone, the business ain't really bumpin'.

No word on whether the **Gantt** family is going to jump in and bid more for the restaurant and adjacent hotel. Fly wishes one of those attorney types would call The Post and enlighten my peeps about what's happening with the deal. I mean, we might want to put in our own upset bid. Let's see. \$26.25, plus \$42.50 and \$18.33...

• Hot pepper: **Julius Erving** didn't need much help operating on the basketball court in the '70s and '80s, but he'll have serious loot backing his entry into auto racing next year. Dr Pepper will sponsor Dr. J's NASCAR Grand National team in 1998, the first time the soft-drink maker has gone that route. Grand National, for those of you unwashed at the temple of speed, is a rung below the Winston Cup circuit, NASCAR's top level of competition. The Doc (Erving, that is) has hired **Jimmy Foster**, 20, to navigate the ride. And no, he ain't a bro.

• Meanwhile, the Colored People's Organization is looking for new digs as it cuts the **Alexander** umbilical cord. Would-be Alexander family patriarch, Prince **Kelly Jr.** has been suspended by the national NAACP board and current Charlotte chapter President **Conrad Pridgen**, that's **Rev. Conrad Pridgen**, is trying to make the organization more independent. Rebum' Pridgen wants to move the NAACP office from Alexander Funeral Home, where it has been since



Erving



Pridgen

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## Counts faced difficult days

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outside, the family car's window had been shattered. "That's when I really got scared," Scoggins, 55, said. "When I went home at lunch and told my father what happened, my father said 'enough is enough'."

Everyone promised Scoggins police protection, but Herman Counts decided not to send her back to Harding and sent her to an integrated private school in a Philadelphia suburb instead. She graduated from an all-girls school in Asheville which had an integrated faculty. She graduated from Johnson C. Smith University and is now director of corporate services for Child Care Resources in Charlotte.

The decision for Scoggins to go to Harding rather than West Charlotte High with other African Americans was a matter of convenience, she said.

The Counts family lived on the JCSU campus, near Five Points.

Three years after the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, her father did not see why she had to walk more than a mile to West Charlotte rather than the few blocks to Harding, which

had better facilities.

After two years of delays and legal wrangling, she finally got assigned to Harding.

"I don't think we had any idea that what happened in Little Rock was going to happen in Charlotte," Scoggins said. "There was sort of a low key kind of thing on opening day. What happened at Harding was a lot more than what happened at other schools."

"Administrators at Harding did not come up with a plan to do it. When you compare what happened at Harding to what happened at (Charlotte) Central High School, it was a lot different. The principal at Central had gotten teachers together and talked about the process and about what he would tolerate and what he would not."

Gustavus Roberts integrated Charlotte Central at the same time Scoggins entered Harding. Two other students - Delores Huntley and Girvaud Roberts - also desegregated local schools that year.

Scoggins' ordeal didn't generate the national fervor that hovered over the Little Rock Nine. President Clinton will be in Little Rock this week to help commemorate the events of

1957. No such celebration is planned for Charlotte, where the school system continues to wrestle with desegregation. Even the 1971 *Swann v. Board of Education* ruling that opened the doors to busing as a remedy in some ways eclipses images of Scoggins, whom a New York Times reporter described as "a comely lady of unmistakable gentleness and breeding," being hounded at Harding.

Scoggins said she is troubled by the current mood in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. "I think there was a period of time when I think we had made some progress in Charlotte, but I have some concerns now about things that happen in the school system, particularly as you look at the busing situation," she said.

"When I go into schools, I see classes that are segregated. That is the way it is designed. I wonder about people coming into the Charlotte community and not knowing what happened in the '50s, '60s and '70s. Then they come in from another city and another state and decide this is the way it is going to be. We are going back to 40 years ago when people say they want segregated schools."

## Times have changed since '57

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managing director for public finance at Lehman Brothers, an investment bank in Washington, D.C.

Former President Jimmy Carter appointed Green assistant secretary of labor in 1977. President Clinton appointed him chairman of the African Development Foundation, and he serves as chairman of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board.

"He is a really wonderful person. ... There is no trace of bitterness in this man's being," said Rett Tucker, local businessman and president of the Central High Museum and Visitor Center Inc. "He is what I call a genuine American hero."

The integration of Central High was difficult and demanding. But, "40 years later I wouldn't take nothing for my

journey now," Green said, alluding to a book by poet Maya Angelou.

In 1957, blacks in the South were barred from white schools and from some restaurants.

"When I say I suffered under apartheid in America as I grew up in Little Rock in the 1950s, that's a very personal statement," Green said. "Forty years ago, I and eight other students thought that we had an opportunity to improve our education options. It was because of the sacrifice of our parents and Mrs. [Daisy] Bates and others that we succeeded."

Green said the civil rights movement was a struggle not only for black people but for all.

"We as a people have challenged the injustices ... and the nation is better off for it," he said. "The point I would stress until I go to my grave is that the widening opportunities, which we started in '57, bene-

fited whites as much as it did blacks in Arkansas."

Green told the audience Little Rock will still be judged by other problems that need to be addressed.

"The problem of Little Rock - and the problem of the country - is how do you make this society accessible to poor kids who may not have achieved a lot in education and don't see the relevance in education translating to a better life for them," he said.

When Green graduated in 1958, most high school graduates had their diploma in one hand and a bus ticket out of Arkansas in the other, he said. Green said he left the state because he felt he had few education and career options.

"Now this state has become an example of economic progress," Green said. "People are coming back."

## Harris loses bid for Charlotte mayor

### Harwood defeats 'Preacherman'

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the four at-large seats. Only Al Rousso is viewed as having a good chance to win an at large seat for the Democrats.

The Democrats have practically conceded the mayor's chair to Republican Pat McCrory, who swamped token opposition in the primary and faces Democrat Jim Harwood on Nov. 4.

Harwood defeated Leonard "Preacherman" Harris, an African American street minister once convicted of armed robbery. Harwood got 3,675 votes to 2,454 for Harris, who said Wednesday he's disappointed with Tuesday's low voter turnout (6.4 percent), but pleased with his efforts.

"I know there is apathy because for so long people have seen that they have no power to

change," he said. "They say the leadership is going to be the same. People who feel neglected say 'my vote don't count.' They are tired of choosing the lesser of two evils."

Despite his loss Tuesday, Harris said he will remain involved in local politics.

"We are just getting started and we are going to be a presence in the election process and are going to hold those who are elected accountable," Harris said. "I wanted to attack the racial divide problem. We have for centuries built up walls of ignorance and intolerance. We have defeated our own purpose. I was hoping we could come together and see a common problem and work to rectify that problem and not look at the color of the skin...."

"I'm out there and I'm going to stay out there," Harris said. "Any town meeting. Any forum where I can have input, I plan to be present. This is a new area of ministry."

### Clarification

A story in the Aug. 7 Post on the Anita Stroud Youth Enrichment Program contained information that needs clarification.

Ola Mae Brown is assistant director of the program, which had 47 participants over the summer. Nine paid teachers worked for the program, as did two volunteers.

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