



## SPORTS

*The Wright stuff powers 5-0 JCSU Golden Bulls/1C*



## STYLE

*Charlotte home becomes Christmas wonderland/IB*



## A&E

*Montgomery leaves Afro Center/5C*

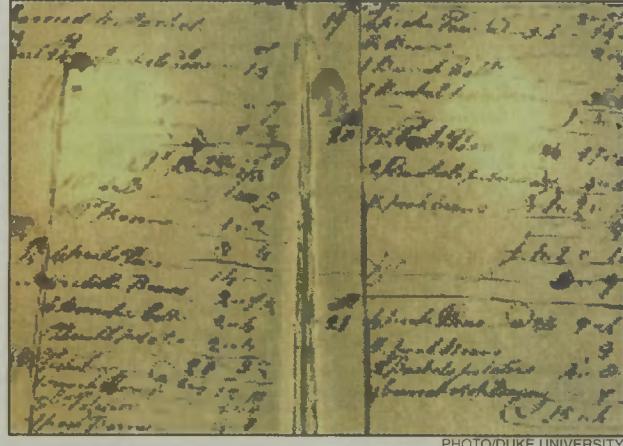
# The Charlotte Post

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THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

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Slave documents, like this entry from a 1780 sale, could be headed to Charlotte if the Afro-American Cultural Center decides to make a bid to acquire them.

## Matters of race at issue

Summit tackles issue in hopes of starting dialogue

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

In 1960, James Ferguson led sit-in demonstrations in Asheville as founder and head of the Student Committee on Racial Equality.

He later attended law school at Columbia University and became one of America's foremost civil rights lawyers.

Over the years, Ferguson, now senior partner at Ferguson Stein Wallas Adkins Gresham & Sumter, has represented clients with civil rights complaints, including the families of three African Americans shot and killed by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers since 1993.

But chairing the Leadership Team of Charlotte's Community Building Task Force has taken him beyond his earlier roles in race matters. The committee is planning a citywide race summit Sunday and Monday at the Charlotte Convention Center.

"It has made me look at this whole issue of race beyond just doing advocacy or advocating a particular view, as I am usually doing," Ferguson said. "I've had to take a broader view. I've had to listen to and consider other viewpoints. I've had to admit to myself and even to others that I don't



See RACE on page 2A

## Diversity dilemma for UNC system



UNC Charlotte students Juan Kelly, Derrick McBride and Bridget Kelly are part of the school's growing black student body. UNCC's total enrollment is 15.9 percent African American, the highest among historically white campuses in the University of North Carolina system.

## Review raises concerns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAPEL HILL — Despite assurances that diversity will be maintained on campus, many UNC students who favor affirmative action feel the administration is in the process of dismantling racial preferences.

Molly Broad, president of the UNC system, ordered all 16 campuses to take a critical look at their affirmative action policies and change those based solely on race.

"I feel fear," said India Williams, a senior from Raleigh who is president of the Black Student Movement at UNC-Chapel Hill. "I don't think everyone understands the implications of Broad's decision. Slowly but surely, we are

coming upon a Proposition 209 for North Carolina."

Williams was referring to the California voter initiative that bans the use of race as an admissions criteria in public universities. The person who led the campaign for that initiative — Ward Connerly — spoke at Chapel Hill Tuesday on the invitation of the Carolina Conservative Coalition, a student organization.

Broad insists that she does

not intend to reverse decades of progress toward integration on the UNC campuses.

"It is very difficult to try to satisfy everyone that we are not in a retreat," she said last week.

See UNC on page 2A



## Leake wants 'integrity' in schools

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Vilma Leake, the new District 2 representative on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board, says she doesn't want the westside to be the "stepchild" in the school system.

"We have got to have integrity in the system," said Leake, a 30-year classroom teacher who was sworn in on Tuesday.

She joins the board as it begins another round of pupil reassessments at the elementary and middle school levels and metes out \$415 million in bond money approved in the Nov. 4 election. Fairness, equity and busing

remain a part of what's often a contentious education debate in Charlotte.

Leake said she is anxious to get started, after winning election over incumbent Sam Reid. Leake got 64 percent of the district's votes in ousting the one-term board member.

She joins two other new members on the nine-member board — Molly Griffin in District 5 replaced long-time member John Tate, and Jim Puckett, who ousted Pam Mange in District 1.

Other African Americans on the board are at-large member Arthur Griffin and District 3 representative George Dunlap, who was unopposed.

After being sworn in Tuesday, Leake left for a statewide training session for new school board members Wednesday and Thursday. Friday and Saturday, she will attend the Charlotte-Mecklenburg board's annual retreat. In an interview, Leake said, "I campaigned on equity and quality schools and making sure we maintained an integrated school district. I talked about midpoint schools and the vocational tech high school being a part of the westside and the renovation of the school in District 2 that so badly need repairs."

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Vilma Leake hugs a supporter Tuesday after she was sworn in as a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board. Leake will represent District 2 on the board.

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