



**Crash course**  
Newest Panthers prepare for team's second minicamp in Charlotte/16A

**Dance fever**

Former Honeybee taps into a new market with studio/8A



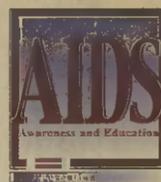
**Sizzling swimwear**

How to find the proper attire for the beach or pool/1B



**AIDS Factoid**

Women are more susceptible to HIV transmission through sexual contact than men because the vagina is covered by a mucous membrane.



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## SOLDIERS ON A DIFFERENT FRONT



PHOTOS/WADE NASH

Ruth Gaddy, who served with the 6888th Central Postal Directory during World War II, leafs through a scrapbook chronicling her tour of duty in England and France. Of 350,000 women who served in the armed forces during the war, 4,000 were African American.

## World War wasn't only battle women fought

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Ruth Gaddy did more than sort mail during World War II. She helped shape history.

Gaddy, who was attached to the 6888th Central Postal Directory, typed and sorted mail for delivery to Allied troops in Europe during World War II. Stationed in England and France, the 6888th worked around the clock under German bombing raids to break a log jam of mail.

Members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory stand at attention during World War II. The unit broke a backlog of mail for delivery to Allied troops stationed in Europe.



"We were very proud of the 6888 CPD," Gaddy said. "That was the postal unit that took care of all the European Theatre's mail when it was backed up. We were the first battalion of women to go over period and the only black battalion, which made it much more significant."

Gaddy was among the rarest of

soldiers in World War II: An African American woman. Of the 350,000 women who served in the U.S. military, only 4,000 of them were black, according to Betty Carter, a UNC Greensboro archivist and researcher for the Women's Veterans Historical Project. The project is especially interested in the recollections of African Americans who served in World War II.

"We know they are out there, but how do we find them?" Carter asks. "You always hear about the Tuskegee Airmen, but for black women, the situation was even worse. They not only were black, but were women. They expected them to be maids."

The Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, or WAAC, was created in 1942 to recruit women for clerical and medical jobs that freed men for duties overseas. The notion of women joining the corps, which became WAC after the Army

dropped "Auxiliary" from its name, was difficult for some men to swallow. The reason? Putting women in non-combat roles meant more men went off to fight.

"Some thought if we weren't there, maybe they wouldn't have to go into combat," said Henrietta Ingram, a Statesville native who now lives in Greensboro.

Gaddy, 82, was lured to the WAC after spotting an advertisement in a Charlotte newspaper. The military was also a family affair: her brother Andrew Gaddy survived the sinking of the USS Helena off the Solomons in 1941. Another brother, Edward, served in the Army Air Corps in World War II and the Air Force in Korea and Vietnam.

"We always said a Gaddy will do anything once," said Gaddy, who retired as a Charlotte-Mecklenburg teacher in 1983.

Ingram, who now lives in  
Please see WOMEN/2A

## Radio's sonic boom

WCCJ-FM included in Radio One's national buying spree

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A \$1.4 billion deal — bringing an additional 21 urban radio stations under black ownership — has shaken the Charlotte market.

Wayne Brown, vice president and general manager of FM stations WPEG and WBAV and WGIV-AM, has been named vice president and regional manager of Lanham, Md.-based Radio One, Inc., a network owned by Kathy Hughes and run by her son, Alfred Liggins III.



Hughes

The company went public last year and is Black Enterprise's 2000 Company of the Year, Brown said.

Radio One, which acquired the 22 stations from Clear Channel, also purchased stations owned by African American Greg Davis, which included Charlotte's WCCJ (FM 92.7). The purchase price is an estimated \$22 million.

"Their whole mission is to be the largest urban  
Please see WCCJ/3A

## Sierra Leone rebels relent; free 157 peacekeepers

By LaWanda Johnson  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — Amid rumors that Foday Sankoh, leader of the Revolutionary United Front, the rebel force in Sierra Leone, is dead, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan praised Liberian President Charles Taylor for his role in securing the release of 157 of the 500 detained peacekeepers who had been taken captive by the RUF.

The releases came on the heels of a visit by the Secretary-General's Special Representative Oluayemi Adeniji to Monrovia to consult with President Taylor on the detainee issue. Taylor had been asked by West African governments to facilitate the release of the United Nations detainees.

Annan said the release of the peacekeepers was a welcome development, while the UN continues to work had to get the other hostages freed and

Please see REBELS/7A

## Board finally agrees: We need some help

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The sharply divided Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board made a unanimous decision Tuesday night. Bring in a mediator.

The mediator would work with the board for up to two days to resolve differences over a pupil assignment plan to replace the current forced racial busing one outlawed under a federal court order last year.

That order is stayed for now and a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond will hear the board's appeal of U.S. District Court Judge Robert Potter's ban of race-based busing.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP and Swann

Fellowship, both supporters of racial diversity, have chartered a bus to Richmond for the appeals court hearing.

The community has spun in turmoil over the school system since the board in a 6-3 vote killed a pupil assignment plan based on controlled choice. That vote brought the board's most conservative and most liberal members together. A \$261 million bond referendum for school needs hangs in the balance. Mecklenburg County commissioners won't put the bond package on the November ballot until the school board approves a student assignment plan.

African American board members who opposed the plan said they did so because it — like others presented since Potter's ruling — still concentrates too many low-income and low-achieving students in  
Please see SNOW/3A



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board member Vilma Leake (left), Rev. Rickey Woods of First Baptist Church West and Chairman Arthur Griffin (right) participated in a forum Monday at the church.

Comments? Our e-mail address is: charpost@mindspring.com

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