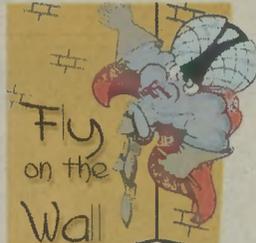


SUITE DEALS
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FLY'S GUYS AND GIRL
Fallout from WGIV closing and simmering controversy over CMS video/3A



PATIENCE PAYS
Vance High coach develops top talent in program/1C

Gary Richmond has Cougars girls off to a strong start



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THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11-17, 2003

For love of education, heritage

Emmy-winning actress, family out to rebuild S.C. school



Brainerd Institute, which opened in 1866 under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau, educated thousands of black students before it was closed in 1939. The only remaining building from

the campus is Kumler Hall (top), built in 1917. Actress Phylcia Rashad bought the property in 1998 and turned control over to her mother, Vivian Ayers Allen.

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Phylcia Rashad didn't need much encouragement to save the site where Brainerd Institute stood.

Her mother saw that.

Vivian Ayers Allen, who graduated the black boarding school in 1939, wanted to preserve the Chester, S.C., site. She turned to Rashad, an Emmy-winning actress who is best known as Claire Huxtable from the legendary TV comedy "The Cosby Show."

"She said 'someone needs to do something,'" Rashad said. "I

knew what that meant."

Rashad bought the 12.5-acre site in 1998 and turned control to Ayers. Next week, they'll host a fund-raiser in Charlotte to take another step in its restoration.

"The Ivy of Education" benefit and honors program will be held Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Queens University's Dana

Auditorium. Tickets are available at the Afro-American Cultural Center or Wialillian & Company in Charlotte. A reception will be held Monday at the Afro Center and Levine Museum of the New South on Tuesday.

Tickets for the Queens program are \$50 each and contribution levels (with two tickets

included) are \$250, 350 and \$500. A similar fund raiser was held last year in New York.

"Already we have found more candidates for the Ivy of Education honors than we can accommodate in any single program," Ayers Allen said. "And so as a means of scaling down our choices, we are focused this time around on achievements in dance."

Among the honorees are Charlotte Sting forward Allison Feaster and a candlelight procession of Brainerd graduates led by Mary Rose

Please see **FUND RAISER/2A**



Rashad



Allen

Watt bill results in HOPE VI extension

House, Senate approve legislation to keep U.S. housing program going

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

A federally-funded low-income housing program has a renewed lease on life.

The House and U.S. Senate have passed a bill to reauthorize the HOPE VI program as part of the "American Dream Downpayment Act" and that President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law soon. U.S. Rep. Mel Watt (D-N.C.), who co-sponsored the House version of the bill with James Leach (R-Iowa) announced Tuesday that the resolution includes much of the language originally introduced as H.R. 1614, the "HOPE VI Program Reauthorization and Small Community Mainstreet Rejuvenation and Housing Act of 2003."



Watt

The legislation will reauthorize HOPE VI through Sept. 30, 2006. The bill requires the program to give priority to applicants for funding that create replacement housing for the poor and minimize displacement of residents. The House and Senate both passed the bill by unanimous consent.

"I am pleased that Congress has recognized that the HOPE VI program plays an important role in improving public housing and revitalizing communities," said Watt, a member of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. "The passage of this leg-

Please see **WATT/3A**

Cincinnati beating under investigation

By Tiana A. Rollinson
THE CINCINNATI HERALD

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Cincinnati NAACP President Calvert Smith says his branch will conduct its own investigation into the police beating death of 41-year-old Nathaniel Jones. He joins a chorus of civil rights leaders who say outside scrutiny is crucial given the history of police brutality in Cincinnati and the nation.

"The pictures of what appears to be a defenseless Mr. Jones, being repeatedly beaten by arresting officers...has caused us to launch an independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding his death," said Smith. "This is the straw that broke the camel's back."

National civil rights leaders agree that the death, called a "homicide" by the city's coroner's office, must undergo outside scrutiny.

NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume has called for a U. S. Justice Department investigation into the circumstances surrounding the videotaped brutal beating, shown on televisions around the nation.

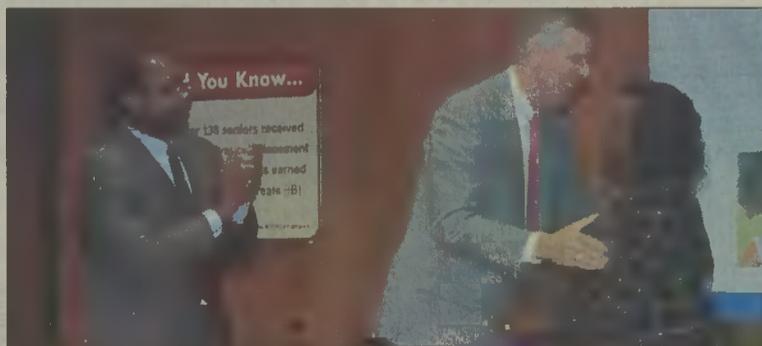
"The sight of police officers repeatedly beating Nathaniel Jones with metal night sticks is sickening and appears well outside of the norm for subduing an unarmed suspect," says Mfume of Baltimore. "Attorney General John Ashcroft should direct the Justice Department to not only

Please see **CINCINNATI/6A**

Good-byes for 3 CMS veterans

Arthur Griffin, John Lassiter and Wilhelmenia Rembert (left to right) bid farewell to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board Tuesday. Griffin and Lassiter opted not to run for re-election and Rembert lost a bid to keep her seat last month. Lassiter won a seat on Charlotte City Council.

PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON



Black voters ready to make amends for 2000 fiasco

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — One popular saying in politics recommends: Don't get mad, get even. Many African-Americans are still mad at how the black vote was undermined in 2000 — and they want to get even.

"I think there is still a lot of anger out there after what

happened in Election 2000, people's votes not getting counted," observes Melanie Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition for Black Voter Participation a non-profit group of more than 80 organizations, which encourages civic activism in the black community. "This is the very first presidential election that we'll be faced with. We're going to do a media

launch right at the top of the New Year."

NCBVP is working with the nation's nine major black fraternities and sororities on a string of voter registration projects and with UniverSoul Circus, a traveling black-owned production, to urge voter registration and turnout to their audiences. The Washington, D.C.-based NCBVP is also on the verge of

launching its Unity '04 project, a coalition of a dozen black organizations that will use their collective strength to implement a series of voter initiatives leading up to the November election.

With the election slightly less than a year away, some groups are already active.

"Voting and registration ought not be centered around

Please see **BLACK/2A**

INSIDE

Editorials 4A
Weather 8A
Life 1B

Religion 8B
Sports 1C
Real Estate 5C

Business 8C
A&E 1D
Classified 4D

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