



GAME TIME
Coverage of Panthers, Pats at Super Bowl/1C

HE DOES WINDOWS

Kelvin Bratton cleans some of the region's tallest buildings/8C

▶ Entrepreneur doesn't throw stones at work



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WEEK OF JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 4, 2004

Activists aim to stifle major bank mergers

Reparations proponents also target BofA/Fleet

By Karen Juanita Carillo
THE AMSTERDAM NEWS

NEW YORK — The recent announcement of a potential merger between JPMorgan Chase and Bank One has reparations activists gearing up for a new battle in their campaign to win payment to today's African-Americans, heirs to the nation's legacy of African enslavement.



On Jan. 14 — the same day of the JPMorgan Chase/Bank One announcement — activists were giving testimony in Boston at the Federal Reserve Board's hearing on the potential \$47 billion merger of FleetBoston Financial Corp. and Charlotte-based Bank of America.

Both JPMorgan Chase and Fleet are being sued for reparations. And reparations activists are now bringing the battle for reparations to the very core of their opponents' existence, by working to prevent the possibility of their mergers with other banks — mergers that could bring the banks millions in profits.

"We ask that the board consider the fact that the African-American community has not forgotten what [Fleet] did to our ancestors," Rev. Al Sampson, pastor of Chicago's Fernwood United Methodist Church, told the Fed.

Please see **BANK MERGERS/2A**

Joyner's defection leaves urban radio in major upheaval

By Artellia Burch
artellia.burch@thecharlottepost.com

Tom Joyner's climb to the top of Charlotte radio has caused a few scrapes for some folks here.

Last week Joyner jumped ship from WBAV (101.9 FM) to the re-formatted WQNC (92.7) FM and created an instant ratings rivalry.

Joyner's switch is a big deal around these parts because he has the highest rated morning show in the Charlotte. WQNC's acquisition opens an opportunity for the former hip-hop oriented station to rise from its No. 15 position in station ratings.

Joyner's absence on WBAV's air didn't go unnoticed. Last Thursday morning the phones were ringing off the hook at Infinity Broadcasting, the owner of WBAV from listeners asking about the show.

That night, Wayne Brown, regional manager of WQNC's parent company Radio One and former station manager of Infinity's WPEG, WBAV and the defunct WGIV made an official announcement at the Charlotte Chamber during a lecture by FUBU co-founder Carl Brown.

Brown informed the audience that Joyner's nationally syndicated show would return on Q 92.7.

"I'm proud to bring Tom back to this market," he

Please see **JOYNER/3A**

CHARLOTTE'S TURN ON INTERNATIONAL STAGE



PHOTOS/WADE NASH

Carolina Panthers fans turned out during a Sunday ice storm to send the team off to Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston. With the Panthers playing on the biggest stage in U.S. sports, Charlotte is cashing in on the attention of regional and national media.

A no-name no more, thanks to Super Bowl

By Cheri F. Hodges
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

It isn't the fact that some of the largest banks in the country call Charlotte home, or that seven Fortune 500 companies have headquarters here that put the city on the map.

It took the Super Bowl to make America take notice of Charlotte.

On Sunday, millions of television viewers will hear the city's name when the Carolina Panthers take on the New England Patriots.

Before the Panthers' win over the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC championship game, Charlotte was known for its pro-business environment, according to the Chamber of Commerce's Website. Now, will this Super Bowl showing of the Panthers change the image of the city?

Will a city known for Mayberry and NASCAR

become more than joke on the national scale?

That's exactly what the Chamber is counting on, according to spokeswoman Stacey Ellis.

"Charlotte is a star on the rise and this is the place to be," she said. Now, Ellis said, the national media will help show the world what Charlotte is all about.

"Charlotte has a great story to tell," she said. "This is a tremendous opportunity for us."

And the city gets to do it for free. An ad campaign of this magnitude would cost millions of dollars. But more than 150 national reporters have come to Charlotte, uncovering that the city is built on more than banking and racing.

While Ellis isn't claiming the Panthers Super Bowl berth is going to start a mass migration to the Queen City, football has

already caused a few people to give the city a second look.

After the NFC championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Ellis said eight people from the City of Brotherly Love called to get relocation information.

"Maybe some people had Charlotte in the back of their mind, and now this will bring it to the forefront," she said.

Charlotte has a national reputation as being the number two banking center. But, she added: "That isn't sexy. Making it to the Super Bowl is sexy."

For Stan Green, having the Panthers in the Super Bowl is a good thing, but he has one hope.

"I don't want Charlotte to become the next Atlanta," he said. "The traffic isn't that bad, right now. You can get to uptown from the University area in about 30 minutes."

For the big game, fans are making plans for ultimate football parties

By Cheri F. Hodges
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Whether they are alone, having a party or sitting at a bar, Panthers fans will be cheering their team to what they hope is victory in Houston.

For the first time ever, Charlotte is caught up in Super Bowl frenzy. Fans like Myron Jones are looking forward to Sunday's big game.

Jones said he plans to watch the Cats play with some other fans at Mingles on the Lake.

"I want to see the expressions on the Panthers fans face as they play in their first Super Bowl," he said. Jones went on to say that last year he watched one of his other favorite teams, the Oakland Raiders, lose. In case the Panthers lose, Jones wants to

see if other fans will share his pain.

"I want the Panthers to win," he said. "This will put Charlotte on the map. A lot of people still don't know what part of the Carolinas the Panthers are from. But they will now because the Super Bowl is the biggest stage in sports."

Jones said he's going to watch the game at Mingles because the nightclub has a nine-foot TV and is offering free chicken wings.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police are gearing up to control the flow of traffic in the city if the Panthers win, according to department spokesman Keith Bridges.

"We're looking at what possibilities might occur and making plans to responding what-

Hopefuls aim for southern comfort

Democrats try to navigate regional, racial dynamic

By Cheri F. Hodges
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The road to the White House starts its southern swing next week.

The Feb. 3 South Carolina primary is the first major test for six Democratic hopefuls in a region deemed critical for success against President Bush in November.



Kerry

Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry's win in Tuesday's



New Hampshire primary solidifies his early lead in the race for the nomination. But two southern candidates U.S. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina and retired army general Wesley Clark of Arkansas — are expected to be major players on their home turf. Democratic leaders hope to see a nominee emerge sometime over the next few weeks under this year's compressed primary schedule.

See **SOUTHERN/2A**

Protest for school equity at exhibit

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

A Charlotte exhibit chronicling the 1954 Supreme Court decision outlawing segregated public schools will be the backdrop to a protest.

The Coalition for Justice in Education will stage a rally Friday at 6:30 p.m. in front of Levine Museum of the New South to protest celebration of



Collins

of Brown v. Topeka, Kansas, Board of Education. Activist Dwayne

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