



### RIGHT AT HOME

Former Providence High star Chris Clyburn enjoys a breakout season at J.C. Smith/1C

### CLIP JOINT

'Barbershop 2' departs from original hit/1D

Sequel adds Queen Latifah (left) to cast.



# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12-18, 2004

## Panel voices equity concerns

### Report: Poor CMS schools go lacking

By Herbert L. White  
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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools appears to be abandoning its pledge to fund lower-income schools, according to a citizens panel.

The CMS Equity Committee submitted a report to the school board that concludes the district is pulling back from equity. CMS staff will also submit its findings.

"I can't give you any facts that there is less money going to Equity schools, but I can tell you there is a perception," committee Chairman Julian Wright was quoted in Educate, a newsletter chronicling education in the county's public schools.

Some data backs up the perception. Ninety percent of elementary schools targeted for extra financial support — primarily in the inner city and made up of black and Hispanic students — have faculties that miss at least one element of the county's teacher quality standards. Only three of 32 Equity elementary schools — Sterling, Idlewild and Berryhill — met all standards. One of 14 middle schools, Piedmont, made the cut and none of six high schools met all standards.

At issue is resegregation of public schools, with middle- and upper income students fleeing the inner city for campuses in their neighborhoods. Inner city activists have argued that CMS's mandate to end busing for desegregation drains inner city schools of teachers and resources.

Vice chair Paulette Higgins predicted minority-dominated schools "are not going to get what they need if trends continue. That's what we're going to be known for — and that's not a perception," she said.

"I would agree we are getting too many segregated schools," Wright said.

## Violent clashes spread in Haiti



EPA PHOTO/ORLANDO BARRIA

Residents of Grand Goave, Haiti, carry their belongings as they leave the village Monday. Grand Goave, located in the South of Port-au-Prince, fell to armed insurgents Sunday. The rebels set ablaze police stations and blocked exits to the city.

## Government-backed troops rally for Aristide

By Michael Christie  
REUTERS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The Haitian government and armed supporters are fighting back against a rebellion that threatens the rule of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in the impoverished Caribbean nation.

Pro-Aristide militia in the country's second-largest city, Cap-Haitien, attacked the homes of political opponents, ordered local radio stations

off the air and erected blazing barricades to halt any advance by armed rebels, local media reported.

The authorities said they had taken back at least two towns from armed opposition gangs, who launched a revolt six days ago that has killed at least 34 people and presented Aristide with his greatest challenge in months of anti-government protests. Almost a dozen police stations have been torched.

Those residents of Cap-Haitien who could afford

tickets packed commercial flights to the capital Port-au-Prince to flee the wrath of government supporters, residents said.

As violence spread in the poorest country of the Americas, the United States said any solution would require deep changes in the way Haiti was governed.

"It's clear from the kind of proposals that have been made and the discussions that are being held that when we talk about under-

See REBELS/2A

## Domestic programs cut with Bush win

By Hazel Trice Edney  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — The last federal budget President George W. Bush submits to Congress before the November election features a slight increase in spending for domestic programs but documents that he didn't submit along with his proposed budget reveal that many of those same programs would lose some or all of their funding in subsequent years, an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows.

"Over the next five years, the president's budget proposes to slice away gradually at domestic discretionary funding [funding not mandated by law, but largely aids the poor and middle income] outside homeland security. By 2009, the overall funding for domestic discretionary programs outside homeland security would be \$50 billion — or 11.5 percent — below the level needed to keep up with inflation," accord-

ing to the analysis written by Richard Kogan and David Kamin, budget analysts at the Washington-based center.

"Even programs for which the administration boasts it is seeking increases in 2005 — such as the National Institute of Health, Title I education, the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children and the low-income energy assistance program — would be cut in 2006."

White House analysts say the \$2.4 trillion budget for fiscal 2005 simply reflects his prioritizes, in descending order: the war on terror, homeland security, the economy and "helping Americans most in need."

Richard Kogan of the Center on Budget and See PRESIDENT'S/6A



Bush

## Bennett president to keynote fund raiser for scholarships

By Herbert L. White  
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Bennett College President Johnetta Cole will keynote Duke Energy's Minority Professional Association scholarship banquet next week.

The banquet will be held on Feb. 19 at the Charlotte Marriott City Center at 7 p.m. with a silent auction and reception at 5:30 p.m.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Cole address our attendees this year. She has had a distinguished career as a college and university professor and administrator that spans more than three decades," said Shelia Harvey, MPA's chairperson. "Her commitment to academic excellence and higher education exemplify the mission of our organization to help young people achieve their educational goals through financial support and mentoring. Since the banquet's inception in 1997, we have raised more than \$379,000 for our scholars."

The scholarship fund is administered by The Foundation For The Carolinas.

MPA is a professional development organization and provides opportunities for employee interaction, men-

See BENNETT/3A



Cole

Presidential candidate the Rev. Al Sharpton was presented an award last week by the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro.



PHOTO/WADE NASH

## Should Sharpton quit race? It depends on depth of support

By Hazel Trice Edney  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — Al Sharpton, who won less than half of the black

votes cast for Sen. John Edwards in the South Carolina Democratic primary and was almost trounced 2-to-1 among African-American voters by runner-up John Kerry,

should either come up with a bold new strategy or get out of the presidential race, says one of America's most respected political scientists.

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