



JCSU forward John Fulton

ROOT FOR UNDERDOGS

Second-tier teams could factor into next week's CIAA tournament/1C

MESSAGE RECEIVED

NCCU schoolmates are partners in Eagles Nest Communications/8C

Junelle Gist, Stacy Robinson and Altavia Floyd measure speech, language abilities



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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19-25, 2004



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Students at Barber-Scotia College continue with classes despite the sudden resignation of two top administrators last week.

Barber-Scotia students learn to deal with upheaval

By Cheris F. Hodges FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

CONCORD — With the sudden resignation of Barber-Scotia College's top administrators, some students are concerned about the school's future.

On Sunday afternoon, while students dined on turkey wings and mac and cheese, some of them worried about the next step for the school after President Sammie Potts and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Alexander Erwin quit earlier in the week. No one has released details as to why they left, but board of trustees chair Ella Scarborough of Charlotte asked individuals and businesses to support the school.

See STUDENTS/8A

Health disparity targeted in bill

Would close treatment gaps for underserved

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

A bipartisan bill introduced this week in Congress would reduce or eliminate health disparities for racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations.

The Closing the Health Care Gap Act was announced at a news conference this week with prominent health professionals and advocates in attendance.



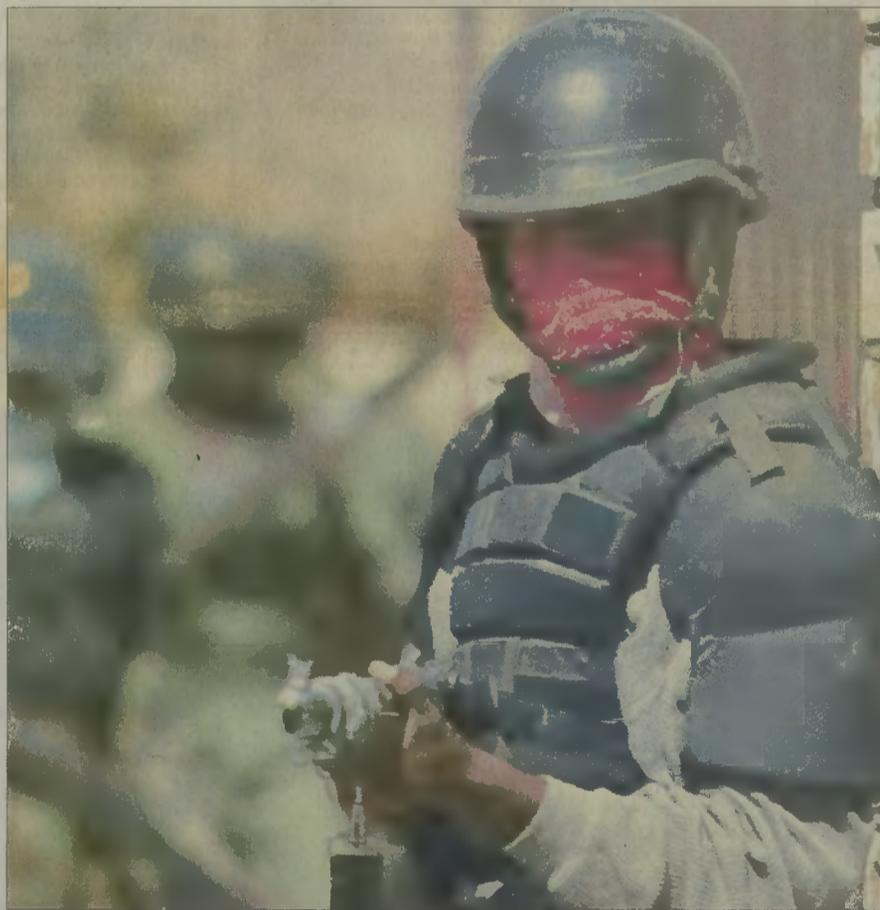
The bill was introduced by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and senators Mary Landrieu (D-La.), Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Mike Dewine (R-Ohio).

"This legislation is the most comprehensive national initiative to address disparities in health care access and quality," said Frist, a physician. "A gap does exist in health care today. While we've made great progress in recent years, there are additional steps we can take to improve, expand, and enhance quality care for all Americans. This legislation builds on our past work, capitalizing on the innovative ideas of health care professionals and researchers today."

"Unfortunately, the gap in the quality and availability of health care is real, but it can be closed with good planning, effective targeting and

See BILL/7A

Haiti upheaval has impact on America



REUTERS PHOTO/DANIEL AGUILAR

Haitian armed rebels patrol a street in Hinche Tuesday. Armed rebels attacked and took control of the city as the rebellion against Haiti President Jean-Bertrand Aristide continues.

Unrest a concern for U.S. immigrants and policy

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

Harold Eustache expected Jean-Bertrand Aristide to deliver prosperity to his native Haiti.

He was wrong. Eustache, who moved to the U.S. in 1972 and has lived in Charlotte for 12 years, still has family and friends in Haiti, which is engulfed in an uprising against Aristide, who was elected president in 1990.

Despite campaigning on the promise of relieving the Caribbean nation of crushing poverty, the former priest hasn't been able to change the country's fortunes.

See IMPACT/2A

Advocates take on payday loans

By Hazel Trice Edney NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

On the surface, Sandra Harris appears to have it all together.

She's the financial assistant to the director of finance at UNC-Wilmington, her alma mater. Last year, she was named state employee of the year. In addition to her university job, she is an on-air personality at WMNX 97.3 FM.

But Harris is in deep financial trouble, often turning to high-interest payroll loans to make it from week to week.

"There are some times that I've been at the radio station and, this is no lie, I've been working on air and I am blubbing off the air. And when it's time for me to talk, I just do my... This is your girl, Sandra. Right now outside, it's da, da, da, da, da... Then turn the mic off and I go back to crying. Nobody knows I'm crying."

Harris is crying and crying out for help. And she is not alone. Thousands of people are also caught in a web of payday loans, according to a study conducted last year by the Durham-based Center for Responsible Lending, a non-profit think tank.

"Borrowers who find themselves involved with the industry very often find themselves caught in what we call the debt trap of payday lending," says Keith Ernest, a researcher at the center, who co-authored the study. "When we looked, borrowers, on average, received eight to 13 payday loans per year. We've talked to borrowers who have paid thousands of dollars in fees. We conservatively estimate that predatory payday lending fees, those extracted from borrowers caught in a debt trap of repeated transactions, cost U. S. families \$3.4 billion annually."

The payday loan industry defends its practices, saying the loans are promoted as being for emergency needs.

See PAYDAY/6A

School resegregate a half-century after Brown decision

By George E. Curry NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON—As the country celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court "Brown v. Board of Education" decision outlawing segregation, schools in the United States are becoming increasingly segregated, a study by Harvard University's Civil Rights Project has concluded.

"U.S. schools are becoming more segregated in all regions for both African American and Latino students," the report states. "We are celebrating a victory over segregation at a time when schools across the nation are becoming increasingly segregated."

The authors of the report are Gary Orfield and Chungmei Lee. Among their findings:

In many districts where court-ordered desegregation was ended in the past decades, there has been a major increase in segregation. The courts assumed that the forces that produced segregation and inequality had been cured. The new report proves otherwise;

Rural and small town school districts are, on average, the nation's most integrated for both African-Americans and Latinos. Central cities of large metropolitan areas are the epicenter of segregation.

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