



## BIG-DOLLAR HOOP PARTY

CIAA basketball tournament pumps millions into Raleigh economy/3A

## SAFE AND SECURE

Former police officer provide protection in the private sector/8C

▶ Lee Ratliff (center) owns Professional Police & Security Services.



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The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 3, 2004

## Sharpton defends right-wing connection

### Vows to stay in nomination race

By Hazel Trice Edney  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton asserts that he did nothing wrong by associating his presidential campaign with Roger Stone, a Right-wing conservative Republican operative.

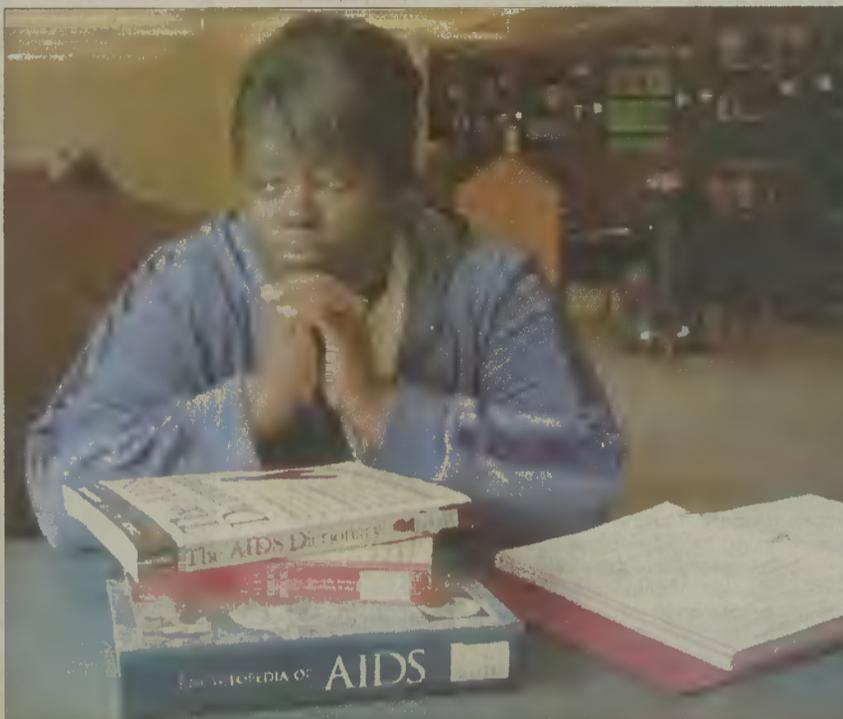
"This is absurd. I have not used Stone as an adviser," the New York activist protested. "And I have no reason to discuss with anybody everybody that I talk to. I am going to talk to whomever I want, but I am going to make my own decisions. I always have. George Bush spoke at the Urban League Convention. Why do these rules only apply to me?"

Sharpton was strongly criticized by political pundits after the New York Times reported in January that Stone, a former adviser to Republican Presidents Richard M. Nixon, Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, was advising the Sharpton campaign. The controversy escalated when the New York-based Village Voice subsequently reported that Sharpton not only accepted advice from the conservative Stone, but received enough money to help him qualify to federal campaign matching funds in some states. To get matching public funds, a candidate must raise in excess of \$5,000 in each of at least 20 states, a total of at least \$100,000.

Former Al Gore campaign manager Donna Brazile said Sharpton needed to explain his Stone association to the Black community. But per-

See DESPITE/7A

## A spike in HIV infections among black men shocked N.C. colleges. Campus leaders are fighting back.



REUTERS PHOTO/DANIEL AGUILAR

UNC Charlotte senior Candice Oates coordinates HIV seminars for Zeta Phi Beta sorority. Across North Carolina, African American students and campus health officials are launching aggressive education and testing campaigns.

## Health emergency brings students together with education, warnings

By Herbert L. White  
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Candice Oates is always amazed by how little college students know about sexually-transmitted diseases.

Oates, 21 and a UNC Charlotte senior, coordinates campus seminars on HIV and AIDS with her sorority, Zeta Phi Beta. Of special interest to the sorority: freshmen, many of them tasting adult freedoms for the first time. There are no scare tactics, just facts.

"A lot of African Americans are not aware of what's out there," she said. "It's not just a white thing. It's a black and white thing."

A study released earlier this month by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed a

spike in HIV among black college students in North Carolina — especially men. Between 2000 and 2003, 84 N.C. college tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS. Eight-seven percent of the cases were black men.

The rise is driven in part by young men having unprotected sexual encounters with other men. Usually they don't consider themselves to be gay or bisexual, and may even have girlfriends.

"It's a public health emergency. I don't know any other way to put it," said Dr. Peter Leone, HIV medical director at the state Health Department.

African Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S. population, but account for

39 percent of AIDS cases and 54 percent of new HIV infections. Blacks are 11 times more likely to be infected and develop AIDS than whites.

"We're alarmed by HIV cases in that population," said Rosemary Ferguson, a health educator at UNCC's Broker Health Center. "But that's a result of people getting tested. We've seen that as a national trend."

Nationwide, an estimated 900,000 people have HIV. The CDC says that in recent years infections have risen somewhat among gay men of all races and fallen slightly among women.

Estimates released Tuesday by the CDC show more than 9 million new sexually transmitted diseases

See N.C. CAMPUSES/2A



REUTERS PHOTO/DANIEL AGUILAR

Soldiers from the Haitian National Liberation Front guard the airport at Cap-Haitien, Haiti. Rebels now control half the Caribbean nation.

## Military won't rule Haiti, rebel leader says

By Paisley Dodds  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti — Haiti's rebel leader said he does not want to install a military dictatorship but is seeking to re-establish the army that was disbanded after ousting President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

With the rebels threatening to attack the capital of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. tried to broker a last-ditch peace plan that did not require Aristide to resign. Opposition politicians were weighing the plan, after being persuaded by Secretary of State Colin Powell to delay their formal response.

Rebel leader Guy Philippe, in the second-largest city of Cap-Haitien that was seized Sunday, said in a Tuesday interview with the Associated Press

See HAITI/6A



Aristide

## Wadesboro natives aim to restore historic black cemetery's legacy

By Herbert L. White  
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An historic Anson County burial ground is taking on a new life of its own.

Restoration of Wadesboro's Old Westview Cemetery is the goal of Rose Sturdivant Young, president and founder of a nonprofit preservation group based in Washington, D.C. Sturdivant, a Wadesboro native, launched Old Westview Cemetery Inc. three years ago after burying her mother Ethel Sturdivant in the family plot next to her father and brother. Young was alarmed to see weed-infested graves and broken headstones.

"In 2001 my mother was living with us in Washington when she died and we took her home to Wadesboro for burial," Young said. "I was so upset, I didn't want her buried there. I said on my way out that day that I'm going to put this cemetery on the map."

Sturdivant is doing that. She started the nonprofit and reached out to Washington media to tell Old Westview's story. The preservation group gained membership and inquiries from Wadesboro residents past and present. The board went to Congress to solicit \$100,000 for the ceme-

See WADESBORO/3A



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Karan and Earl Gatlin have been foster parents for eight years. They started when Karan, a teacher's assistant, saw two of her students being mistreated by their foster parents. "I had gotten attached to them and I wanted them," she said.

## Foster parents do more than their labor of love

By Cheri F. Hodges  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Latest in a series on adoption and foster care in Mecklenburg County.

Karan Gatlin, a teacher's assistant, saw two of her students being mistreated by their foster parents. So, she decided to do something about it. She became a foster parent and took the kids in.

"I had gotten attached to them and I wanted them," she said matter of factly. But it isn't really that easy to become a foster parent, according Mecklenburg County Youth and Family Services.

According to Amy Ciceron, foster and adoptive parent recruiter, prospective foster parents must have a lot of things, but wealth isn't one of them.

"You don't have to make a certain

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