



'THE FULL MONTY'

Troy Scarborough (left) adds spice to Blumenthal production/1D

RACE FOR RESPECT

J.C. Smith builds women's track program with local talent/8C

Porscha Douglas (left) and Aisha Lide (right) of Charlotte flank New York senior Cassandra Tweedy.



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WEEK OF MARCH 11-17, 2004

Graham a candidate for N.C. Senate

City Council member to make it official Monday

By Herbert L. White
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Charlotte City Council member Malcolm Graham won't say for sure, but he sounds like a candidate for the N.C. Senate.



Graham, who has represented District 4 on the council for five years, will announce his intentions to run in Senate District 40 Monday at Overflow Printing, 511 Enterprise Drive. Although he wouldn't confirm a campaign Tuesday, Graham, a Democrat, has long been considered a candidate.

"We're going to announce our intention to run or not to run," he said. "A lot of people have asked what we're going to do and a lot of people have encouraged me to run for the Senate."

The district, which was drawn by the General Assembly last year, has a similar footprint to the City Council District Graham represents. Neighborhoods common to each include Sharon Park, Optimist Park, Hidden Valley and University City, which gives District 40 a mix of low- and upper-income communities. "If I decide to run, I want to talk about issues that affect the district," Graham said. "I'm not simply passing through. I live in the district, I bank in the district, my children go to school in the district and I get my health care in the district. We've been here."

The Senate district has been the source of debate as to whether it and a district in eastern N.C. marginalizes

Please see **GRAHAM/6A**

CMS capacity, spending dilemmas

Inner city schools to remain underused; 25% budget hike proposed

By Herbert L. White
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Black students are more likely to win preferred seats in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools than their white counterparts, all but ensuring underutilized inner city schools.

Lottery results for the 2004-05 academic year showed that 76 percent of all students participating in the lottery receiving their first option and 86 percent of all students participating received either their first or second option. Seventy-one percent of African American fami-

lies received their first option, compared to 81 percent for white families and 79 percent of Hispanics

With fewer black and Hispanic children getting their top choices, inner city schools will likely remain segregated by race and economics. Many of

the district's newest schools, built as part of an effort to provide equal access in core neighborhoods, will have more seats than students. As a result, the school board voted 8-1 Tuesday to instruct Superintendent James Pughsley to review



Pughsley

See **BLACK STUDENTS/2A**

CAROLINAS RELIEF FOR HAITI



AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE PHOTO/YURI CORTEZ

A U.S. Marine points his rifle up a street as a man pulls a cart during a patrol of the Bel Aire district of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Looting has been rampant since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted last week, which has left thousands without food and medicine.

Region active in sending food, medicine to alleviate suffering

By Herbert L. White
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Carolinians can respond to Haiti's political crisis by feeding the hungry.

The global humanitarian agency Church World Service sent the first shipments of emergency food and medicine to Haiti Monday. The shipments include 17,280 pounds of dehydrated food as well as 30 standard medicine boxes and eight disaster medicine boxes.

"The Carolinas are particularly good at responding to

these types of situations," said Kevin McCoy, CWS associate director for the Carolinas in Charlotte.

Because of looting in Haiti, supplies from the U.S. will be sent to CWS affiliates in the Dominican Republic, who will then truck them into Haiti.

When hydrated, the food packages will provide 432,000 servings. Each standard medicine box contains enough medicine to serve 1,000 people for three months, while each disaster box contains medicine to

treat the immediate medical conditions of approximately 115 people in a disaster situation, and is about 90 percent antibiotics.

"The Haitian people were in dire, long lasting poverty and showing signs of malnutrition even before the uprising began three weeks ago," said Joe Moran, CWS regional director for the Carolinas in Durham.

McCoy added: "People were already living a precarious life because it's the poorest country in the Western

Please see **CAROLINA/6A**

Bobcats launch network

Carolinas sports anchor cable television channel

By Justin Crump
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Bob Johnson's vision of a regional sports network is a step closer to reality.

On Wednesday, Johnson announced plans for Carolinas Sports Entertainment Television, a new 24-hour network. The channel, which debuts in October, is a partnership with Time Warner Cable and will be a part of the basic cable packages in North and South Carolina.

C-SET will broadcast a variety of sports programming, including Johnson's Charlotte Bobcats and WNBA Sting, minor league and colleges. The network's headquarters will be located in uptown Charlotte.

"C-SET is the next step in our goal of developing the pre-eminent sports and entertainment entity in the Carolinas," Johnson said. "The Bobcats, Sting and new Charlotte arena will serve as the cornerstone of the network's broad reach into the Carolinas. Other outlets provide very limited regional sports coverage on a daily basis and over-

Please see **REGIONAL/2A**

Virginia judge quits after racist comments

By Jeremy M. Lazarus
RICHMOND FREE PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. — Facing disclosure of racially charged comments that he had written on the Internet, Judge Ralph B. Robertson is quitting the bench after 19 years of hearing criminal cases in the city General District Court.

The veteran, snowy-haired jurist stopped hearing cases last week, went on sick leave and filed for retirement, which will be effective April 1. He threw in the towel after the Free Press notified him of plans to publish an article about the disparaging views he had expressed about Black people over the past few weeks in participating in an on-line chat room.

In his wide-ranging conversations on the Internet, Judge Robertson, among other things, approvingly endorsed the notion that "African-Americans are prone to crime and violence because it is in their genes" and supported the words of another chat-room member defining some minorities as "people who have no regard for sanitation, courtesy, private property, etc."

Specifically, Judge Robertson also criticized the intellectual integrity of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and described the Rev. Jesse Jackson as "a

Please see **VA JUDGE/3A**

Lead scare has Washington residents boiling mad

By Michelle Phipps-Evans
WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

WASHINGTON — When northwest D.C. resident Barbara Philips found out she was pregnant with her second child last September, she took all the pre-natal precautions the doctor recommended.

She took her vitamins daily, stayed away from caffeine and got at least eight hours of sleep. Then, media reports revealed that approximately 23,000 District homes were

equipped with lead pipes, and that the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority may have known about lead in the water since 2001.

Recent reports have suggested WASA may have been aware of the lead in the water for 10 years.

"I just started going through my mind whether I had ever drank the water from the taps, but besides that, we cook with it, brush our teeth, and even my son mixes his Kool-Aid

with the water," said Philips, who was relieved to find out from WASA that she has copper pipes leading to her home. "We also drink water with a filter."

Philips could be one of the lucky ones. According to earlier reports, there have been instances of pregnant women drinking water and mixing baby formulas with water that may have contained lead.

Testing last year found that drinking water in more than

4,000 city homes exceeded the federal safety standard of 15 parts per billion of lead, set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Lead poisoning is especially harmful to infants and children. It can stunt mental and physical development and, in some instances, cause adult schizophrenia.

This is a travesty, said Councilman Harold Brazil (D-at-large), one of a handful of D.C. City Council members

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