

**STAR SEARCH**

All-Star Classic gives coaches and players chance to see, be seen/1C  
Garinger High's Cory Farmer



**EASTER'S ORIGINS**

Celebration a mix of Jewish, Christian traditions along with pagan rituals/8B

**TO YOUR HEALTH**

PrimeCare Medical opens new facility in West Charlotte/8C

Dr. Patrick Evivie



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## The few. The proud. The first.

N.C.-trained Marines broke last barrier to military service

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

When World War II broke out, America's armed forces were segregated with the exception of the Marine Corps. It was whites only. But men like Thomas McPhatter literally fought to break that barrier. McPhatter, a retired Navy chaplain now living in San Diego, Calif., dropped out of Johnson C. Smith University in 1944 to join the Marines, which allowed African Americans into the service two years earlier. They didn't train at Parris Island, S.C., where white recruits were indoctrinated. Blacks got their first taste of Marine life at Camp Montford Point, near Camp Lejeune in Onslow County. "It was like the black West Point," McPhatter, 80, said of the recruits who trained there. "We were the best black folk could



PHOTOS/UNIWORLD GROUP (TOP); NATIONAL ARCHIVES

North Carolina honored the Montford Point Marines at the CIAA basketball tournament in February (top). Cpl. Arvin Ghazlo disarms PFC Ernest Jones during an unarmed combat drill. Montford Point, located at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, was the training site for black Marines from 1942 to 1949.

find." For the ultra-elite service, having blacks in the ranks was seen as a break from tradition. From its formation in 1775 - before the United States became a nation - the Marines were all-white down

to support positions. "The Marines had a reputation for being in the thick of things and if they were going to fight, the Marines were the best of the best," said Jack Robinson, curator of the Please see **MARINES/3A**

## Provision would ban racial profiling

U.S. House gives OK; Senate vote is next

By Hazel Trice Edney  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - The nation's first federal racial profiling provision that would require every state to establish anti-profiling laws in order to receive certain federal transportation funds has been passed by the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives, but must now get Senate approval.



Norton

"I have gotten this through the worse House," says Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), chief sponsor of the provision, which is a part of a \$275 billion transportation bill (HR-3550) that passed a week ago 357 to 65. Norton's provision is attached to the "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users," which generally provides funding for the nation's highways and transportation systems. Her provision, backed by the entire Congressional Black Caucus, earmarks \$60 million over six years for states to develop racial profiling laws and collect racial statistics on traffic stops.

The provision would require states and localities to make and enforce strong anti-profiling laws for use on federal highways in order to qualify for money to enforce certain kinds of traffic offenses, including drunk driving and speeding.

Please see **RACIAL/7A**

## Loving ex-convict may increase the chances of HIV

By Starla Vaughns Cherin  
THE WESTSIDE (FLA.) GAZETTE

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - Damaries Cruz was so in love she didn't know what hit her. She found out she was HIV positive one year after meeting her new fiancée. He knew he had the disease. Given one year to live Damaries took to her bed. That was 13-years ago.

Today, her new job with the Broward County Health Department has her talking to women about HIV/AIDS and handing out condoms. She does this in front of Broward County's four main jails. She talks to women who are waiting during visiting hours. "We want to empower women and educate them in risk reduction. I'll go anywhere to speak about this. Just call me," she said.

She is passionate about her work because she doesn't want anyone to suffer as she did. Her fiancée had been having sex with men while in prison. That is where he contracted the disease. "When I met him he had been out of jail for three months. He said I knew I would take someone with me. I never thought it would be you. When he died he had 8-T cells left," said Cruz.

The Florida Department of Health reports that although blacks comprise only 14 percent of Florida's population, they make up 47 percent of 95,141 AIDS cases and 55 percent of the 32,313 HIV cases reported through December 2003. Women make up 70 percent of AIDS cases and 69

Please see **LOVING/6A**

**HORSE PLAY:**

Paige Johnson, a world class equestrian and daughter of Charlotte Bobcats owner Bob Johnson, led a demonstration Wednesday at Byers Elementary School. Johnson, who is trying to earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team, will ride in the Charlotte Jumper Classic this weekend at the Charlotte Coliseum.



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

## Reparations suit filed against Lloyd's of London

INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE

Descendants of slaves are suing British and U.S. firms for "aiding and abetting the commission of genocide" by allegedly insuring slave ships that brought Africans to the Americas.

The 10 plaintiffs, who are African-American, have used DNA evidence to link them to specific tribes in Africa and have filed suit in federal court in Manhattan for \$1 billion.

The suit accuses three companies - Lloyd's of London, FleetBoston and R.J. Reynolds - of insuring and financing ships which brought people from Africa to live as slaves in American tobacco plantations.

One plaintiff, Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, said at a news conference that these firms "have destroyed our national ethnic identity."

Acting for the plaintiffs is high-profile lawyer Edward Fagan, who famously made Swiss firms pay more than \$2 billion to victims of the Nazis.

"Why is it too far fetched to say blacks should be entitled to compensation for damages and genocide committed against them?" said Fagan.

"Every other group in the world that has been victimized in this way has been."

Other descendants of slaves brought a similar case in Chicago in January, but a federal judge threw it out.

## Bush touts jobs; opponents cringe

By Pete Yost  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush on Monday defended his record on the economy and the war in Iraq, appearing at Central Piedmont Community College where he praised a partnership between local business leaders and the academic community. "Terrorists can't stand free-

dom," said Bush, declaring that he will "stay the course" and bring democracy to Iraq. "We're still being challenged in Iraq and the reason why is a free Iraq will be a major defeat in the cause of terror."

The president said that in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, "I had a choice to make after Saddam Hussein once again refused to disarm," adding that "I will defend

America every time."

The president made no mention of the radical Shiite cleric whose supporters rioted in Iraq over the weekend. Aboard Air Force One, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, has "pledged solidarity with terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah." The cleric is

Please see **BUSH/3A**



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Protesters walked uptown Monday to protest President Bush's handling of the economy and Iraq.

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