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WEEK OF MAY 6-12, 2004

Tiger's time



REUTERS PHOTO/MIKE BLAKE

Tiger Woods, the world's top-ranked golfer, has single-handedly led an explosion in the number of Americans playing the game. According to the National Golf Foundation, there are about 882,000 black golfers in the United States.

Without Woods, golf would be a lot less colorful – and profitable

Since he first slid on that hideous green sport coat at Augusta back in 1997, this world has been Tiger Woods crazy.

As far as famous sports figures go, there's Michael, there's Ali, and there's Tiger. And not necessarily in that order.

In recent years, minority participation in golf has soared.

C. JEMAL HORTON



According to the National Golf

Foundation, there are about 882,000 black golfers in the United States. And you'll be hard-pressed to find anybody at any venue who will dispute the notion that Tiger, all by himself, is responsible for most of that growth.

So if Tiger can do that for the whole country, just what exactly do you think he is doing for

the Wachovia Championship this week?

Exactly.

This two-year-old tournament is about to take off like nobody, even the organizers, ever could have imagined.

Sure, the tournament at Charlotte's Quail Hollow Club was already doing well. Sure,

Please see WOODS/2A

WACHOVIA CHAMPIONSHIP THURSDAY-SUNDAY QUAIL HOLLOW CLUB

College laundry worker is mother, friend on campus

By Cheris F. Hodges
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To Quin Gilchrist, Lula Bell Houston is a second mother.

The Davidson College junior's mother died before he enrolled at the school. Houston, who worked in the college's laundry, took the Washington D.C., native in as if he were her family.

"She's a very motherly person," he said. "She took me in as a child."

Gilchrist attends Houston's church, she cooks dinner for him and until last

Thursday, she did his laundry.

Houston, who worked at Davidson College for 57 years, retired from her post at the school's laundry. While Houston may be leaving the campus, her legacy will remain. At a retirement party where more than 100 people attended, the school unveiled the new name for the laundry building: the Lula Bell Houston Laundry.

Overcome with emotion, Houston, 80, shook her head, filled with silver hair, from

Please see COLLEGE/2A



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Lula Bell Houston, who worked at Davidson College's laundry for 57 years, now has her name in front of the facility.

Schools separate, but more equal?

50 years after Brown, questions still linger

By Ben Feller
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Mildred Wright saw only black faces in her school in Charlotte when she began teaching in 1957. Back then, segregation was supposed to be on the way out.

The promise, it turns out, was never that black and white.

In 1954, the Supreme Court had declared that "separate but equal" schools were unconstitutional. Yet in Charlotte, desegregation was not truly enforced until the early 1970s. And it took a federal judge to make Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools the national example of urban busing for racial balance.

Since then, the trend has gone the other way, in Wright's district and nationwide.

Parents in Charlotte sued to stop the district from using race in determining where to assign children. The courts halted the desegregation order, saying the city's schools had ended the pattern of discrimination. Wright has watched integration start to wash away.

"I have grave concerns," said Wright, now the principal at Thomasboro Elementary, where grades are improving but most students are black.

"Children learn more from each other if they come from diverse backgrounds. If everyone is the same in every school, you don't know who's on the other side of town," said Wright, 69. "It's just like it was before."

On May 17, 1954, the high court's decision in the case that became known as Brown v. Board of

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N.C. study: Health gaps persist among races, ethnicities

By Herbert L. White
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Race and ethnicity has an effect on the health of North Carolinians, according to a study released this week.

The state Department of Health and Human Services report "Racial and Ethnic Differences In Health in North Carolina," studied differences in health measures among blacks, Indians, Hispanics and whites. The study pointed out that race is considered a marker of health problems, not a risk factor. Still, African Americans and Native Americans were generally in poorer health than whites in most instances, while Asian Americans were in better shape than whites.

"This report spotlights many way sin which the health of minority groups differs from that of whites," said N.C. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom. "Our goal is to look at these disparities and find ways to close those gaps, to ensure that all North Carolinians – regardless of race, ethnicity or economic status – have an equal chance for a healthy, productive

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