

**THE STAMPS OF DISAPPROVAL**

Jesse Jackson, Congressional Black Caucus demand Mexico pull insensitive stamp series. Story Below



**RACING AHEAD**

Drive for Diversity program nets its first promotion 1C

Morty Buckles moves up to ARCA series

# The Charlotte Post

\*\*\*\*\*5-DIGIT 28216 S9 P1  
James B. Duke Library  
100 Beatties Ford Rd  
Charlotte NC 28216-5302

The Voice of the Black Community

Also serving Cabarrus, Chester, Mecklenburg, Rowan and York counties

WEEK OF JULY 7-13, 2005

## African markets: boon or bane?

G8 nations see free trade as hindrance to continent's development

By Sanjoy Suri  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE

GLENEAGLES, Scotland — Powerful western nations are committed to developing Africa - as a market for their goods, a leading agricultural economist says.

"There is talk of the need for action by way of aid, debt cancellation and trade," Devinder Sharma, long-time campaigner for the rights of farmers in the developing world told IPS. "An impression is given by George Bush and others that of the three, trade is the real answer to Africa's problems. But actually trade is the problem."

In four African countries — Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad and Benin -- whose economies are based on cotton production, U.S. cotton is being dumped and livelihoods are being lost, all in the name of free trade, said Sharma.

U.S. cotton prices are cheap because 25,000 U.S. cotton farmers get four billion dollars a year in subsidies, he added. "This is obviously depressing the market in Africa, and other countries. Then they ask farmers there to diversify and go for other crops."

One cotton grower in Arkansas received subsidies worth \$6 million, equal to the combined annual earnings of 25,000 cotton farmers in Mali, Sharma said.

U.S. subsidies on cotton are more than the gross domestic product of several African countries, and three times the amount Washington spends on aid to half a billion Africans living in poverty, he added.

Ethiopia and Uganda have reported huge losses in export revenues, Sharma said. Earnings through agricultural exports in Uganda were about 110 million dollars in 2001.

Please see FREE/8A

## Jackson, CBC urge halt to Mexican stamps

By Tessa Corie Smith  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — Jesse L. Jackson says President Vicente Fox should apologize for and remove Mexican stamps that present stereotypical images of African-Americans.

"I am calling on President Fox and Ambassador Carlos de Icaza to issue a complete and full apology and to take this stamp off the market immediately," Jackson said in a statement. He and Al Sharpton met separately with Fox in Mexico City last month after Fox said Mexicans were taking jobs in the U.S. that even blacks did not want.

Evidently, Sharpton's and Jackson's attempt to sensitize Fox about race relations in the U.S. were not successful.

Please see MEXICO/2A

Kusun Ensemble fuses African vibes with American rhythm 1D



**INSIDE**

Life 1B Religion 8B Sports 1C Business 8C A&E 1D BCSP 4C

Please Recycle



To subscribe, call (704) 376-0496 or FAX (704) 342-2160. © 2005 The Charlotte Post Publishing Co.

**THE PRICE OF POVERTY : THE ELDERLY POOR**



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Juanita Dixon, 80 (left) and sister Odessa Dixon, 87, share expenses by living together in their Charlotte home. Entitlement checks for the sisters combined amount to \$11,000, which puts them below the federal poverty line.

## Living longer doesn't mean living better on fixed income

Part of a series on the emotional, physical and economic toll poverty exacts on individuals and communities.

By Janell J. Lewis  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

When Albert and Catherine Royal moved to Charlotte 50 years ago, Albert was working for 65 cents an hour.

The pay wasn't great but Albert, who moved from Anson County near Wadesboro, needed to work wherever possible to support his wife and six children.

"These children had to be taken care of," Albert, 76, said.

Just as the Royals struggled in order for their children to maintain half a century ago, the couple battles to support themselves even today. After working in maintenance 23 years for the City of Charlotte, Albert retired. Catherine retired from Merita Bread after 15 years and now the two are living solely off of their fixed income checks which total just over \$1,000 per month.

Although the Royals are squeezing the most out of each dollar, they are technically

above the poverty level, according to the poverty thresholds of the 2004 U.S. Census Bureau which defines poverty for two persons 65 years of age and older as income of less than \$11,418 a year.

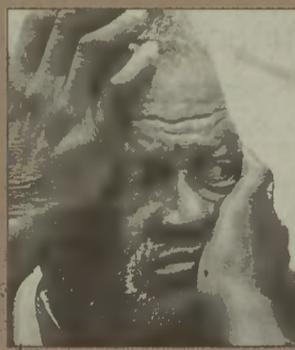
The Department of Health and Human Services defines poverty of a family unit of two as less than \$12,490 a year. The Royals would be considered impoverished if they lived in Hawaii or Alaska, though, where the poverty level is \$14,300.

Albert said their expenses are beginning to clearly outweigh their income, though.

"We've got rent to pay, water bills to pay, a gas bill...it's hard on me," Albert said. After being transferred from their home where they were paying only \$300 a month for rent, the couple now has to pay \$600 on a newer home in the Cherry community near downtown. Now, their bills add up to just over \$800 a month, not including their medications or personal

See ELDERLY/7A

**Poverty among the elderly**



31.8 million elderly in the U.S.  
3.4 million live in poverty.  
2.5 million are women  
900,000 are men

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Charlotte City Council member Warren Turner (center) files for re-election Friday at the Mecklenburg Board of Elections office. Turner, who represents District 3, faces a likely challenge in entrepreneur Joel Ford for the Democratic nomination.

## New NAACP president doesn't plan to 'hide out'

By Hazel Trice Edney  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — NAACP President-elect Bruce S. Gordon, a retired Verizon executive, says that speculation that he has been hired as a corporate type who will be a quiet balance to the outspoken board chairman Julian Bond will soon be proven wrong.

"Some of the speculation early on was that Julian will be outside and Bruce will be inside. Nothing could be further from the truth. Don't even

think it, okay?" said Gordon in an interview with the NNPA News Service.

"The organization has not hired an office manager, okay? It has hired a CEO. CEOs don't hide out in the back room, I'm going to be front and center. You're going to be hearing from me. I will be an active spokesperson. That is the role as the constitution of the NAACP defines it. So, don't for one second think that mine will be a soft-spoken voice."

Gordon



See N.C. DOT/2A

## DOT backs ending goals

Bill would eliminate race in contracting

By Cynthia Dean  
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH — Officials at the N.C. Department of Transportation support a bill that would do away with race-based contracting goals for the state agency.

DOT officials are supporting Senate Bill 1127 that proposes to eliminate the department's goal in awarding 10 percent of its contracts to minority businesses and 5 percent to women-owned businesses. The bill is sponsored by Sens. Malcolm Graham and Charlie Dannelly of Charlotte. Both are African American.

The bill asks the department to establish "annual aspirational goals," instead of mandatory goals, based on the need of specific projects and the availability of minority- and women-owned businesses.

Opponents of the bill say that if the legislation is passed, many black contractors will lose their businesses. Proponents claim, however, that it will keep the DOT free of potential lawsuits.

DOT spokesperson Ashley Memory said the agency supports the legislation because it will strengthen its minority outreach efforts by allowing it to set more realistic goals based on the specific needs of projects and con-



Graham



Dannelly