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Soultryst Tuesday organizer Danny Eason

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WEEK OF AUGUST 11-17, 2005

Fund honors YMCA friends

Campaign for Richardson, Stratford

By Herbert L. White
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The West Boulevard YMCA has launched a campaign to honor west Charlotte community leaders Willie Stratford and Jim Richardson.

Money from the YMCA's Promises for the Future campaign will go to the Kresge Challenge to build a 35,000-square foot facility on West Boulevard. The \$800,000 pledge made by the Kresge Foundation hinges on the YMCA raising \$3 million.

Richardson, who died in 2003, and Stratford, who died a year earlier, were longtime friends and west-side residents. Both were known for their dedication to Charlotte, especially, the YMCA.

"The YMCA is an organization that held a special place in both their hearts," said Mary Richardson, Jim Richardson's widow and chair of the campaign. "They wished to insure that a suitable place was available where citizens of the west (Charlotte) community could reach their full potential as human beings created in the image of God."

Once completed, the West Boulevard Y will house an after school and day camp for children ages 5-13; teen initiatives such as photojournalism, choir and drill team. Programs for seniors and active older adults will also be part of the mix.

For information on the Friends Commemorative Fund, call Byron Henson at (704) 716-4816 or e-mail byron.henson@ymcacharlotte.org.



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Mary Richardson, widow of former Mecklenburg commissioner Jim Richardson, is leading the Friends Commemorative Fund at the West Boulevard YMCA.



Charlotte's gameplan for CIAA tournament



TOP PHOTO: MADE NASH; ABOVE: CALVIN FERGUSON

Charlotte and CIAA officials gave thumbs-up to the basketball tournament's new logo Wednesday at Johnson C. Smith University. On hand for the press conference were (from left) Tim Newman, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority CEO, CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry, Mayor Pat McCrory, JCSU President Dorothy Cowser Yancy and Charlotte Organizing Committee Chair Lenny Springs.

Organizers pledge one of a kind experience for hoops fans

By Cheri F. Hodges
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The CIAA basketball tournament is touted as the "get down in uptown" and Charlotte officials say it will be fun and safe.

At a press conference Wednesday, Mayor Pat McCrory and Charlotte political and business leaders involved in the pursuit of the tournament unveiled its logo and plans for the February classic.

"One promise we made to the CIAA is that it wasn't just going to be an event where you come to the arena and watch great basketball

then leave," McCrory said. "It's going to be an event where before the game, you're going to have fun, during the game you're going to see great athletes and after the game you're going to have more fun."

As Charlotte prepares to host the CIAA for the first time, city and league officials are working together to make the transition from Raleigh's RBC Center to the new arena uptown.

"This is a step up for the CIAA tournament," said Commissioner Leon Kerry. "We break in new arenas."

See CHARLOTTE'S/2A



CIAA facts

- **Founded:** 1912 as the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
- **Membership:** 12 historically black colleges along the Eastern Seaboard.
- **First tournament:** 1946 at Turner Gym, Washington, D.C.
- **61st tournament:** Feb. 27-March 4, 2006 (first in Charlotte).

For black males, every day brings crisis

By Kenneth Mallory
AFRO NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Are black males an endangered species?

That question was posed to a variety of panelists, including the Rev. Al Sharpton and hip-hop journalist Kevin Powell, at the 95th National Urban League Annual Conference's plenary session, "The Black Male: Endangered Species or Hope for the Future?"

"I don't have to tell anyone in this audience that there is a crisis when it comes to black males," NUL President Marc Morial told the session.

High incarceration, high dropout and unemployment rates, stringent drug policies impacting African-American males and the extent to which

the media influences criminal behavior and perpetuates negative stereotypes of Black men were all salient topics addressed by the panelists.

Journalist and author Ellis Cose said black and Latino men make up 1.3 million of those in the nation's jail and prisons. Collectively, Cose said, they would constitute the seventh largest city in the United States.

"One-third of black males born today can expect to spend some time locked down," he said.

Judging from some of the panelists' remarks, the issues reportedly affecting black males seemed interrelated. But discussion hinged more on solutions than on the problems themselves.

According to Powell, in addition to addressing black males'

spiritual, political, cultural and economic engagement and well-being, attending to their physical and mental health is also needed to empower Black men. Powell said having family members who died from chronic diseases led him to take charge of his health.

Jawanza Kunjufu, author of "Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys," said the issue of fatherlessness in the black community "needs to be addressed." Also, he said the black community needs to provide greater support to Black businesses so they could produce more jobs for Black men.

Sharpton, using his signature "tell it like it is" delivery and preacher's cadence, aroused applause among attendees when

Please see CRISES/3A

Payday lending under scrutiny

N.C. lawmakers look to curb activity, especially in low-income areas

By Sommer Brokaw
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The payday lending industry has been accused of loan sharking due to high interest rates that creates a cycle of debt.

Supporters argue the service is an alternative for customers in a financial crunch.

N.C. Senate bill 947 is fueling both sides of the debate.

Payday loans are short-term transactions of \$1 and \$500 taken out at 15 percent interest rates.

"We have gotten a bad rap because there's a misconception calculating APR or flipping or rolling loans," said Willie Green, a lobbyist for the industry. "The opposition claims our loan's APR is

Please see PAYDAY/6A



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/CURTIS WILSON

African American neighborhoods have three times as many payday lending stores per capita as white neighborhoods, according to the Center for Responsible Lending.

JOHN H. JOHNSON

Journalism's Ebony light

Publishing mogul challenged stereotypes

By Herbert G. McCann
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Pioneering publisher John H. Johnson, whose Ebony magazine countered stereotypical coverage of blacks, died Monday. He was 87.

Born poor in Arkansas, Johnson went into business with a \$500 loan secured by his mother's furniture and built a publishing and cosmetics empire that made him one of the wealthiest and most influential black men in the United States.

Beyond his own economic stature, Johnson broke new ground by bringing positive portrayals of blacks into a mass-market publication and encouraging corporations to use black models in advertising aimed at black consumers.

Johnson built Ebony from a circulation of 25,000 on its first press run in November 1945 to a monthly circulation of 1.9 million in 1997. Jet magazine, a newsweekly founded in 1951, has a circulation of nearly 895,000. A third magazine, Ebony Man, a monthly men's magazine, was started in 1985 and has a circulation of 325,000.



Johnson

Tips for dressing cooler when summer's rays won't let up 8C



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