

**UPWARD BOUND**

N.C. Central wins first CIAA football championship in 25 years and a spot in Division II playoffs /4C



**IN STEP**

Former North Carolina Dance Theatre standout **Uri Sands** turns choreographer/1D

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The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10-16, 2005



PHOTO/WADE NASH  
**Anthony Foxx is congratulated after winning an at-large seat on Charlotte City Council. It was Foxx's first try for public office.**

## Suburbs' agenda resonates

*Bonds, school board vote signals growing clout*

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

Charlotte is Mecklenburg County's hub, but its political muscle - at least Tuesday - lies outside the city limits.

Suburban voters, aided by a helping hand from conservative

Republicans, delivered the political equivalent of a left hook with Larry Gauvreau and Ken Gjertsen winning seats on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board. They also led the charge to defeat the \$427 million referendum for CMS.

School bond opposition was

spread across the county, regardless of party affiliation, race or economic status. Pro-bond campaigns led by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce failed in part due to suspicions of CMS mismanagement and tax concerns. The results were striking.

Please see **SUBURBS/2A**

## Caucus: More relief input

By Jeffrey McMurray  
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Black lawmakers want more influence in the federal effort to rebuild the Gulf Coast, proposing legislation to address social problems they say the Republican-led Congress is overlooking.

All 42 U.S. House members of the Congressional Black Caucus led by Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., have signed on to the measure, which includes a long list of health, housing and education provisions. It also would guarantee victims a monetary grant similar to the ones doled out for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Watt, who represents the 12th District, said he didn't have a cost estimate because it was unclear how many Gulf Coast residents have been forced to move. He floated \$200 billion as a ballpark figure for the overall recovery.

"One of the things we're worried about is that our government, perhaps, would just as soon forget about those people and let them go where they are and fend for themselves," Watt said. "That is inconsistent with what we said as a nation we would do for the victims of this hurricane."

At a news conference, Watt and other caucus members suggested that the Bush administration has ignored their advice about the federal response to Hurricane

Please see **CAUCUS/2A**

## Court nominee gets lukewarm response on Hill

By George E. Curry  
 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - Jonathan Turley, a legal scholar and law professor at George Washington University, says that President Bush's recent nominee to replace Sandra Day O'Connor may be even more conservative than Antonin Scalia, the court's most conservative member.

"...There will be no one to the right of Sam Alito on this court..." Turley said Monday in an interview on The Today Show. Katie Couric followed up, "Not even Antonin

Scalia?"  
 Turley: "They'll have to make a race for the right, but I think it'll be by a nose, if at

See **NOMINEE/3A**

### HARDING UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Harding University High School band director Anthony Jones leads a practice on campus Monday. Harding and Philip O. Berry Academy will participate in the National High Step Band Competition this weekend in Birmingham, Ala.

## Strike up the band

*To compete on a national level, musicians and dancers are dedicated to work, play as a team*

By Paula Young  
 FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Harding High School Marching Band is high-stepping its way to a national competition this weekend.

The award-winning band was invited to compete at the National High Step Band Competition in Birmingham, Ala.

Nate Haynes, a saxophone-playing senior with the band, is excited about the competition. "I feel pretty good about it," he said. "I have confidence in us. I know we are going to get some trophies."

If Harding wins, it means another trophy and a \$5,000 prize. Neighboring Philip O. Berry Academy will be compet-

ing as well.

The marching Rams are not novices in winning. This year alone, Harding took home first place at the Battle of the Bands in Winston-Salem and in Halifax County, Va.

Haynes, who has been with the band since his sophomore year, feels Harding is at its opti-

Please see **MARCHING/3A**

## Neighbors' reward for caring

*Initiative program acknowledges their efforts*

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

At Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care, there are no strangers.

The advocacy program for physically and mentally-challenged seniors brings together folks from 24 to 101 for fellowship and growth. The best part is providing them a constructive home away from home.

"What we do is provide these adults an alternative to long-term care," said Blessed Assurance Executive Director Nathaniel Huggins. "Most of these people want to stay at home as long as they can with

their children and families."

Huggins was recognized by Bank of America at its second annual Neighborhood Excellence Initiative awards last week. The program encourages non-profits, individuals and high school students who work to improve their communities.

Individuals like Huggins, who founded Blessed Assurance in 1999, directed his \$5,000 award to Adult Day & Health Care Services, which funds the senior program.

Washington Heights neighborhood Association President Mattie Marshall was commend-

ed for her work with city and local groups to make community improvements.

"I realized we live in a great neighborhood, but it suffered a decline," Marshall said. That was unacceptable because we're so blessed. We saw the human potential and assets and I was blessed to see that potential."

Over the years, Marshall and her neighbors worked to reduce unemployment, high drop out rates, and crime in Washington Heights. The community also helped build Habitat for Humanity homes to give work-

See **NEIGHBORS/6A**



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Nathaniel Huggins, founder of Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care, shares time with Landers Quick, 93.

Charlotte Bobcats Arena turns Uptown into one of the city's best housing markets /4D



**INSIDE**

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