

## DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

The month can launch and sink playoff hopes for Panthers and NFL contenders 1C

RB DeShaun Foster

Volume 31 No. 51



## HERE, KITTY

Legendary stage and screen star Eartha Kitt embrace child-friendly roles in movies and television/1D



## SANTA'S CAUSE

Black St. Nick is a rarity in Charlotte-area shopping centers/1B

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The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 8-14, 2005

## Open arms in Center City?

*Uptown club incident highlights lingering doubts about inclusion*

By Cheris F. Hodges

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Maybe it's just a perception or just sour grapes.

Black partiers feel uptown doesn't welcome them with open arms and with the CIAA basketball tournament two months away, organizers and city officials face an uphill battle to derail that train of thought.

It doesn't help that a swirl of e-mails accuse an uptown club of being racist, either.

Center City Partners President Michael Smith said he hopes that is a misconception about uptown.

"Not being able to walk in those shoes it's hard for me to be fully able to access it," Smith said. "But we are aware that perception is out there."

Now isn't the best time for the city to have a PR problem uptown. In February the CIAA tournament will bring upwards of 100,000 African Americans to the city and the bulk of events will be hosted uptown. For a week, the uptown crowd is going to vastly different than what many businesses

Please see PERCEPTIONS/2A

## Seven students punished for Bush protest

By Daniel Bayer

THE CAROLINA PEACEMAKER

HAMPTON, Va. — Seven Hampton University students were disciplined for taking part in the Nov. 2 "World Can't Wait: Drive Out the Bush Regime" nationwide protests on campus.

Unlike their predecessors in the civil rights era, who faced an entrenched white power structure bent on preserving segregation, the Hampton students faced a university administration they say actively works to discourage, if not outright prevent, student activism.

Please see HAMPTON/3A



**HOLIDAY CHEER:** Storytellers Kali Ferguson, Cheryl "Sparkle" Mosley and Soafhi Umoh were part of the Afro-American Cultural Center's Jazzy Holiday celebration last week in Charlotte.

Sexy attire no ally for women in management positions, study finds 8C

## MUST DO WITHOUT CITY WATER, SEWER



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Leonard Mauney checks on his private water pump outside his home in the Dixie community in Southwest Mecklenburg. Residents have pushed for the city of Charlotte to extend water and sewer service to the area, but city officials say the cost is prohibitive.

## A pipe dream

*Charlotte services elude low-income rural communities*

By Virlanda Miller

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

In the Dixie and Berryhill communities, Charlotte water and sewer services are a dream.

The problem? They live in an unincorporated area that isn't high on the city's annexation priority list.

Located in southwestern Mecklenburg County, within sight of Charlotte-Douglas International

Airport, Dixie/Berryhill is bounded by the Catawba River to the west, I-85 to the north, I-485 to the east, and Rock Island Road, Shopton Road and Steele Creek Road to the south.

According to the 2000 Census, 4,036 residents and an elementary school — which also has no access to city water and sewer service — call this rural area home. It's most famous son is U.S. Rep. Mel

Watt (D-N.C.), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Leonard Mauney is a Dixie resident. The retiree said he has lived in the area all of his life, and built his current home in 1973. He tests his well water once a year.

"Water is so full of iron it eats up everything," Mauney said. "If you get a

Please see RURAL/7A

## Black women fear HIV's spread continues unabated

By Gordon Jackson

THE DALLAS EXAMINER

DALLAS, Texas — When Helen Turner Goldenberg found out 17 years ago that she had contracted full-blown AIDS, she wanted to "dig a hole, crawl in and pull in the dirt on top of me."

Through 10 years of being HIV positive, Desiree has had several phases of losing her will to live.

"Personally the emotional part is overwhelming," said Desiree. "You

just get so stressed out that you want to give up."

Whether diagnosed with HIV, a retrovirus that causes AIDS, or having the disease in its full capacity, Goldenberg and Desiree are not alone. In fact, they are part of a frightening development of where the disease is spreading.

Medical Alert: There's a new face or "poster child" of HIV/AIDS. It has been morphed over the past

See HIV/6A

## SANTA'S CAUSE

Black St. Nick is a rarity in Charlotte-area shopping centers/1B

## Fewer N.C. residents have health insurance

*Study: Numbers slide from 2000-04; Urban counties fared better*

By Herbert L. White  
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Fewer North Carolinians have access to health insurance, according to a study.

The proportion of residents under age 65 who lacked health insurance for at least a year rose from 15.3 percent in 2000 to 17.5 percent in 2004, according to a UNC-Chapel Hill survey. The percentage of non-elderly residents without insurance varied from 13.9 percent in Wake County to 28.3 percent in Tyrrell County, researchers say.

Lack of health insurance is a particularly acute problem in eastern N.C. Eight of the 10 counties with the highest proportion of uninsured residents live east of Interstate 95.

In "County Estimates of the Number of Uninsured in North Carolina: A 2004 Update," researchers calculated uninsured rates for state residents under age 18 and between ages 18 and 64.

"The uninsured have few reasonable cost options for health care, sometimes forcing them to ignore medical conditions until they become an emergency," said Dr. G. Mark Holmes, co-author of the study.

Please see EASTERN/7A

## Poet keynotes black elected officials fete

By Herbert L. White

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Poet and author Nikki Giovanni will be the keynote speaker for the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials luncheon today at the Westin Charlotte hotel.

The luncheon, which starts at 11:30 a.m., will be held during the National League of Cities' Congress of Cities in Charlotte. Giovanni is expected to speak around 12:30 p.m. She is expected to discuss the

Please see CHARLOTTE/7A



## the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

## Millions More hosts forum

The Millions More Movement-Charlotte will host its first community coalition forum Saturday.

The forum will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. at Little Rock AME Zion Church, 401 North McDowell St. Organizers will address issues related to education, economic development, health care, housing, law and justice and youth.

"We need to mobilize people to action," said Gardine Wilson, president of MMM-Charlotte.

Herbert L. White



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