

## Ex-judge honored at courthouse

Continued from page 1A

portrait in Nashville and Charlotte.

"He came up the day I had a retirement party," said Fulton, who previously served as a district court judge. "He took hundreds of pictures and talked to people - even my

mother."

Fulton, a graduate of historically-black N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro, was the first woman of color to lead a district of the N.C. judiciary when she was named senior resident judge for the 26th District by Gov.

Mike Easley.

From initial meeting to completion, Neal's work took a couple of years to finish. Fulton, who is also a booster of Charlotte's inner city neighborhoods and owner of the Wadsworth House on Summit Avenue, was

impressed by the likeness.

"I didn't know it was going to take that long," she said. "I saw the almost complete portrait in Nashville. It's unsettling to see yourself on canvas. You can't deny that it's you, and it's so big."

## Alito advised against Black Panthers

Continued from page 1A

or opposing the federal appellate judge's nomination to the Supreme Court. President Bush picked him as the replacement for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in late October.

Liberals have questioned whether Alito has the proper judicial temperament and ideology to replace O'Connor. Some have said Alito's views on issues such as voting rights and abortion could provoke a filibuster unless he allays their concerns about his commitment to civil rights at his confirmation hearings, beginning Jan. 9.

The Black Panthers' lawsuit accused government officials of conspiring against the militant group and its members for years. A federal judge had thrown out the lawsuit

because the Black Panther officials refused to reveal the names of party members whose names weren't already public as part of the case, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia reversed that decision. The appeals court ordered the judge to reconsider the case.

Alito noted that nothing in the trial court was "decided against the government with finality."

And "even if the Supreme Court were to agree with our arguments, it would not follow that dismissal of the complaint would be the appropriate sanction," he wrote.

The Supreme Court thought otherwise. The Justice Department went on to appeal the case to the high court, which ordered the Black Panther lawsuit

thrown out.

Alito did note that he could see a reason to take the case to the Supreme Court, considering its high-profile nature.

"This is not an ordinary lawsuit, and the issues may consequently take on added significance," Alito said. "While I am convinced that the individual legal issues do not warrant the filing of a petition action, I recognize that a decision to the contrary has something to recommend it."

The Black Panther Party had sued several federal officials, saying that since 1968 the directors of the CIA and the FBI, attorneys general, Treasury secretaries, postmasters general, IRS commissioners and other government officials had conspired

to destroy the Black Panthers.

One of those sued was then-CIA director and soon-to-be-president George H.W. Bush, father of the current president.

Alito worked for the solicitor general's office in 1981-85, and also as deputy assistant U.S. attorney general from 1985-87 before becoming a federal prosecutor and judge.

Many of the documents released by the National Archives simply indicate that Alito was copied in on internal Justice Department memos, or are photocopies of decisions that were made by federal judges while Alito was working for the department during the Reagan administration.

The Archives said it found the documents in the files of former Justice Department officials while processing Freedom of Information Act requests.

Republican leaders are pushing for a Jan. 20 confirmation vote in the full Senate.

## Durham neighborhood tries hand at redevelopment again

By Sommer Brokaw  
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

DURHAM — Over the past two decades, developers have tried to restore the once thriving Rolling Hills community but with little success.

Now, the city is looking for a new developer to revitalize the area.

Just southeast of downtown Durham, Rolling Hills used to be a vital part of the Hayti community with businesses booming during Jim Crow segregation.

But, after desegregation, the federal government condemned the property, forcibly removing the owners and giving the state a portion of the land to build the Durham freeway.

"It's a historic area, and it's what I would consider a prime property right next to downtown Durham," resident Betty Woods said. "Anything they can do for the upgrade and preservation of it would certainly be a good thing."

A subsidiary of N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company bought the site in 1984 and planned more than 250 homes, but, citing low sales, the company stopped construction after building only 42 homes.

Another attempt was made to restore the site about 10 years later. The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People and the Durham Business and Professional Chain set up a non-profit venture, Southeast Durham Development Corporation, but only a dozen homes were completed out of the 56 proposed.

"We had two false starts," said Larry Jarvis, associate director of Housing and Community Development. "We're interested in having someone who has a significant track record so that hopefully this third time is the charm."

The area is bound by Lakewood Avenue to the north, Roxboro Street to the west and Piedmont Avenue to the south. It also crosses the Phoenix Shopping Center on the east.

Recently, a 34-page request for qualification was released to find new development proposals for the site. The document calls for a developer with a proven track record.

Jarvis said that this is the primary way the city can restore public confidence in the project.

"I think we are going to see significant interest from some very large and successful developers, so I'm optimistic that we are ultimately

going to wind up with a success this time," he said.

Mayor Bill Bell said the project has been one of his priorities since taking office and seeking interest from the development community is just the first step.

The city plans to use the 19.32 acre site to develop a mass of mixed income housing with up to 20 residential units per acre for a possible 386 units.

"I hope it will serve as a catalyst for continued improvement in that area," Bell said. "The first catalyst we had downtown was the ballpark. Now that American Tobacco is in its first phase, other areas are coming alive, and I think the same thing can happen with Rolling Hills."

The community currently has 54 residential units, of which 15 are owner occupied. The units include 11 single-family homes, 12 patio homes and 30 townhouses. While the city has not announced whether or not it will bulldoze the houses and start over, the request clearly states "The patio homes and town homes appear to be in the poorest condition based primarily on exterior inspection and are not believed to be economically feasible for salvage."

But, it also says that the single-family homes are in "standard" condition.

"If you look at the town homes and patio homes that are over there, it would be better for those properties to be torn down, because they date back to the original construction back in the 1980s that has not been maintained very well," Jarvis said. "The single-family homes are in pretty good shape, and they could be potentially moved to another property off site."

Jarvis added that the preference right now is that the acquisition be totally voluntary.

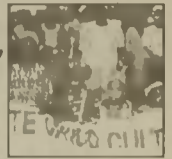
The deadline for the statements of qualification is Feb. 3, and the city plans to begin negotiations with the selected developer March 16.

Durham, which poured \$1.3 million into Rolling Hills back in the 90s, is not expected to play a major role in the project.

"Our preference is that there will be a limited city role, that essentially this would be a private project with private development, but that doesn't rule out the possibility of additional assistance being required to make that happen," Jarvis said.

### The Only Black Culture Tour In Costa Rica

Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 2006



Annual Black Culture Day Celebration on  
Caribbean coast, ocean resort & nature tours  
\$1,395 pp/do all inclusive+ air

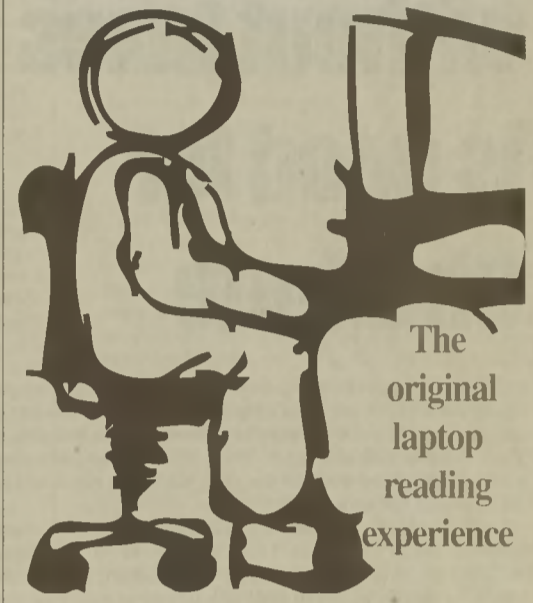
(\$100 discount before 2/28/06)

Costa Rica Tours, Ltd.

www.costaricatours.com/BlackCulture.htm

info@costaricatours.com

(704) 541-8680



The  
original  
laptop  
reading  
experience

The Charlotte  
Post

News that's worth reading

The Charlotte  
Post



McCrorey Family  
YMCA

presents

12th Annual  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
PRAYER BREAKFAST



Monday, January 16, 2006  
Hilton Hotel  
222 E. 3rd Street  
(Between College and Brevard Streets)

Doors Open at 6:30 a.m.  
Program Begins at 6:45 a.m.



Keynote Speaker

Kenston J. Griffin

President, Dream Builders Communications

Kenston Griffin is a dynamic motivational speaker and trainer who has addressed an array of audiences nationwide. Mr. Griffin's primary goal is to teach individuals and organizations how to become visionaries. He is an inspirational, thought provoking speaker whose message has contributed to the growth of individuals and expansion of diverse organizations. He empowers people to achieve greatness and beyond. Additionally, Mr. Griffin's aim is to educate across the globe by raising one's awareness and belief system both personally and professionally in every field of human endeavor, and upon doing so, we all will realize and know that...if better is possible, good is no longer an option.

Ticket Price \$20.00 • Open Seating  
For tickets call: 704-716-6500

McCrorey YMCA

3801 Beatties Ford Road

(A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible)

The Charlotte  
Post is always  
open  
(at least online)

www.thecharlottepost.com