

Will uptown embrace us now?

Continued from page 1A

The staff, even though they were decked out in North Carolina Central tee-shirts, weren't exactly friendly. My friend and I had dinner before heading to the bar because we had a hankering for something other than hot wings and fries. However, feeling the need to inject a few dollars in the bar's pocket, we ordered a couple of soft drinks. When we were told that we couldn't get refills because we hadn't gotten any food, we were willing to let the issue drop. JCSU was in a tight game against Bowie State and we were glued to the TV. But in the middle of a scoring series,

here comes the waitress and her manager, who felt the need to explain the refill policy again.

We told him we were cool and he could go away. Right then, I remembered exactly where I was, uptown Charlotte where many black people don't go to party. The city did a good job of laying down the red carpet. The businesses uptown, for the most part, did their duty to welcome the overwhelmingly African American crowd. I heard more hip hop coming from places like the Dixie Tavern, Grand Central Station and other clubs than I have on a regular weekend in Uptown Charlotte.

But this rang false to me. Then again, these are things that we do when we have company. However this weekend, it's back to the status quo.

Another friend said he enjoyed watching the games and seeing old friends from other CIAA schools, but he wasn't participating in the uptown parties. The atmosphere felt fake to him and I have to agree.

If you can welcome black party-goers one weekend a year, why not every weekend?

Then again, why didn't we head out to Club Tempo to party? It's black-owned and caters to the "grown and

sexy"-precisely what the CIAA crowd is.

Many of the "unofficial" CIAA parties were held in places that have a reputation for being a little less welcoming to Charlotte blacks.

Either we're going to change the face of uptown by heading out there and showing the businesses there that we have money to spend all year round or we're going to party where we're welcomed and respected.

Last week was cool to have places like Mert's and The Coffee Cup open later than normal. It was even cooler to see so many smiling faces from cops to bus drivers. But now company's gone and it's back to normal. The red carpet has been folded and placed in the closet. Guess we'll have to wait until next year to get that feeling back.



PHOTO/HAROLD TYSON

Gayle Sims (left) director of the United Way of the Carolinas Million Dollar Circle and Erica Johnson of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools pose with Dr. Benjamin Carson during a book signing after he keynoted Duke Energy's Minority Professional Association's scholarship banquet at the Hilton Charlotte City Center.

Neurosurgeon shares intellectual evolution at Duke Energy banquet

By Harold M. Tyson and Rosalind Bennett
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Duke Energy Minority Professional Association held its tenth annual scholarship banquet and fund-raiser Feb. 28 at the Hilton Charlotte Center City.

Dr. Benjamin S. Carson Sr. M.D. was the keynote speaker for the event. He is director of pediatric neurosurgery and a professor at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore.

Carson shared the story of his childhood with the audience - raised by a mother who had only a third-grade education and being regarded by classmates as a "dummy" until the fifth grade when his mother decided to put an end to the bad grades he was bringing home.

With a particularly soft-voiced and dry but sharp wit, the story of his intellectual metamorphosis was humorous and poignant. He conveyed how his mother transformed him into the man now recognized as the first surgeon in the world to successfully separate

Siamese twins joined at the back of the head and also the first to successfully separate Siamese twins joined at the top of the head.

These accomplishments among numerous others resulted in him being named by CNN and Time Magazine as one of the nation's 20 foremost physicians and scientists in 2001. He has also authored three books, "Gifted Hands," "Think Big," and "The Big Picture."

The Minority Professional Association was formed in 1996 as the brainchild of J. Wilfred Neal and Carl D. Davis to help attract, nurture and retain a diverse work force, with a primary focus on employee development and community service. Receiving enthusiastic support from Duke Energy's management team - including Christopher Rolfe and Richard "Stick" Williams among others - the organization has raised approximately \$600,000 to fund the education of 27 area college students. Through the banquet and silent auction held this year, the association raised more than of \$67,000. The MPA Scholarship Fund is managed by The Foundation for the Carolinas.

Rift over center may be ending

Continued from page 1A

through the King Center each year. That's a lot of people to have to clean up after and maintain the facilities for. They take care of the presidential libraries. There is no other black institution like this one in the country."

"When we moved to this location, we moved in debt-free. We will maintain our independence. If we didn't think we could, we wouldn't even consider it," he added.

Farris said he wanted to also clear up the belief perpetuated by the media that the

King family lives off of funds raised by the King Center.

"We're not trying to raise money to support the King family," Farris said. "None of the money we raise goes to the King family. Only Dexter and I get a salary because we are on staff working. But, it's not like that's a whole lot of money."

News reports place both salaries are in the mid-\$100,000 range.

With the recent death of founder Coretta King, the board and the children are faced with the task of capital-

izing off public outpouring of sympathy and respect.

During the three days Coretta King laid in-state, tens of thousands waited in line at times up to three hours to pay their last respects to the woman often referred to as the "First Lady" of the civil rights movement. Many traveled from around the country to do so.

Young, who had tried to quietly negotiate an agreement between the differing siblings, supports the park service assuming control of the grounds and buildings.

Feel Great In 8!

In as little as eight days, jumpstart a healthy lifestyle with the new 500 ml bottle of TAHITIAN® Noni Juice.

It's the perfect size for a trial run - just drink two ounces a day for eight days and experience what this exotic health beverage can do for you!

Gilda L. Dockery (distributorships available)
704-339-4752 www.tni.com/dockery



Get Your \$\$ Money \$\$ FAST

In as little as 6 Hours with Overnight Tax Service

Call Today 704-370-3700

Expanded hours for fast Professional Services

OVERNIGHT TAX SERVICE

1404-B Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216

(Electronic Filing Available)



Specializing in:

- 1040 • 1040EZ • Schedule C for Small Businesses
- 1120 Corporate Taxes • Back Taxes

Services provided via email, fax, phone, pick-up and delivery

SAVE THE DATE

The Charlotte Post

People of Prominence

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Mark your calendar for The Charlotte Post People of Prominence (POP) Awards as we honor:

Emma Allen
First Charter

Larita Barber
Charlotte Bobcats/Charlotte Sting

Angeline Clinton
Duke Energy

Raichelle Glover
Bank of America

Linda Lockman-Brooks
Lockman Brooks Marketing

May 4, 2006

Spirit Square

345 North College Street, Charlotte

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

\$75.00/person

Proceeds benefit The Charlotte Post Foundation.



get closer to your Bobcats

Bobcats vs. New York Knicks

Saturday • 7:30 pm
Charlotte Bobcats Arena

First 5,000 fans receive Bobcats mini-basketballs



courtesy of
Corporate Express
A Home Depot Company

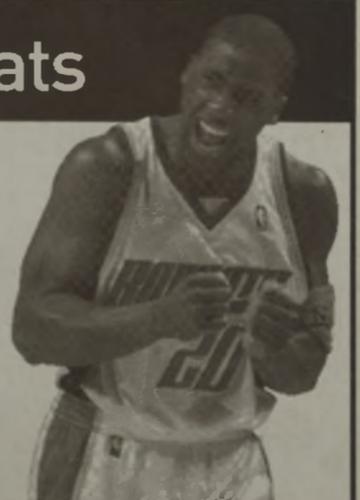
2006-07 Season Tickets

Lower prices. More exclusive benefits.

There's never been a better time to be a Season Ticket Holder.

Place a 15% deposit today and pick tickets to six 2005-06 games of your choice absolutely FREE!

BOBCATS PICK 6 IN '06



Tickets starting at \$10 available at BobcatsBasketball.com or by calling 704-BOBCATS