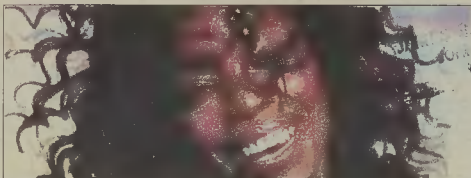


Actor-singer Heather Headley comfortable on any stage/1D

Headley to perform April 9 at Owens Auditorium.



SECURITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS

National program helps entrepreneurs decrease risks for customers/7C

WORTH A VISIT?

Is Charlotte a must-visit destination for black tourists? 1B



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Watt



Dole

Immigrant rights vs. security, economy

N.C. lawmakers weigh effect on state and nation

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

A nation of immigrants is wrestling with how newcomers should be treated.

The U.S. Senate is debating immigration reform with an eye on balancing a rising tide of illegal immigration with concerns that the nation's security could be at risk. The House passed a bill last year that would build a 700-mile wall between the U.S. and Mexico and impose heavy fines on businesses that hire illegal immigrants.

The immigration divide cuts across all lines. At its core is how the U.S. balances an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants against the nation's economic and security concerns.

"Our top priority must be to secure our borders, by increasing the number of border agents, making better use of technology and having adequate facilities to detain those who are caught illegally entering our country," said U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole (R-N.C.). "We are a nation of immigrants, and we are also a nation of laws. I oppose any proposal that provides amnesty to those who have broken our laws and entered this nation illegally."

See IMMIGRATION/3A

Statistically, black men have always lagged behind in employment, education and income. Today, the gap is more likely self-inflicted.



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Corey Baker of Charlotte blames the breakdown of the family and lack of options for young people as responsible for the difficulty black men face.

It's hard out here for a brother

By Virilanda Miller
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

For years, Americans have bemoaned the plight of black men in the United States, quoting statistics about the number in college compared to those in prison or unemployment lines.

The discussion has

become more heated in the last week as a New York Times article suggested the number of black men who are unemployed is actually higher than previous statistics showed. Jobless rates are based on the number of people filing for unemployment benefits, but do

not include those who are not looking for work or who are in jail.

The article was based on studies conducted by experts at Columbia, Princeton, Harvard and other universities, and included statistics that 50 percent of black men in their 20s without a col-

lege education were unemployed, as were 72 percent of high school dropouts.

The article also claimed 60 percent of black male high school dropouts had served time in prison by the time they reached their mid-30s, as did 30

Please see ODDS/2A

"I had to be true to the game."

Corey Baker of Charlotte, on the allure of hustling and drug use.

Basketball a study in humanity for collegian

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

Basketball is making Chris Clunie a globetrotter.

The Davidson College senior won a \$25,000 Watson Award fellowship that pays for a year of study abroad. Clunie, who plays forward on the Wildcats basketball team,

is among 50 seniors nationwide who were announced as winners of the fellowship.

Clunie, a political science major with a Spanish minor, won his fellowship with a proposal to study basketball as an agent for social change around the world. "Being able to link

my two passions, international politics and basketball, will help me understand how the game can become more than just a game," he said.

Clunie will begin his year abroad in Japan in August as a volunteer at the International Basketball Federation World

Championships. He will examine how the event serves as a tool for international solidarity among the 24 teams planning to compete.

In South Africa he will coach a youth team in the Playing for Peace organization to see how it uses bas-

Please See SPORT/6A

Liberian warlord nabbed during escape try

INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE

Former Liberia president Charles Taylor was captured yesterday by Nigerian authorities after he took an unauthorized leave from Calabar, Nigeria, where he was living for since 2003 in exile.

Taylor, who was about to be handed over to a U.N. war crimes tribunal, was nabbed on the Nigerian border with Cameroon, about a thousand miles from Calabar.

Police spokesman Haz Iwendi told local media

that he was arrested in Borno state, at the Cameroon border, in the early hours of this morning. He was traveling in a jeep with diplomatic plates with a woman and boy, and a large amount of money in dollars in a trunk, officials

said. He was escorted under heavy security to an airport in Maiduguri, Borno State, where he boarded a Nigerian presidential jet bound for Monrovia, Liberia.

President Olusegun

Please See FORMER/7A

State of Black America: Reversal

Stagnation and some retrenchment prevalent

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — In evaluating recent nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court, too much emphasis was placed on competence and academic achievement while not enough weight was given to basic values, retired federal Judge Nathaniel R. Jones says.

Jones' analysis appears as an essay in the National Urban League's 2006 State of Black America report, released on Wednesday.

"One's fitness to be a U.S. Supreme Court justice transcends what so many focused on during the recent confirmation process — stellar academic achievements and a degree of unquestioned professional competence," writes Jones, a former lawyer for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and ex-general counsel for the NAACP. "While such credentials are relevant, they should be the beginning of the scrutiny, not the end. The critical question is one of values, not compe-

Please see BLACK/3A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Grassroots opposition to task force proposal

By Herbert L. White

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Count Charlotte's civil rights and black religious leaders against a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools task force's recommendations.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP and People United for Education held a press conference last week to voice their opposition to what they claim is a plan to increase racial and economic segregation in public schools. NAACP president Kenneth White and activist Richard McElrath of People United for Education issued a joint statement announcing their opposition.

"As leaders of local congregations and leaders of local civil rights organizations, we oppose a new regime of segregated school-

Please see OPPOSITION/7A



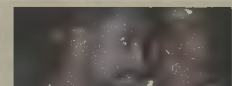
McElrath



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

TEARFUL REUNION: JoAnn Johnson embraces Cora Jetter at a recent reunion of Piedmont Courts residents. The public housing complex will be redeveloped into a mixed-use community. Johnson and Jetter hadn't seen each other for more than 10 years.

Charlotte boxer Calvin Brock aims for world title fight by year's end/1C



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