

7C

BUSINESS

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE



Bryant Glover

Banking on balance and career longevity

Over 23 years, Rai Glover rises through BofA

By Erica Bryant
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Rai Glover is senior vice president and market development manager for Bank of America's Global Personnel covering headquarters in Charlotte and North Carolina.

Glover started working for the bank while she was an undergraduate student at the University of South Carolina.

This year she will celebrate 23 years of service with Bank of America having worked in more than a dozen positions for the company. Glover is one of the honorees for this year's Charlotte Post People of Prominence - Women of Distinction awards. Join us as we honor Mrs. Glover and 4 other prominent local women on May 4 at 6 pm at Spirit Square and participate in an interesting discussion.

Among other things, find out the two questions Glover constantly asks herself and others in her professional and personal life that help to keep things on track.

EB: What are some of your words to live by?

RG: As you are attempting to rise in corporate America or in any job, never compromise your morals. My mother always taught us, "It is nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice." Of course, you need to remember how far nice needs to go so you are not run over, but there is still a lot to be said for not doing people wrong and doing the right thing by people.

EB: How do you work to achieve balance in your life?

RG: There is something that I started doing to a greater extent this year that I am really happy and excited about. In the morning, I now wake up 45 minutes to an hour earlier so I can have devotion time before I come into corporate America and into this world. In the past, I'd wake up and say my prayers, get dressed, grab some coffee, and jump in the car to drive downtown. But now, I've stopped and I take more time in the morning to really devote myself and get myself grounded before I give myself to everything else that's out there. It has given me a new perspective on how life really should be, and I appreciate that.

EB: What is something you refuse to do?

RG: I don't hang with negative people, because I do not want negativism in my life. I gravitate to people who are positive in their thought process, people who are action-oriented... people who like results in a positive way.

Organics may shake retail world

Wal-Mart's move to market naturally-produced goods targets high-end shoppers

By Marcus Kabel
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BENTONVILLE, Ark. - Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is throwing its weight behind organic products, a move that experts say could have the same lasting effect on environmental practices that

Wal-Mart has had on prices by forcing suppliers and competitors to keep up.

Putting new items on the shelf this year, from organic cotton baby clothes to ocean fish caught in ways that don't harm the environment, is part of a broader green policy

launched last year to meet consumer demand, cut costs for things like energy and packaging and burnish a battered reputation.

Organic products are one lure for the more affluent shoppers Wal-Mart is trying to woo away from rivals like

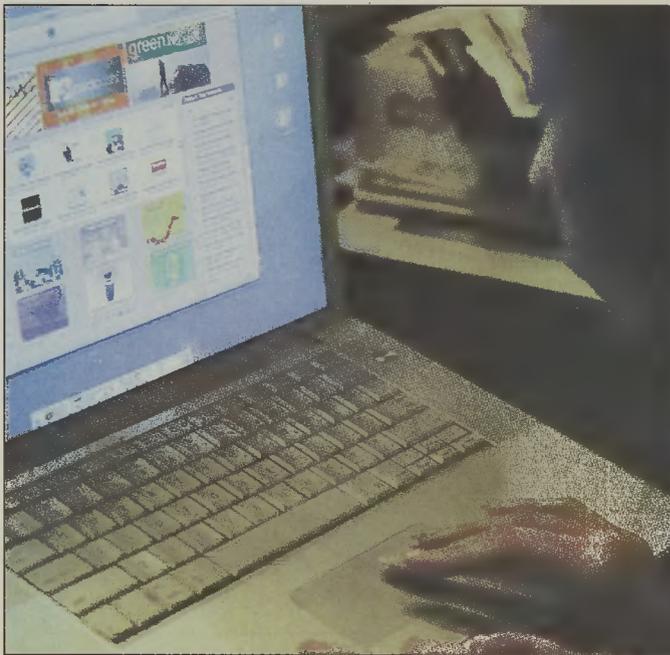
Target Corp., said Alice Peterson, president of Chicago-based consultancy Syrus Global.

A new Supercenter that opened last month in Plano, Texas, features over 400 organic foods as part of an experiment to see what

kinds of products and interior decor can grab the interest of upscale shoppers.

"Like many big companies, they have figured out it is just good marketing and good reputation building to be in favor of things that

See WAL-MART/8C



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Courtney Tabor, a junior at South Mecklenburg High School scrolls the internet for podcats. Podcasts can be downloaded music or video and is growing as an advertising vehicle.

Podcasting opens new doors to programming and profitability

By Eric Bozeman
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

There's profits in them that podcasts.

Generation Y is realizing its potential by creating audio and video programs by subscribing to a set of audio or video feeds by downloading shows from the Internet.

The vehicle responsible for the revolution is Apple's iPod, which can hold up to 15,000 songs, 25,000 photographs or 150 hours of video. Podcasting is also considered the launching of audio and video shows, which in the case of video podcasts, are referred to as Vlogs. More people, especially 20-somethings are launching podcasts

for profit.

The revenues generated from talk shows, music entertainment shows, and videocasts are achieved by advertisers who pay for commercials. There is usually a nominal fee charged to approximately 21 million iPod users who can download programs from a podcasting directory.

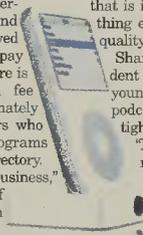
"It's a fascinating business," said Allen Weiner of Gartner Ink in Charlotte, an expert in the field of podcasting. "However, just because the opportunities are there doesn't mean it can be

successful. What makes a good podcast is to make something that is interesting. Like everything else it is limited to the quality put into it."

Shannon Wooten, 20, a student at UNC Charlotte, said young people are turning to podcasting rather than a tightening job market.

"Because of unemployment and a lack of jobs, young people just want to be their own boss," Wooten said.

The iPod is directly related to music, and according to Jason



Apple Inc.'s iPod can hold up to 150 hours of video.

See PODCASTING/8C

Income gap still exists on color line

Improved U.S. economy still hasn't led to racial parity

By Erin Teixeira
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Even though the U.S. economy has picked up, stubborn gaps between blacks and whites remain - a reality highlighted by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, the National Urban League reports in a new study.

"Two years ago, we saw that things were tough, but there was a recession," Urban League President Marc H. Morial said. "Now that things are better, we're still suffering. The jobless recovery is a real thing for black Americans."



Morial

The Urban League's annual State of Black America report, released Tuesday, pulls together government data and academic analysis to measure black progress and problems. The nearly 300-page report includes charts, essays and suggested policy changes.

For three years, blacks' overall well-being compared to whites has stagnated, the report says. Though some African-Americans are prospering, in economics, health, education, social justice and civic engagement, blacks generally fare about three-quarters as well as whites, the report noted, citing figures from Global Insight, Inc., an economic analysis company.

Government data show that black Americans have more than double the rates of infant mortality, unemployment and poverty as whites, the report also notes.

See POST HURRICANE/8C

Post-storm New Orleans economy a question mark

By Alan Sayre
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS - Most of Big Oil has returned to New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina, Mardi Gras got the city back in the tourism business and the skilled construction trades can't get enough workers. The city's population - 455,000 before Katrina and almost zero after storm evacuations - is now near 190,000 and expected to climb.

But Tim and Renee Baldwin likely won't be part of any long-term recovery.

"It's hard to make a judgment about the future," said Tim Baldwin, a French Quarter bartender who lives in the city's Uptown section, which was largely spared from flooding. "It's a matter of day to day, a question of who's staying and who's leaving. We're probably leaving."

Meanwhile, for Ida Manheim, the owner of a French Quarter antique store that's been in her family for four decades, there's no question.

"I'm going to help rebuild New Orleans," Manheim said. "It's a wonderful city."

While economists and think tanks struggle to come up with a quantitative prediction of the city's future, there is a common theme: New Orleans will be a much smaller city with an economic growth that will be fragile for years to come. There are simply too many unknowns and no other modern disaster with which to compare Katrina, leaving residents and businesses acting largely on faith.

Shell Exploration & Production Co. surprised many by bringing its 1,000 employees

See RACIAL/8C

Know what to expect from investments

By Debra K. Coleman
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

If your investment portfolio is even moderately diversified, you probably own both stocks and bonds. And that's a good idea, because diversification is essential to your success as an investor. But you also should know what to expect from different types of investments, because the more you know, the more likely you are to make the right moves.

Unfortunately, some people's expectations get distorted, due to what may be happening with their investments. For example, a couple of years back, many investors saw the value of their bonds rise sharply, causing some to look at these investments as growth vehicles. But is that an accurate assessment?

Probably not, although some recent statistics are quite interesting. From Dec. 1999 through Feb. 2003, long-term government bonds rose about 13 percent, while the S&P 500 - one of the

most well-known stock market indices - fell by about the same amount. This is the second greatest period ever of superior bond returns relative to stocks, and one of the few in the past 80 years, a time in which stocks have consistently outperformed all other investments.

And so, while you can't base all your investment decisions on what has gone before, it's generally a good idea not to plan on selling your bonds before they mature and make a profit. Instead, plan for what bonds do provide: current income in the form of monthly or quarterly interest checks. As long as you own your bond, you will always receive the same amount in interest (assuming the issuer doesn't default), no matter how much the bond's current value fluctuates.

Many stocks also provide current income in the form of dividends. But if you're like a lot of people, you buy stocks for their growth potential. In other words,

when you buy stocks, you anticipate the price going up, so that when it's time to sell, you can make a profit.

And, although past performance is not an indication of future results, over the long term, stock prices historically have risen. In fact, from 1926-2005, large-company stocks provided an average annual return of more than 10 percent, while small-company stocks returned, on average, more than 12 percent, according to Ibbotson Associates, an investment research firm. Small company stocks do fluctuate more than that of larger companies.

Of course, you can't assume that, for a given year, your stocks will return 10 percent, 12 percent, or anything at all. In the short term, stocks go down as well as up, so you shouldn't be shocked at losing principal over a single year, or perhaps a couple of years in a row.