



SPENDING SPREE
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Brandon Wyatt was wounded in an ambush.



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WEEK OF APRIL 13-19, 2006

Memo to CMS: Don't ignore inner city



By Herbert L. White
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Before Peter Gorman takes over as superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, inner city advocates have a message: Don't forget us.

Gorman, who was picked Tuesday to lead the state's biggest school district, is superintendent in Tustin, Calif., which has an enrollment of 20,000 — one-sixth of CMS. "I really don't know" much about Gorman, said Richard

McElrath, a longtime supporter of inner-city schools. "I'm going to hope and pray (for his success) because he's got it. It was encouraging they did vote 8-0, but no matter how they did it, they united behind him."

That's the first of many hurdles Gorman, 42, faces in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Sagging confidence in public school administration, nervousness about overcrowding and leadership on a fractious

Please See INNER/6A

Lawmaker urged to chill on the rhetoric

Capitol incident latest controversy for McKinney

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) is being advised to tone down her language by someone who knows her best — her father:



"After all of this, I would probably give her the same advice that I gave her in the beginning," says Billy McKinney, the Congresswoman's father, a former

police officer. "To get along in America, in this society, it might be better to go along and get along," he said, repeating advice he'd given her when she first won election to the Georgia General Assembly in 1988. "I'm talking about not putting yourself out because you won't find that a whole lot of black people will back you when you get out there," McKinney says in an interview with the NNPA News Service. "I don't think she'll ever be understood by a segment of this country."

And perhaps nor will he. When she was defeated, he created a stir when he blamed Jews for her downfall.

Controversy seems to be a life-style for McKinney.

In 2002, then five-term McKinney lost her seat after a string of controversies that included her accusation that the

See MCKINNEY/3A

LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/GERRY BROOME

N.C. Rep. Pete Cunningham (left) of Charlotte and House of Representatives Speaker Jim Black of Matthews answer questions after approving a state budget last year. House members in the Legislative Black Caucus are supporting Black, who has been accused of breaking state campaign laws.

Standing up for House speaker

African American lawmakers solidly behind embattled ally

By Herbert L. White
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N.C. House Speaker Jim Black still has friends among African American lawmakers.

Black, who is under investigation for alleged violation of state campaign laws and is under increasing pressure to resign, has the support of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus. The caucus has 26 members — all Democrats —

including 19 in the House.

"I don't have any insight on the future of things in the court, but in the caucus, we are solidly behind him," said Rep. Beverly Earle of Charlotte, the caucus' chair.

Black, a Matthews optometrist, has drawn increasing criticism for doling out money for political allies, and fund raising tactics. Four Democrats have publicly asked for his resignation, but none from

Mecklenburg.

"From what I'm hearing, the (Democratic) caucus, with the exception of the ones who've been in the press, are behind him," Earle said.

Black's relationship with African American lawmakers has been fruitful during his tenure. Several hold high-ranking leadership

See CAUCUS/2A



Earle
N.C. Rep. Beverly Earle backs House speaker.

Jobs going, going, gone?

Native-born blacks struggle to work as immigrants move in

By M.L. Ingram
THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

PHILADELPHIA — For blacks and Latinos, destinies in securing a place in America have been, in many ways, intertwined. But that view may unravel, as current trends show a wave of illegal immigration has helped push blacks down the hole, instead of out of it.

In spite of published reports indicating increases in jobs and decreases in unemployment levels, blacks are still struggling. With the nationwide unemployment rate dropping from February's rating of 4.8 percent, the number for black unemployment, skilled or unskilled, remained at a cumulative 9.3 percent.

Bernard Anderson, professor of economics at the University of Pennsylvania, said numbers such as these should sound an alarm.

"In the midst of a very conservative trend, jobs are up, but opportunities for blacks are diminishing," said

Please see BLACKS/3A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Tardy on taxes? Don't sweat it

By Eric Bozeman
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Time will come and go for some at midnight on April 17, the deadline to file federal and state income taxes.

Then what?

Those who are late to file income taxes need not panic, just understand it's something the government can work with them on.

George Norwood of Web Tax in Charlotte stresses that late filers should be aware that creating a good paper trail is key.

"Well of course accurate records will always help because the state and the federal government can reach way back. The state is going back five years or more," Norwood said. "If filers are getting a refund, no problem, because you in effect have loaned the government money and they will in fact pay you some interest but it's best to get everything done during the filing time so you don't get caught short."

Along with arranging personal records, Norwood recommends to Please see LATE /8A

N.C.'s top principal leaves no child behind on her campus



PHOTO: CURTIS WILSON

South Mecklenburg High School principal Marian Yates is 2006 Wachovia principal of the year. Yates has been an educator for 37 years.

By Eric Bozeman
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

South Mecklenburg High School principal Marian Yates is a nurturer.

Growing up during an era of racial segregation, adults in Yates' neighborhood looked after young people and encouraged them to excel. Yates, who was named Wachovia N.C. principal of the year last week, takes the same approach at South Mecklenburg, where she's been principal for six years.

"In the neighborhood I came up in everybody looked out for everybody, it was truly a village,

and I think that's one thing we've truly lost as African Americans," she said. "Our teachers always pushed us to be successful, they would tell us you're going to have to learn to work in two worlds, the one you were born in and the one you're going to have to work in."

"I felt it was my duty to give back, be the best and give back to help kids. I never want to forget from whence I came and I share that with the students, because they think you became a teacher, you became a principal, you drive the car, they don't think you had a life before

See NC. PRINCIPAL/6A

NFL Europe puts HBCU standouts' pro football dreams on track/1C



INSIDE

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