

GROWING CHAMBER

Keva Walton leads diversity and planning for Charlotte business interests/7C



GRANDMA'S HANDS

More grandmothers are raising their children's children /1B

Hattie Anthony of Charlotte, sitting, raised granddaughter Ebony Moore-Roach



HE'S IN THE 'THIK' OF THINGS

Publisher Cecil Dowdell launches magazine for the average women/1D

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WEEK OF MAY 11-17, 2006

Gorman's urban pledge

New Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools superintendent touts big-district experience



PHOTO: CURTIS WILSON

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Peter Gorman takes a question from Gyasi Foluke during the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum.

By **Cheris F. Hodges**
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New Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Peter Gorman says urban education is close to his heart and plans to make himself and the public accountable for the education of all students.

On Tuesday morning, Gorman met with a group of mostly African Americans at the Tuesday Breakfast Forum at West Charlotte Recreational Center. After

being introduced by school board member George Dunlap, Gorman told the crowd about his background in urban school environments.

"I was a second grade teacher in Orange County, Florida, and I taught at an inner city school," he said.

After moving on to teach middle school, Gorman said he moved into administration, ultimately becoming chief financial officer of Orlando's school district.

"This was a school system

that had failed on a tax referendum, and had challenges with achievement gaps," he said.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg is experiencing similar issues. According to a report from Wake County Judge Howard Manning, "When the Court reviewed the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools... performance composite scores, the high school composite scores jumped out like a 'sore thumb.' CMS supports its

See SUPERINTENDENT/3A

Grand Strand preps for bikers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MYRTLE BEACH — The South Carolina Grand Strand will host hundreds of thousands of bikers starting this weekend and running through the end of the month.

Residents either love or hate the two annual bike rallies that have continued to grow despite some efforts to downsize the events and increased restrictions and regulations.

The first event is the Harley Davidson rally, which has been held for 66 years at Myrtle Beach.

The rally begins Friday and is expected to draw about 300,000 bikers.

Bikers will have to adjust to one-way traffic on Ocean Boulevard that will be new this year. The change in traffic is the result of the settlement of a lawsuit between the city and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The NAACP had sued because the city requires one-way traffic during the Atlantic Beach bike rally that comes later this month. The crowd at the rally is predominantly black. The Harley crowd is predominantly white.

Bikers also will have to watch their noise. North Myrtle Beach police cracked down on noise violations last year, writing 368 tickets with a \$129 fine for noise violations.

This year, Myrtle Beach
Please see GRAND7A

CLOSING ONE CHAPTER, OPENING ANOTHER

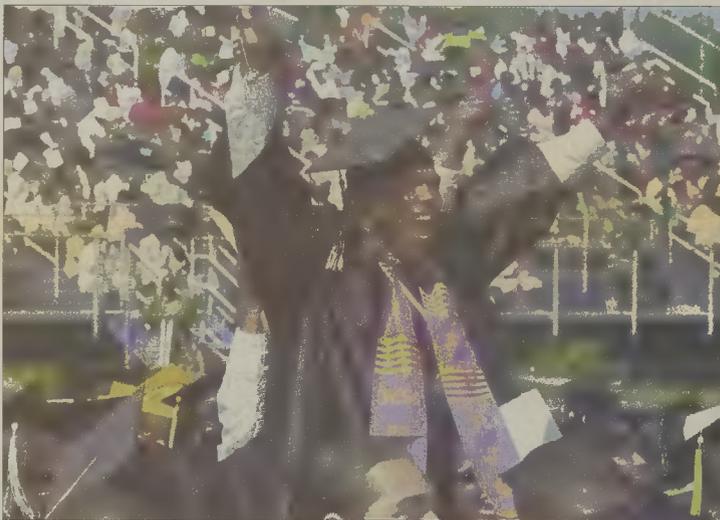


PHOTO: WADE NASH

Video camera in hand, Livingstone College graduate Moises Gordon of Patterson, New Jersey, can barely contain his enthusiasm during commencement at Alumni Stadium Saturday.

Emotions are as much a part of graduation day as "Pomp and Circumstance."

At Livingstone College in Salisbury and Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, both were evident last weekend. Hugs, kisses and tears were the order of the day on both campuses as the schools sent the Class of 2006 into the next chapter of their lives.

After the marching and long speeches, was the part everyone waited for — after graduation celebrations with family and friends.

Herbert L. White



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Jeruelle Fort's tears of joy helped bring Johnson C. Smith University's commencement to a close Sunday at Cricket Arena. U.S. Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.) was commencement speaker for the Class of 2006, which had 226 graduates.

Rice: Expect a minority president — just not me

By **William C. Mann**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says she expects to see a U.S. president from an ethnic minority

during her lifetime, but it will not be her.

Rice's audience of young Latinos laughed and applauded when she said it Friday, and she responded with an embarrassed grin.

Rice, who is black, has been asked repeatedly whether she plans to run for the open Republican candidacy in 2008, when her boss, President Bush, completes his second term and cannot run again. She is consid-

ered a prospect for the 2008 GOP nomination in some Republican circles despite her protestations that she's not interested in running.

On Friday, a young man from
Please see RICE/7A



Rice

Sudan says UN help now welcome

Task force proposes options to improve N.C. health care coverage

By **Mohamed Osman**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudan would welcome the help of the United Nations in Darfur to implement a peace agreement between Khartoum and one of the rebel groups, despite the country's initial resistance, a government spokesman said.

Bakri Mulah, secretary-general for external affairs in the Information Ministry, was speaking a day after the agreement was reached in Abuja, Nigeria. His comments Saturday opened the door for the possibility that Sudan could accept U.N. peacekeepers to replace the thousands of African Union peacekeepers now in Darfur.

The Sudanese government had initially rejected calls for deploying a U.N. force.

"We heard the appeal of the U.N. secretary general... Now there is no problem," he said. "The Sudan government will be open for any assistance. It will not reject or oppose any effort either from the EU (European Union) or from the United States or from the United Nations in realizing peace in Darfur on the grounds of this agreement," he told The Associated Press in English.

But later Saturday, Egypt's Middle East News Agency quoted Mulah as saying: "It is too early to talk about

Please see SUDAN/3A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Role models get together for kids

The Males Place is tipping off its 2th annual Teen Role Model All-Star Basketball Classic May 19 at Johnson C. Smith University's Grimes Lounge. The classic recognizes young people who are achieving academically and as citizens.

The Role Model event includes a pizza party, banquet for participants and basketball game with the all-stars taking on a team of community leaders and celebrities.

The program, sponsored by Mecklenburg County, includes an involvement education series that continues through June 7.

For information, call Reggie Singleton at (704) 336-6423 or Keith Cradle at (704) 336-5337.

Herbert L. White

In Real Estate: Deck trends for makeovers/4D



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