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# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF MAY 18-24, 2006

## Determination by the gallon

Rising fuel prices no deterrent for long-time fans of Memorial week bike rally



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

**Bernard Stewart of Rock Hill will skip Atlantic Beach's bike rally so his daughter, who's graduating high school, can go.**

By **Cheris F. Hodges**

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Not even high gas prices can keep bikers away from Memorial Biker's Week.

"I don't have any indication that gas will keep people away," said interim Atlantic Beach, S.C., town administrator **Marcia Connor**.

The event, according to Connor, draws at least 200,000 people to the Grand Strand area. They're not just on bikes, which don't cost that much to fill up.

They're in sports cars and sport utility vehicles, which are sure-fire gas-guzzlers.

**Bernard Stewart**, a Rock Hill cyclist and member of the Extreme Riders club, said he's going to skip the beach this year, but it has nothing to do with gas.

"I have a daughter that's graduating and she's going down there to spend the week," he said. "I decided to let her go this year."

The average cost of gas in Atlantic Beach this week is \$2.71, according to AAA of

the Carolinas. It costs about \$10 more to fill a 15-gallon tank this year than it did last year.

Charlotte biker **Germaine Grissett** isn't worried about increased costs. He figures a week at the beach is going to set him back about \$2,000 with \$150 earmarked for gas in two bikes-a racing machine and a leisure bike-and his car, which he plans to tow the bikes with.

"I ride my bike Thursday, Friday and Saturday and go See **GAS/3A**

## Leading the way on Darfur activism

White Americans rally to end genocide while blacks stay on sideline

By **Robtel Neajai Pailey**  
THE WASHINGTON INFORMER

WASHINGTON — As momentum increases with U.S. rallies to end the slaughter of civilians in Darfur, Sudan, blacks are usually few and far between in a sea of white protesters.

"Save Darfur" campaign rhetoric claims that the appeal of the movement is its assorted religious groups, its protesters from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and political affiliations — but did the average black person get the memo?

Black leaders are vocal, yet their followers are hardly visible.

An estimated 15,000 marchers attended the Washington rally and protests were held in at least 30 other U.S. and Canadian cities.

"It's time for the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the world community to raise the ante on Sudan," said U.S. Rep. **Melvin L. Watt** (D-N.C.), and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Tuesday at a demonstration in front of the Sudanese Embassy. The protest resulted in the arrest of seven members of the CBC for disorderly conduct for obstructing the entrance to the Sudanese Embassy.

Watt was joined by U.S. Representatives **Barbara Lee** (D-California), **John Lewis** (D-Georgia),

Please see **ACTIVISM/3A**

## New wave of AIDS is near

By **Lisa Soderlindh**  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE

UNITED NATIONS — A quarter-century into the HIV/AIDS pandemic, researchers fear that a lack of preparedness for large-scale social changes, driven by factors like armed conflict and climate change, could lead to explosive new outbreaks affecting millions of people.

Since cases of a severe pneumonia affecting gay men were described for the first time in a U.S. public health report in June 1981, more than 65 million people have become infected with HIV and 25 million have died, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, which estimates the current number of people living with HIV at 37 million to 45 million.

"We should not accept living with this epidemic at the level it has reached," Paul DeLay, director of monitoring and evaluation at UNAIDS, said. "Today, we have a much clearer understanding of the epidemic itself and what we need to do."

Pointing to the most important advances of the last 25 years, he said the real breakthrough from the standpoint of science has been cheaper, simpler treatment and diagnosis, and drugs that prevent mother-to-child transmission.

But according to researcher **Samuel Friedman**, "We are not really looking ahead to what may be coming down the road at us."

Please see **NEXT/7A**

### GARINGER HIGH SCHOOL



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

**Garinger High School juniors Lorenzo Broome (left) and Christopher Donte Houston bag car packages for seniors as part of the Elves for the Elderly program. Both are on Garinger's job-training program.**

## Volunteer state

Work with elderly helps students uncover value of skills and time

By **Erica Singleton** | FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

A group of students at Garinger High School are learning the value in helping others.

The students — 10th, 11th, and 12th graders — each on the Occupational Course Diploma track, have been helping out with the Senior Citizens Nutrition Program of Mecklenburg County. The Occupational Study Course requires school-based, com-

munity and paid work hours. Occupational Prep is work done for the school, while Occupational Lab includes off-campus work.

**Gervonne Ellerbe**, a job coach at Garinger, said the occupational track is a job training program geared toward teaching students work ethic and the value of work, and career options. "You have a college prep

track, and a technical prep track, they're on an occupational course of study track," she said.

Students who in the past would have been placed in special education classes and may not have had clear career direction now have an idea of what it is they want to do.

"These are kids that are Please see **GARINGER/2A**

"It's given me a sense of hope that I can do something."

Garinger High School senior **Timmy Green** on participating in the occupational course program.

## the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

### Publisher to change slur definition

Webster's Dictionary is reportedly changing its definition of the N-word.

Starting with its next edition, Webster's will define "nigger" as a racial slur that is not synonymous with African Americans. Previous editions of Webster's define the word as a noun that is "a contemptuous term for a black or dark-skinned person."

NAACP CEO **Kweisi Mfume**, who has led the fight to have "nigger" removed from dictionaries, announced the change during a speech at Virginia Polytechnic Institute earlier this month.



Mfume

## Forum to address CIAA tournament business

By **Herbert L. White**  
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Black business owners are invited to find opportunities to participating in the CIAA basketball tournament.

An advocacy group, **Charlotte United**, is sponsoring a reception and forum Saturday at Charleston House restaurant, 3128 The Plaza from at 4 p.m. The organization's goal is to build

a plan for economic inclusion and present it to political officials and the hospitality industry.

The tournament drew more than 125,000 visitors to Charlotte in February and

March while generating over \$15 million for the local economy.

The CIAA is the oldest black-college tournament and second largest in the U.S. behind the ACC.

For information on the forum, call **Bill McCullough** at (704) 491-5787 or e-mail **mchassoc@bell-south.net**.

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Life 1B  
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Sports 1C  
Business 7C

A&E 1D  
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