

## Immigration a hot topic at Tuesday Breakfast Forum

Continued from page 1A

information sessions, was really jumping over immigration.

Fly's spies report that the regulars let Latin American Coalition honcho **Angeles Ortega-Moore** have it over immigration and how it impacts African Americans. The way folks were gettin' after girlfriend, you would've thought she was bringing in a bunch o' illegals by herself.

You can imagine how the ranting took on a life of its own: Forum types get worked up over immigrants taking jobs, don't pay taxes and soak up human services and health care like sponges. Then it turns into an us vs. them Hispanics tirade and the piling on starts. While it may feel good to get the frustration off the collective chest to the point where Miss Ortega-Moore — a guest of the forum — is feeling like a pinata, answer this: Y'all see her forcing anybody across the border anytime soon? Shoot, even **President Bush** and U.S. Rep. **Sue Myrick** can't do that — yet.

• No one can accuse **Mayor Pro Tem Susan Burgess** of not being ambitious.

Madam councilwoman was at the Habitat for Humanity Building Blitz Monday in the Druid Hills neighborhood when **Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson** called Burgess mayor.



Burgess

So did a couple of other out-of-town speakers. That's understandable, since everybody figured Jackson knew what he was talking about. The kicker, though, is that Burgess didn't try to correct any of 'em.

Maybe she's got plans for that job. Burgess is next in line, and maybe she's had some discussion with **Mayor Pat McCrory** as to what the future holds.

• The rapper formerly known as **Hammer** hasn't lost a step, but he sure lost a thread or two at Speed Street.

Hammer did all his hits, like "Can't Touch This" and "2 Legit 2 Quit," but homeboy was so busy getting down, he flat split his britches. But the show went on. Hammer (given name Stanley Burrell) grabbed a towel, draped it over the offending rip and kept on dancing.

## Home blitz changes lives of new owners and communities

Continued from page 1A

pans — everything," she said.

Homeownership among African Americans is more

evasive than

among

Americans as a whole. There

are 75 million U.S. homeowners, but black

ownership is behind whites

by 25.9 percent in 2001, accord-

ing to the Department of Housing and Urban

Development. In Charlotte,

15,000 families can't afford a two-bedroom apartment at

current market rates, according to Don Holmstead, president of Habitat Charlotte,

which is building 16 homes this week.

"We must and we will build a city that is safe and affordable for all of God's children,"

he said.

Eliminating that gap has led to a series of initiatives

launched by the Congressional Black Caucus

and federal agencies. HUD has helped 2.6 million black

and Hispanic families move into homes since 2002, said

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson, who was in

Charlotte Monday to launch National Homeownership

Month.

"We're 200,000 homes ahead" of pace to HUD's goal of 5 million new minority

homeowners. "When we're talking about homeownership, we're talking about creating

wealth."

Grassroots organizations, including Habitat, have

worked on the local level to provide affordable housing,

and Charlotte has one of the

biggest chapters in the U.S.

"It's a pretty great opportunity," Dykes said. "I feel

Habitat really cares about the people they bring in and

I'm fairly overwhelmed I didn't know all of this was going

to go on. I joined the program in October and this is a pretty

big deal."

That's what the reality of owning a home has done for

Dykes' family.

The Habitat program will

"change our life, being able to own a home," he said. "I don't

think we would've been able to do it on our own. It helps

out a lot."

Said Jackson: "We're not only creating wealth for

families, we're creating stability. When we talk about

home ownership, we're not talking about just putting

somebody into a home, we're talking about transforming a

community."

## Carolinas Juneteenth festival grows

Continued from page 1A

slaves.

Juneteenth has gone on for more than a century in the Lone Star state, and the holiday's popularity has

branched out across North America, Europe and Africa.

There are festivals in Canada, the Caribbean islands, and London hosts the largest such celebration in the world. And while many

festivals recognize the 19th or the weekend surrounding it, few

celebrate like Charlotte, with four days of activities.

In 1997, Ndiaye started the first Juneteenth Festival of the Carolinas out in front of

The House of Africa, 2000 people attended that first year. For the next six years

Ndiaye had Thomas Avenue and Commonwealth, and soon

after Central Avenue closed and held the events in the neighborhood

around House of Africa. The event became too big, and crowded

in the neighborhood, and was moved to Independence Park, where it will be held again

this year.

While attendance and activities are increasing, Juneteenth is

universally accepted.

"Sometime people are scared of talking about slavery,"

said Ndiaye. "It's something that happened, something that was here (in the U.S.). I think it is one of the

worst things that ever happened to humanity and I believe we must teach people

about it to be a better person."

This year's festivities kick-off with Ndiaye's the celebration of history children's day

camp featuring crafts, drumming, mask making, tie dye, and acting of all kinds, from

10 am to 4pm. "We've invited churches, day cares, camps, everybody. Last year we had

300 children attend, and this year we are expecting more,"

said Ndiaye.

Each year's festival theme has been education.

Juneteenth of the Carolinas logo contains a tree overlaid

with children's faces and the words, "From these roots

teach the world our history." Ndiaye believes that the education

portion and teaching education in the community is the most important part.

The committee will give the first Marilyn Griffith Turner

Scholarship Award in memory of Ndiaye's longtime friend, business partner, and

the Juneteenth of the Carolinas first committee chairperson.

"This is the first year we will be giving a four year full

scholarship," Ndiaye said. "It's hard doing this without

Marilyn. She was the backbone of The House of Africa and Juneteenth. She was a

great lady, and a wonderful warrior."

Students wishing to apply for the scholarship online at the

organizations website, [www.juneteenthofthecarolinas.com](http://www.juneteenthofthecarolinas.com).

Events on Sunday are also geared toward kids, including

a youth seminar and a talent show and a tribute to fathers.

"Anytime Juneteenth falls around Father's Day, we

always have a tribute," said festival Chairperson

Demetria Bell. This year's theme is "The Essence of

Father: What makes a good father to you?" Children can

enter the essay contest — 150 words or less — by mailing

their entry to Juneteenth Father's Day Tribute, 1215

Thomas Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205. The winning essay

will receive a gift for Dad courtesy of the House of

Africa.

In addition to Thursday and Sunday's activities, the

festival will include South African drummers, a stick

walker and dancers.

"For the past three years we've had real African

weddings at the festival. For this year's festival we're having

an actual African engagement ceremony, the way we do it in

Africa," said Ndiaye.

Sunday's activities will include HIV seminar and

screenings, a health fair village and a gospel music concert.

"Juneteenth is a worldwide festival, with celebrations

even in Africa now," said Ndiaye. "It's a piece of

American history. Juneteenth is not to recreate the past, but to share in the

spirit of freedom."

Come Celebrate Charlotte's Newest Community Festival

# Charlotte East Summerfest!

**Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> Noon-7pm**

On the grounds and across the city, throughout **CitySide** Community Center & The Plaza, Charlotte.

Let's bring our community together!

- ★ Live Entertainment
- ★ Food & Restaurant Vendors
- ★ Artisans & Their Crafts
- ★ Local Business Vendors
- ★ Children's Activities
- ★ Family Entertainment
- ★ Magic Shows
- ★ Cultural & Educational Activities
- ★ Meet Civic & Government Leaders

The mission of Charlotte East Summerfest is to showcase and enhance the beauty and diversity of our region by bringing the community together to celebrate and share the richness of Charlotte's East Side.

Call 704-895-9841 for more information

Have you had a **BLOOD CLOT** injury?

Have you had a serious **STROKE**?

Were you on the **ORTHO EVRA<sup>®</sup> Birth Control Patch**?

**THE COCHRAN FIRM**

Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr.  
Founding Partner 1937 - 2005

If so, please contact our firm for a free consultation

**1-800-LAW-HELP**

[www.cochranfirm.com](http://www.cochranfirm.com)

### The Charlotte Post



**HERBALIFE.**

*Lose Weight Now,  
Find Out How... Call  
Lil Farrer, Independent Distributor*

8908 Glade Spring Lane, #202, Charlotte, NC 28216  
Ph: 704.598.1963 ✉ E-mail: LFarrer@bellsouth.net

## T-SHIRTS

for

# \$4.32

One Color, One Sided on White Shirts

Contact:

**Wes James at 704.331.3000**

Ad Specialties & Wearables

[isupplyexpress.com](http://isupplyexpress.com)