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Uptown's changing face

As property rates boom, longtime neighbors weigh their options

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Superior Barbershop has been a part of Greg Kennedy's life for over 50 years. His father, Fred Kennedy, opened the shop in 1947, and in 1950 was moved to 7th and McDowell, where it was a community standard, until

it was forced to close last month to make way for condominiums. "I don't like to hear the word forced," said Kennedy, who now works at Fourth Ward Barbershop. "I don't think of it as being forced out. Charlotte's got to grow. Charlotte is changing and you have to be ready to change with it."

Kennedy's positive outlook is not shared by others. Sylvia Grier, first vice president for the Millions More Movement, believes the situation in Charlotte today, is akin to 1960s urban renewal, which doubled the cost of living in Charlotte from the prior decade. Please see **HOT REAL/6A**



PHOTO: CURTIS WILSON
Greg Kennedy packs supplies at Superior Barbershop last month. Condos will be built in its place.

Skilled immigrants worry some advocates

By Lorinda M. Bullock
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — As the black community debates whether Hispanic immigrant workers create competition for jobs with low-income African-Americans, the president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists says too little attention is being paid to educated immigrants taking away high-tech jobs away from middle- and upper-class African-Americans.

"That is much more of a threat to us than picking lettuce," said William Lucy, president and founder of the labor group.

There is one facet of the recent immigration bill passed by the U.S. Senate that Lucy said blacks in technology should be especially concerned about — the 200,000 guest visas the country would allow annually.

Nearly 12 million illegal immigrants live and work in the U.S., according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

Over the last 10 years, the annual quota for the H-1B visas — specifically for highly-educated and skilled immigrants — has fluctuated between 65,000 and 195,000, depending on how well the high-tech and scientific markets were doing.

Under the H-1B visa, immigrant workers can stay in the U.S. for up to six years or even 10 years in some cases. After the first year of the visa, they aren't counted into the annual quota, allowing a new wave of immigrants to enter the country.

Lucy said the increasing number of blacks earning degrees in technology and engineering See **SKILLED/2A**



PHOTO: CURTIS WILSON

For thousands of teens across the Charlotte area, like these South Mecklenburg High School graduates, finishing high school is a rite of passage to adulthood and independence.

Real world beckons

Graduates face freedoms and pressures of adulthood

By Aisha Lide
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The high school Class of 2006 is graduating to adulthood.

For these teens, commencement is the first taste of freedom. Many will go on to college, others to trade schools or the military. One thing is for certain: They'll live by their own sets of rules without ever-present parents hovering about.

Mia Lassiter, valedictorian at Hickory Grove Baptist Christian School, will be enrolling at Winston-Salem State University in the fall, where she plans to major in biology. To prepare for the rigors of college life, Lassiter, who graduated with a 4.5 grade point average that was tops in her class of 44, participated in Love of Learning, a five-week college-experience program at Davidson College.

"When I go to college I am ready to meet new friends, not start a new life style, but start a new chapter," she said. "I want to work hard, but also have fun, and of course learn new techniques in biology as well as music."

Newly-independent young adults face transitions on social, academic and financial levels,

Please see **FOR CLASS/2A**

"When I go to college I am ready to meet new friends, not start a new life style."



PHOTO: CALVIN FERGUSON

Mia Lassiter of Charlotte, who'll attend Winston-Salem State University in the fall.

Soccer camp teaches skills, character

By Herbert L. White
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Friday is Julian Brown's birthday, but he's providing the gift to children in west Charlotte.

Boys and girls from inner city neighborhoods are learning soccer basics this week at the first Julian Brown Memorial Soccer

Camp at Revolution Park. The camp is named in honor of the Charlotte teen who was killed during a 2004 soccer trip to France. The free camp is teaching kids from Boulevard Homes, Wingate, Clanton Park, Wilkinson Boulevard and Freedom Drive neighborhoods

how to play soccer and develop character traits that will help them socially, athletically and academically.

"I hope this will be a way of helping to honor Julian's memory and to promote focus and dedication to soccer that our son demon-

Please see **CAMP/2A**

No Child flunks at closing gaps

Study: Federal law hasn't made significant progress

By Herbert L. White
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The federal No Child Left Behind law isn't making the grade, according to a Harvard University study.

The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University released today a new study that reports the highly-touted federal initiative hasn't improved reading and mathematical achievement or reduced achievement gaps. The study also revealed that the NCLB won't meet its goals of 100 percent student proficiency by 2014 if the trends of the first several years continue.

The report, "Tracking Achievement Gaps and Assessing the Impact of NCLB on the Gaps: An In-Depth Look into National and State Reading and Math Outcome," compares findings from the National Assessment of Education Progress to state assessment results and concludes that high stakes testing and sanctions required by NCLB are not working as planned.

The findings contradict claims of the Bush administration and some previous studies that See **NO CHILD/3A**

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Some in CBC want Jefferson off committee post

By Hazel Trice Eadney

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — Although the Congressional Black Caucus has publicly presented a united front in its support of embattled U. S. Rep. Bill Jefferson's right to maintain his committee memberships, some CBC members — including civil rights icon John Lewis (D-Ga.) — have assumed behind-the-scenes roles in getting Jefferson ousted from his coveted position on the powerful House Ways and Means



Jefferson

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