NEWS/The Charlotte Pos2

Have some decaf and healthy debate at Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum

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Continued from page 1A mittee, department or pro-gram is about, as well as, an opportunity to inform the community of issues and con-cent." Storenson has been a regu-field by the first forum has been a regu-field the first forum has noved several times, includ-ing the former McDonald's Cafeteria, Remaissance Place the former McDonald's Cafeteria, Remaissance Place to Center City and the public clarary on LaSalle Street. The job is to keep the con-forsation moving and civil, specially during emotional-ucharged confrontations. The forum does not take postions of specific issues," she said "But we will take information to others, mainly confront."

Following the opening prayer, Bolin McChung, for-mer Charlotte City Council member Malachi Greene, and Richard McElrath took and Richard McElrath took the lead to discuss where the School Building Solutions committee stands and what's next Most of the audience is familiar with each other, as there is a good deal of good-natured ribbing. When McClung finishes, hands go up almost immediately. The first is City Council Member Susan Burges, who answes a suggestion Burges' obvious knowledge about the subject is cut short, as forum vules allow one minute to ask out of the subject of the subject of the subject is cut short, as forum vules allow one minute to ask out cut short, as forum subject is subject of the subject short at 10 o'clock we have to kick people cut." Im passes faily quickly and before things are com-pletely wrapped up. Greene and the forum's depth of commend those in attendance and the forum's depth of the ment

mend those in attendance and the forum's depth of diverse opinions. "This has been the most wide ranging and insightful conversation about this issue that Ive had thus far," he said "This is why people want to come here...because they can come and learn." As the forum closes, the floor is open for announce-ments, which include Friday night movies at Freedom Park until August 25, a call for volunteers by the NAACP for voter registration activ-ties at Friday's "Ibm Joyner Sky Show," and an invitation to the Dillehay Court Community Festival on July 1.

"I try to come every Tuesday," said NAACP

Executive Committee mem-ber Rodney Moore. "I find [the forums] very informa-tive...and they provide an opportunity meet people who have influence...get positive feedback, and action from other individuals." Though no one expects everyone to make every forum, once was all it took for Tralada Purnell to become a regular.

"I started coming during the primaries, to meet the candidates, and I was hooked," she said. "There's

candidates, and I was hooked," she said. "There's adways stimulating conversa-tion It doesn't take a lot of people to make a difference, just those who want to work." Greene complimented forum participants, yet admonishes what he consid-ers apathy in the community as a whole. "Fifty-six people showed up for the (school building) meet-ings we had." he said. "People complain about taxes and what schools are doing. but how can they com-plain if they aren't involved? "Makes me think we're just jiving. I think all the com-plaints are just a way to mask the fact that we arent involved." The small group was notice-

The small group was notice-ably deficient of young partic-

Jefferson's removal shows division

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Continued from page 1A most loyal voting blocs deast stand by him until there's a conviction or there's of that nature." Tode continues, "What mes-sers and African-Americans that they must become self-ish with their vote and not support these parties think-upport these parties think-ing the parties are going to reciprocate." Tode declined comment on the merits of the case, "But, in terms of stripping him of doubt in my mind that the procedent that's being set and hot have been set and hot have been set and hot how been set and hot how how how how the not been black." he says.

Al Sharpton, a for Democratic candidate former for

Democratic candidate for president, agrees. "So, we are now in a party that, if you are now under investigation, asks you to step aside Suppose – if theyre not smart – the whole Black Caucus was under investigation. Are they going to be asked to step aside?" Sharpton. "I think it raises a very serious legal precedent. And a congressional prece-And a congressional prece-dent that we should fight and we should resist." Jefferson debacle The

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threatens Democratic harmo-ny between Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif) and mem-bers of the CBC as they struggle for at least 15 seats to win control of the House in November elections Sharpton says he has been campaigning to help the Democrats win, but he believes they have gone too far

opposed. Pelosi has said she is not Pelosi has said she is not considering guilt or innocence in the Jefferson case, but the appearance of ethics viola-tions. However the Ethics Committee of the House has not investigated Jefferson. Pelosi says some members of

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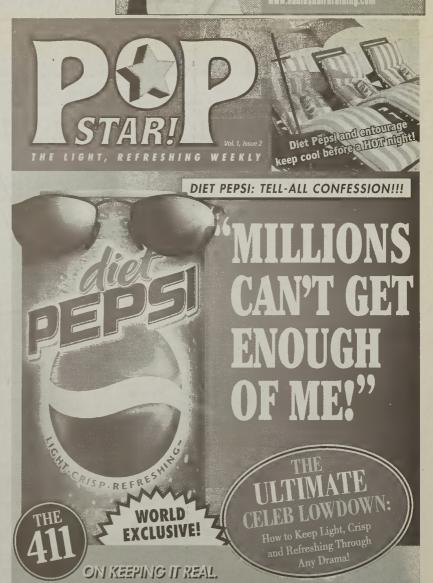
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the CBC, including Congressman John Lewis, who made the motion to oust Jefferson, are supporting her. On June 16, the morning after the Democratic Caucus voted 99-58 on Lewis' motion to suspend Jefferson from the committee, the full House agreed "without objection".



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ipants, but Stevenson explained the make-up is dif-ferent depending on the week and subject. . "When there is a big pro-gram, (we] move into the gymnasium," she said. "There is no attendance requirement; people can come to any event they rement; people can to any event they to."

come to any event they choose to." Next week's meeting with attorney and historian David Erdman will focus on reuse of the Grace AME Zion Church building on Brevard Street downtown "This event has been going on every Tuesday, except Election Day and Christmas, for almost 30 years," Huff said. "What other activity do you know of that has gone on that long consecutively, that people were not paid for?"

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