



Have some decaf and healthy debate at Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum

Continued from page 1A

mittee, department or program is about, as well as, an opportunity to inform the community of issues and concerns."

Stevenson has been a regular since black elected officials hosted the first forum in 1980 at the YWCA on East Trade Street. The forum has moved several times, including the former McDonald's Cafeteria, Renaissance Place in Center City and the public library on LaSalle Street.

Her job is to keep the conversation moving and civil, especially during emotionally-charged confrontations.

"The forum does not take positions of specific issues," she said. "But we will take information to others, mainly to inform."

Following the opening prayer, Bolin McClung, former Charlotte City Council member Malachi Greene, 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 Burgess, who announces her support and issues a suggestion. Burgess' obvious knowledge about the subject is cut short, as forum rules allow one minute to ask a question, comment or provide clarification.

Meetings usually run 90 minutes or so, Stevenson said, but "at 10 o'clock we have to kick people out."

Time passes fairly quickly, and before things are completely wrapped up, Greene takes an opportunity to commend 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 I've 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 announcements, which include Friday night movies at Freedom Park until August 25, a call for volunteers by the NAACP for voter registration activities at Friday's "Tom 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 member Rodney Moore. "I find [the forums] very informative, 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 always stimulating conversation. 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 considers apathy in the community as a whole.

"Fifty-six people showed up for the [school building] meetings we had," he said. "People complain about taxes and what schools are doing...but how can they complain if they aren't involved? 'Makes me think we're just jiving. I think all the complaints are just a way to mask the fact that we aren't involved.'"

The small group was noticeably deficient of young partic-

ipants, but Stevenson explained the make-up is different depending on the week and subject.

"When there is a big program, [we] move into the gymnasium," she said. "There is no attendance requirement; people can 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?"

Changing Lives by Changing Faces
Come meet and hear
Ursula Dudley-Oglesby,
Harvard Undergraduate and Esquire,
share how she chose to change lives
in the living room instead of the
court room. Learn how to
"Manifest Economic Success for Yourself"
Tuesday, June 27th, 7pm
Dudley Beauty College • 1950 Bishop Madison Ln.
For further information call: 704-392-2565

T-SHIRTS
for
\$4.32
One Color, One Sided on White Shirts
Contact:
Wes James at 704.331.3000
Specialties: Wholesales
isupplyexpress.com

The Charlotte Post

Jefferson's removal shows division

Continued from page 1A

most loyal voting blocs enough to say, "We will at least stand by him until there's a conviction or there's an indictment or something of that nature."

Todd continues, "What message this sends to Black voters and African-Americans throughout this country is that they must become selfish with their vote and not support these parties thinking that the parties are going to reciprocate."

Todd declined comment on the merits of the case, "But, in terms of stripping him of his committee, there's no doubt in my mind that the precedent that's being set here would not have been set had he not been black," he says.

Al Sharpton, a former 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 they're 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 precedent that we should fight and we should resist."

The Jefferson debacle

threatens Democratic harmony between Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif) and members 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.

"There's no one that wants to see them win more than me," he says. "But that still doesn't mean I'm going to drop my principles in order to win."

Sharpton and other Democratic activists have repeatedly accused Democrats of taking Blacks for granted. During the 2004 presidential primaries, he said the Democratic Party was dating blacks and not talking marriage. Democratic party leaders in the Senate came under fire last year after it cut a deal with Republicans to appoint three conservative federal judges that civil rights groups had opposed.

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

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."

Monday - Wednesday Only!
100.00 Months INCLUDING Human Hair
Aabies
HAIR BRAIDING
all-day, everyday.
704.370.0828
www.aabieshairbraiding.com

POP STAR!
THE LIGHT, REFRESHING WEEKLY
Vol. 1, Issue 2
Diet Pepsi and entourage keep cool before a HOT night!

DIET PEPSI: TELL-ALL CONFESSION!!!
"MILLIONS CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ME!"
THE ULTIMATE CELEB LOWDOWN:
How to Keep Light, Crisp and Refreshing Through Any Drama!
THE 411 WORLD EXCLUSIVE!
ON KEEPING IT REAL.
DIET PEPSI—THE ONE CELEB EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW!
DIET PEPSI, DIET PEPSI LIME, DIET PEPSI WILD CHERRY and the Pepsi Globe design are registered trademarks of PepsiCo, Inc.

Mann Travels
AUTHORIZED DISNEY VACATION PLANNER
With you all the way
Disney Just Cooked Up a Hot New Offer!
FREE Dining with this vacation package.
Buy this Disney Vacation package and get Hotel, Theme Park tickets and Disney Dining Plan!
Hungry for some Fun? Now you can book this 5-night/6-day Walt Disney World vacation package and stay right in the middle of the magic. You'll enjoy Theme Park tickets and Disney Dining Plan. You'll also enjoy a savings of over \$190 per adult. *We have a delicious way to enjoy your vacation! Hurry, you must book by June 4, 2006! Ask for offer code YWS.
Over Disney World.
5 Nights/6 Days at select Disney Value Resorts in a standard room
\$435 Per adult based on adult double occupancy
Junior (ages 10 - 17) \$216
Child (ages 3 - 9) \$175
Need gas or spending money?
Ask how to receive up to \$50 in American Express Gift Cheques!
Bookings only. All other fees, taxes and restrictions apply. Valid thru June 25 for travel in 2006. Other restrictions may apply.
704.547.1240 to speak to one of our Honeymoon & Vacation Specialists
9009-21 JM Keynes Drive University Place Charlotte
Christine Meeks christine@manntravels.com
Judi Davis judi@manntravels.com