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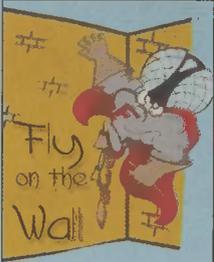
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WEEK OF JULY 13-19, 2006

IN NEWS



Will Merchandise Mart deal close?

Spies working overtime on rumored deals that haven't gone down - yet. Page 3A

No easy answers for unruly behavior

Parents, young adults agree knowledge key to curbing violence

By Cheris F. Hodges
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For the second year in a row, there were more explosions after Charlotte's July 4 uptown fireworks display than during it.

According to police, 24 people were arrested following the melee after the Red, White and Boom! celebration at Central Piedmont Community College. The violence along Tryon Street left one person shot in the face. But what's at the root of the melee and how can a community reach kids?

Nineteen-year-old Randall Henry said that once people reach a certain age, they're lost. "They're going to do what they do. Charlotte is crazy right now," he said.

Although Henry didn't go uptown for the fireworks, he looks like the images plastered on the news: a young black man, twisted hair, dressed in a white tee shirt and oversized pants.

That look, Henry said, causes him to get pulled over by police and stared at as he walks through shopping malls. But he insists he isn't part of the problem.

"They need to reach them at a younger age and the police are not going to help by throwing them in jail," he said.

Reaching kids before they're on Tryon Street clashing with police or each other is what people who work with disadvantaged youth say is the only way to curb the tide of violence.

Lamont Goings, who works at the One Love Development group home in Gastonia said problems often start at home.

"Lack of home training," he said. "If you look back at some of these kids' homes, they probably don't have their daddy involved and they're just being raised by mom."

Parents, like Stephen Royster. See PARENTS/2A



PHOTOS: CURTIS WILSON

Operation Understanding participants Sam Aleinikoff, Marcus McNair, Melissa Fuller and Deborah Krat had a hands-on experience with exhibits at Levine Museum of the New South Tuesday. Black and Jewish students from Washington, D.C., are touring the South to gain an understanding of relationships the civil rights era forged between the two groups.

Let freedom ride

Students find road to justice winds through the Carolinas

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Valuable history lessons were taught in Charlotte Tuesday.

A delegation of 32 black and Jewish high school students from Washington, D.C., on a month-long journey called Operation Understanding D.C. The students, 16 African-American and 16 Jews, and four group leaders arrived in Charlotte after visiting New York City and Greensboro.

They are on a civil rights sojourn that includes site visits to places of importance to blacks and Jews and continuing the legacy of the Freedom Riders, young people who risked their lives to



B.B. DeLaine, whose parents sued to desegregate Clarendon County, S.C., schools in the 1950s, encouraged participants to challenge the status quo.

desegregate interstate transportation in the 1960s.

"I had heard of the Freedom Rides in school, when we watched (the documentary) 'Eyes on the Prize,'" said Sam Aleinikoff. "I don't think the comparison to them has quite hit me yet. I know we are creating change. We are trying to make history."

An understanding of Carolinas history was Please see ROAD/7A.

Economic gap widens by ethnicity

By Lorinda M. Bullock
NATIONAL NEWS/PAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - A weak U.S. economy and a low unemployment rate over the last couple of years has started to erode the progress Black Americans have gained in income, and has further

widened the income gap between Blacks and Whites, says a new report from a Washington, D.C. think tank.

The Economic Policy Institute's "The State of Working America 2006/2007" says that in 2000, a Black family's median income was \$3.5 percent of the earnings of their White counterparts.

Figures show that the number dropped to 62 percent in 2004.

Jared Bernstein, an economist and author of the report, said, "That's basically \$37,000 versus \$58,000, so it's a significant gap." Bernstein said the late 1990s, with its robust job market, was an economically promising time Please see U.S./2A

Panel focuses on Rosenwald schools

By Herbert L. White
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The impact of Rosenwald schools on Carolinas education will be the focus of a panel discussion Sunday.

The Levine Museum of the New South will host author Peter Ascoli, author of "Julius Rosenwald" Sunday at 4 p.m. Ascoli, Rosenwald's grandson, is a faculty member at Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago.

Panelists include Clover, S.C., novelist dori Sanders, who was educated at a Rosenwald School near Rock Hill where her father

was principal and George Wallace and Hern Zeigler, who partnered to renovate a Rosenwald campus in Charlotte's Billingsville neighborhood.

The collaboration between Billingsville's all-black neighborhood organization and Zeigler's synagogue is considered a national model for preservation of Rosenwald schools.

In the early 20th century, more than 5,000 Rosenwald schools were built throughout the segregated South to educate black children who were barred by law from attending school with

whites while some states didn't provide public education for blacks. Rosenwald, a Jewish philanthropist and founder of the Sears Roebuck retail empire, offered grants to black neighborhoods that could match his funds for construction.

Admission is \$4 for museum members, \$6 for non-members. For information and reservations, call (704) 333-1887, extension 501.



CMS, county reach accord

Gorman, Jones agree on formula for school building

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Peter Gorman and Mecklenburg County Manager Harry Jones met members of the media Wednesday to answer any questions regarding the Building Solutions Committee's final report and announced an operational covenant.



Jones



Gorman

On Tuesday, the school board voted to approve the BSC plan, which calls for using up to \$172 million in certificates of participation to address the district's most critical needs.

"It wasn't my plan, it wasn't my program that the board approved last night," Gorman said. "That was a program for the children, families and community of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County."

Gorman, Jones, and Assistant Superintendent Guy Chamberlain said the plan will help the county keep up with growing enrollment.

"You have to make sure you don't let any one school decay or fall behind while you're keeping up with growth," Gorman said. "You have to have a two-pronged attack."

The plan calls for a one-third/two-thirds mix: one-third renovations and two-thirds Please see GOVERNANT/3A

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NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Heart-healthy solutions sought in Charlotte

By Herbert L. White
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Is your heart in good hands?

Physicians, clergy and community leaders will meet Friday in Charlotte at a forum on cardiovascular disease among African Americans. The meeting will be held at the Marriott SouthPark at 6:30 p.m. as a joint effort with the Association of Black Cardiologists. The focus will be on eliminating the risks of heart disease and stroke in Charlotte.

"We are all of one accord and in complete support of each other in helping Please see HEART/6A



Charlotte Black Gay Pride celebration reaches out to entire community in second year/1D

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