

# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

Serving Cabarrus

WEEK OF JANUARY 11-17, 2007

Controversial 'Color of the Cross' now available on DVD/5B



**HEY ROOKIES**  
Home-grown talents Stephen Curry (right) and Jerry Hollis make a splash as college freshmen/1C



PHOTO:PAUL WILLIAMS III

Nicole Darmody and Calvin Love participate in a breakout session during the CM3A town hall meeting last week.

## Forum's test in streets, homes

Initiation of agenda first step to ending disparities

By Erica Singleton  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Dayna Sanders and Travis Roseboro took a first step towards personal responsibility at the Charlotte Mecklenburg African American Agenda Town Hall meeting last weekend.

"I signed up with the Urban League," said Sanders. "I committed to help out with CM3A and since [the Urban League] will be the force behind the information, I'd like to be a part of them."

Sanders was among the more than 2,200 Charlotteans who attended CM3A's Town Hall meeting on Friday and Saturday. A literacy facilitator at Windsor Park Elementary School, Sanders had professional and personal reasons for attending.

"I [went] because I'm concerned for the youth, even in elementary schools," said Sanders. "Also, I have a brother in high school who waited until his senior year to not want to graduate."

Sanders was not alone in her feelings that youth and education were important, in the CM3A data overview of priorities, 29 percent agreed that education is the top, followed by Economics/Finance (21 percent) and Health care (13 percent). As well, 29 percent of youth agreed that education was their top priority, with 27 percent of politicians leaning the same way.

In data compiled by the Lee Institute, the common theme expressed about education, was "the need, value and importance of investing in early readiness, especially for reading proficiency...which relates to later crime and behavioral issues." Behind education, across the board, the next priorities were economics and finance, voting and politics, followed by healthcare and legal justice.

Part of a summary listed on CM3A's website, CM3A lists youth concerns, including the feeling that there needs to be a similar event

Please see MOVE/3A



PHOTO:WADE NASH

Sherman Warner of the Charlotte Department of Transportation presses lettering onto a Martin Luther King Boulevard street sign Tuesday. Charlotte becomes the latest U.S. municipality to name a street after the slain civil rights leader Saturday with the renaming of Second Street in center city.

## Events fit for King

Renaming Second Street, annual parade among the Charlotte activities honoring slain civil rights activist

By Brittanie Dixon  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte will finally have its Martin Luther King Boulevard Saturday.

The city will honor the slain civil rights activist, by renaming Second Street at 10 a.m., bringing a year-long campaign to a close.

The dedication will take place at Second and Graham streets

"It gives me pride to know that Charlotte recognizes Martin Luther King and his views of non-violence, respect and economic justice," said Charlotte City Council member James

Mitchell, who lobbied for a street designation.

Mitchell said the street will be embraced by the African



Mitchell

Please see MLK/2A

## Civil rights supporters hold key spots in new Congress

By Hazel Trice Edney

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON

Nothing illustrates the shift in political power in Congress more dramatic-

ly than this: Under Republican control, all key committee chairpersons earned an F on the NAACP Report Card. All of the key incoming Democratic chairs in the House and

Senate earned As or Bs under the latest grading system.

"This says that there is a great deal more hope. The chairs of the committees are the gatekeepers. They

determine which issues come before their committee before they go to the floor of the House or the Senate to be voted on. This means that in many cases, now we also have chairs

who are original co-sponsors of legislative priorities for the African-American community and the NAACP," says Hilary O. Shelton, director of the

Please see CIVIL/7A

## U.S. takes Al Qaeda hunt to Africa

American airstrikes in Somalia aim to root out Muslim extremists

By Scott Baldauf and Mike Pflanz  
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA AND NAIROBI, KENYA — On the heels of U.S. air strikes Monday, US helicopter gunships strafed villages in Somalia Tuesday in an ongoing hunt for Al Qaeda operatives in the Horn of Africa.

U.S. military officials say that Somalia's lawless state had become a safe haven for Al Qaeda activists, including possibly those responsible for the embassy bomb attacks in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam in 1998.

This week's attacks illustrate how much US military policy has changed since Sept. 11, 2001. As the US closes or downsizes massive cold war-era bases in Germany and South Korea, its presence is expanding in Uganda, Djibouti, Senegal, and Sao Tome and Principe, African nations once seen as far beyond American interests. Today, African bases serve both as "jumping off" points for the war in Iraq and also as bulwarks against new threats in volatile regions of Africa.

At press time, the US military had not released the numbers nor the names of those killed in the attacks.

The sites attacked, close to the border with Kenya, were considered the last strongholds of Somalia's Union of Islamic Courts, which held sway over the country for the past six months until it was driven from power two weeks ago by an alliance between Somalia's transitional government and Ethiopia.

U.S. helicopter gunships Tuesday carried out mopping-up operations, according to

Please see AL QAEDA/6A

### theBOX

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

## Free after 39 years, mistake in conviction

By Ernest Alexander  
AFRO NEWSPAPERS

BALTIMORE — Imagine that you are convicted of a crime you didn't commit. Despite pleas of innocence, you face racially biased testimony and a jury not composed of your peers. You are found guilty and sent to jail. Your freedom stripped and your dignity lost. What do you do, how do you cope with the reality that is now your life?

This was the reality for Walter Lomax, after serving nearly four decades in prison for a crime that he, as well as family, says he didn't commit.

Lomax, now 59, was released on Dec. 14 after being accused, tried and convicted for the killing of Robert Brewer, a 56-year-old convenience store manager, on Dec. 2, 1967. Over

Please see WRONG/8A



Charlotte-based rappers look to merge styles of East, West/1D

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