



THE NATION AFTER FARRAKHAN | Who'll lead next? Story below | Farewell message/5B



Jennifer Hudson breaks through with Oscar/1D

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WEEK OF MARCH 1-7, 2007

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Johnson C. Smith University drum major Kenya Mitchell goes airborne during a pep rally Monday at Founders Hall in Charlotte. The rally was held prior to the start of the CIAA basketball tournament.

Time to catch up, let loose

Die-hard CIAA tournament fans get into town early for relaxation, camaraderie

What to see and do @ the CIAA

Thursday: Ford Fan Experience opens at 2 p.m. Free. Includes national recording acts Mario, Trey Songz, Doug E. Fresh and Ruben Studdard. Also, Taste of Food Lion Super Stage.

Friday: Steve Harvey Morning Show goes live at 6 a.m. Women's semifinals start at 1 p.m.; men's at 7 p.m.

Saturday: Women's championship, 5 p.m.; men's 8 p.m.

By Cheri F. Hodges
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They're the few, the proud, the CIAA fans who actually show up when the basketball tournament actually begins.

Like Kenneth and Christine Williams, who brought along their 3-year-old son Kenneth Jr.

Williams Sr. is a graduate of Elizabeth City State University and lives in Charlotte. However, that didn't stop him from taking the entire week off.

"I just take off a few days,"

Christine Williams said. She attended UNC-Chapel Hill, but shows her support for the CIAA nonetheless.

"Most of the time you come to see your old classmates (on Monday)," he said. "I like to watch the girls play, too."

Williams said he also wants to instill CIAA love in his son, like families with ACC ties do for that league.

"(The CIAA) is different than most tournaments," Williams said.

Curtis Edwards from Greenville, N.C., said the tournament is his winter vacation.

He arrived in Charlotte Monday so that he could cheer for his favorite teams, Elizabeth City State and Raleigh's St. Augustine's College.

"I take the whole week off from work and me and my wife come down and we have a daughter who attends Elizabeth City and she usually participates as well," he said.

Unlike the Williams and Edwards families, many fans of the tournament wait until

Please see **CATCH/2A**

“Most of the time you come to see your old classmates (on Monday). I like to watch the girls play, too.”
Elizabeth City State alumnus **Kenneth Williams Sr.** of Charlotte

Father knows measure of man, and Oprah agrees

Charlotte dad on March 28 program

By Herbert L. White

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Tommy Hayes-Brown learned valuable life lessons from Sidney Poitier.

On Wednesday, it earned him lunch with the Oscar-winning actor and talk-show queen Oprah Winfrey to boot.

Hayes-Brown, a multicultural marketing manager at MetLife in Charlotte, flew out to California Wednesday to meet Poitier and Winfrey as well as tape an episode of the "Oprah Winfrey Show." He earned the trip after his review of Poitier's "Measure of

A Man" for Winfrey's book club caught her attention.

"We had the book on our shelf for five years and never got around to reading it," Hayes-Brown said. "I read it on a business trip to California, and by the time I got off the plane I was inspired."

Poitier's biography lays out details of the actor's rise from poverty to international stardom and the lessons he imparted to his children. Hayes-Brown, 40 and the father of four boys - three of them adopted - could identify

Please see **LUNCH/3A**



Tommy Hayes-Brown (center) and his sons, clockwise from left: Isaiah, Zion, Oree and Solomon.

Nation of Islam's future uncertain after Farrakhan

By Amanda Paulson
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

CHICAGO - In an address to members of the Nation of Islam at the end of the sect's three-day convention in Detroit, Louis Farrakhan's main subject was the importance of religious unity and peace.

That message, delivered

Sunday, is possibly the last address from the fiery leader, who hadn't appeared in public for seven months and who announced he will be stepping down due to health reasons. It may seem less inflammatory than the rhetoric for which Mr. Farrakhan is sometimes known, but some say it was typical

the direction he has been taking the Nation in recent years.

The organization has played an important role in civil rights and African-American empowerment even as it has been criticized for its separatist and sometimes racist views. Now, it faces perhaps its most critical juncture since the split that

occurred in the mid-70s, when Farrakhan took over the Nation and many members left to follow Imam Warith Deen (W.D.) Muhammad.

"As with so many other religious movements, the charisma of the leader is extremely important," says Anthony Pinn,

Please see **NO/3A**

Myers Park HS probe complete

CMS student banishment details yet to be released

By Herbert L. White

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A month after completing an investigation into alleged banishment of academically at-risk students at Myers Park High School, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has yet to release its findings.

The probe was launched after The Post published an article in August detailing how Myers Park administrators systematically pushed underachieving students off campus. The article focused on Marcus Turner, who said he dropped out of Myers Park during the 2004-2005 school year at the urging of school officials.

The investigation, conducted by CMS Executive Director of Employee Relations Janet Hamilton, was unavailable for comment. A CMS spokesperson said neither Superintendent Peter Gorman nor Chief Operating Officer Maurice Greene would comment for at least two weeks.

Records obtained by The Post showed examples where Myers Park students - the majority of them black - were coded as transfers to private school or public schools outside the district when they still lived in Mecklenburg County. During that time, Myers Park was named a School of Distinction by exceeding all No Child Left Behind standards - the only CMS campus to be honored. Critics

Please see **DETAILS/6A**

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Sharpton: Test for Thurmond DNA link

By Adam Goldman

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - The Rev. Al Sharpton wants a DNA test to confirm genealogists' findings that he is related to former segregationist Sen. Strom Thurmond through his great-grandfather, a slave owned by an ancestor of the late senator.

"I can't find out anything more shocking than I've already learned," Sharpton told the Daily News.

His spokesman, Rachel Noerdlinger, confirmed Monday for The Associated Press that Sharpton plans to pursue DNA testing, but had no further details.

Thurmond, the late senator from South Carolina, ran for president in 1948 as a segregationist. Sharpton ran for president in 2004 calling for racial equality.

Last week Sharpton learned about the genealogists' finding.

Please see **SHARPTON/2A**



Sharpton



Black history and culture are alive and well in Indianapolis/1B

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