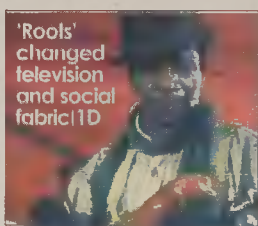
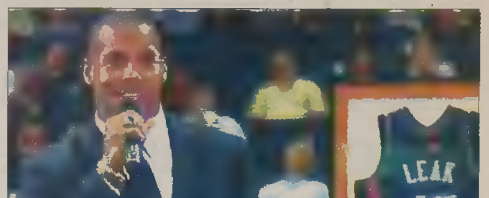




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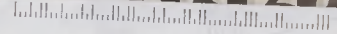
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WEEK OF APRIL 5-11



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## GRAMBLING S EDDIE ROBINSON DIES AT 88



FILE PHOTO

Former Grambling State University football coach Eddie Robinson died Tuesday at age 88. Over 57 years at Grambling Robinson sent more than 200 players to the National Football League and won 408 games.

## Football legend won on, off field

RUSTON, La. — Eddie Robinson, who sent more than 200 players to the NFL and won 408 games during a 57-year career, has died.

He was 88. Super Bowl MVP quarterback Doug Williams, one of Robinson's former players, said the former Grambling State University coach died about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday. Robinson had been admitted to Lincoln General Hospital on Tuesday afternoon.

"For the Grambling family this is a very emotional time," Williams said Wednesday. "But I'm thinking about Eddie Robinson the man, not in today-time, but in the day and what he meant to me and to so many people."

Robinson's was a career that spanned 11 presidencies, several wars and the civil-rights movement.

His older records were what people remembered: in 57 years, Robinson set the standard for victories, going 408-165-15. John Gagliardi of St.

Please see **GSU/6A**

## Invisible no more: Black men at risk



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Thomas Dunlap (right) plays a computer game at his north Charlotte home as brothers Spencer, 6 (left) and Johnathan, 8 look on. Statistically, black males are more likely to flunk out of school, earn less money and wind up in jail than their white counterparts.

### Forum seeks feedback on how to address critical issues

By Herbert L. White  
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Thomas Dunlap has a front-row seat to what has become of African American males.

"They don't have anybody to watch over them. Then you mess up your life being thugacious."

**Thomas Dunlap, 14, eighth-grader at Davidson IB Middle School**

Lack of discipline. Academic underachievement. And, often, total disregard for authority. "That's really the problem with a lot of kids," says Thomas, 14, an eighth grader at Davidson IB Middle School. "They don't

have anybody to watch over them. Then you mess up your life being thugacious."

A town hall meeting won't fix what ails black men, but it's a start.

Organizer Ahmad Daniels said he hopes 250 participants will attend the April 12 summit at the AT&T building at 300 Brevard St. Panelists include E.E. Waddell High School Principal Stan Frazier, N.C. Sen. Malcolm Graham and author Omar Tyree. Admission is free.

"Brothers are hurting, but we're crying in the dark," Daniels said. "That's the little boy in us."

"I get to see the pathologies up close, but I'm hopeful we've planted seeds that will be fruit."

Please see **FORUM/2A**

## Cigarettes exact heavy toll on women

By Hazel Trice Edney and Roshni L. Roundtree

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

First in a series on the health risks African Americans face daily.

WASHINGTON — Awakened by her biological clock at 10:30 a.m., 22-year-old Toya Tonpea rolls over to grab the remote control. She turns on the television as she begins to mentally

plan her day.

Tonpea flips through the cable to watch her line-up of reality TV and talk shows. Two hours pass and it is now 12:30.

She is interrupted by her mother, which turns into an argument and the stress begins. Tonpea picks up a cigarette.

"Majority of the time, it's an extreme case of my emotions like when I got into that argument with my mother and real-

ized that I still live with my mother. I had to go smoke," says Tonpea of Atlanta.

Tonpea is one of the 3.6 million African-American women who smoke, according to the 2004 National Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control. Inhaling and exhaling — the very action that maintains human life destroys it when cigarette smoke

Please see **SMOKING/3A**

## Aviators get long-sought honor on Capitol Hill

By Hazel Trice Edney

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON — The crowd, the cheers and the applause in the United States Capitol Rotunda belied the segregationist homocreming that the Tuskegee Airmen received 60 years ago.

The bestowing of the Congressional Gold Medal upon the black air corps was viewed as a 21st century stride for racial progress and an inspiration to fight for justice.

"Today we give the Tuskegee Airmen the heroes' welcome they have so long deserved," said Speaker of the House Nancy

Pelosi (D-Calif.). "In 1942, the African-American paper, The Pittsburgh Courier, called for a double victory campaign: victory in the fight against fascism abroad, and victory in the fight against racism at home. Today, we come together to pay tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen, who with planes and the power of their example — fought against both of these foes, foreign and domestic. And as we honor them with the Gold Medal today, we take another in a long series of steps toward victory at home."

That victory is hastened by their example, said Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Carolyn Cheeks



WHITE HOUSE PHOTO/ERIC DRAPER

Roscoe Brown Jr. receives the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the Tuskegee Airmen, presented by President Bush, alongside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Kilpatrick (D-Mich.)

"We will fight with the courage that you displayed," she said. "And we promise that we will never let you down."

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award bestowed by Congress.

Emotions ran high during and Please see **TUSKEGEE/6A**

## Support, questions after fatal shootings

Slain officers remembered; suspect appears in court

By Herbert L. White

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Amid the torrent of support, there's grief and questions unanswered.

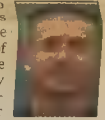
A grassroots effort was launched to remember Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers Sean Clark, 34, and Jeffrey Shelton, 35, who were shot and killed Saturday in east Charlotte.

Mothers of Murdered Offspring and Footprints Ministries planned a candlelight memorial service for Clark and Shelton Wednesday night at Marshall Park. Mourners were to march in silence to CMPD headquarters to place memorials to the officers.

Demetrius Montgomery, 25, made his first court appearance Tuesday on two counts of first-degree murder in the officers' deaths. Montgomery has been convicted of assaulting a government official or resisting a public officer five times in the last nine years, court records show. While he has spent time in jail, Montgomery hadn't been charged with a felony until now, according to court records.



Shelton



Clark

Please see **GRIEVING/6A**

## N.C. House bill would divest funds to Sudan

By Herbert L. White

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North Carolina is moving toward divesting from Sudan.

State Treasurer Richard Moore would be required to examine N.C. pension fund investments and sell those linked to Sudan's government or to violence in the African nation under legislation approved last week by the House Finance Committee.

"The goal of the bill is in effect to weaken the government of Sudan so we can get a humane replacement," Rep. Paul Luebke, D-Durham, one of the bill's primary sponsors, told the Associated Press after the House Finance Committee recommended the measure. It is now before the full House for consideration, and if passed would make North Carolina the first southeastern state to divest in Sudan, according to the Sudan Divestment Task Force. California, New Jersey and Vermont have already done so, and several other states have bills pending.

North Carolina's pension fund is worth nearly \$70 billion.

Moore already has sold about \$24 million in pension fund investments in nine companies that officials said provide monetary and military support to the Sudanese government. That divestiture was based on information from other states.

Some lawmakers believe other companies may be benefiting from a regime accused of allowing a pro-government militia to kill See **N.C. CLOSER/2A**



Luebke



Confronting a disruptive worker is messy but necessary/6C

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