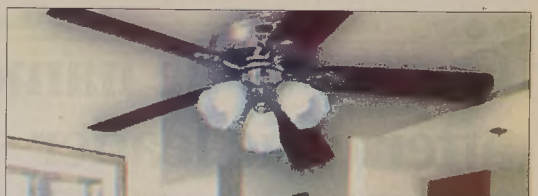


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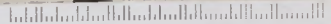
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## 'AN INNER STRENGTH'



PHOTO: WIDEWORLD

A makeshift memorial at Timber Ridge Apartments still draws mourners nearly two weeks after Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers Jeff Shelton and Sean Clark were gunned down.

## Amid tragedy, heroism emerges

Police fatalities strengthen resolve of man who offered aid

By Cheris F. Hodges  
cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com

The night two Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers were gunned down in East Charlotte, Stephen McMickens didn't think twice when he ran

to their side to help them.

His mother, Stella A. McMickens, watched in awe as her 18-year-old son held a friend's tee-shirt to the

Officer Jeff Shelton's wound and the office clung to his hand.

"It was an inner strength," she said. "My son wants to be a police officer. He knew he wasn't supposed to be

there (because it was a crime scene). But he said if it was him, he'd want someone to help him."

Stephen McMickens said when he ran outside, he thought that there had been a fight, but as he turned the corner, he saw Shelton and fellow Officer Sean Clark lying on the ground. A friend told McMickens the officers had been shot.

"Where?" he asked. In the head, McMickens' friend replied. Then McMickens saw the blood. Without giving a second thought, he jumped down beside them and tried to help.

"Everybody was telling me don't touch them, wait for the

Please see GOOD/6A

## Center's name to honor civic leader



AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

An architectural rendering of the new Afro-American Cultural Center, scheduled to break ground in December. The facility will be named after Charlotte architect Harvey Gantt, a national figure in politics and civil rights as well as the city's first African American mayor.

\$25 million facility to be named after Harvey Gantt

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

The Afro-American Cultural Center's new home will be named after Harvey Gantt, Charlotte's first black mayor.

The \$25 million Afro Center building, expected to break ground in December, is one of the jewels in a new arts and cultural hub in Center City. Gantt, an architect who was Charlotte's mayor from 1983-87, was surprised to have his name associated with the building.

"It's a momentous honor, but my gut feeling is there are other people who deserve the honor more," Gantt said, including AACCC founders Bertha Maxwell-Roddey and Mary Hopper. "I'm honored they would do this."

Gantt's contributions in civil rights, archite-

ture and politics make him an attractive choice, said Michael, Marsicano, director of Foundation for the Carolinas, a philanthropic organization that has pledged \$1 million to the Arts & Science Council's \$83 million campaign on the AACCC's behalf. The Afro Center must raise \$5 million by 2009 as part of ASC campaign for the Uptown complex.

"We have a tradition in this community of lifting up people who are service leaders," Marsicano said. "There's no question Harvey Gantt is one of the most recognizable service leaders in

Please see CENTER/2A



Gantt

## SHOCK JOCK IMUS AND HIP HOP NATION

## Shared denigration of black women

By Hazel Trice Edney

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - New York activist and former Democratic Presidential candidate Al Sharpton says radio and television talk show host Don Imus should be fired for calling a team of college basketball players "nappy-headed hos." But, Sharpton, who has also spoken against gangsta rap lyrics that denigrate black women says

blacks should also be held accountable for allowing it to happen.

"I've called for his termination and announced that we're going to start picketing the station - to the point where Imus publicly called

today and said he wanted to meet with me to talk about it. I said the only way I would want

to meet with him would be in front of a black audience," Sharpton says in an interview. "This is blatant racism."

Sharpton said, "The [Federal Communications Commission] ought to take him off the air" and added that he was writing a letter requesting that the agency does just that. But, Sharpton says black musicians and rappers should also be held accountable for degrading slurs of black women.

Please see SHARED/3A



Imus

## Rx for success: For a century, Raleigh pharmacy put people first

By Bonitta Best  
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - The timing couldn't have been more appropriate.

On the very day that the city of Raleigh held a press conference to announce its plans for a yearlong centennial celebration for the Hamlin Drug Company, owner John M. Johnson was celebrating a personal milestone.

Fifty years ago, on April 2,

Johnson and fellow Howard University School of Pharmacy graduate Clarence C. Coleman purchased the Hamlin Drug Store from Amelia Roberts Hamlin, daughter-in-law of original founder James Edwards Hamlin.

Coleman passed away in 1990, leaving the oldest African American-owned business in North Carolina to Johnson, who is still going strong.

"No, I never thought I'd still be working 50 years later," Johnson said. "But time flies when you're having fun."

It was a family affair at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center earlier this month as descendants from Hamlin, Johnson and Coleman were in attendance, along with members of the Hamlin Drug

Please see PEOPLE/6A



HAMLIN DRUG COMPANY

People's Drug Store, founded in 1904, evolved into the Hamlin Drug Company, North Carolina's oldest black-owned business.

## Initiatives launched to tackle disparity

Education and economics top CM3A's priority list

By Herbert L. White

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Closing disparities in education and economics are the top priority of initiatives launched by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg African American Agenda.

CM3A will publicly announce its first initiatives at an April 16 press conference - 100 days after a town hall meeting that drew more than 2,200 participants to discuss issues of importance to black Charlotteans.

"I run into people who want to know what's next," said Mike DeVaul, senior vice president of organizational devel-



Graham

opment at the YMCA of Greater Charlotte and a CM3A steering committee member. "I think there's a groundswell of people who want action and want to jump in."

"The community has spoken and if the people will lead, the leaders will follow," said N.C. Sen. Malcolm Graham,

Please see EDUCATION/8A

## Critics slam Caucus over debate partner

By Ahkiah Allen

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's Jessie Jackson Sr. is among a string of activists denouncing the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's planned presidential debate partnership with Fox News, calling for the decision to be reversed and for presidential candidates to boycott the debate.

John Edwards, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have all pulled out of any Fox-sponsored debate.

"I am disappointed by the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's partnership with Fox," said Jackson in an interview with ColorOfChange.org. "And strongly encourage

See DEBATE/2A



Saturn's Sky puts spark in U.S. carmaker's sporty offering/2C

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