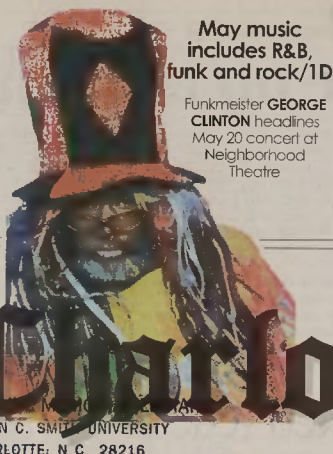




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May music includes R&B, funk and rock/1D

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Focus on hip hop's profit margin

Activists say music industry disrespects women

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - The Hip Hop Summit Action Network, while discouraging radio stations and other media from the airing of racist and misogynistic lyrics that particularly degrade black women, has a board that is top heavy with chief executives that financially benefit from the record industry.

"They are funded by the record companies," says activist Al Sharpton, who vowed to hold record companies accountable for degrading lyrics after he led protests that got talk show host Don Imus fired. "There are many people on the board who are in the record companies who could make the decision to stop using the words rather than pressuring people not to play the words that they're using and manufacturing."

Sharpton, this week, began leading marches and pickets on multi-million dollar record companies in New York, including Sony, Warner and Universal in an attempt to force them to stop recording and selling songs with racist and misogynistic lyrics. "We're going at all of them," he says.

In response to pressures after Don Imus' firing for calling the Rutgers University basketball team "nappy-headed hos," the HSAN has called for the hip hop industry, including radio and television stations, to stop airing lyrics that include the three prevalent slurs.

"We have recently been involved in a process of dialogue with recording and broadcast industry executives about issues concerning corporate social responsibility," says a statement issued by Chavis and his HSAN co-chair Russell Simmons. "HSAN is concerned about the growing public outrage concerning the use of the words 'bitch,' 'ho,' and 'nigger.' We recommend that the recording and broadcast industries voluntarily remove/bleep/delete the misogynistic words 'bitch' and 'ho' and the racially offensive word 'nigger.' Going forward, these three words should be considered with the same objections to obscenity as 'extreme curse words.'"

But, Sharpton says the HSAN request has no teeth because they have no leverage to make them comply. "Ironically, the march that we're having will be on campus. Please see **HIP HOP/3A**

Tiger draws crowd, buzz



PHOTO: WADE NASH

Tiger Woods, the world's top-ranked golfer, drew thousands of fans - and most of the media attention - at Wednesday's Wachovia Championship pro-am at Quail Hollow. Woods partnered with Charlotte Bobcats co-owner Michael Jordan and auto dealer Skipper Beck for a round during the

pro-am.

Also among the celebrity players: Bobcats founder Bob Johnson, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning. The Wachovia tournament - with professional players, that is - starts today.

Herbert L. White

N.C. bill aims for popular vote to determine presidential elections

By Constance Johnson
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Electoral College is under scrutiny in the North Carolina Senate.

A bill to establish the presidential and vice-presidential election through popular vote was submitted by two groups of lawmakers that include state Sens. Charlie Dannelly and Dan

Clodfelter of Charlotte. Bills S954 and S760, if approved, would "establish North Carolina as a member of the agreement among the states to elect the president by national popular vote."

"Senator Dan Clodfelter put an identical bill in, not knowing that I put the bill in," Dannelly said. "We both have agreed to join other states calling for that

change in our election process."

The popular vote does not determine the winner of the national election; state electors make that determination. The number of electors is equal to the number of each state's and Washington, D.C.'s congressional delegation - a total of 538 nationally. North

Please see **ELECTORAL/3A**

Ideas for how CMS handles dropouts

Myers Park allegations spark recommendations

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Despite not finding deliberate wrongdoing during an investigation of alleged dropout coercion at Myers Park High School, numerous recommendations were made to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board and Superintendent Peter Gorman regarding how the district handles withdrawals.

"Out of this entire investigation, all the information we gathered, we recommended to the superintendent and to the board that some changes take place in the withdrawal process," said Landis Wade, lead counsel with Helms, Mulliss and Wicker, which conducted the probe. "Not just at Myers Park High School, but system wide."



Gorman

The recommendations include improved counseling for students and parents on alternative education options, who should conduct and/or document the conversations.

"There are a few parents and students who feel they were coerced out of Myers Park, and there perception is enough, in our opinion to make some changes," said Wade. "We think some things can be done to help cut down on the misperception, and also put in place some practices to help students in the schools going forward."

Also recommended was training on attendance rules, discipline rules, and the rules for

Please see **CHANGING/8A**

Debate left S.C. voters wanting more answers

By Brandi M. Woodson
THE CHARLOTTE POST

ORANGEBURG, S.C. - Voters wanted to hear more about administration and less about defamation in last week's Democratic presidential debate.

"As a teacher I would like to hear about education, and what the candidates plans to do to better the school systems, stated Beaufort, S.C., teacher Emily Khon, who joined colleague Desiree Mungin to support Obama.

The eight Democrats - Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama and Bill Richardson - sparred over Iraq, health care and gun control at S.C. State University. Their supporters, most of them outside Martin Luther King Auditorium, waved signs and wore paraphernalia that represented their candidate choice.

Mungin says she "hopes to hear what candidates plan to do about school program funding and building new programs much like the No Child Left Behind Program."

During the 90-minute debate, Biden and Obama defended the decision to hold the debate in South Carolina in defiance of an NAACP boycott of the Confederate flag flying at the statehouse, arguing that the entire country needed to be brought into the discussion on civil rights. Obama brought up urban poverty and high black infant mortality.

See **DEBATE/2A**



Gospel Jubilators stay true to old-school jubilee style/5B

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