

# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF MAY 10-16

## U.S. House OKs hate crime bill

Senate debate pending

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, sponsored by Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-Mich.).



Conyers

The bill passed 237-180 last week. As it goes to the Senate for a vote, Conyers lauds the bill as giving strong civil rights protection to an issue with deep roots in the black community.

"It is one that is supported by more than 230 civil rights, education, religious, and civic organizations, including the NAACP, the ACLU, and the Leadership Conference of Civil Rights," Conyers says. "It is also supported by virtually every major law enforcement organization in the country, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Sheriffs Association."

Conyers reminds: "At one time in our history, race-based lynchings were a national scourge. Nearly 4,000 African-Americans were tortured and killed between 1880 and 1930, and the federal government was powerless to take action. Finally, some forty years ago, after years of filibuster in the other body, we finally acted and sent the signal that race-based killings would not be tolerated by the federal government."

However, the laws had not gone far enough, he says.

The current hate crimes bill would add the following stipulations, according to a release from the Judiciary

Please see U.S. HOUSE/7A

A half-century ago, black Charlotteans were relegated to law and custom. It took four schoolchildren and 14



PHOTO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 1957



PHOTO/ERICA SINGLETON

Top photo: Dorothy Counts-Scoggins endured taunts and violence in 1957 as the first African American student to desegregate Harding High School. Woody Cooper, a Harding senior in '57, and Counts-Scoggins embrace in their first meeting last Saturday at Irwin Avenue Open Elementary School, the former Harding campus. Cooper, who lives in Davidson, is on the left in the top photo.

## Year of social upheaval changed Charlotte forever

By Erica Singleton FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

On Sept. 4, 1957, Dorothy Counts took the longest walk of her life.

In many ways, it was also Charlotte's.

Counts, then 15, was yelled at, spat on, and had debris thrown at her by angry whites as she desegregated Harding High School. Photos of that difficult walk were splashed on newspapers around the world.

"I had no idea when I left for

school that morning what would happen," she said. "They had barricaded the street, so my father couldn't drop me off. A family friend, Dr. (Edwin) Thompkins, from Johnson C. Smith University, is the adult pictured walking with me. The walk from Fifth Street to the auditorium at Harding was a long walk that morning."

**A revolution on greens**

Seven months before Counts' (now Counts-Scoggins) walk into history, a group of black golfers

enjoyed the fruits of victory - winning a court battle to play at Revolution Golf Course.

"This was not a bed of roses by any means," said Ray Booton, a member of the group of golfers, who with the NAACP from 1951-1957 fought for the right to equal access on public facilities in Charlotte.

Booton, the lone survivor, was in attendance for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the

Please see ACTIVISM/6A

"This was not a bed of roses by any means."

Ray Booton, one of 14 golfers who won the right to play Revolution Golf Course in 1957.

## Final graduation for prep program

By Herbert L. White herblwhite@thecharlottepost.com

A long-running college preparatory program graduates into history Saturday.

Love of Learning, founded at Davidson College in 1987 to help African American students prepare for the academic rigors of college, will host its Tribute to Education Gala at 10 a.m. at Davidson's Tyler Tallaman Auditorium. A luncheon will follow the ceremony at 11:30 a.m. and a yacht cruise on Lake Norman will close the celebration.

Former students, parents, staff and the public are invited.

Love of Learning has graduated nearly 400 students, said director Yvette Clifton PhD. The program takes students from their freshman year of high

Please see LOVE/2A



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Blanche Penn, director of Winners Plus Agency, talks during a press conference Tuesday announcing formation of the Just Pull 'em Up Summit May 19 at Little Rock AME Zion Church. The summit's goal is to encourage dialogue between African Americans.

## Summit's goal: Pants up, self-esteem next

By Kristian Coley THE CHARLOTTE POST

Pulling up pants can pull up a people.

The Black Political Caucus of Charlotte Mecklenburg, Winners Plus Agency, and the Nation of Islam held a press conference Tuesday in efforts to publicize the Just Pull 'em Up Summit May 19 at Little Rock AME Zion Church.

This summit will focus on the negative appearance of black males that feed the stereotypical "thug look"

with baggy jeans below the waistline and long t-shirts.

Dwayne Collins, chairman of the Black Political Caucus, says he wants the summit to educate young African Americans about the origins of the sagging pants. "The look came from jail," he said, "where the inmates were not afforded to wear belts because they could be used as a weapon, so their pants would just sag."

The relationship between the appearance of young Please see PANTS/2A

**THE LOVE BOAT**  
Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas offers everything for a cruise/1B

Hoops legends **BYRON DINKINS** and **ANDREA STINSON** find their calling.

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

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