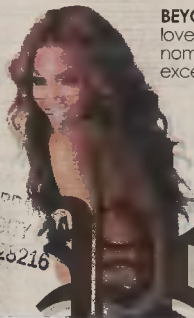




Charlotte makes CIAA short list to host football championship game/1C



BEYONCÉ gets much love from BET with six nominations for music excellence

The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF MAY 28-30, 2007

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PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE



Bryant Watson

Different shades of behavior emerge

Executive finds race can change interaction

By Erica Bryant
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte Post is hosting a candid discussion about social and interracial trust on May 31 at Center Stage in NoDa. Channel 9 news anchor Erica Bryant will facilitate the conversation. This is part of a series of articles featuring the participants.

Eric Watson is president of diversity and inclusion at Salisbury-based Food Lion.

EB - Describe an event in your formative years when you first became truly aware that because of your skin color people might treat you differently.

EW - There are times when I am astutely aware that being different makes a difference in people's behavior and response.

In Minnesota, where the population had a very small percentage of African Americans, I had a heightened awareness of being different. I was driving on a Saturday, going home from the office. I was in a sweat suit and baseball cap. I noticed that one of my co-workers was in the car in front of me. I waved and blew my horn, but no response. When I tried to catch up so that she could see who I was, she sped away.

EB - Please share examples of incidents that have occurred in your current position among professional peers that the public might find surprising.

EW - I've got several examples that at times indicate to See ASSUMPTIONS/6A



Marc Davis of Mooresville races in NASCAR's Grand National Division for Joe Gibbs Racing. His goal is to graduate to the Busch Series, one of the league's top three divisions.

Accelerating diversity



The Indy Racing League, an open-wheel series with cars that top 225 miles per hour, has had an African American driver since 2002, but recruited former world heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman as a team owner.

Major racing series opening doors for new participants

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

Marc Davis is a new breed of racer.

The 17-year-old started in karts as a 6-year-old and has worked his way up the development series ladder. The next step is the most daunting: landing a ride in a major stock car series.

"I've been racing for 11 years and I plan to keep on doing it," Davis said. "I relax and have fun. I don't think about the pressure."

Sunday is the biggest in American motorsport. More than 150,000 fans are expected to jam into Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord for the Coca-Cola 600, NASCAR's longest race. In Indianapolis, Ind., the world's largest single-day sporting event, the Indianapolis 500, drops the green flag at 1 p.m.

Neither race will have an African American behind the wheel, but industry leaders say change is coming.

From driver development and internship programs to ownership recruitment, U.S. racing is enlarging its garage. Change is slow, but steady, especially in NASCAR, where Davis participates in the Drive for Diversity program for Joe Gibbs Racing, a

Please see RACING/7A

Road to inclusion

Major racing series competing at U.S. venues, number of events and black participants as drivers or owners.



Indy Racing League IndyCar Series

Races: 17 (16 in U.S.)

Drivers: 0

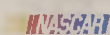
Owners: 1 (George Foreman)

NASCAR Nextel Cup Series

Races: 36 (2 at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord)

Drivers: 0

Owners: 0



Formula 1

Races: 19 (1 in U.S.; Indianapolis, Ind.)

Drivers: (1, Lewis Hamilton of England)

Owners: 0

SOURCE: INDY RACING LEAGUE, NASCAR, FORMULA 1

Injured student moves classmates

By Harold M. Tyson
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

ROCK HILL - Thirty-four Clinton Junior College graduates were conferred associate degrees May 19, including a posthumous award to Unique Bullock, who was killed in an automobile accident on October 28.

Even with all the pomp and circumstance that surrounds such an event, the most touching moments came as President Elaine Copeland was about to ask for benediction, the new graduates made her aware of the presence of Tameka Hall, a Charlotte resident and Class of 2007 member who sustained severe head injuries in the accident that killed Bullock. Hall spent several weeks in a coma, and has since been in rehabilitation.

Please see INJURED/2A



Charlotte resident Tameka Hall (left) and Clinton Junior College graduate Tyanna Walker weep as Hall waves to classmates at Clinton's commencement on May 19. On October 28, 2006, Hall received severe head injuries in an automobile accident in which classmate Unique Bullock was killed.

JACK AND JILL CHARLOTTE CHAPTER

Anniversary calls for community service

By Michaela Duckett
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte chapter of Jack and Jill of America is celebrating their golden anniversary.

The year round celebration will culminate with a Hat Luncheon June 2 at 12:30 p.m. at Myers Park Baptist Church to honor the legacy of the organization's founders, members and their contributions.

Jack and Jill is one of the

largest minority non-profit foundations in the U.S.

"The organization began as somewhat of a play date," says member Anjali Maria Arnold.

She said the original founding mothers came from well to do families in Philadelphia during the early 1900s. At that time, affluent black families were not necessarily the norm, so the mothers got together to

Please see JACK/2A



Jamestown, Va., rolls out red carpet for 400th anniversary/1B

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