



Wind us up: The Godfather of go-go **CHUCK BROWN** is still going strong/1D



Fresh off NCAA national title, Hampton senior **YVETTE LEWIS** focuses on the U.S. track and field championship

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Grilling out? We've got tips from a real pro/1B

Volume 32 No. 39

\$1.00

The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

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WEEK OF JUNE 14-20, 2007

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Fathers' lessons for lifetime

Where would you be without your father?

Not as the steady hand of discipline as a child or the bankroll of support as a teen and young adult. Where would you be without dad the teacher, the fountain of knowledge about what the beauty and pitfalls of life?

With Father's Day around the corner, The Post asked Charlotte residents of varying backgrounds about lessons they learned from their dads and how they helped mold their lives. Perhaps you'll read about a similarity to your own father, or perhaps a father figure who was every bit the influence on your life's journey.

We'd like to read about it, too. Just go to The Post's website at www.thecharlottepost.com and blog us.

Herbert L. White



Charlotte optometrist Paula Newsome (second from right) with her father Carter Newsome, mother Mercedes and daughter Ayana Washington.



PHOTO/ERICA SINGLETON

Dorothy Counts Scoggins desegregated Harding High School in 1957 with encouragement from her father, the Rev. H.L. Counts.

DOROTHY COUNTS SCOGGINS, ACTIVIST

Chosen to blaze desegregation trail

By Erica Singleton

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

If not for her parents, Dorothy Counts Scoggins wouldn't be who we know her to be today. The poster child for school integration in the 1950s in Charlotte, Scoggins questions, "How many parents today would allow [what happened to her] to happen to their children?"

"Families like the Roberts family, and my family decided they would be a part [of the fight for integration]; but a lot of people ask how could they allow you, especially a girl to be a part of something like that?"

Scoggins said she specifically remembers her father, the Rev. H.L. Counts, telling her, "You were the right person to be chosen." Rev. Counts completed applications for his children - Dorothy, Howard and Wilson - to desegregate Charlotte schools. Dorothy was chosen, and she enrolled at Harding High School.

"All of us were taught the same thing, and we understood the importance of why it had to happen, but, Dad said, 'You were the right person...you get the message,'" Scoggins said.

That conversation started Scoggins on a journey that changed her life. What Rev. Counts saw in her helped young Dorothy start a 50-year fight to ensure justice and equality in schools.

"It made me the person I am today," she said. "It also started a process in this community, which had not been going on, because we were living separate."

"As a result, even if it was 10 years later, people began to come to the table...people began to do things we had not done before."

MORE LESSONS FOR FATHER'S DAY



G. Johnson

Publisher **Gerald Johnson** writes some of the most important lessons he learned from his father Bill were unspoken. Page 4A



Stephanie Ready

Charlotte Bobcats network reporter **Stephanie Ready** learned teamwork from her dad. Page 8A

DR. PAULA NEWSOME, OPTOMETRIST

Self-reliance and charity start at home



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Dr. Paula Newsome learned self-sufficiency from her father, Carter.

By Herbert L. White

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Charlotte optometrist Paula Newsome learned people skills and empathy from her father, Carter Newsome, a Wilmington educator and administrator.

"One of the first things he taught me was to make sure I could take care of myself," she said. "He said

"don't depend on anybody else to provide for your livelihood."

Young Paula took those words to heart, becoming the first African American woman to open an optometry practice in North Carolina.

Carter Newsome stressed the importance of helping others. Paula Newsome recalls her father helping a heroin addict get on the path to sobriety.

"He would bring that guy to our house," she said. "He's been clean for a number of years. He took the time to help this kid."

As a teacher at Williston High School, Carter put students on career paths as draftsmen and electricians. At New Hanover High, he helped students kicked out of school during racial unrest in the early 1970s by offering night classes. He was quiet by nature, but spoke volumes through his actions. Paula took notice.

"He was always very personable," she said. "He was a loner, like me, but he was always good with people."

JAYE DELAI, WCCJ RADIO PERSONALITY

In or out of booth, people always come first

By Cheris F. Hodges

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Charlotte radio personality Jaye Delai learned from his father, Rick Roberts, to be the blessing to other people every day.

Delai's father was the operations manager and afternoon jock at Houston's KYOK, one of two black radio stations at the time, but Roberts didn't really want his son to follow in his footsteps. "Dad actually pushed me to do other things than radio," Delai said.

But as he watched Roberts change lives with a microphone, Delai was bit by the radio bug. "My father was a voice for the voiceless," he said. "He was like Robin Hood, only he didn't use a bow and arrow. He used a microphone."

Roberts retired from radio in 1993, Delai said. One thing that Roberts told Delai that has stuck with him during his radio career is "treat every person in your face as if they are the only person in the world. Because they are giving you their time."



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

WCCJ personality Jaye Delai followed his father, Rick Roberts into radio and took his message to help listeners with him.

Transit tax campaign riding on two tracks

Supporters of 1/2-cent tariff push benefits of light rail to African American skeptics

By Herbert L. White

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A pro-transit tax group won't forget the concerns of African American voters who joined a petition drive for its repeal.

Charlotte City Council member Pat Mumford, chairman of the pro-tax group, said supporters will go into black neighborhoods to argue why funding light rail is necessary for Charlotte's growth.

"It's critically important we get into all segments, but especially the black community where people were more likely to sign the petition," he said. "I want to be clear - that's an individual decision. What I want people to do is understand this complex issue well enough to have a full picture."

An anti-tax petition drive netted 48,669 signatures to merit a place on the November ballot, with African Americans accounting for the largest percentage.

Tax supporters will have to lobby hard to win skeptics in east and west Charlotte, said Dwayne Collins, chairman of the Black

Please see **TRANSIT/3A**



Mumford



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Nicole Clardy sheds tears of joy at Crossroads Charter School commencement. Clardy was one of 39 graduates, the most in school history.

School once at crossroads now embracing its own turnaround

By Cheris F. Hodges

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Kandice Watkins is the poster child for Crossroads Charter High School's turnaround.

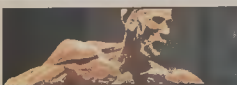
When she graduated Monday, Watkins illustrated of how this once-embattled independent school turned itself around.

Watkins, who will be attending North Carolina Central University in the fall, came to Crossroads right out of middle school three years ago. Around that same time, the school was in jeopardy of having its doors shut two years ago. Students staged walkouts over what they considered unfair treatment by administrators. Teacher morale was low, and so were student test scores.

Since Principal Kenneth Simmons came on board two years ago, Crossroads administration has worked to improve discipline and retention and increase parent involvement. The effort has paid off with 39 graduates - the largest in school history.

To Watkins, Crossroads has become her

Please see **SCHOOL/3A**



"Body Worlds" exhibit bound to turn heads at Discovery Place/1B

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