

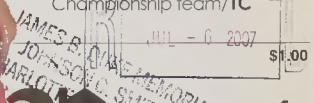
Still king of stage



At 14, 'THE LION KING' opens at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center/ID

Lighting it up

Davidson sophomore Stephen Curry makes splash in debut with U.S. under-19 World Championship team/TC



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# The Charlotte Post

The Voice of the Black Community

Also serving Cab

WEEK OF JULY 5-11, 2007

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## Ends don't meet at NAACP

*Fly on the Wall* is rumor, innuendo, and a smattering of truth for all you first-time readers and those who just don't know any better.

Not you. Of course, you're too savvy a reader. We're talking about that character reading over your shoulder.

Anyway, the disclaimer is brought to you courtesy of Dewey, Cheatham and Howe, barristers to the beautiful. Let's get going before the leftover barbecue turns up missing.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's NAACP is waiting with baited breath the results from a probe from the national office regarding a complaint about - you guessed it - finances. Shucks, the hijinks even has its own blog, courtesy of journalist/activist John Minter.

Fly's spies report that chapter members sniff something rotten regarding how money was spent (or not) on the 2006 Ashanti Awards banquet. Among the allegations: finance records wound up going with former branch president Yvonne Pettis rather than the branch address and the executive committee couldn't get a full accounting from former treasurer Danny Davis.

The national NAACP, which has its own money issues, hasn't breathed a word about its findings. Of course, the locals won't, calling it a non-story.

That's why you're in FOTW.

Anthony Aldrich II isn't your typical Boy Scout. He's the King of Kernels, the Prince of Popcorn and High Priest of Hucksters.

Actually, Anthony is a freshman-to-be at Myers Park High School and the nation's best popcorn salesman at \$19,458 in 2006, according to the Boy Scouts, who feted the 13-year-old at the organization's national annual meeting in Atlanta last month.

Anthony has been the top seller in Mecklenburg County four of the last five years and one of the perks of being No. 1, he spoke at a popcorn sales seminar and rubbed elbows with the likes of Mike Weaver, CEO of Pop Weaver.

Please see IS RADIO/3A



Norman Payne leaves the statehouse where he took his oath to become a U.S. citizen last Thursday afternoon. An immigrant from Panama, he has lived in the U.S. for 16 years and has two children, Tafadzwa, 5, and Munashe, 3 (sitting.) Payne's wife Joy is on the right.

## American dream, many possibilities

Results differ among immigrants and native-born citizens

By Peter Grier

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

If the American dream means doing better than your parents did, then Mike Brockman's not living it.

Single, with a 10-year-old daughter, he's a server at a Black Angus restaurant in Mesa, Ariz. His father at his age had a good, steady job as a machinist at TRW.

Today "there aren't the kind of jobs available you used to get with a high school education, and work yourself up," says Brockman. "Now you have

to have training or experience to start, then you can work your way up from there."

Norman Payne, on the other hand, thinks the American dream is alive and well. An immigrant from Panama, he's lived in the U.S. for 16 years and on June 28 in Boston he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen.

Payne works in customer service at Kodak and has high hopes for his young son and daughter.

"I don't think the American dream has changed," he says. "I am trying to do everything I

can do so that they can do better than I did."

Two hundred and thirty-one years after the 13 colonies declared their independence from Great Britain, is the United States still the land of opportunity, the light of hope for the poor of the world?

The economic dream that has united a diverse population for generations, that children would be more prosperous than their parents, is in question as perhaps never before.

See LAW SCHOOL/2A

## Debate reveals stratified constituency

By Hazel Trice Edney

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - The All-American Presidential Forum held at Howard University last week not only showcased domestic issues of interest to African-Americans, but has also revealed a black constituency that, although admires U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, is clearly stratified in its support for several candidates.

"My favorite candidate at this

point is still John Edwards. I think that his views are most aligned with mine and he presented himself very well," says Rochelle Ford, a Howard University advertising and journalism professor who attended the debate.

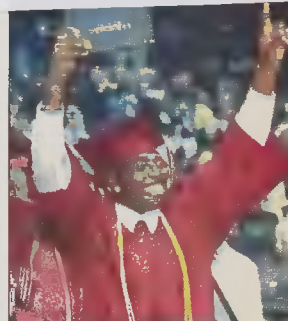
At the same time, Ford, like other members of the vastly black audience interviewed as they pressed their way out of Howard's Crampton Auditorium, also held a special allegiance to Obama, the loan black candidate who has

reached rock star fame as he runs neck-and-neck with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination.

"I am an Obama supporter. I'd love to see an Obama-Edwards ticket," says Ford.

She says she did an online test to see which candidate's views most aligned with hers. "John Edwards was number one and Obama was number two. And so, a president-vice president kind of thing I think

Please see DEBATE/2A



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Last week's Supreme Court decision all but bans race in student assignment, a model Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has used since 2001.

## Without race, can schools diversify?

Supreme Court decision mirrors what CMS student assignment has become

By Herbert L. White

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In the 1970s, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools were a national model of busing for desegregation.

In 2007, it's a national model of resegregation with race removed as a factor in school assignment.

Last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision struck down voluntary desegregation plans in Louisville, Ky., and Seattle that relied too heavily on race. The 5-4 decision was tempered by Justice Anthony Kennedy - the Court's swing voter - who left open the possibility of racial demographics.



Gorman

Charlotte-Mecklenburg switched to a race-neutral policy in 2001 after losing a lawsuit brought by white parents who argued the district's pupil assignment plan was discriminatory. The result: Mostly all-black and Hispanic low-income inner city schools surrounded by higher income and mostly-white suburban campuses.

"CMS does not use race as a factor in student assignment, so we were not impacted by the recent ruling," district Superintendent Peter Gorman said.

Please see ETHNICITY/3A

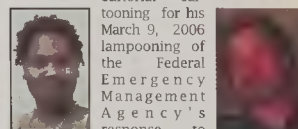
## The Post earns national awards

By Herbert L. White

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The Post earned a pair of honors at the National Newspaper Publishers Association Awards last week in Seattle.

The Post's Jim Hunt earned first place in editorial cartooning for his March 9, 2006 lampooning of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's response to Hurricane Katrina.



Hodges Hurricane Katrina. Hunt Katrina.

The Post also earned a second place award for overall reporting in its Life section, edited by Cheris Hodges.

NNPA is a trade publication representing 150 black-owned publications in the U.S.



Summer camp gives kids a taste of skills needed to succeed in business/6C

INSIDE

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