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Volume 32 No. 48



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Gantt earns lifetime honor

Post Best gala to salute political, civic leadership

By Erlison Clary
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte Post Foundation will honor Charlotte architect and former mayor Harvey B. Gantt with its "Luminary - Lifetime Achievement" award at the Charlotte Post Best Banquet Sept. 22.

Still an active civic leader, Gantt is a principal at Gantt Huberman Architects.



Gantt

"We are thrilled to honor Harvey Gantt, a person who has given so much to this community and asked so

little in return," said Post Publisher Gerald Johnson.

For 10 years, the Charlotte Post Foundation has provided college scholarships for deserving African-American students in the Charlotte

area with proceeds from the Best banquet.

The foundation is expanding its focus to concentrate on systematic problems that impede educational progress for African-American students, Johnson said. It will become "actively involved with funding solutions to problems plaguing a generation of African-American children," he added.

The 11th annual banquet will be held at the Hilton Charlotte Center City on East Third Street. About 600 are expected to attend.

The honorary chair is Cynthia Marshall, AT&T's North Carolina president for external affairs. An Afterglow reception will follow dinner.

Stacey Clark, an English and creative writing teacher at West Charlotte High School, will be honored as

Please see **GANTT/2A**

Communities resist neighborhood panel



Dorothy Waddy, an organizer with the West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition, says a proposed Neighborhood Council duplicates the role of community organizations.

Association leaders yank welcome mat on council proposal

By Herbert L. White
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Charlotte's proposed Neighborhood Council is bringing communities together - in opposition to the idea.

City Council is considering formation of a Neighborhood Council under the city's Neighborhood Development department to act as a liaison between city government and communities. Community leaders - especially near the urban core - contend the council would duplicate the role of neighborhood organi-

zations and stifle efforts to resolve problems in their own backyards.

"I don't think it's necessary," said Dorothy Waddy, an organizer with the West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition that represents 18 neighborhoods. "If I want to call (another neighborhood association leader) all I've got to do is pick up the phone."

"It appears like we are going to not only oppose it, we won't join it," said Vincent Frisina, president of the Windsor Neighbors Association. "We've

seen so many things where Neighborhood Development has gotten hold of it and screwed it up."

City Council member Anthony Foxx said the benefit of a neighborhood council - direct community input in a single forum - will be weighed against overlapping autonomy.

"If it's not perceived as helpful by neighbors in the community, I don't see the value in it," he said.

Neighborhood councils vary Please see **COMMUNITY/8A**

APPRECIATION: OLIVER HILL, NOTED CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY

He urged whites to 'love thy neighbor'

By Dionne Walker
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. - Hundreds remembered famed civil rights lawyer Oliver Hill Sunday as a man of boundless vision, who called on old-fashioned values of brotherhood as he challenged America to fulfill the promises of equality made by its founders.

Hill, who died Aug. 5 at age 100, didn't invent anything new - he simply challenged the nation to live up to the ideal of loving thy neighbor, said Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, who eulogized the Richmond native at a memorial service held in the city's convention center.

"His life is a challenge. Are we

up to it?" Kaine asked the crowd, which included several previous governors, among them, L. Douglas Wilder, the nation's first elected black governor and Richmond's current mayor.

Also attending were Democratic U.S. Sen. Jim Webb and Virginia Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall, the son of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, a close Hill friend.

Speaking before an audience speckled black and white, Kaine likened the man who helped integrate American schools to the biblical good Samaritan, reaching out to help those in need.

In Hill's day, those were black Americans in need of equal edu-

cation.

"Mr. Hill changed his time, he changed our times," Kaine said. "No Virginian in the past hundred years has had as much impact."

Born in 1907, Hill entered a world where the U.S. Supreme Court recently had upheld laws banning a black man from sitting in a white train car, and Virginia lawmakers had rewritten the state Constitution to firm up restrictions on blacks.

By the time Hill graduated from See **CIVIL RIGHTS/6A**



Hill

The bus stops here for support

Activists urge support of transit tax as means of affordable transportation

By Herbert L. White

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Bus transportation has allies in Charlotte's transit tax debate.

Last week, a group of activists lashed off the "Save the Bus" campaign at the Rosa Parks Transit Center on Beatties Ford Road. The activists support Charlotte's half-cent tax, which is up for referendum in November. The tax pumps about \$77 million into Charlotte Area Transit System, with two-thirds going to bus service. The rest would go to light rail - the lightning rod for tax opponents.

"The debate shouldn't be framed by our positions on light rail, since the facts are simple," said Sam Spencer, co-chair of Grassroots Activists for Charlotte Transit. "We want to make it clear that the half-cent sales tax helps make bus service at its current levels possible."

The first leg of the light rail system into south Charlotte is scheduled to open in November after the referendum. Future plans call for rail to extend into north Mecklenburg County.

Since the transit tax was approved by voters in 1998, CATS officials say the authority has added 31 new bus routes, increased service and added service in Davidson.

Please see **BUS SERVICE/3A**

Paper, digital changes coming

By Herbert L. White

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You're reading a copy of The Post that feels and looks different.

It's part of the continuing evolution of the publication and a long-term strengthening of our growth as a communications company.

For the next month, The Post will be published on standard newsprint as we convert to a new printer. Today's paper is thinner and thinner, but should retain most of the reproduction characteristics you expect from The Post.

The changes aren't limited to paper. The Post's revamped website, www.thecharlottepost.com, includes new interactive features including blogs and the Auto Network, a cutting-edge video portal highlighting everything related to vehicles from buying a car to picking an insurance policy.

On the horizon is video-casting of local news and events that will be introduced next month and creates stronger interactive digital links between The Post and the Internet. Let us know what you think.

RACIAL UNREST IN JENA SIX CASE

Convictions open old wounds

By Tuola Williams
THE DALLAS EXAMINER

DALLAS, Texas - Hundreds of people gathered in a little central Louisiana town on last Tuesday to protest the conviction of 16-year-old football star, Mychal Bell, a black student, and the indictments of five other black youth following an attack on white schoolmate Justin Barker.

It all started with a tree

One day, almost a year ago, at a high school in a small town nestled in the seat of La Salle Parish, La., three black boys made a simple request. They wanted to sit under a tree and eat their lunch as numerous other students

were doing. The school official overseeing the lunch crowd willingly obliged, stating the students could eat anywhere they chose.

This is the day that changed everything for the less than 3,000 residents of Jena, La., and especially for six black boys.

The next day, three nooses hung where the boys had previously stood. When the school superintendent failed to take appropriate action, dismissing it as an adolescent prank, racial unrest ensued.

"To us, those nooses meant the KKK, they meant, 'Niggers, we're going to kill you, we're going to hang you 'til you die,'" Casepta

See **CONVICTIONS/2A**



DALLAS EXAMINER PHOTO

The "White Tree" at Jena High School in Louisiana was the flash point for violence that resulted in six black students being charged with attempted murder. The tree has since been cut down, but the tensions endure.

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