

WHO'LL RULE MEAC?

Previews from early favorite S.C. State to newcomer N.C. Central/IC N.C. A&T quarterback **HERBERT MILLER**

Volume 32 No. 50

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Step ahead

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Pushing us to think green

Minister's goal: Blacks need to be more conscious of environment issues

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - Though blacks have not traditionally been environmental activists, a local global warming activist says they should be.

"We're on the planet Titanic right now," said the Rev. William Burton. "We (racial groups) don't get to be separate anymore. We have to work together. I can't say ha-ha there's a hole on your end of the Titanic."

Scientists say global warming is gradually increasing the earth's surface temperature. It can also melt ice glaciers and raise sea level.

Burton explains it this way. "It's like somebody has placed the earth in a motorized vehicle and pulled it into a garage, and closed the door with the engine running. That's what the greenhouse effect is," he said.

At age 63, Burton is a minister, a motivational speaker, a musician and a former network marketer. He said global warming damages the earth, which affects the food supply and causes food prices to rise. The black community, which has a disproportionately high number of low-income residents, single parents and seniors who live on low or fixed incomes, should be especially concerned because the increased cost will affect them first.

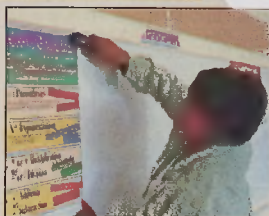
"When food starts to double in price, the wealthy people might have to stop playing golf as much, but it's not going to be a matter of whether they eat or not," Burton said. "The planet has fed us through the grace of the Creator, and do we care? We just continue to trash it like we can replace it."

Thomas Hill, a radio personality at WCLY 1550 AM, said Burton is committed to environmental causes because he truly cares.

"This isn't something he just decided to jump on the bandwagon with. It's some-

Please see FOCUS/3A

New school year, learning environment



PHOTO/ERICA SINGLETON

Midwood High School math teacher Carolyn Greene (top) prepares for the start of class last week. On Monday, technology facilitator Aubrey Harrison (above, right) helps parents with bus assignments as Principal Sheila James (blue jacket) looks on. Midwood's charge is to help middle school students make the academic transition to high school.

New school provides transition from middle to high school

By Erica Singleton
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

When the doors open today at Midwood High School, so does opportunity for struggling students.

Originally presented as the Eight PLUS program, the Midwood High School ninth grade transitional program is specifically designed for stu-

dents who failed End of Grade exams or have been retained in middle school.

"Midwood High School is helping to make the transition," said Renata Clyburn, Midwood High's academic facilitator. "We're trying a different approach - smaller class sizes, different expectations and a focus on life skills,

as well as academics."

Not to be mistaken with the old Midwood/TAPS High School on Hawthorne Lane, which has been renamed Hawthorne High, Midwood High's home is 1817 Central Avenue. The smell of new wood and paint is still strong in the new facility on the corner of Central Avenue and The Plaza. Administrators and teachers worked through the weekend to get their offices and classrooms ready in time for opening day, since Thursday was the first time

Please see MIDWOOD/2A

"We're trying a different approach - smaller class sizes, different expectations and a focus on life skills, as well as academics."

Renata Clyburn, Midwood High School academic facilitator

Bloggers put Jena Six case on blast

AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

BALTIMORE - The case of six black youth, who face lifetime jail sentences for an alleged assault on a white peer in Jena, La., is slowly drawing the public's attention.

The alleged incident was the culmination of racial tensions triggered by a group of white Jena High School students who hung three nooses from a tree when a black student asked for permission to sit under the traditionally exclusively-white hangout. Black students gathered under the tree

in nonviolent protest. The white teens were given a slap on the wrist over what school officials called a "harmless prank" and the situation spiraled from there.

The first youth to be on trial, Mychal Bell, is slated for sentencing on Sept. 20. The blogosphere has been teeming with opinions, petitions and updates on this case. Here is some of what is being said:

Traycee's World; <http://traycee-jackson.blogspot.com>; said:

"OK, where is the media atten-

tion on this? You know, thank GOD for black websites, because if we leave ALL of the news up to the "regular" media, we would never know about anything in OUR communities. On one side, we keep hearing that racism no longer exists. BUT, on the other side, WE ALL KNOW that racism is alive and well. Case in point: Jena, Louisiana...Racism and segregation did not end with the Civil Rights Movement. We know that it's alive and well, some more evident than others. We experience

See BLOGGERS/6A

Former Harding High School students Woody Cooper and Dorothy Counts-Scoggins, reminiscence about the tumultuous days of September 1957 in the documentary "9/4/57," which debuts Tuesday at Irwin Avenue Elementary School - the former Harding campus.



FILE PHOTO/ERICA SINGLETON

Documentary details desegregation

By Herbert L. White

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Charlotte's most prolific documentary producer has turned his lens to a pivotal day in the desegregation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Steve Crump, a WBTV reporter who has produced nearly 20 documentaries for WTVI (channel 42) will debut "9/4/57," a retrospective of the day Dorothy Counts desegregated formerly all-white Harding High School. The film will debut on Sept. 4, the 50th

anniversary of Counts' enrollment. The public showing is at 6 p.m. and open to everyone. The documentary debuts on WTVI at 9 p.m.

"This story amplifies what happened on that day," Crump said. "These people are in the sunset moments of their lives, and in many respects they've come full circle with what they believe and what they've been taught during the Jim Crow era."

Counts endured racist taunts and violence over four days at Harding before her parents withdrew her from classes. She later enrolled at a Pennsylvania school.

Counts' recollection of events on the

See DOCUMENTARY/2A



Debut novel gives voice to the historically black college experience/1D

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