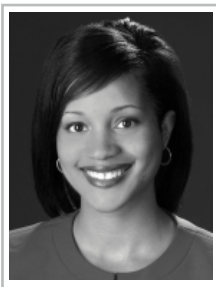


Never Forget

Angela Lindsay, Columnist



Cities are defined in large part by all of the people and events which helped shape it throughout history. The city of Charlotte has a fascinating story, and each chapter is important to understanding how it came to be. There is an on-going event in Charlotte that is trying to keep alive a certain chapter of our city's past. As part of a leadership training class that I attend, I had the opportunity to learn about some special people who helped shape the city and unearth many little known facts that make up the sprawling metropolis we now call Charlotte.

I am still amazed at what I learned on the 8th annual Charlotte Black Heritage Tour and Pilgrimage. Even as native of Charlotte, most of the information that was shared was eye-opening news to me, and many of the over fifty sites I visited I did not know existed. In three hours, I took a voyage through 250 years worth of people and places, exploring the connections between this city's development and its rich black history.

The Tour documented the impact of black people on the development of

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American Idol

Christina Ritchie, Columnist



Are you as excited as I am about another season of *American Idol*?! Wait! Before you stop reading, let me explain.

I'm not crazy. Yeah, I've been watching the program, sure. From radio to news to the water cooler at work, I'm out-of-the-loop if I don't. Don't call me – don't talk so loud – don't vacuum right now – I'm watching a talent show.

This show is an unprecedented success. The girls on *American Idol* were watched by more Americans last week than the girls on the American Olympic team.

One aspect of the competition that I find particularly interesting is the fact that the winning *Idol* singers have the ability to appeal to a viewing public that consists of all races, ages and genders. Think about that – imagine having the ability to satisfy the wants and meet the standards of a group of people as diverse as America.

Like the *American Idol* finalists, cities across the country have the challenge of appealing to and providing for people from all walks of life. They too have a "target audience" seasoned with all races, ages and genders. But unlike

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