

## Grimes

(Continued from Front)

about 10:30 on the night of May 3.

Police reports show that Reams was fatally injured after being struck from behind and knocked more than 80 feet from the point of impact.

According to the autopsy report, Reams died from a skull fracture. Reams also suffered fractures of the right leg and left arm, as well as several other injuries, the report said.

Two people, who witnessed the incident said the hit and run was racially motivated.

Ms. Patricia Reid, the woman who was walking with Reams, said the driver of the car yelled that he would kill Reams for walking with her. Later, she said the same driver, who she recognized as one of her brother's friends, came back, crashed into Reams and sped off with the lights off.

The dead man's brother, Eugene Reams, the other witness, also believes the death was racially motivated.

"I had just come out of a restaurant... on Guess Road," he said, "when I looked up the street and saw Chester. I saw a car pass on the other side of the street, and the driver yelled something out the window. I couldn't hear what they said, but I saw the car turn around on the other side of the bridge and come back. The car was in the left lane, then he switched lanes, jumped the curb and hit Chester. It happened so fast, I didn't even have time to warn him."

Reams said the impact sent his brother "flying, rolling and tumbling," and ended up about ten feet away from him. "I ran to him and said 'hold on, Chester.' He looked up at me and tried to say something. Then he closed his eyes. I believe that's when he died."

Grimes was arrested three days later and charged with involuntary manslaughter and felonious hit and run. He immediately posted a \$20,000 bond and never went to jail.

Later, it was learned that Grimes has a long criminal record. Over the past two years, he has been charged with more than 14 offenses ranging from breaking and entering to assault on a female and possession and sale of drugs. In only three of

those cases, however, was he convicted. In most of the cases, the charges were dropped before the trial, with the state taking voluntary dismissals.

According to well placed sources, the number of voluntary dismissals on Grimes' record indicate that he is a police informer. "His record," the source said, "sounds like that of an informer. One that the police feel is more important to them on the streets than in jail; in which case, he can continue to commit crimes and stay out of jail as long as he continues to inform."

Public Safety Director Talmadge Lassiter denied, at first, that the police department allows informers to get away with crimes. He conceded later, however, that there are trade-offs. "If a first or second offender... helps us with a murder or a major drug bust, I'd say it was a pretty good trade-off to go easy on him."

With only minor convictions on his record, Grimes fits the description. He would not comment on whether Grimes was, indeed, an informer or if he had helped on the drug arrests that were recently made in Durham and surrounding areas.

## Analysis

By Donald Alderman  
Durham County Sheriff Bill Allen and his July 27 runoff opponent for the sheriff's office, Roland Leary, have at least one obvious thing in common. They both have been in Durham County law enforcement for many years.

Allen, who has been sheriff for seven years, has been with the Sheriff's Department for 24 years. Leary, who has been the county's chief ABC officer for eight years, has been with the department for 21 years. But both men have at least one other thing in common, a similarity that is not seen quite as easily. They both have been tracked recently by

boiling controversies. The controversies themselves are not the major issue. The important point is that in the cases of both men, the controversies appear to have stemmed from ill-conceived policy decisions. The policies appeared to be ill-conceived in Allen's case because there were no apparent reasons for the decisions in the first

place. In Leary's case, recent controversies grew out of what could be called poor personnel management.

But even more interesting than the things that Leary and Allen have in common are the instances of what could be called "uncommon commonalities". In other words, Leary and Allen don't like each other very well, and consequently there's little, if any, cooperation between the sheriff's office and the ABC office. But it is not clear just what impact that lack of cooperation has on effective law enforcement, but it can be construed that it has some impact, because in other cities the size of Durham, local law enforcement agencies usually cooperate effectively.

And so the July 27 runoff for the four-year Sheriff's terms is as much a test of the two men's handling of controversy as it is a test of their law enforcement experience and efficiency.

And the controversies could play a major role in who gets elected.

Consider: Earlier this year, Sheriff Allen decided that Public Safety Officers should lock their pistols in a locker outside the magistrate's court before entering that area with someone who has been arrested.

Durham Public Safety officials protested the policy, arguing that the gun lock-up procedure would make police officers vulnerable to violent suspects.

But Allen reasoned that the policy would prevent an accused person from snatching an officer's pistol and harming someone in the booking area.

Allen's policy prevailed after the Durham County Commission decided that Allen had the legal authority to keep guns out of the magistrate's office.

No guns had been snatched from officers before Allen announced the policy, leaving the reason for its formula-

tion unclear.

In a second incident of launching a controversial policy, Allen lost as a Durham District Court judge ruled that jail inmates should not be brought to court in bright orange uniforms. Judge Karen Galloway called Allen's policy a violation of state law. Allen said he didn't know about the law although his chief deputy said he (the deputy) did.

While Allen argued that the orange uniforms would prevent courtroom escapes, no one had escaped prior to the policy.

Leary has had his problems too.

Late last year when a liquor house raid by his three ABC officers flopped, Leary had to defuse what he called "the biggest mess since I've been here."

Instead of finding illegal quantities of whiskey, the officers found nothing but left one man severely injured. The raid raised serious questions about how the matter was conducted.

In the aftermath, the Durham Branch of the NAACP called for Leary's resignation as well as the resignation of another of the officers.

But the controversy died when the county grand jury did not indict the ABC officer who had injured the man.

Now consider the uncommon factor first, the Sheriff's Department and the ABC Office do not cooperate, according

to Allen and Leary. They both admit that they are not the best of friends, and therein may lie part of the reason for the lack of cooperation between the two police forces.

It's unusual because in most counties, Durham included, police departments, ABC Offices, Sheriff's Departments, detectives and investigators, generally cooperate.

In a related matter, Jess Bowe, the third place challenger in the recent primary elections, may throw his support to Leary. They are good friends and admit that neither gets along with Allen well. Bowe complained during the campaign about the lack of cooperation between the Sheriff's Department and the Criminal Justice Department at NCCU. He said Allen wouldn't allow deputies leave time to study. He also does not hire degree candidates as interns.

Leary, on the other hand, as ABC Chief, allows his officers to study at NCCU and hires criminal justice majors as interns.

Finally, the county precincts may be the ones to watch in the coming runoff. Leary, during the primary election, was able to win rural precincts such as Bethesda Ruritan Club and Neal Junior High, earlier thought to be Allen strongholds. Those and other Leary county wins reportedly have caused concern in the Allen camp.



## Around The Rink

It's once around the rink with pizzazz! Henry King, program director of the Garner Road YMCA, and two day campers watch the skating skills of another day camper. Roller skating appears to be the favorite activity of most Adventure Day Campers.

## AKA's To Meet July 18

Commenting on the convention theme, Dr. Barbara K. Phillips of Winston-Salem, the sorority's national president, emphasized, "The 80's will not be a repeat of the Hoover years. Today, more of us understand the economic and political agendas being set-up to stifle our progress. Despite handicaps and setbacks, our people can point to a continual welling up of dynamic power."

"And some 5,000 members and friends of Alpha Kappa Alpha," said Phillips, "are going to historic Boston to herald and to celebrate Facets of Dynamic Power, by strategizing for today and honoring black women's societal contributions."

The convention will feature public meetings led by Congressional Black Caucus head Walter Fauntroy, TransAfrica Director Randall

Robinson and Eddie Williams, the president of the Joint Center for Political Studies, a black "think tank."

Conferees will have an opportunity to gain expert advice during issue workshops on networking, health awareness, social security, investments, and tax write-offs.

The sorority will premiere a multi-screen presentation on its service history and a 90 minute, live, drama saluting the leadership of black women.

Included in the convention festivities will be the formal unveiling of its 501 (c) 3 educational foundation, a concert by Dionne Warwick, awarding of national service honors and the changing of top elected officers.

The sorority's national meetings are held during even numbered years. Every four years elected administrations change

and the first vice-president ascend to leadership. Faye B. Bryant of Houston, Texas, will become the sorority's 21st national leader.

Founded in 1908 at Howard University, Washington, D. C., Alpha Kappa Alpha is the country's first black Greek-letter sorority. Today its ranks are peopled by women of many racial backgrounds. The sorority boasts of 75,000 members throughout the United States and abroad. Its founding tenets committed the group to fostering scholarships, finer womanhood and service

to mankind.

Names such as Coretta Scott King, Representative Cardiss Collins of Ill., Marion Anderson, Judge Constance Baker Motley, Ruth Love, Ella Fitzgerald, Yvonne B. Burke and the late Eleanor Roosevelt represent but a few of the accomplished members united in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

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## TO THE CITIZENS OF DURHAM AND DURHAM COUNTY



I am most grateful to all my loyal workers, supporters, voters and well-wishers in the Primary Election. I ask for your continued support in the November General Election.

It is my desire to serve all the citizens of Durham County to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,

*Elna B. Spaulding*

Elna B. Spaulding  
Your County Commissioner

(Paid for by Elna B. Spaulding Finance Committee)

## Anniversary Sale & Open House

### Star Office Supply

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