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# NationsBank Denies Sturdivant

letter dated August 10, 1993, by John S. Patterson, asset manager of AMRESKO, to lawyer Larry Hall, representing Sturdivant, AMRESKO National, Inc., informed Ronnie Sturdivant that NationsBank "has agreed to withdraw the property (Temporary Quarters Residential Inn) from the AMRESKO Institutional, Inc., as agent of NationsBank, is responsible for the administration management and disposition

of certain assets of NationsBank, including the Residential Inn. As news of this decision on the part of NationsBank crept into Durham's African American community this week, reactions heard by representatives of *The Carolina Times* have ranged from "outright disgust" with NationsBank and the Durham power structure to "this is an insult to all of black Durham." In February, 1993, Sturdivant entered into a lease agreement with NationsBank and the bank

subsequently reached an agreement in principle to close a sale to him and others. The property is a former motel on West Chapel Hill Street on the edge of downtown Durham. It had gone into receivership in November 1991. Due to poor occupancy, the receiver decided to close down operations on November 26, 1991. Subsequently, NationsBank of North Carolina, N.A. took title to the property on December 17, 1991. After it became publicly known

that Sturdivant was negotiating to purchase the property, Eugene A. Brown of Distinctive Properties, wrote a letter to Hugh McCol, head of NationsBank, making several accusations about Sturdivant and Residential Inn. McCol requested that the Asset Management Group of AMRESKO Institutional, Inc., respond on his behalf. John S. Patterson, asset manager of AMRESKO, came to Durham to investigate. According to a June 23, 1993

letter from AMRESKO to Brown, "The visual inspection showed the property to be in a vastly improved condition .... Mr. Sturdivant has been able to rehab and refurbish approximately 70 to 90 rooms and expects to have all rooms operational within the next two weeks. I found the property to be quietly operating and I had no feeling of personal threat during my visit." This letter was signed by John S. Patterson, asset manager. Patterson wrote, "The results of my tour of the property and my

discussion with Mr. Sturdivant have convinced me that your concerns relative to the subject property appear to be overstated. The visual inspection showed the property to be in a vastly improved condition since the Bank took title..." The African American community has held two large rallies in support of Sturdivant and his efforts, the second one on August 7 in the rain.

## A Tired Traveler, Two Men On The Prowl, Ends With Death

By Fred Bayles  
AP National Writer  
Traveling with a tired James when he stopped to rest in the morning hours of July 23, also prowled with Larry and Daniel Green, two men with a history of violent

The T&A Flea Market looks right. Lit by four vapor lights, its parking lot can be easily spotted from the road. An asphalt driveway leads right back to the highway. And, after all, this was rural North Carolina, far from urban dangers.

Sometime around 3 in the morning the two friends spotted a Lexus with North Carolina plates UNCO023, Michael Jordan's number when he played for the University of North Carolina. Inside the unlocked car, Jordan slept.



ELECTED OFFICIALS — Left to right are: Horace Johnson, mayor of Hillsborough; Vernon Malone, chairman, Wake County Commission; William Bell, chairman, Durham County Commission; Moses Carey, Jr., chairman, Orange County Commission and president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. (Photo by Ray Trent)

Jordan stopped the car, lowered the passenger side window in the sultry summer night, and fell asleep. Sometime earlier, at a trailer park less than a mile away, Daniel Andre Green left his mother's trailer and joined up with his old friend Larry Martin Demery. According to police, they already had a plan for the evening: robbery. Less is known about the movements of Green and Demery than their alleged victim that fatal morning. The two are in custody.

He started to wake up and the gunman got scared," Robeson County Sheriff Hubert Stone said. Authorities have refused to say who was the triggerman. Death came in the form of a single shot to the chest. The bullet remained in Jordan's body. There was little blood to stain the expensive leather seats. It was only after searching the car and body that the killers realized they had picked a high-profile victim.

## Moses Carey, Jr. Leads Black County Officials

Authorities, wary about hurting their case, will say little. What they do say is this: Green and Demery were out for a score. Armed with a .38 revolver, they planned to rob someone, anyone. The intersection down the road seemed a logical hunting spot.

It took another three weeks before the final pieces came together. Jordan's body was found Aug. 3 in Gum Swamp, just over the border in South Carolina. The Lexus turned up stripped to the north in Fayetteville two days later. The body was not identified until last Friday.

Police say the killers made their job easy by riding around in the car, making phone calls to their friends. After their arrest, police said they recovered the NBA championship ring Jordan had received from his son.

By Ray Trent  
Moses Carey, Jr., chairman of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, was honored at a gathering Thursday at Hayti Heritage Center in Durham, sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Black County Officials. The occasion was in recognition of his election as president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners — the first time an African American has been elected to that position in the 85-year history of the organization.

The event was attended by most of the county commissioners, North Carolina legislators, city officials and others. In his presentation of Carey, Durham County Commission Chairman William V. Bell said that 15 years ago, such a gathering of black county commissioners "could have been held in a phone booth." Today, there are almost 90 African American commissioners in North Carolina. Three of them chair their boards: Bill Bell in Durham, Vernon Malone in Raleigh, and Moses Carey, Jr. in Hillsborough. Carey credited others with paving the way for him. He cited Richard Whitted who was the first African American Orange County commissioner. Whitted became Orange County Commission chairman and ran unsuccessfully for state association offices several times. Carey said that he is carrying on the Whitted legacy. "It's not my skin color that is going to get things

done," he said. He credited Durham County Commission chairman Bill Bell with being his role model. During his tenure as head of the state organization, Carey said he will lead efforts to reduce the number of programs that federal and state governments require counties to undertake without supplying the funds to operate them. Carey introduced his future wife, Ms. Peggy Richmond, her daughter, Ms. Zanzi Hopkins, and his daughter, Ms. Andrea Carey. Music for the event was provided by "Shades." Catering was by Saunders Catering. Mrs. Diane Pledger, director of the Hayti Heritage Center, acted as hostess.

Green was just two months out of jail, paroled after two years of a six-year sentence for assault and armed robbery. Demery was out on bail, awaiting trial on armed robbery charges. Authorities describe the two as the products of good homes. "They grew up together," said Robeson County Sheriff's Lt. Mark Locklear. "They've been friends for a long time." A young neighbor of Green, 8-year-old Thomas Dial, said he was friends with the alleged killer. Green, he said, taught him the rules of fighting. "He said the only way you get in a fight is if anybody hits you, you hit them back," he said. Police say there was no preliminary to Jordan's death.

## Analysis: Hunt Hopes Voters Will Have Change of Heart In Business Recruitment

the funeral, Jordan drove 20 miles outside town to visit with his widow, Azella. He left at 9 p.m. to drive a friend, Tom Robinson, back to Wilmington for a late dinner her and was cooking.

A News Analysis  
By Dennis Patterson  
Associated Press Writer  
RALEIGH (AP) — Gov. Jim Hunt argued that industrial recruiting methods have changed as he convinced legislators to approve \$35 million to lure Mercedes Benz, \$5 million for recruiting incentives and extended tax credits for jobs in depressed areas. He'll be making the same argument this fall as he tries to convince voters to accept an economic development bonds proposal they rejected 11 years ago. Voters will decide in November whether to approve a constitutional amendment that would allow counties to issue bonds for road, water and sewer or other improvements needed to attract an

industry. The increased property taxes from the developed business would then be earmarked to pay off those bonds, rather than go into the county's coffers like other property taxes. With the constitutional amendment, the bonds would be issued without a local vote. Hunt said that is needed because businesses often require a quick response to requests for such improvements when considering sites. "Sometimes, there just isn't time to have a bond issue with the people," he said. Voters got a chance to make this same constitutional amendment 11 years ago. And when they went to the polls in 1982, they rejected it on a vote of 810,565 to 182,167.

Hunt himself has acknowledged that the proposal might be a harder sell this time around because of the increasing erosion of public trust in government. He told a group of 300 county commissioners last week that there are distinct differences between his current term as governor and his two previous terms in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The problems are bigger and the resources more scarce, he said. And the attitudes about government among those who are governed have undergone a significant change. "People are more ... questioning, that's a nice way to put it, about government," Hunt said. But Hunt is hoping for a change of heart in the next two months.

The constitutional amendment has the support of the county commissioners association and other government groups, but local officials are privately worried about how the measure will fare. It will be on the ballot with \$740 million in bond issues that voters are being asked to consider. Those bonds would fund improvements at universities and community colleges, parks, and water and sewer projects. Some supporters are banking that municipal elections — the only other elections being held in November — will mean a heavy percentage of urban voters at the polls. Urban voters, they figure, are more likely to support the bond package than rural voters. And since rural voters have no

other reason to go the polls, they are more likely to stay home. A Wake County bond referendum earlier this year was considered a bellwether for the November vote. The bonds narrowly passed, with rural precincts solidly rejecting them. Supporters of the economic development bonds, like Hunt, argue that they will be a good tool for rural and small urban areas to use in recruiting industry. Advocates argue that since the taxes won't increase on a piece of property until business develops, county governments can't lose anything by earmarking the increased taxes for bond payments.

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