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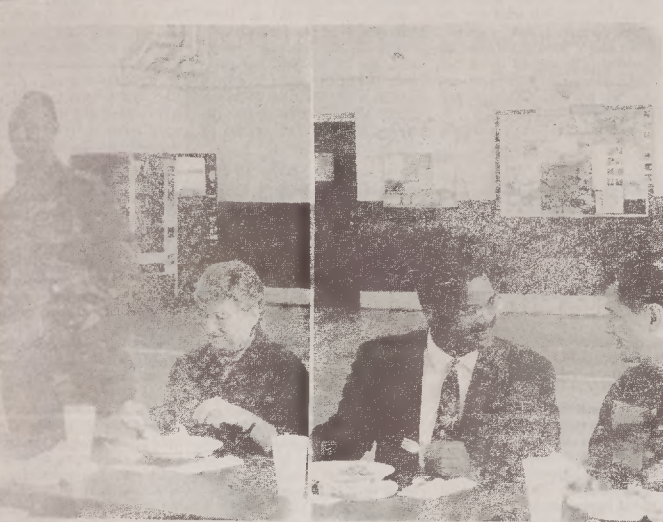
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CAPT. EDDIE DAVIS (standing) of the 30th Support Group, Mayor Sylvia Kerckhoff, Police Chief Jackie McNeil and Col. Chester Davis. (Photo by Ray Trent)

National Guard Holds Leadership Breakfast

By Ray Trent

On Sunday, January 9, Mayor Sylvia Kerckhoff and Police Chief Jackie McNeil were guests of the 30th Support Group of the North Carolina National Guard at a leadership breakfast hosted by Captain Eddie Davis at the Durham Armory.

Colonel Chester Davis, who heads the three companies stationed at Durham, gave the mayor and chief an insight into the workings and function of the Guard.

There are 11,533 national guards in the state. In Durham, the Guard has an economic impact. There are 25 full-time, salaried employees and the balance, who add to the financial coffers, are part-time.

The Guard has the capability of dealing with natural disasters such as hurricanes, storms, fires, etc. The companies in the communities are places where large groups can gather. In some communities, the armory is the only place available. They can be used for so-

cial functions and can be a haven in times of disaster. Col. Davis also explained a program "Adding Value to America" which deals with youth on drug awareness and other problems of "growing up."

At the luncheon, Chief McNeil thanked all of the guard and noted the many women who were present saying that it was extraordinary that with their being homemakers, students and holding full-time jobs, they still found time to serve their country.

Capt. Eddie Davis and Col. Chester Davis gave the mayor and chief a complete tour of the facilities, during which time guard members, while undertaking their functions, were able to meet the city officials. Most members of the Guard reside in Durham and took great pride in meeting the officials.

The NCG is always recruiting young men and women to be part of this national force that is trained, ready and capable of protecting the homefront and to go, at a moments notice, anywhere in the world.



DURHAM NCG MEMBERS listen to Mayor Kerckhoff and Chief McNeil. (Photo by Ray Trent)

Gunman Confronts Gasoline Truck Driver and Shoots Him

(AP) — A gunman confronted a truck driver Monday afternoon, took his money and fled — then turned and stopped just long enough to shoot the man as he drove with his hands raised.

The victim, identified by police as Roy Flynn of Walkertown, was shot once in the thigh about 2:30 p.m. and was listed in fair condition at Duke University Medical Center. A second bullet missed him.

Police said they had a description of the robber and were searching for him.

Flynn had just pumped 8,800 gallons of gasoline into underground tanks at Evan's Mini Mart, a gas

station and convenient store, when he was confronted by the robber.

Postponed

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE of the East Durham Community Reunion announces the postponement of the 1994 East Durham Community Reunion, originally scheduled for July, due to the recent unexpected death of the chairman, Mrs. Mary Louise Dawson Smith.

Classmates First Accused In Poisoning Police Evidence Casts Doubt On Durham High Student

(AP) — Police say mounting medical evidence casts serious doubt on a woman's claim that her mentally handicapped son was poisoned by classmates at Durham High School.

A forensics report, prepared by doctors at Duke University Medical Center, has provided new clues in a strange case that started a month ago when Patricia F. Lyon publicly accused unnamed students of pouring cleaning fluid on her 18-year-old son's lunch when he wasn't looking.

The accusations emerged after the teen-ager was admitted to Duke, where doctors removed part of his intestines. At the time, doctors said they could not determine what made Flowers ill.

Now police say new evidence shows that a single poison — like a cleaning fluid — could not have caused Alphanso Flower's troubles. And if, instead, he was poisoned by a combination of toxic chemicals, it couldn't have happened in late October, as Lyon has said.

"This report makes me feel that it's highly unlikely that it occurred at Durham High School," police Capt. E.E. Sarvis said Monday, after reviewing the report.

Doctors still don't know what caused Flower's illness. They know he arrived at Duke on the verge of death Nov. 1, and surgeons had to remove a section of severely damaged intestine. But, they say, he didn't ingest poison in late October. If he had, his larynx would have been seared.

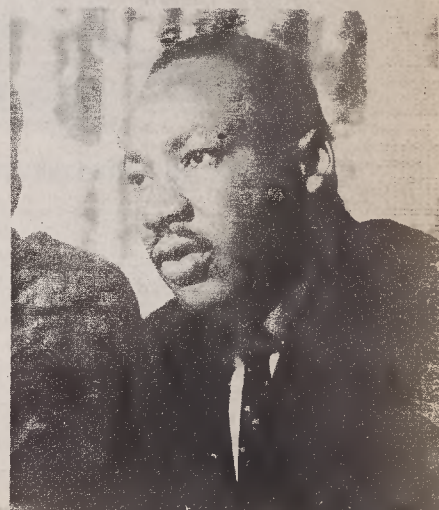
"As far as we know, his larynx wasn't burned," Sarvis said.

"This was a slow incurring intestinal problem." Doctors will now look into whether a combination of poisons — or possibly a disease — caused the teen's problems.

Meanwhile, Lyon, who discussed the case openly in December, refuses to talk to detectives. She

won't say whether or not she's still offering a \$2,000 reward for information about the poisoning.

And she refers all inquiries to her attorney. Flowers left Duke on Dec. 28.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SECTION
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Officials: Youth Center Disturbance Worse Than Originally Thought

RALEIGH (AP) — Prison authorities first called a New Year's Eve rampage at Polk Youth Center a celebration that got out of hand.

Now they say it resulted in significantly more damage and was racially polarized.

Officials have conceded that the uprising caused widespread damage to furnishings and the buildings themselves, including the destruction of an administrative office. They also admit that the disturbance became racially polarized. A majority of the 17 inmates taken to the hospital were whites who had been targeted by black inmates.

"It did appear that as the situation grew, the white inmates in the dorms were picked on," Polk Superintendent George Currie said Thursday. "I don't think that was a planned racial-type thing." In addition, some prisoners and correctional officers claimed several inmates suffered stab wounds, which prison officials deny.

In an interview Thursday, Currie insisted the disturbance was "a New Year's Eve celebration that got out of hand." Six days afterward, workers were still repairing the effects of the disturbance, including broken windows, mirrors, light fixtures, lockers, tables, benches, fans, televisions, toilets, sinks and water fountains, in addition to flood-damaged clothing and bedding, holes in walls and bashed office equipment, said Michael Bumgarner, director of youth services for the Department of Correction.

Accounts from Department of Correction administrators, officers and the inmates themselves painted a more detailed picture of what happened New Year's Eve at Polk.

While watching television shortly before midnight, inmates in the dormitory in Polk's main building began breaking out light fixtures, overturning beds and smashing windows, Currie said.

A correctional officer who asked

not to be identified disagreed with Currie's assertion that the disturbance was unplanned. He said it appeared that the prisoners were testing their limits with Currie's six-month-old administration.

The officer said two or three inmates in each of the dormitory blocks involved instigated the unrest.

"This riot was planned," the officer said. "They were trying to go as far as they could." The disturbance spread to another Main Building dormitory and every dormitory in the nearby 300 Building.

Officers abandoned an effort to control the inmates after a half-hour. More than 200 inmates ran wild for two hours, many of them fighting with steel-toed boots, padlocks, table legs, straightened bed springs and pieces of glass.

In the 300 Building, several inmates broke down a door to enter an administrative area, where they took control of some telephones and walkie-talkies and destroyed typewriters, fans and a copier, Currie said.

Three ambulance teams from Wake Emergency Medical Services set up a triage center on Polk's grounds, treating about 60 inmates and sending 17 of them to the hospital at Central Prison.

Currie said the injuries were limited to cuts, bruises and a laceration on an inmate's leg caused by a metal dustpan. A lieutenant was hit in the head with a work book, he said.

But two correctional officers said they watched helplessly outside the 300 Building as white inmates were severely beaten and stabbed. "All you could see was blood," an officer said.

Currie said, however, that there were no serious injuries.

"None of (the injured) were admitted to the hospital," he said. "There definitely were no stabbings." Bumgarner said the Correction Department would continue to investigate the uprising.