


THE SECOND PAGE



Someone You Should Meet...

Name: Joseph Nathan Abraham
Job Title: Store manager
Hometown: Baltimore, Md.
Describe Yourself in one word: "Versatile"
Hobbies: Playing chess, reading, playing sports, especially softball
Favorite Book: "Nigger" by Dick Gregory
Favorite Movie: "Beverly Hills Cop"
Persons admires most: Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Jackson, and my grandmother, Mrs. Eliza Jones
Career Goal: I hope to own a business one day.

(If you are single, at least 18 years old, doing something positive in the community, employed and interested in appearing in this column, or if you know someone who meets these criteria, please send your name and daytime telephone number to: Someone You Should Meet, Winston-Salem Chronicle, P.O. Box 2151, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.)

(photo by James Parker)

OPEN LINE/ 723-8448
Can I protect myself from twisters?

By DAVID R. RANKIN
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Q: Last year, a series of tornadoes ripped through the state and killed 42 people and injured 810. What can the average person do to protect himself in the event of a tornado?

A: The most important thing a person can do is to stay informed. The major reason so many people died during last year's deadly twisters was that people weren't expecting them.

The National Weather Service has two types of severe weather alerts. The first is a tornado or severe thunderstorm watch. Everyone in or near the watch area should watch local conditions and be prepared to take action if threatening weather is sighted. News concerning a possible tornado or severe thunderstorm will be broadcast on television and radio.

The second type of alert is a tornado or severe thunderstorm warning. It is issued only if severe weather has been sighted or if there is a strong indication of it on radar. "Since we are limited in our ability to get warnings of North Carolina-type tornadoes, it is very important for residents to be aware of weather signs which accompany tornadoes," said Robert Muller of the Raleigh-Durham station of the National Weather Service.

Muller said tornadoes are always associated with thunderstorms and usually move from southwest to northeast. If a funnel-shaped cloud forms at the base of a thunderstorm, beware. A tornado could be forming. Tornadoes are most common in the late afternoon or early evening.

The typical North Carolina tornado is small, lasts only a short time, travels an average of one-and-a-half miles and has a life span of a few minutes, Muller said.

He offers the following advice should a tornado develop:

- Stay away from doors, windows and outside walls. Protect your head.
- In homes and small buildings, go to the basement or to an interior part on the lowest level, such as a closet, bathroom or interior hallway. Get under something sturdy.
- In schools, nursing homes, hospitals, factories and shopping centers, go to pre-designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest floor are usually the best protection.
- Go to small, interior rooms or hallways if you're inside high-rise buildings.
- Leave vehicles and mobile homes for a more permanent structure. If there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in the nearest ditch with your hands over your head.

According to the National Weather Service, the state has the most tornadoes in May, but anytime a severe evening thunderstorm occurs, a tornado can develop.

Q: How much money did the city of Winston-Salem collect in parking fines last year and where does the money go?

A: Ronald Leak, the city's revenue collector, said the city collected \$182,390 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984. "The money goes into the city's general fund," he said. He compared the general fund to a person's checking account. "We use the general fund to pay for the day-to-day operation of the city."

Q: I live in government housing on a fixed income. My heater doesn't work properly because I have to push the thermostat past 80 degrees to get it.

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NEWS DIGEST

Starvation to spread to most of Africa

Compiled by Greg Brown

WASHINGTON - A research group which monitors the earth's environment reports that the famine affecting Ethiopia probably will spread to much of the rest of Africa in the years ahead.

The Worldwatch Institute, in its second annual "State of the World" report released on Sunday, says that population growth and soil erosion over much of the continent is causing a gradual but unstoppable decline in per capita food grain production.

The report says that food-growing nations outside the continent are sustaining 140 of the 530 million Africans and that the number of Africans who will require food from outside the continent to stay alive will be much larger in five years.

"The situation will get worse," says Lester R. Brown, president of the institute and director of the study. "There is nothing happening either on the

population side or the food side to arrest the slide.

"Reversing the ecological deterioration and economic decline now under way in so much of Africa may require international collaboration greater than any since the Allied powers mobilized in World War II," Brown says.

The report speculates that rapid population growth may have contributed to reduced rainfall in Africa by decreasing the amount of plant cover on the continent.

"As vegetation is reduced by deforestation or overgrazing, the share of rainfall running off directly to the ocean increases," it says. "Less rainfall evaporates into the atmosphere to recharge rain clouds that move inland."

Brown says that people haven't grasped the significance of what is happening to the African continent. "They think the rain will come back in Africa and everything will be okay. That's just not the way it is going."

Four nations halt economic aid to Sudan

WASHINGTON - The United States and three other nations have stopped economic aid to the Sudan in an attempt to force President Gaafar al-Nimeiry into reforming his country's economy.

American officials say delivery of U.S. economic aid, which totals \$114 million for the current fiscal year, will be curtailed until the Khartoum government reaches an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to pay its delinquent debts.

Saudi Arabia, the second largest contributor of economic aid to the Sudan, also is cutting off economic aid to the country, as are Britain and West Germany.

"The financial difficulties of Sudan are appalling," said an IMF official who asked not to be identified. "Everything is in turmoil. There is no plan for dealing with financial relationships."

U.S. officials stressed that military and food aid would continue. Food aid, in fact, has increased in

recent months to aid the Sudanese suffering from drought there, as well as refugees who have entered the country from other drought-stricken African nations. They emphasized that the decision to freeze aid was purely an economic one and was not based on political factors.

Among changes U.S. officials cite as necessary in the Sudanese economy are a substantial devaluation of the Sudanese pound and better administration of the state-owned companies that run much of the economy, particularly the oil-importing monopoly.

Omer Eissa, Sudan's Ambassador to the United States, said the combination of drought and 1.5 million refugees from Ethiopia had worsened the country's economic situation.

"The government is taking the steps that are necessary and that it can afford to take at this time," Eissa said. "Whether that will be acceptable to the international community and the IMF has yet to be seen."

CRIME PREVENTION

Stores robbed by gun-wielding men

The following "Crime Box Score" is designed to keep you abreast of criminal activity in your neighborhood during the past week and help you protect your family and property from crime.

Armed robbery

- 800 block, Akron Drive
 A man carrying a sawed-off shotgun ran into a convenience store and robbed it. The man was described as a white male, 17 years old, about 5 feet 7 inches tall with a slender build. He was wearing a ski mask over his face during the robbery.
- 3700 block, Indiana Avenue
 A man entered a convenience store with a pistol and told the store clerk, "This is a robbery. Do what I say and nobody will get hurt." The robber forced the store clerk into the store's freezer and took an undetermined amount of money from the store. The robber was described as a black male, 5 feet 10 inches tall, in his early 30s, weighing 160 pounds with a short, untrimmed beard.
- 1100 block, South Broad Street
 A man entered a convenience store with a sawed-off shotgun and demanded money from the cash register. The robber placed the shotgun against the head of another store employee and ordered a female store attendant to open the cash register. The robber was described as a black male in his ear-



- ly 20s, 5 feet 3 inches tall weighing about 135 pounds. He was wearing a homemade ski mask during the robbery.
- 1600 block, Vargrave Street
 A man was walking to school when he was robbed by a man with a pistol. The robber was described as a black male about 20 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing about 250 pounds.
- 1500 block, East 14th Street
 A man was walking down the street when he was approached by a man who demanded his money. The victim refused to give up his money and his assailant cut him on the hand and stabbed him in the chest. The victim was unable to identify the robber and nothing was taken from him. He was treated at a local hospital.
- 700 block, Liberty Street
 A man entering a convenience store was approached by another man who pointed a pistol at his head and told him to give him all of his money. The victim handed over his money and the robber hit him on the head with his gun. The gun went off, but no one was hurt. The two men began to fight, and the gun discharged two more times. No one was hit by any of the shots. Two other men th...

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