

# National

## Death of Black Man in Custody Prompts Disturbance

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — The death of a black man in police custody sparked a disturbance that left at least eight people injured and downtown stores vandalized, authorities said.

Officials declared a state of emergency Monday and imposed a curfew after the unrest in this town of about 17,000, 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of Charlotte.

Eight police officers and several others were injured, none seriously, said Police Chief Robert E. Cansler.

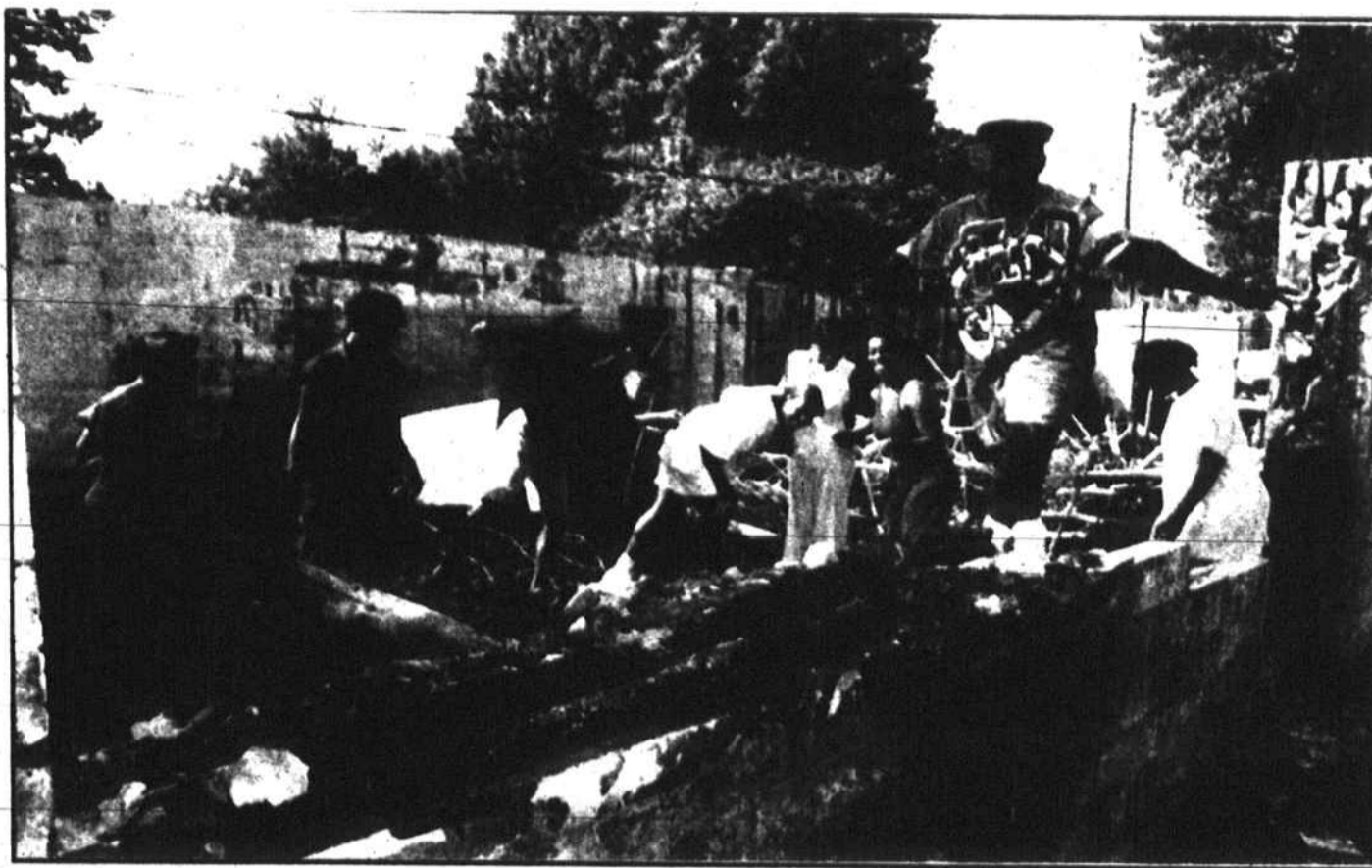
The disturbance followed the death of Angelo Darcel Robinson of Concord. Police arrested Robinson, 24, at about 3:30 a.m. Sunday at a restaurant, where police said a crowd became unruly and several shots were fired.

Officers used a pepper spray, a product used to subdue people, during Robinson's arrest.

"They just kept spraying him in his face," witness Vaneka Cannon told a Charlotte television station. "His eyes swelled up and he said 'I can't breathe, I got asthma, I got asthma!'"

According to police, Robinson was transported to the police station and was unresponsive upon arrival. Efforts to revive him failed. A preliminary autopsy showed signs that he had been drinking, had vomited and had ingested vomit into his lungs, police said in a statement.

Later Sunday, police closed a park in a predominantly black neighborhood because they feared unrest but then agreed to allow a group of blacks to meet there. As a



Residents gathered at the ruins of the "Korner Mart" in Concord, N.C., Monday, after a disturbance Sunday night. The store was burned after a crowd protested the death of a local black man after he was arrested by police.

crowd of about 500 entered the park, some began throwing rocks, bricks and bottles at police, authorities said.

Fire hoses were used to control the crowd, and smaller groups of people went downtown where stores were vandalized.

During an emergency meeting early Monday, Mayor Bernie A. Edwards signed a state of emergency that imposes a curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. and bans the sale of alcohol and weapons until further notice.

## Woman Charged With Setting Husband's Genitals on Fire

WAYNESVILLE (AP) — A Haywood County man was in good condition at Baptist Hospital Wednesday after his wife allegedly set his genitals on fire while he slept, authorities said.

Cynthia Mason Gillett, 28, was charged with setting ablaze the groin of her husband, Gursham Dennis Gillett, said Haywood County Sheriff Tom Alexander. He suffered severe burns over 40 percent of his body and was in critical condition at a burn hospital.

Mrs. Gillett sought treatment for her husband at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, which notified the sheriff's department about 3:45 a.m. last Friday, the Asheville Citizen-Times reported. The 27-year-old man and his wife had argued earlier last Thursday night, Alexander said. Gillett had been stopped by Canton police at

about 10:30 that night and was charged with driving while impaired, the sheriff said.

Mrs. Gillett is accused of dousing her husband's groin with nail polish remover and setting it aflame with a lighter. Hospital officials said Gillett suffered second- and third-degree burns to his groin, stomach, chest and neck. He was treated at Memorial Mission, then was transferred to Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. He remained in the burn unit in critical condition Friday night.

Mrs. Gillett was charged with maliciously setting fire and burning her husband, a felony. She was released from the Haywood County after family members posted a \$15,000 bond. Her first court appearance is scheduled for July 28.

## Jackson's Stalker Sentenced

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man accused of sending threatening letters to singer Janet Jackson was sentenced to two years in prison. Frank Paul Jones, 34, was sentenced Monday by U.S. District Judge A. Andrew Hauk.

Before sentencing, Jones said he had "made a lot of mistakes, and as a result of the mistakes I made, I committed a crime."

He said he had suffered a nervous breakdown but that he could control his condition with medication.

"I can assure the court it will never happen again. I realize I'm mentally ill and I'm taking medication that is good for me," he said.

Prosecutors said Jones sent Miss Jackson as many as 40 letters over a six-month period last year. In them, he contended he was married to the entertainer and allegedly threatened her, her boyfriend Rene Elizondo, her brother Michael and director John Singleton, who worked with Miss Jackson on the upcoming film "Poetic Justice."

Jones was arrested June 22, 1992, in the driveway of the Jack-

son family compound in Encino. He pleaded guilty to one count of sending a threatening communication to Elizondo. Three other counts were dismissed. Jones initially was found incompetent to stand trial. He was treated at a facility in North Carolina before doctors determined he had recovered sufficiently to return to court, Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Jessner said.

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