

# AROUND THE REGION

## Muhammad found guilty of capital murder

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John Allen Muhammad was recently found guilty of capital murder, following the attacks that took the lives of ten people and injured three others in the Washington DC area.

Muhammad, 42, was the mastermind behind the shooting spree that took the life of Dean Meyers, who was shot to death at a gas station near Manassas, Virginia, in October of 2002.

Muhammad's assistant, Lee Boyd Malvo, 18, is currently standing trial, waiting for his verdict.

One of the country's most watched trials is taking place in the Hampton Roads area and will determine the fate of both Muhammad and Malvo. Muhammad will face the death penalty. Malvo's fate is yet to be decided.

"The ultimate punishment is reserved for the worst of the worst," said prosecutor Richard A. Conway. "Folks, he still sits right in front of you, without a shred of remorse."

In nearby Chesapeake, Virginia, Lee Boyd Malvo is currently on trial to determine his involvement in the shootings. A verdict is still pending.

Many Elizabeth City State Uni-

versity students are interested in the outcome relating to Malvo, especially with the proximity in age between the students and the 18 year old Malvo.

"They (Muhammad & Malvo) were put on trial before the trial actually started," stated Jamica Ashley, a junior majoring in Communication at Elizabeth City State University stated. "It's sad to see such a young boy influenced in such a way by an older man that he would go so far as to kill people."

Malvo will not have the opportunity to live a "normal" life following his actions, a fate one should know is coming after the crime.

## Bible study inspires

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Members of the Elizabeth City Community join Ms. Brenda Davis, ECSU's Spiritual Counselor, in bringing a Bible Study group to the campus.

Every other Monday this inspiring, motivating, encouraging, fulfilling, and life giving support group meets in the H.L. Trigg Building at 7:00 p.m.

The first Bible Study for the 2003-2004 academic year was held on October 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. and as students arrived, Ms. Davis, the Adviser for Bible Study, not only greeted the students at the entrance, but recruited students who were just passing through Johnson Hall. Before the meeting began everyone introduced themselves and gave reasons why they were there and what they hoped to gain from Bible Study.

Dr. Susan Lovelle Allen, a member of Christ Episcopal in Elizabeth City, is teaching Bible Study this year. She has support from Ms. Susan Scurria, another member of Christ Episcopal who takes time during their evening to support Ms. Davis and the students of ECSU in their "walk with God".

After asking Dr. Allen and Ms. Scurria why they wanted to be in-

involved with the students of ECSU their response was honest and straight forward, "We wanted to come and minister to the students on campus. We have always wanted to assist students in their faith while they are away from home by coming to them with a non-denominational approach," said Dr. Allen and Ms. Scurria. Maybe the reasons why they chose to come and teach Bible study on campus is not as important as simply doing it.

Serving good-tasting food, like brownies and cookies with a beverage during the meetings, does not outweigh the spiritual food that is served, digested, and has kept one filled for hours. Bible Study allows out of church ministering support from others, and a forum to voice your opinions and learn how others interpret the Word of God. David says the Word of God "is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path, O Lord" (Psalm 119:105).

"There are not a lot of opportunities on campus for students to come together and encourage each other while sharing their own beliefs and faith," Ms. Davis said. Bible Study brings people from every walk of life and incorporates them in one body. The Word of God is free to the students of ECSU. Consider yourself invited to Bible Study.

## Plagued

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vices, said that the day after the forum four students came to Student Health Services requesting to be tested for AIDS.

The disease began its rampage through Cruz's family after his father, who contracted AIDS as the result of an extramarital affair, brought the disease home to his wife. He then passed it on to his five-year-old son, whom he raped, and who lived for only two years following the incident. Cruz and his two older sisters miraculously escaped the grip of the disease. "Twenty-five percent of the children born to parents who have AIDS end up infected," Cruz said. "My sisters and I were lucky."

"My father was a very disgusting man," Cruz said after describing what his life was like as a youth. He said that his father beat his mother and both were constantly drunk or on drugs. After his parents died, he was separated from his sisters and put into a group home. From there he went to live with his grandmother.

The strife continued. He did not get along with his grandmother's husband and by the time Cruz was 14 years old, tensions peaked and after a huge fight and "the guy beat

my tail" Cruz left his grandmother's house. Cruz said he "house hopped" for the next year at which time he began a romantic relationship with a 31-year-old teacher. This relationship ended when he was 17.



Jorge Cruz

Cruz's life was not all negative; during his sophomore year of high school he was nominated by his science teacher to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. His junior year he was the president of the Port Richmond High School AIDS Awareness Program.

At that point, he began asking himself what type of life he wanted for himself and decided that it wasn't the life he had in the past. "I wanted to have a family some day and knew

that I didn't want to continue the cycle of abuse I suffered," Cruz said.

"I decided to get my GED and join the military. I always wanted to join the Air Force, but the Coast Guard is the only branch of the military that accepted someone with a GED. I've been with the Coast Guard for about a year now, but I have to take a medical discharge," Cruz said.

He suffers from a condition known as conversion disorder. According to the Medline Health Information Web site, a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institute of Health, conversion disorder is a psychiatric condition in which emotional distress or unconscious conflict are expressed through physical symptoms.

"I am seeing a psychologist for therapy," Cruz said. He says his life is a lot better now and has contact with his sisters every day and even contacts his grandmother once in awhile. He plans to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Cruz's powerful presentation of his life left an impression on the students. He addressed the issue of safe sex by encouraging them to "wrap it up." He also asked those students who have ever had unsafe sex to raise their hands. There was no response.

Cruz can take satisfaction in the fact that the very next day four students took the first step in living a life knowing where they stand with AIDS.

## Gore

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two.

The forum could have been a beneficial experience for ECSU students, but only three people took advantage of the opportunity, an administrator, a student, and a member of the community.

"This is not a typical turn out; I think that the Thanksgiving Holiday has interfered with the turn out. Many students have already left the campus," Deborah Flippens, coordinator of interactive video services at ECSU, said. There are other programs scheduled for 2004, for more information call 335-3703.

## AIDS

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Student Health Services handed out approximately 100 informational packets, which included pamphlets, male and female condoms and instructions on how to properly use a condom, lubricants and dental dams. The latter is used for protection when engaged in oral sex.

"Yes, the virus can be contracted through saliva; it just takes a crack in the lip to make you susceptible to an infection," Shannon said. "The students don't realize how dangerous this is."

Student Health Services has contracted six students to serve as peer health educators. The students have been trained and are available to students who have questions or suspicions about HIV or AIDS. Jamica Ashley, one of the peer health educators, said that when they visit the dorms and talk to the students, a typical response from the students is, at first, defensive and then innocence is argued.

"Ignoring it [HIV] will not save their lives," Ashley said. "They say, 'I don't do that. I've never done that.' It's amazing how all the samples of condoms we put out are gone by the end of the discussion." She wants the students to know how important it is for them to start talking about HIV and AIDS.

The Jeff Jones HIV Consortium, a division of Albemarle Regional Health Services Department, was contacted by ECSU Student Health Services and asked to participate in the event. The consortium serves Currituck, Camden, Chowan, Dare, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

"There is grant money available to approach the AIDS awareness on a larger scale this year," Annette Temple, coordinator of the Jeff Jones Consortium, said. Public schools are the focus of the consortium's efforts, especially the high schools. Temple encourages those who have questions about HIV or AIDS to call the consortium at 338-4385.

Ignorance is not an excuse for contracting this devastating disease. Students need to become active in their education about HIV and AIDS. Student Health Services has information available to the students and all contacts are confidential. There are Web sites that give reliable statistics and vital information. Log onto [www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/hiv/](http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/hiv/).

## Australia

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"One of UNC-EP's strengths is its leveraging of resources," said Dr. Jose Gil, last year's campus coordinator.

UNC-EP has exchange agreements with states or systems in over 35 countries worldwide, some requiring proficiency in the native language of the hosting country but many others having programs in English.

"The program is competitive for some countries, and the application process can be tedious, so I advise students to apply early," Gil said. "Heather first contacted me over a year ago and we still have paperwork to file."

UNC-EP is open to any full-time undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at a UNC institution who has maintained at least a 2.75 GPA. If the language of instruction in the host country is not English, applicants must also have completed the equivalent of two years of college level foreign language instruction.

The application deadline is March 1 for programs beginning in the fall and October 1 for semester programs beginning in the spring. Prior to departure a mandatory orientation program is held at the UNC-EP headquarters at Greensboro to acquaint both the students and their parents with the host country. The student will also be briefed on appropriate behavior and informed of possible cultural differences.

"I am excited and kind of nervous about going to a country where I don't know anybody," Allen said. "But, the program has advised me well on what to expect."

Benefits of the program are far reaching with the student, community, and universities involved benefiting from the exchange.

"The students are like ambassadors for us," Gil said. "When they attend the hosting university they are representing us all. But when they return, they are also representing their country where they studied."

The Board of Governors officially promotes international perspectives to prepare students to become leaders in a multi-ethnic and global society.

"When the students become leaders, they will be more understanding of cultural differences and able to provide solutions that others might not think of," Gil said.

The Board of Governors is also implementing strategies to expand the participation by minority students and low-income students who have been underrepresented in the program.

Emmanuel Ngwainmbi, the current campus coordinator and director of the Office of International Programs, acknowledges that potential cost could be a factor for some students and said that the program is looking at grants to address the problem.

Ngwainmbi plans to encourage participation through activities such as International Week and through student-centered media campaigns.

"There has been limited knowledge about the international community and culture," Ngwainmbi said.

To address this problem the Office of International Programs at ECSU is planning a K-12 International Outreach Program that will feature lectures from volunteers. According to Ngwainmbi, approximately six of the UNC campuses have similar programs that have been successful.

## Successfest

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TV station. The good part is that people were very positive about what they saw."

Melba Brown, director of television services, runs the station with students and volunteers. While it was Grey's vision to utilize the television station for Successfest, it was an idea long overdue because of television's far-reaching effects, Brown said.

"I think Successfest proved that the TV station is a great tool," Brown said, "and that fun, as well as entertaining programs can happen on the station."

More than 200 volunteers were contacted to work as telemarketers. Crews of volunteers came and left at various times each evening during Successfest, even on the last couple of nights when the volunteer list wasn't confirmed, said Brown, who made the last pledge which topped the goal.

"I was extremely pleased and extremely surprised about the amount of people who came out," she said.

Grey said he expects about double the amount of money that was raised to come in from matchings and additional community member support. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting will match the funds that

Successfest raises.

The television broadcast nearly tripled the funds from last year's Successfest, Grey said. The only other known year to top this year was after a fire broke out in Williams Hall where the radio station is located. About \$31,000 was raised then.

"I think we're on target to be able to reach that this year," Grey said. In fact, he expects the total amount raised will hit \$40,000.

Proceeds will pay for equipment for both stations on an as-needed basis. Hurricane Isabel destroyed one of three television satellites, which will cost about \$9000 to replace, Grey said. Currently, only one is working.

Hosts of Successfest came from the radio station. They included D.L. Underdue, program director; Greg Sampson, production director; Randy Jones, news director; Pat Wellen, development director and Sheila Lee, morning Joy host.

Co-hosts included Greer Holmes, station volunteer; Derick Riddick, host for Albemarle Magazine; Dr. Margery Coulson-Clark, professor; Dr. Denauvo Robinson, Smart Start director and Rev. Lynetta Jordan.

Program breaks during Successfest included recent ECSU events, music videos and a student-produced commercial. The next fund raising program is scheduled for May and will be in conjunction with National Public Radio's fundraiser.

## Groove

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least a second semester freshman.

Phi is not to be confused with the well-known Greek symbol, instead, Phi refers to "the fire of life." And groove means "to perform deftly or smoothly." Their colors and symbols are Black and White and the

Sword and Spear, respectfully.

Other Fellowmen of G Phi G that are here on campus, but are not of The Resurrection line, are John Dixon, of the Psychology and Education Department, and Officer Gallop, of the Campus Police.

On April 4, 1969, the Ram Chapter of Groove Phi Groove, with 12 female members at Winston Salem State University, formed Swing Phi

Swing Social Fellowship Inc. Sisters With Interest Never Gone, Promoting Higher Intelligence, and Supporting Women In Need of Growth.

While the exact date these women arrived on our campus, they do have a Viking Chapter of Swing Phi Swing. It is inactive, but their involvement here on campus is evident in past Viking yearbooks.