

The Campus Echo

No. 12

Published by and for the students of North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina 27707

February 25, 1981



Evacuating a building correctly means never having to say you're sorry.

Bomb threats seize NCCU

By Teresa A. Burke

The rash of bomb threats that have plagued Central recently has caused the University to take extra precautions for the protection of its students.

The closing of the women's dormitories at 11 pm is one such precaution. According to Mrs. Shirley Green, residence operations director, "these security procedures are for the students' benefit."

"The girls can still go out and in—they're not fenced in—but we're taking all the measures we can. Whoever is calling knows the routine."

For the last two weeks the campus has been harassed by more than a dozen telephone calls warning that bombs had been placed in one of the dormitories or other campus buildings. So far no explosives have been found and no bombs have gone off.

There are at least two callers, one male and one female, according to Campus Security Chief John Smith. Both seem thoroughly familiar with operations and routines of campus life.

The callers' apparent familiarity with campus routine, and the fact that all the calls have been traced to the University campus, have prompted theories that the caller or callers are students, but said Smith, "we suspect everybody."

According to Smith, the campus security force is doing all it can to investigate the case. "A lot of people are working extra to solve this. Campus security is working with the proper authorities for the handling of calls of this nature, everyone up to and including the FBI has been conferred with."

Yet even with the aid of the local police department and the State Bureau of Investigation, the bomb threats continue. After a relatively quiet weekend, a call was received on Sunday that B. N. Duke was to be next. A film audience, many of whom have had practice in recent days, quickly evacuated the building. And as the usual no bomb was found.

However, some students are beginning to take their safety for granted when the threats are made. Not finding any explosive device has caused some to move a little more slowly and some not to move at all. Smith emphasized that students should "treat the threats with respect."

"Don't take it for granted...move away from the building. Evacuate!"

But the lethargy stemming from the fact that a bomb has yet to be found has not affected the residents of Eagleson who along with those of Latham Hall, the Communications Building, and the Administration Building have gotten their fair share of bomb threats. "Most of the girls do take the threats seriously and don't waste time evacuating the building," said Dormitory Supervisor Barbara Dempsey. "Because they're heavy sleepers, some don't hear the alarms, that's when the floor aides (marshalls) come in and do a thorough job." Carrie Mebane, also a dorm supervisor, added that "security is here everytime...knocking on doors and getting everybody up."

The fact that in many dormitories, the side doors are often propped open for friends and boyfriends to come in is an example of hazardous conditions students make for themselves, added Dempsey. "Anybody can come in a propped door and plant a bomb, assault someone, or anything," she said.

Monkey business no joke to firemen

BALTIMORE (UPI) — NCCU may have its bomb threats to worry about, but the folks at Johns Hopkins University have their worries too. Seems they've got a baboon that may be setting off fire alarms.

Johns Hopkins' spokeswoman B.J. Norris insists five-year-old Alex the baboon is innocent, that his cage bumped into the alarm while lab furniture was being moved. But fire investigation officials say Alex is the guilty party that pulled the alarm which sent firefighters scurrying to the prestigious East Baltimore medical school.

Four fire engines, two fire trucks and a battalion chief raced to the behavioral medicine building. They say no flames or smoke—just Alex.

Alex is part of a hearing research project and, until now, thought to be a law-abiding baboon.

Attention Candidates

The Campus Echo will print your political platform—up to 500 words—in a special March 6 election issue. All statements must be double-spaced, typed, and turned in to the Echo office by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 2. No late papers will be accepted. If possible, include a black-and-white photograph of yourself.

The Echo reserves the right to edit all statements for clarity.

Desegregation case continues

UNC to argue its side

WASHINGTON (UPI) An administrative hearing over the cutoff of federal funds to the University of North Carolina because of alleged discrimination resumes this week with UNC telling its side of the story.

The federal government claims UNC has not done enough to desegregate its 16 campuses, and to help its five predominately black schools.

But lawyers for the university argue the acts federal officials favor would be counterproductive. UNC executives also have been describing the case as a battle over federal attempts to dictate how a state's school system should be run.

UNC President William C. Friday recently briefed U.S. Education Secretary Terrel Bell on the case, which involves the possible cutoff of \$100 million in federal aid.

Bell told UPI in an interview this month he had not reviewed the specifics of any government case against states for civil rights violations. But he indicated he thought court suits threatening the loss of the federal funds should be the last resort.

The administrative hearing resumes Tuesday amid some question of whether the new administration will affect the government's handling of the case. President Reagan is thought to be less inclined towards the federal government taking states to court.

Friday recently told a group of legislators that UNC is always ready to talk with federal officials about their dispute but is also just as ready to keep fighting the case in court.

During the government's part of the hearing last July through October, federal attorneys argued that UNC has not taken adequate action to speed the integration of the five mostly black and 11 mostly white campuses.

Central players deny Herald statements

NCCU News Bureau

Until this past Sunday, Donald Sinclair and John Bishop were looking forward to playing in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament in Norfolk.

They knew the tournament was a showcase for CIAA players, a gathering site for professional basketball scouts at least since 1950, when NCCU's Harold Hunter became the first black college player signed by a major professional team, the Washington Capitals.

Pro basketball was and still is their dream, and is still a possibility. Sinclair, a 6-4 forward, boasts a 54 per cent shooting average from the floor and a 19-points-per-game average. Bishop is the league's second highest scorer (23.5 points per game) and has an 82 per cent free throw average.

An indirect quotation in Sunday's Durham Morning Herald cast gloom on the tournament for the two players, and had a similar effect on David Binion, the league's leading rebounder, a 16-points-per-game forward, and the holder of a 55 per cent shooting average from the floor.

"Binion, Sinclair, and Bishop say they would trade a 30-point game at Central for a night on the bench at Duke," wrote the newspaper's Ron Morris.

Bishop and Sinclair know, they insist, that they said

nothing of the sort. They weren't listening when Binion was interviewed, but they doubt that he said it either, and Binion is emphatic in his denial.

They know NCCU hasn't the same claim to "big-time" status as Duke, across town from NCCU. They play pick-up games frequently with Duke's Gene Banks and Vince Taylor, and they've watched their friends on television and perhaps wished they had some TV exposure as well.

But to sit on the bench at Duke...well...

"If you're a ballplayer, and you're dedicated to playing the game," says Bishop, "you're not going to want to sit."

Sinclair is a bit more emphatic: "No way," he says with emphasis, "no way we could enjoy playing for Duke by sitting on the bench."

They thought when the interview started that they were finally getting an opportunity for the publicity they missed. The reporter quoted Duke's Banks as saying that his NCCU friends "could play in the ACC."

Sinclair and Bishop said they tried to boost NCCU in the interview.

"I wanted to say that it's all right to be here. Even though we didn't go to the ACC or anything like that, it was all right for us to be here. Sure, I would like to play in the NBA, but

See BASKETBALL, page 6

Another Atlanta child missing

search for killer continues; White House announces task force

Atlanta (UPI) Police said Tuesday they are investigating the disappearance of a 14-year-old Atlanta boy, but the case has not been turned over to a special task force investigating the cases of 20 slain or missing black children.

Police released a photograph of Mario Andre Kirk, who lived in south Atlanta, site of most of the disappearances and killings. He was reported missing by his mother last Thursday, the same day Curtis Walker disappeared. Walker's name was added to the official list of slain and missing children last Friday.

Officials said they still considered Kirk a runaway but would intensify their search anyway.

The boy's mother, Jimmie Nell Kirk, said the boy rarely attended Columbus High School, where he was enrolled, and had runaway "off and on" for the past year.

She said she thinks her son may be in Decatur with a man he had hooped repair cars, but police have been unable to locate the man.

Mayor Maynard Jackson, meanwhile, said he is pleased to get federal assistance in social and technical areas in the hunt for the child killer, but his hope of getting what he really needs—\$1.5 million in cash—is fading.

Jackson, who met Monday with the newly assigned federal services liaison in the cases of the missing and dead children, said he believed a meeting with President Reagan was still being considered, but the prospects of receiving money looked dim.

"My optimism is beginning to dwindle, but we have not given up," Jackson said.

A spokesman for Jackson said the mayor was grateful for the latest

federal effort—to assist by providing counseling to those affected by the deaths of 18 black children and the disappearances of two others.

"The mayor is very happy to get this," spokesman Angelo Fuster said. "But that doesn't mean that's all there is."

Spurred by the personal concern of President Reagan, the White House announced Saturday establishment of a federal task force to help find the child slayer who has terrorized Atlanta's black neighborhoods for the past 19 months.

"The president expressed his deep concern about the continuing wave of deaths and disappearances," deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said in Santa Barbara, Calif., where President Reagan spent the weekend.

The bodies of 18 black children have been found in the last 19 months and two other children, 13-year-old Curtis Walker and 10-year-old Daron Glass, are missing. Walker disappeared from his low-income neighborhood Wednesday night and his name was added to the grim list Friday, while Glass hasn't been seen since September.

Walker's disappearance spurred the 19th consecutive weekend search Saturday and Sunday for clues in the slayings.

Authorities are still searching for a "witness" they want to question in the cases after apparently ruling out a 24-year-old suicide victim who resembles the man being sought.

The suicide victim, Victor Todd Bartoletti of Atlanta, was found dead Saturday of carbon monoxide poisoning in a friend's car in the city's north-west section.

A police composite drawing of the witness being sought a white man with straight, scraggly hair and a mustache was published Saturday in

Atlanta newspapers.

But late Saturday, officials in suburban DeKalb County said Bartoletti was not the man they want to talk with in the death of 11-year-old Patrick Baltazar, one of the latest black children to be found dead.



ATLANTA: Distraught classmates of Jeffrey Mathis, the 16th victim of Atlanta's children slayings, carry his coffin to the gravesite Feb. 21. UPI photo.