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Crime in Spotlight at NCCU Substance Abuse Summit, Stop the Violence Confab Set

Crime will be in the spotlight at North Carolina Central University Thursday through March 26 as three separate conferences address crime-related issues.

The national board of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice meets in Durham Thursday through Sunday as the association opens its headquarters office in room 106 of NCCU's A.N. Whiting Building.

In addition, the North Carolina

chapter of the association meets Friday and Saturday at NCCU. Sessions will be at the Whiting Building and B.N. Duke Auditorium.

On March 24, NCCU Chancellor Julius L. Chambers will host a Triangle area Substance Abuse Summit attended by administrators, law enforcement officers, and substance abuse counselors from the area's colleges and universities.

The Substance Abuse Summit will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

the LeRoy T. Walker Physical Education and Recreation Complex.

And March 25-26, concerned citizens of Durham will gather to discuss a variety of techniques for stopping violent crime at a community conference sponsored by the Durham Interagency Council on Community Education and Recreation, in cooperation with NCCU's Institute for the Study of Minority Issues. The conference will be at the Miller-Morgan (Health

Sciences) Building.

The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice will have its board meetings at the Durham Omni Hotel, with board members also slated to attend dedication ceremonies for the national headquarters and meetings of the North Carolina chapter's conference.

The dedication of the headquarters office will be at the office (106 Whiting Building) at 1 p.m. Friday, with an open house beginning at 2 p.m.

A justice roundtable is scheduled Friday by the N.C. chapter, with presentations by two federal corrections officials and a staff member of the Tennessee Parole Board.

Dr. Kathleen M. Hawk, director of the federal Bureau of Prisons, will be a featured speaker at the formal opening of the N.C. chapter's spring conference, at 9 a.m. Saturday at B.N. Duke Auditorium.

Also scheduled at B.N. Duke Auditorium Saturday is a 10 a.m. "Director's Forum," featuring chief administrators and senior officials of major correctional departments from across the nation.

Sunday afternoon workshops will be held at the Whiting Building on a variety of topics of interest to criminal justice and corrections professionals.

The March 24 Substance Abuse Summit was called by Chancellor Chambers to establish strong communications between the area's colleges and universities in terms of their responses to drug and alcohol abuse on their campuses.

Chancellor Chambers explained his invitation in his letter to his fellow chancellors and presidents, "We realize that criminal activity and drugs cannot be successfully thwarted on campus unless there is some effort to involve, inform, and educate the wider community and to exchange ideas, strategies, and concerns through networking."

Planning for the substance abuse summit is continuing, but panels involving student affairs administrators, law enforcement officers, substance abuse counselors, and students are expected to be featured.

The community conference scheduled March 25 and 26 is co-sponsored by the Durham Interagency Council on Community Education and Recreation, the Durham Coalition on Chemical Dependency, and the institute for the Study of Minority Issues.

Its theme will be "Stop the Violence: Neighborhoods and Agencies Taking Action."

Cecil Brown, senior assistant city managers of the City of Durham, will be the keynote speaker at an opening session at 6 p.m., March 25, in the auditorium of the Miller-Morgan Building on Nelson Street at NCCU. That session will be followed by a 7:30 p.m. "Town Meeting," to be moderated by Nick Tenyson, director of government relations of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce.

Panelists for the Town Meeting include State Senators Wib Gulley and Jeanne Lucas and State Representatives Paul Luebke and H.M. "Mickey" Michaux.

March 26 activities in the community conference include concurrent workshops on community leadership and involvement in crime prevention.

Thurman Hampton, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Crime Control, will be the featured speaker at a March 26 luncheon.

A \$6 registration fee will be charged to participants in the conference, to cover costs of the luncheon and materials for the workshops. Registrations should be made by March 21. Information is available at 493-4554.



WILLIAM JEFFERSON, age 11, a sixth grade student at Shepard Middle School, won the title of 1993-94 Spelling Champ at MSM by defeating 16 other contestants (including some eighth graders). Jefferson then represented SMS in the County-Wide Spelling Contest. He is the son of Ms. Annette Jefferson. (Photo by Ray Trent)

Meet the Candidates

at the
 NAACP general monthly meeting
 Sunday, March 27, 4 p.m.

at
 Mount Calvary United Church of Christ
 1715 Athens Avenue, Durham

Candidates for: Sheriff, State Legislature, County Commission
 and other offices.
 THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

Department of Corrections Sees Dramatic Increase In Prisoners

RALEIGH — By the end of 1993, the N.C. Department of Correction had tallied an 82 percent increase in the number of offenders it supervised compared to a decade ago, and a 35 percent increase in the past five years.

According to figures released by the department's office of Research and Planning 125,627 offenders, including inmates, parolees and probationers, were supervised by the department in 1993 compared to 68,829 in 1983 and 92,583 in 1988.

At the end of 1993, the state had 88,376 probationers, 18,188 parolees, and a daily average of 20,980 inmates.

While 1993 prison admissions increased little over 1992, the 30,995 offenders sent to prison in 1993 is a 60 percent increase over admissions in 1988 (19,325) and a 107 percent increase over 1983 (14,927).

Nearly twice as many offenders were admitted to prison for property crimes as assaultive crimes, of the 12,018 property offenders, 8,920 were convicted of larceny or breaking and entering.

Robbery and assault accounted for 4,265 of the 6,244 admissions for assaultive crimes. Nearly as many offenders were admitted to prison for narcotic and drug offenses, 6,257, as assaultive crimes.

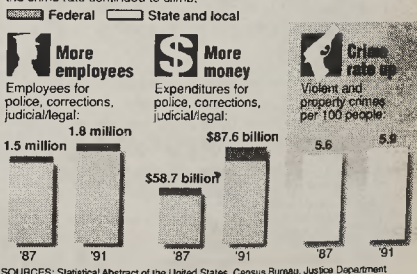
Compared with 1992, 1993 felon admissions, 18,831, increased slightly and 1993 misdemeanant admissions, 12,164, decreased slightly. There were 12,946 offenders sent to prison after being revoked from probation in 1993 compared with 13,606 offenders sentenced directly to prison.

Of the 22,098 inmates in prison on the last day of 1993, 10,722 were serving time for assaultive crimes, including 3,107 for homicides and 3,319 for robberies. Another 6,185 were in prison for property crimes, including 3,702 serving convictions for burglary or breaking and entering. There were 4,948 offenders sentenced for public order crimes, including 3,404 convicted of drug crimes.

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Despite government efforts, crime rate up

Between 1987 and 1991, local, state and federal governments increased their law enforcement staffs and budgets significantly, but the crime rate continued to climb.



SHAGARRIE GRADY, age 4, finished her blood test for lead poisoning at Head Start. (Photo by Ray Trent)

Lead Abatement At Operation Breakthrough Continues

By Ray Trent

When lead was found at the Whitted School building on Umead Street, which houses Operation Breakthrough Head Start Center, immediate action was taken to solve the problem.

O.B. Director Herbert Carter contacted Mike Mulheird of Durham Public Schools Facilities and a plan was drawn up to provide a lead safe environment for the children.

The Whitted building, along with any other schools and housing facilities, were constructed before 1973 when lead paint was forbidden in such constructions.

Workmen immediately began clean up at the Whitted building, where loose paint chips and dust from classroom windows were determined to be the main areas of concern. The workmen are using a High Efficiency Particulate Air (99.97% efficiency) vacuum cleaner. Then they wet wipe the area with a Trisodium Phosphate solution and seal the surfaces with paint.

To prevent access to the chewable surface by children, lattice barriers are being installed over all windows and wood surfaces up to five feet above the floor.

To allow for emergency egress, one of the sections of window lattice will be easily removable.

For ventilation, a window exhaust fan that exhausts 580 CFM of air (which exceeds fresh air standards) has been installed.

To ensure a continued lead safe environment, there is a surveillance program in effect to identify and correct any deteriorating conditions.

All of the children at Head Start (over 500) were tested for lead and with over half of the testing completed, results were found to be



WORKMEN correcting the problem of lead at Operation Breakthrough. (Photo by Ray Trent)