

#### **NEWS DIGEST**

National, state and local news briefs compiled by John Slade

### Former Deacon Basketball Player Arrested

WINSTON-SALEM - Michael Helms, a former basketball player at Wake Forest University, was arrested last week on a drug charge while on work-release from prison.

Helms, 23, was arrested in Yadkin County and charged with conspiracy to traffic more than 400 grams (14 ounces) of cocaine. Helms is serving a two-year sentence in the Forsyth Advancement Center for 10 felony drug offenses. He was convicted in September.

Winston-Salem, said Lt. C.B. Collins of the the N.C.

Department of Correction.

A native of Bassett, Va., Helms started for the Wake Forest basketball team during the 1977-81 seasons and later unsuccessfully tried out for a professional team.

According to warrants, other men arrested with Helms for conspiracy to traffic in cocaine were William D. Pasour, 25, of 4825 Commercial Plaza in Winston-Salem; Winfred Archie Dellinger, 27, an inmate at the Forsyth Advancement Center; Chuck Woods, no age At the time of Helms' arrest, he was supposed to have given, an inmate at the Forsyth Advancement Center; been working as a busboy at the Mr. Steak restaurant in and Richard Lee George, 22, of the Commercial Apartments in Yadkinville.

## Report: Black Political Potential Growing

ATLANTA - A report issued by the Atlanta-based Voter Education Project reveals growing political potential for blacks in 88 counties across the South.

Of 1,104 counties in 11 southern states examined, 88 were found to have black majority populations. The report also shows that in 65 of those counties, blacks make up a majority of the voting-age population. But only 12 of the 88 counties show blacks holding a majority of the elective offices.

Said Geraldine Thompson, executive director of the VEP: "Our report on black majority counties unearths both potential and problems. We have three battlefronts: increasing black voter registration, intensifying voter education among newly registered and inexperienced voters, and getting the U.S. Justice Department more aggressively involved in stopping covert, and illegal, forms of intimidation of these voters."

## Support For J. Jackson Shown In Exit Poll

PHILADELPHIA -- In a recent Philadelphia exit poll, the Rev. Jesse Jackson picked up support for his presidential bid with a majority of the blacks in that city choosing him over Democratic front-runners Walter Mondale and John Glenn.

That same poll placed Jackson third overall behind Mondale and Glenn. Most national polls have given Jackson 30 to 35 percent of the probable black vote.

In the exit poll, 54 percent of Philadelphia's black voters said they would vote for Jackson if the Pennsylvania primary had been held then. Mondale was se-

cond with 33 percent and Glenn was third with 7 percent. Political analysts say Wilson Goode, who recently became the city's first black mayor, is unlikely to go along with Jackson's efforts, which may cause his lead in the city to slip.

But other black mayors, including Tuskegee, Ala., Mayor Johnny Ford, president of the National Conference of Black Mayors, Ernest Morial of New Orleans and Marion Barry of Washington, D.C., are actively campaigning for Jackson.

#### Fire Prevention

# The Virtues Of Smoke Detectors

By THOMAS FLYNN Syndicated Columnist

How often we hear some innovation described as "the greatest thing since sliced bread." Today, let's review the fire-wise accessory that's even greater than sliced bread; the smoke detector.

We've been through the smoke-detectors-cause-cancer scare. And we've been through the smoke-detectorscontain-radioactive-materials scare. But now there's just no excuse not to install one or more of these silent sentinels in your home.

What's so great about smoke detectors? Well, out of the thousands of U.S. fire deaths (one an hour and climbing), very few victims die in flames. Most die for inhaling smoke and toxic gases released by a fire several rooms away; many are found dead without a burn on their bodies. Obviously, your time of greatest vulnerability to smoke, the silent killer, is when you sleep. The smoke detector functions by squealing to wake you up when it detects hazardous quantities of smoke particles in the air.

There are no two ways about it: Smoke detectors save lives by awakening people in time to escape -- people who would otherwise never wake up again. If you already own a smoke detector, you may now turn to the comics section. If you still don't own a smoke detector, mark your place in this column, put down the newspaper and go buy one. Resume reading on your return.

There are several types of smoke detectors. The terms "ionization" and "photoelectric" refer to different

technical methods of sensing smoke. Either type works equally well, so you can ignore these terms. Don't ignore the UL label, though -- insist on it. Although you can still buy a smoke detector that draws power from a wall plug, most detectors today operate on battery power -- an advantage since house current often cuts off during an electrical fire. If you're the forgetful type, you might shop around for a detector that's programmed to beep reproachfully when its batteries are getting low.

Install the detector according to the manufacturer's directions. Your first smoke detector belongs on the ceiling in the hallway outside your sleeping rooms.

Test smoke detectors periodically. Use the built-in test button to make sure the alarm sounds, then use a cigarette or a feshly blown out candle to waft smoke into the detector. Remember that the test button functions only to confirm that the buzzer is capable of making noises; you must smoke-test the unit to verify that the entire unit is working.

Your smoke detector should be part of a home escape plan for your whole family. Everyone in your house must know what to do when the alarm sounds -- stay low, feel doors for heat, escape through windows if need be and meet at an arranged place.

Ever try to build an escape plan around a slice of bread? Get a smoke detector today -- it could save your

This column is brought to you weekly as a public service of the Chronicle and the Winston-Salem Fire Department. For further information, call Assistant Fire Marshal Mary Johnson at 727-2492.

#### **Crime Pevention**

# Females Rob Man At Knifepoint

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

Armed Robbery

4600 block, Erin Street

The suspects knocked on the complainant's front door and were told to come in. Two female suspects held a knife to the complainant's throat and robbed the complainant of a wallet and money. The female suspects are described as black, 5-feet-8 to 5-feet-10, 23 years old, a medium build and a medium complexion; and 5-feet-5 to 5-feet-7, 18 years old, slim build and a medium complexion. The male is described as black, 6 feet, 30 years old, 180 pounds and a slender build.

Strong-Armed Robbery

•2500 block, Patterson Avenue

The complainant was walking home when jumped by unknown suspects, assaulted and robbed of wallet and money.

Common-Law Robbery

•1600 block, Northwest Boulevard

The complainant was getting out of her vehicle when a suspect ran up to her, grabbed her purse and ran off. The suspect was described as a white male.

Storebreaking

•1400 block, Northwest Boulevard

Three Zenith 19-inch color televisions, an Apple IIE computer and a Radio Shack computer were taken. •900 block, Northwest Boulevard

195 tires were taken.

•1000 block, Chestnut Street

Furniture consisting of chairs, end tables, cedar chests, cabinets and night stands were taken.

•3000 block, Gilmer Avenue

A G.E. 13-inch color television, an electric calculator, a Corolla electric typewriter, two tool boxes and tools were taken.

•1000 block, Waughtown Street

Ten cartons of cigarettes, a Sanyo cassette deck and an R.C.A. police scanner were taken. •100 block, Dellabrook Street

An IBM typewriter and Kero-sun heater were taken from a church.

•800 block, Trade Street

A 1976 Chrysler Cordoba was taken from a garage. No license number was available.

Housebreaking

•300 block, West 23rd Street

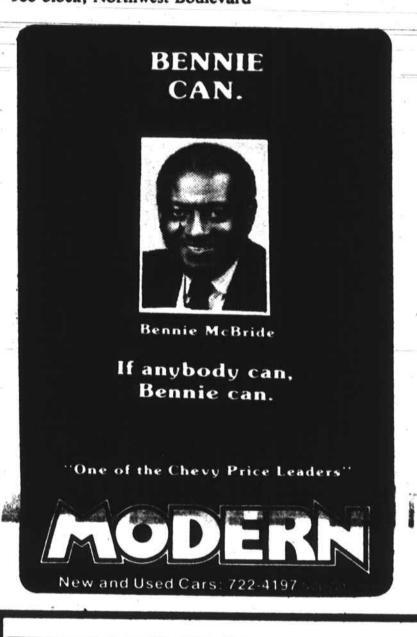
A Kero-sun heater and a Philco black-and-white television were taken.

•2700 block, Ansonia Street

A telephone and case and several frozen foods were taken.

•1600 block, East 12th Street

Five or six young black males burst into the complainant's house and assaulted her husband, who chased the suspects out of the house with a baseball bat. The suspects wore hoods. No descriptions were available.



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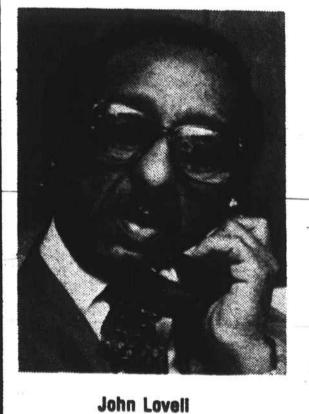
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