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THE AWARD-WINNING "VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY"

50 Cents

Lawyer May Sue On Behalf Of Jake King Family

White Officer Had 'No Legal Right' To Shoot Unarmed Black Man

By JALYNE STRONG
Post Editor

A white Charlotte police officer reportedly said he would never leave his job because he likes "chasing niggers" during a conversation last month with a part-time security officer at Presbyterian Hospital.

According to information contained in a transcript of an interview conducted by a police internal affairs sergeant, the security officer identified the police officer as Scott Pope, who shot and killed an unarmed African-American earlier this month.

During their conversation, Pope also told the security officer, "The next guy who f---s with me, I'm gonna shoot him. That's why they gave me this g--damn

gun." On April 1, Pope shot Jake King, a 33-year-old black man twice. King died on the front steps of his home at 1509 Luther St. in the Cherry community. He was unarmed.

Following an investigation, Mecklenburg District Attorney Peter Gilchrist announced Monday that charges would not be brought against Pope.

However, Wayne Alexander, attorney for King's family, says based on the information he has, his inclination is to file a lawsuit on behalf of his clients. Alexander says Pope used excessive force in the situation that resulted in the death of King, thereby violating King's constitutional rights.

"Based on what we know hap-

pened, King was at his home in his yard, unarmed," said Alexander. "He was not under arrest. No crime occurred in the presence of the police officers and no felony was charged against King."

The officer ordered King out of his house with no legal right or authority to demand that he come out of his home."

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Gilchrist said he did have probable cause to bring a charge of manslaughter or murder against Pope. He also said he had enough evidence, favorable to the state, to have the case go to a jury.

Gilchrist said he opted not to prosecute Pope, 24, because he did not believe a jury would have convicted the officer. "In my

opinion," said Gilchrist, "consideration of all the evidence would not support a conviction."

Alexander argues if a judge lets a case go to jury then the judge, in effect, "is saying that a reasonable jury can convict."

"What sort of commentary is (Gilchrist) making on the judicial process in that he took this case out of the process," said Alexander.

According to witnesses, the King episode began when firefighters were called to a Luther Street residence to attend to King's sister, who said King hit her in the head with a glass. It was said that King was disorderly and may have been intoxicated.

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"A white police officer and a poor, black victim is all too often a recurring theme in the annals of urban law enforcement."

-Wayne Alexander

School Workers Charge Discrimination, Harrassment By White Supervisors

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

African-American workers at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' supply warehouse charge they're being discriminated against and little is being done about it.

Billy Roddey, Terry Wallace and Roosevelt Evans Jr. allege they have been denied promotions and harrassed by white supervisors. After numerous appeals, their cases haven't been settled and tensions between white and black workers are high.

"You can almost cut it with a knife," said Roddey, 49.

Seven African-Americans filed complaints with the school system's equal employment opportunity office in February 1988, but couldn't get the warehouse supervisors to reach an agreement.

Roddey and Wallace then wrote the board of education in December requesting a chance to appeal.

But board Chairman Ashley Hogewood replied in a letter that the board couldn't resolve the matter and suggested the



Evans

complainants reach an agreement with their supervisors.

Hogewood said on Wednesday the complaints with the school systems' EEO and the local agency are still pending, making it unnecessary for the board to resolve the matter.

"It would be improper for me to comment on it at this time," he said.



Roddey

"Based on the advice of counsel (schools attorney Hugh Campbell), they are still in the process of resolving the complaints. The matter is not concluded."

Wallace was promoted to a \$20,000 a year foreman position at the Craig Avenue facility in 1982 after a 1981 complaint. An employee with the system for 19

years, Wallace said he has since been stripped of supervisory duties while white subordinates were better paid.

Wallace's current job title is supply technician, a far cry from foreman.

"In '87 I found everything we settled for had been turned around," he said. "In essence, it was a demotion."

Roddey started as a delivery driver five years ago but asked for a promotion and salary increase in 1986 when his duties expanded to handling the system's computers. He charged the job evaluation committee met but didn't inform him of its decision.

"That was the last I ever heard of it," Roddey said. "You have to wonder--these people aren't right." In April 1987, he received a letter from Ben Ramsey, the director of salary and benefits, stating his request had been denied.

Evans, 38 and an employee for 21 years, applied for a supervisor's position along with eight other candidates in 1987. Six,

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Senate Committee Votes To Kill Second Primaries

By F. ALAN BOYCE
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH (AP) --- North Carolina would abolish second primaries, long criticized as discriminating against blacks, under a bill unanimously approved by a Senate committee last Wednesday.

Sen. Ralph Hunt, D-Durham, the bill's sponsor, said this was the first time such a bill had gotten out of a legislative committee, although blacks have been trying to change the law for many years.

Hunt said he had doubts about

completely eliminating second primaries. "I think the chances of passing a second primary bill on the Senate floor are great," Hunt said after the Election Laws Committee vote. "There is a realistic chance, in my mind, that we will have to compromise."

Even a compromise "would be a major step forward over what we

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N.C. Schools Flunking Course In Educating African-Americans

RALEIGH (AP) --- North Carolina schools are failing to improve education for black students who enter school behind their white peers and lose ground as they get older, a new study says.

"Very little has changed about how well our children are doing," said Claudette Burroughs-White, president of the Greensboro affiliate of the National Black Child Development Institute, which conducted the study.

The institute presented a summary of the study Wednesday at a conference on educational equity, which continues through Saturday in Raleigh.

For the past three years, the study found, white females scored highest on the California Achievement Test with few exceptions. White males scored second best, followed by black females and then black males. The results were based on 96 schools in the state's eight educational regions at grades one, two, three, six and nine.

Robert Davis, a sociologist at N.C. A&T State University and principal researcher for the study, said traditional explanations do not fully account for the racial gap in achievement. The entire gap cannot be explained by saying that more blacks are disadvantaged, he said.

"There may be other kinds of things going on that we are not looking at," Davis said.

Schools need to offer role models for disadvantaged students and use effective teaching styles,

he said. Parents and communities also need to become involved in schools.

The gap between black and white students widens as they move up through the grades. For example, in region three, which includes Wake and Durham counties, white first-graders scored at the 64th percentile while black students scored at the 51st percentile of students taking the test nationwide.

By ninth-grade, the percentile scores slipped for both groups, but more so for blacks, who fell to the 33rd percentile compared to the 62nd percentile for whites. The national average is 50.

A panel of six black high school students at the conference underscored the study by saying they have few role models, face destructive pressures from drugs and peers and are not encouraged to set high academic goals. They do best, they said, when parents and teachers show a personal interest in their performance.

"I feel if my mom had been there for me, like in elementary school, I feel I would not have gotten into drugs," said Tico D. West, 18, a junior at Central Wake Optional School, an alternative school for students who had trouble in other high schools.

West, who hopes to be a commercial artist, said teachers also fail to make learning relevant to life.

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THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES... Charlotte Hornets' Players bask in the adulation of fans during ticket tape parade held downtown in honor of the team's first season.

Hornets Close A Fan-tastic NBA Season

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

Ticker-tape parades, generally reserved for conquering heroes and championship sports teams, came to Charlotte Monday, but not to honor victors. Instead thousands came uptown to say thanks to the Charlotte Hornets upon completion of their first season in the NBA.

The Hornets, who finished with a 20-62 record, got a resounding welcome from their fans, who stood on rooftops as the parade moved along Tryon Street.

Carl Scheer, the Hornets' general manager, said that while the franchise didn't reach the playoffs, the parade capped a successful season.

"This parade wasn't for a

championship team, but for the fans of Charlotte," he said.

Robert Reid, one of the team's co-captains, said the city's support was the most important factor of the season. Charlotte led the league in attendance with an average of 23,100 per game, the first time an expansion club led its league in any sport.

Reid, who played for the Houston Rockets nine seasons before being traded to Charlotte, said fans here are more supportive at the Charlotte Coliseum than Houston's Summit, the Rockets' arena.

"They come nowhere near close," he said.

Reid sounded a hopeful note

for the future when he said the Hornets will continue to improve on the court. Paraphrasing ex-Houston Oilers football coach Bum Phillips, Reid said: "This season, the NBA let us knock on the door. Next year, we're going to kick the thing in."

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Charlotte Housing Conference

The "Housing Conference of Charlotte" will be held on Thursday, April 27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Little Rock AME Zion Church on McDowell St. Senator Terry Sanford will be the keynote speaker and Arthur Griffin of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board will speak at the opening the session.

This conference is being held to commemorate American Home Week, Community Development Week and Fair Housing Month. Sixteen sponsoring agencies have planned the program to address concerns about housing for low income families.

The theme for the conference is "Home --- A Dream or a Reality in Charlotte." The focus of the conference will be what is being done locally by the public and private sectors and how citizen groups can become involved.