

# REGIONAL

## N.C. suit claims police misconduct during car search

By Jim Rouse  
(Greenville) MINORITY VOICE

The question as to whether or not African American citizens are entitled to equal protection under the law is now before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va.

This case arose out of an inci-

dent that occurred in Greenville N.C. on Feb. 9, 1993.

Jeannette Teel Taft, an African American female, her 15-year-old son, daughter, niece and nephew (age 10 and 16), brought a claim for damages in the United States District of North Carolina under 42 USC 1983 for police

brutality. Taft and her children allege that during the stop and search of her car for a murder suspect, police conducted illegal body searches of the girls that involved fondling and mishandling their buttocks, breasts, and private body parts; used excessive force on the 15-year-old boy by grabbing him in the groin and private body areas

and placed a gun to their heads.

Police denied that such atrocities occurred and police moved for summary judgment without a trial on the grounds of qualified immunity. District Court Judge James C. Fox granted that motion and dismissed the case. Taft and her family, who did not have

an attorney then, employed Robert L. White, an African American attorney in Greenville, who appealed the case to the United States Court of Appeals for the fourth circuit. On appeal the case was argued in Baltimore, Md.

On November 16, the 4th Circuit reversed and ordered a trial, stated even under the

police officers version of the facts the amount of force used may be unreasonable.

In an unusual move, the Court of Appeals has granted the defendants a rehearing en banc, meaning all active Court of Appeals judges will rehear the case. The arguments in this case will be heard in Richmond on May 2.

## Everyday HEROES



PHOTOS/RAYNARD HARRIS

Last week's HEROES program included entertainment from musical groups.



Newspaper columnist William Raspberry was guest speaker.

By Thomie Moses  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

ROCK HILL - More and more programs are being implemented across the state to reach out and help economically disadvantaged school age children achieve success in the classroom.

HEROES is another such program whose main objective is educating young people spiritually, socially and academically.

"We seek to touch the whole child," said Joan Miller, executive director of HEROES.

HEROES - Helping Education Reach Out Every Student - is a six-year sequential educational support program. The purpose of the program is to promote scholastic achievement through a regimen of intense preparation. It is a holistically-based program aimed at economically disadvantaged secondary school students, according to Miller.

HEROES is designed to meet the needs of all candidates regardless of race, religion, creed or color.

The first phase consists of a four-week residency at Clinton College covering a range of materials that are intended to provide

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## Freaknik was a real bummer

Red carpet didn't come out for fest

By Wade Nash  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

ATLANTA - Freaknikers came to Atlanta to party, block the streets with their hype cars, buy hype t-shirts and hang out in the malls.

What they found was nothing like Freaknik of the past and many left with thoughts of never coming back because the welcome mat was rolled up, not out.

Yes, the main street were blocked but it wasn't fly girls in Daisy Duke shorts, but Atlanta Police, Fulton County Sheriffs, and Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents. Over



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Atlanta police chief Beverly Harvard helped patrol the streets during Freaknik.

1,200 arrests were made, the malls closed at 6 p.m., and even Mother Nature rained on the Freaknikers' party.

"The students weren't wanted and they're not partying on every corner," cried t-shirt vendor Ronnie Love. "The students have been reluctant to buy because they've got cops on every corner daring them to mess up and it's down to them once they get out to party.

"Freaknik is losing its respect for what it's about," Love continued. "Now it's like Jim Crow is running things with blacks out front doing the ass kicking."

Atlanta's Underground, Greenbriar Mall, South Dekalb Mall and Lennox Mall all closed at 6 p.m., leaving the kids with no where to go. Lennox closed because of overcrowding and mall directors

feared a law suit and were trying to keep fire marshals from shutting them down.

Last year local youth vandalized stores, skipped school and hung out with the college kids, but that wasn't the case this year. On Friday, police arrested teenagers for skipping school and the students ended up in lockup at night for cur-

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## Improving human relations

Salisbury/Rowan council working on programs

By Carol Meeks  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY -The Salisbury/Rowan Human Relations Council is aggressively working to improve the quality of life for Rowan residents.

County documents state: "The Purpose of the Salisbury/Rowan Human Relations Council is to help create and promote a community climate in which all people are educated, employed, housed and respected on the basis of individual merit and ability without regard to race creed sex age national origin or handicap." With part of the vision for this year's council being to increase the confidence level of the community in the Human Relations Council, "it assumes regular responsibility for maintaining fair housing by monitoring placement and rental practices in housing project units." Similarly, the 18-member council stands ready to hear complaints about racial discrimination in housing that are brought to its attention.

Last year the council began monitoring and participating in community based groups organized by three area neighborhoods representing the West Side, the East Side and Park Avenue. For the council, the goal for monitoring these activities is to ensure that events and regular living situations continue in harmony. When this is not done, it is the responsibility of the HRC to bring together the different sides to work out the problem or disagreement or to help any group with a verifiable human relations grievance reach the appropriate office or agency where the resolution process can begin.

This year, HRC has taken on additional issues. In its April meeting, it approved a resolution to encourage churches to establish one or two events this year where African American congregations

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## New York officer sues S.C. Highway Patrol for damages

By Kim Curtis  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. - A black New York City police officer says her career is over and she lives with constant pain because of an incident on an Orangeburg County highway four years ago.

Detra Hudson-Gardner was pulled over in February 1992 for driving 80 mph in a 65 mph zone on Interstate 95 near Santee. She says after she stopped, former Trooper B.J. Hill and Trooper A.L. Stack beat her, kicked her and pulled her hair and Stack fondled her breasts while she was handcuffed.

"It has changed my life drastically," Mrs. Hudson-Gardner testified Monday. "Not only the physical pain ... being a young woman I can't do things I normally do."

Hudson-Gardner, 39, is suing the two men and the state Highway Patrol for assault and battery, malicious prosecution and civil rights violations.

Duffie Stone, one of the patrol's attorneys, says Hudson-Gardner has no proof to support her allegations - only her sister's testimony. The troopers were cleared by internal affairs, he said.

Hudson-Gardner's sister, who is a doctor, and her then-3-year-old son were in the car when she was stopped.

Hill testified that Hudson-Gardner refused to immediately provide him with her license and registration. He said he then arrested her but she still refused to cooperate, so he was forced to drag her from her car.

Hudson-Gardner spent a night in jail charged with speeding, failure to display license and resisting arrest.

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