

Ray out of coma, talking

Continued From 8B

Even with surgery, "the most he'd live is up to a year," Jerry Ray said.

He didn't know what kind of surgery they were considering and doctors did not respond Thursday to a request for an interview.

Jerry Ray said his brother isn't on life support, but that he will approve it if necessary. On Wednesday, he said he changed his mind about not authorizing life support after talking with others who don't believe Ray was the assassin.

Ray, a white petty criminal, admitted to shooting King on April 4, 1968, while the civil rights leader stood on the bal-

cony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

Ray recanted the confession three days after he made it and has argued for a new trial even as he serves a 99-year prison sentence.

Jerry Ray and James Earl Ray's attorneys are hoping a hearing in February will start the process of clearing him in King's death. The hearing won't go forward if James Earl Ray dies.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said last week that he was hoping for a deathbed confession from Ray. Jackson said he never believed Ray acted alone and blames authorities for allowing conspirators to escape.

Ray's brother said he hopes

Jackson doesn't hold his breath waiting because "he won't confess to something he didn't do."

James Earl Ray was serving time at Riverbend Maximum-Security Prison until last weekend, when he was transferred from a prison medical hospital.

Andrew Hall, a lawyer representing James Earl Ray, said he sued the state claiming officials at Riverbend State Prison wouldn't treat the prisoner for stomach problems he suffered this summer.

"He's been asking for treatment for a year," Hall said. "They've been refusing to give treatment or a diagnosis to see what is wrong."

Livingstone's Week of Prayer

Continued From 8B

"And because of my love for these two institutions, money is not an object."

Nightly services will begin at 7 p.m. in Hood Seminary's chapel.

For additional information

about the Annual Week of Prayer at Livingstone College and Hood Seminary, call Spearman at 638-5732.

O'Leary ponders future plans

Continued From 8B

came to her Virginia hometown to spend Christmas with friends and relatives and to look forward to "life beyond Washington," she said.

But she said she has no regrets about her four-year tenure, which included the declassification of U.S. nuclear testing documents that showed humans were used as guinea pigs in radiation exposure.

O'Leary was strongly criticized for spending \$4.2 million on 16 trips to India, Pakistan, China and South Africa in

1994 and 1995. A report earlier this year recommended that future trips be evaluated for their productivity.

"This job was once described to me as one of the most complex jobs - technically and politically - in government, and I'm extremely proud of the work that's been done," she said from the home of her stepmother, Mattie R. Reid. "Some Cabinet officers have written agreements with the president on what we intend to deliver. The Department of Energy has delivered 91 percent of what we promised. That's an A by any standard."

As accomplishments, she cited streamlining her department and aggressively expanding toxic cleanup efforts.

O'Leary, 59, said she will go on a two-month vacation in late January that includes scuba diving and possibly a trip to South Africa. Once she has rested, she said, she will consider job offers.

"I still have to figure out if I - how do they say it? - if I want to do good or do well," she said. "I'm blessed not to have to make a decision quickly."

Texaco flap could be a positive

Continued from 8B

have these problems." What seems more astonishing than anything else was how Achi, in calming and care-

free manner, said that somehow he was actually glad the incident occurred.

"Generally, I believe it was a good thing that happened," he said.

"It teaches African Americans and people of color in this country, that they should be more wise about how they spend their money and to whom they give it."

Black woman found dead in Raleigh

Toll reaches six; police mum on the circumstances

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH - A body discovered in a downtown vehicle maintenance garage last week may mark the sixth time this year that a black woman was killed in Raleigh and the body dumped.

The corpse found Thursday bore no identification cards, police said. Officers would not describe the circumstances of the woman's death. They said they did not know how long the body had been at the warehouse near the corner of North and West streets or how it got there.

"We don't know the cause of death. There are some suspicious circumstances around it that I don't want to go into at this time," Maj. Otis Hinton told WTVD-TV.

Detectives would not connect the case to the five unsolved slayings of black women in the city this year.

Five other black women have died violent deaths that have stumped police.

Each victim was in her 20s or 30s. Three were found near downtown, two others in a South Raleigh area. At least three were beaten to death and a fourth was shot. At least four had trouble with drugs or alcohol.

Police said at the time the fifth black woman's body was discovered in August that the deaths were not connected. Police Lt. D.S. Overman said investigators had developed solid suspects in three of the cases.

But in September, Hinton, who heads the police department's investigative division, refused to rule out the possibility that the homicides are the work of a serial killer.

A telephone call Thursday seeking updates on the earlier cases was referred to Capt. Dennis Ford, chief of homicide investigations. He did not immediately return the call.

Job bootcamp a way up ladder

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

EAST SPENCER - A program at the Paul Dunbar Center designed to prepare East Spencer residents with job opportunities is making positive strides.

The program, called Job Preparation Bootcamp, is a six-week class and two-week internship that help citizens put their best foot forward in any job situation.

The term, bootcamp, truly describes the rigorous work that must go into preparing participants to help themselves by getting more lucrative jobs and finding quality housing.

Diane Boyd-Byers, a social worker at the Paul Dunbar Center, says the program deals with self-sufficiency by helping people overcome vari-

ous obstacles that lie within their paths.

"We want to teach economics so we can get people off and keep people away from welfare agencies," she says.

During the six weeks of training, the program helps clients with writing resumes, filling out applications effectively, interviewing skills and organize a personal self-assessment sheet.

The ingenious part of the program is it not only offers a job preparation session, but after that is completed, they also provide work experience. This internship is two weeks

in length and clients are sent to businesses and factories in the Salisbury area. Some of which are Fieldcrest Cannon, Auto Zone, Somar, Colber Cleaning Service and many others. At the completion of the internship, clients are evaluated, certified, and placed permanently at the various businesses.

The Job Bootcamp, which was a borrowed concept of Orange County, was just recently adopted by Rowan County. Classes are held Monday through Thursday at the Dunbar Center.

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