

# Jogger Falls To His Death From Trestle

BY ERIC CARLSON

Investigators Tuesday night were still trying to identify a man who apparently fell 40 feet to his death while jogging Tuesday morning across a railroad trestle leading from the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point.

"What we have right now is a John Doe," said Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Lt. Donnell Marlow. "We're hoping that as it gets later, someone will call us to report him missing."

Workers operating two spiking machines on the railway said they noticed the man jogging along the tracks at about 7:15 a.m., Marlow said.

A witness on the first machine said it passed the jogger as he approached a trestle off N.C. 133 at the south end of Boiling Spring Lakes. A man on the second spiking machine told police that when the second vehicle passed the trestle, the man was gone, Marlow said.

The railway workers found the jogger badly injured but still con-

scious in a wooded area about 30 to 40 feet below the tracks. He reportedly lost consciousness and went into cardiac arrest en route to Doshier Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead in the emergency room, according to Brunswick County Coroner Greg White.

The man apparently died of internal injuries suffered in the fall, White said. The body was sent to Jacksonville, where an autopsy was performed. As of 7 p.m. Tuesday, White said he had not heard the results of the examination.

Sheriff's detectives and deputies searched the woods near the railway and interviewed several people in the area, but none reported seeing the jogger that morning, Marlow said.

The railway workers told police that the railway was not a popular running path and said they had never seen anyone jogging on the tracks before.

Other officers checked nearby roads for an abandoned vehicle that might have been parked by the jog-

ger. But no vehicle was found.

"We have no reason to suspect foul play at this point," Marlow said. "It appears that he just fell off."

Fingerprints and photos were obtained to aid police in questioning people who might have information about the man's identity. Because of the manner in which the victim was dressed, detectives think he may have been training for boxing or martial arts competition.

Marlow described him as a white male in his late 20s or early 30s, 5 ft. 6 in. tall, weighing 146.5 lbs., with a medium build, medium length dark brown hair and a large mustache. He was dressed in acid-washed blue-jean shorts, gray socks with blue stripes, ankle-high brown hiking boots and no shirt. He was wearing wine-colored "Everlast" boxing mitts and a Casio watch on his right wrist, Marlow said.

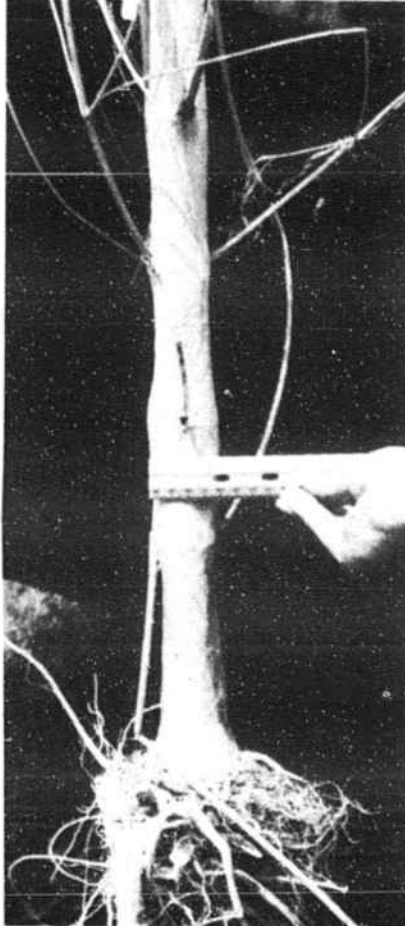
Anyone with information about the man's identity should call the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department at (919) 253-4321 or 1-800-672-6379.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Half-Million-Dollar Harvest

Detective Charlie Miller holds some of the 337 marijuana plants confiscated and destroyed by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department last week. Plants measuring up to 22 feet high and more than two inches in diameter were found growing in a wooded area near Southport during a flyover by N.C. Air National Guard helicopters. Based on State Bureau of Investigation estimates, the plants could have produced marijuana with a street value of \$539,200, according to Det. Mike Speck of the BCSD narcotics division. Nine other marijuana plants were found growing in the Longwood area and a seven-foot plant was discovered near Hickman's Crossroads by National Guard helicopters aiding local authorities in a cooperative eradication program last week.



## Lower Temps In Forecast

Cooler weather is expected in the South Brunswick Islands over the next few days, according to Shalotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady expects normal temperatures, ranging from 70 degrees at night to the upper 80s during the day.

For the period Aug. 17-23, Canady recorded a daily average of 82 degrees, which was about 3 degrees above normal.

Canady is calling for less than three-quarters of an inch of rain over the next week, which is below average.

The area received just two-hundredths of an inch of rainfall during the previous week, Canady said.

The daily average high from Aug. 17-23 was 92 degrees and the average nightly low was 72 degrees.

Canady said the maximum high during the period was 95 degrees on Aug. 21, and the minimum low was 67 degrees on the 23rd.

# SAT Increase Has Educators Elated

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the total increase to 23 points. This year's average score is 859, well short of the national average, but 13 to 21 points from the lowest ranking systems, Georgia, South Carolina and Washington, D.C.

At the state level, Superintendent Bob Etheridge is attributing the gains to a new focus on student achievement and higher expectations: encouraging students to take tougher courses, stricter course requirements for graduation, new curriculum more in line with what students need to know, a new testing program that emphasizes students thinking and applying what they learn, and providing for the second year an opportunity for students to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test at state expense.

Last year, the second year of the free program, Brunswick County Algebra I and Geometry students took the state's own version of the

*Statewide, 60 percent of all seniors took the SAT before graduating. In Brunswick County, only 223 or 43.3 percent of all seniors—took the SAT.*

PSAT. This year Lemon said he expects the PSAT to be given to Algebra II students only.

Also this year, Etheridge said the state will support student participation in AP courses as a way to encourage students to take more rigor-

ous courses.

Statewide this year 60 percent of all seniors took the SAT sometime before graduating, 3 percent more than in the previous two years. In Brunswick County, however, only 223 or 43.3 percent of all seniors—took the SAT.

Kay Williams, chief communications consultant with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, said the county-by-county average SAT scores are compiled from the results of the last SAT taken by 1993 graduates, regardless of whether the test was taken during their senior year or earlier. The results do not reflect the highest scores a student may have received on either the English or math sections, simply the last scores received.

Many students take the SAT their junior year, repeating the test only if they are displeased with their scores or hope to improve their score on either the English or math section.

# Threatened Boycott Nixed After 'Serious Discussions'

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ing kept out of school.

While the board is willing to listen to and investigate the concerns of the black community leaders, Baxter said board members are just as committed to following the board's policies and state law and to looking at the larger picture of inequities in the school system.

"The bottom line is they've got to give us some time to get this task force in place and to look at these issues and get back to them," said Baxter.

"We acknowledged that they do have some concerns," she said, "but that they were trying to dictate who should be hired and where, just as they have in the past, and that as a board we were committed to following our policies and procedures."

"There was no deal made like 'we'll do this if you stop that,'" she

said.

Taking a cue from the board's recent mediation sessions with county commissioners, Baxter and Gause talked first, for two hours, with Staff Development Director Gloria Talley serving as their facilitator to make sure the discussions didn't get off course and remained productive, said Baxter.

Then Talley served as facilitator as well as official observer of a second session that was to have included only Baxter, Gause, Roscoe Butler and Superintendent of Schools Ralph Johnston, but eventually also included Jerry Munn and Bobby Brown, black leaders from the northern part of the county.

"It wasn't the full board," said Baxter. "Just Thurman and myself. We're going to look into this and report to the full board."

Some of the general concerns of

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—Donna Baxter

blacks regarding perceived inequities within the school system didn't get the attention they merited when first raised, in part because of

the other, more specific demands, and in part because "our plate has been full lately," she said, with other pressing issues.

The face-to-face dialogues came several months after a group of black community leaders called for the boycott, following a decision to transfer longtime Leland Primary School Principal Joe Butler to a central office supervisory position.

The group demanded his return to the primary school principalship and more jobs for blacks in the school system, specifically in high-visibility positions of leadership. Later the group demanded that a black be named principal of Waccamaw Elementary School.

In mid-summer, Johnston announced the formation of a task force, to be pulled together and supported by Jan Calhoun, assistant superintendent for instructional ser-

vices. That effort stalled when some black leaders insisted the group consist entirely of blacks.

"We tried to explain to them that it needed to be a diverse group of people," said Baxter.

Baxter said she thinks Johnston and his staff will be investigating inequities of all types within the school system and reporting findings to the board.

Johnston said Tuesday he was "ecstatic" if the boycott actually has been called off because "children need to be in school for the education process to occur, just as teachers need to be in the classroom."

Plans for a task force focused on equity for all people are continuing. The focus will most likely expand beyond the need for recruiting more black applicants for teaching and leadership roles to look at other broad issues, he said.

One possibility is taking as the force's core group the countywide Performance-Based Accountability Plan panel and adding to its membership to give broader representation.

The school system is also working to establish a system for grooming potential administrators or school leaders that would be accessible to candidates within and possibly outside the local school system.

# 'Flex' Schedules Allow More Instruction, Training Time

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learn about new attendance rules and the school's new Choices program, modeled after the student management program already in place in Brunswick County's high schools.

Waccamaw School will follow the most varied schedule, shifting between two weekly schedules. During the weeks of the second and fourth Wednesday early release days, students will follow a longer schedule from 8:05 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

During other weeks the school day will end at 2:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

At Union Elementary, where an entrance painting of frolicking dolphins will greet students, the school day will run from 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bolivia Elementary students will attend classes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Neither school plans early release days for staff development.

South Brunswick Middle School students will leave school every Wednesday at 1 p.m., attending classes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. other

days of the week.

Leland Middle School will lengthen the school day four days a week and shorten it on Wednesdays.

The schedule, said Principal Diana Mintz, will provide more instructional time than the state mandates, while also allowing teachers to be involved in ongoing staff development Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The time adjustment was made by placing more time on academic periods and less on extras such as lunch and exploratories. The school day will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

On Wednesday the day will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.

"With the strong emphasis being placed on implementation of the new state curriculums and account-

ability for the state end-of-grade tests, teachers need the opportunity to upgrade their instructional methods and their knowledge of curriculum and technology," said Mintz.

Most faculty members have also been involved in in-service training this summer and in the days immediately preceding the start of school.

The flexible schedules have been approved by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction as part of each school's Performance-Based Accountability Plan.

More staff development was a need identified last spring during planning for the current school year.

Most faculty members across the county have been involved in some type of in-service education this summer, on topics ranging from computer literacy to the Socratic approach to discussion and the middle

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