

# Fire Guts Apollo Center

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Nation's Blacks, Women Stunned-Tex. Rep.

## Barbara Jordan To Quit \$10,000

Raleigh Fire Department administrator Kenneth Farmer, stated Monday that the fire which gutted the Apollo Heights Community Center early Sunday was deliberately set. Investigators say they found a discarded can of brake fluid outside the building, near where the blaze began. Brake fluid, containing a high content of alcohol, is highly flammable.

The State Bureau of Investigation (SSI) has been handed sections of the center's roof and the fluid can for further tests.

According to firemen, the flames which engulfed the wooden-roofed building, started after an explosion that blew out a portion of the back wall and the roof of the center, located at 759 Lunar Drive. Cause of the explosion remained a mystery at CAROLINIAN press time.

(See FIRE GUTS, P. 2)



APOLLO HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER BURNS — Shown above is the gutted remains of the Apollo Heights Community Center, located on Lunar Drive, which was destroyed by a mysterious fire early Sunday. Firemen suspect arson. See story. (Staff Photo).

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### Husband Slain In "Bull City"

## Murder Trial Begins

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### Ms. Little's Boyfriend Criticizes Dr. D. Lane

#### Dentist Replies To Claims

BY CHARLES R. JONES

Vernell Nelson Muhammad, 23-year-old boyfriend of escaped Raleigh prison fugitive, Ms. JoAnne Little, also 23, said in an interview last Friday that, "Dr. David P. Lane has said something to the effect that I was a bad influence on JoAnne. I feel that Dr. Lane owes me an apology for this. JoAnne does not feel that I am a bad influence on her and I don't think Dr. Lane is in a position to make a statement of this kind."

Dr. Lane is the black Raleigh dentist, with offices in the 100 block of E. Hargett St., who hired Ms. Little as a dental assistant last spring when she became eligible for work-release and no one else would hire her.

When contacted about Muhammad's statements about him on Tuesday of this week, Dr. Lane said, "I met him

#### Girl, 7, Struck By Car Here

Tonva Renee Pearson, 7, 1204 Seabrook Drive in Kingwood Forest, received minor bruises when she was struck by an automobile after alighting from a school bus in front of her home here last weekend, according to police reports.

The child was hit by a car driven by Bobby Lee Dockery, 29, 1313 Savannah Drive, also in Kingwood Forest, about 3:45 p.m. Thursday, Officer R. H. Phillips reported. A student at Brooks Elementary School here, the little girl did not require hospitalization and no charges were filed against Dockery, Phillips reported.

According to Dockery and other eyewitnesses, the child darted from behind one of two school buses that had stopped to discharge student passengers at the intersection of Daytona and Seabrook Drives. The girl then walked into the path of Dockery's moving car, they stated.

Neither of the two stopped buses had their "STOP" arms out nor their emergency signals flashing as they let the students out the buses.

Officer Phillips said the reason that he did not charge Mr. Dockery was that Dockery was unable to see the two buses until he was too close to stop as they were obscured by the crest of a hill. "Since Seabrook Drive has no speed limit posted, I have to assume that it is 35 mile per hour," concluded the cop.

Appreciation Money SPOTLIGHT THIS WEEK HUDSON-BELK DEPT. STORES "WHERE VARIETY AND ECONOMY GO HAND-IN-HAND"



MS. LITTLE'S BOYFRIEND INTERVIEWED — Vernell Nelson Muhammad, boyfriend of Ms. JoAnne Little, is shown at left being interviewed last Friday by Charles R. Jones, managing editor of THE CAROLINIAN. Muhammad flew to New York to meet Ms. Little last week, but was unsuccessful in his bid to persuade her to return with him to Raleigh. (Staff Photo)

#### Rep. Jordan Won't Seek Another Term

HOUSTON, Texas—The most powerful black woman ever to be elected to a seat in the United States Congress will not seek re-election when her term expires in 1978 because, "I don't want to wake up one fine morning and say there is nothing else in the world that Barbara Jordan can do."

Rep. Jordan, D-Texas, announced at a press conference last Saturday that she would not seek any elective office in 1978, when her term of office expires.

Her name has been mentioned as a possibility for many positions, including the Texas Senate and the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Jordan said Saturday, "What course I shall pursue in 1978 when my current term of office expires, I do not know, whether in the public or private sector, I do not know."

Ms. Jordan also said she believes that "there is an inverse relationship between duration of tenure in the Congress and the ability to shift gears," explaining that "the longer you stay in Congress, the more difficult it is to leave Congress."

Ms. Jordan first captured national attention in 1974 during her freshman term by participating in the House Judiciary Committee's televis-

(See REP. JORDAN, P. 2)

#### Birthday Observance Announced

ATLANTA, Ga. — A five-day observance, from January 12-16, 1978, of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has been announced by Mrs. Coretta Scott King, president of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change. Dr. King would have been 49 years old on January 15.

Appreciation Check Won By Willie Dunn Willie R. Dunn, of 207 Bart St., was winner of \$10 last week after he reported to The CAROLINIAN office that he had found his name listed in the Cap'n Jim's Seafood advertise-



DISPLAYS DANGEROUS PIPE BOMB — Bellaire, Mich. — Charles Quander, special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tax and Firearms Division, displays a pipe bomb similar to those seized by agents in a raid here last Thursday night. The seizure of 100 of the bombs has been described by agents as the largest of its kind ever made in the U.S. Arrested were Octavio Gomez and Lee Allen Omland, both of Bellaire. (UPI)

#### Hiring Bias Seen At Plant In Wake

A manufacturing plant at Wake Forest in northern Wake County and the union representing its employees, have discriminated against black workers since 1965, according to a lawsuit filed by a federal agency here Thursday.

The EEOC contends in the lawsuit, filed in federal court here, that both the company and the union have engaged in at least three illegal practices. They are:

Maintaining job categories and classifications which partially or totally are racially segregated to the disadvantage of black persons; maintain hiring policies and practices that discriminate against blacks because of race; and failing and refusing to compensate blacks on an equal basis with white employees

The U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charged that the Scovil Manufacturing Company Plant and the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, AFL-CIO, have been violating federal laws in their practices of employment.

#### Renters Complain

National Black News Service WASHINGTON, D. C. — Deteriorating urban housing and a new sensitivity to tenants' rights have produced great increases in local court housing cases, the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Housing and Urban Development Law said recently.

systems to produce a new type of court: a Housing Court, said committee chairman Laughlin E. Waters. The 36-page report, "Urban Housing Courts and Landlord Tenant Justice: National Models and Experience," focuses on housing courts in Boston, Pittsburgh and New York City.

Free copies of the report are available by writing to Kate Sullivan, ABA, 1800 M. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

In a study of housing courts, the committee said serious problems include delay in getting to trial, inability to secure legal assistance and judges who lack sufficient expertise in housing matters.

The study has not been considered by the ABA's House of Delegates and thus is not official Association policy, an ABA release said.

"In response to this nationwide jerrybuilt structure of housing justice, several major cities, including New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Baltimore, have united and rationalized their court

NAACP TO MEET The Raleigh-Apex Chapter of the NAACP will meet Sunday, Dec. 18, at RICH Park in Method at 3:30 p.m. The topic of discussion will be Food Stamps and other important issues. The public is invited to attend.

The Rev. Dr. Charles W. Ward is president of the chapter.

#### Carter's Urban Plan Blasted

National Black News Service

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Branding President Carter's upcoming urban program as "a half-hearted gesture in a situation which calls for an all-out assault," Jerry Wurf, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) has called on the National League of Cities to join the Union in an allied demand for "urban programs which match our enormous problems with old and effective solutions of equal scope and weight."

As president of the largest public employee union in America, Wurf told the league's conference in San Francisco recently that urban public officials and urban public workers must strike an alliance against "underfunded" and "misguided" White House proposals.

Wurf also said that issues of public worker productivity, effective public management, and contract negotiation procedures must be settled "reasonably" with concessions on both sides. "We are hopeful that reasonableness and respect for our common interests can override confrontation at the polls or on the picket line."

#### \$3.4 Million Defense Department Contract Goes To Minority Firm

National Black News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C. The Department of Defense recently announced the awarding of a \$3.4 million defense contract to a minority-owned firm. It was one of the largest contracts ever awarded to such a firm.

Technological Development Corporation was formed in 1971

under Section 8 (a) of the Small Business Act and, was in turn, awarded to Technology Development Corp. of Sunnyvale, Calif. The contract is for F-16 research and development and related technical services.

Technology Development Corporation was formed in 1971

as a high-technology firm, dedicated to research and engineering. It is two-thirds minority-owned and its president, Dr. Frank S. Greene, is a black Ph. D.

Dr. Greene represented his company at the signing ceremony in the Pentagon, while the Deputy Secretary of De-

(See DEFENSE DEPT., P. 2)



FIRST LADY GREETED BY EXCITED CHILDREN — New York — Hundreds of excited New York school children anxiously await the chance to shake hands with first lady Rosalynn Carter as she tours a Harlem school to spotlight volunteer neighborhood projects Dec. 12. (UPI)