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# THE CAROLINIAN

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**N.C.'s Semi-Weekly**  
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## Policies And Procedures For Blacks, Fireman Jobs Are Limited

BY W. MASON, JR.  
Staff Writer

For years, blacks complained of not being able to get jobs at the Raleigh Fire Department. For the few that would get jobs, they would complain that blacks were not being promoted to higher offices within the department.

Now, blacks are starting to speak out over what they call "something wrong" with the Fire Department and city administrators who run it. And they say something will have to be done about it.

"There's something wrong with the

hiring and promotional system," said Welton Jones, a former city fireman who was with the department for about 25 years. Blacks make up roughly 15 percent of the Fire Department and yet they are not promoted, he said.

Jones recently was angered over an academy class that was inducted into the Fire Department. About 18 new firefighters were hired by the city, and none of them were black.

"The way the fire department is set up, blacks feel bias for jobs and have trouble competing for higher posts," Jones said. Jones has taken his con-

cerns before the City Council and, during his 25 years as a firefighter, brought numerous complaints to the attention of city officials who contend they are working to resolve them.

City firemen have been reluctant to talk about the situation because many feel they would lose their jobs and can't afford to take the risk.

That, Jones says, has helped the city keep many policies and procedures quiet and helped to further the treatment of blacks within the department.

Because of the recent hiring of 18 men, however, other firefighters are

starting to speak up, some of them realizing that waiting will not make things any better.

One firefighter, James Allen, who lives on Millbrook Road in Raleigh, said he is trying to encourage more blacks to apply to the Fire Department, hoping that an influx of applicants will make it difficult for the city to turn people away from jobs.

Allen said it isn't difficult for blacks to get jobs with the Fire Department, but he did say blacks, for one reason or another, don't make it.

One reason they don't make it, he said, is because of a Fire Department

test that some have said is written only for experienced firefighters. Blacks, he said, often lack the knowledge required to pass the tests.

The tests, however, are supposed to be designed for people with no firefighting experience, a point which could be a flaw in a system that is critically hurting blacks.

In the last academy to be inducted, of the 245 applications that were given out, about 166 were returned, or 166 people actually applied for the jobs. Of those, 122 were white males, 40 were black males, three were women and one was Hispanic.

Of the 166 that applied, 152 were qualified. Of that number, 166 were white men, three were white women, 32 were black males and one was Hispanic.

The weeding-out process continued until there were no blacks who passed the written test. About 88 white men failed the test.

Allen said he hopes to encourage more blacks to apply as well as get information to the public about how the city Fire Department operates and what guidelines and procedures it uses in getting people into the department.

### Plea Arrangement

## MAN SENTENCED IN MURDER CASE

### Armed Robbery Charges

A Raleigh man was sentenced this week to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to an armed robbery during which a convenience store clerk was killed.

Tony Malloy, 20, became the last of four defendants to plead guilty for their involvement in the shooting death of James Claude Walker, a clerk at a Phillips 66 station on New Bern Avenue.

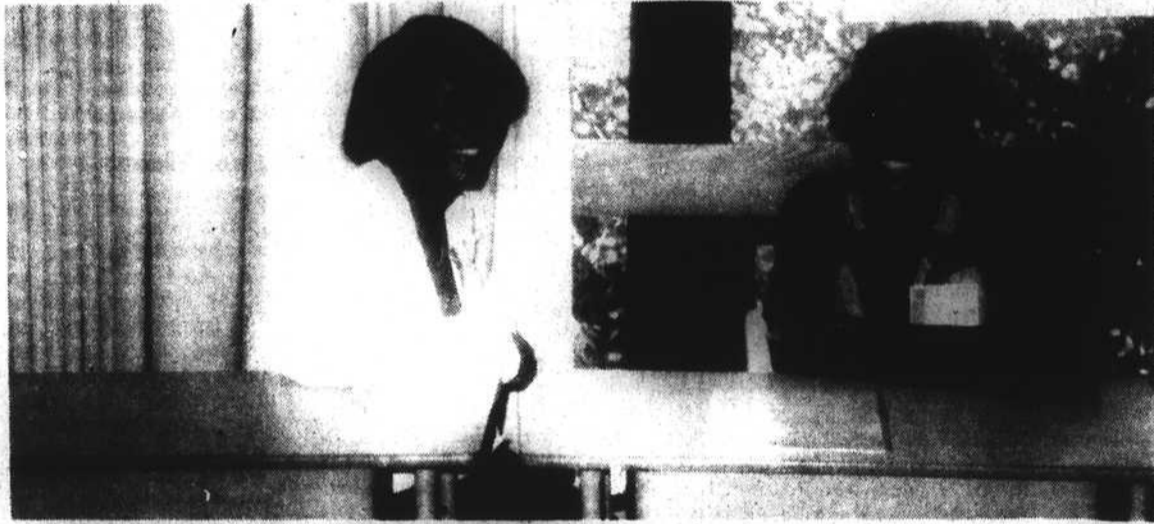
Under a plea arrangement with the state, Malloy avoided a trial and stiffer sentence by pleading guilty to armed robbery. He had been charged with first-degree murder and armed robbery and faced a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Malloy, Ervin Thomas Lewis, Jr., 15, William E. Downey, 18, and Patrick L. Denning, 17, were charged with murder after robbing the convenience store on June 17, 1989.

A Wake assistant district attorney said that state's evidence would have shown that Malloy and three others set out on that date to rob a drug dealer, but did not accomplish that objective and the convenience store became their target.

Walker's death was filmed by a security video camera and showed Lewis shout at Walker and immediately shoot him and take money

(See MURDER, P. 2)



**THE RIGHT TRACK**—Wake Forest-Rolesville High School students Laquita Smith and Miranda Walters grappled with questions before joining "Getting on The Right Track Project" directed by Dr. Don C. Locke, head of the Counselor Education Department at N. C. State University. (See story on this page)

## Get On The Right Track Project Helping Students Solve Problems

BY MARIE FAUBERT  
Special To THE CAROLINIAN

Early in the second semester of her ninth-grade year, Litisha Jones of Wake Forest-Rolesville High School asked the question, "Why do African-American children test lower than European-American children on standardized tests?" This insightful question was the beginning of a journey for her and her colleagues in the Getting on the Right Track project. Litisha began the search for answers to her research question.

Litisha found out that we still don't really know what intelligence is; therefore, any test that is used to measure what is not understood cannot claim to be measuring anything. Litisha and her colleagues learned the meaning of test validity.

Litisha learned that aptitude tests include items much more familiar to European-American, city students than African-American, rural students. She wondered what would happen if she and some of her African-American friends made out a test which included the music, heroines and daily experiences familiar to them and asked their European-American friends to take that test. She wondered why it was considered more important to know

that a yacht was kept in a marina than to know how to tell the difference between soybeans and tobacco growing.

Other students at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School had other research questions with which they grappled during the second semester of their ninth-grade year. These

students are Shontoinette Alston, Tonia Brodie, Nikki Butts, Ronea Gilmore, Jennifer Jones, Natasha Jones, Michael Hall, Trevin Hartfield, Lashonda King, Shyra Laws, Tonya Massenburg, Martina Morgan, Tasha Pullen, Eric Snellings, Miguel

(See RIGHT TRACK, P. 2)

### Poised For A Comeback

## Legislators Examining Rent Control

**Rent Controls.**  
Are they good or bad?  
Some argue that they prevent landlords from raising the rent, which helps low-income and poor families better cope with inflation and other rising costs.

Others, however, say that the controls restrict landlords from market freedom and reduce the number of housing units for rent. They say the controls also limit freedom in the marketplace and tax the tenant in other areas.

A legislative panel has taken up the matter for study.

A national landlords' group has joined the fray, issuing a news release passionately attacking rent controls as neither beneficial to the tenant nor the economy in general.

The release from the National Association of Investment Properties, headquartered in New York, said, in part:

"More than 200 communities around the country have adopted laws restricting increases in residential rents. Adopted with the laudable goal of protecting low- and moderate-income families from rapidly rising rental costs, these ordinances have

instead been a classic example of the failure of state intervention in the marketplace, leading to a reduction in new rental housing construction, the deterioration of existing rental units, reduced tenant mobility, and, ultimately, increased homelessness.

"The first rent-control ordinances appeared in the United States during World War I and were confined to a scattered handful of communities that were experiencing severe housing shortages. They were phased out shortly after the war. However, during World War II, the federal government adopted nationwide rent control

as part of its overall wage and price controls. As before, once wartime economic strains had ended, rent controls were gradually abandoned. By the mid-1950s, only New York retained controls on residential rents.

"However, in the mid- and late-1970s, spurred by the rapid inflation of the Carter era and a liberal ethos of government control, more than 200 communities in California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and the District of Columbia

(See RENT CONTROL, P. 2)

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### STUDENTS HONORED

Students with outstanding academic records will be honored during an awards day Tuesday, May 15. More than 400 students, chosen by the staff, will receive a specially designed Awards Day tee-shirt for their diligence in striving to excel academically.

#### PARENTS HELP IN READING

At Carroll Middle School, sixth-grade parents are being encouraged to take an active role in reading with their children. The Carroll PTA has provided books for parental use.

#### DANCING FOR GOLD

Pieces of Gold, an annual show co-sponsored by the Wake County Education Foundation and the Wake County Public School System, will be held soon to give students a chance to perform.

#### NEW RECRUITS

When members of the 85th class of the Highway Patrol's Basic School graduated recently, it signified the completion of one of the nation's most rigorous and demanding law enforcement training programs.

#### NEW MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

A joint project of the N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of the Army is slated to begin soon, providing quality mental health services to the children under age 18 of military personnel.

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

## N.C. Council Of Churches, Groups Opposing Death Penalty In State

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

Those seeking to abolish the death penalty contend executions are examples of a punishment too cruel even for society's most despicable killers, while proponents say they are not really concerned about the suffering of brutal murderers.

The Supreme Court cleared the way for executions 14 years ago and since then, 124 prisoners have been put to death in 13 states. The vast majority of those executions have been in the South, with North Carolina being a participant.

Proponents and opponents of the death penalty agree there is no such thing as a humane way to kill another person and that mistakes are sometimes made through the legal system and even bungled executions.

Attorneys for double murderer Robert Alton Harris argued in court this week in San Francisco, Calif., that he should be spared the gas chamber because he received inadequate psychiatric advice at his original trial.

If the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel agrees with the argument, it could open hundreds of cases to challenge, the state argued.

Harris, 37, was convicted of the 1975 murders of two San Diego teenagers whose car he wanted for a bank robbery.

He was sentenced to die in the gas chamber April 3, in the first execution in California since 1967. A 9th Circuit

judge stayed the execution.

In addition, African-American men are being sentenced to die at an alarming rate and the state NAACP is pushing, along with the North Carolina American Civil Liberties Union, the N.C. Black Lawyers Association, the North Carolina Council of Churches and the Prison and Jail Project, to end the racial implications of the death penalty.

According to the groups, Congress will consider federal legislation (S-1086) designed to remedy racial bias in the imposition of the death penalty. This bill, known as the Racial Justice Act, also been introduced by a number of senators, including several who believe in the death penalty.

Regardless of their views on capital punishment, most people agree that racism does not belong in the criminal justice system, especially when the question is one of life and death.

The North Carolina Council of Churches and five other religious and secular organizations on May 21 are co-sponsoring a public witness opposition to the continuing use of the death penalty in North Carolina. The demonstration coincides with the opening session of the N.C. General Assembly at 8 p.m.

State Rep. Dan Blue, Episcopal Bishop Robert W.

(See DEATH PENALTY, P. 2)

## Legendary Sammy Davis, Dead At 64

Legendary entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr. has died of cancer at the age of 64. His spokeswoman, Susan Reynolds said Davis died at his home in Beverly Hills, Calif. Reports say his wife, Altovise was at his side, although Ms. Reynolds would not release who was with him when he passed away.

Davis' health had deteriorated steadily since his release from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, March 13. Entertainer Bob Hope said "Sammy Davis was a versatile performer..." and long-time show business friend and colleague Dean Martin said "it was a pleasure to know Sammy Davis, Jr."

In 1969 Davis received a victory award for overcoming physical adversities and in 1988 there was a televised salute to the dancer-singer-actor many never forget as "Mr. Bojangles," "Golden Boy" and "The Candy Man."

SAMMY DAVIS, JR.