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N.C.'s Semi-Weekly

DEDICATED TO THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST

SINGLE COPY 25¢
IN RALEIGH
ELSEWHERE 30¢

Garner Road Family YMCA
Runners-Up In AAU Event
See Page 21

Jesse Jackson Receives
Death Threats In D.C.
See Page 3



MOTHER OF THE YEAR—The '90-'91 Raleigh Chapter Continental Societies presented to Mrs. Yvonne Jones, mother of Miss Angela D. Jones looking on, who wrote an essay, "Why Her Mother Should Be Mother of the Year." Dr. Adessa B. Lewis-White is presenting the gift.

Workplace Tragedy Kills 25, Injures 49 In Hamlet, N.C.

HAMLET (AP) — A fire swept through a chicken processing plant, killing at least 24 people and injuring dozens of others on Tuesday, authorities said.

Renee Hoffman, spokeswoman for the State Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, said 24 people died in the fire at Imperial Food Products.

Witnesses said a fryer at the plant caught fire about 8:30 a.m. The company makes chicken nuggets and marinated chicken breasts sold at

fast-food restaurants and grocery stores.

Employees and witnesses said a rear door that was temporarily blocked by a delivery truck delayed the escape of many and may have contributed to the toll.

"They were screaming, 'Let me out!'" said a passer-by, Sam Breeden. "They were beating on the door."

Hamlet Police Capt. Robert Bristow said 100 employees were at the plant when the fire occurred. The

Richmond County Chamber of Commerce said it employs up to 250 people.

The interior of the one-story brick building was gutted.

One firefighter said firefighters had trouble searching for missing people because of intense heat and smoke in the building.

Early Tuesday afternoon, two more people were brought out of the plant. They appeared to be severely injured; paramedics were working to try to save them.

"When I arrived I didn't have hope for anybody coming out of here. They're beating all the odds," said a police officer who declined to give his name. He was working to control the crowd of worried relatives, journalists and curiosity-seekers gathered around the plant.

"We're just sitting here waiting for some words," said William Peele, who along with his son, James, was hoping for word of his wife, Rose.

(See HAMLET FIRE, P. 2)

Rooming House Fuss Ends In

Man Shot In Side

Single Bullet Hits Man

According to the Raleigh Police Department, there have been 15 fatal shootings so far this year.

This number was reached when a Raleigh man was recently charged with murder in the shooting death of a fellow rooming house resident.

Abdulk Hafiz Sharif, 46, of 519 W. Lenoir St., was charged with first-degree murder in the death of William Burston.

Burston was shot in the side over the weekend while in the yard of his rooming house one evening, according to police records.

Records indicate the shooting was the result of an argument. Sharif is being held without bond in the Wake County Jail.

In other news: Tests of car parts found at the scene of a hit-and-run accident which caused serious injury to a pedestrian have given Raleigh police a more definite description of the vehicle involved.

The crime occurred around 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, in the 800 block of S. State St.

Police are seeking a beige or gold-colored 1977-81 Honda Accord with rust-colored primer paint on the passenger side. The car also has damage to the front right corner and is missing a parking light and part of the turn signal cover.

The driver is described as a black male, age 20 to 30. He had a mustache and a beard at the time of the incident.

Police report the injured pedestrian was released from Wake Medical Center on Tuesday, Aug. 27, after surgery and treatment for several broken bones.

Anyone with information about this hit-and-run incident is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 843-HELP or Officer T.J. Veler at 890-3335. Rewards up to \$1,000 may be given for information leading to an arrest in the case. Callers may remain anonymous.

Barred For Muslim Dress

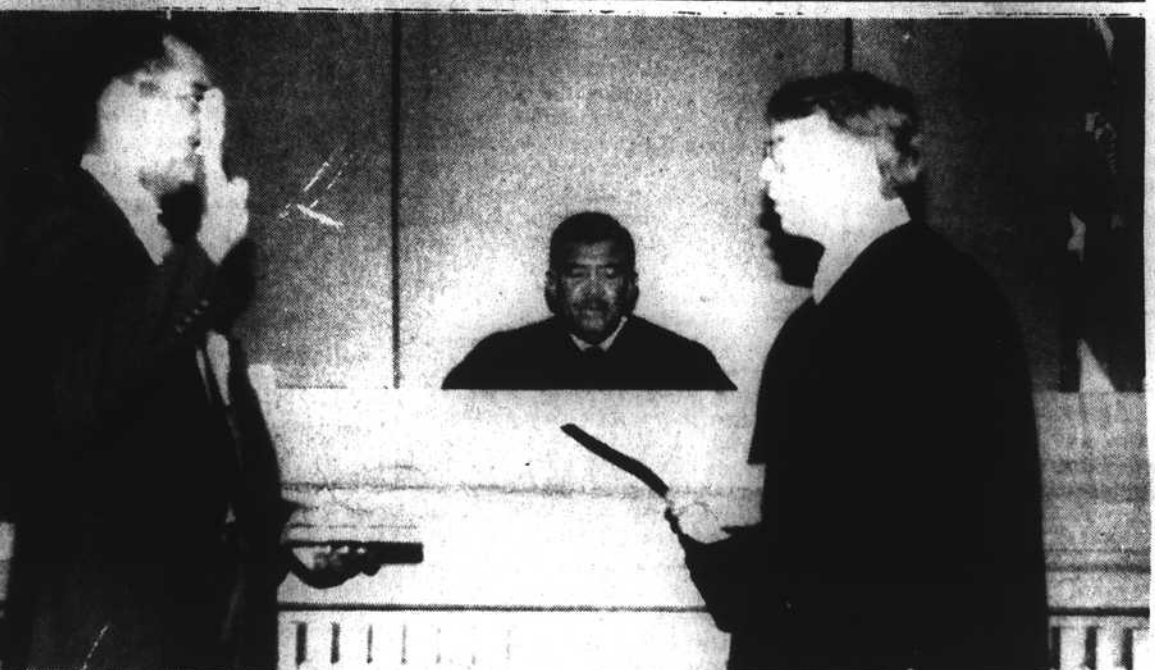
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP)—A woman says she was not allowed to board a Northwest Airlines flight because she was dressed in a traditional Muslim dress, her attorney said last week.

The woman, Sameerati Bilal of Minneapolis, was told by a gate attendant at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport that "Your clothes are not appropriate. You have to dress as

if you're going to church," according to her attorney, former Minnesota Human Rights Commissioner Stephen Cooper.

Bilal left the airport after the gate attendant's manager also said she couldn't board because of her dress, Cooper said. She has not tried to board a plane since the incident.

(See MUSLIM BANNED, P. 2)



SWORN IN—Stafford G. Bullock, Jr. (left) is pictured being sworn in as chief district court judge in the 10th Judicial District by Chief Justice James G. Exum, Jr. of the North Carolina Supreme Court. On the bench presiding is

Superior Court Judge, George R. Bragene. Judge Bullock, who has served on the district court bench since April 16, 1974, will succeed George F. Bason, who will retire effective Aug. 31st. (Photo by James Giles)

Federal Government Report Finds African Americans Living Longer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—Black men and women are living longer than ever before, but on average they die about six years younger than whites, the government said last week.

Overall, Americans' life expectancy crept upward from 1989 to 1990 by two months—to 75 years and five months, the Department of Health and Human Services report said. That's how long Americans born last year could expect to live.

Black men born in 1990 could expect to live 66 years. That's nearly 10 months longer than in 1989 and a year and a month longer than in 1988. Black women's lifespan was 75 years, six months in 1990, a half a year longer than in 1989 and up 13 months from 1988.

White men could expect to live 72 years, seven months, unchanged from a year earlier. White women's lifespan was 79 years, four months, about two months longer than in 1989.

The lifespan for black men lagged nearly seven years behind that of white men. For women, the gap between the races was slightly narrower: nearly five years.

Black men born in 1990 could expect to live 66 years.

The gap between black and white lifespans have fluctuated around six years since the mid-1970s. The most recent numbers showed a slight narrowing of the gap. Blacks die five years, eight months younger than whites in 1990. A year earlier, they die six years, two months earlier.

Blacks die younger than whites mainly because they are more likely to suffer a heart attack, get cancer or have a stroke, said Harry Rosenberg, chief of the HHS Mortality Statistics Branch. They also have a far greater risk of catching the incurable disease AIDS or of being murdered, he said.

"For specific causes of death, the risk of dying is considerably higher for the black population," Rosenberg said.

Some of the causes of death are more common in poor districts of big cities. AIDS can be caught when intravenous drug users share needles. Homicidal violence is largely an urban phenomenon.

Rosenberg said he couldn't explain why blacks were more likely than whites to die of cancer, heart disease or stroke.

Other findings in the HHS report:

• AIDS killed 24,120 people in 1990, up 13 percent from 1989.

• There were 25,700 homicides, up 12 percent in a year.

• Heart disease remained the biggest killer in 1990. It caused 725,010 deaths. But heart disease, stroke and atherosclerosis were all on the rise.

• Altogether, 2.16 million people died in the United States last year.

• The infant death rate fell last year to its lowest point ever: 9.1 deaths for every 1,000 live births. The year before, there were 9.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Tarheel State Needs To Expect More From

North Carolina is raising the level of expectation for students, but State Superintendent Bob Etheridge and the Department of Public Instruction's top staff want to see that level rise even higher.

The state's education leaders want students to take more rigorous courses to be better prepared for work or college, more students to receive a high school diploma, to exceed regional and national averages on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and to narrow the gap between the school success of minority and non-minority students.

Etheridge presented a list of 10 "Targets for 2000" at a news conference held Aug. 27 in Raleigh. The news conference included information on North Carolina's increase in SAT scores, words of praise for the efforts of local teachers and administrators from Etheridge and Gov. James Martin, and the presentation of the Targets for 2000.

Etheridge said the Targets for 2000 are an extension of the 20 Point Plan for Improving Education that he announced last year. He said the targets quantify what will be expected from children.

"Last year, we released the 20 Point Plan for Reshaping Education. We have already completed some of the points in the plan, and others are nearing completion. We need to con-

tinue this progress and be even more specific about what we expect from our students. These targets spell out what we expect more than ever before. That is a must if our students are going to compete with those from other states and other countries."

SAT scores released on Aug. 27 show that North Carolina's average score is improving, a move in the right direction. Of the states where 40 or more percent of the students take the SAT, only North Carolina and Alaska made gains this year.

State and local officials want to continue the improvement trend of the past two years. One of the 10 targets relates to students in this state exceeding the SAT average for the Southeast by 1996. This target also aims for North Carolina students' scores to be at the national average or better by the year 2000.

Dr. Sammie Campbell Parrish, assistant superintendent for Program Services, described the targets as a "no excuses approach" to educating students. She said North Carolina must provide more training for teachers in the curriculum and in questioning, and must ensure that students take more advanced courses.

"The SAT and other national tests measure what students have learned throughout their years of school," Parrish stated. "It is hard to take a ninth or 10th grader and begin preparing that student to take the SAT and expect good results. We have to teach students sooner and make sure that students have a good foundation in the elementary grades."

One of the targets is designed to ensure that first-grade children learn to read before they are promoted to the second grade. Other targets put more pressure on students to take four years of mathematics and science in high school, encourage more students to participate in Tech Prep and propose closing the achievement gap between the achievement of minority and non-minority students. The targets are:

(See TARHEEL, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC CRITIQUE FOR HARRIS EXERCISE

On Tuesday, Sept. 10, there will be a test of the emergency response plan for the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant involving the state, Carolina Power and Light Co. and Chatham, Harnett, Lee and Wake counties, parts of which comprise the plant's 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone.

Residents of the plant's 10-mile EPZ are invited to observe a critique of the exercise by officials from the state, counties and CP&L on Wednesday, Sept. 11. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant's Visitor's Center in New Hill.

If you have any questions about the exercise or the public critique, call 733-3027.

WARNING ON SEARS JACKET

Sears, Roebuck and Co. is advising customers who purchased certain toddler heavyweight winter jackets this year to take a precautionary measure and remove the end caps from the plastic guards on the ends of the hood drawstring. This will prevent children from removing the end caps themselves and playing with them. If desired, the jacket may be returned and Sears will remove the end caps or replace the jacket with one of equal value.

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

Ms. Agnes O. Dunn Rejoins Franklin City Schools

Ms. Agnes O. Dunn, an Ashevillean for 34 years and a retired English teacher with bachelor's and master's degrees, continues to participate in various areas in the community.

As a member of North Carolina Retired School Personnel, she has received commendation as president of the Franklin County Unit, chair of Legislation and Nominations, treasurer of District 11, state delegate to the National Education Association, retired, Washington, D.C., and State Committee for Publications.

Ms. Dunn is currently serving as secretary of Gamma Tau Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International; chair, World Fellowship; and member of the Music Committee.

As chair of the Education Foundation Program of the American Association of University Women, Ms. Dunn led Franklin County to be head financially in the Southeast area last year.

On July 1, Ms. Dunn was elected to serve as treasurer of



MS. AGNES O. DUNN

the newly organized District 12, NCRSP. She also serves as organist and choir director of Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church and Sunday School teacher for adults.