

**Hollywood's Hit Maker**

Edie Murphy is the number one comedy film star in the world with his movies surpassing one billion dollars. He will be joined by Robin Givens in "Boomerang."

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**Women Come After Tyson**

Former heavyweight boxing champ Mike Tyson, under indictment for rape in Indiana, may be a victim of his popularity. Women come after Tyson.

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**THIS WEEK**  
In the 1930s sculptor Augusta Savage became the first black member of the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors. In 1939 she created a special work for the New York World's Fair, Lift Every Voice and Sing, a 16-foot harp whose strings were black children, standing erect and singing.

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**N.C.'s Semi-Weekly**

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**Fraud Charges Dropped Against Ms. Sheila Wray**

Credit card fraud charges were dropped last week against Sheila A. Wray, the wife of Assistant City Manager Lawrence Wray, on grounds of insufficient evidence.

Wake Assistant District Attorney Haislip said there was insufficient evidence to prove that Ms. Wray intended to use an American Express card owned by the wife of developer John W. Winters.

The card was discovered in a wallet owned by Ms. Wray. She lost the wallet during a downtown outdoor festival. Someone found it, took the money from it and dropped the wallet in a mailbox.

Investigators searched the billfold after it was found at the post office and spotted Ms. Winters' card among the other items identifying the wallet as Ms. Wray's.

The card was discovered in a wallet owned by Ms. Wray. She lost the wallet during a downtown outdoor festival. Someone found it, took the money from it and dropped the wallet in a mailbox.

Ms. Wray and her husband rent a house owned by the Wintenses, where they lived for 25 years.

E. Richard Jones, Ms. Wray's attorney, said that the Wrays were supposed to pick up the mail for the Wintenses and deliver it to them. He said Ms. Wray put the card in her wallet to deliver to Ms. Winters, but had forgotten about it.

Haislip said the law required that the state prove that Ms. Wray intended to use the card.

"According to the evidence I had, she withheld the card in her wallet for three months, but she never used it. For that reason, I made the decision

(See CHARGES DROPPED, P. 2)

**Inside Africa**

**A Long Flight From Famine**

When their sorghum crop tailed, their last goat died and the final sack of grain was empty, Karo Sheknuri knew she and her four young children could not sit at home and hope for a miracle. They would have to walk for

help across miles of dry, empty land or die.

"I was afraid that one of us wouldn't make it because it was so far, and we were already weak," Sheknuri says.



**DANGEROUS TREK**—Karo Sheknuri, 30, nurses her daughter back to health after the family, with four children under seven-years-old, made a desperate 5-day trip to safety from their drought-stricken farm in eastern Ethiopia. Sheknuri and her children are among the 3 million Ethiopians who need food to survive the next year.

**Employees Urged To Speak Out**

**Workers 'Partly' Blamed In Hamlet Fire**

Locked fire doors that investigators say caused some of the deaths at a poultry plant can be blamed partly on the company's employees, a state OSHA advisory panel member says.

"I imagine they [plant workers] stole chickens just as fast as they could go..." Bradford Barringer said last Wednesday during a meeting of

the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council.

"It probably wouldn't have happened, somewhat, if there had been honest employees in that plant," said Barringer, who owns a Stanly County utility construction business. "If there had been more honest employees, those doors probably

wouldn't have been locked."

Investigators blamed at least some of the 25 deaths in a Sept. 3 fire at the Imperial Food Products Plant in Hamlet on locked fire doors that kept workers from escaping the smoke and flames.

Employees said the doors had been locked because of management

concerns over pilfered chickens.

"Would you want your mother to work in those conditions?" Keith Hayes, the business agent for the state plumbers' union and a member of the council, asked Barringer. "Did you go to that plant after the fire? I did, and it made me angry."

Labor Commissioner John Brooks,

who appoints the 11 members of the advisory council, said the Hamlet fire has become the focus of efforts to change the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

He said that the health and safety program nationwide—not just in

(See WORKERS BLAMED, P. 2)

**Police Probe Slayings**

**Property, Sawed-Off Rifle Taken**

Raleigh police searched a North Raleigh Apartment last week following the execution-style slayings of two men and seized a sawed-off rifle and blood-stained newspapers as possible evidence in the case.

The bloody bodies of two unidentified men were found dumped in a wooded area near Wake Medical Center last Tuesday, leaving few clues in the killings that may have been drug-related.

However, police have tentatively identified one of the men as being from Brooklyn, N.Y., but have not released his name. Police are still running down leads trying to identify the victims believed to have been of Nigerian descent.

An officer who was among the first at the scene said the men were shot. Investigators used an aerial fire truck device similar to a cherry picker to photograph the crime scene from above.

On Thursday, detectives searched an apartment rented by a man who is thought to have associated with one of

(See POLICE PROBE, P. 2)



**GAINING SUPPORT**—The Back-A-Child Campaign at the Garner Road YMCA has set its goal for 1991-1992 at \$20,000 and to date has raised \$8,640, said Lawrence

Bradley, chairman of the campaign. In photo: Bradley presents a check to YMCA board chairman J.D. Lewis, Jr. as the program gains support and pursues its objective.

**Thrift Industry Forms Task Force To Generate More Loans To Blacks**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The national leader of the savings institutions business announced formation of a task force in the wake of the recent discoveries regarding

mortgage loan approval rates among racial groups.

In October, the Federal Reserve Board reported preliminary Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data for 1990 showing that blacks and Hispanics were turned down for

told industry executives at the trade group's recent annual convention that the preliminary report should be a catalyst for positive action.

Named co-chairmen of the task force were two members of the league's executive committee: F.V.

**Don Shackelford, chairman of U.S. League of Savings Institutions said there is more to the story than whether there is discrimination. "We must figure out how to generate more minority applicants."**

mortgages more often than whites. Don Shackelford, chairman of the U.S. League of Savings Institutions.

"Pete" Allison, chairman, president

(See THRIFT INDUSTRY, P. 2)

**Families Expect No Financial Upgrowth**

**Economy Seen Getting Worse**

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP)—About half of Americans in an Associated Press poll say they don't expect their family finances to be better next year than this year.

More than two-thirds say they think the economy is getting worse, and barely five percent think it's getting better. These pessimistic expectations add to indications that the recession hasn't bottomed out, since consumers have not regained the confidence they need to spend more freely.

"You usually see people's expectations picking up even when we are still in a recession," said Harold Zullow, a research fellow at Columbia University who specializes in economy psychology.

For the poll, ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa., interviewed 1,012 adults Friday through Tuesday after the fifth-largest Dow Jones point drop ever.

But plenty of indicators remain that people are counting on the government to ease the economic squeeze that is compressing both the job market and inflation-adjusted earnings.

The most popular idea, with 79 percent support in the poll, is a cut in federal taxes paid by middle-income Americans. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., is pushing the approach on Capitol Hill and Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton included it in an economic plan proposed last Wednesday.

President Bush's alternative, a cut in the capital gains taxes paid by investors on their profits, has not caught on with the public. Forty-one percent want it, 40 percent are

(See FAMILY FINANCES, P. 2)



**AWARDS RECIPIENTS**—National Black Child Development Institute, Triangle affiliate, held a reception at Artspace recently that honored children's advocates. Pictured left to right: Norma Haywood, education; Brenda Sanders, Child Care; Donal Harris, awards presenter and affiliate president; Jerome Brown, child welfare; and Dr. Frederick Burroughs, education.

The Black Child Development Institute is a national organization with local affiliates throughout the nation. Its purpose is to promote the interest of African-American children, and focuses on four key areas of interest: child care, child welfare, health and education, said Barbara Baylor, vice president. (Photo by James Giles)

(See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)