

THE CAROLINIAN

RALEIGH, N.C.,
THURSDAY,
APRIL 30, 1992
VOL. 51, NO. 46

N.C.'s Semi-Weekly

DEDICATED TO THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST

SINGLE COPY 25¢
IN RALEIGH
ELSEWHERE 30¢

**Raleigh Housing Authority And
Residents Begin Annual Spring
Cleanup Campaign In City**
Page 13

**"The Cosby Show" Leaves Prime
Time After Eight Great Seasons.**
Page 22

12th District Race Crowded With 9- Candidates

The 12th congressional district race has produced considerable competition but relatively little voter interest, residents and candidates say.

"The primary is right around the corner and I don't even see signs in the yards," said Howard Clement, a district resident of Durham.

The race boasts seven black can-

didates—four Democrats and three Republicans—in addition to two white Republicans. It got off to a late start because district boundaries weren't finally set until early March.

The lines were drawn to give blacks a majority and North Carolina another U.S. seat as warranted by the state's population growth.

Candidates have tried to get out their message through a series of debates held throughout the district but attendance has been poor.

"The problem is this: people are just turned off to politics," said Larry Little, a Winston-Salem lawyer and college professor who's running for the Democratic nomination.

"To have a district with so many quality black candidates and no one is listening, it's disheartening. A lot of people gave up sweat and tears to live for this," he said.

The new district could send to Congress the first black from North Carolina in 91 years.

Most of the candidates say they have little money and have avoided

costly radio and TV ads. Charlotte lawyer Mel Watt, a former state senator and one of four Democrats running in the district, has recently begun radio spots, as has state Rep. H.M. "Mickey" Michaux, D-Durham.

The Republicans have even a more difficult task; the district is nearly 80 percent Democrat.

"We know it's an uphill battle," said Republican O.C. Stafford of Greensboro, a businessman and computer analyst. "We've just got to give the best message we can and listen to what voters say."

Michaux can expect to have an advantage in his home town of

(See 12TH DISTRICT, P. 2)

Barnes Seeks To Overturn Conviction In BB Gun Case

BY CASH MICHAELS

Staff Writer

"You don't know me, honey, but I'll tell you what. I'm-a be here every day you're here to support you, because the community has to be involved."

Outside the courtroom, it was the voice of a stranger, a mother of two children. But for 16-year-old Willie Barnes and his mother, Mattie, knowing who the woman was wasn't important. Knowing that she, and hundreds of others who had come forward, and supported the Barnes family during excruciatingly trying times, was valuable comfort amid a storm of legal controversy.

The last few months have been an ordeal for Willie, Mattie and his stepfather, Jim Scales, but demanding justice and being willing to fight for it gave them the will to see it through.

It was Feb. 4 when Willie Morris Barnes was convicted in Wake District Court on assault and verbal threat charges stemming from allegedly bringing a broken BB gun to school last November. But what puzzled, and in some cases outraged, many who followed Willie's case was why the judge who sentenced him said she was making an example of the teen for bringing a BB gun to school, when that allegation was never officially part of the charges before her.

(See ORDEAL, P. 2)



PRAYING FOR JUSTICE — Citizens and community leaders joined with 16-year-old Willie Barnes, second from right, his mother, Mattie and stepfather, Jim Scales and stepbrother, Jesse, for a community prayer vigil last

Sunday at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Gardens. Barnes was in court this week after being granted an appeal on charges of assault and communicating a threat.

Black-On-Black Crime Targeted By SCLC Effort

BALTIMORE, Md.—Leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said they will take their message to the streets to try and stop the urban violence that is a leading cause of death among young blacks.

"We did not fight in Birmingham, Montgomery and Baltimore to stop our children from being at the back of the bus to put them at the back of a hearse," the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery said recently.

"Economic violence in the suites is spawning violence in the streets," contends the Atlanta-based organization which is urging members in its 380 national chapters and churches, civic groups and labor unions to fight the epidemic of urban violence through their "Stop the Killing" campaign.

The FBI reports that 93 percent of 5,279 black murder victims were killed by other blacks in 1990, the latest year figures were available.

"Blood is running down the streets—blacks are killing blacks," Lowery said. "We must stop the killing."

Jim Williams, a spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Baltimore, agreed that black-on-black violence is one of the most pressing concerns facing the black community.

"When there is poverty, a sense of despair and there doesn't seem to be any way out, it does tend to foster violence against each other," he said.

The SCLC wants to set up commissions to track urban killings and demonstrate against the violence. The campaign is targeting Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Dayton, Ohio, Kansas City, Mo., Los Angeles and St. Petersburg, Fla.

The group also wants to begin amnesty programs with local churches and law enforcement agencies to give people the opportunity to dispose of guns. Tougher gun control legislation is also being backed by the organization, including a mandatory waiting period for gun buyers and parental liability of children commit crimes using their parents' guns.

Other grassroots programs being implemented are neighborhood watches, victims networks and trun- arcy sweeps to curb school absen-

teism and gang activity.

But the killing won't be stopped until the issues affecting urban blacks are addressed not only in the black community but by society at large, the SCLC said.

"We are killing each other because of poverty, racism and drugs," said Brenda Davenport, coordinator of youth and student affairs for the SCLC. "We have to ask why we have this response. We need to channel this energy toward hurting and redirect it."

Members said the civil rights movement has taken a step backward during the Reagan and Bush administrations. Continuing economic hard times are also aggravating racial tensions.

"There has been an increase in racial animosity that has cut back on the progress that has been made," Williams said. "When there is a diminishing of jobs, society tends to become cruel and less compassionate. African-Americans are disproportionately affected but many whites are too."

Faced with growing unemployment and few opportunities, many see drug trafficking as their only option.

"The economic violence that oppresses black people generates anti-social behavior," said Lowery. "Legitimate need turns into illegitimate greed; so they choose drugs,

because they see that as the only possibility."

The government needs to provide better education, job training and employment opportunities for the urban poor, SCLC leaders said.

"If I gave a grade to the federal government for dealing with violence, I'd give them an F," said Martin Luther King, III, son of the civil rights leader who founded the SCLC. "We've got to save this nation."

(See SCLC TARGETS, P. 2)

Triangle Protestors To Join Thousands At Hamlet Rally

BY CASH MICHAELS

Staff Writer

An anticipated 500 protestors from the Triangle are expected to join thousands more from around the country for a mass march/rally in Hamlet this Saturday to demand justice for the survivors of the Imperial Foods tragedy. Twenty-five people were killed last Sept. 3 when a fire raged through the chicken processing plant, trapping many inside.

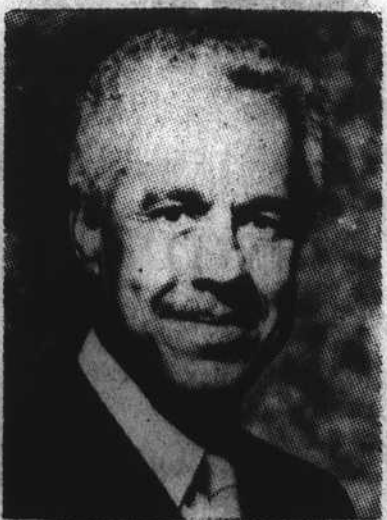
The owner, Emmett Rowe; his son Brad, and the plant manager, James Hair, were indicted for manslaughter. Emmett Roe, who reportedly filed for bankruptcy, faces more than \$800,000 in fines and penalties from the state.

The workplace tragedy, called the worst in North Carolina history, has spurred state lawmakers to propose revisions in North Carolina's workers' safety laws and strengthen penalties for employers who violate them.

Despite subsequent sanctions after the fire, there are many across the South and the country who feel that the Hamlet tragedy can and will happen again as long as workers' rights are not adequately addressed by government.

According to Ajamu Gordon Dillahunt of the Black Workers for Justice, the march, sponsored by the Justice for Hamlet/Organize the South Coalition, will push several current demands that must be met to ensure justice for the Imperial Foods workers.

"We want to let the government (See HAMLET, P. 2)



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER — Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder will be the keynote speaker at St. Augustine's College commencement exercises on May 10 at 3 p.m. in the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center.

Agency To Pursue Delinquent Child Support Payments

Child Support Collectors, Inc., in connection with Child Support Services and Credit Services of Norfolk, Va., has established the first private agency in North Carolina dedicated solely to the collection of delinquent child support. The announcement was made by Robert N. Bander, president of Child Support Collectors, Inc. of Raleigh.

Child Support Collectors will incorporate modern collection techniques to the mammoth problem of collecting delinquent court-ordered child support in North Carolina and across the country.

"Nationally, more than \$18.9 billion went uncollected for child support in 1989. In that same year, North Carolina alone reported more than \$65 million in outstanding child support just for 1989," said Bander.

Julie Coffey, vice president and director of client services, added, "Throughout the United States, state bureaus for child support enforcement are extremely overburdened, and our court system is backlogged with countless cases of delinquent child support."

"Many custodial parents, most often mothers, literally must wait years for their cases to come to court. Then they incur expensive legal fees, with no guarantee of ever collecting a penny," said Coffey. "Meanwhile, these custodial parents must find a way to feed and clothe their children without the absent parent's financial assistance."

"Child Support Collectors offers a new alternative to state agencies and expensive lawyers for these custodial parents," she added.

Cost to the custodial parent is a \$40 non-refundable application fee. Child Support Collectors then retains 30 percent of whatever they

collect.

"If the agency is unable to collect any monies from the absent parent, the custodial parent does not pay anything. Bottom line: no collection—no charge," said Bander.

"Some people might object to our collecting a fee for delinquent child support," said Coffey. "But we are helping parents to recover desperately needed monies which, through conventional methods, they might otherwise never receive."

"This extra income that the children are entitled to will provide a better quality of life for them. In this country, 13 million children live below the federal poverty line. As much as 25 percent of the parents and children affected by divorce never see a dime of child support payments as mandated by the courts," she continued.

Child Support Collectors employs many traditional collection agency tactics as well as the latest in state-of-the-art computer technology.

"The state agencies don't have the success that a collection agency has with these cases. A state's approach is to attempt to locate the delinquent parent and then refer the case for legal action. The state simply does not have the advantages of the technology, staff and the techniques of a collection agency in finding the delinquent parents and then convincing them to pay," said Bander.

Child Support Collectors has established a local number for inquiries, 787-8573. Custodial parents who are not currently receiving AFDC and have child support payments which are delinquent at least 30 days are encouraged to call for a free consultation.

Eligible applicants must have a court order in effect for child support, and the child must be living with the custodial parent.

CRIME BEAT

COUNTERFEIT COCAINE

Twenty-two-year-old Marcellous Johnson of 1507 E. Jones St. was charged with possession of two grams of a white substance police identify as "counterfeit cocaine." Police claim Johnson allegedly intended to sell the substance as cocaine.

FORGERY

Donald Reid Evans, 30, of 986 Harp Terrace, was arrested on April 25 and charged with forgery on a U.S. Treasury tax refund check worth \$124.41 and on an application for check-cashing purposes. Evans was also charged with resisting arrest and uttering obscenities to a police officer.

ASSAULTING FEMALE

Twenty-six-year-old Donell Smith of 970 Harp Terrace is charged with assaulting Brigitte Hood, 24, at her apartment. Police classify the alleged assault as "strong arm," but would not elaborate.

INDECENT EXPOSURE

Julio Vasquez, 42, was arrested on April 25 and charged with indecent exposure involving a 32-year-old black female. Police say the alleged sex offense occurred at the woman's apartment.

SHOPLIFTING WATCH

Belinda Person, 31, of Route 2, Box 245, Franklinton, was charged with stealing a gold watch valued at \$20 from a Capital Boulevard clothing store last week.

CONCEALED WEAPON

Ronald James Antonio Brown, 25, of 703 Bart Avenue, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. Police say Brown was arrested April 25 at 800 E. Hargett St. with a .22-caliber pistol and 48 high-velocity .22-caliber Remington bullets.

NEWS BRIEFS

TEACHER GETS TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

Sherleen Corne, fourth-grade teacher at Stough Elementary School, has been awarded the Dan Royster Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$1,000, to be used in the Raleigh-Odense, Denmark Citizens for International Understanding exchange program, May 13-27. Corne has taught in North Carolina public schools for 20 years. She will use the experience in the classroom.

BRAIN ATTACKS HIT BLACKS HARDER

Thousands of African-Americans are incapacitated or killed by stroke each year. And evidence that "strokes target blacks preferentially is overwhelming and indisputable," says Edward S. Cooper, M.D., the first black to serve as president-elect of the American Heart Association.

These crippling, death-dealing "brain attacks," caused by blockages in the blood vessels supplying the brain, strike twice as often among blacks as among the white population. Stroke also strikes blacks with much greater severity and at a much earlier average age. Black males in the prime of life are especially at risk.

NCAE ELECTS LOWRY

Members of the North Carolina Association of Educators (See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)