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Parents Ask: How Can We Protect Against Violence

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

It was just another lazy night in Raleigh. It had been raining hard all afternoon, but that didn't stop fans from cramming into the Emery Gymnasium on St. Augustine's College campus to see a city-sponsored basketball game with former ACC players. It was supposed to be something positive for the community, until an eight-year-old boy, a visitor from New Jersey sent south for summer safekeeping

from the crime-ridden streets of Newark, interrupted the game, screaming and bleeding across the gym floor. He had been shot.

In Durham just two weeks earlier, the children of a housing project there were doing what they normally do when they're outside: jumping rope, swinging on the swings, running and playing. Little did they know that an argument over a drug deal nearby was about to erupt into a running gun battle, with bullets flying every-

where. One of them struck a six year old boy in the thigh. Parents there now don't know what will happen next.

Drive-by shootings and random violence is supposed to be the legacy of larger cities with bigger problems.

But now reality has set in for those of us living in the Triangle, and we know that senseless violence has come South, and is as close as just outside our doors. How we protect ourselves from it

is one thing. How we protect our children is another frightening reality altogether.

"Violence. You see violence, sometimes you can almost smell violence, or an incident... ready to happen." The voice of Ms. Mary Lewis trailed off as she turned her head, upset at the thought of what could happen one day, perhaps to her child.

The community needs to come together, she said, and develop

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FIRST BLACK WOMAN IN SPACE—Dr. Mae Jemison will be the first black woman to go into space when Space Shuttle Endeavor lifts off from Kennedy Space Center on Sept. 11. (See Story P. 2)

Ways Parents Can Protect Young Against Violence

The crime prevention specialists The CAROLINIAN have spoken with all agree that it is impossible to protect your child every minute of every day from the current surge of random violence, but here are some key tips derived from those interviews that can help you minimize the risks to your children:

- Establish a clear bond of communication between you and your children. This is important in order to educate, but also to learn and measure what they see and hear.

- Encourage your children to talk to you about what they see and hear, and make note of it in case other children and parents mention the same thing.

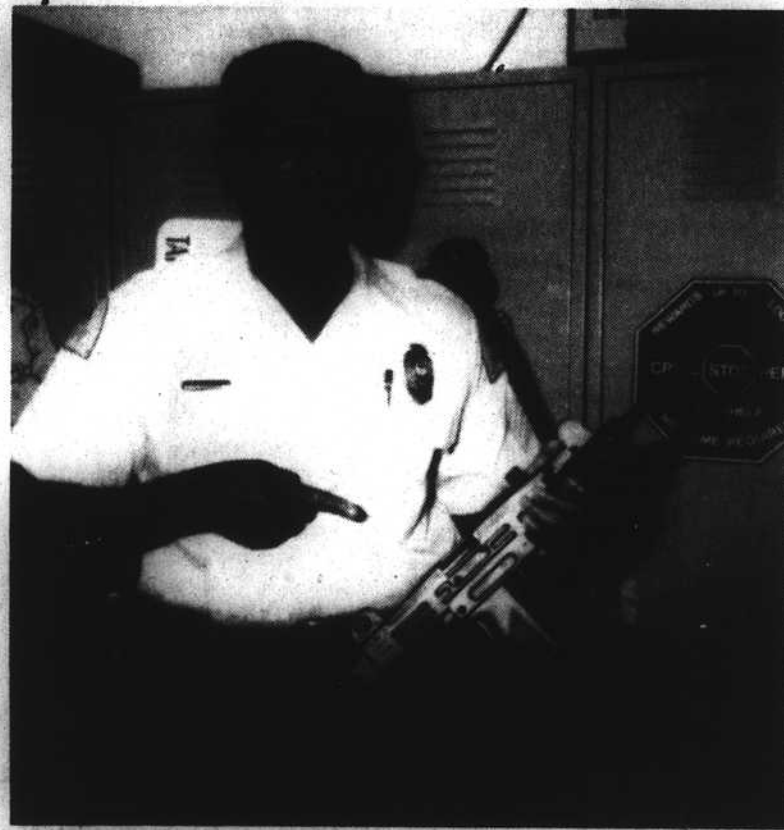
- Know your neighbors, and develop a relationship with each other so that all can keep an eye out for the others whenever possible.

- Be aware of your neighborhood and your neighbors. If you see strangers, make note of where they go and when, then make sure that your child does not frequent that area.

- Check out the area where your children play, see if there is any other activity nearby that might pose a possible danger. If there is, report it to the police, and keep your child away.

- Teach your child to be aware of his/her surroundings, and how to recognize danger (strangers, loud shouting, fights, people with

(See VIOLENCE, P. 2)



"THIS IS NO JOKE"—Semi-automatic weapons are fast becoming the guns of choice for drug enforcers coming to the Triangle area from places like New York and Miami. Sgt. E.J. Rand of the Raleigh Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit says the community needs to pay attention to what's happening around them, look out for one another, and especially look out for the children in their neighborhoods. This month alone, two children have been shot in random violence. (Photo by Cash Michaels)

Supporters Of Small Business Incubator Remain Committed

BY CASH MICHAELS
Staff Writer

Despite the difficulties, the setbacks, and the long years of planning and meeting, proponents of a proposed small business incubator in Southeast Raleigh pledge to see the project through, no matter what.

If all goes well in two to three years, Southeast will unveil the King Community Commerce Center, a \$3.5 million facility that will not only serve as a small business incubator, but also as a mini-convention center, retail outlet, and office complex. Preliminary plans also call for a youth component to the center.

The proposed site of the Commerce Center is directly behind the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Gardens on MLK Boulevard and Rock Quarry Road. With the recent dedication of the second phase of the five lane thoroughfare and the anticipation of it connecting with the Western Boulevard Extension and thus, bringing with it more development, jobs and opportunities, the proposed site is seen as key toward sparking economic growth in the African-American community.

A planning committee, chaired by Dr. Paul Vandergrift of the UNC Center for Public Television, is currently finalizing plans for a board of directors, and a first phase of the incubator to develop at an already existing building. The hope is that while the Com-

merce Center is being constructed, the first phase incubator could already be helping small business people to learn and grow, so they could then move in at the MLK Boulevard location.

"Having the King Community Commerce Center on this site would not only fulfill a dream that many of us have had in the community, but it would fulfill the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that African-American people

(See INCUBATOR, P. 2)

Black Dollar Week Set For Sept. 5-13th

To again demonstrate the buying power of African-Americans nationwide, the NAACP will hold its ninth annual Black Dollar Week demonstration Labor Day week, Sept. 5-13, NAACP Executive Director/CEO Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks has announced.

"Once again, we are asking African-American consumers to vote their economic interest by spending \$2 bills and Susan B. Anthony dollar coins for their purchases prior to and during Labor Day week," Dr. Hooks said. He added:

"By participating in this national demonstration, African-Americans can demonstrate to majority suppliers who want our continued support that we in turn ex-

(See BLACK DOLLAR, P. 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

NCCU STUDENTS RETURN

Alumni from the eastern half of the state are converging on N.C. Central University this week to welcome new and returning students. Representatives of 15 chapters of the alumni association will meet incoming freshmen at three dormitories. They will help the students and their parents move belongings into the buildings.

BASIC SKILLS GRANT

The North Carolina Department of Community Colleges has announced the awarding of a \$10,000 grant to the Raleigh Housing Authority to implement an ABC-Basic Skills Program in the Halifax Court community. The Housing Authority will subcontract with MOTHERHEAD, Inc. for assistance in program implementation. The literacy program will assist parents to improve their reading skills so that they can read to their children. Speaking, listening, reading and writing skills will be integrated and equally emphasized.

CLEANUP DAY FOR KIDS

The children in Halifax Court participated in a cleanup and safety day program recently. Upon completion of the cleanup, the kids were entertained by area fire and police departments who offered safety tips. An added attraction were police and fire department dogs along with McGruff the Crime Dog. (See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

Supreme Court Decision Prompts NAACP Action

Responding to the latest decision by the Supreme Court to temporarily block a lower court injunction which would have halted the forced repatriation of Haitian refugees, the NAACP has stepped up its preparations for a demonstration on their behalf to be held in front of the White House on Sept. 9.

The demonstration was initially announced at a press conference by Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, NAACP executive director and chief executive officer; NAACP National Board Chairman Dr. Wil-

liam F. Gibson; and TransAfrica Executive Director Randall Robinson on July 14 during the NAACP's annual convention in Nashville.

It was described as a critical statement of conscience by both the NAACP and TransAfrica in support of the fair treatment of the Haitian refugees by the Bush administration.

In a statement, the two organizations said:

"The jointly sponsored 'Haiti Campaign' calls on African-Americans from across the country to

converge on Washington, D.C. on Sept. 9 to protest the administration's cruel and discriminatory policy.

"The protest will be part of the larger campaign to restore democracy in Haiti through all legal means. The effort will be closely tied to the support of several legislative initiatives pending before Congress. The NAACP and TransAfrica will urge members of Congress to act expeditiously, before the final adjournment in October, to enact the following pending leg-

(See PROTEST, P. 2)



BB&T DONATES \$50,000 TO SHAW UNIVERSITY—Branch Banking and Trust recently donated fifty-thousand dollars to Shaw University's "Wings for the Future" Capital Campaign. The donation will be used to establish endowed student scholarships in the University's Business/Finance area. Dr. Talbert O. Shaw (center),

flanked by BB&T executives, said "our future will be shaped in large measure by those who are prepared to become leaders in business and financial sphere of our society. This gift by BB&T is indeed an investment in providing stable leadership in the area that is so vital to our economy".

CRIME BEAT

Editor's Note: This column, a fixture of The CAROLINIAN in years past, has returned to our pages in hopes of deterring crime in our community. The information contained herein is taken from public arrest records and does not necessarily mean those mentioned are guilty of crimes.

COCAINE POSSESSION

Police arrested 21-year-old Tremain Anthony Avery of 521 Solar Drive and charged him with possession of cocaine with intent to sell and distribute. Police say the location of the crime was the 1800 block of Proctor Road. Avery allegedly was caught with one plastic bag containing 10 crack cocaine rocks valued at \$200.

CAR THEFT

Police arrested 21-year-old Eric Bernard Hagens of 1148 Clanton St. and charged him with possession of a stolen car. Police say Hagens allegedly had the 1981 two-door Datsun 280ZX belonging to 30-year-old Elton Lamont Mosley of 1715 Hamlin St.

MARIJUANA

Police arrested 23-year-old Issaac Michael Foye of 2009 Chesterfield Court and charged him with possession of marijuana. Police say that Foye was caught on the 900 block of Washington Terrace with three grams of pot.

SHOPLIFTING MEAL

Police arrested 33-year-old Michael Anthony Bunch of 926 1/2 E. Jones St. and charged him with shoplifting from a supermarket at 100 Raleigh Blvd. Police say Bunch allegedly took one bell pepper, two flounder filets, one box of Velveeta shells, two rib-eye steaks and one New York strip steak.

ASSAULT

Police arrested 28-year-old Wade Hampton Wright of 775 Jackson Road, Bennettsville, S.C., and charged him with misdemeanor assault on 22-year-old Jessie Ryan Clark of 406 S. Jones St. in Pembroke. Police say the alleged assault with fists took place in Room 223 of 1625 Capital Blvd.