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Religion

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Largest evening newspaper in The Carolinas

Rain
Low upper 30s — High near 50
Rain chance — 70%
Details, Page 7C

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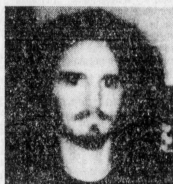
Charlotte, North Carolina, Saturday, Feb. 7, 1981

C

Police arrest suspect in shooting of officer

By JOHN WILDMAN and LU STANTON

Charlotte police this morning arrested Charles Allen Garmon, 22, 1801 Beckwith Place, in the Friday night shooting of patrolman Benjamin E. Somerville. Garmon was arrested at a house in the 2300 block of Chesterfield Avenue in east Charlotte at 7:10 a.m. He was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, armed robbery and auto theft. In addition, two warrants for his arrest in connection with unrelated incidents are on file, police said.



Charles Allen Garmon

Dozens of police officers, bloodhounds and the police helicopter scanned the city late Friday and early today, searching for a man who shot and seriously injured Somerville, 23, a Baker I team officer. Somerville had stopped a man identified as Garmon for failing to dim his high-beam headlights

when the driver got out of the car and shot Somerville twice — once in the left shoulder and once in the right leg.

Police said apparently the driver, unknown to Somerville, had just committed an armed robbery and thought Somerville was trying to arrest him.

Somerville, 23, was in stable but guarded condition in the in-

tensive care unit at Presbyterian Hospital early today. He underwent surgery expected to take about four hours around 10:30 p.m. Friday. City police Capt. David Glenn said the shot in the shoulder apparently severed an artery. Glenn said hospital personnel said it appeared Somerville was shot with a small-caliber weapon.

Somerville has been on the police force for two years. Glenn gave this account of the incident:

Terry Lee Knox of Clover, S.C., told police he picked up a hitchhiker and the two went to Tuesday's restaurant at Eastland Mall.

Knox told police they left Tuesday's about 7 p.m. and, while traveling down Shamrock Drive, the hitchhiker pulled a handgun and said "empty your pockets." The man forced Knox out of the car and then drove off in the 1962 brown Buick owned by Knox's mother.

Glenn said Somerville was patrolling in the area when he met a car with the headlights on bright. Somerville flashed his headlights a couple of times but the other driver didn't dim his lights. Somerville made a U-turn, turned on his blue light and the 1962 brown Buick stopped on Cardiff Avenue. When Somerville pulled up behind it and got out of his patrol car, the driver got out of this car and shot Somerville, Glenn said.

"Somerville said he was shot in the shoulder first," Glenn said. "That knocked him down, and while he was on the ground the man fired three or four more shots and shot him in the leg."

A Shamrock resident who saw Somerville on the ground called police for help.

The brown Buick later was found abandoned on Palm Avenue, about a block from the scene of the shooting. Police officers

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Wounded officer wheeled into Presbyterian Hospital's emergency room. (News photo/Tom Franklin)

For freshman legislator Jim Black, it's a waiting game

By DAN FESPERMAN

RALEIGH — Look at state Sen. Harold Baker over there, sitting in a comfy chair and sipping a cup of coffee, waiting for a committee meeting to begin.

It's early morning, and Baker, a North Wilkesboro Republican, is ready for a challenging day of state lawmaking.

Slowly, an expression of quiet horror passes over Baker's face. He looks around him and sees only state representatives. Not a single senator in sight. He's come to the wrong meeting.

As inconspicuously as possible, Baker picks up his coffee, adjusts his tie and leaves the room. A couple of reporters chuckle as the door closes behind him.

Now look at Rep. Joe Hackney from Chapel Hill. He's making a mottio to send one of his bills to a House subcommittee: "I move that, uh, that, uh, uh... What do I say now? I'm new here."

Ah, freshman legislators. They make such fun mistakes.

It's almost like a college basketball player: "Well, he dribbled the ball off his foot, but he's only a freshman."



For Rep. Jim Black, it's a waiting game so far in Raleigh. (News photo/Jeep Hunter)

So then what's going on with Mecklenburg County's only freshman state legislator, Rep. Jim Black?

The 1981 session of the General Assembly is 3 1/2 weeks old, and the 45-year-old Black has yet to stumble into a serious outburst of Freshmanitis.

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24 men arrested in West Trade decoy operation

By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

"Let's roll on it!" A compact car jolts across West Trade Street near Cedar Street coming to rest inches from an old Chevrolet station wagon bearing two middle-age men.

"Which one?" police officer Bud Morgan asks a young woman wearing a fur coat. "That one," the woman says, pointing to a somber man wearing a bright yellow cap who had gotten out of the car on the driver's side.

It's about 9:30 Friday night on West Trade Street, Charlotte's low-class, low-rent red light district, and the man in the yellow cap just offered officer Rikki Becker \$10 for sex.

Much to that man's dismay — and more than a dozen others Friday night — the woman with long blonde hair was a Charlotte police decoy seeking men allegedly willing to pay for sex.

About 15 minutes later: "Roll on Rikki!" came a voice from one of the "cover cars."

Rikki has given her signal that another man has made an offer.

It's time to make the arrest and another voice commands, "Roll on Rikki!"

And the unmarked car, a van and a couple of blue and white squad cars surround a bronze Plymouth Satellite, a bumper sticker for a religious radio station on the rear bumper.

"I didn't proposition that woman," says the driver, a tall black man, his outstretched hands practically touching the middle of the roof as he's searched by officers. "She asked me if I want a date..."

As he's carried away by a police reserve officer, a sworn, unpaid citizen who serves at the request of the department, Bobbi Hall, 29, stands on a corner two blocks away, hands thrust into jacket pockets to ward off the cold, feet wide apart — waiting. Before the night is out, she'll have a nose red from the cold and arrest nine men who allegedly propositioned her.

Twenty-four arrests in all — a good night's work, Capt. Roy Phillips said. By comparison, Phil

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WTVI may merge with UNC Center

By STEVE SNOW

CHAPEL HILL — Charlotte public television station WTVI and the University of North Carolina Center for Public Broadcasting may merge after all.

Last month it appeared the center (which operates WUNC-Channel 58) had slammed the door on consideration of a merger with WTVI-Channel 42, which is licensed to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education.

But the door was opened again Friday when the center's board of trustees passed a resolution calling for meetings between Jake Dunlop, director of the center, and Dr. Jay Robinson, superintendent of the school board.

The meetings, to set up a timetable that could lead to a merger "that would serve the best inter-

ests of the Charlotte region," Dunlop said, could begin as early as next week.

The center's abrupt about-face on a merger caught WTVI station manager Paul Marion, who was at the trustees' meeting, by surprise. "To tell you the truth, I don't know what it means," he said. "It certainly looked like a dead issue. I don't understand why they changed their minds."

In January, at a meeting of groups representing the center and WTVI, the word that there would be no merger was so clear it was unmistakable, Marion said. Then, Dunlop had said essentially that the center's real interest was in Channel 42's signal, which is clearer and stronger than the Channel 58 signal — and nothing else.

Based on that meeting, the

WTVI task force decided to ask the board of education to let WTVI become a non-profit corporation — the Charlotte Public Broadcasting Authority — and eventually give the broadcasting license to the Authority.

William Carmichael, chairman of the center's task force, indicated the change of heart on the merger came after the facts gathered at the meetings were reviewed with university officials.

"We have now exhausted the fact-finding efforts," Carmichael said, "and it's time to sit down and seek accommodation with the school board."

"perhaps for broadcast, perhaps not."

Dunlop also said he thought WTVI's task force acted a little hastily in requesting the non-profit corporation be set up.

"I was surprised they did that," he said. "They didn't give us a chance to make our report, to make our recommendations to our board."

When contacted later about the renewed interest in a merger, Robinson said he had agreed to meet with Dunlop and was optimistic an agreement could be worked out.

"I always felt the university folks were reasonable people," he said. Robinson praised the work of WTVI's task force and staff.

"I know this is bound to be con-

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INSIDE

Jim Bakker and his family have moved from their Charlotte home to a double-wide mobile home at PTL's Heritage USA complex in Fort Mill, S.C.

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Evening prayer

The Lord is my light who will watch and guide me through the night.

— Meredith Beck, 11, St. Vincent's Church

Today's chuckle

Sign in a photo shop: "Think Negative."

For service or home delivery, call collect: 704-379-6716

Mecklenburg drinkers turning to bigger bottles

By GAIL SMITH
of the news staff

Mecklenburg drinkers are buying their liquor in bigger bottles these days, which can save them money but could penalize the county.

The volume of liquor and the number of bottles sold in Mecklenburg County were down from July 1 through Dec. 31 — the first half of this fiscal year — compared to the same period the year before. And there seems to be a trend toward buying the bigger bottles.

So, while there's less liquor consumed there's probably more money in the wallet, because larger containers are generally a better buy per ounce.

"I don't think there's any question people are buying the largest size. It is

cheaper. We're selling less pints," said Henry Severs, general manager of the Mecklenburg County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

But this trend could mean less money for Mecklenburg County, which reaps the benefits of a 5-cents-a-bottle tax that goes toward alcohol rehabilitation and prevention.

The liquor-store customer, when reaching for one bigger bottle rather than two smaller ones, saves some money but takes a nickel out of the county's coffers.

Severs isn't surprised that people are turning to the bigger bottles, but he's a little puzzled about the slowdown in sales.

"Whether there's less drinking or whether people are turning to wine, I don't know," Severs said.

From July through December, the 19 ABC stores in the county reported selling 2,593,028 bottles — which is 122,277 fewer than for the same period in 1979.

And, putting it in liquid terms, the stores sold 14,097 gallons less than in 1979.

Sales for July through December were \$696,644 higher than in 1979, but the profits of \$2,326,945 were down by \$11,115.

"Sales figures will make it appear we're doing a lot more business because of the inflationary factor," Severs said.

Prices on almost all liquor have gone up, and that's one reason for the popularity of the big bottles.

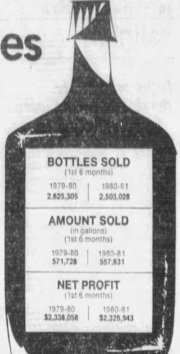
Also, Severs said, some customers may be confused about the new metric

system of measurement — all those liters and milliliters — and just figure they're better off with the big one.

Last December, when the stores were crowded with customers, half-gallon (really 1.75 liters) sales were up by 3,642 bottles over 1979, despite a general decrease in sales.

"There are larger bottles sold, smaller bottle sales are off and there's less consumption. With less total gallons, there must be less consumed, right?" Severs said.

Bill Hester, administrator of the state ABC board, said he couldn't give statewide figures. But Charlotte-Mecklenburg could be a fairly good barometer of trends because it accounts for 11 to 12 percent of total state sales, Hester said.



Police arrest shooting suspect

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quickly roped off the area and called in the bloodhounds.

The dogs tracked a scent to a nearby 1/3 General Store at 1918 Shamrock Dr., where a clerk said a man fitting the suspect's description had come shopping in a little earlier to buy a beer. The dogs then tracked the man's scent to a house at Beckwith Place, believed to be where the suspect's parents live.

According to police, the suspect was seen driving a 1968 light green Mustang, thought to belong to his parents later in the night. He was believed to be armed. The Mustang was recovered early Saturday on Thermal Road off Monroe Road.

Dozens of residents watched as police officers swarmed around the Cardiff Avenue shooting site while Charlotte MEDIC personnel treated Somerville, who was conscious and talking after the incident.

M.L. Grose of 2833 Springway Drive, said he heard "five or six" shots shortly after 7 p.m., while working in his basement.

Then, he said, he heard a man yell, "Oh my God, man."

Grose, 70, said he ran out of the house, thinking, "I may get shot" but said he wanted to help.

He said he found Somerville lying in the street, near the cruiser on which the blue light was still flashing, and called police.

One officer said the neighborhood's residents "weren't afraid to get involved" and got blankets for Somerville and comforted him.

Grose expressed the sentiments of several residents at the scene when he said, "Any man who would shoot a policeman who's trying to protect the citizens should get the death penalty."

A police officer at the scene confessed the shooting "shook him up."

"We try not to think about something like this," he said. "But this brings it home."

Capt. Glenn said, "You know how police officers are when one of our own gets shot. The first impulse is to put him in the back of the patrol car and get him to the hospital as quickly as possible.

Hester said it was a good thing that didn't happen because the gunshot wound is so close to his spinal cord that it could have caused him to be paralyzed."



Freshman legislator Jim Black chats with Sen. Craig Lawing, left, and Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green, right. (News photo/Jeep Hunter)

Rep. Black warms bench, waits to play

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In other words, he hasn't dribbled the ball off his foot. Then again, he's mostly been warming the bench, waiting for the right moment to get into the game.

"I'm probably not approaching being a legislator like some freshmen would," Black said, sitting in his office in the state Legislative Building. "I'm not getting up on a table and shouting."

So far, Black hasn't introduced any of the more than 100 bills put before the House. And, he doesn't plan to do so "anytime soon." It takes freshman legislators need to listen and learn.

Voters may remember Black from the distinct yellow and black campaign signs which plastered his name and face all over Charlotte.

In the November election, Black eased into the Mecklenburg House delegation along with seven incumbents, capturing the spot vacated by Marilyn Bissell (who's now a Mecklenburg County Commissioner).

To an extent, Black arrived in Raleigh prepared.

He made several trips to the capital during the last legislative session to watch the General Assembly in action.

Back in those days, he said, "I used to think there was a lot of time wasted."

Then during the first few days of this session, when ceremonial and organizational matters dominated, he again worried a bit about the idle hours.

But he still kept his mouth shut, while other newcomers started opening theirs.

"There are so many people who are so anxious to get to it that they get over anxious," Black said. "I think some freshmen early on asked too many questions when they hadn't sat there long enough and listened."

And there were other mistakes to learn from, like that of the freshman senator who, in a joking mood, voted against a resolution to invite Gov. Jim Hunt to address the General Assembly at 1:30 p.m.

At least part of the reason for Black's planned reticence is Mecklenburg Sen. Craig Lawing.

Lawing has been something of a mentor for Black. "He's my coach," Black said with a grin after Lawing ducked into Black's office for a chat.

Lawing, on his way out, hailed another legislator who was passing by and said, "Meet Jim Black. He's the pick of the litter."

Black's silence certainly hasn't kept him completely flawless,

however. "A couple of times in the beginning I was quick to say yes when somebody would approach me for support on something," Black said.

Now he's tied to those commitments.

He's also learned that the early days of idle time weren't indicative of the days ahead.

"There's a lot more to this than people think," he said. "I've realized that there were quite so many things to learn. You have to study a lot."

Black's homework might be a bit more complex than that of most freshmen.

He's one of only two newcomers on the House Rules Committee, and he's the only Mecklenburg member of the House Committee on Congressional Districting.

In addition, he's also on the House Committees for ABC Laws, Health, Small Business, Appropriations Base Budget and Expansion Budget, and Human Resources.

Committee meetings usually fill his mornings, followed by the daily House session at 1:30 p.m.

Then there are letters and phone calls to take care of.

He's also discovering the problems that come with juggling Raleigh weekdays with Mecklenburg weekends.

Besides missing his family, he also is away from his job all week. A Matthews optometrist, Black estimates he'll lose half a year's income. "I work on Saturday, which is something I haven't done in a long time, and I've worked some on Sunday afternoons."

He can also squeeze in a day at his home office on Monday, since the House doesn't convene until 8 p.m. Mondays.

"But my overhead goes on full blast," he said.

In compensation, the state pays him a salary of \$6,839, plus \$50 a day during the legislative session for living expenses, \$172 per month for incidental expenses associated with being a lawmaker (postage, phone bills, office costs, etc.) and 25 cents per mile for each weekend trip home.

The sacrifices are tough, Black said. "Of course, it sounds like I'm wanting people to appreciate me, but it's just that I appreciate so much more the people who've gone before me."

"The stigma of politics is something that I just don't understand. I know of very few people who've actually gained anything from being up here."

"You get a certain amount of attention and spotlight, which some people need for their ego, but there's always somebody ready to criticize."

WTVI, UNC Center move toward merger

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fusing to folks that worked hard on this and then seemed to reach an impasse," Robinson said, "but I want it to be clear that it was just their work that has gotten us to the point where we can work out something."

"I think that what we do if this (merger) comes about should be tailored to meet the needs of our community," Robinson said.

He said he has "no problem at all" with the concept of a community-supported, non-profit station such as the one envisioned by the WTVI task force.

"We have a lot of options open to us," Robinson said. "It may be nice to have two public television stations, but I don't think we can justify it from a cost standpoint. We want to put two stations together and make a strong commu-

nity asset."

The school board, which gives the station \$500,000 a year, has been trying since 1975 to get WTVI out of its budget. The \$500,000, when added to the rest of the school budget, artificially drives up the amount budgeted for each student in the system. The result is that the federal government gives the school board less money for students.

"The point I have been trying to make all along is that (WTVI) is not, and should not be, the highest priority of the school system," Robinson said. "We need a group to take over the station that will make that its top priority."

"The last thing I want in the world is for the station to go dark (off the air)," he said. "I believe enough support could be generated through the school board, the county and the city and private corporations and individuals, that the station can be saved."

24 men arrested on West Trade

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lips' Charlie Z team arrested 24 men on prostitution charges in two nights a few weeks ago. With more undercover policemen on the street, Friday night's total could be more than doubled, Phillips believes.

The seamy side of West Trade doesn't stop at vignettes of prostitutes hustling. Prostitution also breeds venereal disease, robberies, assaults and even murders, Phillips said.

"They're lucky," Phillips said of the men arrested. "If they picked up a prostitute they might get VD, their head bashed in or their pocketbook stolen. I'd say the odds are against them with all the prostitutes and pimps out here."

Long a haven for prostitutes, pimps and wins, the area has become an embarrassment to city fathers, who now want to clean up the area by redevelopment.

A committee appointed by Mayor Eddie Knox is calling for aggressive enforcement of prostitution laws and the construction of a long-term treatment center for vagrant alcoholics. And Knox has vigorously lobbied for either a new state office building or the location of state offices in an existing building in the area.

"Prostitution is the oldest profession. You won't stamp it out," Phillips said. "But when they operate so openly out on the street — they got so bad they'd flag me down in the middle of the street. They'd stop family men with their families in their cars."

With convicted prostitutes in and out of a revolving prison door, police began arresting the men — the "tricks," or "johns" as they're known on the street — who keep the hookers in business.

The theory behind that tactic is that news accounts of the crackdown, coupled with word of mouth — which gave Trade its reputation across the Piedmont — will deter illegal activity on the strip.

After all, police say, without customers, the prostitutes would be out of business.

"You couldn't have picked a better night with the boat show (basketball games) and everything," said Sgt. Bob Schurmer, who was directing the operation. Sporting events and conventions mean lots of business, police said.

Ms. Hall's tour of duty on various street corners was a return engagement — she made a number of prostitution arrests two weeks ago. But Ms. Becker, 24, on Joann from the Charlotte 5 team, made her first prostitution arrests

as a decoy Friday.

When the man is told he's under arrest, Ms. Becker said. "They just usually say 'Oh, s---' or something like that. I wait for the cover car to come then I say, 'Keep your hands where I can see them — Officer Becker — you're under arrest.'"

Police had few problems arresting the subjects Friday night although they did discover one man with a revolver, and another with a knife hidden in one of his boots.

Ms. Hall spent about 10 minutes talking with a man who thought she was a cop, she said. So, naturally, she told him that she thought he was a cop. Eventually, the man succumbed and made an offer, she said. Raymond Dennis Ketchum, 27, a Statesville police officer, was arrested and charged with soliciting for prostitution. His pleas to be set free were disregarded by police.

The decoys are cautioned not to entrap suspects (such as offering their sexual services to the men for pay) — an illegal method of making undercover arrests, since the men must make the offer. But the men who cruise the West Trade merry-go-round, are there for a purpose and some arrests take as little as 60 seconds.

At the end of a long, cold, apprehensive and adrenalin filled

5½ hours, "We might have prevented assaults, robberies, disease and made some pimps' pocketbook flatter," Phillips said.

"We've got 24 or 25 now," Schurmer says over the radio. "We're ready to call it a night."

- Those arrested include:
- Robert Preston Richardson, 37, 223 McLeans Dr., Charlotte, soliciting crime against person
 - Michael Clarence Pender, 24, 458 Rosewood Dr., Charlotte, soliciting crime against person
 - James Earl Pender, 47, 341 Barringer Drive, Charlotte, soliciting crime against person
 - Joseph Curry Perry, 19, Wadesboro, 217 W. Main St., Wadesboro, soliciting crime against person
 - John Lewis Duncan, 22, 2212 N. Pine St., Mecklenburg, soliciting crime against person
 - James Green Knight, 41, Catalaw, soliciting crime against person
 - Gerard Wallace Johnson, 45, 1420 Tark Oak Drive, Charlotte, soliciting crime against person
 - Robert Lee Jenkins, 31, Princeton, W.Va., soliciting crime against person
 - Ray Wilcox, 37, 495 Patton Ave., Asheville, soliciting crime against person
 - Michael Ray Ivell, 21, 1481 Broadwood Ave., Charlotte, soliciting crime against person
 - 154 Alfred Morris Almond, 24, 3715 Centers East Court, East. A student, soliciting for prostitution
 - Alis Mord Young, 23, 5715 Centers East Court, Charlotte, soliciting for prostitution
 - Raymond Dennis Ketchum, 27, 2560 University Drive, Charlotte, soliciting for prostitution
 - William Starnes, 37, 330 Anne St., Winston-Salem, soliciting for prostitution
 - Arthur Vanne Ward, 26, 1400 Looper Pole, Truckee, soliciting for prostitution
 - Johnny James Turner, 19, 2121 Barringer Drive, Charlotte, soliciting for prostitution
 - Raymond Dennis Ketchum, 27, Wadesboro, metal
 - Thomas Dale Goodman, 24, 3013 Lancaster Road, Charlotte, soliciting for prostitution
 - 24, UNC-Vikes, soliciting for prostitution



Decoy, in light jacket and boots, walks away as police firm men in West Trade roundup. (News photo/Elmer Horton)