

NEWS BRIEFS

WOMAN: TWO WHITE MEN CARVED THE LETTERS KKK ON MY CHEST

TEXARKANA, Texas (AP) - Police are investigating allegations by a black woman who says two white men assaulted her and carved the letters KKK on her chest. The 32-year-old woman was hospitalized last week for a bump on her head, cuts and bruises. "We are looking into an incident that happened earlier this week where a woman was abducted and assaulted," said Cass County Chief Deputy Ronnie Fincher. When contacted Sunday, police said they would have no further comment on the case until Tuesday. The woman said the attack took place in Bivins, about 150 miles east of Dallas. Her name was being withheld to protect her family. The woman told the *Texarkana Gazette* she was walking home at about 6 p.m. Wednesday when she was approached by two men driving a pickup truck. She said they wore sheets or pillow cases over their heads and taunted her with a racist name.

GHANA BUSINESS CONFERENCE SLATED FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

A one-day conference on doing business in the West African nation of Ghana is scheduled to take place Sept. 29 at the Ghanaian embassy in Washington, D.C. Conference participants include James Thomas, president of the National Association of Black State Legislators, Charles Yancey, president of the Boston City Council and Ghanaian Minister of Finance Yaw Osafo-Mafo. Scheduled workshops will include topics such as how to grow in a global economy, tourism in Ghana and health care investments in the nation. The meeting was organized to examine the promotion of economic growth of Ghana and as a tourist attraction showing "the friendly face of West Africa," said conference organizers, members of the "Let's Go, Ghana" foundation, in a statement. African-American tourism to Ghana has dramatically expanded in recent years, organizers said.

BLACK MAN SENTENCED FOR RUNNING MODERN-DAY SLAVERY RING

A federal judge in Florida recently sentenced a Black man who ran a slavery ring to four years in prison, plus three years of outside confinement. Michael Allen Lee, 43, physically abused the homeless African-American men he recruited off of the streets of several cities to work for him from sunup to sundown in the state's citrus fields. Prosecutors charged Lee would promise good pay to his workers, but deduct substantial amounts for small amounts of food and deteriorated housing for shelter. The employees, who worked and lived in unsanitary conditions and were threatened with beatings if they attempted to leave, were only paid an average \$10 a day, up to five times less than the industry standard.

NORMAN WILSON, PIONEERING BLACK REPORTER, DEAD AT 57

Norman Wilson, a pioneering Black reporter who wrote for *The Baltimore Afro-American* before becoming one of the first Black editorial writers for *The Baltimore Sun*, died late last month of a heart attack. He was 57. Wilson, who spent nearly 30 years at *The Baltimore Sun* and its now-defunct afternoon paper, *The Baltimore Evening Sun*, since 1993 served as night metropolitan editor. He had been a general assignment reporter, assistant city editor, and statehouse reporter. He began writing editorials for *The Evening Sun* in 1981. The Harlem native began his journalism career at *The Afro* in 1971. He was hired by *The Evening Sun* as a reporter the next year.

NEWSPAPER: PEOPLE OF COLOR SCARCE IN LAW PARTNER POSTS

A *New York Times* study of 12 law firms shows that there are very few people of color becoming partners in law firms. The newspaper found that only 5 percent of new law partners were non-Whites, compared to the 8 percent who joined firms in 1993. The percentage was calculated by the seven firms that revealed their numbers. Eight years is the average amount of time it takes to become a partner in a legal firm. *The Times* quoted the National Association for Law Placement in saying lawyers of color last year totaled 3.4 percent. Factors contributing to the lower numbers, according to those interviewed in the article, include lack of association with important clients, lack of mentorship and an increasing number of other career opportunities for lawyers.

Black collegiate enrollment down in Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - Numbers of black students are down 44 percent in this year's University of Florida freshman class, the first since Gov. Jeb Bush eliminated affirmative action in university admissions and state contracts.

Projected enrollment figures released this week by the university showed 461 black students in this year's freshman class compared to 819 last year.

Black students make up 7.2 percent of this year's freshman class of 6,365 students, compared to 11.8 percent last year.

The enrollment figures at the state's flagship university provided new ammunition to critics of Bush's decision last year to eliminate the affirmative action programs.

"I could say I told you so," said former state Rep. Tony Hill, who took part in a sit-in protest in the governor's office last year.

"We are very disappointed. We realized this was going to be this situation ... and now the jury is in."

But Bush spokeswoman Lisa Gates said minority enrollment across the 11-school university system is up. School presidents reported to

the governor this month that minority enrollment at the state's other 10 universities were projected to hold steady or rise slightly.

Earlier this week, after a federal appeals court struck down Georgia's race-based admissions policy for universities, Bush said that if Florida hadn't eliminated affirmative action, the state would now be scrambling to make changes.

"One school in no way undermines the success ... seen across the state," Gates said. "The University of Florida has acknowledged that they have work to do in

reaching out to minorities and strengthening partnerships with minority high schools."

The number of Hispanics in this year's freshman class at the University of Florida decreased 15 percent, from 838 last year to 711.

Blacks and Hispanics make up about 18 percent of the freshman class of 6,365 students. Last year, blacks and Hispanics made up almost 24 percent of the freshman class.

"We're no longer able to utilize affirmative action. That at least is a major cause," said university president Charles E. Young.

Lynching photos to be seen in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) - A collection of photos depicting dozens of American lynchings finally will be exhibited in Atlanta, the hometown of its owners, two years after opening in New York.

"Without Sanctuary" initially had trouble finding a venue here.

The Atlanta History Center expressed interest, but said it would wait until the photos could be presented in proper context.

Emory University and the National Park Service came up with a plan to display the exhibit from May 1-Dec. 1,

2002, at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. Emory plans to develop educational materials and programs related to the collection and what it depicts.

The exhibit will include 75 photographs and postcards showing corpses of young black men hanging from branches, telephone poles and, in one case, a bridge.

One image shows a young man being burned at the stake, while another shows "the half-burned head of James" on a pole.

In some of the scenes - which were mostly captured

by amateur photographers - people pose and smile next to the dangling victims.

The material was gathered over the past decade by James Allen, a Georgia-based dealer in antiques and memorabilia, and are now part of the Allen-Littlefield Collection at Emory University in Atlanta.

"There's a reality in the photos that many Americans, first of all, haven't seen and, second, want to deny," he said.

Allen said he is thrilled that the exhibit will appear at the King Site.

"It's a major destination

for a huge number of foreign tourists, and visitors from around the country," he said.

Since the idea of bringing the collection to Atlanta first arose, the public has reacted strongly both in favor of and against it.

It was only after a series of public forums at Emory and a recommendation by special commission that university President William M. Chace announced Emory's sponsorship of the exhibit.

The pictures went on display last year at the Roth Horowitz Gallery in Manhattan.

Old South advocate, Lester Maddox has cancer

ATLANTA (AP) - Former Gov. Lester Maddox, one of the Old South's last segregationist governors, said Tuesday he is "fighting a losing battle" with prostate cancer.

Maddox, 85, was diag-

nosed with cancer in 1983. He had surgery in March 1997 for intestinal blockage and has survived two heart attacks and a stroke.

Maddox told *The Associated Press* on Tuesday that he

is undergoing daily chemotherapy treatments and finds it difficult to get out of bed.

"I'm having trouble just living," he said.

He said his declining health compelled him to

speak out against a proposed Georgia bill that would revive straight-party voting, an option that was eliminated in 1994.

Maddox sent a letter Tuesday. (See Maddox, Page 14)

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ATTORNEY AT LAW



TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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