

Son, successor of Duke Ellington, dies at age 76

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mercer Ellington, a trumpet player, arranger, composer and conductor who had led the Duke Ellington Orchestra since his father's death in 1974, died Thursday in Denmark. He was 76.

Ellington's daughter, Mercedes, said her father died of heart failure in a Copenhagen hospital.

The only child of Edward Kennedy "Duke" and Edna Ellington, Mercer Ellington studied at Columbia University and the Juilliard School.

Before taking over his father's orchestra, Ellington led small groups including a band that featured Carmen McRae as vocalist. She made her recording debut with that band. He also worked as a salesman, disc jockey and record company executive.

Ellington worked on and off as trumpeter and band manager with the Duke Ellington Orchestra. He took over in 1974, when his father died.

One evening, his father told him that the band needed a new tune to record the next day. That night, he wrote "Things Ain't What They Used To Be."

2-9-05

PALLBEARERS
Friends of the Family

FLORAL BEARERS
Friends of the Family

— ACKNOWLEDGMENT —

The FAMILY would like to thank and acknowledge all of the acts of love and kindness shown to them during this period of bereavement. May God continue to richly bless each one of you.

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CHERISHING HIS MEMORY



MR. JAMAL EVANS ELLIOTT
July 28, 1977 — March 18, 1993

NEW BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2508 Crest Street
Durham, North Carolina

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1993
1:00 P.M.

Reverend Glenn R. Davis, Pastor, Officiating

— OBITUARY —

JAMAL EVANS ELLIOTT, son of Phillystine Greene and James Randolph Elliott, was born on July 28, 1977 in Durham, North Carolina. He departed this life on Thursday, March 18, 1973 in Duke University Hospital of Durham, North Carolina.

He was a ninth grade student at C.E. Jordan High School of Durham, N.C.

He was a member of White Rock Baptist Church. He served as a member of the Junior Usher Board.

He leaves to cherish their loss: his father, James Randolph Elliott of Durham, N.C.; his mother, Mrs. Phillystine Greene Elliott of Durham, N.C.; a brother, Jonathan Randolph Elliott of Durham, N.C.; a sister, Ms. Jacqueline Ellis Platt of Durham, N.C.; his grandmother, Mrs. Esther Elliott Mckenzie; uncles, aunts, cousins; and a host of other relatives and friends.

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot
change, the courage to change the things I can, and the
wisdom to know the difference.*

Mother and Father

God Wills It So

*For every cloud, a silvery light,
God wills it so,
For every vale, a shining height;
A glorious morn for every night;
And birth for labor's throe.*

*For snow's white wing, a verdant field,
A gain for loss,
For buried seed, the harvest yield;
For pain, a strength, a joy revealed;
A crown for every cross.*

— ORDER OF SERVICE —

PROCESSIONAL

HYMN ⁽⁹⁴⁾..... The Choir

SCRIPTURE — 23rd Psalm

PRAYER.....Rev. Marie Winston

SOLO.....Ms. Ida Mae Whitaker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/OBITUARY.....Ms. Virginia Jackson

HYMN.....⁽⁹⁴⁾..... The Choir

EULOGY ^{Psalm 24 - Verse 4}.....Rev. Glenn R. Davis
"Lord Give me a Clean Heart"

SOLO.....Rev. Constance Moon

RECESSIONAL

217
432

Interment
Beechwood Cemetery
Durham, North Carolina

Drivers In The Procession, Please Turn On Headlights For Safety.

3-23-93

The Herald-Sun**RICHARD J. KASPAR**

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page editor

EDITORIALS

WOODCROFT KILLING

The fateful difference

In the retrospective of a weekend, what happened Thursday at 9 Dorset Place in the Woodcroft community had a certain chilling inevitability about it. A teen-ager and four of his pals decide to break into a house in one of Durham's upscale subdivisions in broad daylight. The owner, home with a sick infant, responds with a fusillade of gunfire — and 15-year-old Jamal Elliott becomes a statistic with four bullet holes in his back. Another teen suffers minor wounds.

In the minds of many people, Woodcroft probably stands out as a middle-class enclave that, until Thursday, was as immune as any community in Durham could be to the violence that degrades daily life in so many other of the city's neighborhoods. Now the invisible ramparts of Woodcroft have been breached in a bloody incident that crosses the class and racial lines that

do so much to divide Durham and its people.

Indeed, the radio talk shows were alive Friday with callers defending Michael Earl Seagroves' armed response to the intruders. Many of the callers also denounced District Attorney Ron Stephens for charging Seagroves with manslaughter and assault with a deadly weapon.

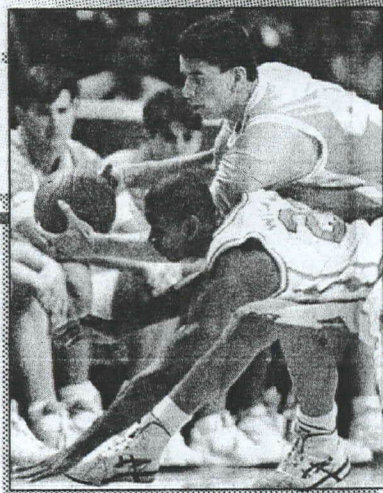
Stephens made the right decision, however unpopular it may be with many people. The Seagroves case is hardly an open-and-shut affair — Jamal Elliott's fatal wounds in the back have raised a lot of questions, as they should. Moreover, the whole issue of what constitutes reasonable force in the defense of home and hearth, and whether Seagroves' life was in danger during the confrontation, needs to be answered.

Seagroves, to his credit, appears to be cooperating fully with police investigators. Some or most of his legal expenses will be paid by a defense fund set up for him by Durham residents who believe what he did was justifiable.

The best way to find the answer to that central issue — was Jamal Elliott's death justifiable — is in court. And in today's Durham, court is about the only neutral ground you can find to deal with the aftermath of such an emotionally charged event. Any other method of dealing with this tragic incident would leave too much twisting in the winds of rumor and distrust.

However the Seagroves incident plays itself out, nobody in Durham is going to be untouched by its consequences. To many people, fed up with crime, Michael Seagroves is a latter-day Minuteman who stood his ground. To others, Jamal Elliott was a troubled teen who nonetheless possessed the potential to turn his life around and become a productive citizen.

Somewhere, it all went dreadfully wrong last Thursday. We may argue in earnest and at great length about who is ultimately responsible for the events that occurred at 9 Dorset Place, the individual or the society he lives in. Reasonable people can and do disagree on cause and effect. One thing, however, is for certain: We must more than ever find ways to deal not only with wrongs in Durham, but also with rights — the right to a safe home as well as the right of a child to grow up in an environment that teaches him the fateful difference between the two.



NCAA TOURNAMENT

◀ **TAR HEELS BACK IN SWEET 16,
BEAT RHODE ISLAND 112-67**

**Florida State
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Arkansas &
Vanderbilt**

DURHAM, NC

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SUNDAY, M

Shooting sparks debate over city's violent image

Homeowner goes to court Monday

By JAMES C. BENTON
The Herald-Sun

As reaction continues to the shooting death of a teen-ager by a homeowner during a bungled burglary, some local leaders say the incident is just one episode in a larger battle against the image of Durham as a violent city.

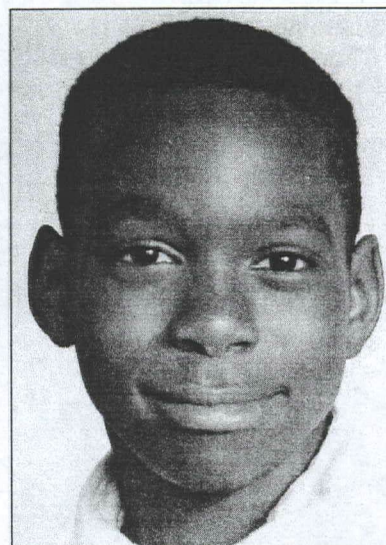
But the incident does pro-

vide a wake-up call everyone should heed.

"I hope it provides the incentive that we all need to face up to the shortcomings in our community and address them," said Durham Public Schools Chairwoman Kathryn Meyers.

The comments come as a Durham homeowner is scheduled to make his first court appearance Monday in

please see **CITY/A12**



Special to The Herald-Sun

REMEMBERED: Jamal Elliott

ROUNDUP/SECTION D

24, Tulane 63
Seton Hall 68
St. John's 74
Illinois 68

► **NO THREE-PEAT: DEVILS
FALL TO CAL, 82-77**

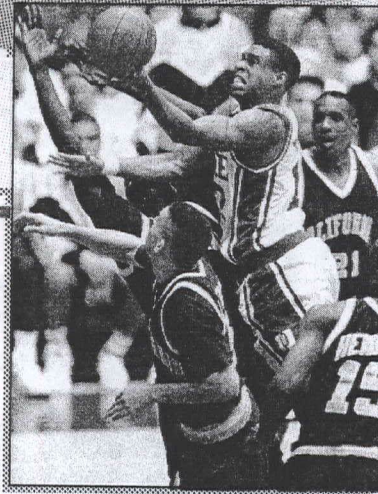
TH CAROLINA

ald-Sun

RCH 21, 1993

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Peer pressure may have led teen to participate in burglary

Uncle: Elliott wanted to be accepted

By KAMMIE MICHAEL

The Herald-Sun

Fifteen-year-old Jamal Evans Elliott wanted to be accepted by his peers and that may have led to his participation in a burglary gone bad which led to his death Thursday morning in Woodcroft.

"He was easily influenced by peer pressure. He was always with someone older who was the ring leader. He just wanted to belong and be accepted by the other kids. I think that was an extension from his family breakdown," his uncle,

Leroy McKenzie, said Saturday night.

Elliott had been trying to turn his turbulent life around before he was shot to death Thursday morning, McKenzie said.

"He was a good boy," Leroy McKenzie said. "He was not a violent kid or a bad kid. Most bad kids get in fights and tote guns or knives. He didn't do any of that."

McKenzie, who took Elliott into his home three months ago, talked with a Herald-Sun reporter in the office behind his house on Chowan Avenue in the Emorywood subdivision in south central

please see **TEEN/A12**

DETAILS IN SPORTS/SECTION C

LAND'S OLIN KILLED IN BOAT ACCIDENT | MOTON, EAGLES GET SET FOR 'ELITE EIGHT' ▶

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

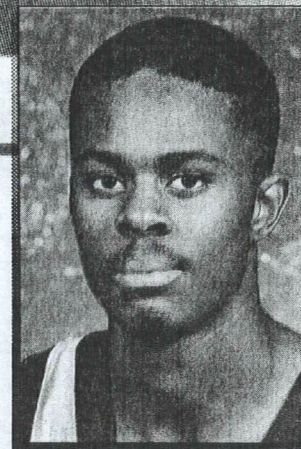
The Herald-Sun

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TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1993

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Boy's autopsy released

Homeowner receives court date

By PAUL BONNER,
KAMMIE MICHAEL
and ROCKY ROSEN
The Herald-Sun

Either of two bullet wounds — one in each lung — could have killed Jamal Elliott, the 15-year-old who was shot Thursday by a Woodcroft homeowner, a state medical examiner said Monday.

Elliott was killed after he and three other intruders allegedly broke into the garage of Michael Seagroves' home on Dorset Place in the subdivision in southern Durham.

Three bullets hit Elliott in the left back and one hit in the right

back, said Deborah Radisch, the medical examiner who performed an autopsy on Elliott. The wounds ranged in height from about shoulder level to the middle of Elliott's back, Radisch said.

Durham Police Detective D.L. Dowdy said that Elliott ran for more than a block with two collapsed lungs after being shot with a .22-caliber rifle. A second teen, 16-year-old Clifton Taft, received superficial bullet wounds on the head and shoulder as he was fleeing with Elliott.

Seagroves did not know he had shot anyone until he was told by

please see **SHOOTING/A2**



APPEARS IN COURT

Michael Seagroves (right) and attorney William J. Thomas III make their way to Thomas' office after appearing in court Monday. Behind Thomas is Seagroves' wife, Meribeth.

Associated Press

SHOOTING

FROM A1

police officers, Dowdy said. "They kept running and there was no screaming. He said he was not aware he had hit anybody," Dowdy said.

Detectives have not determined exactly where Elliott was or how far he was from Seagroves when he was shot.

Meanwhile, in his first court appearance Monday, Seagroves received a preliminary hearing date of April 30 on the charges of manslaughter and assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting serious injury.

In that hearing, a District Court judge will hear evidence and decide whether the case should be allowed to proceed to Superior Court. The hearing could, however, be pre-empted by any grand jury indictment on the charges before then. Seagroves has been free on bond since the night of the shooting.

William J. Thomas II, Seagroves' attorney, said he wouldn't provide details of the shooting except in court proceedings. However, he said newspaper reports about the incident have thus far been inaccurate. He declined to say what the inaccuracies were.

He also said Seagroves and his family were "deeply saddened and hurt" over the shooting.

Thomas predicted the law of "defense of habitation" will show Seagroves acted justifiably. Dozens of people have called Thomas' office to express support, he said.

"Mike Seagroves is a devoted and loving husband and father who was defending himself and his family," Thomas said. "This has been a terrifying experience for Mike and his family, and he wishes it had never happened."

Seagroves was home Thursday taking care of a sick infant son when Elliott and three other youths allegedly kicked open a side garage door and started to steal a motorcycle and set of golf clubs. Seagroves allegedly fired repeatedly at the intruders with a .22-caliber rifle and continued firing as they ran through a yard.

Sources said Monday that one shot was fired inside the garage and the rest were fired outside. Dowdy said that he does not know how many shots were



FUNERAL SERVICES: Pallbearers carry the casket of Jamal Elliott, the 15-year-old killed during a burglary attempt last week, from funeral services at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Monday.

The Herald-Sun/PETER SCHUMACHER

Also on Monday, one of Seagroves' supporters said many people have told him they are contributing to a fund to help pay his legal costs.

Hank Young, a Woodcroft resident who said he didn't know Seagroves until after the shooting, said he helped start the defense fund, which will be handled by Thomas's office.

"I've had a number of telephone calls this weekend from people wanting to know where they could contribute," Young said. "I hope there will be a tremendous groundswell and there will be sufficient funds to provide him with a first-rate defense."

Young said he hopes people also will make contributions to Elliott's family to defray his funeral expenses.

"I'd like to see something done for them as well," Young said. "Their lives were likewise altered forever."

court appearance Monday, hundreds of mourners packed New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Crest Street in Elliott's emotionally charged funeral.

One speaker urged greater efforts in Durham to reach out to troubled youths to prevent such deaths.

"I think it is incumbent upon us in this community to join hands and make sure that this does not happen again," said Gloria Vaca, director of Durham Companions. "To become involved in working with children at risk, so that there are no more needless funerals."

Vaca said it was the second funeral of a young boy to die violently in Durham that she has attended in the past few months.

The other was that of James China, gunned down outside a home on Old Oxford Highway by a girl who allegedly grabbed

5th teen is sought in break-in

By KAMMIE MICHAEL

The Herald-Sun

Durham police detectives are searching for a fifth teen suspect in the Woodcroft break-in Thursday that left one juvenile dead and the homeowner under arrest.

The teen has been identified as Troy Eugene



EVANS

Evans, 17, of 1315 Willowdale Drive. He had not been arrested by late Monday.

Three other teens, Clifton Taft, 16, of 7027 Chanticleer Drive; John Wayne Webb, 19, of 612-B Barton St.; and James Edward Holloman, 17, of 902 Brandon Road, have been arrested on break-in charges stemming from the incident. A fourth teen, Jamal Elliott, 15, of 1211 Chowan St., died after he was shot four times in the back by the homeowner.

Anyone with information on Evans' whereabouts is asked to call Detective D.L. Dowdy at 560-4440 or CrimeStoppers at 683-1200.

TEEN

FROM A1

Durham.

The comfortable subdivision is much like Woodcroft. Children played basketball and rode bicycles as dogs ran beside them Saturday evening.

Storm of controversy

Elliott's death and the charges filed against the homeowner who shot him have generated a storm of controversy since Thursday.

Many people are furious that criminal charges were filed against the homeowner, Michael Seagroves of 9 Dorset Place, who is out of jail on \$25,000 bond. Many others believe that shooting an unarmed burglar was excessive.

Four other teens have been charged with the break-in to Seagroves' home. Three have been arrested — all students at Jordan High School.

McKenzie said his nephew should not have been breaking into Seagroves' house, but he is angry that Elliott was shot as he was fleeing.

"Just the idea of Jamal getting shot in the back four times ..., " McKenzie said, his voice tailing off.

When asked what he would do if someone broke into his home, McKenzie said he would not shoot if his life was not threatened.

"By being a godly man, I feel there is nothing I have worth taking anybody's life for," he said.

"If my life wasn't threatened, I think a warning shot or a citizen's arrest would be sufficient," he said.

McKenzie, who is a minister at New Greater Macedonia Church, said he has been able to forgive Seagroves for shooting his nephew.

The anger over the incident turned ugly Saturday when the

McKenzies received an anonymous telephone call.

"Someone called today and told my wife they were glad Jamal was dead and hung up the phone," McKenzie said.

Dramatic improvement

McKenzie acknowledged that his nephew had had a troubled past, but said Elliott made a dramatic improvement during the three months he lived with the McKenzie family.

"I felt we had a strong chance to turn Jamal around had we been given more time. Now his option to improve his life is gone," McKenzie said.

McKenzie, also a national sales director for an insurance company, said he took in his nephew because he had had similar problems as a teen-ager, but was able to turn his life around.

"I took him in because he was a good boy. I knew he needed somebody to be a male figure up over him," McKenzie said.

Start of troubles

Elliott's troubles seemed to start about four years ago when his parents split up, McKenzie said. "He couldn't deal with the idea of his parents breaking up," he said.

Today, Elliott's father is in a rehabilitation hospital, unable to walk or speak because of a stroke he suffered five months ago at the age of 47.

On Friday, McKenzie said, he broke the news to his brother about Elliott.

"He was heartbroken and crying. We were afraid he would have another stroke when we told him," McKenzie said.

Several months ago, McKenzie took Elliott to Trinity House, where he hoped his nephew could get some help.

"I was hoping that things

could work out better. Most of what Jamal needed was counseling for his situation with peer pressure and low self-esteem," McKenzie said.

Elliott's arrests for breaking and entering and his problems in school could be traced to peer pressure and his need to fit in, McKenzie believes.

A Woodcroft resident whose son attended school with Elliott said her son described him in much the same way as his uncle.

"My son said, 'Mom, Jamal is not a bad boy. He is real nice.' He told me Jamal got in trouble because of who he hung around with. He would do whatever people told him to do to be accepted by his peers," said the woman, who asked that her name not be used.

McKenzie said he and his wife worked hard with Elliott, taking him to church and encouraging him in his school work.

"We called and checked at school. We communicated with his teachers. We got him back on track doing better in school. During the past month or so, he was doing his work.

"Wednesday night he told my wife he was going to bring his average up and go to summer school. Before he had [given] up on himself," McKenzie said.

The McKenzies tried to keep track of Elliott's whereabouts.

"He was not allowed out after 7 p.m. He was not able to go visit his friends out of the community. We told him he would have to earn that right."

McKenzie's three children — a daughter on the honor roll at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh and two sons, ages 12 and 15, who are both honor roll students — are very disturbed by Elliott's death, he said.

GE ONE

CITY

FROM A1

Durham County Superior Court. The homeowner, 6-year-old Michael Earl Seagroves, faces manslaughter and aggravated assault charges in connection with the shooting of two teenagers during a bungled burglary attempt at his home Thursday. Seagroves is free on \$25,000 unsecured bond.

Jamal Evans Elliott, 15, a freshman at Jordan High School, died after being shot four times in the back with a .22-caliber rifle. The second teenager — 16-year-old Clifton Hester, also known as Clifton Taft III — was wounded.

The shooting has sparked outrage locally.

A defense fund has been created to help Seagroves defray legal fees. Some have expressed frustration that Seagroves was arrested because he tried to protect his home and his family.

But others said District Attorney Ron Stephens was right in bringing manslaughter charges against Seagroves. While the attempted burglary was an unfortunate incident, they said Seagroves used excessive force in trying to stop the teens.

The shooting comes at a time when Durham citizens and officials are struggling to shake the city's image as a place where crime runs rampant, often fueled by drugs.

Crime has been among a number of issues discussed among leaders recently in Durham. One notable example was an upbeat January seminar where government, business and community leaders told a gathering of human resource directors and business officials what they felt was the

proper mood of Durham despite negative impressions about the city.

Meyers, one of the people attending the meeting, said that while talking about crime in a general way is one thing, it's much different to have an incident like the shooting that illustrates it in a personal manner.

Meyers said her initial reactions were grief for the families involved in the incident and concern over how Durham Public Schools can do a better job for students. But she added: "Ultimately, it is the student who is responsible for his or her success."

The shooting gives the community a chance to examine the part it must play in keeping youth from getting into trouble, she said.

"I think it provides an opportunity for all of us to look at the role we play," she said.

Tom White, vice president for economic development with the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, said Thursday's shooting was not an incident that could be used to determine the city's image. "It's an isolated incident and it's terrible what happened ... but I think it's just one incident."

White said that industrial and commercial investment in Durham continues to grow, rounding out efforts to bring more jobs for residents. And the chamber is working with local businesses to create at least 100 jobs for area youth this summer in an effort to provide alternatives to the street.



NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

◀ WAKE SLIDES PAST UTC 81-58

DURHAM, N.C.

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ESTABLISHED 1889

FINAL

SATURDAY, M

Sources: Teens f

Community residents protest Seagroves' arrest

By TRACIE FELLERS
The Herald-Sun

From government offices to radio airwaves, Triangle citizens howled in frustration Friday about the arrest of Durham homeowner Michael Seagroves for shooting two teen-agers who broke into his garage Thursday.

Seagroves, of 9 Dorset Place in the Windermere subdivision of Durham's Woodcroft community, was charged Thursday with manslaughter and aggravated assault after he opened fire with a .22-caliber rifle on the two teens and two

companions.

Seagroves, 36, was charged with killing 15-year-old Jamal Evans Elliott and with wounding Clifton Taft, 16, who also is known as Clifton Hester. Both were students at Jordan High School.

Starting Friday morning, the Durham District Attorney's Office received scores of calls from citizens who took issue with the charges against Seagroves, an office employee said.

"There is a public outcry," the employee said. "They're please see **PROTEST/A4**

Prophecy comes true

A counselor once told Jamal Evans Elliott that he'd end up shot if he didn't keep out of trouble. The prediction came true Thursday when Elliott, 15, was shot and killed during a break-in at a Woodcroft home. Learn more about Elliott in a profile/**A4**

MENT / SECTION D

3; TECH FALLS TO SOUTHERN

TH CAROLINA

ald-Sun

SPORTS
FINAL

MARCH 20, 1993

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fleeing when shot

Homeowner to plead innocent to manslaughter in intruder's death

By PAUL BONNER
The Herald-Sun

Intruders who broke into a Woodcroft garage Thursday were fleeing across the yard as the homeowner continued firing on them with a .22-caliber rifle, killing one of the teens, sources familiar with the case said.

One of the intruders, 15-year-old Jamal Evans Elliott, died after being shot four times in the back as he ran, said his uncle, Leroy McKenzie. A second youth, Clifton Taft, also known as Clifton Hester, received superficial bullet wounds on his head and shoulder.

The owner of the house at 9 Dorset Place in Woodcroft, Michael Seagroves, faces a first court appearance Monday in Durham County District

Court on charges of manslaughter and aggravated assault. He remained free on a \$25,000 unsecured bond Friday.

Seagroves' lawyer, William J. Thomas II, contended in a prepared statement that his client acted legally in firing at Elliott and three other intruders.

"We will enter a plea of not guilty and vigorously defend these charges," Thomas said. "Mr. Seagroves' actions in this matter were well within his legal rights, and we are confident that he will be acquitted."

District Attorney Ron Stephens said that there was no evidence that the youths attacked Seagroves before he started firing.

please see **SHOT/A4**

certainly questions

to a poor family

PROTEST

FROM A1

outraged. They think it's terrible. They feel like they can't protect their own homes," she said.

A few callers took their concerns all the way to the Governor's Office of Citizens' Affairs.

"I think they just wanted to express their frustration and outrage that [Seagroves] would be charged with manslaughter. They just wanted the governor to be aware of their concerns," said Anthony Petty, an ombudsman in the Raleigh office.

Phones were ringing

A "load" of unsolicited calls at Durham's WDNC radio Friday also seemed to indicate a groundswell of support for Seagroves, said WDNC program director Barry Brown.

"I would say it's safe to say a good majority sided with the homeowner..." he said.

After receiving more than 20 calls Friday morning, the station decided to devote "Pat Patterson's Place," a local weekday afternoon talk show, to listener calls about the incident, Brown said. More than 30 listeners phoned in, he said.

"It really says a lot about how passionately people feel about this issue," Brown said.

"This didn't seem to be to any of them a Durham issue" — or an issue of race or socioeconomic status, he said. "They're just tired of rising crime in general."

Mayor Harry Rodenhizer said he spoke with several people about the shooting Friday, "all of them supportive of the homeowner."

"I simply explained that the reason the homeowner was

*"This community is so quick to judge,
but not quick to help."*

GLORIA VACA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DURHAM COMPANIONS

charged was that's the way the system works," he said.

Durham police and District Attorney Ron Stephens obviously found evidence and reason enough to charge Seagroves, Rodenhizer said.

"I'm sure everything will be sorted out in time," the mayor said.

Defense fund created

Perhaps the strongest confirmation of citizen support for Seagroves is the creation of a defense fund in his name at Wachovia Bank.

In the office of Seagroves' attorney, William Thomas, employees reported phones "ringing off the hook" Friday with callers who wanted to make contributions.

Woodcroft resident Hank Young, who helped to set up the Seagroves' defense fund, said he thinks public sentiment has shifted from concern for the homeowner to sorrow over the death of one of the intruders.

That upsets Young.

"I certainly don't want to leave the idea that we're gloating over the loss of this young man, because we're not," Young said Friday. "By the same token, our interests are first with the members of our own community."

"To me, the primary victim is

the homeowner," Young said. "I really wonder if we'd be looking at this in a different light if his wife had stayed home with his sick baby son instead."

Why the charges?

Durham City Council member Howard Clement said he empathizes with the sense of outrage some are feeling. But he urged citizens who believe Seagroves was charged unfairly to look carefully at the facts of the case.

"I am concerned about the spirit of sympathy that's building for Mr. Seagroves without examining all the ramifications surrounding this unfortunate episode," Clement said. "I feel for both families."

The staff of North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (NCARRV), based in Durham, discussed the Seagroves shooting and its repercussions Friday.

Linda Williams, NCARRV's community educator and field coordinator, said she sees the situation as "more of a class incident as opposed to race."

"I think it's unfortunate that [Seagroves] was victimized by these four young men," Williams said.

But "the fact that [Seagroves] shot one of the kids in the back

at-risk students and begin to try to develop a school generally ran smoothly Friday. who has suffered a stroke and at one time was

SHOT

FROM A1

raises a lot of questions in our minds," she said.

"I hope the district attorney sticks to his guns and charges the person with manslaughter, because the amount of force that was used was clearly unjustified," she said.

"Again, this speaks to the value of young life in this society and where our young people are headed," Williams said. "They feel like there's nothing out there but a life of crime for them and they're not getting support from their families, teachers, peers..."

Gloria Vaca, executive director of Durham Companions, a group that has had tremendous success with keeping troubled kids out of trouble, said: "I think that society must take responsibility for [Jamal Elliott's] death because this was an at-risk child, tagged all the way. I had lots of moments for silence for him today and the real pity, the real shame in that is...that the only time any of us took a moment to think about Jamal was when he was dead."

"I think America as a country and Durham lately has had a kind of vigilante mentality. Having a gun is not the answer. Having that mentality — that we have to take the law into our own hands — is not the answer."

"This community is so quick to judge, but not quick to help," she said. "Instead of picking up a gun, why not pick up a few hours a week to help these kids."

Staff writers David Folkenflik and Ernie Suggs contributed to this report.

Taft, 16, and another youth, John Wayne Webb, 19, were arrested at the scene and charged with breaking into the garage and trying to steal Seagroves' golf clubs and motorcycle.

Later Thursday, a third youth, James Edward Holloman, 17, of 902 Brandon Road, was arrested on the same charges.

He remained in jail Friday in lieu of \$10,000 bond. Holloman, like Elliott and Taft, was a student at Jordan High School.

A fourth arrest was still pending Friday.

Taft and Webb were free on bond and made initial appearances Friday in Durham County District Court. They were given a new court date of April 16.

Elliott's funeral will be held Monday at 1 p.m. at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Stephens would not comment on many details of the shooting, but said the would-be burglars fled after Seagroves surprised them with the rifle.

The decision to charge Seagroves set off a wave of outrage in Durham, with many people calling him to protest, Stephens acknowledged.

"I understand the outrage," Stephens said. He also said it's possible a jury may sympathize with Seagroves and acquit him. That was the result of a similar case he tried years ago as an assistant district attorney in Durham, he said.

But he insisted the decision was necessary from what he

was told about the case by investigators — information the people calling him may not know or consider.

"Obviously, those people do not know the facts of this case," he said. "I know what the laws of this state are. How many people in this community support that concept, I don't know."

Durham Police Investigator D.L. Dowdy said that because of where Seagroves was standing and the direction the youths first tried to flee, they may have appeared to have been moving toward him initially.

"When they were startled by him, their first action was to get away," Dowdy said. "They may have been interpreted as moving toward him as they ran back toward that door."

Sources said at least one shot was fired at the youths inside the garage.

Taft, Holloman and Elliott had criminal records. Taft was in court last week on four counts of breaking into motor vehicles and larceny, court records show.

He received a two-year suspended sentence and probation.

The break-ins all occurred on Feb. 2.

Elliott was charged in Juvenile Court last summer with a string of break-ins. Holloman was charged on Jan. 30 with assault with a deadly weapon, a misdemeanor.

Slain 15-year-old was w

By MICHAEL YARBROUGH and PAUL BONNER
The Herald-Sun

A professional who counseled 15-year-old Jamal Elliott once warned him he would wind up shot some day if he didn't change his ways.

But Elliott wasn't one to be scared into being good. And nobody in a network of social-support professionals who tried to help him knew what to do.

What troubled them most in the wake of his shooting death Thursday was that there are so many others like him who could die senselessly. They hope that the tragic end of Elliott's brief life will get other youngsters' attention in a way their warnings haven't.

Made no impact

People who knew and worked with Elliott, who asked not to be identified, painted a picture of a young person who was like many other teens. They say he wasn't mean or violent, but seemed alienated and immature. He didn't take seriously the dangers of stealing or defying authority.

If, instead of being killed, he had succeeded in stealing Michael Seagroves' motorcycle, he probably would have taken it for a joyride and then ditched it, said one professional.

He had been in Juvenile Court at least eight times last summer on break-in charges and was on probation when he was killed. He spent three months in Trinity House, a group home for troubled youths, but needed to have stayed longer, said one professional. He did well for a time afterward, but apparently had gone astray with the group of other Jordan High students who were with him when he was shot.

People who knew him say his troubles with authorities seemed to begin after his parents separated and divorced about five years ago. He lived for a time with his father, James Randolph Elliott, who has suffered a stroke and at one time was

*"We talked with all the people involved
could alleviate. When we see these kids
having trouble at home, or b*

LINDA
JORDAN HIGH AS

living in a house without electricity.

Elliott had lived with his uncle, Leroy McKenzie, in a middle-class neighborhood on Chowan Avenue only since January.

Through the cracks

People at Jordan High School, where Elliott was a freshman, say they did everything they could to patch up the cracks through which Elliott was plunging.

"We don't try to second-guess ourselves and say, 'We could have done this, or should have done that,'" said Linda Bird, a Jordan High assistant principal. "We know we did the best we could."

Bird said Elliott, almost since his arrival last fall, was repeatedly sent to her office for being disruptive in class and skipping school. He was also performing poorly academically, she said.

Bird said she worked with the school's Student Services Management Team, which includes teachers and counselors, to help the troubled teen-ager.

On occasion, school officials said, they had summoned Elliott's uncle. They also said they talked with the probation officer assigned to Elliott after his brushes with the law.

Others said the probation officer talked often with Jamal, including the night before he was

PAGE ONE

Warned but didn't listen

with him to see what kind of difficulties we who are having difficulty ... they're always being left alone too frequently."

**A BIRD
SISTANT PRINCIPAL**

killed.

"We talked with all the people involved with him to see what kind of difficulties we could alleviate," Bird said. "When we see these kids who are having difficulty ... they're always having trouble at home, or being left alone too frequently."

Bird recalled a recent conversation with Elliott over lunch.

"I said, 'Look, you've got to understand academics are more important than anything else right now,'" she said. "'I know, I know,' he would say and smile. We had lunch and he went on his way."

Can't be responsible

Bird acknowledged that schools cannot be responsible for a student every waking minute.

School board member Beverly Washington Jones says she realizes that, but wants schools to keep closer tabs.

She and board member Mozell Robinson met Friday with Superintendent C. Owen Phillips to talk about ways to tighten administrators' accountability for students' whereabouts.

"What this says to us is we are in a crisis, and it's not just in Durham. It's everywhere," Jones said. "It's incumbent upon us to identify highly at-risk students and begin to try to develop a

structure to ensure students are where they are supposed to be."

Jones said the whole community must take responsibility for all children. She said volunteers should be put in place to ensure that children are in school. In addition to community watches that report potential criminals, Durham should have a better system of reporting truants, she said.

"There are a lot of 'Jamals' out there," Jones said. "Jamal was highly at-risk. We can learn from this and begin to see what we as a community can be doing."

Change welcome

Bird said the schools would welcome such changes. She also said she hopes students heading down the same path learn a lesson about the potential dangers of skipping school and looking for trouble.

She doesn't seem too hopeful.

"We have several students in the same boat [as Elliott]. I saw some of them on campus [Friday] and didn't really see a changed look on their faces," she said. "So you just pray, you know?"

Jordan principal Harold L. Rogers said he was told that Elliott had signed into school late Thursday morning, but did not show up for first-period class. Before he had time to call Elliott's uncle, Rogers said, he learned of the shooting.

A Crisis Management Team met at the school late Thursday to discuss how to handle student reaction to the death, and to prepare to deal with rumors.

Before school began Friday morning, Rogers held a faculty meeting to share the team's plan.

"It's a tragedy. The last thing we want to do is overreact, but we don't want to underreact either," Rogers said.

He said about a dozen students approached counselors with questions and concerns, but that school generally ran smoothly Friday.

A MICHIGAN, DURHAM.

James M. 'Bumps' Elliott

DURHAM — Funeral services



for James M. 'Bumps' Elliott, 78, of 658 Troy Street, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Saint Mark AME Zion Church, 531 S. Roxboro Street.

Viewing, 10 a.m. ' 6 p.m. Friday at Fisher Funeral Parlor. Family visitation, 7-8:30 p.m. tonight at NCCU's McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium.

Son of the late Jim and Annie Mae Webb Elliott, he was born on September 1, 1927 in Durham. Educated in the Durham City Schools, he was a graduate of Hillside High School and N. C. Central University.

'Bumps' was a stellar football performer on the 1943 undefeated, untied and unscored upon Hillside 'Hornets' and at N.C. Central. He was an All-American and All-CIAA guard. His number '54 was retired by his teammates and coach in 1949. He is a member of the N.C. Central University Athletic Hall of Fame and the Darden Athletic Hall of Honors.

He was a United States Air Force World War II veteran. He received the World War II Victory Medal and the American Theater Ribbon.

He worked for 42 years in the North Carolina Public Schools as a teacher and coach. He was the first Black head football coach at Durham High School. He also coached in the 1980 East-West All-Star Game in North Carolina and was the 1971 Coach-of-the-Year as swim coach in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

He was a member of the National Education Association, DCAE, the NCHSCA, AAHPERD and the 1943 Hornet Club.

He was a lifelong member of Saint Mark AME Zion Church where he was a Steward and a former secretary of the church.

He leaves to cherish his loving memories, his wife of 58 years, Gladys Brown Elliott; one daughter, Lettie Elliott; one grandson, Courtney J. Elliott; one brother, Horace 'Nick' Elliott; one brother-in-law, William 'Bill' Fike; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Email condolences to fisherfp@hotmail.com.

Arrangements by Fisher Funeral Parlor.

Pallbearers

Stewards of St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church

Floral Attendants

Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
The Senior Missionary Society of
St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church
The Mary C. Evans Sunday School Class

Acknowledgement

*Please accept our sincere appreciation
of your thoughtful expressions of sympathy.
May God richly bless you.*

The Elliott Family

Professional Services by
Scarborough & Hargett Memorial Chapels and Gardens
Funeral Directors
306 South Roxboro Street
Durham, North Carolina
Since 1888

A Service Of Remembrance

For



Miss Melzie Essielonia Elliott

1906 — 1986

St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church

2521 Fayetteville Street
Durham, North Carolina

Thursday, December 4, 1986

2:00 P.M.

Reverend W.W. Easley, Pastor, Officiating

Obituary

MELZIE ESSIELONIA ELLIOTT was born January 24, 1906 in Kinston, Alabama. She was the daughter of the late William Louis Elliott and Emmanuel Coleman Elliott.

She accepted Christ at an early age and joined Kesler's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Wadesboro, North Carolina, where she served as pianist and Sunday School Teacher. She later moved to Miami, Florida, joined Bethel A.M.E. Church and served as Sunday School Superintendent and member of the Steward Board. In 1976 she moved to Durham, North Carolina, joined St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church and was a devoted member of the Senior Missionary Society and The Mary C. Evans Sunday School Class. She will perhaps be remembered best as the author of The St. Joseph's Cook Book.

Melzie received her formative education in the public schools of Wadesboro, North Carolina. Her professional training included matriculation at Fayetteville State University, Winston-Salem State University, A & T State University, North Carolina Central University, Hampton Institute, Catholic University of America and The University of Michigan. She was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education, A Bachelor of Science Degree in Library Science and A Master of Science Degree in Library Science.

She taught in the public schools of Wadesboro, North Carolina and served as Librarian at Anson High School in Wadesboro, Washington High School in Raleigh and Dorsey and Kinlock Park High Schools, Miami, Florida.

She held membership in the American Teachers Association, American Library Association, Volkamenia Literary Club, Acorn (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

She has traveled extensively at home and abroad. She was a caring and loving person who made a warm impact on the many lives that she touched.

Finally, on November 28, 1986 she quietly departed without fear because of the preparations made, and the faith which she kept.

Survivors include three sisters, Mrs. Flossie E. Steed, Pinehurst, N.C., Mrs. Willie E. Grimes, Winston-Salem, N.C., and Mrs. Dorothy E. Thomas, Elizabeth City, N.C.; three brothers, Mr. Balaam T. Elliott, Sr., Whiteville, N.C., Mr. Hampton B. Elliott, Philadelphia, Pa. and Mr. Edwin L. Elliott, Hope Mills, N.C.; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Ethel M. Elliott, Whiteville, N.C. and Mrs. Madie F. Elliott, Hope Mills, N.C.; one brother-in-law, Mr. Harvey L. Thomas, Elizabeth City, N.C.; six nephews: Dr. Balaam T. Elliott, Marietta, Ga., Mr. William Gray, Chapel Hill, N.C., Rev. Douglas Gray, Baltimore, Md., Mr. Maurice Elliott, Fort Knox, Ky., Mr. Steve A. Grimes, Winston-Salem, N.C. and Mr. George Legrande, Miami, Fla.; six nieces, Mrs. Zelphia Watson, Durham, N.C., Miss Jerryline Elliott, Upper Marlboro, Md., Mrs. Nancy Gainey, Midland, Texas, Mrs. Berrie Hinton, Wadesboro, N.C., Mrs.

Helen E. Smith, Hope Mills, N.C. and Dr. Dorothy E. Thomas, Charlotte, N.C.; several other relatives and friends.

"Yea though I walk through the Valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me."

Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL

HYMN..... *"O Master Let Me Walk With Thee"*

PRAYER..... Dr. Audie V. Simon, Pastor
Mt. Lebanon A.M.E. Zion Church

SCRIPTURE

SOLO — *"The Lord's Prayer"* Mr. John McClinton

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS . Mr. N.H. Bennett, Jr.

MEDLEY OF HYMNS..... Mr. Fred Mason, Jr.

EULOGY..... Rev. W.W. Easley, Pastor
St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church

SOLO Mr. John McClinton
"If I Can Help Somebody"

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY HYMN

RECESSIONAL

BENEDICTION

Interment
Beechwood Cemetery

DRIVERS IN THE PROCESSION, PLEASE TURN ON HEADLIGHTS FOR SAFETY.

Kelly Bryant Collection

MATTHEW ELLIS, JR.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

May 8, 1925

April 16, 1994



THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1994
11:00 A.M.

FIRST RISING MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
6th and N Streets, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia

Rev. Ernest R. Gibson, Pastor
Officiating

EACH SOUL MUST TAKE ITS REST

*Within our finite minds we try to fathom God's way.
We wonder why someone we love so quickly went away.*

*We think of the good they did while here and
The happiness of the past.*

*All precious moments we held so dear and
regret they could not last.*

*But some things that happen have to be for we
are but mortal clay.*

*Our going is part of God's decree and one day
we too must go this way, and whenever the time ... one
thing is sure.....*

*and perhaps this moment is best
Though we lay these mortal bodies down
we shall find God's peace and rest.*



PALLBEARERS

Members of James H. Hill Lodge No. 16

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Usher Board of First Rising Mt. Zion
Deacon Board of First Rising Mt. Zion

FLOWER BEARERS

Church Ushers
Members of the Order of the Eastern Star
Friends

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family sincerely thanks and appreciates all acts of kindness and expressions of love shown during their hour of bereavement. May God bless each of you.

REPAST

The family will receive friends, immediately following the interment, in the Church Dining Hall.

OBITUARY

Matthew Ellis, Jr. was born May 8, 1925 in Orange County, Virginia to the late Matt and Angie Lewis Ellis. He was called home to the Lord suddenly on Saturday, April 16, 1994.

Matthew attended schools in Orange County and at an early age joined Shady Grove Baptist Church in Orange. Upon moving to Washington, D.C. he continued his education and transferred membership to First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist. He was a member of the Senior Usher Board, serving as Financial Secretary of that Board and a Deacon of the Church. Matthew also served as the Fourth Vice President of the Interdenominational Church Ushers Association (ICAU) Inc. of Washington, D.C. and Vicinity.

Matthew was united in Holy Matrimony to the former Irma Geraldine Wallace. Born to this joyous union was one son, Timothy M. Ellis, Sr.

A veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force, Matthew served his country from 1943 to 1946. For 42 years, he was employed by the U.S. Dept. of the Army, Harry Diamond Laboratories of Washinton, D.C. and Adelphi, MD. He retired as Chief of the Administrative Division on January 3, 1986. An active member of the community, Matthew was a registered voter and a member of the South Manor Neighborhood Assoc., Ward 4.

In 1963, Brother Ellis was brought to Masonic Light in James H. Hill Lodge No. 16. Thus began a distinguished Masonic career. He served as Worshipful Master in 1971; Treasurer from 1972 to 1974; Associate Patron of Electa Chapter 1973 and 1974; R.W. Grand Secretary of Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Washington, D.C. from 1975 to 1978 and M.W. Grand Master 1983 and 1984. Matthew was elected and served as Vice Chairman of the Stirring Committee of the Conference of Prince Hall Grand Masters, Inc. of America and Abroad. He was secretary of the Supreme Council, Order of the Knights of Pythagoras from 1976 to 1980 and Secretary / Treasurer of the Supreme Council 1981 and 1982. He was a member of the Supreme Council Executive Committee, Jonathan Davis Consistory No. 1, Keystone Chapter No. 11 H.R.A.M., Mt. Calvary Chapter No. 4 K.T., Mecca Temple No. 10 and the Commanders of the Rite. Matthew was an Honorary member of many Prince Hall lodges. In 1994 Matthew Ellis, Jr. became Secretary General of the United Supreme Council, 33rd Degree, A.A.S.R. of F.M., S.J., P.H.A.

He was preceded in death by his sister Victoria Ellis Jones. He leaves to mourn, his beloved wife Irma; son Timothy, Sr.; daughter-in-law Robin; grandson Timothy, Jr.; two brothers Richard and Robert Ellis; four sisters Julia Ellis, Mary Cage, Marjorie, and Jane Gooch. He is also survived by one godchild Danielle Willis; five aunts Fannie Lewis, Marie Hart, Viola Gladden, Carrie Galloway and Lizzie Lewis; five sisters-in-law Hattie Ellis, Rebecca Wallace, Jean Barnes, Marie Schofield and Frances Wallace; four brothers-in-law Philmore Gooch, George Jones, Charles, and Silas Wallace; nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

OPENING HYMNChurch Choir
"Jesus, The Light Of The World"

SCRIPTURE READING.....Deacon Gilliard
II Corinthian 5:1-10

SOLOLisa Jones
"I'm Going Up Yonder"

OBITUARY (READ SILENTLY)

SERMONRev. Ernest R. Gibson

REMARKSM.W.G.M. Col. Nathaniel M. Adams, Jr.
Sovereign Grand Commander S.J. Bennett

SELECTIONChurch Choir
"One Day At A Time"

EULOGYRev. Ernest R. Gibson

MASONIC SERVICEJames H. Hill Lodge No. 16
W.M. Charles H. Magruder

INTERMENT
Fort Lincoln Cemetery

ARRANGEMENTS
<<McGuire Funeral Home >>

4/6/93

MR. GUY ELLISON

Mr. Guy Ellison, 85, of Route 3, Box 307, Fayetteville Road, died Sunday in Durham Regional Hospital.

Mr. Ellison was a native of Vanceboro. He was the owner of Ellison's Rest Home in Ellison Heights. Mr. Ellison was a member of Fisher Memorial United Holy Church and Faith Tabernacle Holy Church.

The funeral will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday in Community Baptist Church by the Rev. Percy R. Chase. Burial will be in Glennview Memorial Park.

Mr. Ellison is survived by four daughters, Ms. Helen Ellison, Mrs. Mildred E. Clay and Mrs. Thelma Simpson, all of Durham, and Mrs. Viola Woodard of Erie, Pa.; three sons, Mr. Preston Ellison, Mr. Russell Ellison and Mr. James Ross Ellison, all of Durham; two brothers, Mr. Willie Ellison of Vanceboro and Mr. Fred Ellison; two sisters, Mrs. Mary Stephenson of Vanceboro and Mrs. Lina Purefoy of Chapel Hill; 22 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

The family will receive visitors from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Community Baptist Church.

Arrangements are by Fisher Funeral Parlor.