

City & State

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2003

* *The health official called me and wanted to take my blood for testing. I asked why he wanted my blood. He stated, "The man in jail was at far greater risk than you because he had your blood in his mouth."*

Health officials' stance angers victim

Man says suspect should be tested

BY RYAN TEAGUE BECKWITH
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STAFF WRITERS

David Martin tried to take a bite out of crime and ended up getting bitten.

Now it's the treatment he received from Wake County health officials that has him sore.

Martin, 75, a Raleigh real estate developer, was at Big Lots on Western Boulevard on Saturday afternoon when he heard a woman yelling that a man had stolen her purse.

He saw a man running with

the purse and lit out after him. With the help of two other men, Martin subdued the man in the parking lot. During the scuffle, the man bit Martin on the upper right arm, drawing blood.

"I mean, he just clamped down like a bulldog and wouldn't let go," Martin said.

Martin, a middleweight boxing champion in the Coast Guard in 1946, said he hit the man on the jaw and, with the help of the other men, got his arm free.

Police arrived and arrested Horace Lee Jones, 50, of 3037 Woods Place in Raleigh. He was charged with felony larceny and simple assault. He was being held Sunday night in the Wake County jail on \$6,000 bail.

Paramedics treated Martin's wound at the site but suggested he try to have Jones tested for hepatitis B, a disease transmitted by infected blood that causes liver damage.

It was then that Martin said he got stung by health officials.

Doctors recommend that people who may have been exposed to hepatitis B get a vaccination and a shot of chilled hepatitis antibodies within three days while the other person is tested for the virus.

Martin said he contacted Wake County health officials, who told him they could not compel Jones to give blood since the victim of the bite wound was not a police officer or other

emergency worker.

Dr. Peter J. Morris, medical director of Wake County Human Services, declined to discuss the specifics of the case "for confidentiality reasons," but he said that the policy is to encourage voluntary testing first and seek a court order if anyone — police, paramedic or not — is at risk.

Martin maintains that is not what happened.

With the help of his son-in-law, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Evenson, Martin said he contacted two county commissioners and the county health director and got their permis-

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VICTIM

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Psalms 12:6

6:00am Sat. 4/12/03: "The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace, purified seven times."

* * "The Rest of the Story"

A man came and assisted me in pulling the man over a brick wall. But I later learned no one else saw him but me! I also later learned that the Bible gives 273 accounts of angels.

* **Psalms 18:33:** "He makes my feet like the feet of a deer."

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not!"

sion to have the tests done, but health officials wanted Martin to be tested, too. *

"They almost turned the whole thing on its head," Evenson said. "It was almost as if the victim of the biting was the one who had to be tested more so than the one who did the biting."

Martin said the experience left

him with a bad taste in his mouth.

"Any citizen of North Carolina shouldn't be treated this way," he said. "I was just being public-spirited. What this is telling people is not to get involved."

Sunday night, officials said Jones was willing and blood had been drawn.

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