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### Newspaper suffers financial fall

# Philadelphia Bulletin to close

United Press International PHILADELPHIA — The financially beleaguered Philadelphia Bulletin will fold Friday, culminating nearly 135 years as one of the nation's most respected and successful daily newspapers, its publisher announced Wednesday.

"It's a sad day for all of us," publisher N.S. "Buddy" Hayden said. "We tried our best to turn it around. I feel lousy."

He said the final edition of the newspaper would be published on Friday.

"We're closing," sobbed a reporter. "Friday is our last. It's all over."

The collapse is the latest in a series of failures by afternoon

newspapers, among them The New York Daily News' Tonight edition and The Washington Star. The phenomenon is linked to competition from television news and suburban newspapers, of which Philadelphia has 16.

Charter Co., the Jacksonville, Fla.-based owner of the newspaper, announced Jan. 6 that the Bulletin would fold unless a buyer was found. Once the most-read newspaper in Philadelphia, the Bulletin has lost more than \$33 million since June 1980. Circulation recently dropped to less than 400,000.

At its heyday in 1963, The Bulletin boasted a circulation of 715,000 and was considered one of the most read newspapers in

the English-speaking world. The newspaper won Pulitzer Prizes in 1964 and 1965.

The Bulletin employs 1,743 people full-time, several hundred part-time employees and 6,500 newspaper carriers.

Circulation, advertising and composing room employees, many in tears and looking stunned, joined reporters and editors in the newsroom shortly after the announcement.

"I think there's enormous relief," feature writer Jim Brozo said. "For the past two weeks, it's just been hell. A few people got jobs, but it's going to be tough."

Hayden was brought in by the new owners in May 1980 to turn The Bulletin's fortunes around.

He was unable to specify why the newspaper failed.

Charter threatened to close the newspaper last August unless unions accepted \$4.9 million in concessions. After a tense week of negotiations, the unions accepted the concessions in a last-minute move.

Less than six weeks ago, another Philadelphia newspaper — the four-year-old tabloid Philadelphia Journal — folded under the weight of \$15 million in losses.

John Rodgers, spokesman for Charter in Jacksonville, said Charter officials were still negotiating with a prospective buyer as late as Tuesday afternoon,

but that deal fell through, declined to identify the prospective buyer.

"Tuesday afternoon, hopes died," Rodgers said.

From Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, the Bulletin's pre-tax losses were \$7 million against \$3.9 million in operating expenses. Losses for January alone are projected at \$1 million — or "double what were a year ago."

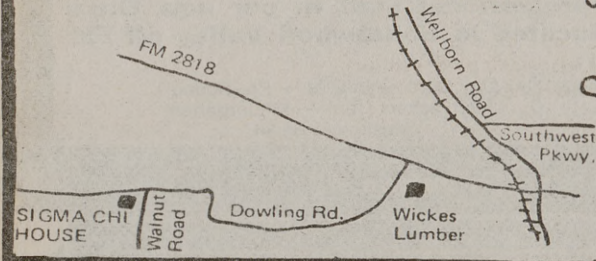
Charter bought the newspaper in 1980 from the McGraw-Hill family and promised to pump \$30 million into it in an effort to turn it around by 1984. In announcing the purchase, Charter, an oil conglomerate, said it could not shoulder the newspaper's

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## Black youth's testimony shocks Williams' Atlanta murder trial

United Press International ATLANTA — Suddenly the genteel atmosphere of inaudible arguments and smiling witnesses was shattered, and the trial of Wayne Williams was on the dark, back streets of Atlanta.

A stony-faced, mumbling black youth named Darrell dropped a bombshell on the defense Tuesday — he said the defendant had lured him into his car, fondled him and was "going to get something out of the trunk" when he fled.

Williams, 23, is charged with the murder of Nathaniel Cater, 27, and Jimmy Ray Payne, 21, two of the 28 young blacks — all but two of them males and most of them children — abducted and murdered in Atlanta over a two-year period.

The prosecution is introducing evidence of more of the

murders, even though Williams is not charged with them, to try to convince the jury of a "pattern, scheme, plan or bent of mind."

Darrell's testimony was the first to mention Williams' bent of mind was homosexuality, which his lawyers have hotly denied, and the first intimation of any motive in the killings. It also brought an abrupt change to the stately atmosphere of the courtroom, where the proceedings have given the feeling of an armchair mystery.

Darrell — who is 15, and by

agreement between lawyers was not identified — was mulish with the defense, sparking the first loud exchanges between lawyers and forcing the judge to hurry the jury out of the courtroom.

He was the second witness of the day to say he saw Williams in a shopping center with Lubie Geter the day the 14-year-old child disappeared.

"Take your mind back to August of 1980," said prosecutor Jack Mallard. "Did you see the same subject you saw with Lubie Geter?"

Darrell began, "We saw

stealin' papers. A guy drove within the Int an' ask if I wanna job." He got in the white station wagon, formed three with the man, who he identified as Williams, but who at the time told him his name was something like Jimmy.

Darrell said Williams for him and then drove his wooded area near a house project and told him to call himself.

Then, Darrell said, "He had to get somethin' out of the trunk. When he went out the trunk, I jumped out an' ran

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### Today's Almanac

United Press International Today is Thursday, the 28th day of 1982 with 30 days to go. On this date in history:

In 1878, the first commercial telephone switchboard was in operation in New Haven, Conn. It served 12 subscribers.

In 1915, the U.S. Coast Guard was established by legislation passed by Congress.

In 1932, a song symbolizing the plight of millions of Depression-hit Americans was swept to the United States. Its title: "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"

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