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Friday, April 5, 2002

Researchers debate the best way to detect racial profilingolf

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — In New Jersey, researchers used radar guns and cameras to examine whether blacks speed more than whites. In North Carolina, they got into moving vehicles and looked out the windows at speeders. In Florida, students stood on corners and counted cars.

The national furor over racial profiling by police has also generated fierce debate among academics over what is the most reliable way of detecting the practice.

For police departments suspected of singling out black and Hispanic motorists, the political and legal stakes are high: The highway studies could exonerate the police or implicate them.

The debate over what some minorities sarcastically call "driving while black" flared in 1998 after state troopers opened fire on four black and Hispanic motorists on the New Jersey Turnpike

Since then, dozens of police departments and other agencies around the country have been studying traffic stops or other driving patterns to determine whether minorities are being unfairly pulled over and searched for speeding and other violations.

In New Jersey, a study commissioned by the state and released last week concluded that blacks are more likely than whites to speed on the highway. The researchers checked speeds with laser guns and photographed thousands of motorists.

The troopers union claimed vindication. Civil rights advocates objected bitterly to the findings. And the U.S. Justice Department — which had requested the study — asked that it be withheld, arguing that its methodology was flawed.

"It's a tough thing to do inquiry in because there are so many people with such sharply divergent points of view who want to claim victory," said David Harris, a Toledo, Ohio, law professor who has written a book on racial profiling.

Finding which way is best is the current job of Lorie Fridell, a researcher with the Police Executive Research Forum who will release a how-to guide in the new months to help the nation's police

Fridell is using part of a \$250,00 eral grant to sift through a 3-foot 1 racial profiling studies commissi police departments.

She likes some methods better that ers. Driving in a car alongside st motorists, she said, might be more might than trying to identify a driver's raceing blurry photograph. "I would think could look left and see who's in the cm was a year to you," she said.

still in its infancy, she There are lots of different ideas. V frustrating to social scientists is that the none that is great," she said.

ments monitor themselves for pro

By Da

And placing people at strategic point. A year 1: the road and having them take down compete in mation on passing cars "has some potential if we can make it cost-effer three finish

But the debate is recent and the mo



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Andersen employees move to rival Deloitt a tough field top 25. The

CHICAGO (AP) Signaling the breakup of its U.S. operations, Arthur Andersen LLP announced Thursday that a "significant" number of its U.S. tax partners and professionals will join rival Deloitte & Touche. Terms were not disclosed.

Andersen's U.S. operations were jeopardized by the Enron Corp. scandal. The firm hopes to survive as a slimmed-down company focused on auditing.

"This transaction is fully consistent with our commitment to move quickly on the Andersen reforms initiated by Mr. Volcker," said Larry Gorrell, managing partner of Arthur Andersen, the U.S. arm of Andersen Worldwide

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker is head of an oversight board trying to reform Andersen and keep it alive as an independent firm.

Andersen's employees, meanwhile, were bracing for what the company has said would be "inevitable" layoffs among its 28,000 U.S. staffers. Spokesperson Patrick Dorton, responding to persistent reports that layoffs could total 6,000 or , said late Thursday that no many lawsuits

final decision has been made. Andersen said Thursday

evening it had signed a mem ishes in Sc randum of understanding wi Deloitte that serves as an agra ment in principle.

Andersen has 1,700 U partners in tax, consulting audit services. It was not cle how many would leave u the deal. Andersen said deta remain to be worked out but anticipates a closing date soon as April 30.

"Our clients, partners employees have been and w remain our priorities through this process of reforming rebuilding Arthur Andersen LLP as a firm focused on quality auditing," Gorrell said.

Deloitte said in a states

Adding professionals Andersen will add consider talent to Deloitte & Touc already high quality practice gives us the opportunity to acc erate the growth" of that divi

The announcement follo weeks of negotiations between Andersen and other Big I accounting firms over its ass The company has been tryin sell assets to raise money previous efforts snagged the issue of liability from its role as chief auditor bankrupt Enron.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CDC says lab worker who contracted anthrax was not wearing gloves

ATLANTA (AP) - A Texas laboratory worker who contracted s anthrax last month probably got it because he was not wearn gloves when he handled vials of spores collected from last fall's male attacks, the government said Thursday.

The worker handled the spores a day after he had cut his jawwii shaving, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports He then apparently touched his face and developed an anthrax so The man was put on antibiotics and is recovering.

It was the first known anthrax case in the United States since anthrax-by-mail attacks that killed five people and sickened 13 more None of the 40 workers at the lab had been vaccinated against anthrax, the CDC said.

The CDC has not identified the worker or the lab. The infection apparently happened March 1 as the worker moving vials from a cabinet into a freezer, the CDC said. He was wearing gloves, contrary to federal health recommendations,

agency said. The lab had also sprayed its storage vials with a solution of mo ly alcohol, rather than the 10 percent bleach solution recommend

by the government, the CDC found. Over the next few days, the shaving cut became larger and the reported swelling on his neck and a low-grade fever. He spent days in the hospital.

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