

7 shot at Empire State

NEW YORK (AP) — A Palestinian man fired into a crowd of tourists on the observation deck of the Empire State Building on Sunday, killing one person and wounding six others before fatally shooting himself in the head.

Ali Abu Kamal, 69, died without regaining consciousness, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's press office said. His passport indicated he was from Ramallah, on Israel's west bank, and he entered the United States on Christmas Eve, Giuliani said.

Witnesses said dozens of people — many of them foreign tourists — fled

in panic toward stairways and elevators as the man sprayed bullets on the outdoor deck that surrounds a large, windowed room on the 86th floor.

"I've never seen so much blood in my life," said Belgian businessman Stef Nys, who said he saw the man shoot himself and fall. "The most scary part was when people started to panic."

The man muttered something about Egypt seconds before he began shooting, witnesses said.

Police weren't sure of the significance of his remarks. A city police terrorist task force and FBI agents

were investigating, Giuliani said. Police Commissioner Howard Safir said the gunman apparently acted alone.

The victim killed was a 27-year-old Danish musician visiting the Empire State Building with an American friend from Connecticut, who was wounded, Giuliani said.

The others wounded included a French couple from Verdum, whose 16-year-old daughter escaped injury; a 30-year-old Swiss man; an Argentinian man, 52; and a man from the Bronx. One of the wounded men was shot in the head; others were less seriously hurt.

Black contributions exhibited

By BRAD DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Scholars, authors and others within the African-American academic community took over this weekend where UNL's African-American studies left off.

The Interdisciplinary Symposium of African Americans and Great Plains recognized their contributions to the Great Plains experience.

Keith Parker, sociology professor and director of African-American and African studies said African Americans' contributions to the Great Plains are often overlooked.

"It is not covered and highlighted to the degree that other ethnic groups' histories are taught, in part because at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we have not had the vehicle to do it," Parker said. "I think that's changing with an aggressive African-American studies program."

The symposium at the Ramada Inn downtown was sponsored by African-American and African studies at UNL.

It was designed to give people an opportunity to reflect on themselves and expose people to topics they might not find in traditional textbooks, like Aaron Douglas, the buffalo soldiers

and African agriculture, Parker said. The symposium highlighted speeches from historians and scholars, like Bill Gwaltney, superintendent of Fort Laramie National Historical Site.

"(He) did a superb job of talking about the buffalo soldiers during the opening session," Parker said.

Artist Aaron Douglas, a 1922 UNL graduate, was the focus of two sessions by Amy Kirschke, senior lecturer at Vanderbilt University, and David Driskell, professor of art at the University of Maryland at College Park. Douglas was perhaps best known for his works during the Harlem Renaissance.

Along with the speakers, scholars presented research papers in African-American studies to about 200 people who attended.

The symposium was a success, Parker said, because of the attendance and the positive comments he received.

"(The success) says to me that what's going on at this university, in terms of African-American scholarship, is because of our predecessors, like Aaron Douglas, who paved the way for us as role models to have a chance to blossom," Parker said. "If they can do it, we can do it."

Researchers clone adult sheep; possibility open to copy humans

NEW YORK (AP) — Researchers have cloned an adult mammal for the first time, an astonishing scientific landmark that raises the unsettling possibility of making copies of people.

Scientists slipped genes from a 6-year-old ewe into unfertilized eggs and used them to try to create pregnancies in other sheep. The result: a lamb named Dolly, born in July, that is a genetic copy of the ewe.

The feat opens the door to cloning prized farm animals such as cattle, and should make it much easier to add or modify genes in livestock, experts said.

It's also scientifically stunning. Researchers used DNA from the ewe's udder cells, proving that mature mammal cells specialized for something other than reproduction could be used

to regenerate an entire animal.

Scientists had thought that was impossible.

Experts said the same technique might make it possible to clone humans, but emphasized that it would be unethical to try.

"There is no clinical reason why you would do this. Why would you make another human being?" said Ian Wilmut, one of the scientists who cloned the sheep. "We think it would be ethically unacceptable and certainly would not want to be involved in that project."

Carl Feldbaum, president of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, added that cloning of humans should be prohibited by law.

Before the new work, scientists had

frogs and create genetically identical tadpoles. But the tadpoles never developed fully into frogs.

To do the sheep cloning, scientists took cells from the ewe's udder tissue and cultivated them in a lab, using a treatment that made the cells essentially dormant. They also took unfertilized sheep eggs and removed the nucleus, the cells' central control room that contains the genes.

Then they put the udder cells together with the egg cells and used an electric current to make them fuse. The eggs, now equipped with a nucleus, grew into embryos as if they'd been fertilized. The embryos were put into ewes to develop.

The process was horrendously inefficient. Of 277 fused eggs, only one led to a lamb.

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Questions? Comments? Ask for the appropriate section editor at 472-2588 or e-mail dn@unlinfo.unl.edu.

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