

# Jury Frees Student Of Charge

DURHAM, March 29 (AP)—A Superior Court today returned a verdict of "not guilty" in the case of a North Carolina College student charged with striking a white youth during a lunch counter episode.

The defendant, George R. Breathett, 17, a Negro, pleaded not guilty. He was represented by three NAACP-employed attorneys.

He was charged with hitting Thomas E. Ford, 17, of Hillsboro Road, on Feb. 27, at Woolworth's food counter.

Another jury is still deliberating the case of Benny Deaton, 26-year-old Durham white man charged with assault and battery for pouring hot soup on Haywood Bradley, another NCC student.

The incident also occurred on Feb. 27 at which time Negro students were attempting to fill lunch counter seats.

In the Breathett case, Ford testified that when he finished his soft drink and turned to get off the stool he was struck in the back by Breathett, tripped by a Negro girl, and then hit in the stomach by Breathett after falling against the Negro student.

Breathett denied striking Ford, saying that at all times he had his hands in the pockets of his trench coat. He admitted standing behind the stool for some time, "waiting for service."