—Should Braxton die??

(Continued from Page 1)

was able to grab Officer Phelan's revolver.

However, both Defense and prosecution witnesses agreed that there was a struggle in the ambulance, and that Braxton was beaten before he fired the shots which killed Officer Phelan and injured Officer Weintraub were fired.

Two firemen in the front of the ambulance, Walter J. Robertson and Mark H. Rohm, testified that when they heard the struggle in the vehicle it was brought to a halt.

The firemen said they were standing outside the ambulance beating Braxton on the leg with sticks when the shots were fired.

The wounded youth escaped from the ambulance and was shot four more times before he was recaptured.

James Compton, defense counsel, argued unsuccessfully before the high court that Judge Cullen erred when he admitted officer Phelan's revolver and some cartridges into evidence.

AFRO readers were queried to determine their reaction to the death penalty imposed on the 17-year-old youth. Here are some of the answers:

CHARLES MILLER, 2416 Madison, billing clerk at Provident Hospital:

"I don't believe in capital punishment so I don't think he ought to be killed."

* * *

WALTER R. ALLEN, 49, Jacksonville, Fla., truck driver:

"Sometimes I think capital punishment is sufficient, sometimes I don't think even that is enough.

"I don't know what happened, but I imagine he was forced into it. Police are supposed to protect you but a lot of times they take advantage of you."

* * *

ALLEN VOSHELL, 54, 121 Whitelock, farmer:

"I do not believe in capital punishment. No, I don't think Braxton should die."

* * *

JOHN W. DAVIS, 23, 2 Allou Ct., service station attendant:

"I think if we do away with capital punishment, not to have something to take its place.

"I don't think Braxton should get the chair."

* * *

S.F. BURNS, 68, 2332 Druid Hill Ave., farmer:

"No, I don't believe in taking something that you can give.

"I don't think he should go the gas chamber because don't believe in capital punishment. He said he was trying to keep them from killing him and ten to one that was right.

* * *

ROBERT B. WATTS, attorney and traffic court judge:

"As an attorney I must face it this way. The legislature has passed the law which permits the maximum penalty for murder.

"The youth has been found guilty by a competent court. I see nothing wrong.

"However, I am opposed to the death penalty although its purpose is to punish the wrong doer and to deter others as well as 17-year-olds from killing.

"Nevertheless, young Braxton's age is a very valid consideration for the Governor to decide to change his sentence to life.

"The young man's age is a circumstance to be considered although it is not compelling."

* * *

MILTON B. ALLEN, attorney:

"I have great disbelief in capital punishment. It is a form of beastial punishment which requires an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth and it should no longer be a part of our society.

"In the Braxton case, we must accept that it is a part of our law. The courts have found and there is nothing to do but administer punishment required.

"The fault lies with our legislature which is too narrow-minded to change the law over the years.

"The whole system is a product of the dark ages."

* * *

GEORGE RUSSELL, magistrate - at - large and attorney:

"From the bottom of my heart I say this.

"It is a grave question, one which I have not yet resolved.

"This case gives me a great deal of concern.

"We have the question: does the interest of the people which we seek to protect necessitate the taking of his boy's life?

"We can not give life. Yet, we suppose that we are privileged to take it away.

"It leaves me greatly concerned.

"Then, there is the question of this young man's age as an aspect in the case.

"He is so young. Then we must consider his background sociologically, his environment.

"When we consider his age it becomes an aggrevating factor and we wonder is it necessary to take his life for what he has done in the past.

* * *

GEORGE L. PARRISH, attorney:

"I am opposed to capital punishment.

"My reason is that capital punishment does not prevent others from murder or rape as it is intended to do."

* * *

SOLOMAN BAYLOR, attorney:

"The quality of mercy is not strained. It blesses the one who bestows it and the one Into whom mercy is given.

"When it is considered that killing the boy will not return the policeman, mercy may be given.

"The law would not consider this 17-year old boy as able for instance to enter into a legal contract.

"Certainly if the law ever does consider age as a factor it should consider it in a case like this.

* * *

SPECIAL Assistant Attorney General U. Theodore Hayes:

"It may sound hard and cold but I do not comment on whether Braxton is guilty or not.

"I say, if he was guilty as found then my attitude toward him is the same as it would be toward others in the category of murder.

"Capital punishment is necessary.

* * *

"My reasoning states that if a man is guilty of murder while in the act of a felony and fleeing from apprehension, it is definitely murder in the first degree and the maximum penalty should be paid.

"Next, there is an economic justification for the supreme penalty.

"The one who has murdered is not a fit person to return to society and he would become a risk.

"He would remain as a burden on the taxpayer if not executed.

* * *

WALTER BAILEY JR., 2712 Edmondson Ave., file clerk:

"I think the death sentence for Braxton is a little rough due to the fact that he's such a young fellow.

"There are also conflicting opinions as to what happened.

"As for capital punishment, I don't think too much of it. In fact I don't like it. There are other ways of punishing people for the crimes they commit.

* * *

MRS. LAVADA HOBSON, 911 Warwick Ave., school teacher:

"I think the death sentence was rather severe, but women are more emotional than rational in things of that type.

"I can't say that I don't believe in capital punishment, because to an extent I do.

"My only objection to the death sentence is that he (Braxton) is rather young."

* * *

CLARENCE M. NEAL, 3401 Holmes Ave., laborer:

"It could have been self defense. From what I have been told by some people there are officers who like to beat on people.

"I don't believe in capital punishment at all. The Bible says don't do evil for evil.

"The boy is entirely to young to be given a death sentence."

* * *

MRS. LULU SMITH, 2207 Lynbrook Ave., housewife:

"If he did it, he should get it.

"Yes, I believe in capital punishment. Man must pay in some way when he commits a terrible crime.

"He's suppose to be under age but that should not matter. No matter how old a person is, if he commits a crime he should pay, that is unless he's an infant or is mentally unbalanced."

* * *

REV. MARCUS G. WOOD, pastor of Providence Baptist Church, 848 Edmondson Ave.:

"I don't believe in capital punishment. To take his life would not bring the man back. Perhaps a long prison sentence of 20 or 25 years should be given to him. He wants to be given a chance to propter by his mistake.

* * *

REV. HARRISON J. BRYANT, pastor of Bethel AME Church:

"I don't believe in capital punishment. When you take a man's life he does not have a chance. . . . If given a chance he could redeem himself. Life in prison would be better, even if he was deprived of his freedom. . . he would have life."

* * *

REV. WALTER PAIGE, pastor of Faith Baptist Church:

"I don't believe in capital punishment. I do think however that the boy should be given time, but not death."

* * *

MRS. MATTIE WILDER, Johns Hopkins Nurse:

"If he had some money. . . he could get out of it. When you punish one you should punish all.

Mrs. Martha Wilson, 1803 W. Mulberry St., housewife:

"I feel that they should give him life imprisonment if he is guilty. He is a young man. I feel it could have been my son. . . I don't think he should get the death penalty."

Mrs. Elidith Peters, 2422 Arunah Ave., part - time teacher and housewife:

"I feel that he shouldn't be given the death sentence — maybe a life sentence — anything, but not the death penalty.

Mrs. Corrine Jones, 1025 Edmondson Ave., housewife:

"I haven't given it much thought. . . It looks to me that a life sentence should be given.

"That would be better than taking his life. I am a mother myself and I would feel mighty bad if that had happened to my son."

'NO PUSHERS' or main-liners' have been found by Baltimore police is the word from Capt. Joseph Carroll, head of the police narcotics division shown here examining a wide array of dope paraphernalia collected during raids over a period of time.

—No dope pushers

(Continued from Page 1)

line shooters" carry the marks made by the inserted hypo "to the grave."

"Making this remark clear, he stated that the needle marks never go away because the vein collapses and the vein is sealed and scarred by nature.

The user is then required to go into another vein the next time the hypo is inserted.

Said Capt. Carroll: "I've seen old addicts with not a vein left-they can get into."

* * *

THIS ADDITIONAL little known information was revealed by Capt. Carroll:—

Marihuana is not addiction-forming.

He said: "I know people who have smoked it for 30 years and just on week-ends like you would take a shot of whiskey."

The opium derivatives are the habit-forming drugs.

Of morphine, the Captain said:—sensations after its use are disliked by the user. "It makes him feel like pins and needles are going through him and he doesn't like that."

* * *

DO NARCOTICS-users report other addicts to the police?

Capt. Carroll says, "Yes, before long they all whistle Dixie."

On the habits of dope users: "They're a funny bunch of people. They usually hang together. They don't want to associate with anybody that's not an addict."

Capt. Carroll also disclosed that most persons who have had any association with drugs are listed in the narcotics division files.

He said, "There are rarely any new addicts around unless they come from out of town.

"We know just about all of them and some of them are known to eat the stuff like candy."

The narcotics squad official also revealed that the "hot spots" of the Baltimore dope users and peddlers are at Patterson Park Ave. and Fayette St.; Frederick Ave. and Warwick Ave.;

Also at Monument and Caroline Sts.; from the 900 block of Pennsylvania Ave. "on up;" Washington Blvd. and Fremont Ave.; the 500 block of Fremont Ave.

About these areas, he said: "There's where we pick up more cases than anywhere else in the city."

* * *

THE ONE and a half-hour talk brought frequent laughter since Capt. Carroll often referred to humorous experiences during his association with the police department.

However, one of the most hilarious involved a very grave situation in which three dope users lost their lives.

The story as narrated by Capt. Carroll is as follows:

"You can't use heroin and alcohol together.

"If you drink and use the "stuff" you're a dead-goner.

"One time, some guys were sitting at a bar drinking because there was no heroin in town they could get hold of to buy.

"They kept on drinking until they got juiced and plenty high.

"Then along came this 'cat' from Washington and he had a little heroin with him. He says to these three other 'cats' on the bar: 'Let's go up to the 'pad' and 'take off.'

"Well, they goes on up to the 'pad' and they started 'mainlining the stuff,' shooting it in.

"One of the 'cats' left the 'pad' and walked a few blocks and he fell dead.

"In a short time all three of the 'cats' were dead where they had walked out into the street."

A "glossary" of dope users' terms follows:

main liner — shoots into the veins.
blasting — smoking.
stuff — the narcotic or dope.
hoss — the narcotic or dope.
bush — the narcotic or dope.
pad—apartment where users gather.
cat — male dope user.
stud — male dope user.
kitty, kitten or chick—female dope user.
sticks—dope filled cigarettes.
bush—marihuana.
pusher—peddler.
taking off—shooting "stuff" into veins.

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN
(Registered U.S. Patent Office)
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Company, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore 1, Md.; MUlberry 5-0613.
Second class mail privilege authorized at Baltimore, Md.
Carl Murphy, President; D. Argwett Murphy, Vice President and Treasurer; Mae E. Dyson and Elizabeth M. Phillips, Secretaries; Cliff Mackay, Editor; Samuel Hopkins, Managing Editor.
A CHAMPION OF CIVIC WELFARE AND THE SQUARE DEAL
National Representatives
Associated Publishers, Inc., 31 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y., 168 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.; West Coast — Whaley-Simpson Company, 5608 Seina Avenue, Los Angeles 28, California and Whaley-Simpson Company, 56 New Montgomery St., San Francisco, California.
Affiliated Newspapers
Washington AFRO-AMERICAN 1300 11th St., N.W.—DEcatur 2-0080
Richmond AFRO-AMERICAN 301 E. Clay St., Dial 3-7111
New Jersey AFRO-AMERICAN 153 W. Kinney St., Market 2-5273
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BARON CHARLES BLACKWELL, was born on Friday, Dec. 13, 1945. Today is his 12th birthday and his diary reads like any other all-American boy's life. About ill-luck omens of the day, Baron says: "Shucks, tain't nothing'."

—Friday 13th

(Continued from Page 1)

here were happy, healthy rolyoly little boy days before he went to school and then came m, lessons, sports at school. Always at home there was om and dad along with his orite of favorite foods, fries' cken.

ncluded were trains, planes cycles, boxing gloves and chalis just like regular guys ve.

low a seventh grader at cker T. Washington Junior gh School No. 130, Baron is average pupil, likes his art ss best and is devoted to rawing things."

His father is Charles Blackwell who has been employed at estern Electric Company for years and his mother, Mrs. orterse Blackwell, is the ind of mom all kids like to ave — one who has dinner meiling good when he gets in from school.

She states that Friday the 13th has no real connection as far as Baron is concerned.

She says: "He has had just a normal life and nothing much happens."

Has he had anything especially lucky to happen?

"Well," adds his mother, with a chuckle, "yes and no.

"The only thing he ever won was 3rd prize in a baby contest when he was 9 or 10 months old. But I suppose since he's grown up he doesn't care to mention that."

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WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND

Abortion trial on

Mrs. Flonia V. Sumler, of the 1600 block Warwick Ave., was on trial in Criminal Court Thursday before a jury, with Judge T. Tucker sitting, facing charges with an 81-year-old blond man of performing an abortion and conspiracy to perform an abortion.

Mrs. Sumler faces two other abortion charges and another conspiracy charge, and the blond man, Lorenzo B. Evans, of the Park Lynn Hotel, faces three other abortion charges and one of conspiracy.

Assistant State's Attorney John C. Weiss postponed the other cases against the pair.

NO BATHTUB and no running hot water is the problem of the residents at 720 N. Spring St. Here William Banks, 64, who has lived there seven years, pours himself a bath.

—Bathtub law

(Continued from Page 1)

nation, decided to do it through a letter."

* * *

AN AFRO reporter visited 50 homes last week and found over half of them to be without bathtubs and hot water. The ordinance governing bathing facilities states, however, that all dwelling units must have bathtubs and running hot water.

The Department of Health told the AFRO last week that a personnel shortage made "impossible" its conducting a large scale check to determine if the law is being complied with.

Meanwhile an AFRO reporter made a second survey this week in the eastern section of the city and found that out of some 45 homes visited, 16 were without bathing facilities and running hot water in the radius of a few blocks.

In the 700 block of N. Spring St., ten homes were reported without bathtubs or showers. They were located at 710, 712, 713, 715, 719, 720, 730, 728, and 729.

Residents reported that they used old fashioned wash basins or the kitchen sink for bathing purposes.

One resident at 728 N. Spring St., was quoted as saying: "I wish the Lord would do something about the situation. I have to heat water on the stove."

In a home located at 721 N. Dallas St., the resident said: "I had to buy several wash basins downtown."

* * *

THE DWELLINGS at 802 and 804 N. Spring St. were reported without bathtubs and hot water. At the first address the family said they paid $10 weekly and at 804 the monthly rent was listed as $36.

At 406 E. Barnes St., an elderly resident said:

"I don't know what a bathtub is. It has been so long since I've seen one. I don't have hot water for nothing."

In the 1200 block N. Dallas St., homes at 1213 and 1215 were also reported without bathing facilities.

THE DEPARTMENT of Health regulation which spells out what sanitary facilities shall be provided in the homes of the city has been in effect since Jan. 1, 1956.

It states:

"Every dwelling unit shall contain within a room which affords privacy, a bathtub or shower in good working condition which shall be properly connected to both hot and cold water lines and to the public sanitary sewer or to an approved sanitary sewage disposal system.

The regulation on hot water states that:

"Every dwelling or dwelling unit shall have supplied water heating facilities which are properly installed, are maintained in safe and good working condition and are properly connected to the bathtub or shower, sink and lavatory basin, as required in these regulations.

"Such water heating facilities shall be capable of heating water to such a temperature as to permit an adequate amount of hot water to be drawn by every required outlet."

The regulations were proposed by the Health Department on the basis of the hygiene of housing ordinance adopted in 1941 which empowers the commissioner of health to make and adopt "such rules and regulations as he may deem proper and necessary for the enforcement of this ordinance for the better protection of the health of the city."

Violation of the ordinance constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by a $50 fine with each day's violation being a separate offense.

Judge E. Paul Mason in Circuit Court upheld the bathtub law when he ruled on Oct. 22, 1954, that such a regulation fell within the province of the Health Department.

Tipsters earn spending loot for Christmas

With only eight more shopping "Days left till Christmas," AFRO news tipsters continued this week to earn money which will come in handy during the holiday rush.

A $5 check representing the top news tip award is being sent to a tipster who reported a slaying early this week.

The second highest award, a check for $3, will go to a tipster who reported the unfortunate accidental death of a child who took some medicine belonging to the child's grandmother.

* * *

A HURRIED call Monday relating that a matron had fallen from the Guilford Ave. Bridge earned the tipsters $2. Receiving a check for one dollar will be a second caller giving additional information on this incident.

Eight other alert news tipsters were awarded checks for one dollar each for information which lead to stories appearing in this newspaper.

Five of the lucky tipsters reported automobile accidents, one of them a highway fatality. Other tipsters told of a 75 miles - per - hour police chase involving four teenagers, a serious stabbing in East Baltimore and a Gilmor St. fire.

* * *

CHECKS ARE sent out every week for news tips and it is simple to earn cash this way.

Here is all you do:

Call MU-5-6015, 6016, -1812 and 1814. If no answer, call LA-3-3024.

A sum of $50 is set aside each week for NEWS TIPS and NEWS PHOTOS and there are winners every week.

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Institutions desiring this treat for their kiddies should communicate with us in writing, on or before December 19, stating the number of children to be served.

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Teenage driver to go to court

An 18-year-old youth who was identified as the driver of an automobile which struck an elderly woman Tuesday afternoon at Fulton and Lafayette Aves., is to be given a hearing in Youth Court on December 28 at 9 a.m.

A charge of reckless driving was filed against Jimmie Roberson of the 2100 block N. Fulton Ave., after the pedestrian, Mrs. Theresa Jones, 59, of 916 to Maryland General Hospital N. Stricker St., was admitted with cuts about the face, arms, and legs.

Traffic police said the convertible automobile driven by Roberson belonged to Mrs. Cleopatra Tallev of the 2100 block N. Fulton Ave.

Gets 5 years

James Peterson Jr., 27, of the 2100 block Brunt St., was sentenced in Criminal Court Monday to five years in the House of Correction after he pleaded guilty to burglarizing a store in the 1300 block W. North Ave. on November 14.

Judge S. Ralph Warnken was told Mr. Peterson stole clothing valued at $1,850.55.

Vodka, Vodka, who's got the Vodka?

Well, at present there are well over 100 brands of vodka. And if vodka drinkers act somewhat puzzled when exposed to this imposing array—it's to be understood. However, out of all of these vodkas, only one vodka qualifies as *the* vodka.

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