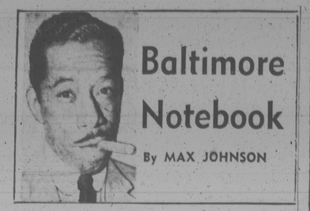
FATE OF THREE LIVES NOW UP TO TAWES



Baltimore Notebook

By MAX JOHNSON

Mayor McKeldin has gotten quite peeved over the sudden picketing of City Hall by representatives of the NAACP and Postal Alliance—demanding quick, favorable action on civil rights issues.

He states this picketing will anger some councilmen—and thus endanger passage of his package of proposed rights legislation.

This package is to go to the City Council Monday evening—after several weeks of preparation.

The mayor may or may not have a point on the picketing at this time—concern here is with a broader aspect of the whole thing.

* * *

I CONTEND there should have been strong protesting action lodged with the mayor long before now.

There is justifiable cause—which he has generated.

Mayor McKeldin has been a sharp disappointment to date to his friends and supporters in the colored community—both Democrats and Republicans who made his election possible.

And this has come as a surprise—for these friends and supporters know of him as an acclaimed humanitarian and an outspoken champion of just human rights for all men.

They just can't believe this is the same McKeldin they knew as mayor before and later governor for two terms.

Now, he is sending to the Council a package of rights proposals—assumedly drawn as the colored community would have them presented.

* * *

AND THIS will be his first favorable attention to this large segment of his constituents since he took office seven months ago.

Let's look at the McKeldin story—in this respect.

He gained considerable support in the colored community to win the election—primarily on a promise to name a colored citizen to the all-white Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals.

Yet—he looked the other way in filling two vacancies on this highly important board.

He then proceeded to cut from two to one colored representation on the Jail Board.

This community's requests to him to desegregate the Fire Board fell on deaf ears.

* * *

HE MADE but a half-hearted attempt to replace a Democrat on the Park Board with one of his staunch supporters in the colored community—which the City Council squashed.

This same community wants him to name Buddy Young—or one of its representatives—to that vacancy on the Civic Center Commission.

The mayor has given no indication he wil do so.

He has been hemmin' and hawin' on repeated requests that he name a colored administrative assistant to his staff—so the city may benefit by better liaison with this community.

As matters now stand—there is none worthy of note.

NOW LET'S carry this thing further—right to City Hall itself.

The mayor has but one colored person on his staff of 14—and she is a clerk-stenographer appointed by the former Mayor Grady.

In the whole of City Hall departments—there are 211 citizens employed.

Just five of these—including the young lady in mayor's office—are colored.

City Comptroller Hyman Pressman has found occasion to name several colored to his department staffs in the Municipal Building that the mayor continues to look the other way.

By no stretch of the imagination can this be deemed any other than a disturbing picture in the eyes of the colored community—citizens who form more than a third of Baltimore's total population.

These citizens want the opportunity to participate more fully in municipal affairs.

* * *

SO—THE mayor can hardly adopt a holy attitude in this matter.

This is not to be construed as my endorsement of that picketing of City Hall at this time—for a talking stage should precede the walking.

I do contend very forceably, though, there is justification for the colored community to pitch a strong beef with the mayor.

And that's the purpose of this piece.

Of course the mayor and I can be fairly certain councilmen of the First, Sixth and most of the four in the Third District are going to vote against his rights proposals—pickets or no pickets.

* * *

NOW—LET'S be honest about this thing.

Mayor McKeldin might be concerned that the picket-

(Continued on Page 7)

SOME 18,000 educators are expected to enroll for the 2½-day Maryland State Teachers Association Convention at the Civic Center. Mesdames Laura Burnes, Dorothy D. Chambers and Clementine Johnson of Annapolis' Bates High, and Adams Park Elementary School teacher, Mrs. Yvonne G. Bell, review new techniques shown at the convention.

MRS. LORETTA WEBB, a public school teacher from Silver Springs, examines one of the exhibitions at the MSTA Convention, which is being held at the Civic Center.

Students to protest executions

A group of "concerned students", will stage simultaneous sympathy marches ouside the Maryland State Penitentiary and City Hall at 4 o'clock today (Friday) in protest against the impending execution of three young Montgomery countians.

Miss Madeline W. Murphy, a student at the Maryland Institute of Art and a member of the ad-hoc committee formed to protest the scheduled executions, said students would participate from Morgan, Coppin, Goucher and Johns Hopkins.

Civil rights organizations to be represented will include the Congress on Racial Equality, Civic Interest Group, Northern Student Movement and the Student Non - Violent Coordinating Committee.

The young men on death row are Joseph E. Johnson, 25; John G. Giles, 22, and his brother, James V. Giles, 24. They have been convicted of raping a 16 - year - old blonde girl.

On Tuesday a large delegation backed by evidence which became public since their trials in 1961 and more than 9,000 petitions, called on Gov. J. Millard Tawes to commute the sentences to 18 months.

Johnson is scheduled to die next Friday night.

MISS MURPHY said the demonstration in front of City Hall would in no way be directed against Mayor Theodore McKeldin who can take no official action in the matter. She said the students do hope he will take to them and possibly to Gov. Tawes.

Plans at mid - week called for the sympathy marchers to carry signs urging Gov. Tawes to commute the sentences and comparing their terms to that given socialite-farmer William D. Zantzinger in the caning death of a colored waitress. He was given six months.

NOV. 14-16

"Purlie Victorious," the comedy that scored a hit on Broadway, will be presented by the Ira Aldridge Players of Morgan State College as their first production of the year in the Murphy Auditorium. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m.

Last plea awaits his decision

ANNAPOLIS — "We are not pleading for a reduction to life imprisonment or a prison term but we are asking a minimum sentence of 18 months because of the reasonable doubt."

"Five of the convicting jurors have since expressed this doubt.

"They have been imprisoned now for over two years. The 18-month minimum sentence would allow them to be freed."

Hal Witt one of the defense attorneys in the Johnson-Giles brothers Montgomery County criminal attack case made this clemency plea for their lives Tuesday before Gov. J. Millard Tawes.

At issue was whether James E. Johnson 25; John G. Giles 22, and his brother, James V., 24, would die in the state's gas chamber as sentenced, for criminally attacking a 16-year-old Hyattsville girl.

Gov. Tawes said at conclusion of the two-hour hearing he hoped to reach a decision prior to Friday of next week, at which time Johnson is scheduled to be executed.

* * *

THE GOVERNOR did not say so, but he left strong indications that the lives of the three convicted men would be shared.

The degree of the reduced sentence to be imposed it became apparent, was actually what he was taking under advisement.

He questioned when a predecessor in office had reduced a death penalty in a criminal attack case to less than life imprisonment, and was told this last occurred in 1913.

However, there have been no executions in such cases

(Continued on Page 7)

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Suspect, 17, charged in the Duffy slaying

Clarence H. Green, 17, 2200 block Guilford Ave., was charged Wednesday in the Central District Homicide Court with the August 24 slaying of an unemployed salesman, James H. Duffy, and the criminal assault of his 24 - year - old wife.

The suspect was arrested Sunday morning by four Northern District patrolmen who said they found Green hiding under a girlfriend's bed, in the 2200 block N. Howard St.

At the time of the offense, Mrs. Naomi Duffy told police she had awakened during the night to find her husband engaged in a struggle with an intruder at their temporary dwelling in the 1700 block N. Calvert St.

Police said after fatally slashing Mr. Duffy across his throat, the intruder then cut Mrs. Duffy on her face, dragged her into a bedroom and assaulted her. Mrs. Duffy's cut required 80 stitches.

A medical examiner's report showed that Mr. Duffy's jugular vein had been severed.

The parents of five children, the Duffys had been evicted from their home the day before the incident, according to police.

They said a sympathetic property supervisor, Mrs. Lillian Booker, of the same block, allowed the desolate family to stay in a vacant house until a permanent residence could be found.

THE SUSPECT came under suspicion after police received a tip that the boy had been involved in the murder while they were investigating a string of food market holdups.

Officers investigating the case said they had attempted to locate the suspect for about three weeks, but he had always managed to elude them.

Following his arrest, police stated, the suspect willingly submitted to a lie detector test and gave a signed statement concerning the slaying.

The youth is also charged with the armed robbery on August 12, of a grocery store in the 700 block E. 20th St.

Mrs. Duffy, who returned to her parents' home in Texas after the murder has been sent for as a state's witness, police said.

Rites set for Wayland Wilson

Funeral services for John Wayland Wilson, 51, 2807 Clifton Ave., will be held Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Fayette and Carey Sts.

Mr. Wilson died Wednesday at his residence. He had cancer, and had been ill for over a year. He was employed as Superintendent of Construction for the Frederick Messiah Construction Company prior to his illness.

* * *

MR. WILSON was born in Sparrows Point, the son of the late Edward and Felicia Wilson.

He was a product of Baltimore public schools, attended Hampton Institute, and was graduated from A and T College, Greensboro, N.C.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Women band to launch state campaigns for civil rights

ANNAPOLIS — "I am asking that you who are gathered here today dedicate yourselves to the task of mobilizing public opinion behind our efforts to end the irony of racial discrimination in a state nationally and internationally known as the Free State.

"In making this request, I am ever mindful of the dangers that can result if we proceed in an erratic fashion without coordination and without planning."

AT THE STATE level and in many of our communities, Gov. J. Millard Tawes was speaking here Tuesday afternoon, opening the first Governor's Conference of Maryland Women's Committee for Civil Rights.

He was addressing over 250 women representing organizations of both races throughout the state, gathered in The House of Delegates chamber in the State House.

It was a widely heralded affair, and the first time a governor has called such a conference of women groups to help combat racial discrimination.

"I take this occasion to pledge my support to the new organization, headed by Mrs. Albert R. Fischer, turned immediately to the job of following through on the Governor's requests.

Mrs. Fischer revealed that the local organization is the outgrowth of a conference of women throughout the country last July with President Kennedy in Washington.

SHE SAID the committee

(Continued on Page 7)

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THE 'WAY OUT' ARTISTS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

CORE TURNS DOWN PLEA FOR TRUCE

(STORY IN COLUMN 1)

BLUE Streak EDITION
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THE WEATHER

No rain in sight. Today (Friday) mostly sunny and warm continuing through Saturday. Sunday will be partly cloudy and continued warm. Hights 75 to 80 during the day. Lows from 45 to 55.

ARSON SQ. HUNTS FIREBUG

Case Of The Pickets And Mr. Muhl

'I'm Hurt'

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

"I'm hurt!"

That's the reaction of Baltimore County Police Magistrate Howard L. Muhl Jr., former Baltimore cop, whose judicial neck has been threatened with the chopping block.

Mr. Muhl has become the target of head hunters in high places for his handling of the cases of two civil rights demonstrators.

The magistrate committed Keith C. Kern, 27, 3000 block Reisterstown Rd. and David A. Smith, 18, 1300 block N. Laverne Ave. to Spring Grove Mental Hospital without the benefit of a hearing Monday.

Both men were jailed Sunday along with three other demonstrators who were protesting segregation at the Vernon's Roller Rink in Catonsville.

They were released on $103 bail and ordered to appear at the Catonsville Police Magistrate Court for a Monday night hearing.

Fred E. Weisgal, defense attorney, said Magistrate Muhl didn't bother to conduct a hearing.

* * *

"SECOND offenders and people who deliberately violate the law are insane," Mr. Weisgal quoted the magistrate as telling him and his clients and proceeded to send them to the mental institution, where they spent Monday night.

At a habeas corpus hearing before Baltimore County Circuit Court Judge John E. Raine Jr. Tuesday Mr. Kern and Mr. Smith were freed from the hospital and ordered released in $103 bail to await a hearing on the trespassing charges.

In condemning the action, the former cop who was assigned to the office of the Baltimore State's

(Continued on Page 29)

In the wake of the commitment of two demonstrators to Spring Grove Hospital for mental examinations, a storm broke this week about the head of Magistrate Howard L. Muhl Jr. Judge John E. Raine said he acted out of malice, County Executive Spiro Agnew called for his removal and his stand was echoed by the Interracial Commission. Here are two sides of the story.

CENTER OF STORM—Keith C. Kern left and David Smith became the key figures this week in a controversy surrounding the actions of a Baltimore magistrate who had them committed to a mental hospital, after they had been arrested at an anti-segregation demonstration.

They're Stunned

By RALPH MATTHEWS, JR.

On Sunday David Smith and Keith Kern picketed a jim-crow roller rink. On Monday both of them were shipped off to an insane asylum.

They could hardly believe what was happening to them. On Monday afternoon before Baltimore County Magistrate Howard H. Muhl Jr., they heard themselves being committed to a state mental hospital for having been arrested a second time for protesting segregation.

The men are members of Baltimore County CORE Mr. Kern, 27, is a special student at the University of Maryland, married and with a master's degree in library science from Columbia University. Mr. Smith, 18, an East Baltimorean, attends night school and is a volunteer worker with the Northern Student Movement during the day.

* * *

THEY TOLD the AFRO about their ordeal.

Upon hearing Magistrate Muhl order them committed to the mental hospital, without a trial, Kern said "I was shocked, amazed and outraged at the same time. I would have never thought something like that could happen."

Young Smith said he looked at Muhl in disbelief. "I laughed inwardly. I thought this was silly. I thought to myself that if he thinks we're crazy, I wonder what he thinks of Martin Luther King who has been arrested on the same charges many times."

They were taken from the courtroom into a side chamber. The policeman searched Kern for weapons. Smith who had refused bail when arrested at the roller rink the day before, had spent a night in jail

(Continued on Page 29)

NW area hard hit by blazes

Somewhere in Baltimore is a mentally sick individual who gets twisted delight in setting fires.

"We've definitely got a firebug on our hands," Fire Department Captain John Magreuther of the arson squad told the AFRO this week. "And he's a clever one."

Fire investigators are sure that the recent rash of unexplained fires in Northwest Baltimore's Walbrook section are the work of a firebug.

A third consecutive blaze at the Walbrook Lumber yard in the 2600 block W. North last Saturday is believed to be the work of this arsonist.

Fire officials have appealed to residents in the area to be on the watch for any suspicous persons.

"So far this "bug" has confined himself to setting afire unoccupied buildings or yards," said the fire captain. "But there is always grave danger to life and property. We will treat all information confidentially and all citizens are urged to supply any leads they think can help us."

Police and fire department arson investigators are still attempting to learn the cause of a fire that completey gutted the Forest Park Bowling Lanes Monday night.

The six alarm fire, which erupted with an explosion that completely demolished the bowling lanes, located at Garrison Blvd., and Forest Park Ave., occurred at about 12:22 a.m.

Store front windows, nearby homes and business establishments were also damaged by the blast that has been described by neighboring residents as "... a terrifying sound in the night."

A "Late Show" TV fan said, "I was looking at TV, when all of a sudden I heard this loud noise. It frightened me so bad I jumped out of my chair horrified. I couldn't

(Continued on Page 21)

CORE says no to EOC, will continue picketing

The Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) is not happy with CORE picketing a downtown store in a fair hiring campaign.

On the other hand, CORE has warned that it will not tolerate use of city tax money to maintain job discrimination.

In a closed session Wednesday, EOC commissioners attempted to get CORE to halt its demonstrations until the fair hiring agency could resolve the differences between the civil rights organization and Stewart and Company, the target store.

Lloyd Taylor, representing CORE at the closed meeting on Wednesday told the AFRO: "I explained to the Commission that CORE's new policy is to picket even while negotiations are taking place.

CORE's official statement following this meeting said:

"The EOC feels that Stewart's is living up to its regulations: however, CORE feels that the Stewart's is not following a true fair employment program.

"CORE contends that Stewart's has only "token" employment of colored downtown and practically no colored in sales jobs at other stores at Reisterstown Plaza and York Rd.

"Stewart's is not willing to comply with certain CORE demands and as of yesterday would not consider advertising for qualified colored workers in channels where such workers could be reached."

"EOC is not concerned with ending discrimination immediately. CORE is. We are fed up with this piecemeal, inch by snail's pace that EOC pursues. We have informed the EOC that CORE will not tolerate any use of tax money to maintain job discrimination."

At a general membership meeting of CORE that evening Mr. Taylor informed his fellow CORE members of EOC's desire to a demonstration. The members voted to continue.

During the closed session, Mr. Taylor was asked why CORE was taking action in the area of employment when the city already has a fair hiring ordinance.

Mr. Taylor is reported to have responded that while EOC has the "narrow" aim of relieving individual complaints of job discrimination, CORE's aims "are much broader. We are seeking to upgrade job opportunities for a great many colored Baltimoreans."

No agreements were reached during the session. A Stewart's official was also in attendance.

Questioned on the secrecy

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Office: 628 N. Eutaw St., Phone: MUL. 5-6015

DAYLIGHT BURGLARY

They came with a truck

At about 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, a housewife in the 3300 block Alto Rd., looked from her kitchen window and was surprised to see three men busily loading a truck in the rear of her neighbor's home.

The workmen turned out to be burglars, who successfully carted off over $1,400 worth of house furnishings, and other valuables.

The observer, Mrs. Berniece C. Hall, immediately called the police. They arrived a few minutes later but the burglars had fled.

"I became suspicious when I saw a radio setting on top of a television set, and I knew that neither of the Matthews was at home. Mrs. Hall told the AFRO Wednesday.

She continued, "I spotted them leaving the house from the basement door, and suddenly realized what was going on."

Police said when they ar-

(Continued on Page 2)

King says old order is passing

Dr. Martin Luther King received a standing ovation after he delivered a speech, "The Crisis That Confronts Us," at Morgan State College, Thursday, at a special convocation by Maryland clergymen.

The purpose of the convocation "was to bring the Christian witness into sharper focus in the problems of race and religion."

Nearly 1,400 persons—some 1,000 of whom were clergymen—attended the three-hour session.

The convocation was divided into three major sec-

(Continued on Page 2)

Giles brothers saved from death in gas chamber

ANNAPOLIS — The death sentences in the Johnson-Giles brothers' Montgomery County criminal attack case were commuted Thursday by Gov. J. Millard Tawes to life imprisonment.

The convicted men, Joseph E. Johnson, 25; John G. Giles, 22, and his brother, James V., 24, will be eligible for parole after serving 15 years.

They were sentenced to die in the state's gas chamber for criminally attacking a 16-year-old Hyattsville, Md., girl on July 21, 1961.

Each had been granted a stay of execution, pending this result of a clemency plea made before Gov. Tawes on Tuesday of last week by attorneys for the three.

* * *

THEY asked at the time that the death penalties be reduced to a minimum sentence of 18 months, in order that the three who have been jailed for more than two years, could be freed.

Basis for this plea was given by the attorneys as new evidence of the girl's moral reputation and her juvenile record with the Probation Department.

The attorneys told Gov. Tawes the girl, by her own admission, was of loose morals and had a juvenile record not available at the trials.

Gov. Tawes, however, in a three-page explanation accompanying the commutation of the death sentences, made no mention of the girl's character.

He did note that James Giles had no previous criminal record, and that the other two convicted men had minor brushes with the law "not of a serious nature."

He noted also that the Giles brothers had been convicted by a Montgomery County jury, Johnson by one in Anne Arundel County, and that neither jury had recommended without capital punishment.

* * *

GOV. TAWES arrived at these conclusions in his accompanying statement:

"More importantly, they (the convicted men) do not indicate a prior propensity for physical violence.

"Of course, I cannot and do not minimize the gravity of the present offense of which they stand convicted, and its effect upon the victim and the public.

"But on the other hand, the past history of these persons cannot be ignored in attempting to arrive at a composite

(Continued on Page 29)

HOUSEWIFE ARRESTED

Disc jocks threatened

A housewife, who allegedly attempted to "shake-down" one of the city's top colored disc jockeys, was arrested at her home Thursday by FBI agents and charged with extortion.

She was identified as Mrs. Katie Johnson, 26, 2600 block E. Preston St. She was arraigned this morning before U.S. Commissioner Ernest Volkhart.

The target of Mrs. Johnson's attempt was Kelson "Chop Chop" Fisher, a disc jockey at Station WWIN, FBI agents said.

She reportedly mailed a letter to him on Oct. 2 that contained a threat to kill him.

The FBI added that similar letters had been received by a number of other disc jockeys employed at WSID and WEBB.

Those threatened included Lennie Moore, the Colt's halfback, who was a disc jockey from 1957-58; Buddy Young, "Sparky" Mullen, Russ Johnson, Carl "Fat Daddy" Johnson, Eddie Morrison, Chuck Leonard, Billy Foxx, Pauline Wells Lewis and "Rockin Robin" Robinson.

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Local Artists Save Rebellion For Their Paintings

By RALPH MATHEWS JR.

The popular idea of an artist, particularly painters, still has it that these creative people are wild, eccentric types, who live in attics, drink themselves silly and fashion masterpieces on canvas when sober.

Mention painters or painting and the image of Van Gogh, who cut off his own ear, leaps to mind; or Maurice Utrillo, who drank himself to death in Paris alleys; or Gauguin who died of leprosy in self-imposed exile on a South Sea Island.

But this tragically glamourous heritage of past geniuses is far from the path pursued today by young painters.

Rather then self - destruction, young Americans who paint for a living or out of passion for art itself are much more concerned about surviving so that they can keep on painting rather than showing how crazy they can be.

Of course aspiring painters in our society still rebel in mild social ways.

Some of them show their individuality (or lack of it) by sprouting beards, wearing sandals, disdaining new clothes or steady jobs, but more often American painters save their rebellion for where it counts, the painting itself.

A look at two young Baltimore painters would go far to prove that the main thing the generation of creative people is concerned with is not being "beatnik" just to be "beat" but with painting.

To paint on a canvas requires great patience, much privacy and understanding friends and families.

Take Clifton Smith, by day a housing agency employee, by night and as much other time as he can beg, borrow or steal, a serious painter, skilled with brush and an accomplished wood sculpturer as well.

Cliff Smith, 37, married and father of three, has marvelous powers of concentration. A family man who happens to be a creative artist needs this facility. His wife Alice has said marveling, "With the kids playing, me talking, and the phone ringing plus TV going, Cliff can still concentrate on his work and stick to it until it's just as he wants it to be."

* * *

EASY - GOING, soft -spoken Smith simply says, "I enjoy painting and the only time I can't concentrate is when I am unhappy with the way my theme is developing."

The Smith's neat home on Dukeland Street is tastefully decorated and a major visual effect in their living room are various paints by Mr. Smith. His wife can seldom keep the front rooms looking the same way because their friends are always literally buying Smith paintings off the walls.

Thus their home has the newness and variety of an art gallery with changing exhibitions.

Cliff Smith always liked to draw but after returning from service in World War II and classes at the now-closed Maryland Academy, he began to emerge as a serious painter.

His progress has largely been an exercise in self-discovery. Friends recalling his first crude attempts and comparing them with his present polished efforts can hardly believe the current work is by the same beginning painter they had known Smith to be.

* * *

SMITH'S WORK is eclectic. He belongs to no particular school of painting. He can paint surrealistically, abstractly, cubistically.

He is a respected artist among the local artists.

The only recurring criticism of his friends with some background in art is that Cliff Smith, to quote one such observer "has mastered enough technique to paint much more powerfully than he does."

Another observer said "Cliff has a feeling for Baltimore life, for the world of jazz, for the problems of us blacks but I just wish he would take the plunge and come up with something that would really shake the world up. He's holding back."

There are signs that this artist is beginning to loosen up, in a recent painting, in almost comic style; he

(Continued on Page 2)