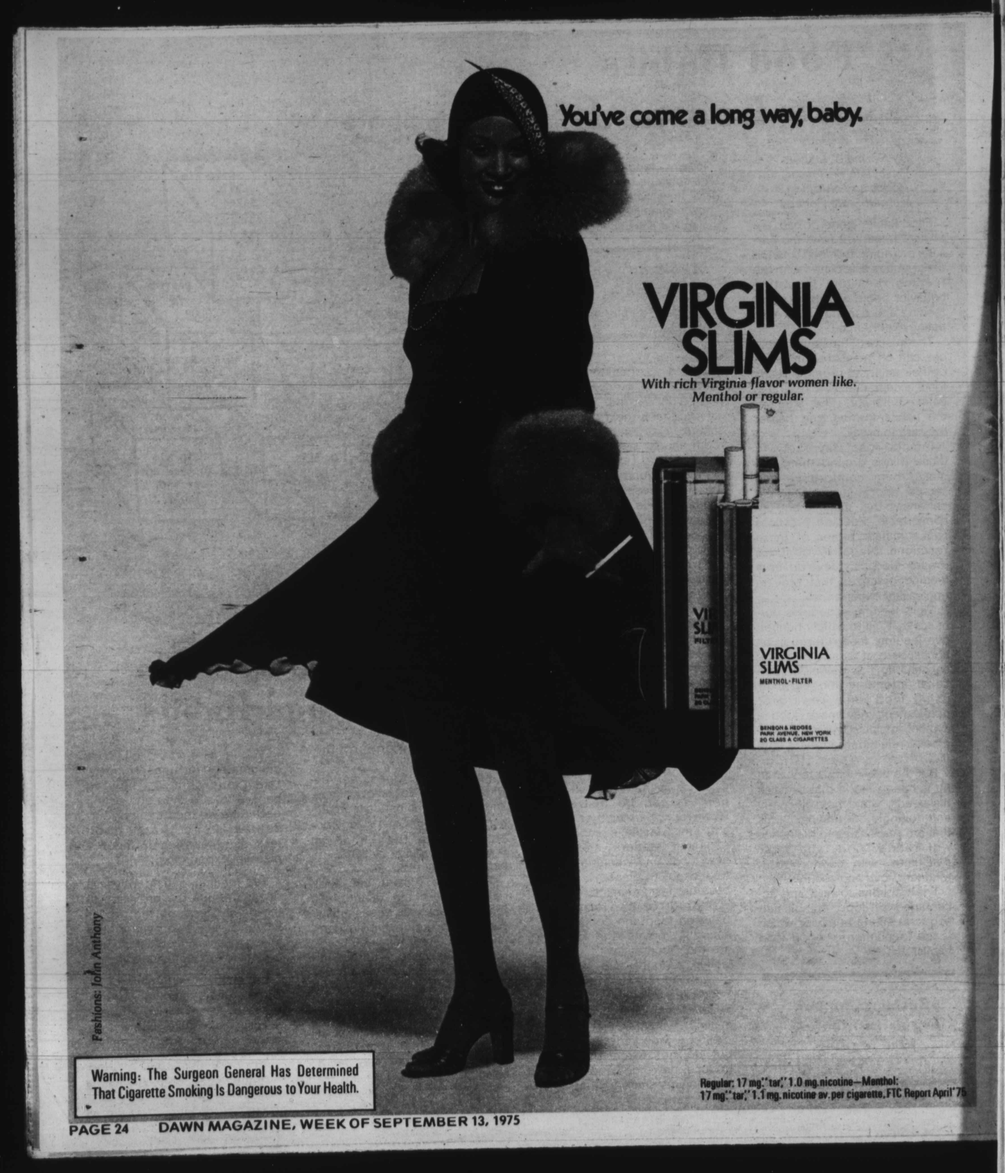


2 youths charged in murder of gospel singer

City College student and 13-year-old face life terms

DAVID BAKER LEE
City College student

By Pam Widgeon

Two teenagers have been charged with the Sept. 8, murder of the famed gospel singer, Oscar Thomas Minnitt.

David Baker Lee, 18 1400 block Montpelier St., was arrested by homicide detectives at his home Sept. 16. He is a City College student, court records show.

Lee appeared before Judge Robert J. Gerstung on Wednesday in the Northern District courtroom for a bail hearing.

A spokesman for the pretrial release recommended to Judge Gerstung that bail be set at $7,500.

PARENTS NOT AT TRIAL

The spokesman who identified himself as "Mr. Panowicz" told the court, "The defendant's parents said they would be at his bail hearing. They are not here."

Finding the parents were not in the courtroom, Judge Gerstung told the defendant, "Your parents did not show up and bail is $25,000.

Wearing a navy shirt, blue pants and carrying a black hat, Lee remained silent, left the courtroom under guard and was later taken to City Jail.

BOY, AGE 13

A 13-year-old boy who has been in Juvenile court five times, was arrested Sept. 17 and charged with "murder and armed robbery" in the gospel singer's case.

If convicted, he faces life plus 20 years in prison.

The youth appeared before Judge Robert L. Karwacki on Thursday for a detention hearing. Police report the youth formerly lived in the 1300 block Homestead St.

ON LEAVE FROM MONTROSE

Assistant State's Attorney E. Nicholson Gault told the court, "The alleged crime which the youth is charged with, happened on the weekend while he was home on leave from Montrose School.

"He allegedly robbed and murdered Oscar T. Minnitt on Sept. 8, 1975.

The youth is also charged with taking $63 and the victim's 1975 car.

"The robbery and murder occurred simultaneously," said Mr. Gault.

Mr. Gault asked the judge that the defendant be sent to Maryland's Children Center because "Montrose policy included weekend leave and is not a satisfactory detention center for the youth."

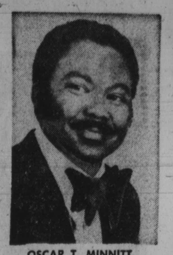
The youth showed no emotions during the hearing. Seated next to his attorneys Peter Robb and Phillip Dantes, he seemed to stare at the prosecutor while he was talking to the judge.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

It was brought to the court's attention by Mr. Gault that the teenager's pattern of behaviour started in November, 1974 when he stole a car and was later apprehended driving the car. He was charged and sent to Montrose School.

The prosecutor also stated the defendant was brought to court again on

(Continued on Page 23)



OSCAR T. MINNITT
tortured to death

Baltimore Afro American

Copyright 1975 by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co. for all material previously printed in the current National Edition

WE ARE IN OUR 84th YEAR

LATE CITY EDITION

84th Year, No. 10 BALTIMORE, MD., SEPTEMBER 20, 1975 25 CENTS ONE YEAR $12.00

Thieves rob Baptist prexy of $4,500

DR. MARY ROSS

ST. LOUIS — Police are investigating the theft of an undisclosed amount of jewelry and cash taken from the motel room of Dr. Mary Ross, president of the Women's Committee of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

While Detective James Wencewicz declined to say exactly how much money was taken from Dr. Ross, room at the Holiday Inn, 200 North 4th St., an earlier report had placed the cash figure at $4,800.

The robbery occurred during the recent National Baptist convention here. According to Det. Wencewicz, Dr. Ross was not in her room when receipts of contributions given in her honor were taken.

He said there have been no arrests or recovery of items taken.

* * *

Back in Baltimore from the week-long convention, the Rev. James L. Moore, Sharon Baptist Church pastor, said he heard about the robbery but could give no details.

He said the convention president, Dr. Joseph H. Jackson, Chicago, received a $5,000 cash birthday gift from his Mt. Olivet Baptist congregation attending the meeting.

Other interesting notes Dr. Moore gave the AFRO included those on the 45-minute appearance of U.S. President Ford who received sustained applause but is not expected to get the large Baptist OK for election next year, "because of his stand against busing."

Dr. Moore said Ford read a speech prepared by someone else which "gave black history from the dawn of creation on down to Dr. Martin Luther King."

Dr. Moore said delegates of the largest black church organization in the world

(Continued on Page 2)

CITY FAIR GOODIES include handmade quilts the senior citizens are sewing for orders at the SAGA Center on South Fulton Ave. Mrs. Lucenda Sims and Mrs. Anna Warren display a colorful piece in AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz.

JUDGE HOWARD REFUSES TO PUT COUPLE ASUNDER

Wife serves as her own lawyer, wins against mate who tried to divorce her

Presiding over the Circuit Court of Baltimore Judge Joseph C. Howard ruled as unconvincing the grounds on which Charles William White Jr., is seeking a divorce from his wife, Mrs. Ann Marie White.

Judge Howard stated in the court's opinion the reason, "voluntary separation" has not been satisfactorily proven.

* * *

Thus the jurist handed down the unusual decision which denies the husband the divorce which he told the court he wanted and for which he applied.

Highlighting the case is the fact that the wife who served as her own lawyer won her case against the husband's lawyer, a highly qualified local woman attorney.

* * *

According to court records Mr. White, 35, led by his counsel, Ms. Roberta Gill, told the court a year before filing the divorce proceedings, he and his wife had had a separation which was "voluntary, continuous and uninterrupted," and that there was no hope for reconciliation.

However, the wife, Mrs. White contended the separation was not voluntary and while she could not tell how they could reconciliate, she religiously believed what "God has joined man can't put asunder."

* * *

Court dockets reveal Mr. White and his wife were married in August, 1964. They have two children, ages 10 and four.

The family lived in a family-owned home on Dorithan Rd. until prob-

(Continued on Page 8)

94,000 pupils get ID cards

By Portia E. Badham

Some 94,000 students will receive identification cards by Sept. 30 in an attempt to prevent trespassers who have haunted the city's secondary schools.

The effort, approved by the School Board last spring, will provide cards for pupils in grades 7 through 12.

The school system, footing the entire bill, has spent nearly $9,000 for 10 camera sets to be used in each of the nine regions.

Processing will cost an additional 20 cents per card or a total of $18,800.

During the first week of school, students and staff personnel were trained to operate the photographic equipment.

Camera teams are now photographing students in 56 schools and will complete the process within the next two weeks.

* * *

School officials are hopeful the ID cards will enable administrators and faculty to identify students who belong in the schools and prevent outsiders from coming into the buildings to disrupt classes.

* * *

However, Larry Burgan, chief of security for the public schools, says the

(Continued on Page 8)

Police guard fair from high booths

Over 2,000 plainclothes and uniformed police officers are at the City Fair beginning today at noon and through to the end of Sunday night.

Visible to all the expected throng of over two million persons, some of the officers are stationed in booths high enough above the ground to overlook the entire Inner Harbor, some 37 acres.

Located on some of the stilted booths are specially assigned personnel to take care of lost children. Parents can look up to see if their kid is in the booth since the lost ones will be taken up there for a show-off period of time.

* * *

The total of some 1,000 lost youngsters last year was the unusual item of note as the news media picked up the record-breaking crowd of two million at the 1974 Fair.

Viewed as the most successful such event in the nation, the Fair is expected to exceed the record this time. Proceeds go to neighborhood development and programs. Last year Fair officials recorded a loss of $27,000; this year however, they anticipate no loss nor gain depending on the weather.

* * *

This year, for the first time, the Fair will feature two amusement areas. The main midway, with all major adult rides, will be located on either side of the McCormick building. An area designated for young children's rides only will be located at the southern end of the Fair immediately adjacent to the Maryland Academy of Sciences.

The prices for the rides are: kiddie rides, 25 cents; major rides, 50 cents; and spectacular rides, 75 cents.

* * *

MTA will provide direct shuttle service to the Fair, Saturday and Sunday. Busses running every 20 minutes from Johns Hopkins University campus, Wyman Park Drive, State Office Building Complex,

(Continued on Page 2)

KNITTING FURIOUSLY is Mrs. Clara Brooks, a senior citizen at the S. Fulton Ave. center as she prepares a sweater, a sample for orders in time for Christmas.

Taxi patrol formed here

William A. Swisher, state's attorney, has announced an innovative, privately-financed program, designed to use cab drivers and their radio-equipped cars, as an aid to the Police Department in fighting Baltimore's crime problems.

Mr. Swisher said that all the local cab companies have agreed to join a "Civilian Radio Taxi Patrol."

The 1,300 cab drivers in the city have been given a booklet on how to report crimes, accidents, and suspicious occurrences, but cabbies will not perform any police work, such as arresting suspects.

* * *

The purpose of the Civilian Radio Taxi Patrol program is to enable cab drivers to be in direct contact with the Police Department via their two-way radio.

Isadore Cohen, a member of the State's Attorney's Office Investigative Staff, has worked on setting up this project. Mr Cohen said that awards will be given to cab drivers whose efforts result in the arrest of a suspect.

The American National Building and Loan Association will sponsor the entire Civilian Radio Taxi Patrol program.

It may be fair for the Fair

Although City Fair authorities cast weary glances at the sky, fearing against hope the whole thing may be spoiled, weather prophets say the outlook is good.

Predicting it may be fair for the Fair, officials at Baltimore-Washington International Airport note the downpour from killer Hurricane Elouise is moving in a Northeasterly path, 180 miles off the coast of Cuba.

Traveling with gusts, up to 12 miles per hour, she is expected to shift East next week and return rain to Baltimore about Tuesday. Weekend temperatures will remain in the 70's.

Register to vote

Baltimore citizens may register for the Nov. 4 General Election beginning Monday, Sept. 22 through Oct. 6, 8:24 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at the Board of Supervisors of Elections, Fayette and Gay Sts.

AFRO Lucky Bucks

The AFRO is giving you a chance to win money twice a week in the AFRO Lucky Buck Contest. If you are over the age of 16, you just might win.

Each AFRO Lucky Buck certificate will indicate a number on the lower front portion. You will have a chance of winning $5, $10 or $20 in the contest.

* * *

Tuesday winners will have to collect their winnings no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday of the same week of publication. Winning numbers appearing in Friday's AFRO must be collected by 4 p.m. Monday.

The certificate number and cash value will be published Tuesday and Friday in the AFRO. If your number appears, you are a winner.

MRS. HELENA BARNES

DONALD BARNEY

THIS WEEK'S NUMBERS

LOTTERY: 520941
MILLIONAIRE: 42439
14 TO 1 GAME
6 digit 351258
5 digit 78128
4 digit 4130
3 digit 652

FAMED BOTANIST REVEALS RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Roots, herbs used in Africa may hold cancer cure

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The annual Cancer Society meeting Tuesday witnessed the passing of the presidency from Dr. Harold E. Ramsey to Dr. Seymour Wenner. Also among other officers installed is William H. Ross III, stockbroker, elected treasurer.

Highlighting the banquet were revelations from the guest speaker that the grave problem of cancer cure is nearer solution through research involving exotic plants from Africa.

* * *

Dr. Robert E. Perdue Jr., chief of medicinal plant research at the U.S. Agriculture Dept. in Beltsville, made the astounding assertion that folk-use of roots, herbs and other plants for cure of disease is no longer "pooh-poohed."

He said success now seems to lie ahead as scientists take advantage of discoveries lowly natives of Africa and other countries made centuries ago.

He told the AFRO, "I am satisfied if we had limited our research in the beginning to folklore medicine we would have been further ahead now."

* * *

Among highly exciting discoveries made lately, he said, are the ones coming from four plants found in an Ethiopian marketplace; the bark of the Bittersweet vine in Kenya and roots, leaves, stems, flowers and bulbs he has obtained in African jungles.

Recognized as tops in the field, Dr. Perdue also cited the Periwinkle plant, a relative of the flowers found in city gardens, as source of an extract proven to prolong life span of victims of leukemia, blood cancer.

The investigation in Jamaica plus processing in scientific laboratories here, has brought the almost-miraculous drug to the estimated cost of $4 million for a kilo.

Citing native Africans as his most important aides in his research, Dr. Perdue said the search for cancer cure knows no racial or political bounds.

* * *

Incoming Baltimore Cancer Society Division officers were installed by Dr.

(Continued on Page 2)

20 SEP 20