

THE MURDERED SINGER, Oscar Minnitt, top row. ter, Benjamin Butler; Norman Dudley, right. Bottom left, is shown with other members of the famed group, The Gospel Leaders, who have won national fame as Baltimore's Gentlemen of Song. They are top row, cen-

row, from left are Charles Ellis, Thomas Roberts, manager and Howard Smith.



PRYOR'S HOUSE - The front view of the home of Charles B. Pryor, a Coppin State College instructor,

where he was found murdered in August. (AFRO staff photo by Roman Hanke wycz).

Several city slayings remain unsolved

Several murders which occurred during 1975 still remain unsolved. However, a spokesman for the Baltimore City Police Department stated, "There has been decrease in killings this year, as compared to 1974.

Mystery still surrounds the torture death of Mrs. Sharon Taylor Tynes, 23, 1600 block Manordene Rd. She was shot to death around 4:55 a.m. June 28, while waiting for a bus in the 4400 block Garrison

Police report they are still investigating the case. Mrs. Tynes was eight months pregnant and was looking forward to attending a baby shower for her on June 29.

A graduate of Western High School and Community College of Baltimore, Mrs. Tynes was employed at the Maryland Training School for Boys as a youth supervisor.

GOSPEL SINGER 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. Oscar T. Minnitt, 40, was found bludgeoned to death Sept. 8 in his apartment at 1400 Fillmore St. spokesman for the Medical Examiner told the AFRO Mr. Minnitt died of blunt force wounds to the head and apparently had been hit several

times with a bowling trophy. For 11 years, Mr. Minnitt has traveled and sung with illustrious group. He was friend who told police he had described by friends as "a kind and considerate person two days.

who had many friends." Citizens from all walks of life attended the last rites for Mr. Minnitt at Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church on Sept. 12. CHARLES B. PRYOR

William Warren Haywood, 25, 3500 block Woodland Ave., has been charged with murdering Charles B. Pryor. Haywood is scheduled to appear in Baltimore County Criminal Court in February, 1976 for trial.

Haywood was arrested Aug. 20, in the 1200 block W. Lanvale St., operating the dead man's stolen car.

Mr. Pryor was chairman of. the English Literature Department at Coppin State College. Police records show the victim was found in the attic of his home in the 3600 block Forest Hill Rd., where nationally known, he lived alone, by a worried not heard from Mr. Pryor for

> City medical examiner's report show he was shot once in the left temple and set the time of death as early Friday' morning. Police state he was

wearing only undershorts.

ELMERLEE Elmer Lee, 41, of the 3100 block Garrison Blvd., was found dead Sept. 22, in his apartment. Homicide detectives are still seeking suspects in the bizarre

murder of Mr. Lee. Police have no motives for the slaying of Mr. Lee who was a counselor at the Children's Detention Center in Laurel, Md.

Police state Mr. Lee's car was missing as well as some personal property but they were convinced theft was not the motive in the case. AFRICAN STUDENT

SLAIN Godwin Akin Ogunrinde, a 31-year-old Morgan State University medical technology junior, was found dead Jan. 22, around 5:25

Mr. Ogunrinde was found with his hands tied behind his back and face up in the tub half-filled with water.



A VIETNAM VETERAN, Charles Pryor was accorded military rites at the Arbutus Memorial Park Cemetery in August. Here soldiers fold the lag which was given

his mother, Mrs. Lucille Pryor. (AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz).

Many city notables indicted this year

During the year Baltimore ranked high in the nation's crime rate statistics. The incidents included the whole gamut of criminal activity including murder, narcotics, malfeasance and gambling. Summarized here are several cases the AFRO

while others were convicted by a jury or a judge. Among those appearing in court were Father Patrick Henry Franklin, retired Capt. Dennis P. Mello, Garland Avon Spence and Paul Chester, clerk of the Court of

CAPT. DENNISP, MELLO

Common Pleas.

Former Western District Capt. Dennis P. Mello was found not guilty by a Federal Court jury on April 3. Capt. Mello, 62, was charged with accepting payoffs to protect an approximately \$2,000 a day illegal lottery operation out of the Diamond Cab Company.

> FATHER PATRICKHENRY FRANKLIN

Maryland Court of Appeals overturned the Criminal Court of Baltimore verdict charging Father Patrick Henry-Franklin, a popular city minister, with hand gun violation and ordered a new trial. Michael Mitchell was the attorney who successfully argued the appeal case before the State Appeals Court in

Father Franklin was sentenced to eight years on June 27, 1974 for committing a hand gun violation in the murder of James Lee Gregg. 18, in an incident on Dec. 28, 1973. He was later released on \$35,000 appeal bond.

NARCOTICS TRIAL

The 10 day narcotics trial of Charles R. Burman Sr., 42, ended June 12, in a mistrial. Criminal Court Judge Charles D. Harris stated the jury was unable to agree on a verdict. Burman was charged with maintaining a nuisance house at the Caro Tavern in the 600 block E. 30th St.

He was also accused of heroin distribution and possession with intent to distribute as well as conspiracy to violate state narcotics laws.

> REV. DR. MELVIN C. SWANN

MURDER TRIAL

Garland Avon Spence was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the armed robbery of the Rev. Dr. Melvin. Chester Swann.

Spence was found not guilty by a jury of murdering the Rev. Dr. Swann, former pastor of Waters AME

PAUL CHESTER

Paul Chester, 62, the first and only black elected Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, was found guilty of malfeasance in office by a Criminal Court Jury on July

The Grand Jury presentments allege that Mr. Chester "unlawfully did obligate certain employees in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas to contribute money to his political campaign and render political service to him." Mr. Chester has not

resigned his post. His at-

torney, George Russell,

stated, "When we win the

case on appeal, Mr. Chester will be restored to his position just as if nothing ever happened, and with back pay." SENTENCED TO LIFE Luke James, 42, was sentenced to life plus 25 years for killing Officer Frank W. Whitby Jr. and assault with intent to murder two other

March 11. PROBLEMS ON THE SUPREME BENCH

policemen last April, 1974.

Criminal Court Judge Basil

A. Thomas imposed sentence

Judge Joseph C. Howard, one of four black judges who sits on the Supreme Bench, alleged in a statement on June 23, that his fellow jurors presided over a "bastion of discrimination by race and

Further, he noted that five of the six floors in the courthouse at St. Paul and Fayette Sts. are nearly lily-

Judge Howard's complaint was touched off after a newspaper columnist published a report of the hassle the judges had earlier in the selection of a Juvenile

Court Master. NEW CHIEF JUDGE

Judge Anselm Sodaro was appointed in September, 1975 as the new chief administrative judge of the covered. Some of the Supreme Bench.

defendants were acquitted, He is the head of the 22member Circuit Court and said he "plans to make several changes." Judge Sodaro, 65, succeeds Judge Dulaney Foster who retired

LEONARD A. BRISCOE

Leonard A. Briscoe was appointed Juvenile Court Master in October and succeeds Avrum K. Rifman, who retired Oct. 19. Mr. Briscoe, 53, is the third of his race to serve as a master.

> JUDGE. ROBERTI. H. HAMMERMAN

Former Juvenile Court Chief Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman stated the Juvenile Court was his "first love." However, he wanted to have a few years sitting in other courts and become much more rounded as a judge and then return to Juvenile Court.

Judge Hammerman was in Juvenile Court for eight years. Prior to that, he served in the district court for six



JUDGE ROBERT I. H. HAMMERMAN Wants a few years sitting



LEONARD A. BRISCOE new Juvenile Court

MURDER SCENE — The marked spot in an alley

near Charles and Mulberry Sts. is where the body

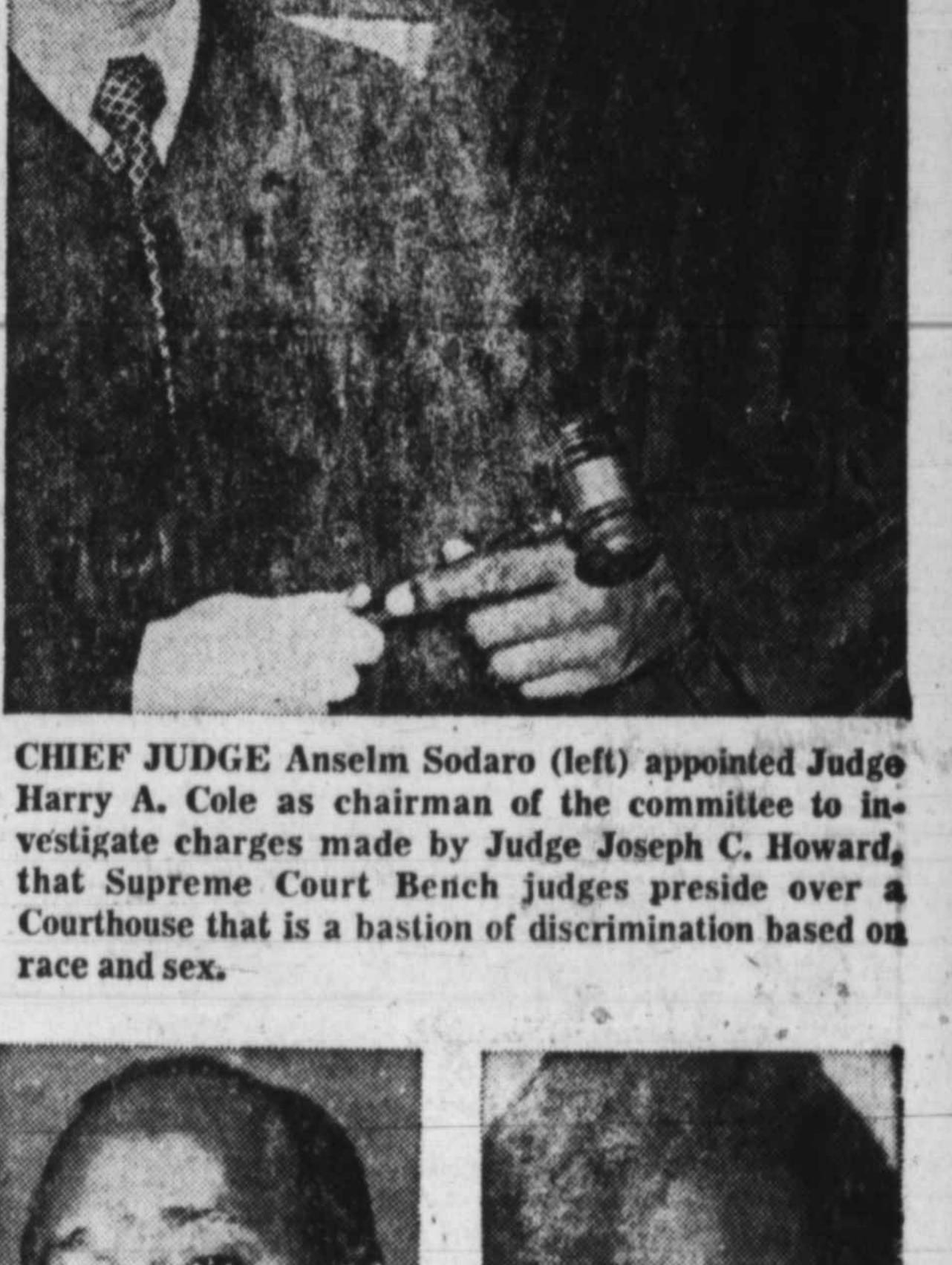
of Coppin State College coed, Miss Semainesh

Woldehaimanot (inset) was found by neighborhood

residents Jan. 4. The Ethiopian was a science



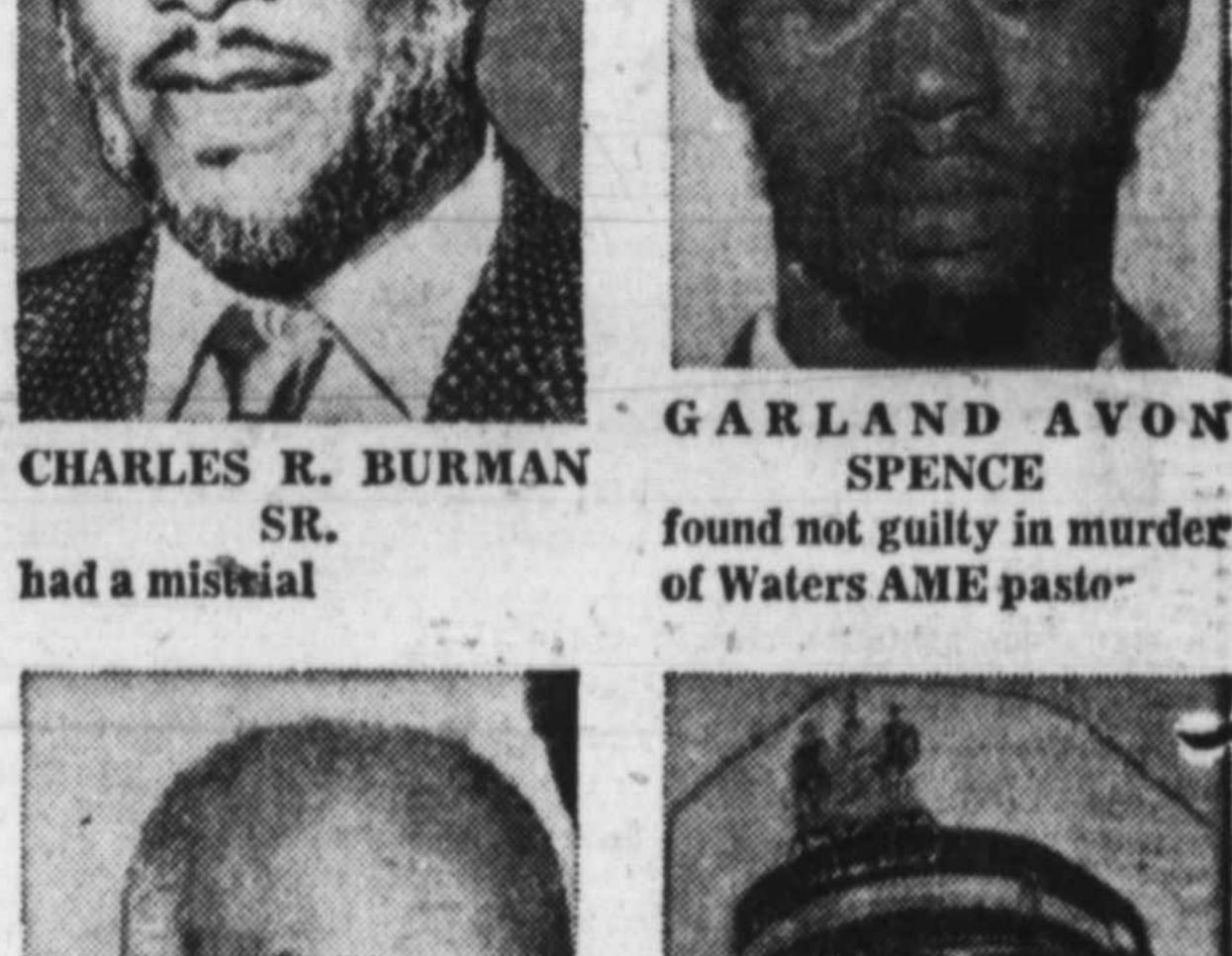
PAUL CHESTER guilty of malfeasance in



Harry A. Cole as chairman of the committee to investigate charges made by Judge Joseph C. Howard, that Supreme Court Bench judges preside over a Courthouse that is a bastion of discrimination based on race and sex.



CHARLES R. BURMAN SR.



SPENCE found not guilty in murder of Waters AME pastor





CAPT. DENNIS P MELLO not guilty

NEW MOTEL

Nice air conditioned rms. & TV. \$8.50 or \$9 plus tax. One bed for 2 people. 4601 E. MONUMENT ST. EA. 7-5900

ITCHIN FOR A KITCHEN? BROWSE THRU OUR MANY DISPLAYS WHERE QUALITY AND VALUE ARE STANDARD MODERN KITCHENS WOODLAWN SHOWROOM 6716 Whitestone Road 944-7800 TOWSON SHOWROOM 25 E. Chesapeake Ave.

FEATURING Waste King Universal The stainless steel dishwasher

BLUE RIDGE FUEL OIL

PROMPT DELIVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK 100 Gals. \$41.00 50 Gals. \$23.50

Bag Coal-71c bag 25 or More at Yard 566-8200

CITY-WIDE DELIVERY