Perky Stokes free in 'go-go girl' murder

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INTRODUCING SHEILA FRAZIER (SEE PAGE 16)

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE IN OUR 85th YEAR

HALEY HERE FEBRUARY 28 (SEE PAGE 24)

85th Year No. 54 | BALTIMORE, MD., FEBRUARY 19, 1977 | LATE CITY EDITION | 25 CENTS | ONE YEAR $12.00

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State proposes closing Univ. Md.-Eastern Shore

Next on hit list: Morgan, Coppin?

3,000 crowd services for Edmondson Ave. 'king'

First came the police cruisers, sirens screaming, blue lights flashing.

Then with a tremendous snarling roar came the Bandeleros, sitting tall and proud on their monster "hogs" — those big, bad Harley-Davidson motorcycles 35 of them riding in military formation.

Then other members of the motorcycle life. The Vikings, all driving heavy metal, Harleys or 900 cc. Kawasakis, the boss machines.

Then a white Cadillac hearse that looked too sleek, too pretty to be carrying the dead.

Then 13 more white Cadillac limousines bearing mourners.

It was a stunning, twilight spectacle. It was Baltimore's biggest funeral of the year, possibly of any year.

This motorized procession was for Otha Lucas, the king of Edmonson Avenue.

That Lucas was indeed "king" of Edmondson Ave. was proven by the more than 3,000 friends, relatives and spectators who jammed City Temple Baptist Church Wednesday night for the family hour and last rites for the popular west side bar owner.

Lucas, of the 400 block N. Edgewood St. was killed in a motorcycle collision Feb. 12 around 3:30 p.m. on Steven Forest Rd. in Columbia, Md. Police reveal they are still investigating the accident.

Among mourners paying final respect were members of the Banderleros motorcycle club dressed in their red and black uniforms. Lucas had been a member of this organization for several years. Also cyclists were present representing the Road Demons, Cycle Queens, Road Runner Queens, Royal Vikings, Silver Wheels, the Pythons as well as motorcycle clubs from Washington, D.C.

Nearly 75 motorcycles and 13 white Cadillacs led the funeral motorcade.

The white open couch casket was at the foot of the altar surrounded by numerous colorful flowers. Lucas was laid out in his favorite color, red, red shoes, red suit, white shirt, red velvet tie and a digital watch on his arm.

There were two red floral designs in the shape of crosses inside the panel of the casket.

Members of the Band-

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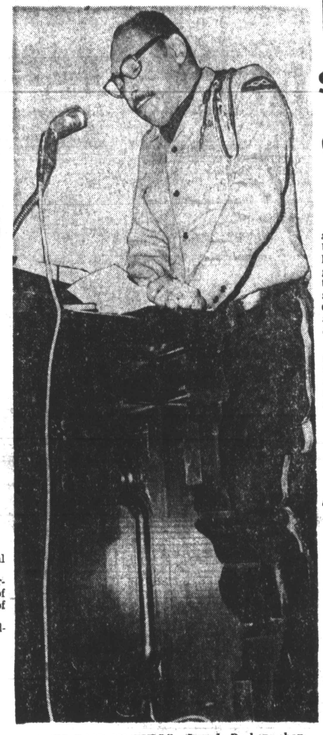
$½ million in wheels in funeral motorcade for Otha Lucas

13 white Fleetwoods

79 Harley-Davidsons

countless Kawasakis, Hondas



"DUES PAID IN FULL"—Joseph Parker, chaplain of the Bandeleros motorcycle club told mourners Wednesday night at City Temple Baptist Church that the late Otha Lucas is "excused from further meetings of the club because he had an appointment with God and his dues were paid in full." Photo by J. D. Howard. (story column 1)

AFTER VERDICT, KISSES MAN FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE

Perky found not guilty

'DON'T CALL ME MISS' insists Perky Stokes, 38. This photo shows her on the courthouse steps Thursday morning, tha afternon the jury found her innocent in the murder of her former girlfriend, dancer Gloria Bynum.

Somewhere between 2:45 and 3.00 Thursday afternoon Miss Perky Stokes, 38, turned to her lawyer and kissed him, noting to those watching, "He is the first man in my life I ever kissed."

The man was her attorney, William H. Murphy Jr.

Her unique experience came in the Criminal Court, Part Five, of Judge James A Perrott, amid cries of "Thank you Jesus," "Oh my Lord," "Thank you Lord."

These were some of the reactions as Miss Stokes, her attorney, friends, relatives, Court House personnel and local lawyers heard Jury Foreman Michael G. Ryan Jr. tell the packed, hushed room, she was found innocent "on both counts" of the March 10, 1976 murder of her former girlfriend, Miss Gloria Bynum, then a "Go-Go" dancer at the downtown Club Harem.

Homicide investigators, the AFRO reported last year, were called to the All-Right Parking Lot, 300 block W. Lombard St., at 10:30 p.m. March 10, where they found 26-year-old Miss Bynum lying face down, blood oozing from her mouth and face, where she had been shot.

The dancer, police reported further, had been observed arguing with an unidentified person shortly before the shots were heard.

"Police quote an eyewitness," the AFRO reported, "as saying that the victim was seen being pulled out of her car, a few angry exchanges followed and the gun fire".

"Workers at the Club Harem," it was further reported, " . . . are quoted by police as saying a person Miss Bynum was pre-

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Black, white Shore citizens say Princess Anne school closing will bring 'disaster'

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Reporter

Opposition mounts against plans to close the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, along with growing speculation that there may be a larger conspiracy to strangle predominantly black colleges and universities in the state.

Rising outrage on the part of black and white Eastern Shore residents, also, follows on the heels of a state budget analyst's recommendation Wednesday to close the school because of declining enrollment and high administrative costs.

This sudden and strong bi-racial support for the historic Princess Anne school emerged at a Joint Subcommittee on Education and Resources hearing.

"For the first time in six years we have a two way communication between the county and the college," said George Volnick, commissioner of the small town of Princess Anne.

"We have already had one plant close and it is terrible for our public relations to have the word go out that the college is closed."

Volnick said what was needed from the community is word that the college is not closing.

"We are disturbed that the information has gone out in the media that this is being considered," he continued. "We hope ultimately it will not close."

* * *

Volnick's concerns were shared by black and white Eastern Shore politicians, educators, UMES alumni and officials who view the proposed shutdown of UMES as disasrous.

Black Schools' Future

Black educators see the state's move to close UMES as a part of an already on-going program which keeps cutting back on monies for black-minority seats of learning. The question becomes: If UMES falls, can Morgan State University, Coppin State College and Bowie State College be far behind?

Data shows that closing black schools is an inevitable fact," Dr. William Turner, head of the UMES social science department feels. "The larger question should be what is the future scenario for the black schools."

"The most striking and most troublesome quality of these cost benefit analyses, that seek to disjoin, dismantle and dissolve black colleges is that they subordinate all things including human beings to one objective and that is saving money."

NAACP Vows Fight

Howard "Pete" Rawlings, chairman of the education committee of the state NAACP vowed to fight attempts to diminish the status of UMES or any black institution.

"If the state takes or even considers any action that would downgrade UMES the public can be certain the NAACP will be in court within 24 hours," he said.

John Wilson, an alumnus who sits on the Washington, D.C. City Council is quite appalled with the whole situation.

"If the state wants to close a school," he said,

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Most 'useless' govt. agency? -ask Douglass

Del. John Douglass, (D-Baltimore) made his first "useless State Agency Of The Month" award Tuesday to the State Board of Examiners of moving picture machine operators.

Douglass, a member of the House appropriations committee, said his newly initiated award will spotlight governmental bodies which "serve no useful purpose and are a drain on taxes."

Douglass said the Moving Picture Machine Operators Board has a $1,425 budget but serves no useful function.

The board is charged with insuring that motion picture operators work in safety. Douglass said the board examined only two machine operators last year.

Douglass said he is sponsoring legislation to abolish the agency. (UPI)

Gasoline prices to go higher

The pump price of gasoline expected to increase next summer, has already risen by as much as three cents per gallon in metropolitan Baltimore.

Reversing a downward slide since last summer, gas stations have raised their prices an average of two cents in the last month. Some twice in two weeks and some even higher.

Industry representatives say the increases are a result of new federal guidelines that took effect Feb 1. As a result, the retailer has passed onto the motorist the increase assessed him by the major oil companies.

"It's the beginning of a long haul this summer when prices will increase because of increased demand," said Jack Morgan, a Baltimore Shell dealer.

He pointed out that prices would ordinarily remain stable in February because it is a low-demand month. But he has been selling gas at about two cents more per gallon since January.

Vic Rasheed, executive director of the Greater Washington-Maryland Service Station Association,

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Sen. Welcome wants $ for wrongly jailed

Sen. Verda F. Welcome (D.-Baltimore), will ask for legislation this session to compensate those imprisoned for a crime of which hey are later found innocent.

"If an innocent person is denied his freedom, he should be entitled to damages for the time he loses from his employment as well as for personal inconvenience and the effect on his reputation," said Senator Welcome.

Merely turning an innocent man free after he suffers the trauma which incarceration involves is not justice according to the Baltimore City legislator. "We should not treat lightly the denial of rights of an innocent man."

Nationwide FBI statistics for 1974 reveal that 2.4

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Burman awaits verdict

At AFRO presstime, a Federal Court jury which had heard 15 days of testimony from more than 15 witnesses in the millions of dollars yearly international heroin ring had not reached a verdict.

The jury was sent to a hotel Thursday night by Judge Herbert F. Murray after deliberating for three hours and will continue today (Friday).

The indictment states Charles Robert Burman

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School drownings being investigated

A city probe continues following two student deaths in swimming mishaps within one week involving 17-year-old Terry Dunn McCoy who drowned in the Walbrook High School pool last Thursday and William Dunlap, 19, who died in Morgan State University's pool Monday, Feb. 14.

An attorney representing the McCoy family states that no decision has been made regarding legal action.

City officials have clamped a lid of silence on their investigation because of possible lawsuits.

Joseph Askin, attorney for the McCoys told the AFRO, "We are thinking about it and as of now nothing has been done." A spokesman for the medical examiner's office earlier said drowning seemed most likely the sole cause of young McCoy's death.

McCoy, 17, of the 600 block Claymount Ave. was found at the bottom of the school pool during a swimming class.

Mrs. Cilemare McCoy mother of the student, stated her son was afraid of water and had been complaining about going in 10 feet of water and did not want to go.

On Monday Ms. Anne Emery, principal of Wal-

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Matthews new AFRO managing editor

Ralph Matthews, Jr, the 48-year-old veteran newspaperman with a broad background in communications that includes the editorship of two national magazines, has been named managing editor of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

The announcement was made this week by AFRO Chairman John H. Murphy 3rd and AFRO Vice President Editorial Raymond H. Boone.

Murphy and Boone said Matthews would have "full authority and responsibility" for the editorial direction and content of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, which is the flagship among the newspaper chain's 13 separate editions.

The appointment of Matthews fills a position that had been vacant for more than five years.

It was also announced that Mrs. Elizabeth M. Oliver will continue in her position as city editor "with special assignment responsibilities."

A former editor of two pioneering black-oriented magazines "Color" and "Our World" Matthews joined the AFRO in his new position after working

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Ralph Matthews Jr.

FEB