—Perky found not guilty

(FROM PAGE ONE)

viously dating had a fight with the victim earlier in the evening.

Police reports then showed that a 1976 Mercury and a total of $1174.8 were recovered from the dead woman.

At her funeral services, in Temple Baptist Church, 2117 Pennsylvania Ave., the dancer was laid out in a pink, crushed velvet casket with satin lining. More than 300 persons attended the rites.

Meanwhile, Miss Stokes, who was formally accused of the murder a week later, was released soon after on $25,000 bail to await trial.

At that time, her lawyer, told the AFRO that his client, "is absolutely innocent of this crime."

Testimony in court has continued for two weeks.

It has been a colorful trial, a duel of wits and courtroom styles with Murphy, posturing, gesturing, not hesitating to use satire, hyperbole at times and cynicism — all to his advantage, as it turned out.

The prosecutor Stephen Suser appeared at times during closing arguments not to recognize — listening to Murphy's words — his own case.

He repeatedly rose to object, time and again, to Murphy's methodology.

When knocked down by the judge with "sustained, sustained, objection sustained" again and again, Murphy merely responded with, "Very well, Your Honor. I'll re-phase the question."

Trial testimony brought forth tales of homosexual marriages, stories of pimps, prostitution and drug traffic on Baltimore's "Block."

The principal witnesses presented by the state and the defense each involved an identification of who killed Miss Bynum based on physical descriptions of the killer.

Murphy said, "No one yet has proved that Perky Stokes pulled the trigger and killed Gloria Bynum."

The prosecutor, pointing to Miss Stokes told the jury, "She had definite thoughts about what she was doing. She shot twice then three times. She continued to unleash hostility. She had plenty of time to think."

He continued with the assertion that Miss Stokes had made threats against the deceased at a party because Miss Bynum had left Miss Stokes.

Suser told the jury Miss Stokes had told Miss Bynum in front of witnesses, "You are not going to reach your 27th birthday."

[illegible] Miss Bynum)." Suser said, "was killed three days before her 27th birthday. The defendant had the ability to carry out threats." Suser added

Suser hammered his principal point again and again. That Miss Stokes called a Miss Jacqueline Winkler on the phone the early morning of March 11, and told her, "I just shot my woman, you are next".

Murphy, in closing arguments sought to discredit Miss Winkler's testimony, saying "She couldn't be trusted to tell the truth."

The jury deliberated from 12:15 and brought in their unanimous verdict of not guilty two and one-half hours later.

DEAD NEARLY A YEAR — Shown is 'Go Go' Dancer Gloria Bynum, who was slain last March 10 on a downtown parking lot. She had been shot. Perky Stokes was found not guilty of the Bynum slaying in a trial that ended Thursday, Feb. 17.

—Next on hit list: Morgan, Coppin?

(FROM PAGE ONE)

"There are a whole lot of other facilities."

Hytche Upset

Dr. William P. Hytche, chancellor of the school stated harshly, "The recommendation to close the school came from the wrong source at the wrong time. The idea of closing the school is the farthest thing from my mind and I intend to fight it to the bitter end."

* * *

Hytche charged that the state has put a disproportionally higher share of its resources into Salisbury State College — rival school about 15 miles to the north and that "a duplication of programs only served to hurt the school.

He also said that the state has been neglecting UMES in the last few years while Salisbury has opened several competing programs and improved its facilities.

* * *

"All we're asking is to be treated fairly." Hytche stated. "We don't want to take away money from Salisbury but we need funds to operate properly."

Other Opinions

There were others who backed keeping the school open.

Dr. Eugene M. Karol, superintendent of the Somerset County Schools, said the school system solidly supports keeping the school open.

* * *

"It is a valuable asset to our school system," he said "A lot of our kids go there. They can't afford to go elsewhere. It is also the largest employer in Somerset County and if it closes it puts us out of business."

* * *

Clifton Gordy, another UMES alumnus who is a former assistant state's attorney also believes the closing of the school would not only have a serious economic impact on the school and the community but a cultural one as well.

"The only reason why UMES is not a wholly viable institution is because someone high in the state government says so," he said.

Isaac MacKenzie, vice president of the Baltimore Economic Development Corp., says shutting down the university of any black school is "nothing new."

"It was tried before," he said when they tried to merge Salisbury and UMES in 1963 and 1967.

MacKenzie said although he did not favor closing the school down he would support a merger of Salisbury and the Princess Anne school with UMES as the surviving institution.

* * *

Ellis Boston, who is a key official in the Baltimore city school system, stated he would be suspicious of any merger between the two Eastern Shore schools.

"The financial history of our schools has been slighted and I'm going to recommend to the Alumni Association to come to the aid of the chancellor."

Boston added the elected officials should do the same.

—Sen. Welcome

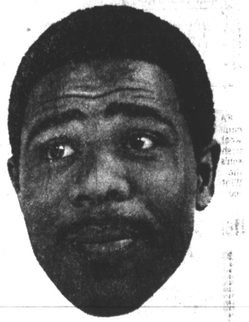
(FROM PAGE ONE)

persons per 100 who are arrested and charged with a crime are later found innocent. However, not all of those are held in jail until trial. Many are released on their own recognizance.

The bill Senator Welcome will propose will allow the Board of Public Works to compensate an individual $20 a day for the time he has been incarcerated if he is held for more than 90 days and is later found innocent.

The first black city woman legislator was sponsor of legislation which is now law providing for compensation by the state of those who are imprisoned, convicted, and sentenced, and later found innocent. The Board of Public Works then commensate them up to $10 a day.

Senator Welcome's present bill, SB 221, would extend this compensation provision to include those who are arrested and acquitted.



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For All We Know

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

FANTASTIC RESPONSE came to our column of a week ago when our reader wished for Dr. Lillie Jackson's kind of action to help the poor and needy this Winter, the worst in nearly 200 years.

Here's what caring means

URBAN LEAGUE'S Travis Vauls picked up the phone and went to bat for the poor immediately.

Action, concern, help

Highlighting action taken last week on behalf of the suffering poor, Travis Vauls, head of the Urban League sent this telegram to Gov. Mandel and Mayor Schaefer for immediate action:

"Many of the citizens of Baltimore, especially the black and poor, are suffering desperately during these unusually bleak winter days.

"Many black, poor, aged and disabled do not have jobs or other means to earn money to buy food, to pay electrical bills, to buy fuel oil, nor to pay rent.

"Evictions and utility cutoffs are increasing the disproportionate amount of suffering which unfortunate Baltimoreans are bearing during this crisis which grips our community, state and nation.

"The Baltimore Urban League calls upon you to use the powers of your office to bring relief to our fellow Baltimoreans with the same admirable diligence and creativity for which you have sought to alleviate suffering and solve problems which our city has faced.

"As it has in the past half century, the Baltimore Urban League stands ready to assist in any meaningful programs of relief you might propose."

TRAVIS VAULS of the Urban League sood up to be counted.

THE INTERFAITH COMMITTEE went to Annapolis Thursday to influence decision making and legislation in the General Assembly on behalf of human needs, human dignity, social welfare, health, prisons.

STRONG POSITION PAPERS were placed before the lawmakers for money for basic needs of the poor, the unemployed and Jobless: OPPOSITION to the Death Penalty; a Citizens Utility Board to monitor gas and electric bills and problems; Budget cuts; funding for Correction Centers.

HOW CAN OTHERS turn away their heads with excuses when our people are, silently and alone, suffering untold distress and even death in this frigid weather? Heaven only knows.

NOTE: The Interfaith Committee says as a citizen you have a right and a responsibility to make your views known on proposed legislation.

WRITE or call your representatives. State your views in a positive manner. If you do not know your representative, call Maryland Churches United or Legislative Reference (269-2871) or the League of Women Voters

A critical time in the life of any bill is the time, after it is first introduced on the floor of either house, when it is in "committee." At that time, contact the committee chairman and members:

SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Budget and Taxation — Roy N. Staten (D-Balt. County-8th.

Constitutional and Public Law — Edward T. Conroy (D-Prince Georges 24th).

Economic Affairs — Harry J. McGuirk (D-Balt. City 37th).

Finance — James Clark Jr. (D-Howard 14th).

Judicial Proceedings — J. Joseph Curran Jr. (D-Balt.-City 43rd).

HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Appropriations — John R. Hargreaves (D Middle Shore 35th).

Constitutional and Administrative Law — Charles J. Kripak (D Balto. City 46th).

Economic Matters — John W. Wolfgang (D Prince Georges 26th).

Environmental Matters — John S. Armick (D Balto. County).

Judiciary — Joseph E. Owens (D Montgomery 17th).

Ways and Means — Benjamin C. Cardin (D Balto. City 42nd).

Committee meeting are open to the public.

Call Legislative Reference for information and weekly hearing schedules — 269-2871, the State House.

WANT TO HELP in this cause of justice and mercy? Join the Interfaith Committee: Maryland Churches United, 3107 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md., 21218.

ENDORSEMENTS

RONALD L. ROGERS, director of Christian Social Ministries — Baltimore Baptist Asso

MARCUS RACKLEY, Baptist Campus Minister — Baptist Convention of Maryland

JUSTINE ROBB, St. Joseph's Church, Beltsville

LELAND HIGGINBOTHAM, chairman, Christian Life Committee of Baltimore Baptist Asso.

BISHOP JAMES K. MATHEWS, Washington Area, United Methodist Church.

PROGRAM COUNCIL, Baltimore Conference — United Methodist Church.

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY, Baltimore Conference — United Methodist Church.

DR. CHESTER WICKWIRE, chaplain, Johns Hopkins University.

THE VERY REV. JOHN N. PEABODY, president, Maryland Churches United.

INTER-FAITH COMMITTEE

N. Elsworth Bunce, executive director, Maryland Churches United.

Carolyn Gause — Baltimore Conference UMC, Commission Housing.

Stanley Holt — Maryland Action Coalition.

Ruth Hurwitz — Baltimore Jewish Council

Mary Jo Kirahman — Catholic Charities, Baltimore Archdiocese.

Jim Lowder — Baltimore Baptist Association.

David Rimbach — Baltimore Conference UMC, Board of Church and Society.

John Roemer — American Civil Liberties Union

Ron Rogers — Baltimore Baptist Association.

Ron Scarf — Lutheran Mission Society.

CONGRATULATIONS to William and May Hawkins, 2030 W. North Ave., who on Thursday celebrated their

(Continued on Page 11)

Interfaith Committee acts

Briefly, here's what the Interfaith Committee said to the General Assembly Thursday:

WELFARE

It is our goal for the 1977 legislative session increase the level of public assistance giants to 100 per cent of the State Standard of need.

We beleive every resident is entitled to the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. It is the responsibility of government to provide income support for people who are permanently or temporarily unemployable or who because of the high rate of unemployment are unable to locate jobs.

DEATH PENALTY

We oppose the death penalty in any form for a crime. Capital punishment violates equal protection of the laws. Murderers who are poor and black are far more likely to be executed than persons of higher social status.

COMMUNITY CORRECTION CENTERS

SB 418, the progressive legislation sorely needed, provides for small, community based facilities for comprehensive care to persons in the prison systems.

Those with a short sentence for non-violent crimes can be diverted from over-crowded state institutions into the protected and guided environment of the small centers. Long term offenders eligible for parole or release, could also enter an Adult Rehabilitation Center for 6 months prior to release. The center will have a six to one inmate to staff ratio and will focus on accomplishing what the offender needs in order to be released.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

We believe that the State of Maryland is better equipped to protect the rights of its own citizens through a strong Human Relations Commission, than is the Federal government. But it must choose to do so.

This Commission should provide our residents with a process of filing grievances when they suspect they have been discriminated against, and with a speedy decision and appeals process on the matter o their complaint.

It is the responsibility of elected public officials to safeguard these rights for the people they represent, and to see that those who are found to be victims of discrimination receive full compensation for the losses they have incurred.

CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

The state legislature will consider legislation which would create the CUB. Maryland Action is working with people throughout the state to be sure that all know their constitutents want this bill passed.

CUB would give us ongoing, full time, well funded representation in all utility matters. It is a simple proposal. CUB would have an elected board of directors which would hire a staff of full time lawyers, accountants, economists enginners and other specialiststo appear before the utility commission and the legislature and to handle ratepayers' complaints.

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