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AFO 905 (May 1978)

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Thousands of fez-wearing Shriners in town

See column one and page 6

An evening with Lou Rawls
See Showtime

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE IN OUR 86th YEAR

Inner Harbor showdown brewing
See page 10

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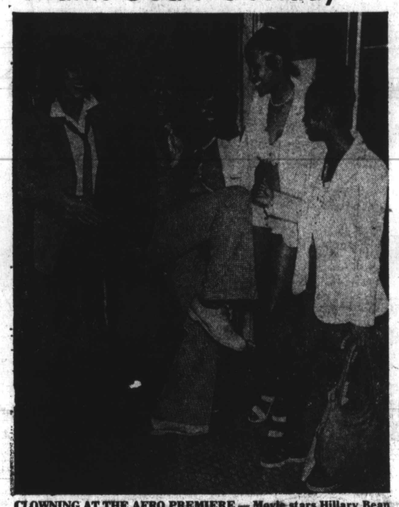
Baby hurled through flames

Thank God it's Friday



CLOWNING AT THE AFRO PREMIERE — Movie stars Hillary Bean (L) and Ray Vite were in town this week to attend the premiere of their movie "Thank God It's Friday." The premiere was to benefit AFRO Clean Block campaign. Shown with Ms. Bean and Vitte are some fans who dropped in at the New Theatre to join the fun.

His mom, brothers perish in fire

..A 22-year-old mother was forced to throw her eight-month-old son from the second floor window of their three story row home, as smoke and flames roared around them.

..She took this desperate action just before she died of smoke inhalation. The infant received head and chest injuries from his fall. The mother, and her three and five-year-old son were found dead by firemen attempting to rescue them, the mother's arms around)her youngest boy.

This tragedy took place Wednesday afternoon May 24. Dead are Ms. Sharon Braxton, 22, 1022 Gilmor St., her three-year-old son, Robert and David, 5.

Fortunately, Ms. Braxton's sister Miss Renae Glenn, 19, was found unconscious on the floor in the same room. She is listed in critical condition at University Hospital.

Sharonda Clay, one-year-old daughter of Ms. Braxton, was snatched from outside a smoke filled room by a neighbor.

Left homeless and only with the clothes they were wearing is Mrs. Marie Hollie Glenn, 39-year-old mother of Ms. Braxton: four of her children and a grandchild, who also lived at the Gilmor Street address.

"All I want now is a home for my family, so we can be together again," said Mrs. Glenn.

Relatives are now staying in the McCulloh Homes with Mrs. Glenn's mother, Mrs. Marie Hollie.

A relative told the AFRO, "Tuesday (May 30) is mamma's birthday and we always celebrate it along with the holiday (Memorial Day) at her home on Gilmor Street.

"We are a very close family and spend holidays together." Instead of celebrating "mamma's birthday, we will now look for a home."

The Hollie family was renting their home and had lived on Gilmor Street for nearly 10 years.

A spokesman for the Fire Investigation Bureau told the AFRO the cause of the fire has not been determined.

The fire started in the living room. Fire spread so quickly, it destroyed the interior of the house, the spokesman said.

The family will recive friends May 27 at Immaculate Conception Church, Druid Hill Avenue and Mosher Street. Last rites are scheduled for 11 a.m.

Members of the Sandtown-Winchester Improvement Association and residents of the 1000 block Gilmor Street are now collecting money, clothing and food for the family. All items are being accepted at St. gregory Catholic Church, 1542 Gilmor St.

Surviving relatives are Robert Glenn, 20; Deborah Ann Glenn, 17; Lerai Glenn, 16; and Kevin Glenn, 15; all who lived in the Gilmor Street home.

Gilmor St. fire victims

GILMOR STREET victims who died of smoke inhalation in a one-alarm fire shown are Ms. Sharon Braxton and her two sons, Robert and David.

Scores Swisher's 'racism'

Anton Keating to run for State's Attorney

Anton Keating

Voters may have short memories but Anton Keating, the veteran attorney who is running against William Swisher for State's Attorney, is reminding citizens of something very important.

When Swisher ran for States Attorney in 1974 (and won by a very small margin) he pulled a real "slick trick."

Keating recalls he won the job by standing in front of a blasting siren. And as it screamed out scaring people, he told everybody that Baltimore is a jungle. He said he was going to make the jungle safe for everybody if he was elected.

"He campaigned on a racist theme. He used fear.

"Further, here is an example of his racism. He has only two black assistant state's attorneys. Black lawyers are not comfortable with Swisher.

"When Judge Milton B. Allen was State's Attorney, he had 12 black lawyers on his staff as assistants. Swisher hasn't been able to attract black lawyers."

(Continued on Page 2)

Conaway files

Frank M. Conaway made his candidacy for the House of Delegates in the 40th Legislative district, official this week.

At the State Supervisors of Election office in Annapolis on Thursday, May 25, Conaway who has been campaigning for the last year and a half, plunked down the $25 fee making him a candidate.

(Continued on Page 2)

St. Martin's plans own college

St. Martin's Church of Christ, in the 2100 block Madison Ave., has withdrawn its offer of aid to financially troubled Bay College and has decided to launch its own junior college.

Michael Lorenzo, chairman of the church's "Committee to Save Bay College," said on May 2 that the decision to withdraw its offer to provide the privately owned junior college with $2.5 million was reached this week by the church members after hearing no word from Bay's federal trustee or the Board of Trustees on their plan.

(Continued on Page 2)

Rev. Silver new Baptist prexy

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Rev. Dr. Matthew Silver, pastor of Concord Baptist Church, 5200 block Liberty Heights Ave., has been named president of the more than 150,000 members of the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland, the largest black religious organization in the state.

With his election May 23 at the 52nd Annual Convention at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, he stepped down as first vice president of the group which includes the 156 Baptist churches of Maryland.

He succeeds Dr. C. C. Alexander who held the post as president four years, the length of term according to the convention constitution.

Dr. Alexander, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church was formally retired at a recent banquet which also marked the 144th birthday of the founding of First Baptist Church on the Eastside where he is a member and ordained.

(Continued on Page 2)

Photos on Page 3

Shriners' gala weekend

Red fezes are in unusual abundance in downtown Baltimore this week.

Those brimless cone-shaped felt hats belong to the colorful dressed Prince Hall Shriners who are holding the fraternal organization's Region 2 Gala Day activities here.

The activities have attracted an estimated 3,000 persons to participate in a three-day program that was kicked off Thursday, May 25 with a public service program that featured Baltimore attorney William Murphy Jr. as main speaker at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, headquarters for the Shriners festivities.

Additional coverage page 6

Other highlights of the Shriner events include a "Joint Gala Day Ball" and a street parade that will include pretty majorettes, bands, numerous marching units, stunt-riding motorcycle clubs and Shriner dignitaries.

The ball will be held May 26 in the ballroom of the Lord Baltimore, beginning at 10 p.m.

The parade, which is expected to attract thousands, will kick off Saturday, May 27, at 11 a.m. from Booker T. Washington Junior High School No. 130, McCulloh and Dolphin sts.

The parade will move west on Dolphin to Carey Street; turn north on Carey to Lafayette Avenue; east on Lafayette to Pennsylvania Avenue; north on Pennsylvania to Pressman; east on Pressman to Eutaw Place; and south on Eutaw Place to the Prince Hall Temple.

A reviewing stand for fraternal digitaries — including Eugene Dickerson Jr. of Washington, D.C., the deputy imperial potentate of Prince Hall Shriners — will be stationed in front on the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, Eutaw Place and Lanvale Street.

Jerusalem Temple No. 4 and Jerusalem Court No. 1, Daughters of Isis, are the Baltimore organizations hosting the Gala Day events involving members from Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

Jerusalem Temple No. 4 is headed by Noble William S. Dickerson, illustrious potentate. The local Daughters of Isis organization is headed by Daughter Elizabeth Greer, illustrious commandress.

The general chairman for the Joint Gala Day program is Noble James A. Richardson, deputy of the desert. The local chairpersons are Noble Laban Maultsby and Daughter Janie Wright.

The Shriner parade committee is headed by Noble Herbert B. Stevenson, chairman; and Noble Johnny B. Bobo, co-chairman.

Ernest Brown Jr. is director of Gala Day public relations.

AFRO holiday schedule

OPEN MONDAY
ALL Advertising, Circulation and Editorial offices. Classified deadlines, Noon Monday.
PRINTED TUESDAY
Baltimore Five Star Edition printed and distributed at Noon.
ALL Business, Advertising and Editorial offices CLOSED.

Mfum'e going after Julian's council seat

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Kweisi Mfum'e, program director of WEAA-FM radio station, has asked Fourth District City Councilman Emerson Julian to resign his seat within 30 days.

If Julian does not resign, Mfum'e has "no choice but to seriously consider running against" him in the 1979 councilmanic primary.

In a letter to Julian, Mfum'e said he is "appalled and offended" to know that Julian is going to "work and vote for the reappointment of Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau to another year term."

At the May 22 City Council meeting, Julian said he thought Pomerleau has done "an outstanding job as Commissioner. He will get my vote."

Julian told the AFRO he has "no comment whatsoever" in response to Mfum'e's request for his resignation or the possibility of Mfum'e running against him.

(Continued on Page 2)

Kweisi Mfum'e

Councilman Emerson Julian