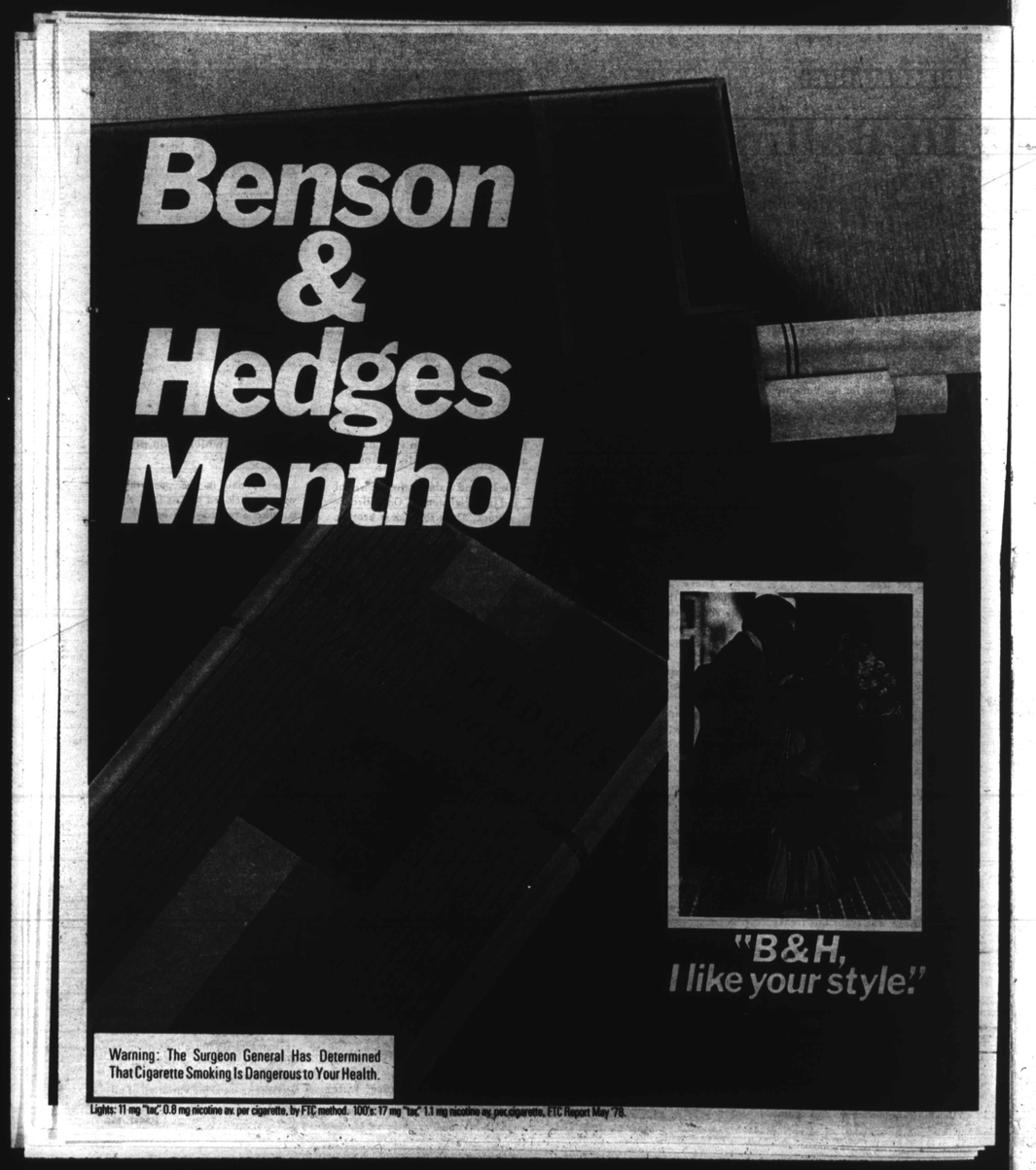

Man dead in laundromat shoot-out

See column one

Nataska Hasan likes singing in Baltimore
See Showtime

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE NOW IN OUR 87TH YEAR

Southwestern kids 'did not cheat'
See page 10

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Del. Troy Brailey attacked during funeral procession

Minister, residents declare war on dope in Park Heights store

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

A minister and other representatives of the Park Heights Community Corporation (PHCC) took to the streets Wednesday afternoon, demanding that the owners of a gift shop remove a controversial drug from their shelves.

Rev. Elijah McDaniel Sr., a board member of PHCC, and several Harbor City students employed by PHCC, participated in the protest that took place despite freezing rain.

It was the first step in an attempt by PHCC's Anti - Crime Project to educate the public about the drawbacks of the drug. The group is also researching the drug to persuade city and state legislators to introduce a law that would ban the sale of the drug without a prescription.

Kids on 'Rush'
See editorial, page 4

The drug, "Isobutyl Nitrite," is commonly referred to by several names. The most popular in the Baltimore area is "Rush." Other names include, "Locker Room," "Popper," "Jock," and "Bullet."

It is sold over the counter legally and there is no age requirement necessary to purchase it.

The group had asked the owners of Heads Up Inc., a gift shop located in Park Heights, to stop selling the drug because it is sniffed by many young people as a means to getting high.

"We want to stop these merchants from selling the kind of merchandise that destroys our youth," Rev. McDaniel explained, voicing an anger that made the raindrops dripping off his hat and face go unnoticed.

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AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

HEATED DISCUSSION — Rev. Elijah McDaniel (R) and David Rosenburg argue about the sale of isobutyl nitrite, known as "Rush," at Rosenburg's store in Park Heights. Rev. McDaniel and other community members protested at the store Jan. 24 in an attempt to block sale of the drug at Head's Up Inc. Rosenburg is one of the owners of the store.

Crusading politician dragged from car, savagely beaten

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Del. Troy Brailey, senior member of the Maryland House of Delegates, was savagely beaten, suffering three fractured ribs Wednesday night after a man came suddenly out of the dark and assaulted him as he rode in a funeral car.

Del. Brailey told the AFRO the man tore open the door of the car he was driving in the funeral procession on the way to the church services for his aunt. Brailey was to be a pallbearer. The body was at the church and the mourners were approaching in limousienes.

The unknown man jumped from the van he was driving on the same street.

Brailey also suffered multiple bruises and head injuries and after release from Lutheran Hospital before dawn Thursday morning, was ordered confined to bed at home for an indefinite period. He is in tight bandages and hardly able to lift his left arm nor walk. He complains of severe headaches.

The incident which came about 6:50 p.m. in the 1000 block N. Monroe St., not far from the church at Lexington and Monroe Sts. where his aunt lay dead, precipitated many events:

A suspect, Thomas Boykin, 23,700 block Park Ave., a member of a van club in the area, has been charged with assault. Western District police reports show he was apprehended at his home by Western plain clothes officers and placed under arrest at about 1 p.m. Thursday.

The suspect was arrested after a March Funeral Home driver of the limousine behind the Brailey car pursued the van and got the license number. None of the mourners is acquainted with the suspect.

Del. Brailey, who is under medication for shock and the painful injuries, will have to be absent from his General Assembly duties by special leave but according to House Speaker Benjamin Cardin's office, "There is no problem, just that he may get well soon."

Mrs. Chessie Brailey, wife of the delegate and an eye witness as she sat beside her husband in the funeral car, is also suffering from shock.

(Continued on page 2)

Del. Troy Brailey
confined to bed with fractured ribs

Musician mugged

Another Baltimore personality was the victim of street muggers recently. Arnold Sterling stellar jazz saxophonist, and driver of the No. 36 bus has only partial visition in one eye as a result of an incident.

It happened on Jan. 8, about 7:30 p.m. as Sterling was returning home from work. He lives in the 800 block Druid Park Lake Drive.

He had parked his car on Linden Avenue, carefully locked it, and prepared to walk the short distance to his home.

Out of the corner of his eye, he spotted a character who seemed to be simply lounging around aimlessly.

As the popular instrumentalist put it: "I started walking toward my house, when suddenly, I heard kind of a shuffling behind me. As I whirled around, he was coming at me.

(Continued on page 2)

Watkins decision may rest on 'phantom' photograph

Suspended Police Col. James H. Watkins', through his attorney, has filed a second memorandum in support of a motion for a new trial.

The memorandum filed Jan. 24 in criminal Court by George L. Russell Jr. and Kenneth L. Thompson focuses on an alleged photo of Watkins and Charles R. Burman Sr., a convicted narcotics kingpin.

Judge J. Harold Grady is expected to announce Friday, Jan. 26 whether or not Watkins will be granted a new trial.

During rebuttal at Watkins' first trial, assistant state's attorney John Denholm called Officer Lloyd Castor to the witness stand to give testimony that he (Castor) was present on an occasion Burman was arrested and photograph albums recovered from his car.

(Continued on page 2)

$20 laundramat dispute fatal

It happened around 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23. Passersby in the vicinity of the Wash Citylaundromat at Pennsylvania Avenue near McMechen Street were startled to see a man staggering from the door oozing blood from four gunshot wounds.

According to the police report, two men began aurguing about money while inside the laundromat. Francis L. Herbert was one, who just happened to stop in enroute home from work.

He encountered a man known as "Benny" inside the laundromat, and an argument ensured over $20 which Herbert claimed he was owed.

The words became hotter and hotter, and suddenly both men pulled out handguns and began shooting. Herbert was shot four times in the chest and once in the abdomen.

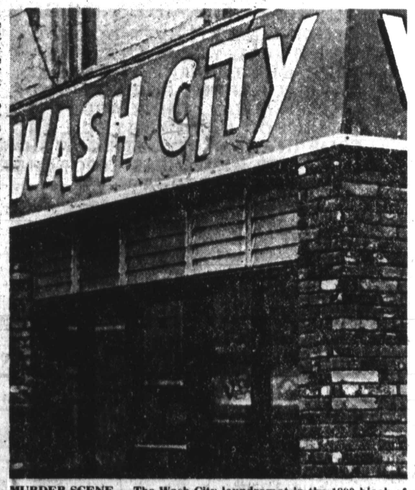
He staggered outside, fell in front of the laundromat, and was pronounced dead on arrival at Maryland General Hospital.

Mrs. Laura Herbert, wife of the victim told the AFRO her husband had been employed at Soddens Liquor Store, 1600 block of Division St., for 13 years as a clerk.

"When he worked the night shift, he would always see to it that his co-worker got to the bus stop. He was a quiet person and well - liked," said Mrs. Herbert.

Funeral services for Herbert will be at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Fremont and Pennsylvania Avenue at 7 p.m. Jan. 26.

In addition to his wife, Herbert is survived by a daughter, Miss Linda Herbert and stepfather, Walter Whiting.



MURDER SCENE — The Wash City laundromat in the 1800 block of Pennsylvania Ave. is where Francis L. Herbert was killed on Jan. 23 when he began arguing with another man over $20.

Hughes' prison boss choice is controversial

Kamka's appointment draws praise, fire in Annapolis

ANNAPOLIS — The first man picked to serve on Gov. Harry R. Hughes' cabinet was the first to draw fire from the usually docile Senate executive nominations committee.

Gordon Kamka, Hughes' appointee for secretary of the department of public safety and corrections, was asked to come back before the committee on Monday after it postponed action on his cabinet appointment.

The committee Tuesday deferred action on Kamka's appointment because some members had problems with the Baltimore City Jail warden's "progressive notions" dealing with prison issues.

Though Kamka's appointment has reached a stonewall it is the consensus of the entire committee that it is not in serious trouble.

Kamka has been an outspoken critic of the state's correctional constructional program, stating after his appointment that the answer may best be solved by reducing the prison population rather than building new prisons.

"I believe there are a lot of people who have broken the law, but do not necessarily have to be incarcerated to change their behavior," he said.

It was that view that drew the flack from several committee members.

"That philosophy should be popular with the prison population but how do you think it will sit with the law abiding citizens?" asked Sen. Edward Thomas, D-Frederick.

Sen. Frederick C. Malkus D-Middle Shore, was a little more sharp and direct.

"My philosophy and your philosophy are just about as far apart as they could be," he said.

"We've got the greatest criminal nation in the world. I am not soft on criminals and because we are soft on criminals, people are not safe."

(Continued on page 2)

AFRO goes to school!

Remember: the AFRO goes to Gist Elementary school in the Friday, Feb. 2, Edition

1979 has been proclaimed "The Year of The Child" nationally.

In celebration and appreciation of our youngsters, the AFRO will be visiting Baltimore-area schools and reporting on the many good things city students and educators are doing.

Look for these special school feature articles!

NEXT FRIDAY IN THE AFRO — a full section of photos and stories on the children of Gist Elementary School No. 59, 4020 Granada Ave.

Your school may be next for a historic story. Read the AFRO each week.