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Clip Out The Coupons — Bring Them In And SAVE!

'Gangster' Webster held on $1 million bail

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INSIDE - A Special Section
Congressman Mitchell and
Md. lawmakers in photos and story

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

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Carver High student, 17, dies in gun fight, suspect's mom shot

A 17 - year - old Carver high school student police report was attempting to rescue his sister from a man who dragged her down a dark street, was shot to death around 1 a.m. Feb. 14 as she struggled with the assailant.

Ronald Wooden, of the 3000 block Walbrook Ave., was pronounced dead on arrival at Lutheran Hospital.

Police report that a suspect identified as Samuel Bragg, 22, of the 2800 block Windsor Ave., was arrested after police observed him running through an alley with a shotgun in his hand.

Investigators told the AFRO that Wooden went to the suspect's home and asked for his sister.

The two men became involved in an argument in the living room. When the suspect's 61 - year - old mother and Wooden's sister tried to take the weapon from Bragg, police report the mother was shot in the arm and Wooden was hit in the chest.

When police arrived, Wooden was lying on the living room floor and Bragg had left the scene. At AFRO presstime, the victim's mother was in satisfactory condition at Lutheran Hospital.

Police would give no further details on the incident. Bragg is being held at City Jail without bail. Funeral arrangements for young Wooden were not complete at AFRO presstime.

Senior citizens rock, roll for Heart fund

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

VALENTINE TWO - STEP — Mrs. Hattie Lacey and Henry Mitchell take a spin on the dance floor at Ashburton Nursing Home's Rock and Roll Jamboree held Feb. 11. The Valentine Day festivities are part of the Home's drive to raise money for the Heart Fund.

...on Valentine's day

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Write"

The 37 residents of Ashburton Nursing Home, 3520 N. Hilton Road, enjoyed a Valentine's Day Rock and Roll Jamboree, complete with a king and queen, a city councilman, holiday decorations and live music.

The Jamboree had a double purpose: fun for the residents and fund raiser for the Heart Association.

(Continued on Page 28)

Mitchell says lottery deliberately preys on black neighborhoods

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D - 7th, has written to the Maryland State Lottery Commission requesting the location of each of the lottery machines in the city of Baltimore.

Mitchell said research has shown him that lottery machines are being planted in black neighborhoods and he wants to know why.

"Based upon a random survey of two predominantly black neighborhoods and two predominantly white neighborhoods, I am forced to believe that there has been a deliberate saturation of the state lottery machines in Baltimore's black neighborhoods," Mitchell said in the letter.

Mitchell's office told the AFRO Feb. 15 that he had not received an answer from the commission yet. But a lottery spokesman said he had not seen Mitchell's letter yet.

(Continued on page 2)

Voted queen of soul

Donna Summer

WINS 'GRAMMY' AWARD as female soul singer of the year in special awards ceremony telecast Thursday night, Feb. 15.

...Chaka almost made it

Full details in next Tuesday's Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

School board sues state for $$

Baltimore city along with Somerset, Caroline and St. Mary's counties, has filed suit against the state charging that the present system of financial support discriminates against poor school districts.

Mark K. Joseph, school board president, stated during an interview at the AFRO, "The poorest kids, living in the poorest school districts are getting the least spent on their education. And that's unconstitutional."

The suit, which was filed Thursday morning, Feb. 15 by the four school boards, Mayor William Donald Schaefer and 49 students, charges that more money is given to wealthier districts than to poor areas because of the state's heavy reliance on local property taxes.

Although more state aid is given to poor districts, the state's equalization efforts are inadequate and violate Maryland constitutional guarantees for a "thorough and efficient system of free public schools, the school districts charged.

Although four school districts are involved in the case, Baltimore city is expected to carry the greater expense for the litigation. "I don't know at this time exactly what the cost will be, but the city does expect to carry the heavier burden," said Joseph.

Named as defendants in the lawsuit are State School Superintendent David W. Hornbeck and State Comptroller Louis Goldstein.

Hornbeck could not comment on the merits of the suit but said he could not dispute the charges that the "impact of state funding is unequal."

He continued, "With respect to the funding formula that exists in this state, the number of dollars that can be spent on a child's education depends in a large part on the subdivision in which the child lives."

A recent federal study found that wealthy Maryland counties such as Montgomery, spend more than 50 percent more per student than poorer counties and are able to pay higher teacher salaries enabling them to procure instructors with more training and experience.

The case which is expected to be heard within the next year, will be handled by Elliot C. Lichtman of the Washington law firm Rah, Silard, and Lichtman. He is one of the lawyers who successfully challenged New York's system of school finance.

(Continued on page 2)

Troy Brailey case postponed until April

The trial of a 23 - year - old man who is charged with assaulting Delegate Troy Brailey, senior member of the Maryland House of Delegates, has been postponed until April 2.

Del. Brailey appeared at Western District Court on Feb. 15 with his family and friends. After sitting in the courtroom for nearly two hours, waiting for the defendant's attorney, Donald Daneman, to arrive, Judge Richard Motsay postponed the case.

He told the court, "I will grant a postponement. I do so reluctantly. Many people came through some icy roads. I am here; I have no alternative. We have an act of God with the icy roads and I am sorry everyone had to come out."

Thomas Boykins, of the 700 block Park Ave., is charged with assaulting the 56 - year - old politician on Jan. 24 in the 1000 block N. Monroe St., about 6:50 p.m.

(Continued on page 2)

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Del. Douglass' bill seeks $ for city

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO staff Writer

This article is another in a series featuring each of Baltimore's black delegates and senators in the Maryland General Assembly.

"Baltimore City is facing an operating deficit. My bill would bring almost $5 million in revenue and that would help Baltimore a great deal."

This was the summation by Delegate John Douglass concerning his bill, now before the Maryland General Assembly, that would distribute certain unallocated withholding taxes throughout the state.

The third - term delegate who represents the 45th legislative district in East Baltimore considers this his "most important legislation this session."

Another measure would make the Baltimore Police Department a city agency instead of being managed by the state.

"It's an absurd situation," he asserted, "when the city does not have the complete control over its own department."

He pointed out that although the police department is controlled by the state, its commissioner is appointed by the mayor.

The bill, first introduced last year by Douglass, raised some questions as to its legality so it was withheld pending certain amendments.

Other Douglass - sponsored bills include provisions for a certain percentage of the cost of maintenance of the state police department be paid by the Transportation Trust Fund; requiring annual inspections for certain motor vehicles; and changing the language concerning the provision of a state debt for a correctional complex at the Fort Armistead Park.

(Continued on page 2)

Delegate John Douglass

Feds charge city schools still 'moderately segregated'

Minority students in Baltimore are still attending schools in "moderately segregated districts," according to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

In a 90 - page - report examining school desegregation, Baltimore was one of 47 communities studied by the commission over a two and a half year period.

The report showed that 46 percent of this nation's minority pupils still attend segregated schools and the "most severe school segregation continues to occur in the northeast and north central regions where 65 and 69 percent of all minority pupils respectively attend those segregated schools."

It also charged that Congress has significantly weakened the school desegregation efforts "by attaching anti - busing riders to the Labor - HEW appropriations bills."

Commission officials adding more federal enforcement was needed and requested that Congress reject any new anti - busing amendment to consider providing funds to encourage voluntary metropolitan school desegregation programs.

The report, which was issued Tuesday, showed that Baltimore's total public school enrollment in fall 1977 was 153,263 students with a 76 percent non - white enrollment and 24 percent white. The system has approximately 200 schools and special centers.

Some of those schools, like Douglass Senior High School, Lemmel Junior High School, most elementary schools, Eastern and Northwestern Senior High Schools have upward from 80 to 95 percent non - white enrollment.

Lake Clifton Senior High School in 1977 recorded a 55 percent non - white enrollment while other schools, such as Patterson, Southern and Northern High Schools recorded a 35 to 45 percent non - white enrollment.

Most of those schools, however, were located in predominantly white districts.

In 1977 - 78, 63 percent of the teaching staff was non - white and the school based administrative staff was also 63 percent non - white. Upper level central administrators were 42 percent non - white in 1970 and 55 percent in 1977.

According to a school official, intensive faculty desegregation occured in September 1974 and 1975 when the first teacher transfers were made to achieve desegregation. In 1974, 15 to 20 percent of the approximately 8,000 teachers were transferred. In 1975, 5 to 10 percent of 8,000 were reassigned.

The report pointed out that "while the Supreme Court of the United States holds fast to established constitutional principles that mandate school desegregation."

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