—How McAllister died

(Continued from page 1)

An official cause of death will be announced. Dr. Guard promised, after a toxicologist completes analysis last results obtained from the examination of vital organs. This procedure police said could take as long as two weeks or a month.

Capt. Jack Freland, chief of the Baltimore County Crimes Against Persons Division, declined to be specific, but admitted that his investigation is zeroing in on "how the body got where it was and who put it there."

He also said charges in the case will await the official report from the toxicologist.

Capt. Freland said his investigators have numerous leads but refrained from discussing them.

These late developments in the mysterious disappearance — and equally mysterious death—of the prominent lawyer, laid to rest a barrage of wild rumors as to the motive for his demise.

Baltimore had been rampant with rumors and speculation about McAllister almost from the hour he vanished into thin air.

On the day after he disappeared on June 14, anonymous callers told the AFRO that the lawyer, who represented many defendants in the underworld of drug traffic, had been shot to death and his body stuffed in the trunk of a car.

Rumors were also rampant that he was scheduled to testify in the trial of indicted Police Col. James Watkins, to refute the testimony of convicted drug dealer Charles Burman, the state's star witness.

When police announced on Monday that the badly decomposed body found on June 22 was that of the missing lawyer, one underworld figure confided to the AFRO that he (McAllister) was scheduled to testify for the defense at the corruption trial of William Swisher, the indicted chief prosecutor for Baltimore City.

However, AFRO checks with prosecutors and defense attorneys involved in those cases proved the rumors were baseless.

McAllister disappeared around 7 p.m. June 14, after leaving his Pennsylvania Avenue law office.

His wife, Mrs. Shirley McAllister, said she last saw him on the morning of the 14th, when he left their Slade Avenue home to go to his office.

Mrs. McAllister and Tucker Dearing, McAllister's law partner, became alarmed Friday morning, June 15, when McAllister failed to keep an appointment to represent a client in Domestic Court.

A missing persons report was filed and speculation as to what happened to the former dynamic prosecutor ran wild until his badly decomposed remains were identified.

The Medical Examiner released McAllister's body Wednesday to a local funeral director and final rites for the graduate of Howard University Law School were held last night (Thursday).

When found, McAllister was lying face down, his shoes and jacket were missing, and his pants were pulled down around his knees.

No evidence released by homicide investigators thus far indicates that the dead attorney could have voluntarily walked to a site 10 miles from his home, taken off some of his clothes and then lain down to die.

James W. McAllister was murdered, hidden at a separate site and according to the state of decomposition of his body, had been dead since the day he disappeared.

WRAPPING UP — Project Safety First, a fire safety instruction program funded by the Mayor's Office for Manpower Resources, wraps up its second year of cooperative efforts with Baltimore public schools. Participants include (standing, L to R): Lt. David Ecbols, program developer-manager; Ms. Karen Bowie, projector coordinator for Manpower; Roland Barthelmes, Steven Targarona, Stanley Blackwell and Juan Lewis; (seated, L to R): William Gibson and Carl Crowder, instructors. Not shown, Ms. Ruth McConnell.

—Affirmative action

(Continued from page 1)

case, Weber charged that Kaiser and the United Steelworkers of America illegally discriminated against whites when they voluntarily set up an on-the-job craft training program at a Gramercy, La. plant that reserved half its openings for minority applicants.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a decision reversed Wednesday, agreed the program was illegal because it set up a racial quota without any admission of past discrimination by the employer or union, and did not limit relief to identifiable victims of past discrimination.

Brennan noted the Kaiser plan did not involve government action or an alleged violation of the constitution, but only the federal statute barring employment discrimination.

He said it was an "affirmative action plan voluntarily adopted by private parties to eliminate traditional patterns of racial segregation."

"We cannot agree ... that Congress intended to prohibit the private sector from taking effective steps to accomplish the goal that Congress designed it to achieve," Brennan said.

Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice William Rehnquist, the two most conservative members of the court, dissented.

Justice John Paul Stevens did not take part in the case, nor did Justice Lewis Powell, who was ill when the arguments were held.

—Watkins not guilty

(Continued from page 1)

Watkins, one of the two highest ranking black police officials was in a position to retire three years ago, but he said, "I could not retire while I had this cloud over my head."

Shortly after the jury's verdict Thursday, Watkins told the AFRO, "I'm not sure what I'm going to do right now. There are a lot of things that must be done by me and my attorneys before I make that decision."

Then he commented on his acquittal by saying, "This is one of those times in my life when I can't really explain how I feel.

"But it's a good, good feeling."

During the trial which began June 18 in Criminal Court before Judge David Ross, Watkins strongly denied allegations that he took $16,500 from Burman over a 15-year period for an "umbrella" of protection of his narcotics ring and advance information of any raids.

Despite the state's insistence that Watkins "spent a lot of time on Pennsylvania Avenue" where he supposedly was slipped $100 at a time by Burman in the Alhambra Bar, defense attorney George L. Russell Jr. produced evidence that Watkins submitted reports on all of his contracts with Burman to other police officials.

Burman, the state's key witness, is currently serving a 25-year prison sentence for narcotics dealing.

Watkins denied most of Burman's testimony and maintained that he did not receive money from Burman nor did he offer protection.

He also denied seeing Burman sell heroin to customers in one of the Pennsylvania Avenue bars without making an arrest.

"Anyone that dealt in narcotics and I observed them, I arrested," he said.

Watkins who took the stand on Tuesday of this week, spent two grueling days of being constantly questioned on his 27 years in the departmentby Russell and Charles F. Lamasa, state prosecutor.

In June 1978 Watkins was suspended, following indictments of bribery, nonfeasance and malfeasance. A jury convicted him in November 1978 on two of the four charges which were later successfully appealed.

It was not known at AFRO presstime Thursday whether the state's attorney's offie plans any additional investigation of Watkins.

—Strike looms

(Continued from page 1)

ployers for the last several months, according to Holly, and have gotten nowhere.

Their demands include an upgrade of wages, improved health and welfare benefits and a pension plan as well as other proposals he would not name.

He told the AFRO he did not know what the changes are of success but if a settlement on any of the issues was not reached by 7 a.m. Sunday the employees would go out on strike.

The 1,800 employees scattered throughout the 17 nursing homes include nursing assistants, housekeepers and laundry personnel.

Insomniac tour

Baltimore Rent-A-Tour presents another of its late-night, early morning tours of historic and unique areas of the city. This Insomniac Tour, titled, "Bicentennial Plus Three," will highlight Fells Point, old maritime section of Baltimore. Other sites of interest will also be included.

The tour begins at 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning, July 7 at the Maryland Science Center. Several restored homes in the Fells Point area will be visited as well as Brown's Wharf, early 19th warehouse, now a museum of maritim memorabilia.

The middle-of-the-night wanderers will visit the grave of Edgar Allan Poe at the Westminister Church and graveyard. Tour's final stop will be at Fort McHenry, National Monument and Historic Shrine, to see sunrise over the Patapsco.

Gourmet breakfast at the Crease Restaurant in Hopkins Plaza. For info 685-2928.

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS are represented by this trio at the $1,000-a-plate Carter-Mondale Presidential Kickoff Dinner held Monday at the Washington Hilton. (Photo by Milton Williams) (L-R) are D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, secretary of HUD, Mrs. Patricia Harris and John Hechinger of the Hechinger Company.

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Strange school system shifts — Who ordered Mohamed 'hit'?

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Writer

The reassignment of 14 city school principals has some school system observers wondering if there might be something more to those transfers than just the fact that they are transfers.

Especially where Lake Clifton Senior High School principal John Mohamed is concerned.

The reassignments of the principals were approved last Thursday, June 21 by the school board.

Recommended by Dr. John Crew, superintendent of schools, the list of ranskis included not only Mohamed but Mrs. Elizabeth Edmonds of Western High School; James Lamar of Southern High; Juanita Gates, head of Northern Parkway Junior High and Rudolph DePaola, of Robert Poole Junior High.

Crew called the moves "just good management," adding that it was a serious attempt "to match the strengths of staff members with particular needs."

Yet, some of the transfers involved principals who were in charge of schools that have been the focal point of problems, complaints or controversy.

Crew admitted this was true in some cases but he really didn't "see anything unusual about them" pointing out that similar shifts were made in the past.

Which is one of the reasons why system observers, parents, teachers and students from the school and Mohamed himself are at a loss to explain his reappointment as principal at large for the new Central Region School District under Theda Wilson, presently Region Six superintendent effective Aug. 1.

His replacement will be Hilbert Stanley, an administrative assistant at 25th Street school administration headquarters) who has not held a principalship in close to five years.

Close to 40 persons from the Lake Clifton community protested the transfer, describing Mohamed as a man who is "doing a good job and has gotten a bum rap."

Robert Hatoff, head of the school's Parent - Teacher - Student - Community Association charged that Mohamed was "stabbed in the back" by staff members who complained to Crew.

John Mohamed

"I'm totally in the dark" he said. "I don't know what's happening. I had been hearing rumors for several months and live tried to figure out if I've done something wrong but as far as I can see I haven't."

Mohamed told the AFRO that Crew had called him into the superintendent's office on 25th Street a day before the announcement was to have been made and informed him of the change.

But a section of the 1979 - 1980 memorandum of understanding between school officials and staff personnel states a staff person must be made aware of any administrative changes in writing 10 days before the change is to be made public.

(Sources said Mrs. Edmonds was not made aware of her reassignment until the Tuesday before the announcement. Mrs. Edmonds could not be reach for comment.)

(Staff members in an angry letter to one of the daily newspapers denied that staff complaints were the cause of Ms. Edmonds' transfer).

Thelma Cox, Region Two superintendent, who several months ago had her job shot from under her when her region was abolished by the realignment, said she was not consulted on Mohamed's transfer.

"They worked around me in making their decisions," she said. Under normal personnel change procedures the regional superintendent is consulted to make a recommendation on the transfer.

There is speculation that the order to reassign Mohamed may have come from higher up but Crew was out of town and unavailable for comment. Mrs. Cox could not comment, and Mohamed did not comment.

The AFRO learned also that Mohamed's new assignment to act as trouble - shooter for the principals is designed to help Ms. Wilson with the running of the new region, which is said to be the toughest in the city.

But the question still remains what led to Mohamed's reassignment?

Sources said that Mohamed was not the first choice to replace Boyse Moisely two years ago but rather a stop gap to prevent 2nd and 3rd councilmanic district politicians from getting their own choice in.

It is said the person the politicians had in mind was Leon Coleman, currently principal at Lombard Junior High School.

Mrs. Cox, while not commenting on the original choice, did say she believed Mohamed did not have enough time as assistant principal at Douglass High school before assuming the top post of the second largest school in the city.

But school system observers believed that Mohamed would not make any drastic changes at Lake Clifton.

Mohamed, however, made some small changes his first year there and at the start of the 1978 - 79 school year began developing curriculum for the school.

He also, according to school sources, capably handled the increase in student population, and increase he had warned the administration last summer would happen.

The student body at Lake Clifton jumped from 2,200 students last year to 3,400 students this past school year. Mohamed addmited there were problems with overcrowded classrooms, but he said it was handled with a staff of 117 teachers 20 short than what was required to run the school.

Mohamed did receive his extra staff personnel in March after a fire broke out in the school auditorium.

Yet there is speculation that the fire marked the beginning of the end of Mohamed's tenure at Lake Clifton. Specialation followed that some school and city administrators were upset that the incident occurred and felt it was time for Mohamed to be reassigned.

Mohamed reemphasized the fact he had heard the rumors but he was in the midst of preparing for an evaluation by the Middle States Association at the time.

The evaluation, which was released in April, gave Lake Clifton high marks in the quality of instruction, administrative guidence and teacher concern for the students and unity among departments and a good curriculum which could be improved.

So why was mohamed reassigned?

Blount endorses Reeves

Sen. Clarence Blount, D-41st, reversed himself this week and endorsed Norman Reeves quest for the City Council's 5th councilmanic district seat.

"I am supporting Norman—this time," he said. "I'm announcing it to the world. I'm really going to support him."

The statement was made at Reeve's fund raiser held last week but did not become public until earlier this week.

The leader of the Five and Five Political Organization, Blount refused to back Reeves in the 1978 Election and was blamed for Reeves' narrow loss in the primaries.

This year, according to political sources, Blount was unofficially backing the candidacy of Anthony Robinson along with Rep. Farren J. Mitchell.

Mitchell has already officially voiced his support for Robinson but it is not known if Blount will endorse Robinson also.

Blount was out of town and could not be reached for comment. Robinson said as far as he knows Blount is still supporting him.

Meanwhile, Reeves while filing for his candidacy Friday criticized Police Chief Donald Pomerleau's decision to cutback on police responses to domestic strife and other "nonessential" type of police duties.

"This is a unilateral decision. We are asking the poor to shoulder the burden of our inability to provide essential city services," Reeves said.

Reeves said the decision as to the allocation of meager urban resources should be made by the people's duly elected representatives on the City Council. He noted that police calls involving comestic strife are more likely to come from poor people, that domestic strife is a leading cause of crimes of violence, and that the summer season usually sees a rise in domestic strife.

"Many a time the arrival of a police officer has made the difference between life and death or serious injury in domestic strife," he said. "Now we are saying that society will no longer provide that brake when violence, often a result of conditions of poverty and congestion over which an individual has little control, erupts to momentarily take over the fabric of their lives."

"We are saying to mothers of unruly children that we cannot help them, to wives of abusive husbands that we canot help them, to those predisposed to violence for whatever reason, that we will not stop them. In effect, we are telling the victims of social neglect to police themselves," he said.

Food stamp truck schedule

Below is the food stamp truck schedule for July 1979.

July 2, Monday, 502 N. Central Ave.

July 3, Tuesday, Brooklyn Homes, 4140 Tenth St.

July 5, Thursday, Hollander Ridge Homes, 2000 Odell Ave.; 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Claremont Homes, 4312 Clareway, 1 to 4 p.m.

July 6, Friday, 601 Wyanoke Ave., 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 5210 York Road, 1 to 4 p.m.

July 7, Saturday, 23 E. North Ave.

July 9, Monday, 2638 E. Baltimore St.

July 10, Tuesday, Brooklyn Homes, 4140 Tenth St.

July 11, Wednesday, Claremont Homes, Hollander Ridge Homes, 2000 Odell Ave.. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 1 to 4 p.m.

July 12, Thursday, 5210 York Road, 601 Wyanoke Ave. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 1 to 4 p.m.

July 13, Friday, 2638 E. Baltimore St.

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•Links, Inc., a national service organization of women across the country. See what they are doing for youth.
•The 6888 CPD served overseas in WWII, the first black WACS to do so.
•This is the Sixth Anniversary of DAWN Magazine. Some of the people involved are highlighted.
•Reggae Music. It's something different.
•As usual, the Black Culture quiz is together with a black history drawing.
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