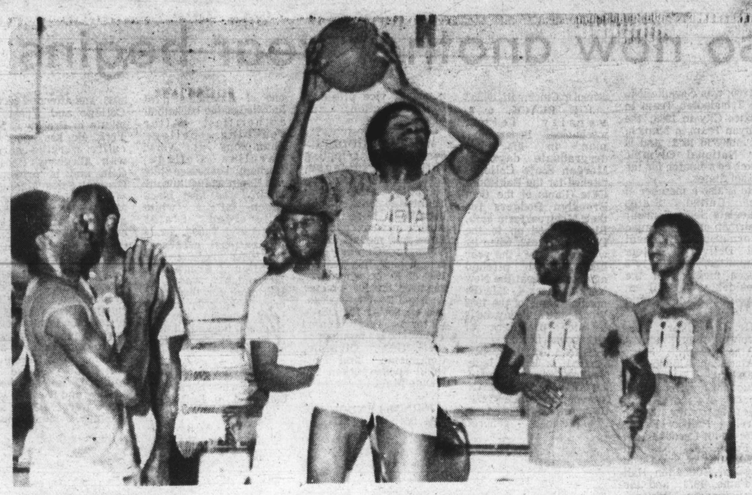
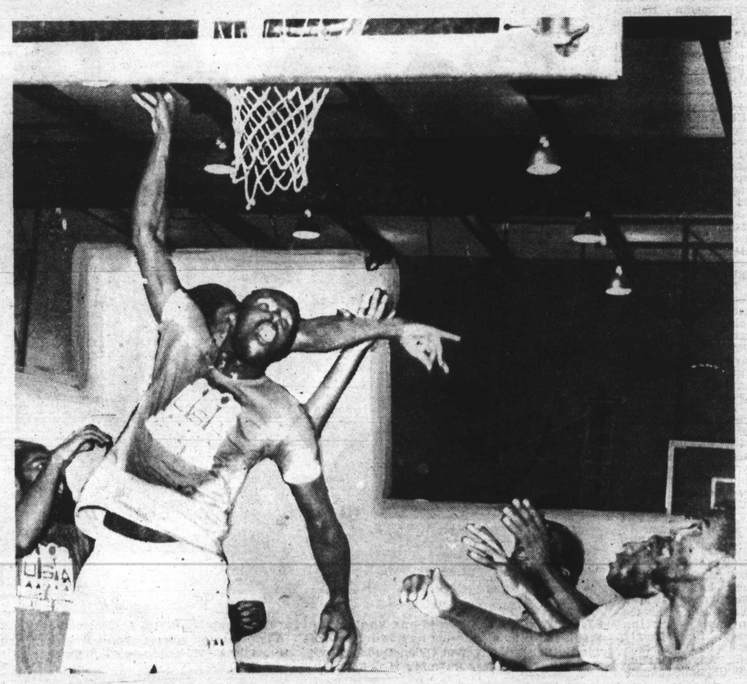


They're off!

And now Project Survival's basketball campaign is under way.

Play began Saturday at Walbrook and Douglass high schools, where the AFRO photographer, Glasco Ryales recorded the warmup and action (left top, bottom) at Walbrook, and below a young contestant scoring a layup at Douglass.



Patricia Harris named HEW chief

See column 6 this page

The black macho man debate - part II
See page 5

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

Inner Harbor gospel fest
See page 32

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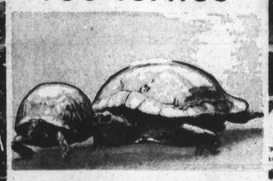
'Get off our butts and vote!'

100 turtles



Their pace was slow . . . but then again, a turtle race isn't fast anyway; the important thing is kids loved it.

Some 100 tortoises inched their way along in the 1979 Chesapeake Turtle Derby held Wednesday at War Memorial Plaza.

(Continued on page 2)

(AFRO Photos by Mark Gail)

THE RACE IS ON—These happy youngsters in left photo aren't too concerned over who their favorite turtle is in the Chesapeake Turtle Derby held this week at War Memorial Plaza. Tasha Woody and Sabrina Alston are cheering for them all while Ricky Gillespie looks on. OOOPS . . . even in turtle races it can be just a little hard to stay out of your opponent's way, especially when you are the larger turtoise as shown in center photo. At right, a racey little turtle named "MTA" takes a rest on owner Mykl Barron's shoulder after winning the third place title in the seventh race.

NAACP, others gear for massive registration drive

The only way for black Baltimoreans who comprise nearly 60 percent of the city's total population to get a voice in City Hall is to "get off their butts and vote!"

This was the statement made by John King, 1500 block West Fayette St., when queried by the AFRO on the eve of a massive voter registration drive being launched this weekend by the Baltimore NAACP and other organizations throughout the city.

The NAACP which actively works in the community with door to-door voter registration campaign will begin its official drive

(Continued on Page 3)

AFRO helps family escape horror house

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

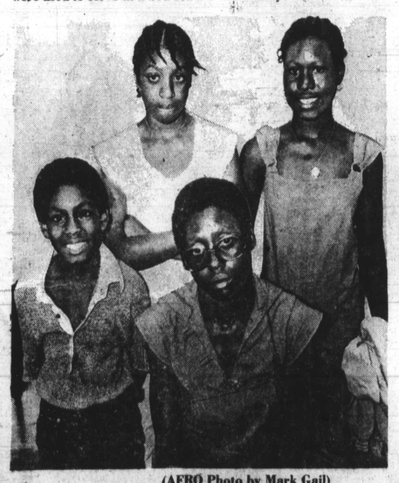
No one seemed to care about Mrs. Viola Lee and her dark children, who have been shifted around for seven months and were without a permanent home for nearly two months.

After walking the streets of Baltimore, visiting the Salvation Army, Baltimore Welfare Rights, Echo House, Department of Social Services and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, the 32-year-old mother said, "Everyone told me, 'We have nothing available at this time. I am sorry, you will have to come back (and we don't have emergency system for people with rats.'"

(Continued on page 2)

(AFRO Photo by Mark Gail)

MAKESHIFT BED — This grim scene shows the deplorable conditions of house Mrs. Viola Lee and her family lived in until helped by the AFRO. Four old head boards and a blanket were used to serve as a bed for the Lee family.



(AFRO Photo by Mark Gail)

LEE FAMILY MEMBERS shown who are afraid to sleep in their house because of rats are Robert Lee, 9; Mrs. Viola Lee, 32; Sophia, 15 and Crystal, 12.

PRYOR: 'NIGGER' IS OUT!

COMMENTARY
By Ida Peters

"To call a person a "nigger" is to call him something less than human" so declared Richard Pryor, old nigger-mouth himself, when he returned to Los Angeles from a recent trip to Africa.

The creator of albums entitled "That Nigger's Crazy" and "Bicentennial Nigger" and who abandantly uses "nigger" in his many hilarious and controversial recordings has vowed that he will no longer do so.

Redd Foxx, Melvin Van Peebles with his "Baad Ass Nigger" movie, and Fred Williamson with his "Nigger Charlie" flick all have contributed to the black press as well as the white print and electronic media openly using the word in print.

The AFRO complained about Redd Foxx and Richard Pryor's use of the word in the early stages. In fact, the AFRO's editorial policy forbid the use of the word.

Richard Pryor

And just like President Carter's use of the word "ass" putting that word on the front pages of America, so did Richard Pryor with 'Nigger.'

During the first "Roots" television series the AFRO pointed out that while black folks may use the term in endearment in the family, some awful mean things were going to happen in integrated situations when some white folks decided to use the term.

Now Richard Pryor has found out that "to call a person a "nigger" is to call him something less than human."

He declares, "we've got to stop the name calling, period, so we can learn to talk to each other and find out what the real problems are."

"If I can do anything to get its usage stopped, I'd appreciate that," he added.

Well, for Pryor, that's like locking the barn door after the horse has been stolen.

It's too bad Richard Pryor had to go all the way to Africa to find out what we've been saying all along . . . that it's basically wrong to call anyone a name.

Mrs. Harris to head largest U.S. agency

President Carter, Thursday chose HUD Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris, an independent-minded woman known as a "team player," to succeed the ousted Joseph Califano as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

A close Carter aide confirmed the switch, which has not officially been announced, and said although Mrs. Harris had conflicts with senior White House staffers, she

(Continued on page 2)

States attorney Swisher accused

AKT A HEARING BEFORE U.S. District Judge Alexander Harvey on July 17, federal prosecutors claim that James H. "Jack" Pollack, who was known as a "political boss," gave city state's attorney William A. Swisher nearly $4,000 to stop an investigation of political corruption his office was conducting in 1975.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Goldstein told the court he has circumstantial evidence that will prove Pollack gave $3,920 to Swisher, who failed to report the money on his 1975 federal income tax return.

Pollack died March 15, 1977 from cancer at University Hospital. Since the 27-count indictment against 45-year-old Swisher was handed down on April 2 by the federal grand jury, Tuesday was the first time prosecutors have stated Swisher received a particular amount of money from Pollack in connection with alleged misconduct in the city state's attorney's office.

The $3,920 was discussed at a hearing on defense motion seeking a separate trial on the six tax charges against Swisher.

Judge Harvey agreed to a defense request to give Swisher separate trials on his 27-count indictment on charges of tax evasion, mail fraud and extortion.

He granted the defense request setting Sept. 11 for Swisher's trial on 21 charges of mail fraud and extortion. Swisher was charged April 4

(Continued on page 2)

HEW Secretary
Patricia Harris

Fairfield man kills self after murder try

A Fairfield man took his own life Wednesday after he seriously wounded his estranged wife during an argument in her apartment, city police said.

Steven Witherspoon, 23, most recently of the 2600 block Loyola Southway was pronounced dead at the apartment of Stephanie Witherspoon, 21 of the 3400 block Sunlea Court in Fairfield Community.

His wife was listed in stable condition late Thursday at South Baltimore General Hospital with gunshot wounds of the arm and chest.

According to the police reports, Witherspoon had gone to visit his wife in Fairfield at about 6:45 p.m. Wednesday where they argued for some unknown reason.

Investigators said Witherspoon then produced a .32 caliber revolver and shot his wife four times in the upper chest and arm. He then turned the gun on himself and sho himself once in the chest.

At presstime funeral informati was incomplete.

—Fabulous prizes for AFRO carriers

Hey, kids—have fun this summer selling AFROs and make money and win great prizes!

AFRO carriers can win color TV sets, watches, sports equipment, camping gear, tape recorders, radios and even a flashy disco light.

It's easy. Here is all you have to do:

An AFRO circulation supervisor will give you a weekly quota of newspapers to sell. For each AFRO sold over your quota, you earn five big coupons.

For example, if your weekly quota is 50 AFROs and you sell 30 AFROs on Tuesday and 30 AFROs on Friday, you sold 10 papers over your quota and you receive 50 BIG coupons.

Then you pick your prize from the All New Summer Fun Catalog.

Start today! Get new sales and win fantastic prizes and earn more $$$$$$$.

Call the AFRO eight away at 728-8200.

But he's still central committee contende

Wes drops out

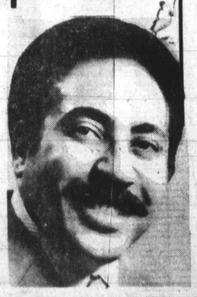
By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Writer

The question of who will fill the vacancy on the 40th legislative district state central committee is still unanswered. But some politicians have apparently turned to Western "West" Ivey, who withdrew from the 4th Councilmanic District race Friday.

The AFRO learned the Metro Democratic Club, which controls the state central committee, met late Thursday, July 19, to decide who would replace Dr. Henry C. Welcome, who died of a stroke several weeks ago.

Although details of the meeting were not available at presstime, high placed Metro officials said Ivey is expected to be named as Dr. Welcome's replacement.

(Continued on page 2)



Wes Ivey

JUL