SWISHER TRIAL UPDATE

Former fraud unit head testifies

The former head of the major frauds unit in the city's state's attorney's office said William A. Swisher could have prosecuted a city official even though his predecessor failed to approve an indictment in a related case.

Gerald Glass who headed the major frauds unit under State's Attorney Milton B. Allen, testified that he could not prosecute a city public works official because Allen could not be reached to approve the indictment before the stature of limitations expired.

But when questioned by prosecutor Daniel Goldstein, Glass said his problems with Allen could not have prevented Swisher from prosecuting a related but separate case.

He said Swisher could have gathered enough evidence to indict the official if he had pursued the case. Both of the cases were part of an investigation of corruption in the city's public works department.

Swisher is being tried in U.S. District Court on 18 counts of mail fraud and three counts of extortion. He is accused of dropping an investigation of corruption in the public works department and surrendering powers of his office to the late political boss, James H. "Jack" Pollack.

The indictment said Swisher accepted $25,000 that Pollack extorted from Ottavio Grande, a building bureau official and contractor Charles Collison in return for Swisher's dropping an investigation of the two. Grande and Collison were later convicted in a bid - rigging scheme.



AFRO photo by Mark Gail

CLEAN - UP CAMPAIGN — Michelle Young, Marlene Weingarten and Loretta Waltemeyer (L to R), members of Women Employed in Baltimore, weild a giant broom to kick off the organization's drive to survey affirmative action in the banking business in Baltimore.

Rep. Mitchell invites local clergy to Hill

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, D-7th-Md. will host several dozen Baltimore City clergymen at a Seventh Congressional District Ministerial Legislative Breakfast Tuesday, Oct. 30, in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

Mitchell has invited the ministers to Washington for "hard talks" about pending and proposed legislation affecting unemployment, health care and housing. Other critical issues will also be discussed.

Several members of the House Leadership, the Maryland Congressional Delegation, and the Congressional Black Caucus are expected to greet the group. Following the Breakfast and legislative discussions, Congressman Mitchell and the clergymen will conclude their meeting with prayers on the steps of the United States Capitol.



AFRO photo by Mark Gail

HAVING LUNCH and enjoying what will probably be the end of Indian Summer is William Jackson at a sunny spot on St. Paul and Fayette Streets.

Working women's group charges banks with bias

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

About 15 women gathered around an out - sized broom in Hopkins Plaza Wednesday, Oct. 24 and swept signs and slogans into a big plastic trash bag.

A rite of fall? The clean-up squad? An early Halloween prank?

None of the above.

The women are members of Women Employed (WE) in Baltimore Inc. and the sweep - up was a dramatic announcement of their new campaign to clean up banking in Baltimore.

A spokesperson for WE said the group is circulating a survey to bank tellers and clerical workers to document race and sex discrimination in Baltimore banks.

"Banks employ an incredible amount of women. We want to see if women are getting ahead, if they get benefits such as maternity leave and we want to check personnel policies," said Michelle Young, a WE organizer.

Wednesday morning, between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m., 24 Women Employed members were stationed outside nice offices of Maryland Nutional, Equitable Trust, First National, Mercantile and the Savings Bank of Baltimore.

They handed out surveys to female bank employees as they came to work.

Questions on the survey include "Do minority women hold the lowest paying positions?" "Are minority women offered the same promotions as white women?" "Do you feel your salary is fiar?"

The lunchtime, clean-up rally in Hopkins pointed up other discrepancies in the banking business.

One placard held by a WE member listed salaries for clerical help — male clerical workers earn an average of $13,260. The poverty level for a family of four is $6,680, starting salary for bank tellers is $6,500.

The signs swept into the trash bag, which was labeled "To be sent to the U.S. Department of Labor," read "No maternity leave?" Cost of living increase?" Low pay?" "Health benefits?"

WE members intend to continue distributing surveys, even though one was asked to leave a bank parking lot by a male employee Wednesday morning.

Another we member said she did not have any work to do at her job until a supervisor saw the stack of questionaires on her desk.

"Then I got all this s-- work to do, like sorting files," she said.

Ms. Young said she expects response to the survey to be "overwhelming. We have already gotten a lot of calls telling us 'It's about time' and how great women think this is."

She said one female drive - in window bank teller offered to distribute surveys in her spare time to other drive - in tellers.

Copies of the survey are available by calling Women Employed at 837-3830.



EXHAUSTED FIREFIGHTER Joe B. Graham of Engine 20 carries air packs to other firemen at the two - alarm blaze that destroyed a house on Reisterstown Road and Shirley Avenue, Wednesday morning.
AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

UNDER PROPOSED LAW

Drivers who refuse alcohol test could lose licenses

Maryland drivers who will not take an alcohol test when stopped by police could lose their licenses under a law the general assembly will consider next year, a legislator said Wednesday.

Sen. John J. Garrity, D - Prince George's said he will propose a law that will allow police to take drivers who refuse to submit to the tests to a court commissioner, who could suspend the driver's license pending a motor vehicle administration review.

Under Maryland law, drivers must agree to take the tests — usually either a blood test or a breathalyzer exam — when they receive their licenses. But those who refuse face only a 60 - day suspension at the most.

Recent published reports indicate that two - thirds of the drivers charged with manslaughter refuse to take the tests.

Garrity's bill is being written by William T.S. Bricker, the state motor vehicle administrator. The legislator said the bill was prompted by recent events in Prince George's county.

"We've had some just horrendous accidents involving quite a few teenagers in the county, and it has been a difficult problem in gathering evidence to present in trial to convict a person on driving under the influence," he said.

Garrity cited the case of a woman who refused to take an alcohol test after she struck and killed an 18-year-old woman with her car. The woman was not even charged after the accident, he said.

He also said the courts tend to put more faith in alcohol tests than in police testimony.

"There is a tendency on the courts' part, and I don't know why, to place more reverence in a breathalyzer test, rather than on police," he pointed out.

"If you don't have test results, the court might give, at most, a conviction for impaired driving (a less serious charge than driving under the influence of alcohol)."

Brailey assailant's sentence suspended

A 23 - year - old man who was found guilty of assaulting Maryland House of Delegates member, Troy Brailey, D-40th, was sentenced to five years imprisonment this week.

The sentence, handed down by Judge Joseph A. Ciotola in Criminal Court, was then suspended and Thomas Boykin, of the 1200 block N. Charles, was placed on five - year probation.

Boykin who pleaded guilty Sept. 17, had been charged with assaulting Brailey while he was driving a car Jan. 24 in a funeral possession for his aunt. While Brailey's car had stopped, a man came over to the vehicle, opened the door and began to beat him in the chest and head.



BREAKFAST WITH THE MAYOR — Members of the newly formed organization, the Baltimore Committee on Black Business who sponsored a recent breakfast for Mayor William Donald Schaefer include, L to R, Augustus Coleman, Albert Maddox, Pauline Brooks, Mayor Schaefer and Ernest Young, chairman of the group.

Periscope on politics

By James Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Samuel A. Culotta has brought up an idea broached by Delegate John Douglass in his unsuccessful '71 and '74 races for the city comptroller's seat. Culotta, if elected, plans on implementing a commuter tax on non - city workers who commute to the city. The tax will be specifically aimed at county residents and call for a one percent levy on monies earned in Baltimore by them.

St. George I. B. Crosse is slowly but surely picking up strength in the city as election day, Nov. 6, approaches. Crosse recently received the endorsement of the Fourth District Democratic Organization after the governing board of that body argued long and hard over — the step. "Show me something" insisted one member of that board, despite evidence of Crosse's superlative education and community commitment. He has also been endorsed by city councilmen Nathan Irby and Michael Mitchell.

Speaking of St. George I. B. Crosse, he was recently accused by Hyman Pressman, current city comptroller, of being "a slumlord." The comptroller levelled the charges after hearing a prominent member of a powerful west side democratic club hurl the charges at Crosse in absentia two weeks ago.

Crosse, in turn has issued a position paper calling Pressman "Baltimore's biggest slumlord," because of his jurisdiction over the city's 8,000 boarded up dewllings.

Delegate Troy Brailey recently attended an unofficial kick - off dinner for President Carter's 1979 campaign. Brailey was one of 500 Democrats invited by Carter to an infoqmal dinner at the White House Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Democratic candidates to the city council have coalesced in an effort to shut out any potential Republicans in the upcoming elections, according to an informed source. According to the source, the three Democratic candidates in the district have refused to issue money for ticket - printing unless the clubs requesting the fund endorse the whole Democratic slate. Ticket - printing money is a traditional source of revenue for many area political clubs.

Bob Kaufman, a leading figure in the People's Campaign for Rent Control, called the office to complain about several two - page advertisements which have appeared recently in area dailies. "The anti - rent control forces have a problem similar to the cigarette people. The cigarette people have to convince people that a product which is harmful for them is good for them. The anti - rent control people are trying to tell us that something that would be good for us is actually not good at all. "He also hit the "racist, paternalistic attitude" of the Keep Baltimore Best Committee, "for attempting to tell the poor and the elderly what is good for them."

Ms. Rose Bertorelli, of the Board of Elections Supervisors, informed us that there are 392,868 voters registered for the Nov. General Elections. Of that total, 336,121 are Democrats, 38,914 are Republicans, 17,587 are independents and 244 voters are members of the American party. The main issue in the election is obviously rent control. Also at stake are the mayor's office, the comptroller's seat, and all city council seats. If last elections results hold true again, a sparse turnout can be predicted.

The Rev. St. George I. B. Crosse recently received a key endorsement from an area political club and a local newspaper in his quest to unseat city comptroller Hyman Pressman.

At a meeting of the Fourth District Democratic Organization held Monday, Oct. 22, Crosse was overwhelmingly picked as the club's standard - bearer in the race.

He also has received the endorsement of the Baltimore Evening Sun which termed his rival, Pressman, as "an ineffectual presence capable of contributing little to the necessary give and take of administrative politics."

Crosse slammed the comptroller Tuesday in a press conference held outside City Hall, charging him with complicity in the "unsanitary and unsafe conditions that exist in city-owned real estate.

"Why has this so - called 'champion of the little people' been silent?" he asked. "Maybe it is because the present condition of city - owned real estate makes him Pressman, "Baltimore's number one slum landlord."

Crosse cited conditions at city - owned housing projects such as O'Donnell Heights, Fairfield Homes, Gilmor Homes as the basis for his homes as the basis for his allegations.

He stated; "City owned dwellings . . . are not only unsafe, and unsanitary, but they are also breeding grounds for the criminal elements of our city. In most public housing people live in fear, and some senior citizens come out only two or three times a month to buy groceries and cash their checks."

Crosse also revealed his plan for improving conditions in city- owned housing projects.

"I will train and employ our unemployed men and women in the repair and rehabilitation of boarded up city owned real estate."

Crosse also pledged to provide additional moderate and low income housing for area residents and urged favorable zoning and financing by the city to encourage home ownership.

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CLEANING & REPAIRING
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FAST SERVICE

CALLING ALL CITIZENS
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PRESENTS
SECOND ANNUAL FREEDOM HERITAGE AWARDS BANQUET
Friday, November 9, 1979, 7:00 p.m.
BLUE CREST NORTH
401 Reisterstown Road
CONTRIBUTION INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP $15.00 $25
ALL TAX DEDUCTIBLE
FOR TICKETS CALL:
MRS. SUSIE E. MURPHY, CHAIRPERSON 383-1606
MRS. FLOZELLA CLARKE, Co-Chairperson 383-0222
HON. LLOYAL RANDOLPH, Co-Chairman 523-4065
MICHAEL BOWEN MITCHELL, ESQ. Treasurer

AFRO backs Crosse, rent control

See AFRO election slate column one this page

AFRO's Ms. Santa drive begins today
See page 32

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE NOW IN OUR 88TH YEAR

Freedom awards set for Nov. 9
See page 32

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County racial strife sparks shootings, cross-burnings

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Black tenants at Lake in the Woods apartments in Lansdowne were disturbed about the recent rash of cross burnings —five in 11 days—occurring in their area.

Another racial incident has them more than disturbed—the are angry and afraid.

Tenants told the AFRO that two car-loads of white men thre atened their children at gunpoint as the children walked to scho Thursday, Nov. 1.

Lorraine Sims, a tenant, said her children returned home twice before two carloads of children were driven to school by Baltimore County police officers.

The Thursday morning incident, which is under investigat is one of several at the apartment complex in the past two week

In addition to the cross burnings, one double shooting and one stabbing have been reported.

In the shooting, according to Cpl. R.B. Russin of the Wilkens precinct, two white males were walking near the apartmen when they heard threatening and profane language from what the described as a black male.

Two of the three were hit by a shotgun blast. They were treated and released at St. Agnes Hospital.

In another incident, which police say is unrelated to the cross burnings, whites were partying at two separate apartments. When one gue t left, he backed his car into a car belongin to a guest at the other party.

He left without reporting it and was seen by people at the other party. They chased him through the woods and caught up with him as he drove away.

He ran into one of the people chasing him. The crowd dragg ed him out of his car and began beating him.

Meanwhile, guests at the party he attended came to his resu rescue. In the street brawl that followed, one man was stabbed.

Tenants say the trouble is caused by teens and young adults from a nearby apartment complex.

The current problems began, they told the AFRO, after a black tenant in his early 2's fought with a white 13-yea old.

"The 13-year-old went home and got his older brothers and one thing led to another," one tenant said.

"And now, that guy moved away. He started all this and now he doesn't even live here anymore."

(Continued on page 2)

AFRO Slate

Take this with you election day Nov. 6

City-wide

MAYOR
Pull Lever
William D. Schaefer 1A

COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Walter S. Orlinsky 2A

COMPTROLLER
St. George I.B. Crosse 3B

Council races

2nd District
Clarence H."Du" Burns 4A
Nathan C. Irby Jr. 6A

4th District
Victorine Q. Adams 4A
Kweisi Mfume 5A
Michael B. Mitchell 6A

5th District
Norman V.A. Reeves 4A
Carl M. Adair 4B

6th District
Carleen Morgan 5B

Bond Questions
Vote Yes
A. Sewer and Drain Loan, B. Fire Department Loan, C. Residential Financing Loan, C. Residential Financing Loan, D. Residential Energy Conservation Loan, E. Solid Waste Disposal Loan, F. Community Development Loan, G. Commercial Rehabilitation Loan, H. Economic Development Loan, I. Industrial Financing Loan.

Charter Amendments
Vote Against
J—Zoning Board
Vote For
K — Rent Control



COMPTROLLER candidate St. George Crosse and family. From (L), daughter Karin, 12, St George, one-year-old daughter, Liris, and wife, Mrs. Delois Crosse.

A day with St. George Crosse: campaigning from sunrise on...

By James Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

When you are a Republican candidate for a city-wide office in Baltimore, you have to get up pretty early in the morning to offset the nine-to-one Republican to Democrat ratio in offset the nine-to-one Republican to Democrat ratio in the city.

St. George Crosse, Republican candidate for the office of comptroller, has been up before 8; every day since the September primary.

Sunday at 9 a.m., he sat in the studio of a local radio station, broadcasting his weekly religious show.

"I know you may have problems in your life," he intoned in deep, sepulchural tones, "but God loves you the Reverend Cross loves you too."

As he closed his broadcast, the Methodist minister, a man of impressive girth, entreated members of his radio congregatio to call him and describe their problems, and assured them that he would include them in his prayers.

After the broadcast, he moved to an adjoining room where his secretary, Lillian Elsie, who is also a minister, handed him a list of over 6 callers.

"We're going to hit three churches today," he said smiling, "you think you can keep up with me?"

He got into his 1-year-old Mercedes, that was stuffed with campaign literature, and sped off for Lewin Methodist Church, where he has been pastor for three years.

"I've got one of my associate ministers doing the service today, but my parishoners like to see me, so I'd better put in an appearance."

The walls of his church office are covered with degrees. Crosee holds two masters degrees from Coppin State College, in education and correctional education. He was an honor graduate of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and also holds a juris doctor degree from the University of Baltimore.

When this reporter asked him if his church work would suffe if he won the election, he just laughed and said,"no, it just means I'll be working an eighteen hour day instead of a twelve hour day."

By 11:30 he was at Mount Lebanon Church on Reisterstown Road near Fulton Ave. When he entered, the congregation instantly recognized him. The minister, the Rev. Olin P. Moyd announced, "I'd like to introduce a special guest of mine.

(Continued on page 2)

ARE BLACK POLITICIANS SILENT?

Rent control: a struggle between haves and have-nots

It started in the hot, sweltering heat of summer, and the red-hot intenisty of the issue still commands attention, even in the cool days of fall.

The issue is rent control and November 6, the voters of Baltimore Will have a chance to amend the city's constitution to include a permanent rent control amendment.

In this, an age when many citizens have lost faith in thie their ability to have a voice in their governance, the rent control bill, question K on the ballot, a chance to articulate their concern for a relief from the nation's current economic crisis.

As a local union leader pointed out "Question K signifis a reaction and a fighting back of an entire class in this city."

His statements point to an obvious fact of the whole rent control issue it is a class struggle.

Organized labor is behind rent control, according to Henry Kollein, Jr., the scretary-treasurer of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions.

"We feel that all we have gained at the bargaining table is being wiped out through inflation. It has become a class struggle between the haves and the have-nots." in the police entrance examination and said the test disqualified black and females who actually were qualified to become officers.

Bobby Cheeks, head of the Welfare Rights Organization and leader of the People's campaign for rent control, says that the only reason the group decided to use the referendum process was because a bill they had tried to push through city hall a year ago failed.

Then why do politicians and community aders continue to state that legislation is the best way to achieve rent control?

According to Cheeks, the reason is simple. "You never heard anyone complaining about the referendum process until poor and black people found out about how to use it. Now they're talking about making the process harder."

DiPietro stated, during a press conference held in October, stated that he was opposed to the bill because he felt it was wrong for the group of people who signed the rent control petitions which enabled question K to get on the ballot to have a predominant voice in running the city. He stated that he felt the supporters of the amendment were usurping the power of the city's elected officials.

But, as Cheeks pointed out "We tried to get it through the city council, but it didn't pass. The referendum was the only way we could get any form of rent control in the city."

TAKOMA PARK MAN GETS 10 YEARS

He dealt drugs on 3 continents

Curtis W. Parker, described by Federal narcotics agents as a major heroin dealer in the Washington - Baltimore - Philadelphia area, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined $5,000 on a drug conviction.

Parker, 50, of Takoma Park, Md., was convicted Aug. 29 on four counts of dealing and transporting heroin and another count of conspiring to sell high - grade "Chinese white" heroin imported from Thailand to the Detroit area.

U.S. District Judge Ralph B. M. Guy Jr. sentenced Parker to 10 years on three counts and five years on two counts and fined him $1,000 on each of the five counts. The prison terms will run concurrently.

Federal narcotics agents testified Parker used ownership of a charter bus company as a cover for his heroin operation. Agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration traveled to Bangkok, Hong Kong and Paris in investigating the case.

The case against Parker and a second defendant, Jacqueline E. Paige, 28, of Takoma Park, Md., was based chiefly on the testimony of Sumnaum Pokorney of Romeo.

Mrs. Pokorney and her husband, Michael, were convicted earlier this year as heads of a drug ring which imported huge amounts of heroin from the orient, using Thai war brides as couriers. Both are serving federal prison terms, and Mrs. Pokorney faces possible deportation.

AFRO'S 'Jackson' t-shirt contest going great guns



T-SHIRT!! — Terri Hollinger, member of Musique ("Push, Push in the Bush") and an Edmondson High School grad, models one of the Jackson T-shirts being given away in the AFRO's latest contest. See Showtime.