Ms. Sonya Elliott, Eastern high school security guard

Mr. Elzee Gladen, Eastern high school principal

AFTER SCHOOL SHOOTING

Principal asks how teens could get guns

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Things are back to "normal and everything is beautiful" at Eastern High School, according to Elzee Gladden, principal of the school.

Around 12:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3, three boys, none of whom were students at Eastern High, located in the 1100 block East 33rd St., entered the school cafeteria door that remains unlocked, due to fire regulations, and approached a male student and began firing.

According to Gladden, a 17-year-old tenth grade student had a gun and returned the fire. The three youths who entered the building were seen running out of the school, after the student had been shot in the shoulder.

The Eastern student was taken to Union Memorial Hospital and has been released. Gladden says he has been indefinitely suspended and the suspension counselor will determine what school he will return to. John Reginad Lang, 16, also an Eastern student was treated for a superficial stomach wound. According to police, Lang was an innocent bystander.

Two teenage brothers, 15 and 16-years-old were arrested Monday night at their home. Both boys have been charged as juveniles with attempted murder and have been sent to the Maryland Training School for Boys.

When speaking of students at Eastern, Gladden says, "They are all my children and Eastern High has one of the better records of discipline.

"I think we should find out and talk about gun control. The question Gladden says he wants answered is, "Where did

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Teachers to ask pay hike

Negotiators for Baltimore City public school teachers and paraprofessionals went to the bargaining table Thursday, Nov. 6 to ask the city for higher salaries under next year's contract.

Higher salaries would help keep teachers in the city, which ranks below other country salaries in the state, according to John Bethea, president of the Baltimore Teachers Union, BTU.

More teachers left the city school system last year than ever before, he said, and the main reason was frustration over low salaries.

"A teacher would be silly to teach in the city when they can go t hree blocks (into the County) and make $3,000 more," said Ann Lepsi, chief negotiator for the teachers.

The negotiating team is requesting the return of annual increments, which could boost salaries by an average of between $1,200 and $1,500. Starting salary is $10,590.

Increments, which were discontinued by the city three years ago, would help make teacher salaries more competitive with other counties, Bethea said.

A Baltimore City teacher with the same experience as a Baltimore County teacher made $11,000 less over the past eight years, Ms. Lepsi said.

"Without increments, teachers are either forced to supplement their incomes with a second job, which decreases classroom efficiency, or they seek

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Forest Park Center helps elderly feel 'that people care'

SERVING CHICKEN — Enjoying the Eating Together Program are from (L), Mrs. Gussie M. Harris, Mrs. Garic Owens, and Mrs. Josephine Armstead.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

There once was a time when growing old brought fears of loneliness and neglect, when one anticipated the greying years with apprehension.

But today, that doesn't always have to be the case. Interest in the care and well-being of the aged has come a long way, and one example of the strides today's society has made in senior citizen's programs is the Forest Park Community Center, located on Garrison Blvd. and Liberty Heights Avenue.

At the center, a project of the Greater Northwest Community Coalition, Inc., elderly members of the immediate community are fed, entertained, and, in the words of the center's director, Gwen West, "it gives older people the feeling that people care."

Besides a daily "Eating Together" program which the center holds, it also provides legal services, advice on Social Security, food stamps, and a referral service, which connects older citizens with a problem with the proper agency.

According to Ned Graham, head of the Greater Northwest Community Coalition, the center faced many problems from its inception in October of 1979.

"A lot of people just said we wouldn't be able to do it," he recalls. "And we didn't even get our funding in time. (The center is funded through the city's Commission on Aging and Retirement Education) "Both Mrs. West and Mrs. Pretty had to work without pay for almost a month after we opened."

Evelyn Pretty is in charge of the center's crafts program, and displayed several Christmas ornaments and gifts made by the center's members. The items are for sale and, according to Mrs. West, the funds raised will be used for center activities such as their scheduled Christmas party.

"All of these items we have are hand-made," says Ms. Pretty. " It gives our members a chance to contribute to the center."

The crafts workshops at the center have even given some of the workers there some skills, according to Barbara Garrison, an outreach aide. "I'm learning to crochet," she says, laughing.

Ms. Garrison's job is to check up on members of the center who are unable to reach the facility. But besides Ms. Garrison, many of the center's members take a personal interest in the safety of their friends.

"One time, we had a lady in here who came every week, until one day she just didn't show up," says Graham. "A group of members were really worried about her and went down to her place. She was in the kitchen, cooking uo some big dinner for her relatives!"

The program also provides older citizens with an opportunity to visit various places of entertainment. Members of the center have visited a local disco, and are planning a trip to the Lyric theatre for a performance of "The Nutcracker Suite."

According to Ms. Jennie Gross, the center's information and referral person, the program gives older citizens an opportunity to travel.

"Many senior citizens have a fear of traveling alone," she says. "These days, they get attacked more, especially since it's near Christmastime."

The center also provides transportation for shorter journeys, operating a bus service for the elderly to journey to the market or a doctor's office.

The program is open to all senior citizens in the city of Baltimore, although most members of the Forest Park center are area residents. According to Gwen West, the center is still in need of volounteers. The program currently feeds and accommodates 30to35 senior citizens a day, but both Graham and Mrs. West are optimistic about increasing their services and the amount of members.

Says Mrs. West, in explanation of the success of the center; "They've (the members), have just found a bigger family."

State board hears presidents ask to keep school identities

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO staff writer

In a four hour session Thursday, Dec. 6, the State Board for Higher Education listened to testimony from area college and university heads on what the future should be for Maryland institutions.

The board, faced with declining school enrollments and tighter fiscal spending, is charged with the task of preparing recommendations to alleviate duplication of programs at the college and university level.

Following a series of 1978 articles by a daily newspaper stating that the higher education system was a "mess" Governor Harry R. Hughes and Sheldon H. Knorr, commissioner of Higher Education, acknowledged several problems and promised to study and recommend a plan of action to correct them.

A month ago the State Board stated that it would not approve any new programs until the recommendations had been made. The board is expected to make preliminary recommendations by January 1980.

"We plan to address ss of these problem pretty quickly and look at our delivery system to determine whether it is effective or whether more comprehensive institutions are needed," said Harry K. Wells, board chairman.

Dr. Andrew Billingsley, Morgan State University President, under recent fire for reported administrative and financial mismanagement, stated that the board should resist any effort or proposal to close Morgan, merge it with any other institution, return it to the Board of Trustees of State Universities.

He also suggested that Morgan not be placed under any other governing board.

Most of the presidents who addressed the board during the session in Annapolis stressed vigorously the need to retain their own programs and school identity.

Several black college presidents emphasized the point that, while they did not feel that black students should only attend black schools, they do feel that these students have more of an emotional tie.

However, board member J. Harrison Ager, stated, "it is time for black administrators to stop baiting the trap which says that black students have special needs that can only be addressed at black institutions."

The nine member board is scheduled to meet again Wednesday, Dec. 19, to begin its work on the recommendations.

GM to shut down shift, lay-off 2300 local workers

General Motors will lay off 2,300 hourly employees from its Baltimore plant because of declining sales triggered by inflation, higher borrowing rates and skyrocketing gasoline prices, the company said this week.

The layoffs, part of a nationwide reduction of 11,000 employees, will take effect Jan. 2 when the plant eliminates the second shift on the assembly line, said plant spokesman Nelson Lawhon.

The plant, which makes intermediate-size Chevy Malibus, Monte Carlos and Pontiac Lemans and light-duty GMC and Chevy trucks, employs 6,800 persons, Lawhon said.

Truck production will also be reduced starting Jan. 7, he said.

The announcement

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HUD orders rent refunds after suit

Tenants who lived in federal Section 236 housing for any length of time between Feb. 1, 1975 and Sept. 30, 1977 may be eligible to receive rent refunds up to $500 per family.

The refunds are the result of private suits and a nationwide class action which alleged that rents in Section 236 units were raised illegally.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated more than $60 million for those residents who paid more than 25 to 30 percent of their adjusted monthly income for rent.

Forms were mailed to owners of Section 236 units who were instructed to distribute the forms to current tenants.

Completed forms must be returned to the Claim Processing Center, Clerk of the U.S. District Court, P.O. Box 60864, Los Angeles, Calif. 90060.

Those tenants who have questions about the refunds or the claim forms can call the center's toll free number, (800) 824-7980.

Social Security secretary still missing

It's been over two weeks since Belinda A. Palmer, a 28 year-old Social Security secretary was reported missing.

Her family is getting increasingly concerned about her disappearance, especially her brother, Willie Newkirk, who has been making unsuccessful attempts to get the police department to actively search for her.

"I hope everything will be okay," said Newkirk, with a positive tone. But then he said, "You just have to try and not think about it."

Mrs. Palmer, the mother of nine-year-old and 11-year-old sons, was last seen at her job Nov. 21, the day before Thanksgiving.

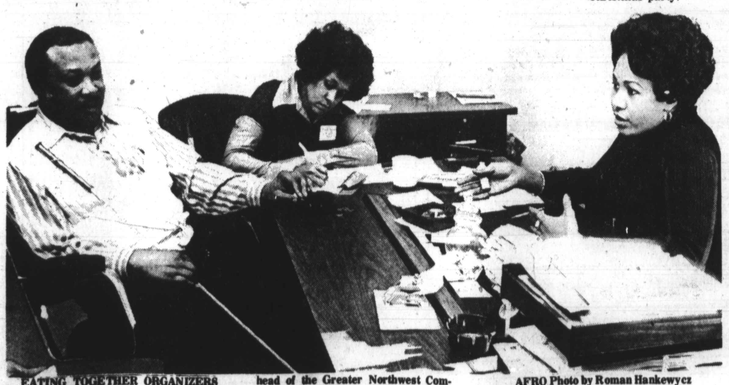
According to Newkirk, she phoned her two sons at their grandmother's house to say she would be over after work to pick them up. But she never showed. A sister-in-law who also works at the Woodlawn location, talked to Mrs. Palmer that same day and stated that she would take her to the Cherry Hill home where the boys were staying. But when she arrived at Mrs. Palmer's office, she had already gone.

Newkirk stated that after an article appeared in the AFRO-AMERICAN about her disappearance, a friend called and reported that he thought he saw her downtown near the 500 block Calvert St.

But Newkirk says he's not sure whether the friend really saw her or not. "I just don't know what to think anymore. I run out of things to think," he said.

Mrs. Palmer, a brown-eyed, black-haired woman who weighs about 125 pounds, was last seen wearing blue jeans with a dark blouse, light colored shoes and a tan coat with a hood. Anyone who has seen her is asked to contact the local police or the family at 358-9857.

Belinda Palmer



EATING TOGETHER ORGANIZERS — Discussing the problems and prospects of the program to feed the elderly are from (L), Ned Graham, head of the Greater Northwest Community Coalition, Inc.; Barbara Garrison, an Outreach Aide; and Gwen West, head of the Forest Park Community Center.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

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On this page and inside this issue in story with photos by Glasco Ryales