Hagerstown inmates ask for Klan investigation

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

The resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, which has been documented in the military and in various cities throughout the country, has even reached behind prison bars according to inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institute in Hagerstown, Md.

The facility, which is a medium security prison housing approximately 1,000 men, has been the scene of overt Klan activity during the past year.

On Dec. 3, according to an inmate who contacted the AFRO, an inmate paraded about the prison dressed in the sheets and hood of a Klansman. He carried a burning cross on his shoulder, and encountered no resistance from the guards at the facility until several inmates protested vehemently.

In a letter sent to the AFRO, 26 inmates affixed their names to a list of prisoners who watched the Klansman make his rounds.

Gregory Wells, head of the Institutional Change Committee of the Prisoner Alternatives Council, an inmates advocacy program, stated that the incident is not the only racial disturbance which has occured at Hagerstown.

"It has come to our attention that some of the guards at the facility are card-carrying members of the Klan, and have even gone as far as to flash their cards in the faces of black inmates," said Wells. "We have sent a letter to Kamka, (Gordon Kamka, Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services), protesting these incidents, and calling for an investigation."

Wells added that his office has also received complaints about several of the Klansmen — guards using "excessive force" in subduing the inmates of the facility, which has a black population of 85 per cent.

As the organization's letter to Kamka stated; "So long as you have, as at Hagerstown, all-white rule mixed with an 85 per cent black population, you have the perfect setup for Klan activities such as those reported."

Wells says he has received no reply from Kamka yet, although the letter was sent on Nov. 29.

James Tinney, Superintendent of the prison, was unavailable for comment at AFRO presstime.

Invisible Empire
Imperial Knights of The Ku Klux Klan
INCORPORATED
Office Of Grand Dragon
P. O. Box 55
Jessup, Md.
20794

Dear Sir:

We have been requested by one of your personal friends to get in touch with you, and inform you of this organization. And, in view of this request, we are sending you this form. When we receive this with all the questions below properly answered by you and if same is satisfactory we will impart to you the information your friend desires you to have. Without delay you will fill in, sign and return. You will find stamped envelope enclosed for this purpose.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD L. SAVINA
Grand Dragon
Realm of Maryland

1. Is the motive prompting your inquiry serious?
2. What is your age?
3. What is your occupation?
4. Where were you born?
5. How long have you resided in your present locality?
6. Are you married, single or widower?
7. Where your parents born in the United States of America?
8. Are you a Gentile or Jew?
9. Are you of the white race or of a colored race?
10. What educational advantages have you?
11. Color of eyes? Hair? Weight? Height?
12. Do you believe in the principles of a PURE Americanism?
13. Do you believe in White Supremacy?
14. What is your politics?
15. What is your religious faith?
16. Of what church are you a member (if any)?
17. Of what religious faith are your parents?
18. What secret, fraternal orders are you a member of (if any)?
19. Do you honestly believe in the practice of REAL fraternity?
20. Do you owe ANY KIND of allegiance to any foreign nation, government, institution, sect, people, ruler or person?

I most solemnly assert and affirm that each question above is truthfully answered by me and in my own handwriting and that below is my real signature.

Signed _____ Inquirer.

Business Address _____ Residence Address _____

Telephone No. _____ Telephone _____

Date _____ 19__

N.B.—If space above is not sufficient to answer question, then make your answer on the other side of this sheet. Number the answer to correspond with the question.

KU KLUX KLAN APPLICATION — This application blank for membership in the Ku Klux Klan is reportedly being distributed in Jessup, Md. The AFRO obtained the form from persons working against the regrowth of the Klan in Maryland.

LIKES BALTIMORE'S SIZE

Ivory Coast visitor gives impressions of U.S. cities

By Michael Patterson
AFRO Staff Writer

Mema Soumahoro, the cabinet director of the Marine Ministry of the Ivory Coast in West Africa, was in Baltimore this week, taking a tour of the city's famous Inner Harbor.

Soumahoro, a 38-year-old journaist in charge of media coordination with his country's Marine Ministry, began his tour of the United States on Nov. 11 and ended it Monday in Baltimore.

He said he enjoyed every city on his itinerary except New York. "I didn't like New York. It is too big and there are too many skyscrapers. I am the son of a peasant and I like to be close to the ground," he said.

"I much more prefer a city this size," he said, looking out at a beautiful and expansive view of Baltimore from his seat in an office on the 18th floor of the World Trade Center.

Soumahoro described Washington, D.C., as a place made more for people than New York. "I found Washington, D.C., to be less of a city and more of a village," he said. "But it is well planned out for people."

The slender, dapper cabinet minister described Miami Beach as a "pleasant resort" and Houston as a "very modern city where one can feel the presence of wealth and prosperity."

He smiled when asked about his impressions of New Orleans. "New Orleans brings back memories of the French heritage of the United States," he explained. "I especially enjoyed the French Quarter."

The Ivory Coast was colonized by the French and French is the main European language spoken there. Ivory Coast gained its independence from France 1960 and the two countries still have many ties.

Soumahoro said the primary purpose of his visit was to study the operations of seaports here in an effort to find out if Americans utilize any methods of port operation that might be applicable to the Ivory Coast.

He explained that the port at Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast, handles about nine million tons of material a year. A spokesman for the Maryland Port Administration said the Baltimore Harbor handles about 13 million tons of material a year.

Soumahoro explained that his country is a large exporter of coffee, cocoa, coconuts, rubber, pineapples and lumber and an importer of sizeable quantities of cars, oil and machines.

He said one of the most shocking parts of his U.S. tour was a visit to Harlem. "It is really sad to see that place," he said. "Because of the poor condition of the buildings and the atmosphere, the people seem to be dead. It appears to be a dead place," he said.

Soumahoro said he would leave Baltimore Monday and catch a plane from New York to Paris before returning to the Ivory Coast.

He said the only thing he will not miss about the United States is the "cold weather."

During his stay in Baltimore he was a guest of the Baltimore Council for International Visitors, a private, non-profit organization created to serve the needs of sponsored foreign visitors to Maryland.

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

'DIDN'T LIKE NEW YORK' — Ivory Coast cabinet member, Mema Soumahoro, right, did like Baltimore and the city's Inner Harbor which he was shown by Gregory A. Diethorn, right, of the Maryland Port Administration.

Pediatric dentist fights the 'heebie-jeebies'

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Mention the word "dentist" to most people and they will probably cringe or shudder.

It does not have to be that way, according to a pediatric dentist at the John F. Kennedy Institute for Handicapped Children at 707 N. Broadway.

Dr. Seth Canion acknowledges that most people have apprehensions about visiting the dentist. But he says it is not necessary to be nervous about tooth care and it is even possible that patients can happily look forward to a visit to the dentist.

His objective in treating his patients, who range from toddlers to 21-year-olds, is to promote good dental health and habits and to prevent future "heebie-jeebies" at the prospect of a dental appointment.

The three basic components of Canion's pedodontic practice are attitude, prevention and education.

"You have to make them understand that we are not here to hurt them. We talk calmly to the patients and they become relaxed," Canion said.

If a child does not understand why he is at the dentist or what will happen, it is vital that a way be found to make him understand, he said.

It is better if his young patients visit when it is not a crisis, he said, because then they can look around the office and "play with water and air hoses and get acquainted."

The examining rooms are brightly decorated and scaled to child size. Two are vibrant lime green and sunshine yellow, one is citrus orange and the fourth is electric blue. All the chairs are smaller and all the sinks are about two feet from the floor and have spigots controlled by foot pedals within easy reach.

Intimidating drills, water and air sprayers and suction hoses tuck into a recessed space and are concealed behind folding doors to resemble nearby cabinets.

Preventing tooth and gum problems are closely linked to education, Canion said, and instruction at the Institute always involves parents and child.

A must is brushing and flossing lessons. Parents are taught the most effective and painless way to clean their child's teeth.

Canion dismissed the television commercial scenes of a child in the bathroom brushing his teeth in front of a mirror as idyllic and impractical because "it's hard to brush a child's teeth in the bathroom. Most of the time there just isn't enough room."

He suggests that children should be lying down either on a bed or the living room couch while parents brush their teeth. Toothpaste is not necessary because area water is properly fluoridated and while fluoride toothpaste supplements the amount found in water, it is not essential.

The size of the toothbrush should match the child's mouth, Canion said. His patients are offered a choice of three sizes which come in the same flashy colors as the examining rooms and are lightly scented fruit flavors.

Eliminating snacks and foods with high levels of sugar is another suggestion Canion passes on to patients and their families. Sugar and carbohydrates combine with bacteria, and if not removed, cause cavities. Less sugar reduces the chance that decay will develop.

Canion said treating patients in the interdisciplinary setting of the Institute allows him to draw on the resources of other medical practitioners.

"If a child comes here with a handicap, such as a motor skill," we are better equipped to treat the whole child," he said.

He cited instances where patients had difficulties grasping a toothbrush because of a physical disorder. Working with other staff at the Institute, he designed toothbrushes to fit each child's needs.

The bulk of the pedodontic patients come from referrals from hospitals and community agencies as well as treatment for Institute children. Canion and his staff, including the assistant director Dr. Richard Kline and several residents, see between 12 and 15 children each day.

Canion received his doctor of dental science degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and did post graduate work at the Martin Luther King General Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif. He was also on staff at University of Maryland Hospital for two years.

Pedodontics is not the most lucrative branch of dentistry, he said, but he chose it as his specialty because he likes children and enjoys his work.

"It's extremely rewarding. There is always a new challenge. The same child can be different each time you see him," Canion said.

His concern for his young patients is evidenced by the lengths to which he goes to ensure they do not miss follow-up appointments. Parents receive several telephone calls and letters to remind them of the importance of good dental care.

"The more we do to reach in to ourselves, the better we can reach out," Canion said.

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'Women have to stick together' for gains, executive group told

"Women have to stick together and push ahead. It's time for us to have institutions that will help us."

Janet McNair, recently appointed assistant secretary of the Department of Human Resources, made this remark concerning work standards for women in management during a luncheon this week.

The luncheon held at the Belvedere Hotel was sponsored by the Executive Women's Network which sponsors monthly luncheon discussions and special events for the management level woman.

Ms. McNair also stated, "There is a critical need for groups such as this one because of the headstart men have had and the networks and organizations already there to help them."

In addition to the monthly luncheon discussions, the Executive Women's Network also sponsors seminars, workshops and sends out monthly newsletters which include job listings.

The Executive Women's Network, geared to women in management positions in the public, private, civic and academic sector is a program of the New Directions for Women, a major service organization that provides career counseling.

Formed in 1973, New Directions first began providing services for women seeking entry level positions in the work force. It has since expanded to include more than 14 programs such as career counseling, centers for displaced homemakers resource department and volunteer programs.

The organization is currently planning a two day conference "Women's Employment Opportunity Conference" scheduled Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, 1980.

Entry and re-entry level job seekers, career changers, working women, managers entrepreneurs, potential politicians and non traditional employees will be able to talk with recruiters from more than 75 companies participate in workshops workshops and panels and panels learn about training and skills.

CCB services for handicapped

Largely because the Community College of Baltimore provides special services for handicapped students, they have been as successful as other CCB students in transferring to four year colleges and universities, a college spokesman says.

The Handicapped Awareness Group, organized in 1978, has gained college recognition and brought about changes on the Liberty campus. The group consists of students, faculty and administrators.

Services for the handicapped begin at registration when each one is assigned a counselor and upon enrollment the student is referred to the Center for Educational Services which establishes a personalized plan to meet that student's needs.

By letter of introduction, each instructor is informed of the presence of a special student on the roster. The instructor then confers with the handicapped facilitator about the student's disability.

Special testing situations are arranged, if necessary. Occasionally, for example,

(Continued on Page 31)

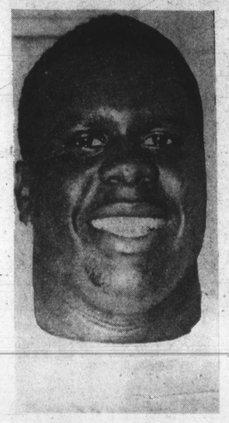
Forest Park student's funeral draws over 300

Some 300 classmates, friends and relatives gathered at Leroy Dyett and Sons Funeral Home Wednesday, Dec. 11 to pay tribute to Lourena Cherry, of the 4700 block of Northwood Ave.

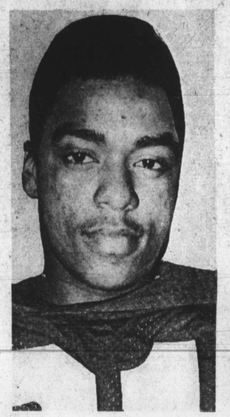
Miss Cherry, a senior at Forest Park High School, was slain Saturday, Dec. 8 by an unknown assailant who fired several shots through the kitchen window of her family's home.

FOOTBALL!

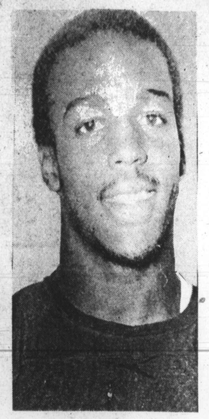
Among the best in local schoolboy football



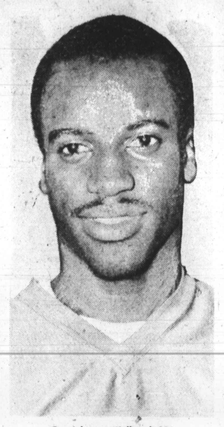
Greg Fowlkes, Edmondson DE



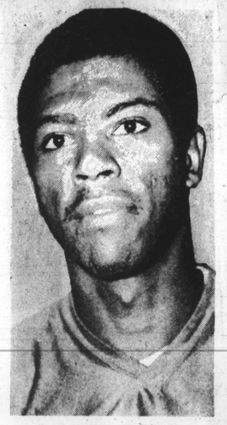
Brian Maddox, Dunbar DE



Brian Baker, Poly DE



Ron Johnson, Walbrook OB



Tyrone Cobbs, Walbrook DB

James Pugh
Forest Pk. WR

Greg Tillman
S. Western NG

Rodney Coffield
Dunbar QB

Kevin Braxton
Dunbar OT

Darrell Bond
Forest Pk. DB

DeVane Trent
Northern OB

John Tuggle
N. Western OG

Kevin Benn
Northern LB

These were voted standouts

With no serious attempt to settle on a so - called All - Metro, All - MSA or All - City high school football team, the AFRO presents herewith a squad that encompasses the outstanding black players of the 1979 scholastic gridiron season.

Accepting the leading nominees forwarded by the coaches who had teams in the schoolboy schedule, Sam Davis offers the names and backgrounds of the young men to go with photos by Mark Gail.

Twenty-one athletes selected on the basis of coach recommendations for significant contributions to their respective teams, get the nod for this unique AFRO feature.

OFFENSE

Quarterback

Writes Davis:

Quarterback Rodney Coffield, who passed for well over 1400 yards on 67 completions, could expect fantastic results behind a mythical offensive line of center Tom Taylor, Northern; guards John Tuggle, Northwester, and Derrick Jamison, Douglass, and tackles Kevin Braxton, Dunbar, and Landon Saunders, Mervo.

If the 6 - foot junior who was selected by the Quarterback Club of Baltimore as the High School Player of the Year, wanted a complete tightend, who would be better than Edmondson's Rubin Featherstone.

Receivers

Whenever one of the Redskin quarterbacks needed a receiver, they found Featherstone enough times for 390 yards, two touchdowns and six extra - points. His 6 - 2, 175 - pound build also allowed him to lead the defensive team in tackles from his linebacker spot.

If Featherstone happened to run into a little trouble getting open, Coffield could go deep to Forest Park's James Pugh. The 6 - 3, 180 - pound speedstar caught 36 passes for 405 yards and six touchdowns.

But one thing Coffield did not have on the Dunbar team that tied for second place with Edmondson in "B" conference, was a slot back. Although his offensive backs were adequate this year, with a player like Walbrook's Ronnie Johnson, Rodney's passing could have been even more effective, as well as the running game.

Johnson, a senior who got the school's unsung hero award, rushed for 530 yards, and caught passes good for 396. He also scored six touchdowns.

Running Backs

Named as running backs are Chauncey Adams and DeVane Trent, of Douglass and Northern, respectively.

Both rushed for over 1,000 yards. Trent also led the conference in scoring with 68 points. The 5 - 8, 170 - pounder averaged 5.8 yards a carry and undoubtedly was the mainstay in the Vikings' conference title.

Adams played on a Douglass team that lost most of its games by no more than a touchdown. He bullied his way through the middle, and showed the speed to get outside for 1,056 yards and nine touchdowns.

DEFENSE

There may be one defense that could contain such an offense. That might be our mythical defensive squad which shows representatives from 10 different schools.

Starting with noseguard, 6 - 3 Gregory Tilman of Southwestern, things just get rougher. This 260 - pounder was the one bright spot on a team that did not win any league games in "A" conference. He recovered two fumbles, blocked three kicks, sacked the quarterback nine times, and was the only man in on 45 hits.

By midseason, opposing teams knew Southwestern athletic director Bill Lewis wasn't kidding when he said they had the best noseguard in the state. Offenses ran from Tilman and triple teamed him.

To his right on this AFRO unit, would be Poly's Brian Baker, called "wild man" by coach Augie Waibel.

The senior end made over 150 solo tackles, and finished the season with 11 sacks.

Moving over to Tilman's left, do it with caution, because Mervo's Steve Davis is there.

A swift, 5 - 11, 175 - pound senior, who blocked five punts and made 43 unassisted tackles. Beside him is Edmondson's Greg Fowlkes, a 6 - 2, 225 - pounder. The senior was in on 86 hits, and possessed the talent to master the onside kick.

He also held together the offensive line.

Linebackers

Mervo's Dennis Street is the youngest of the group, but he played like a senior. Spearheading the Mustang defense that carried the team to its co - champion position, he had 52 solo tackles. At 5 - 10, 175 pounds, Street was a very quick and hard hitter.

Kevin Benn of Northern could have played on the first team's offense also. He rushed for 745 yards and nine touchdowns, but as a linebacker, he led the team in solo tackles with 56 and 45 assisted.

Northwestern's Malcolm Massey played on a team with a weak offense as its 3 - 6 - 1 overall record showed. But the four - year veteran used his 5 - 10, 195 - pound build to stop runners 32 times alone. In on tackles with other members of the Wildcat squad, he was good for 86.

Defensive Backfield

The defensive backfield shows only one junior, that being Dunbar's Brian Maddox. The 6 - 1, 180 - pounder was also a wide receiver, and it showed as he led the conference with nine interceptions. Once he got the ball, he knew what to do with it also. He averaged better than 20 yards a return after a kickoff, and took two back for touchdowns.

Walbrook's Tyrone Cobbs followed Braxton with six interceptions. As Braxton used his wide receiver skills as a defender, Cobbs quarterbacked the Warriors, and the 6 - 1, 180 pounder - benefited from his experience.

Lake Clifton's Dorian Gray, a solid hitter at 5-11, 180 pounds intercepted three passes.

But that wasn't his specialty, he could read plays well. He was in on 23 unassisted tackles, and 82 with company. During Gray's three - year stay, coach Woody Williams states that no team ever scored a touchdown passing on his side of the field.

The last of the group is Forest Park's Darrell Bond. His 23 solo tackles, and 38 assisted, proves he's a hitter. He had just two interceptions to his credit, but his 19 deflected passes were tops.

Dennis Street
Mervo LB

Malcolm Massey
N. Western LB

Derrick Jamison
Douglass OB

Chauncey Adams
Douglass OB

Landon Saunders
Mervo OT

Dorian Gray
Lake Clifton DB.

Steve Davis
Mervo DT

Rubin Featherstone
Edmondson TE

Picked for offense

Position	Name	School
Quarterback	Rodney Coffied	Dunbar
Back	DeVane Trent	Northern
Back	Chauncey Adams	Douglass
Back (slot	Ronnie Johnson	Walbrook
Tightend	Rubin Featherstone	Edmondson
Wide - receiver	James Pugh	Forest Park
Center	Tom Taylor	Northern
Guard	John Tuggle	Northwestern
Guard	Derrick Jamison	Douglass
Tackle	Kevin Braxton	Dunbar
Tackle	Landon Saunders	Mervo

Picked for defense

Position	Name	School
Back	Brian Maddox	Dunbar
Back	Darrell Bond	Forest Park
Back	Dorian Gray	Lake Clifton
Back	Tyrone Cobbs	Walbrook
Noseguard	Gregory Tillman	Southwestern
Tackle	Steve Davis	Mervo
End	Brian Baker	Poly
End	Greg Fowlkes	Edmondson
Linebacker	Kevin Benn	Norther
Linebacker	Dennis Street	Mervo
Linebacker	Malcolm Massey	Northwestern