—Next for Ja-Wan McGee

Continued from page 1

Members of the police review board who heard McCown's case will submit findings of fact and recommendation for discipline to Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau and the commissioner has established a self-imposed five working day period within which his final decision on McCown's future with the police department will be reached.

However, on prior hearing occasions the commissioner has felt it appropriate to read the transcript of the case at hand and his decision may be delayed pending receipt and review of such transcript.

McCown's attorney, Tom Bollinger asked that the charges be dismissed because the trial board was improperly convened. Millard Rubenstein, legal counsel for the Police Department did not agree and Deputy Commissioner Bishop Robinson, who was the trial board chairman denied the request.

The hearing board listened attentively Wednesday, when McCown took the stand and summarized his experience as a police officer on the force since 1970.

Dressed in a navy blue suit, with a silver watch chain hanging from a button on his vest, McCown told the board, "As a police officer, I have always done the best I could. I feel I have been able to do exactly what I should.

"I don't believe this incident has impaired my ability to function as a police officer. It has been an experience and I feel I am able to function as a police officer."

Looking directly at the five members of the trial board, McCown stated, "This incident has seriously affected Ja-Wan McGee's ability to make something of himself and I feel responsible.

"I wish you could always go back and change things. I wish these injuries were not as serious as they are." McCown's attorney asked him, "Is it your intention to continue as a member of the Police Department?"

McCown answered, "Yes, this is my profession. I have never found satisfaction in any other job." The trial board heard testimony from seven character witnesses Wednesday.

Assistant State's Attorney Leslie A. Stein described McCown as a "bright and intelligent police officer."

Ms. Linda Mowan, a city school teacher called McCown, "the old fashioned beat cop" you would hear about years ago. She said, "He truly sees his job as being a public servant and is always willing to help."

McCown, who spent nearly five hours testifying Tuesday, told the trial board he was convinced McGee was drawing a weapon. "If I did not fire he would have had his gun on me, and it would simply be a question of who was a better shot. At that point you've lost control of the situation," said McCown.

The detective stated he fired because he had been taught to prevent crime. He said, "It's my duty, my training and the oath I took the day I came here. If I stood by doing nothing and a robbery occurred and someone had been killed, it would be my responsibility."

The three-day hearing was held on the eighth floor of the Police Department headquarters and was open to the public. Most of the people attending were reporters, artists and relatives of McCown and McGee. Before entering the small room on the eighth floor, hand scanners were used to search the people attending the hearing.

McGee told the board Monday that he took two steps into the store and McCown started firing at him. He said he was shot when he was about to reach in his pocket for his money.

The detective testified that he was about 20 feet from McGee when he shot him. Following the police board's findings in the McCown case, Delegate John Douglass has asked States Attorney William Swisher to reconsider his ruling of the McCown case and present the matter to the grand jury.

Douglass says the grand jury was the proper body to determine whether or not McCown should be charged. In a letter dated June 17, to Swisher, Douglass says, "As I understand it, you ruled that there was no basis for prosecution.

"My understanding of law indicates that intent is presumed from one's acts and that daily hundreds of prosecutions go forward on that legal premise.

"The purpose of this letter, particularly in view of the city police trial board's findings, is to request that your office reconsider the determination that you've made with reference to the taking of this case before the grand jury.

"As a representative of the citizens of Maryland and the people I represent, we are concerned about the handling of this matter by your office. We would deeply appreciate a reconsideration of your prior decision at your earliest possible opportunity."

This case will end when Pomerleau makes his decision regarding McCown. For McGee and his family yet another legal battle looms — to win damages from the city of Baltimore.

Fatal gunfire on Clifton Ave.

A street argument between a group of men at midnight June 16, on the West Side ended with one of them slain.

A fatal gun shot went through Walter Leonard's side as he desperately tried to maneuver the car he drove out of range of his assailants who were pursuing him on foot.

In a second homicide, just two hours earlier, also in West Baltimore, a 38 year-old man was shot in the back of the head gangland execution style.

Are the two murders connected?

Are narcotics the motive?

Police say the two cases are not connected and they are continuing their search for three men believed involved in the shooting of Leonard, 38, who lived in the 1200 block Springfield Ave.

Police found the body of Walter Smith, 38, of Woodmoor slumped over the wheel of his red Thunderbird on a parking lot in the 2900 block of Winchester Street. He had been shot, once in the back of the head.

Police report they had arrested Anthony Harris, 22, for alleged possession of narcotics and a shotgun. The arrest was related to the Leonard shooting but Harris was not charged with homicide.

Witnesses told police a passenger in Leonard's car had fired a shotgun at two men earlier. When Leonard started driving down Clifton Avenue, the two men started shooting at his car.

The passenger in Leonard's car returned the fire, but Leonard was struck in the side and his car rammed into a parked vehicle. Police report the passenger and the others fled the scene and left the car door open.

—AFRO contest

Continued from page 1

Keep your letter no more than two pages. If it is snappy enough, romantic enough, witty enough, you can win. Address all entries to FAVORITE DATE, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., 21201.

ALSO, WATCH FOR THE AFRO Churchwoman of the Year contest!

Is there a woman in your church who is highly outstanding? Is she one who serves as a dynamic leader or one whose innovative ideas have brought to fruition the betterment of your church building or your church programs for the parishioners?

If so, here is a chance to honor her in the "AFRO Church Woman of the Year." See next Friday's AFRO for more details.

—Lockwood

Continued from page 1

The committee stated that the college has been well-attuned to the current job market, and emphasized that, because of skills such as those offered in the Lockwood building, the rate of unemployment for CCB graduates averaged less than 5 percent.

State Sen. Clarence Blount pointed out that to diminish the quality of the offerings at the Harbor Campus by selling the Lockwood building would deprive citizens of the south, southwest and southeast of the opportunity to fully utilize the college, and added that to sell the building would give the impression that the mayor was more concerned with commercial development than educational development.

Paul Blaisdell, another member of the committee, was more emphatic in his appeal.

"How can CCB give away, sell or trade a vital facility which cannot be duplicated anywhere else...", he said.

The committee also decided that a special task force should be empowered to discuss the future college implementation of the Lockwood building.

—Billingsley gets vote

Continued from page 1

However, Mrs. Enolia McMillan, one of the five who voted against Billingsley, stated that she is not sure whether the faculty and the university can unite under Billingsley.

She also stated that she was not pleased with both reports. "The conclusions in the evaluators' report were not supported with evidence. That disturbs me."

While Mrs. McMillan says she has not mapped out what her next step will be, she says she will not resign from the board.

"I was not put on the board to represent any factor or group or to be a rubber stamp. I was put there because I can think and act accordingly. I will not renege on my obligation."

The other four members who cast opposing votes to Billingsley were Francis Gates, Nathaniel Hoff, William Cowie and Yvette Strothers.

Alvin Thornton, president of the Faculty Senate which recently voted to ask the president to resign, stated that the group has not yet taken a stand on the board's decision.

"I assume some discussion will be heard about the board's vote when the faculty and regents relations committee meets for its regular meeting June 27," said Thornton.

Thornton disagreed that the university would be unified and accept the board's decision. "It will depend largely on what the board does. If the board reflects very sincere efforts to correct the problems, it could go a long way to bridging the gap. But I don't see that happening on the board."

The Faculty Senate president also pointed out that he did not agree with the evaluation report's recommendations, calling them "elementary and sophomoric."

He commented on the recommendation that Billingsley participate in a training program by saying, "If those things are necessary for a president, you don't need him.

NOTICE

Important meeting of the Advisory Board of Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association

Saturday, June 21, 1980

12 noon at the home office,

1405 E. Cold Spring Lane

Members are urged to attend . . . learn about new checking accounts soon to be available . . . as well as the high interest rates.

—Metro

Continued from page 1

The strongest delegate contender in the Third was city councilman Dominic "Mimi" Di Pietro.

Webster struck a deal with the city councilman, and the two pledged the support of their respective political clubs to ensure victory for their candidates.

Both Dr. Cooke and DiPietro streaked to victory.

"Without that coalition," said Webster, "it could not have happened. DiPietro delivered."

Webster pointed out that the candidates blessed with victory in the June 7 elections were those with organizational support behind them.

He added that, excluding a compromise of principle, his group will continue to seek victory through a variety of means.

"Metro will continue to pursue whatever vehicle is most successful to have black representation on the local, state and national level, be it single - shooting, coalescing, or plain grassroots politics."

Several other alliances paved the road to victory for delegate candidates, including the Agnes Welch-Carolyn Stith-Nathaniel MacFadden ticket, which was carried by the Eastside Democratic Organization and the Vanguard group.

Were you counted? If not, call 396-1980

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PENN IS FOR THE PEOPLE!

Dads, children celebrate Father's Day at City Jail

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

The sun was already high overhead, and thick white clouds seemed to drift on the air. The sky was a deep blue, which contrasted with the sullen tan walls of the Baltimore City Jail.

Children romped and played in "the yard" of the Jail, children of inmates of the facility.

It was Father's Day, June 15, and, unlike the past Father's Days, this one was unique, for the residents of the jail had the opportunity to have their children with them to celebrate.

Lt. Wilson Gilbert, of the City Jail staff, explained how the day came about. Gilbert is also head of the Fallsway Youth Club, an organization formed by Gilbert and fellow prison staffers to provide for the children of inmates.

"We don't want the kids to grow up to follow their fathers into City Jail," he said. "Something is needed to keep the family together."

Gilbert says that the club doesn't receive any official funds.

"We're non-funded," he said with a smile, "but we beg and borrow to get by. Some of the inmates even give their cigarette and telephone money to help us."

He said that his group is trying to arrange for the visits to be extended to a monthly or even weekly visit basis. The group meets with the children of inmates regularly at Wayland Baptist Church, located in the 3200 block Garrison Blvd.

"We sent out letters to several churches in the area, but Wayland was the only one that responded," Gilbert explained.

Behind him, a 4 - foot tall youth dribbled a basketball, turned, and sank a shot over the outstretched arms of his 6 foot father.

Several kids and their fathers played volleyball at one end of the yard, while at the opposite end children lined up at the refreshment table to get a hot dog or hamburger.

"Everybody line up for the sack race," boomed the voice of officer Samuel Rogers, a tall, thin man who stood against a wall near the blaring stereo.

A small group of squealing kids lined up near the starting point, and equally excited inmates began stuffing them into the burlap sacks for the race.

Rogers gave the signal to start, and the kids were off, hopping along the ground like kangaroos. Two fell almost immediately.

Toward the far end of the line of contestants, a little girl bounded toward the finish line, her two pigtails, flapping like two large wings as she hopped along.

A resident ran alongside her, shouting encouragement until, exhausted but happy, she fell in a giggling heap to the ground.

"This is beautiful man," said Percy Woodard, a 26-year-old inmate. He said he had waited all week for Father's Day.

"This is the first time I saw my son," he said as he rumpled the head of his young look-a-like, "in about two months. I could have seen him earlier, but on visitation you're not allowed to hold your kids, so I said forget it."

He added that his only complaint was that his wife and 19-month-old son were not allowed to join him for the visit.

Along the walls of the yard, the low voices of inmates still inside their cells mingled with the laughter of children in the yard and drifted above the somber walls of the jail into the blue Sunday sky.

Housing activists continues fight to stop Sector 8 program

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Local housing activists are meeting today, Friday, with the Regional Planning Council to express their opposition to the Areawide Housing Opportunity Program, AHOP, and hopefully, halt the project.

The program relocates low-income, Section 8 residents and gives them a choice of moving to one of the counties surrounding Baltimore City.

Opponents to the plan say it is racist and its intent is systematically move blacks out of the city, which weakens voting strength, fragments families and creates hardships for those moved who may not have access to transportation and social services.

Housing officials claim the program is a boon for Section 8 families because of the scarcity of low-income housing in the city.

Activists say some 3,000 families have been forced to move to the suburbs. Housing officials say the number is closer to 300.

The Coaliotion to Save Urban Communities, CoSUC, the driving force behind the effort to stop AHOP, maintains that AHOP has no community watchdog to monitor the program and points to the fact that there are no blacks on the Regional Planning Council to voice community concerns.

RPC contracts with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which provides funds for AHOP.

The Friday, June 20 meeting with the RPC is just one of several recent expressions of opposition to AHOP, which have included demonstrations in front of City Hall and in City Council chambers during meetings.

Members of CoSUC say AHOP can be stopped if enough pressure is brought to bear on officials and cite success in Philadelphia and St. Louis where grassroots opposition led to the termination of the program.

City teachers approve contract

City teachers can expect hefty salary increases over the next two years under a contract approved by members of the Baltimore Teachers Union.

Teachers approved Wednesday a pact under which three steps will be restored to the pay scale by 1982, which means they will receive raises between 12.8 percent and 30.5 percent during the two years, depending on their position.

Irene B. Dandridge, president of Local 340 of the BTU, said she was pleased with the pact and that it gives city teachers one of the best contracts in the country.

Also included in the agreement were improvements in contract clauses concerning protection of teachers, health and welfare benefits, grievances, leaves of absence and teachers' assignments and evaluations.

Figinski calls it quits

After a month of legal challenges, Circuit Court Judge M. Albert Figinski has conceded his defeat in the May 13 primary election.

Franklin Goldstein, Figinski's attorney, said a recount of the primary indicates no change in the final tally. Goldstein said the results were confirmed after Judge W. Albert Menchine, who was assigned to hear the case, counted the 68 contested absentee ballots.

Figinski was appointed to fill a vacancy on the court earlier this year by Gov. Harry Hughes. He had been running for a full term on the court.

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