Heap of trash plagues Mura St.

There is a massive mound of debris in the alley behind 701 Mura St. and residents in the house are trying, without much success, to have it hauled away.

James Smith and Joan Williams, tenants at 701 Mura, told the AFRO a pile of trash, some eight feet in diameter and 10 feet high, was dumped in the alley last week by workmen rehabbing homes in the 1200 block of Greenmount Ave. The back yards of the properties are perpendicular to the alley.

The debris, consisting of bottles, boards, bricks, old shoes, plastic food wrappers, tin cans, buckets and scraps of old insulation, is a haven for insects and rodents, according to Ms. Williams.

Smith said he talked with the foreman on the construction job who said they were told to move the garbage out and once it was in the alley, there was nothing more for them to do.

He then called various city agencies for assistance, with no results. Smith then filed a complaint with Baltimore City police.

An employee with the Department of Housing and Community Development said the city is not involved in the rehabilitation in the 1200 block of Greenmount Ave., and HCD has no jurisdiction.

He did say the residents of 701 Mura St. are in a "Catch 22" situation: they can call a housing inspector to file a complaint about the debris, but because it is on their premises, Ms. Williams and Smith would be cited.

The tenants would then have the choice of paying for removal or going to court.

That might just be the outcome, because Ms. Williams said, "They can just take me to jail, because I'm not going to pay to have that mess cleaned up."

She gave the AFRO the name of a construction company that she was told by a workman was rehabilitating the properties.

When a reporter called, the man who answered the phone denied the company had any involvement with the Greenmount properties. So far the time being, the garbage remains.

PILE OF TRASH — This photograph shows a mound of garbage that was shoved into the alley in back of 701 Mura St. in East Baltimore.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gall

Female inmates to be housed in former all-male center

The state will soon transfer about 15 female inmates housed at a work release center to a similar, previously all-male facility in downtown Baltimore, officials said.

William Lamb, coordinator of the transfer, said the women are being moved from the St. Ambrose Pre-Release Unit, also in the city, to the Community Vocational Rehabilitation Pre-Release Unit.

The women must be moved because the attorney general recently issued new guidelines for housing women at St. Ambrose and about half of the 32 inmates living there did not meet the guidelines, Lamb said.

"There isn't any reason why this shouldn't work," he said. "The women, in terms of housing area, are (going to be) totally isolated from the men."

Several female inmates expressed fears that moving to an all-male facility might cause problems, but they agreed it was better than going back to the women's prison in Jessup, a move they were prepared to fight in court.

Another approach to prison over-crowding

Baltimore officials, faced with overcrowding at the City Jail on weekends, are seeking an agreement allowing some prisoners to be housed temporarily at police lockups.

The jail is under a federal court order not to house two prisoners in cells built for one, and compliance is a problem on weekends because few inmates are released at bail hearings.

Daniel Lipstein, associate director of the Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice, said the city wants to house prisoners at police lockups on weekends because, "only so much can be done before Monday morning."

He said the jail would provide food and guards for any inmates it housed in police lockups.

Dennis Hill, police spokesman, said if the jail becomes too crowded, "I'm sure we can make some arrangement to accomodate them."

High school class prexy gets life in 2 murders

A former high school senior class president who admitted to killing two women for $1,000 has been sentenced to life in prison under a plea bargained agreement.

Michael Schindler, 18, of Dundalk, had pleaded innocent by reason of insanity in the murder-for-hire plot, but changed his plea before jury selection was to enter its third day in criminal court.

Prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty in return for guilty pleas on two counts of first-degree murder, according to the law clerk for presiding Judge Joseph I. Pines.

Schindler, president of last year's Patapsco High School senior class, admitted he stabbed Mary Thompson, 23, and her 83-year-old grandmother, Maria Zisser, last Thanksgiving weekend at the request of Mrs. Thompson's husband, Anthony.

Thompson, 28, pleaded guilty earlier this year to paying Schindler $1,000 to kill the women so he could collect on his wife's insurance. He was sentenced to two consecutive life terms.

David Robertson, 18, of Middle River, also is accused in the slayings but has not been brought to trial yet. He has pleaded innocent.

Pines ruled last week that Schindler's attorneys could argue their client was insane when he killed the women because he suffered head injuries in an Oct. 6, 1979 traffic accident and exhibited erratic behavior afterwards.

But Schindler's lawyers, apparently concerned that the death sentence might be imposed if the defense did not hold up, decided to make a deal with the state, which had been discussed prior to the trial.

Police said the two women were stabbed about a dozen times and one victim was beaten over the head with a chair and a trophy while Thompson was hunting with his father-in-law on the Eastern Shore.

Thompson told police he expected to inherit $40,000 once the two women were dead. The appliance repair man knew Schindler and Robertson from a karate class all three attended.

TAKING A BREAK — Eric Harris of Edmondson High School pauses during basic training for the Army Reserve at Fort Jackson, S.C. recently. Eric is participating in the Split Training Program which has allowed him to return to Edmondson for his senior year after spending the summer at Fort Jackson.

OFF TO LAW SCHOOL — Darien L. Scipio (L) gets a farewell shake from Councilman Michael Mitchell as Scipio, a clerk in Mitchell's law office, departs for Winston-Salem University in North Carolina, where he will seek a pre-law degree.

State health boss clamps down on city's trash dump

State Health Secretary Charles Buck issued an emergency order Wednesday setting certain conditions on the operation of the city's Coldspring landfill which was opened last week without a state permit.

The order requires the city to build an earthen dike around the landfill and provide emergency plans in case of any public health hazard. It also requires the city to have another landfill ready when the Coldspring facility can no longer be used.

Buck said the order was not a permit, but said he is aware of the problems Baltimore has with disposing garbage.

The landfill has been closed for several years when Mayor William Donald Schaefer ordered it re-opened last Friday without a permit. The city is running out of landfill space and recently, Anne Arundel County said it would not let trash haulers from outside the county to use its Glen Burnie landfill.

Baltimore City and Baltimore and Carroll counties have formed a solid waste disposal authority in hopes of easing the situation.

Councilman's law clerk off to N.C. college

Darien Laranz Scipio, son of Mrs. Yvonne Scipio of Baltimore and the late Vernon T. Scipio Sr. of the Virgin Islands, has been accepted for the fall semester at Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Sale?, N.C.

The 18-year-old scholar is a recent honor graduate of the private Laurinburg Institute in North Carolina, where he finished in the top 10 of his class.

During his tenure at Laurinburg, he worked during the summers as a clerk in the law offices of City Councilman Michael B. Mitchell. Scipio will study pre-law at Winston-Salem in preparation for a career as an attorney.

His mother was formerly with the Minister of Tourism's Office in St. Thomas.

His father, an educator and civic leader in the Virgin Islands, died several years ago in a plane crash at sea, just off St. Thomas.

2 local youths spend summer in Army Reserve

"Hey, where've you been? I haven't seen you all summer." "How was your summer vacation? Do anything interesting?"

Questions similar to these are bouncing off the walls of two Baltimore area high schools these days. Students are catching up on their friends' summer adventures. Some traveled; some worked, some went to camp.

Eric "Pete" Harris, 5000 block Stafford Road, a senior at Edmondson High School and Martin Edwards, 5000 block Darien Road, a senior at Lake Clifton Senior High, did all three.

Harris and Edwards were known as Pvt. Harris and Pvt. Edwards all summer. They were participating in an Army Reserve program called Split Training. It allows students who qualify to divide their Army Initial Entry Training into two parts to fit into summer vacation periods.

They spent about seven weeks this summer learning the basics of soldiery at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C. The training emphasis was on understanding the Army, physical conditioning and self-discipline.

While both Harris and Edwards admitted that the training was difficult, they also agreed it was fun, educational and a good way to spend the summer, especially since they were getting paid for their participation.

Army Reservists earn more than $445 a month, plus room and board, for their full-time training. Throughout their next year at school, the two will each earn a paycheck at their local Army Reserve unit, working 16 hours a month apiece, usually on the weekend.

Next summer Privates Harris and Edwards will be back in uniform for part two of their Initial Entry Training, full-time schooling in their chosen Army job specialities.

They will each be studying one of more than 300 Army Reserve job skills available, ranging from chef or computer operator to wheel vehicle mechanic or military policeman.

Pete Harris and Martin Edwards say they had interesting summers. They got paid for traveling and learning about the Army. Their summer jobs next year will take them to another part of the country to learn Army skills.

NURSING GRADS — Constance Kline, R.N. (C), coordinator of the South Baltimore Hospital School for Practical Nursing, congratulates two women who were graduated recently from the school. With Mrs. Kline are Ms. Barbara Johnson (L) of North Washington Boulevard and Mrs. Barbara Morta of Ferndale Avenue.

UM sponsors math contest for state high school students

The Second annual University of Maryland Mathematics Competition for high school students will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1980, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The competition will be open to all high school students, grades nine through 12, throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia. Prizes of $100, $75 and $50 will be awarded to the students placing first, second and third.

The highest scorers among those participants who plan to attend college full time in 1981-82 will be offered a $1,000 scholarship and two $500 scholarships to the University of Maryland. These scholarships are renewable annually on the basis of continued academic excellence, and are awarded independent of the recipient's major field of study.

To be included in the competition, a student must register before Oct. 10, 1980 with the chairman of his-her high school mathematics department, who will also provide information on the location of the exam. The exam will be given on various college campuses.

In addition, high schools may request permission to administer the exam on their own premises. Additional information may be obtained by calling (301) 454-4882.

The Douglas Alumni Steering Committee will meet Thursday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. at the high school. All alumni are invited to attend.

Free diabetes screening set

The Medicine Shope, a prescription-oriented pharmacy at 40 Dundalk Ave. in Baltimore, is offering a free diabetes test in co-operation with the American Diabetes Association.

On Friday, Sept. 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., representatives of the American Diabetes Association will be at the pharmacy to administer this test free to local residents.

Individuals planning to be tested should eat a balanced meal two hours before being screended.

People who are a relative of a diabetic or over age 40, or overweight, and woman who have had a baby who weighed more than nine pounds at birth should be checked.

If someone you love or are dependent upon has a drinking problem you can see what it is doing to them; if you are also concerned about what it is doing to you, call Al-Anon at 823-1222.

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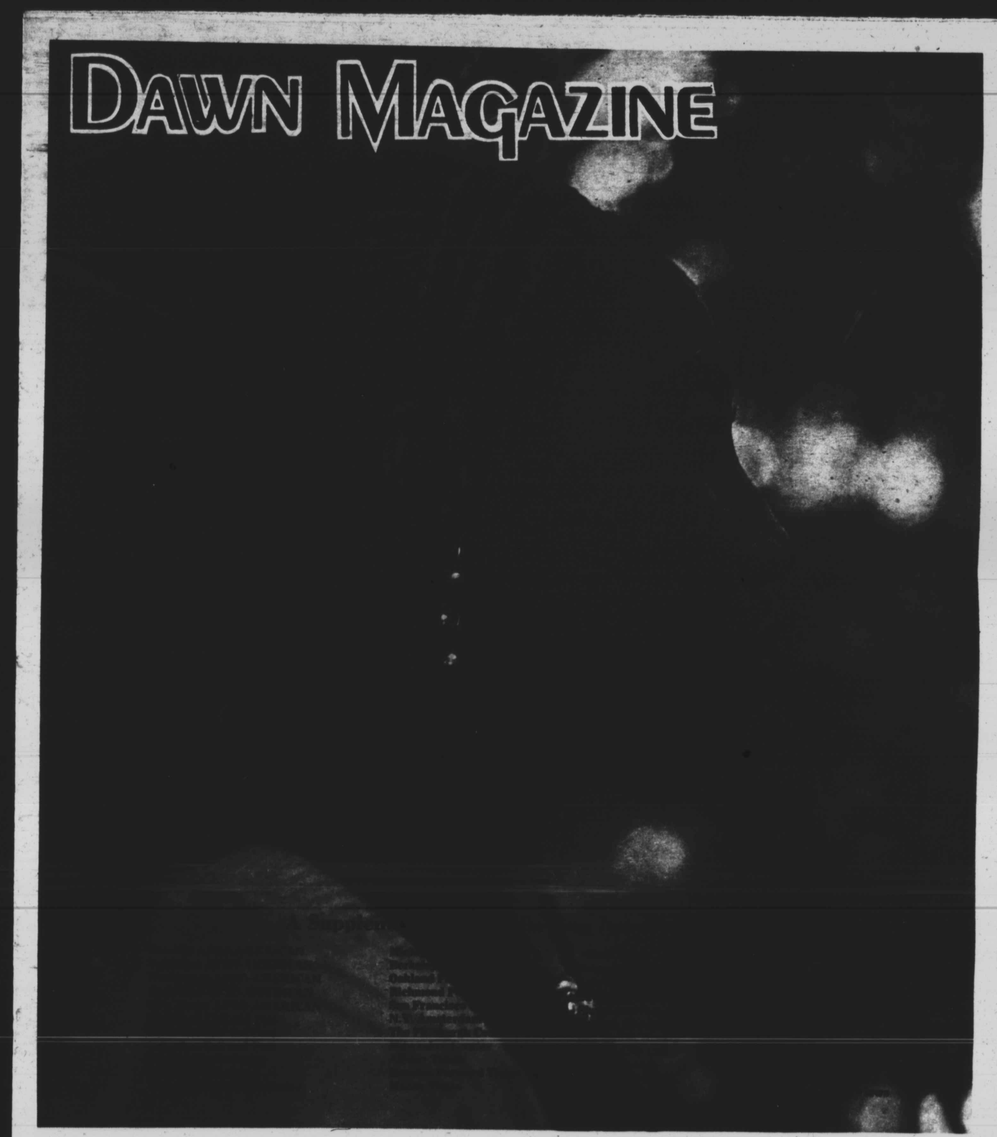
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