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—Racism

(Continued from page 1)

Mitchell asked that the necessary action be taken to "secure full compliance with the court's decree and supplemental orders."

A champion in the area of legislation for minority economic development, Mitchell has kept a close eye on the Fort McHenry Tunnel project which he says does not meet the minority business enterprise goals set by the state.

In correspondence to Neil Goldschmidt, Secretary of Transportation, the congressman urged that the Department of Transportation resolve the problem of MBE participation in the project.

The Department of Transportation has established 15 percent minority business enterprise involvement as a contracting goal. The Fort McHenry Tunnel project falls short of the goa by four and a half percent. DOT allowed the 11.46 percent MBE involvement to stand, but raised the question about the validity of that percentage, according to Mitchell.

Baltimore has proposed that a $15 million Urban Development Action Grant be made to the General Motors Corporation for the purpose of road improvement and the building of pedestrian overpasses in their plant area.

Mitchell stated that he was pleased with the planned expansion and renovation of the assembly plant because it would be important to the employment picture in Baltimore.

But he said, "I do have major concerns about the city giving an outright grant of $15 million to the General Motors Corporation. This grant, if awarded, would be taken from the Urban Development Action Grant funds given by the federal government to Baltimore.

"My concerns go beyond the proposal for General Motors. The fundamental question is should federal funds be given as direct grants to any large corporate, profit making entity?"

Under present laws such grants are permissible but Mitchell stated that he would suggest to Housing Commissioner M. Jay Brodie that the $15 million be made as a low interest loan, with repayment targeted to specific minority economic development projects.

In addition, Mitchell plans to contact the chairman of the board of General Motors to urge that a significant number of minority contractors be utilized in the $200 million plant expansion.

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—Churchwoman

(Continued from Page 1)

woman currently a member of any church regardless of denomination.

2. The AFRO will publish a voting coupon worth 100 votes in each edition.

3. Each subscription for both the Tuesday and Friday editions of the AFRO received by Oct. 3 from you or one of your supporters will be worth 1,000 votes.

4. Votes will be tabulated and posted in the AFRO.

5. Participants agree to the use of their names and photos for publicity purposes.

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7. AFRO employees, their immediate families, distributors and agents are not eligible to participate.

8. The 12 contestants with the highest number of votes will be finalists.

—Carter

(Continued from page 1)

Ronald Reagan and John Anderson, present.

But there will be no president.

If you have ever been attacked by a gang of people then you have a basic idea why Carter is not coming.

Both Anderson and Reagan are after Carter, he is the target, and his appearance at the debate, says his supporters, will only put him in the middle of a withering cross-fire.

Anderson is a sharp, good debater, and Reagan is a more-than-competent media personality.

If they do team up against Carter, which they undoubtedly would, if he were appearing, the ensuing damage may be a lot worse to the president then his attempts to explain away his empty chair.

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Local black Muslim groups wage civil war?

Street fight bares scham, charges of cop brutality

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

The arrest of a young Nation Of Islam member on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest more than a week ago may also spell the surfacing of a bitter split in the city's Islamic community.

According to Thomas Jeffries a 20-year-old member of the Nation of Islam, he and a man peddling copies of the Bilalian News, sold by the World Community of Al-Islam in the West, got into a fight as Jeffries was standing on the corner of Howard and Lexington Sts. selling bean pies on Friday Sept. 5.

"A woman had come up to me to buy a bean pie," said Jeffries, "when all of a sudden I felt something, like someone had hit me. I turned around, and the guy had gone into a sort of stance, he had put his guard up."

Jeffries said he kicked and hit his attacker several times, then pursued him around the corner, back onto Howard St., as he was getting the best of the battle.

That's when according to Jeffries, the real fight began.

"These two MTA policemen who were sitting across the street saw what happened, and they came over and grabbed me from behind," he said.

After the two MTA policen grabbed his arms, he said additional city police came up, and they then threw him to the ground.

"Somebody stomped me in the back, then they pulled my arms way up, it felt like they were trying to break my fingers. They started sticking something in my wrists and hands, like a key or something."

By this time a large crowd had gathered. City police report that the crowd grew to over 500 people.

"They ground my face into the ground, until I was scraping up against my own blood and skin and everything," he recalled.

His face was raw and torn in several places, and he continually dabbed an open wound above his mouth with a tissue as he spoke.

Jeffries said that the only thing that stopped the policemen from continuing the beating was the large crowd, which by that time had begun hollering for the officers to leave him alone.

"But they, (the officers), were all trying to get theirs before the wagon came," he said bitterly.

Jeffries pulled off his shirt, and revealed huge lumps of scabs along his shoulders. His wrists and hands were dark with scars, and his voice trembled as he recalled the events.

Delores Thompson, a 31-year-old city resident, told the AFRO that she witnessed part of what happened, and was arrested as a result of her attempts to help Jeffries. "I was doing some shopping downtown Friday (Sept. 5)," she said. "When I got to the corner of Howard and Lexington St. I saw a man lying in the street. A policeman had his foot on his neck, another had his arms pulled up from his back and was twisting handcuffs around his hands, and another one had his foot in the small of his back. The man's face was bleeding, and he was calling out a number he wanted somebody to call. He was also shouting that he wanted to be taken to a hospital."

She said that she felt that she had to intervene, but her intervention proved costly.

"I told them that it was dehumanizing, and that they already had handcuffs on him, all of that wasn't neccessary," she said, "so I was arrested."

Since then she has received probation without verdict at the Southwestern District Courthouse, but she plans on testifying at Jeffries' hearing which is scheduled for Sept. 23 at 9:00 a.m. at the same court.

Emmanuel Muhammad, of the Nation of Islam Mosque located in the 1200 block W. Baltimore St., hinted that the World Community of Al-Islam in the West, headquartered in the 500 block Wilson St., may have conspired with local police in the attack on his fellow worshipper.

The Nation of Islam retains the original name of the order of North American Islamics, although the name and some of the tenets of the faith were changed following the death of Elijah Muhammad, the founder of the religion by his son, Wallace D. Muhammad, who currently is head of the World Community of Islam in the West

But Ronald Shakir, head of the Wilson St. Masjid, denied the allegations by Muhammad, and also said that he knew nothing of the attack.

Employee charges discrimination

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

A 20-year-old University of Maryland hospital employee claims that he was given undue punishment for an altercation he was involved in with a white female worker at the hospital.

Anthony Purnell claims that, following a short argument he had with one employee regarding money he owed her, he was given an indefinite suspension although the white worker was given a five day suspension.

"On Wednesday, Sept. 3," said Purnell white co - worker of mine, who usually hems pants and does odd jobs for people asked me did I have the money for a pair of pants of mine she had hemmed. I told her no, and she jumped up and said that if you don't give me the money you can't have the pants."

An argument ensued, and as a result the disciplinary actions were taken by George Eaton, the director of the office where the two were employed.

Eaton said that the separate punishments were warranted.

"There was a difference in the level of what was done," he said.

Although Purnell and several other workers said that the white employee involved had been involved in at least one earlier altercation, Eaton denied the charge. He did say that Purnell had an unfavorable work record, although he would not elaborate on the specifics.

Purnell has filed a charge of discrimination with the state Human Relations Commission, and has filed a grievance with his union.

Salisbury awarded grant

The U.S. Education Department has awarded a $63,836 grant to Salisbury State College to help talented youths from low income families.

The grant is intended to aid youths who may lack adequate secondary school preparation or are disadvantaged because of rural isolation.

The education department stated the grants are also intended to increase the rate at which disadvantaged youths complete secondary schools and enroll in post-secondary prprograms.

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Harbor Tunnel closing

For the first time in its 23-year history, the Harbor Tunnel will be closed to southbound traffic this weekend for repaving of the road surface.

The northbound tunnel will be closed for similar work the weekend of Oct. 3, officials said this week.

A Maryland Transportation Authority official declined to predict what difficulties the closings might spawn.

Spokesman Thomas E. Freburger said local motorists should be aware of the closing and be able to avoid the tunnel, but out-of-state motorists may have difficulty.

The state has already posted signs telling of the change along the southbound lanes of the John F. Kennedy Highway and plans to hand out fliers at nearby Susquehanna River Bridge, beginning at 8 p.m. today, Friday.

The closing will begin at 10 p.m., today, Friday and last until 5 a.m. Monday, Sept. 22. Southbound motorists will have their choice of using either the north or southbound lanes of Interstate 695 to get to their destinations.

Proof of age cards don't serve purpose

Cards issued by the State Motor Vehicle Administration to deter drinking by minors apparently are not serving any purpose and officials say they ought to be abolished.

Maryland legislators had moved the "age of majority" cards as a means of deterring youthful drinking, following the 197 decision to lower the drinking age to 18.

But some liquor store owners contend minors have found the cards easy to acquire and use them to buy liquor.

Youths commonly use phony birth certificates in order to obtain the cards, according to Anne Arundel County Officials.

Additional identification required by Maryland law to secure a card also is easy to come by, county liquor board chairman George "Reese" King said this week.

The MVA is searching for a lawmaker to sponsor a bill abolishing the majority cards, Deputy MVA Director Charles Pfaff said. In the meantime, the agency will be more careful in issuing the cards, he added.

Ironically, the liquor board industry lobbied intensely for the proof-of-age cards three years ago, saying they would help them to distinguish minors from adults.

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