# If You Ask Me

By Bettye Moss

Excerpt; typifies the "whipping boy" syndrome:

"As the bizarre disappearances and murders of Atlanta children continue to baffle investigators, a fearful public's growing frustration and rage turn toward 175 Decatur St., where Napper spends his days (often until very late into the night) as chief of Atlanta's police.

"He has taken a lot of heat in a job where pressures from the public, disgruntled police officers and demanding politicians keep the temperature inside the office constantly above the boiling point.

"During the nearly three years he has been chief, there have been numerous knocks at Napper, both from within his department and without.

"Some critics have painted him as a naive academician with no street experience as a cop and therefore unqualified to direct the city's police."

## Atlanta Is...

No matter what one's mission is, a visitor to Atlanta, Ga., is immediately struck by two contrasts . . . its beauty and its ugliness.

We arrived on Saturday, Feb. 28, to find temperatures hitting at 78, breaking a 1948 record.

In many areas, grass was green and daffodils were in bloom.

But, the beauty was soon obscured as we drove through the southwest section to see the blue ribbons, mourning the death and disappearance of 20 murdered and missing children.

Ribbons were in evidence on the brick residence of the city's black mayor, Maynard Jackson. His Westwood Ave. home looked like others on the street, except there were two police cars out front and visitors were advised they keep a 24 - hour vigil.

Enroute to visit the hospital, where we expect a grandchild shortly, we passed the West Hunter St. Baptist Church, in Cobb County, where 400 volunteers from across the nation had gathered to join in the search for the missing children.

We passed the Cathedral of St. Philip (Episcopal) in Buckhead, where a 24 - hour vigil, from noon Friday to noon Saturday, had been sponsored by the NAACP. People of both races prayed and sang together for the children.

Late Saturday, searchers had some excitement. They found a skeleton - first thought to be that of a human - later determined to be that of a dog.

## Black police chief

And, the Sunday morning paper carried an interview with Atlanta's black chief of police, George Napper, entitled, "Coping With the Heat In The Kitchen."

The difference is that black people, who make up a substantial portion of the citizenry, have a hand in its policy - making . . . and that even with the horrid deaths of little children, people of both races — and all persuasions — are working together to cure the illness.

## It's a boy

The event which took us to Atlanta arrived at 1:15 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, at Southwest Community Hospital.

Delivered by section, (Caesarean), baby is a first for Mr. and Mrs. Vernon D. Humphrey. He weighed 6 pounds, 4 oz.

Mother is our youngest, the former Rachel Murphy Phillips of Baltimore.

## Smile of week

Two infants in a hospital nursery are engaged in deep conversation: —

"I'm a little girl."

"I'm a little boy."

"Can you prove you're a little boy?"

"Sure, when the nurse leaves the room, I'll show you."

The nurse leaves the room and the baby boy pulls up his gown.

"See, BLUE booties."

(Reprinted from Travel Host.)

## People, things

Glad - you're better - cards to Hopkins Hospital (Nelson 475), for Charles (Kye) Lewis of Bentalou St. He's the veteran Sparrows Point tailor, now retired.

He entered the hospital last Thursday for ticker check - up, and is doing nicely, says his wife, Ruth.

His brother, Joe Lewis of Portsmouth, Va., is in town. He enters the same hospital for check - up next week.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Fraser (Marie), have moved to their new home in Orangeburg, S.C., (we talked about them a week back).

Baltimore friends gave them several send - off parties. Philathea Carter Hall had a group in for bridge for Mrs. Fraser.

The two women, both natives of the Carolinas had settled here in Baltimore at the same time.

About were: Julia McDaniels, Gwen Tarter, Ruth Rosedom, Florence Ringgold, Rose Kinney, Arneta Woodlon, Thelma and Lillian Bell, and Elizabeth Patterson.

Also there, Mrs. Marion Myers, who recently returned from India. She and her husband, Dr. Samuel Myers, made their sixth trip there last month. He's the retired Bowie State president.

Cuff note: The hostess, the honoree and several of the bridge - luncheon guests, resided for years in the same neighborhood in west Baltimore, so it was like old home week.

Baltimore chapter of Howard University Alumni Association marks the college's 115th birthday on Friday, March 13, at LaFontaine Rouge. Mrs. Mamie Woodford (947 - 2424), and William Curtis, (566 - 2639), have ticket information about the dinner dance.

## CCB salute

Former associates of Edward H. Crouse did a nice thing on Thursday evening at L'Ecole on S. Gay St. (that's the catering training center.)

They gathered to say 'thank you' for Ed's dedicated service as a member of the Community College of Baltimore's Board of Trustees, (March 1975 - Nov. 1980).

And after they attested to his integrity, his dedication and his yeoman service on the presidential search committee, he rose to give a moving and sincere thank you for the words and the engraved plaque.

Cuff notes: Many referred to Mr. Crouse as a gentleman. At the reception prior to the formal program, he typified a truly gentle and humble man.

Note: Present for his big day, his wife, Helen; daughter, Cindy and husband, Tony Hayes; and son, Larry.

The son proved he was a chip off the old block. He rose unannounced to add to the testimonials: "While we have not always agreed, I can truly say he has been a straight shooter."

## Far cry

More cuff notes: Ed Crouse was the "labor representative, (AFL - CIO), on the trustee board. He's director of the Baltimore Council's CETA program.

Black members attest that when time came to select the current black president - Dr. Rafael Cortado — a first, it was Ed Crouse who insisted that the search committee pick the best man and forget about color.

This is a far cry from the early days when we can recall how white fellow CCB board members dared not take this correct stand.

Thanks to men like Ed Crouse, things have gotten better. Other trustees present were: Marion Banfield, Leonard Rosenberg, Steve Kimatian and Mary E. Thompson.

Charles Tildon, board chair, presided. Former board member present, Lou Doering; and Mrs. James T. Dorsey, who represented her husband.

Dean Barbara Faw chaired the arrangements committee.

Among others present, President and Mrs. Cortado and representatives of student and faculty. A very inspiring evening for a very deserving guy.

Can't forget his moving statements: "What I did on the board was a labor of love, and I was repaid a hundredfold . . ." and, "I shall cherish these memories forever."

## In Annapolis

This is high season for Maryland's capital city of Annapolis. The Legislature is in session.

Note: Any one may sit in on committee hearings and sessions of the House of Delegates and the Senate.

A large group of school kids gathered in the balcony for the 11 a.m. Friday House discussion on the censor bill. They appeared bewildered by the sing - song announcements of bills, their referral to committees for third reading etc.

But, never mind, they had the experience of seeing their elected lawmakers in action. Perhaps when they grow up, they can make the sessions have more meaning for their constituents.

The voice of Del. John Douglass rang out loud and clear when he rose to suggest that censor board commissioners be reimbursed for expenses.

Del. Frank Conaway's voice was clear when he asked reconsideration of an insurance measure. Many other speakers were almost inaudible.

Dels. Walter Dean and Wendell Phillips were busy in their offices when he popped in unannounced. So were Delegates Hattie Harrison and Isaiah (Ike) Dixon.

More on legislature. Those who were there this past Monday are singing the praises of students from Morgan, Coppin and Bowie who appeared to support pleas for no budget cuts.

Early morning visitors to Annapolis on Friday were, People's Court Judges Ben Foreman and Archie Williams.

They had testified before the City Delegation; urging increase in salaries for that court's judges who get only $22,000 annually. Also there, Chief Judge Warren Coogan.

## Mr. Umphery

Sympathy cards to the family of Thornton Umphery, 58, of Rosedale St. He was eulogized Saturday at Douglas Memorial Community Church.

Known to intimates as "Noney", Mr. Umphery was a skilled brick mason who taught his trade at the Md. School for Building Trades and the Woodstock Training Center.

He was decorated for bravery during World War 2, where he was an Army sergeant stationed in the European Theater.

He was fond of basketball. For years, he was one of the YNCA's Big 5.

He was a member of the Windsor Bowling Team, and the Colonial Golf Club.

Survivors: Wife, Elizabeth (Liz) Moody Umphery, the retired teacher; son, Eric (Ricky), the yeast plant supervisor; brother, Robert, assistant superintendent, Baltimore city schools.

Also, aunt and uncle, Ann and Thomas Brown of Atlantic City.

(Continued on Page 8)

# Crownsville closing opposed

More than 100 union employees picketed Wednesday to protest the planned closing of the state mental hospital, Crownsville.

The pickets were stationed outside Crownsville Hospital center to inform the public about the effects of the closing, said Curtis Johnson, executive director of Council 92 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

About 500 AFSCME members are employed as hospital aides, janitors and in other non-medical positions. Crownsville, which opened in 1910, has about 400 patients.

"These employees, many with 20 to 30 years of service, and the patients will have no place to go," Johnson said. "It will be a tragic situation for the community."

Gov. Harry Hughes has eliminated funding for the state hospital in his proposed fiscal 1982 budget. State health officials want to transfer some of the patients to other hospitals and treat others through community health care agencies.

"The governor wants to emphasize deinstitutionalization of patients but our organization feels that these people, who are mostly poor, will have nowhere to go and will be flushed into the streets," said Johnson.

AFSCME plans a strong lobbying campaign in the legislature to try to get the funding restored.

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# Crockett tackles new 'For Sale' sign case

Local realtor James Crockett, whose challenge to the city's ban on "for sale" signs was upheld by the Supreme Court, says that the next battle ground is on the state level, where a Maryland law prohibits the posting of such signs in regions designated as "conservation areas".

According to a Maryland statute, these are areas which may be susceptible to panic buying. No licensed real estate broker can erect "for sale "signs in these regions.

Currently there are 17 areas in the city which have been declared conservation districts.

Although Mayor Schaefer has hinted that he may seek some other type of ban on "for sale" signs which would preserve the racial make-up of various city communities, members of the state Real Estate Commission has stated that they would welcome a challenge to the "conservation districts" statute.

According to Crockett, the main sector of town where blacks are restricted from moving is the 3rd district. Several areas in the 3rd, which comprises most of Northeast Baltimore, including Ruxton, Cedonia, Chunquapin Park and Woobourne.

He said that those realtors who are for the ban support it because "they're out for a fast buck. They won't show black people houses in Towson, Ruxton, Riderwood and any other section of the city where they live in."

Crockett said that those who support the ban are "the same people that started this thing in the first place, through panic selling and spreading myths about what black people do when they move in to a community."

The nullification of the ban may open up the housing market, Crockett concluded.

"It will help the buyer because they will know what property is available," he said. "And it will help black realtors and real estate agents because now they will be able to afford all mediums of advertising. By posting the signs they can spread their money into newspapers and advertising."

This is not the first time the realtor has taken a controversial stand. During the City Council rent control hearings in November of 1980, he was the only black to testify against rent control.

# Politicians form firefighting plan

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Are you a firefighter? If you're a member of Baltimore's black community, and are interested in changing the shape of local politics, then maybe you are.

Several young politicians and community leaders who call themselves the Regional Action Committee, have formulated what they call "The Greater Baltimore Firefighting Plan", which is designed to dramatically increase the visibility of blacks in local politics.

Citizens probably remember RAC as the group which held an affair at the Glasby's last summer, during which awards for community service were presented to Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-7th, Councilman Clarence "Du" Burns, and Welfare Rights Organization head Bob Cheeks.

The group's latest effort is a document which outlines a community - oriented approach to the election of responsible black leadership.

The RAC plan calls for a city-wide nominating convention, which would be attended by delegates representing black neighborhoods which have a predominant black population.

At the convention, nominees for the various city or state offices up for grabs will be selected, and the strength of the entire black community would be mobilized to back those candidates.

The plan also include economic development, education, criminal justice and housing and health components.

The plan has met with the approval of Rep. Mitchell, who said in a letter to Harry Williams III, a member of the group, that "It seems to me that RAC's goals and COPE's goals are almost identical and therefore it is imperative that both groups work in tandem."

COPE 83, which was also formed this year, encompasses an older group of prominent blacks.

The first general organizing meeting of RAC will be held Saturday, March 21 at Bethel AME Church, located in the 1400 block Druid Hill Ave. at 11:00 a.m.

# Robin Quivers named 'Young Careerist'

Robin Quivers

Miss Robin U. Quivers, former consumer-business reporter with radio station WFBR has been named "Young Careerist" by the Towsontowne Business and Professional Women's Club.

Miss Quivers was a reporter, newscaster at radio station WCMB in Harrisburg, Pa., having graduated from the Broadcasting Institute of Maryland where she was on the president's list.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Quivers of Granlley Ave., Miss Quivers was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force in 1978 with the rank of captain. In the Air Force she served as pediatrics clinic supervisor. She received her BSN from the University of Md. School of Nursing in 1974 where she received an honors scholarship.

The 30 Maryland clubs will each be represented by a young careerist at the Maryland Federation's annual convention in May scheduled at the Lord Baltimore hotel. The winner of the competiton will represent the Maryland Federation at the BPW National convention in San Francisco in July.

CITY HALL INTERN — Michelle Dove (second left), a student in Villa Julie College's business-legal secretarial program recently completed serving an internship in the office of Mayor William Donald Schaefer. She is presented with a bracelet bearing the City Seal by the mayor while Carolyn Manuszak (l), president of Villie Julie & Vanessa Buckalew, a Villie Julie graduate who works in the legal department, look on.

# CBS switching local affiliation

The "CBS television network says it will switch its affiliation from WMAR (Channel 2) to WBAL (Channel 11) by July 1.

The move is the first change in the Baltimore market since 1947, when television was introduced. A spokesman for WMAR said it might become an independent station, leaving the area without an NBC network station.

In an announcement this week from network headquarters in New York, CBS said it "was delighted to welcome one of the outstanding stations of the Hearst Corporation."

Hearst, which also publishes the Baltimore News American, owns WBAL. WMAR is owned by the A.S. Abell Co., publishers of the Sunpapers.

"We have a contractual obligation to WMAR that extends until September. But we hope to work the change earlier, possibly by July 1," CBS president James Rosenfeld said.

WMAR Station Manager Dale Wright said, "Channel 2 has three options: we can go after ABC, we can go to NBC or we can become an independent."

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