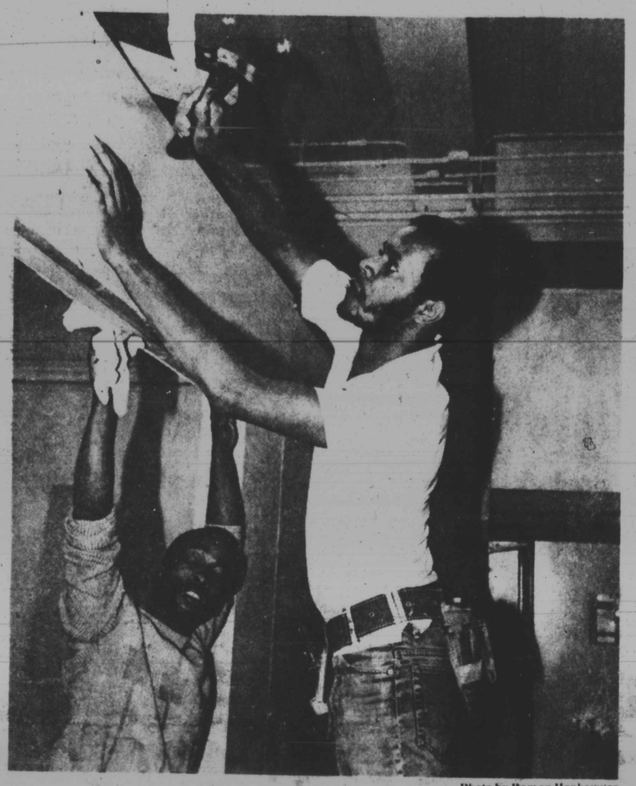
Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 89TH YEAR

89th Year No. 62 | Copyright by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. for all material previously printed in the current National Edition | BALTIMORE, MD. MARCH 14, 1981 | LATE CITY EDITION | 35 CENTS

3,000 may lose local CETA jobs



ON THE JOB TRAINING provided by CETA funds will soon be eliminated if budget cuts proposed by President Reagan are approved by Congress. LeRoy Richmond, 29 (R) and Brian Thomas, 22 are learning the fundamentals of carpentry and home renovation that could help them land lucrative jobs in the future, but if CETA funds are discontinued, jobs such as theirs will be eliminated and many workers may be forced to go on welfare.

Photo by Roman Hankewycz

Reagan budget cuts blamed

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Three thousand Baltimoreans between 18 and 24-years old may soon be jobless if Congress sustains President Reagan's proposed $31 million cut in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

The CETA program was started in 1974 and is designed to provide employment and training assistance for economically disadvantaged and unemployed job seekers.

If Reagan's proposal holds, services such as the Legal Aid Bureau, teacher's aides in public schools, library literacy and learning project, the city's rat eradication program and maintenance workers for the city's housing projects may be discontinued.

The layoffs could start as early as March 30 and end June 12. The average salary of CETA workers is between $8,000 and $9,000 and the maximum salary is $10,000.

Stephen Keyser, a spokesman for the mayor's office of Manpower Resources told the AFRO, "The fiscal year is hallway through and Reagan wants to get back 40 percent of the money. He is bringing the program to an abrupt halt."

The spokesman said the Reagan administration had been planning to end all public service employment under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act by the end of CETA's fiscal year which is Sept. 30. The spokesman said officials of the U. S. Labor Department confirmed that the layoffs of public service employees will start March 30.

Keyser says the program is now in "a very critical stage." The layoffs would hurt more than 100 non profit and charitable organizations. They include American Heart Association, Red Cross, Baltimore Center For Victims of Sexual Assault, Community Organized to Improve Life, Deaf Referral Service, Maryland Food Bank, House of Ruth, Prisoners Aide Association and the Waxter Center for Senior Citizens. About 20 percent of these organizations employees come through the CETA program.

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell stated, "We're trying to get together every possible coalition, every possible means of fighting these cuts. We are working with the trade unions and we have about 60 other organizations involved, unions and civil advocacy groups.

"I've made an analysis of the proposed cuts in the Reagan proposition. If they go through over one million additional people will become unemployed and it will push unemployment up a whole percentage point."

Mitchell is urging all citizens to write the head of the House Education and Labor Committee, House Budget Committee leader

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Milton Dugger nominated to school board

Milton Dugger Jr., Assistant Manager of Towson General Office of New York Life Insurance Company has been nominated by Mayor William Donald Schaefer to become a member of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissions.

Dugger is currently treasurer of the Towson State University Alumni Association, a member of the Towson State University Alumni Board, President of the Baltimore City Council PTA's' a board member of the Maryland Congress of PTA's and a member of the Baltimore County Private Industry Council. He is also the immediate past president of the Leith Walk Elementary School PTA.

Dugger feels active participation in Baltimore's educational system is vital. "As member, I want to include parents in all decision-making processes of the schools," he said. "There are an awful lot of bodies in Baltimore that claim PTA membership, and it's not true. There are 90 bona fide PTA groups in the city and when you compare that to Prince Georges County, or Baltimore County, there's 90 per cent PTA membership. You can see there is something amiss."

Dugger expresses firm belief in the Baltimore City Public School system. "I'm a product of the Baltimore City School policy system" he said, "I remember when visitors from all over the country came to take a look at our program; I think those days can return."

A 1960 graduate of Baltimore City College, Dugger obtained a bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education from Towson State University in 1964. He and his wife Barbara have six children, and he is a member of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Baltimore.

In a public hearing on Monday, March 16, at 2:00 p.m. Dugger will appear before the City Council commission of Executive Appointments. Council members will vote on the nomination in the City Council that evening at 5:00 p.m.

Advance S&L

Teen shot in bank robbery was no innocent bystander

Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Police have confirmed that the man they thought was an innocent bystander, turned out to be the lookout man in the Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association bank robbery on March 2.

Daniel Wright, 16, was killed several minutes after the robbery by a security guard who ran outside with his .357 magnum and shot the teenager.

Wright, a former Douglass High School student was killed several minutes after the robbery by a security guard who ran outside with his .357 magnum and shot the teenager.

Last week police were still investigating the case and according to witnesses who were waiting for a bus told police they thought the teenager was an innocent bystander.

Howard B. Gersch, assistant state's attorney and chief of the Violent Crimes Unit told the AFRO no charges will be placed against Moses Bradley, the 72-year-old guard.

Four teenagers have been charged with the bank robbery and at AFRO presstime police were still looking for two of the youth. Lawrence M. Courts, 17, of the 2200 block Reisterstown Rd., was arrested at his home. He is charged with felony murder, armed robbery and a handgun violation and was being held at City Jail without bail.

Christopher D. Felder, 19, of the 2600 block Oswego Ave., is charged with armed robbery and a handgun violation.

According to police eight customers were in the bank when several teenagers entered and started pushing the customers. One of the youth ran to a teller and demanded money.

Bradley was told to lie on the floor and when the suspects left the bank, he ran outside and shot the teenager. Gersch said three of the suspects have been charged with homicide because the teenager's death occurred during the commission of armed robbery, which is a felony.

The state law says a person who commits a felony is responsible for a death when it occurs as a result of a crime.

How Softones will look in their first movie. Above, Johnny Fowler, sax; Softones Elton Lynch, Marvin Brown and Steve Jackson. Bill Armstrong is on drums and Rod Armstrong on piano.

(See Showtime)

BG&E customers face April 1 cut-offs

By Deborah R. Feaster
Student Intern

Approximately 20,000 BG&E customers may have their gas and electricity turned off come April 1 unless they make payment arrangements with the company, a BG& E spokesperson says.

Ronna Stokes, public information officer for BG&E, said that the company will resume normal collection procedures April 1 on all past-due bills.

BG&E suspended collection action for customers during the winter months, Stokes said, but with the coming of warmer weather, past-due bills will have to be paid.

Customers with past due bills should already have begun receiving turn-off notices, Stokes said. Unless arrangements are made with any BG&E office to pay the bills, services will be discontinued.

"Customers can call us, visit or make an arrangement with a company officer," Stokes said.

She emphasized that it is important for customers to understand that silence on their part will hurt them.

"No customer who makes contact with us will have their services cut off," Stokes said. Customers have seven days from the day they receive their turn-off notice to make arrangements.

Customers may visit any BG&E office, including the main office at Lexington and Liberty Streets downtown, or call 685-0123, the central Customers Relations Department.

Representatives from that department will help customers make arrangements and or referrals for help in paying the bills. In some cases, extensions may be granted, or payment schedules, spreading extra large bills out over a number of months, may be arranged.

Greyhound bus drivers charge discrimination

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

A group of Greyhound bus drivers has charged that company with racial discrimination and say that the company has a double standard of discipline for white and black drivers.

The drivers, most of whom asked to remain anonymous for fear of losing their jobs, told the AFRO that black drivers are twice as likely as white drivers to receive stiffer disciplinary action for identical offenses. That action, they say, usually comes in the form of temporary suspension, but has resulted in the firing of some employees.

The catalyst for their protests against the company at this point, they say, is an apparently deliberate attempt on the part of company officials to harass black drivers about their filing of duplicate 1978 Department of Transportation forms, which are required of all drivers at the end of each year.

According to the group, the company lost the original records for 1978 and asked all employees to fill out duplicate forms. There was to be no disciplinary action if the duplicate record differed from the original form, drivers were told.

But, the drivers say, some original records were found after the duplicate records were filed, and drivers for whom the two forms differed were disciplined in several cases. They were charged with deliberately lying on the duplicate forms to make their driving records seem better than they were. Some drivers were suspended, they say, although they were unable to give the precise number of how many had actually been given that sentence.

When questioned about the charges, Greyhound officials in Washington, D.C. declined comment, but company spokespersons in Phoenix, Arizona, sharply denied the drivers' allegations.

"There seems to be a distortion of the facts," said Linda Klein, spokesperson. "The company asked for, on a voluntary basis, for the duplication of the forms (which the company had lost.) The drivers were promised that no punitive action would be taken, and, to the best of my knowledge, no such action was taken."

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Conaway's insurance bill loses in House

Del. Frank Conaway Tuesday watched his Maryland Auto Insurance Bill go down to defeat in the House of Delegates.

The bill, which would have eased the requirements needed for motorists to obtain the insurance, now available to high-risk drivers, was defeated by the House by a 66-49 vote.

The bill stirred controversy when it was orginally introduced because Conaway is himself an insurance executive, and a local newspaper questioned the motives in introducing the legislation.

If Conaway's bill had passed, high-risk motorists would have been able to purchase MAIF insurance immediately upon request. The current policy requires the high-risk motorists to first be rejected by two private companies before they can be accepted as MAIF policy-holders.

At a special hearing last week of the Joint Ethics Committee of the legislature, Conaway said that he would not profit from the bill because he already had the capability to reject a motorist for two different companies he represents and then write an MAIF policy.

But opponents of the measure said that, if the bill passed, motorists would be able to purchase MAIF policies as easily as they could another policy.

Conaway retorted that if his bill did pass, the rates for MAIF policies would still be prohibitively high.

MTA faces service reduction

If the 2 to 3 percent reduction in the state Mass Transit Administration's budget is approved by the General Assembly, a lot of late-night commuters, Oriole baseball fans and Sunday riders may find themselves without "their wheels."

If the cuts, which were recommended by the House Transportation Subcommittee of the Appropraitions Committee, are approved, the above riders will find their services cut by 25 to 50 percent.

Also, 100 part-time MTA operators, mostly women with the least amount seniority, may be without a job.

To protest the cuts, citizens should call the head of the Transportation Subcommittee, Del. Frank Robey, at 841-3257.

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