WE ARE NOW IN OUR 89TH YEAR

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LATE CITY EDITION

35 CENTS

Northern Himbyteen accidental gu

Track team member dies

shotgun mishap in girl's home

By Pam Widgeon AFRO Staff Writer

A tenth grade Northern High School student and a member of its Junior Varsity track team, was shot April 24 reporteedly by a "former girlfriend" at her Pentwood Avenue home in the city's Northwood community.

Three days later on April 27, Michael A. Crawley, 15, died at Union Memorial Hospital from a bullet wound in the chest from a 12 guage shotgun.

Assistant State's Attorney Timothy Doory told AFRO, "There is insufficient evidence to charge her with a crime. It was a tragic accident and based on the evidence we have, we will not charge her."

The tragedy unfolded when police received a call to the 1500 block of Pentwood Ave., from the victim's brother around 9:15 a.m.

When they arrived on the scene. Crawley was found lying on the dining room floor face up and the shotgun was found near his feet. A few feet away, police report they found a toy pistol.

Police believe the student's death occurred at a time when public school students are suppose to be in their classes.

The former girlfriend of Crawley's who also attended

Northern High School, told police she accidentally shot Crawley while playing with the gun.

girl as saying, "I did not know the

gun was loaded." Following the shooting she was released in custody of her parents.

Police on the scene quote the Two other teenagers were in the house at the time of the shooting. police report. Relatives of Crawley told the AFRO, "Michael was a happy person and had never been in trouble."

> His older brother said he did not know why Michael was at the girl's house at that time of day when he was shot.

Crawley was a member of Junior Achievement and spent his spare time working with electronics. Friends of the victim said Crawley had dated the who seeing each other becal both wanted to date other people," said a friend of the

The family will receive friends Sunday, May 3, 7 to 7:30 p.m. at Shiloh Christian Community Church, Catherine and Lombard Street and funeral services will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Crawley is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George (Elizabeth) Crawley; three brothers, Joseph and John Gill and Gregory Crawley.

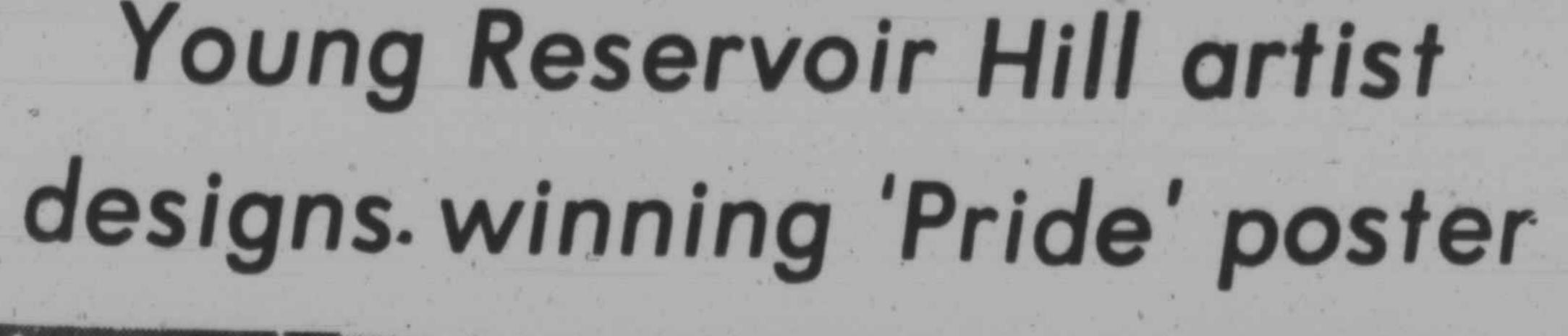




Photo by Roman Hankewycz

WINNING ASSIGNMENT - Maryland Institute senior LaVerne Ashford, 28, won top honors in the Inner Harbor. annual "Pride of Baltimore" poster contest. Ms.

Ashford will be honored in ceremony this Sunday in

By Sue Williams AFRO Staff Writer

La Verne Ashford is a lady who about battles and victories For the past ten years, the tall. quiet woman, with big brown. heavily lashed eyes and honey brown skin, has waged a battle against sickle cell anemia and Hodgkins disease. Radiation treatments for the Hodgkins resulted in such drastic destruction of her mip bone that she eventually had to have a total hip prosthesis. She tires easily still, she says, and has learned to

take one day at a time—with joy. It has been those battles that have made her a fighter who is determined to win. And so her winning the Pride of Baltimore poster contest this year, beating the battles of doing poster work which can be quite tedious, she says, might be called just part of

her character. "I was surprised," she giggled, lowering her eyes and shrugging her shoulders in a gesture of shyness. A senior graphics student at the Maryland Institute of Art, LaVerne had not been particularly impressed with the assignment given to the class by her graphics instructor. She had toyed with concepts, she says, for about two weeks, when finally the day had come down to produce. . And she did. In one day.

"The day I found out I won," she recalled, sinking into her living room sofa, "I was in sort of a bad mood.

"I went into my photo-graphics class and my classmates said they had just been talking about me. I grumped...I wanted to know what they had been saying."

She had been one of the last and her bad mood, which was by people to turn her poster in, so, she figured, they could have been talking about her tardiness, the poster itself . . . she didn't know.

"When they told me to go to the office, I really got nervous," she said. "I knew that I had been late,

but I didn't want to get in

Rather timidly, she took herself

now becoming worse...to the office, where she was told she was the winner.

"I was surprised," she laughed quietly. "I had seen a lot of good designs, so I was really surprised when my idea won. I guess the

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Franklin High white students racial epithets ruin ballgame

Michael A. Crawley

A baseball game between Milford Mill Senior High and Franklin Senior High was halted after the fourth inning to avoid an impending racial confrontation between students.

During the game, held April 24, at Franklin Senior High, student spectators made racial statements to several of Milford's black palyers.

One parent of a Milford baseball player stated that such names as 'jungle bunnies," "watermelon seeds," and "nigger" were used as well other forms of harassment.

Franklin Senior High Principal Ken Flekinger stated that he met

Milford Mill team did not tolerate insults

with Milford Mill Principal Dr. Andrew Dotterweich Thursday morning and plans to meet with the teams next week.

"We're trying to sort out what happened. There's never been an incident like this before, not in my three-year tenure. I'm really

Flekinger added that he was not present at the game but was informed that some of the spectators made racial comments.

"Apparently the Milford coach halted the game because he felt the comments were extremely derogatory," said Flekinger.

Following the fourth inning, the coach, David Wright, called the players to the side and asked them if they wanted to continue the game. The players responded that they did not want to remain at the school.

Franklin Senior predominantly white and Milford Mill is racially balanced.

Neither Dr. Dotterweich or Coach Wright at Milford Mill were available for comment.



COME FLY A KITE read the invitation to the AFRO Clean Block Leadership Meeting last Friday. Above, Mrs. E VA

Burgess (L) of Mosher Street and Fletcher Crews of E. Lafayette help kick off KOOL Days in Baltimore.

Elderly couple fights to hold valuable county land

By Sue Williams AFRO Staff Writer

An elderly black couple is fighting to retain ownership of their Howard County land this week, which apparently was offered for sale without their consent by the man who was once their personal attorney.

James Tyler, 79, and his wife, Lucy, 76, testified in Howard County Circuit Court that they never gave their former attorney, Charles Reese, authorization to sell the 17.26 acres of land located Triadelphia Road in

Clarksville. What they were after, they say, is the deed and the title to the land, which was purchased by James Tyler's grandparents in 1872. According to the testimony of the Tylers and friends who tried to help the couple get the title to their land, Reese began sale of the land without the knowledge or consent of the owners and was successful in procuring a buyer for the property, a Howard

County attorney, who has offered

to buy the land for \$45,500. The lawyers for the Tylers have charged that there has been fraud and collusion between Reese and the buyer, E. Alexander Adams. and that an attempt has been made to sell the land at a value below its going market value.

The problems with the land apparently began when Carrie Howard Tyler, the mother of James, died in 1976. Mrs. Tyler, according to her daughter-in-law Lucy, used to carry the title to the property with her in her pocketbook.

When she died in 1976 and willed the property to her son and his wife, the new owners began, on the advice of their attorney at that time, O.T. Nichols, to search for the title.

That search was fruitless, and when Nichols died, the matter was turned over to Reese on the advice of Nichols' widow: According Richard

Beauchemin, the attoreny for

Tyler, the old man apparently relinquished all his matters over to Reese, and renounced the right to represent himself. At that time, Reese became the personal representative as well as the personal attorney for the couple

Under Maryland law, a personal representative is not bound to advise his client of any action he is about to take on any property or belongings of that client. The assumption is made in the law that as personal representative, he has the best interest of the client in mind and that the client is unable, for one reason or another, to handle such matters

But as personal attorney to the Tylers as well as personal representative, Reese did have an obligation to consult with his clients on any and all matters pertaining to their property. Whether he in fact did consult with them to a degree that the couple understood what he intended to do is a point in dispute, says the Tylers' attorney.

In his testimony, Reese, a medium-built man with closecropped dark hair and sharp features, said that he, as had his predecessor, had many problems in trying to locate the title for the property.

The matter was not of grave concern until Mr. Tyler, frustrated that the search for the title was taking as long as it was, confronted Reese in 1977 and said he wanted a new attorney.

At that time, Reese said, he offered Tyler the option of getting a quick claim title and thus have the property conveyed to him, or selling the property and getting the money.

Reese said that Tyler opted to authorize him to get the matter of the title resolved. Reese did not say that at that juncture, Tyler said anything about authorizing a sale of the land.

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COUPLE FIGHTS AGAINST ODDS. - Mr. and Mrs. James Tyler are fighting for property in Howard County courts this week. Property was willed to Mr. Tyler

by his mother. Carrie Howard Tyler, in 1872. Property was allegedly sold to white couple by former attorney for the Tylers.