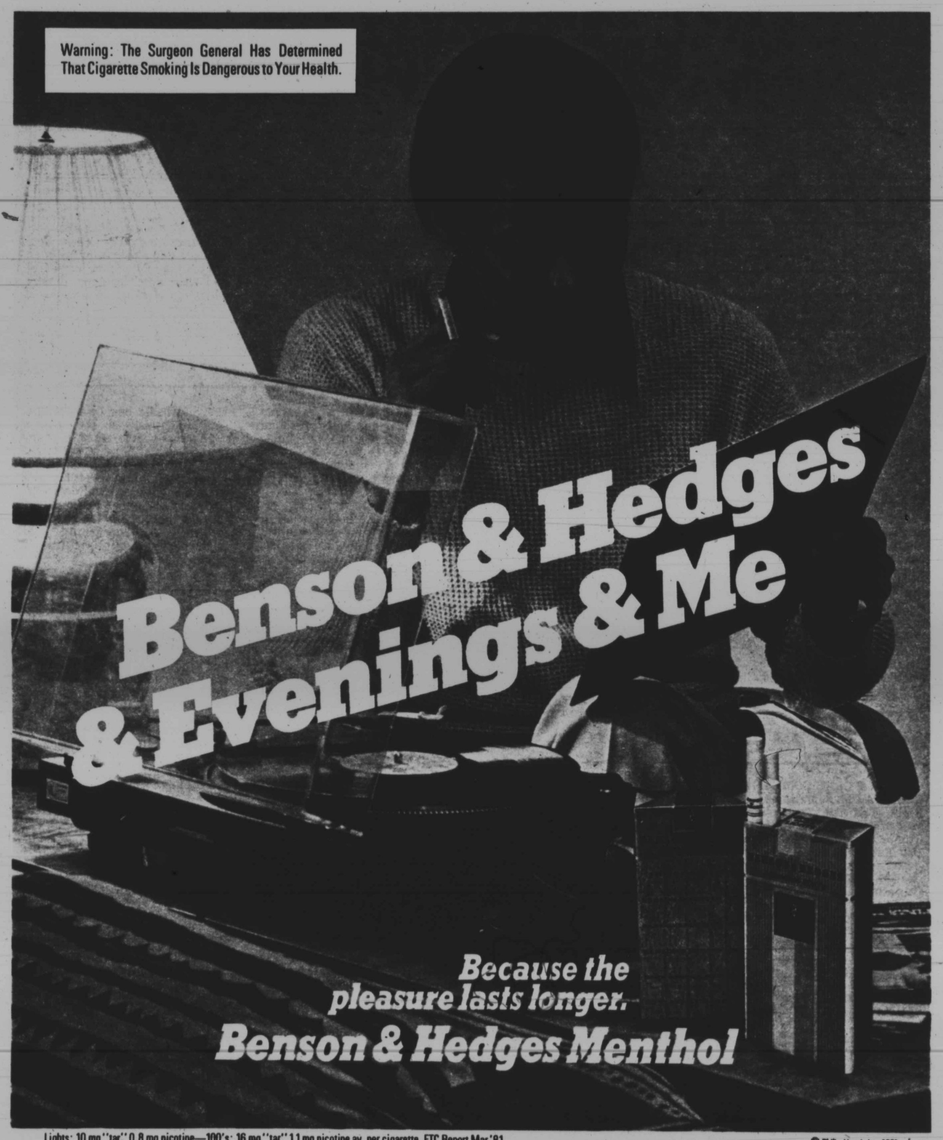

Are local politicians 'soft on crime?'

YES! charges Rev. Crosse

NO! replies Del. Rawlings

Crosse seeks city-wide anti-crime effort

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Saying that black politicians have been "soft" on crime, a local minister says he will seek community involvement to help stem the rising crime rate here.

The Rev. St. George Crosse said he is in the process of getting community organizations together from all over the city to form a citizen's coalition against crime.

The coalition, he said, will prepare a position paper to be presented to politicians and law enforcement officers on what community residents would like to see done about the surge in violent crime.

Crosse said the group will take its concerns to the Legislative Black Caucus to make sure they understand what the citizens want.

He said the Caucus will "either act or not be re-elected to office."

Among the measures the coalition will support, Crosse said, will be mandatory sentencing, the death penalty, and strict police enforcement of the law.

"Black politicians have been afraid to speak out on law and order," Crosse said, "because it sounds racist and conservative.

"But," he said, "you have to enforce the law," adding that the silence of black elected officials has been equivalent to their condoning the situation.

As a result of the coalition's full-out support of the police department (we will support whatever they have to do to maintain the law, Crosse maintains), the outspoken political figure says he is not afraid of increased police brutality.

"There's no need to worry about police brutality," he said. "With people like Bishop Robinson in high places, I don't think there's going to be a problem."

Crosse said, however, that if there were reports of brutality, "it will be dealt with."

At least one local politician took issue with Crosse's remarks, intimating that a political forum may be being created at the expense of the emotions of the people.

"I think it's a lot of hogwash that black politicians are soft on crime," said Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings, D-40.

Rawlings cited the record of the black members of the Maryland General Assembly on the issue of crime and its prevention, including their support for more appropriations for prison construction, among others.

"There are some politicians who have genuine concerns," Rawlings said slowly, "that we don't warehouse criminals, especially since a lot of them are black men.

(Continued on Page 21)

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 90TH YEAR

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More arrests in Dr. Phillips murder?

Victim's relative punches McDonald's killer in court

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Security guards had to restrain an eyewitness Wednesday in the Martin Scott murder trial when she was asked to identify the man who shot her brother.

Mrs. Sunchea Shin a Korean, who worked at the Eager Street grocery store with her brother and husband attempted to leave the witness stand and hit Scott, who was seated at the trial table between his attorney Thomas J. Saunders and a law clerk.

Scott, 26, was found guilty Oct. 1, by a criminal court jury of six men and six women in the death of Glenn Harrod, a 20-year-old McDonald's employee who was killed while working at the York Road restaurant last November.

He was found guilty of assault with intent to murder the night manager of McDonald's, armed robbery and handgun violation.

Judge Peter D. Ward ruled that if Scott was found guilty of murder in the McDonald's case, the prosecutors would be allowed to introduce evidence linking the defendant to two other murders he is charged with.

Mrs. Shin was in court to testify about the slaying of her relative Jung Gu So who was shot to death Nov. 26 in his Eager Street grocery store.

Scott is also charged with the death of John Hiotis, who was killed Nov. 12 at his Greek carry-out shop in the 800 block of Greenmount Ave. Scott is alleged to have been the trigger man in each of the murders. Both men were shot to death after they gave the suspect their money.

Assistant State's Attorney James Salkin told Mrs. Shin to tell the jury how her brother was killed. With a quiver in her voice, seated on the witness stand, Mrs. Shin said, "The gunman looked for money everywhere while the other man held his hands over my brother's head.

"One man took a gun and pointed the gun at my brother's head. I pushed the emergency button for the police. One man beat my brother with a gun. The gunman pointed the gun at me. I opened the cash register and gave him the money."

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Welfare righters suing state for 'neglect' of needy

By Patricia Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

The State of Maryland is being sued by a Baltimore Welfare rights group who is charging the state with "neglect" of the needy.

At a Wednesday morning news conference, representatives of the Baltimore Welfare Rights organization (BWRO) said a class action suit was filed against the "responsible parties for the State of Maryland who failed to provide proper and adequate notice to the 35,000 persons whose public assistance was terminated on Oct. 1."

BWRO representative Paulette Harris said the suit's purpose is to ensure such actions by the state will not happen again. The suit was filed in Maryland District Court on Oct. 13.

Ms. Harris said state law requires a notice period of 10 days before an "adverse action" by the state occurs. A statement prepared by the BWRO and read during the 35 minute news conference claimed the state neglected those on public assistance and caused them unnecessary hardship.

"Due to the neglect of the state, households were completely cut off from receiving any monies, food stamps and medical assistance...this caused undue hardship on citizens of Maryland. It caused evictions, foodlessness and other emergency situations to occur," the statement said.

According to Ms. Harris, notices terminating 35,000 residents from welfare benefits were mailed by the state on Sept. 29. The notices and resultant cut offs were illegal, the BWRO claim, and the group seeks damages in behalf of "recipients."

Maryland officials have acknowledged they failed to meet certain technical requirements in the termination notices. The Reagan Administration received a portion of the blame because it did not give the state adequate time to warn recipients of the changes.

The cut offs, affecting Marylanders in the state's Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, are based on stricter eligibility rules imposed by the Reagan Administration.

The rules were published Sept. 21 in the Federal Register, 10 days before they were to go into effect.

While an out of court settlement is possible, BWRO representatives said they are leaning toward going through with court Proceedings. This would provide a legal precedent for possible future run-ins with the state, they said.

State officials said they expect to restore October benefits to the cut off households. However, thousands of notices will be mailed to ineligible recipients to stop their November checks.

The state also is moving to determine those who no longer are eligible for public assistance and officials said they hope to have this Process completed by the end of December.

BWRO representative Susan Harris said even though the state has agreed to provide October benefits, no assurances have been made that the state will not try to collect those monies from recipients deemed ineligible at a later date.

"They're trying to clean it up by giving the 35,000 their October checks, but they're not saying what could happen later," Ms. Harris said.

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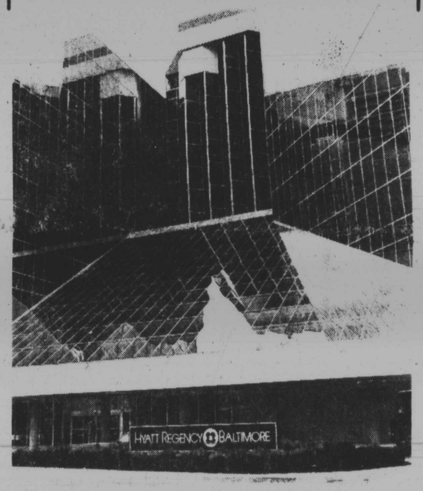
Congratulations AFRO

WHEN THE AFRO WAS A KID, back there in the 1890s like this youngster in the wicker baby buggy of that day, things were somewhat different. Besides such priceless photos as the one above, you will read in stories what it was like in the 1890s when you get your Special AFRO 90th Year Edition coming soon. Stories of long ago and what's happening now will make the 90th Year Edition a treasure to keep on your coffee table for a generation or two hence. Watch for it coming soon in your hometown paper, the AFRO.

Labor woes already?



Hotel union miffed with new Hyatt

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Hyatt Hotel officials this week have flatly denied they ever made an agreement with union officials to allow unionization of its employees, despite the union's claims to the contrary.

Representatives from the Bartenders, Hotel, Restaurant and Cafeteria Employees Union Local 36 told the AFRO this week that the hotel had reneged on an agreement to allow unionization of its employees.

According to George O'Reilly, international organizer for the union, the Hyatt management made the so-called agreement with union representatives in return for labor support needed for the hotel to secure $17.5 million in federal funds three years ago.

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Death gun found

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

The AFRO has learned that the gun used in the Sept. 21 murder of Dr. George Franklin Phillips Sr., well-known physician, was sold to a man who worked at a nursing home for $40.00

The man, sources revealed, who purchased the gun is on parole and testified before the grand jury last week.

The motive for the slaying of Dr. Phillips still remains a mystery. The AFRO has also learned police are trying to close in on a sixth person involved in the physician's death.

Dr. Phillips, 72, of the 1500 block Bentalou St., was shot and killed as he was about to get into his car and drive to Provident Hospital. He had planned to visit a patient scheduled for morning surgery when he was shot. According to police, nothing was taken from the victim.

Charged as adults with murder and being held at City Hall are Kevin P. Smith, 17, of the 1900 block Wheeler Ave.; Donald Braxton,16, 1500 block Payson St; Dean D. Wright, 16, 1800 block Payson St; Walter Vaughn, 18, 1700 block of Pulaski St. Bail was set at $100,000 bail by district court Judge James Bundy.

Gregory Brittingham, 14, the youngest to be arrested was also charged as an adult. His bail was set at $50,000. Brittingham lived a block away from Dr. Phillips.

Three of the teenagers who were arrested were Douglass High Students and two attended Carver. Several days after Dr. Phillips was killed, a group of physicians at Provident Hospital offered a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

After the reward was made public, police received a call from a man who gave them information that led to the arrest of the suspects. No trial date has been set.

Kids read by candlelight

Girl, 13, dies in house fire

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

A spokesman for the Gas and Electric Company said Mrs. Rebecca Anderson never applied for any assistance in paying her bill. However, relatives told the AFRO Mrs. Anderson was at the Gas and Electric Company last Tuesday asking for help when a fire ravaged her home leaving one child dead.

Mrs. Anderson, 32-year-old unemployed mother, a night club singer, was looking forward to starting her new job Monday night as a singer at a local club. She was trying to earn money to pay her $600 gas and electric bill.

Relatives told the AFRO, the family had been without gas and electric since June and was using kerosene lamps. According to an aunt, Mrs. Anderson and her children were forced to use candles Monday and Tuesday night because they did not have any oil for their lamps.

One of the Anderson children had been doing homework by candlelight in the family living room while brothers and sisters were sleeping in a second floor bedroom.

Fire investigators report the candle was still burning on the first floor. According to fire investigators, the candle must have fell on the carpet and caused a fire that spread quickly through the two story row house, leaving the family homeless and one dead.

Carl Anderson, 15, and his brother Michael, 14, managed to escape through a second floor back window. Their sisters were sleeping in the rear bedroom.

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New assault on Md. black colleges

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

The State Board for Higher Education's plan for revamping the state college system has met with mixed reactions from educational leaders, and for the most part, has left them in a state of confusion.

The plan, approved this week, recommends abolishing the Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities and would create an individual board for most institutions in the state.

However, under that same plan, Coppin State College and Morgan State University, which has its own independent board, would be served by the same board.

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