—3 fires in 3 days

Continued from page 1

The mother of the children, Mrs. Felicia Woodfork and her son, Robert Schaired, 17, escaped the blaze by climbing out of a second floor window of the two story rowhouse onto a porch roof and into a neighbor's window.

Capt. Flynn said Woodfork, a Bethlehem Steel employee, managed to get out of the house with his wife and son but returned when he heard his three daughters crying for help.

Woodfork and his oldest daughter Eritria, were found two feet from the second floor bedroom window that he had used to escape with his wife and son.

The youngest daughter, Janie was found by firemen at the head of the second floor steps and her sister Lolita was found in the basement where the roof had collapsed. The cause of death was smoke inhalation, according to the fire department.

With a quiver in his voice, Robert told the AFRO, "I don't remember how I got out of the house. I woke up and smelled smoke and thought everybody was out of the house. I remember grabbing my mother's arm. I wanted to go back in for my sisters."

Robert, a student at Edmondson High School said, "The porch was rotten, the ceiling needed to be repaired in the house. Relatives said there were no smoke detectors in the home.

Robert never had a chance to wear his new corduroy pants, jeans and new shirts he received for Christmas to school. Today, Robert and his mother are staying with friends in the 2900 block of Woodland Ave., and are in need of everything. Donations can be sent to Mrs. Woodfork at 2917 Woodland Ave.

Funeral services for the Woodforks will be held Sunday, Jan. 10 at William C. March Funeral Home. The family will receive friends at 4:30 p.m. and services will be held at 5 p.m.

Mrs. Mary Ford, grandmother of the Woodfork children described her grandaughters as "happy children who loved school."

Capt. Flynn said the Pimlico Road fire had been burning several minutes before firemen were called to the scene.

"We want people to have a fire escape plan and be sure there is more than one way out. You should always notify the fire department immediately if you suspect a fire," Capt. Flynn told the AFRO.

The Jan. 4 fire that was two miles west of Pimlico Road is still being investigated. The fire department reports that the fire started in a chair in a first floor rear room. Flynn says the people who live in the house claim no one smokes in the house.

For five years, 14-year-old David Corbin would visit his neighbor, Walter Hughes daily and run errands for him. Hughes, 78, lived with his sister Mrs. Blanche Johnson in the 1700 block of Moreland Ave.

Mr. Hughes, who had a lung disease and was unable to walk alone died in a one alarm fire after smoking in bed Jan. 6. Fire officials report his sister had left the house for a few minutes.

David's father called the fire department after he saw smoke coming from the house. Another neighbor crawled into the house and tried to rescue Mr. Hughes but it was too late. The fire department reports he died from smoke inhalation and was pronounced dead on the scene.

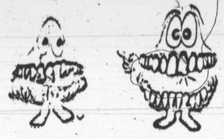
Del. Troy Brailey

FROM —
DELEGATE TROY BRAILEY

On Wednesday, January 13, 1982, the General Assembly of Maryland will convene in its 204th Annual Session. Thanks to you, my constituents of the 40th District, I will be completing my 16th year in this Honorable Body. I hope that I have and will continue to represent you well.

Authorize Clessie Brailey, Treas.

THE DENTAL OFFICE



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-Latest budget cuts

Continued from page 1

The program was established in 1967, Ms. Dennis said.

According to union contracts, employees with less seniority, in this case, the Eating Together staffers, will be replaced by the Special Home Services staffers.

Even though these employees already are working with elderly people their transfers to a new program will "take a whole new training process," Ms. Dennis said.

"Right now, we don't know how long it will take."

-Delegate protests

Continued from page 1

"Clearly the most viable black elected state official in northeast Baltimore has been placed in jeopardy by the redistricting proposal that is now before you which constitutes a demonition of black political strength in Baltimore City," Rawlings said in his letter.

Rawlings said the 1980 census reveals blacks constitute 23 percent of the state's population and blacks constitute 10.1 percent of the General Assembly.

"This establishes that, as a people, we are under-represented in the political affairs of state government.

"I believe that it is clearly in the interest of the state to increase the number of blacks and other minorities that participate in the political decisions of the General Assembly," he said.

—Woman found

Continued from page 1

Police said following several interviews with relatives, friends and neighbors of Shields, they arrested Bailey, who has been charged with first degree murder. He currently is being held without bond in a county detention center in Upper Marlboro.

—New SSA rules

Continued from page 1

However, the new law makes these changes:

You won't be eligible for any future benefit increases as will other beneficiaries.

The amount of future payments will be gradually reduced: 25 percent less starting with the September 1982 check; 50 percent less effective September 1983; 75 percent less effective September 1984; and no more checks for months after April 1985.

Students, who successfully enroll in a post secondary institution "will be able to participate fully or partially in (their high school) graduation activities," Ms. Boston said.

Successful completion of college courses "would fulfill high school requirements," she said.

Those seniors now receiving benefit checks, who have no plans to continue their education past graduation, should also be aware of the new SSA laws so they can make plans for their future because after May 1, "they cannot depend on the checks," Ms. Boston said.

Tougher juvenile laws wanted

The Baltimore County police chief and state's attorney joined citizens in calling for tougher criminal laws and easier prosecution of the juveniles they say are responsible for nearly half of all crimes.

At a Wednesday meeting of the Citizens Coalition Against Crime, State's Attorney Sandra O'Connor called for revisions in state law, saying "The juvenile justice system in Maryland need revamping. It is geared too much to the protection of the child."

She recommended that 14-year-olds automatically be tried as adults for first degree murder, first degree rape and first degree sexual assault. She also said 16 year-olds should be tried as adults for various offenses, including housebreaking, robbery and arson.

She also said the state's attorney's office should have a say in the prosecution of young criminals. Under current law the police and the juvenile services administration decide where an offender will be tried.

Forty-four percent of major crimes in the county last year were committed by people under 18 years old, said police Chief Cornelius Behaan, adding that 20 percent of the youths committing crimes were on parole or probation.

Behan said one specific change that could be introduced into the General Assembly would allow polies to make arrests in neighboring juridictions without fear of legal repercussion.

He also said juveniles who refuse to give their names to authorities after being identified by a complaining adult be taken into custody.

Such changes would "protect the public as well as the police officer," Behan said.

Dozens of county residents agreed the court system is too lax on juveniles and said laws should be made tougher.

Cultural Arts Classes open Jan. 18

The Urban Services Cultural Arts Program will shortly begin its new semester of music, art, dance and drama instruction. With classes and private lessons, this program serves inner city residents of all ages, and the cost is very low.

Also, the Cultural Arts Program has many concerts and events at three locations: Gallery 409 (downtown), Cherry Hill and Dunbar High Schools.

Classes will begin on Monday, Jan. 18.

—LETTERS—

Thanks Mrs. Santa

Dear AFRO:

We both want to thank you for being so kind with your best wishes to help us in our time of need.

Both of us are in not such good shape. I have Cancer of the lungs and my wife is just getting along due to a broken arm. She also is deaf and has cataracts. We are both under the doctor's care.

I'm sure I'll be able to get a good neighbor of ours to take us to the super market and get some food with the coupons you sent us. Thank you very much.

SC, Lombard St.

Dear Mrs. Santa:

Thank you very much for the Gift Certificate you sent me. I appreciated it very much.

F.F. Pier Port St.

Reagan briefed on MESBIC 6-point revitalization plan

President Reagan ended a recently held, two-hour briefing with the MESBIC industry leadership by telling them of his ongoing commitment to increasing the economic viability of the minority business community. In addition, he acknowledged the MESBIC industry and its trade organization, the Washington-based American Association of Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Companies (AAMESBIC), for the role they have played in support of his Administration's economic recovery program.

The President went on to say that the development of capital resources is vital to the growth and strengthening of minority businesses and urged the assembled group to continue to make investment capital available. Following the President's remarks, Patricia D. Jacobs, President of AAMESBIC, presented Reagan with the Association's six-point MESBIC Economic Revitalization Plan which they feel could maximize the effectiveness of the Administration's overall domestic recovery initiatives.

Preceding Reagan, the group heard from Murry Weidenbaum, chairman, Council of Economic Advisers, Norman B. Ture, under secretary of the Treasury for tax and economic affairs, Mrs. Elizabeth Dole, special assistant to the president for public liaison and Ms. Helene Duggan, deputy special assistant to the president in the office of public liaison.

Weidenbaum gave a report on the Administration's progress to date in slowing down the growth of inflation, their concentration on reducing high interest rates and the anticipated economic upturn in fy 83 and fy 84 after a relatively short recessionary period in fy 82. Ture commented on the Treasury Department's efforts to identify and neutralize impediments to business enterprise in the tax structure.

Questions from the participants to the speakers focused upon the administration's position on regulatory reform, tax incentives for small business, general minority business economic policy, and initiatives to expand the involvement by the private sector in the 301(d) investment company program administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Dan Smith, current chair of the White House Working Group for Small Business Policy and senior policy advisor to the president, office of policy development, was introduced to the group and encouraged the participants to keep in contact with his office to follow up on issues and policies that have an impact upon minority business development in specific, and small business in general.

Among those attending the briefing was: Herbert Wilkins, chairan, AAMESBIC Washington, D.C.

The American Association of MESBICs is an alliance of small business investment companies licensed by the Small Business Administration, under Section 301(d) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, to provide capital to businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged Americans. Total private capital investment in the MESBIC program exceeds $100 million.

NUL hits bill to build prisons, jails in States

The National Urban League has sharply criticized a bill now in Congress that would provide more than $6 billion over the next seven years for jail and prison construction by local and state governments.

In written testimony recently submitted to the Senate Subcommittee on Criminal Law, League Vice President Maudine R. Cooper said the legislation, by providing funds to build more prison cells, would deny allocations for community crime prevention programs, rehabilitation services and job training.

"Needless to say, programs such as these have undisputed correlation to the need for prisons in the first place. Moreover, such funds have proven far more cost-effective than prison cells, which now cost more than $70,000 per bed in many locations," said Ms. Cooper, who heads the League's Washington Operations office.

Supporters claim the bill, S. 186, would help combat prison overcrowding and also clamp down on those who are slipping through the net of the criminal justice system.

But Ms. Cooper took issue with that assumption, saying, "While these objections appear to be laudable on the surface, the National Urban League rejects the notion that the effect and not the cause must be treated.

In fact, we find such a strategy particularly ironic in a year in which Congress has taken money away from our job training programs, away from our income maintenance and child support programs, away from our energy and housing subsidy programs, and away from our education programs.

"By anyone's logic, prison populations are constituted largely by the have-nots, a group which Congress allowed to expand by its massive cuts in lifeline services," she said.

Blacks today make up an absurdly disproportionate number of inmates in federal and state penitentiaries. According to the Justice Department, while blacks comprise little more than 11 percent of the overall population, blacks make up more than 47 percent of America's prison population.

"If overcrowding is the issue, in our view the money would be far better spent by providing alternatives to incarceration, including adequate vocational education programs to reduce the now appalling recidivism rate . . . . To sustain the values and well-being of our society, our energies must be spent on causes, not effects; on our fellow citizens, not on prison walls," Ms. Cooper said.

It's hard to visualize what a population explosion looks like. Just think about it this way: there are more people alive at this moment than have lived and died since Homo sapiens first appeared.

Americans are not known for saving for a rainy day. A mere 6.3 percent of our disposable income finds its way into savings, in comparison with 23 percent in Italy, 22 percent in Japan, 17 percent in France and 10 percent in Canada.

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ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE FOR ADVANCE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association will be held in the Home Office of the Association, 1405 East Cold-spring Lane, Baltimore, Maryland 21239, on January 20, 1982, at 2:00 p.m., for the purpose of electing directors, and for transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

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Angels honor fallen New Jersey comrade

As the Guardian Angels stood huddled together their faces reflected the light that was, for the moment, cast upon them Tuesday night; the glare from two mini-cam television cameras; the public light from the halogen streetlamps in front of city hall, and the flickering light from the candles clasped in their hands.

Members of the Baltimore Guardian Angels staged a candlelight vigil in memory of Frank Melvin, the 26-year-old Newark N.J. Angel killed by a police officer Dec. 30 while on an anti-crime patrol in Newark.

The Angels, numbering about 20 and led by 28- year-old Reginald King, gathered in front of City Hall for about two hours Tuesday night and held candles, said prayers and bowed their heads before a flag-draped mock casket in a demonstration of sympathy for the slain Melvin.

"We have lost a family member ... a family member who died in the act of trying to protect another member," one Angel said.

The Baltimore chapter does not consider a deterioration in its relationship with the police a serious possibility, an Angel spokesperson said.

She said relations with the police were good in Baltimore and a shooting here is unlikely. The Baltimore chapter is working to expand communications with the police, informing them of when and where they will patrol to reduce the possibility of mistaken-identity mishaps.

In their comments the Angels seemed to adopt a positive outlook, downplaying suggestions of negative results of the Newark shooting.

A few people looked on during the vigil, braving the cold.

One bystander was impressed by what she perceived as a genuine concern for a fellow human being, a spirit she said is encouraging to see in young people.

She seemed to see a glimmer of hope for the future reflected in the faces of the youths who stood in the night with candles in their hands, determined people who refuse to curse the darkness.

School No. 250 — Dr. Bernard Harris Elementary visited AFRO Mrs. Santa in December. Ms. Ruth Browne is principal; teacher, Ms. Sylvia Carter Michie. Students were Delvonne Brown, Karen Jones, Dennis Smith, Jermaine Southern, Edward Watters, Stephanie Wilkins and Steven Wilkins. Parents were Mrs. Cruise, Ms. Wilkins and Mrs. Bessie Jones. (Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

Dixon blasts Klan sentence

Del. Isiah Dixon Jr., (D-Baltimore) is upset over the sentence handed down by a Harford County judge in a case involving two members of the Ku Klux Klan convicted of cross burning.

Although Judge Brandnax Cameron called cross burning an extremely serious crime, Del Dixon said this concern was not reflected in the sentence that was imposed.

Del. Dixon, who is a member of the governor's task force on Violence and Extremism and also sponsor of the law making cross burning a felony, feels that sentences such as this does not serve as a deterrent to others with similar ideas.

Tenant beaten, landlord arrested

A landlord is accused of severely beating a tenant because the man said he would not pay the rent until his hot water and heat were turned on, police said.

"The tenant was thumped on the head because he wouldn't pay his rent. He told the landlord he would pay when the heat and hot water were back in operation," said police spokesman Mike Bass. "The discussion turned into an argument and the tenant was hit in the back of the head with a carpenter's level."

Richard Johnson, 48, who rented a second floor apartment in the house, was in good condition Wednesday at Union Memorial Hospital with a fractured skull and broken ribs after he was beaten and hit on the head, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Police said Lois Faulkner, 48, who shared the apartment with Johnson, was treated for injuries she received when she was pushed down a flight of steps. Ms. Faulker was released from the hospital.

The landlord, Anthony Penello, 35, was arrested at his apartment on the building's first floor and charged with assault.

Penello's girlfriend, Cheryl Stump, 38, was arrested on a warrant charging her with assaulting Ms. Faulkner and threatening to kill the woman with a butcher knife, Bass said.

Walbrook to play at Towson

The Walbrook Warriors, girls basketball power of Baltimore will get the competition it has been seeking this year, perhaps, when it faces Philadelphia's high school champions, University City High next Friday, Jan. 15 in the Towson State University Invitational Tournament.

Friday night will see Walbrook and University City square off at six p.m., and Towson Catholic face D.C.'s Ballou.

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