Drinking age bill hearing draws crowd to Annapolis

Annapolis — Crowds of educators, parents, students, police and other citizens packed a senate hearing room Thursday for a hearing on moves to raise the legal drinking age.

The arguments were familiar to people on both sides of the issue, with proponents asking for a return of the legal age to the 1974 level of 21 and opponents of a series of bills asking the age be kept at 18.

Last week, the House Judiciary Committee heard more thann four hours of testimony. The Senate's version was a little shorter, but no less emotional.

There was little doubt the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee would pass the 21 - year - old recommendation onto the full Senate because six of the eight committee members are sponsors of the bill.

The consensus in the halls of the State House is the drinking age will be raised this year, either to 19 or 21.

"I think this whole thing is rigged," opponent Harry Seigel said, a 19-year-old Maryland student.

"Last week we had to wait three hours before testifying to the House Committee and today it's the same thing. By the time we get a chance to make our case all the television cameras have packed up and all the reporters are gone," he said.

Many of the 26 senators sponsoring the legislation said it would cut down fatalities and help reduce the drinking problem in the schools.

"Raising the drinking age won't get at the heart of the problem," Seigel countered. "It will just turn Maryland into a state made up of commuting drinkers. They can make the legal age 21, but no where in the state will an underage drinker be more than 90 miles from a state where the legal age is 18."

In Virginia, the on-premise drinking age is 18, in West Virginia and the District of Columbia it's also 18. In Delaware, the legal age is 20.

Leading supporters of raising the age was Sen. Erle Schaefer, D-Anne Arundel, who said a host of statistics from other states proved "raising the drinking age will save lives."

"And drinking in the high schools is the number one problem in the state. We've got to stop this and we've got to reduce the carnage on the highways," he said.

Another supporter was Sen. Cornell Dypski, D-Baltimore, who said his father and brother were killed in accidents involving drunken drivers.

"The kids don't carry a bottle of milk to school anymore, they carry a six-pack," he said.

One opponent on the Senate Committee, Sen. Clarence Mitchell, D-Baltimore, said, "it doesn't make sense to tell an 18-year-old he can own property and enter into contractual agreements, then turn around and say he can't have a drink.

"Besides, the bulk of the abuse is among older adults, maybe we ought to go back to prohibition," he said.

"I'll let you introduce that bill," Schaefer retorted, drawing laughter from the 150 people who squeezed into the hearing room. - (UPI)

North Carolina Mutual assists in fund of King Special

A portion of the funding for the Jan. 15 nationally - televised Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) special "Martin Luther King: We Shall Not Forget," was contributed by the nation's top black life insurance company, North Carolina Mutual.

The Durham, North Carolina firm donated $5,000 toward the development of the one-hour special by Howard University's WHMM-TV. According to company-officials, it was the first time that North Carolina Mutual had ever partially underwritten a nationally - televised show.

The occasion was also the first time in WHMM's one-year history that the station had solely produced a program carried by most of PBS' 200 stations throughout the country.

In regard to the life insurance company's donation, WHMM general manager Arnold Wallace said, "It is most significant that North Carolina Mutual, one of America's premier black companies, would come forth to assist the efforts of the nation's only black ?B? S television station in producing such an important program.

"It is our hope that other such firms will follow their example and demonstrated commitment."

North Carolina Mutual was joined by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Warner-Amex in underwriting the special which highlighted this year's activities in Atlanta, Georgia and Washington honoring the late Dr. King's 53rd birthday.

Leslie's loss

Leslie Allen, leading black player on the women's pro tennis tour, bowed out in the first round of this week's Avon stop at Seattle, Wash.

Allen lost, 6 - 4, 6 - 3, to Sharon Walsh of Novato, CA.

Eight hurt in fire

Eight people including three firefighters were injured this week in a two alarm fire that destroyed a three story home in South Baltimore, authorities said.

Deputy Fire Chief Francis Ticha said the three firefighters were injured when a ceiling collapsed. James McIhinney, Richard Donohue and Alan Bramble were rushed to City Hospital, where they were still being treated.

Their injuries were not serious, fire officials said.

Marshal Goble, 29, suffered back, arm and wrist injuries and burns to the right arm, Ticha said, and was listed in fair condition at City Hospital. Four of her children were treated at the same hospital for minor injuries and later released, a hospital nurse said.

Investigators looked into the cause of the blaze. It took about 90 minutes for 65 firefighters to bring the fire under control. Ticha said the fire apparently started on the first floor.

Gems lost after arrest

A woman arrested New Year's night on a disorderly charge sued Anne Arundel County and claimed its authorities were responsible for the loss of $18,100 worth of jewelry.

In a suit filed this week, Terrie Marie Christian, 27, of Odenton, said she handed over 13 rings and a locket to authorities following her Jan. 1 arrest at the starting gate lounge near Maryland City. She said the jewelry vanished from supposed safekeeping during her stay in county jail.

Capt. Curtis R. Nunn, a police spokesman, said the department is "not conceding" Ms. Christian's assessment of the jewelry's value.

He added, however, that the department is "not denying that it is missing. We can't produce it."

An internal investigation has begun to determine what happened to the jewelry, Munn said.

Ms. Christian was released from jail Jan. 4 after having a $2,250 bond posted on her behalf.

EEOC reaches settlement

An out-of-court settlement has been reached between the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) and the Washington Metropolitan Printing Industry and some of its unions in a class action suit filed by the Commission.

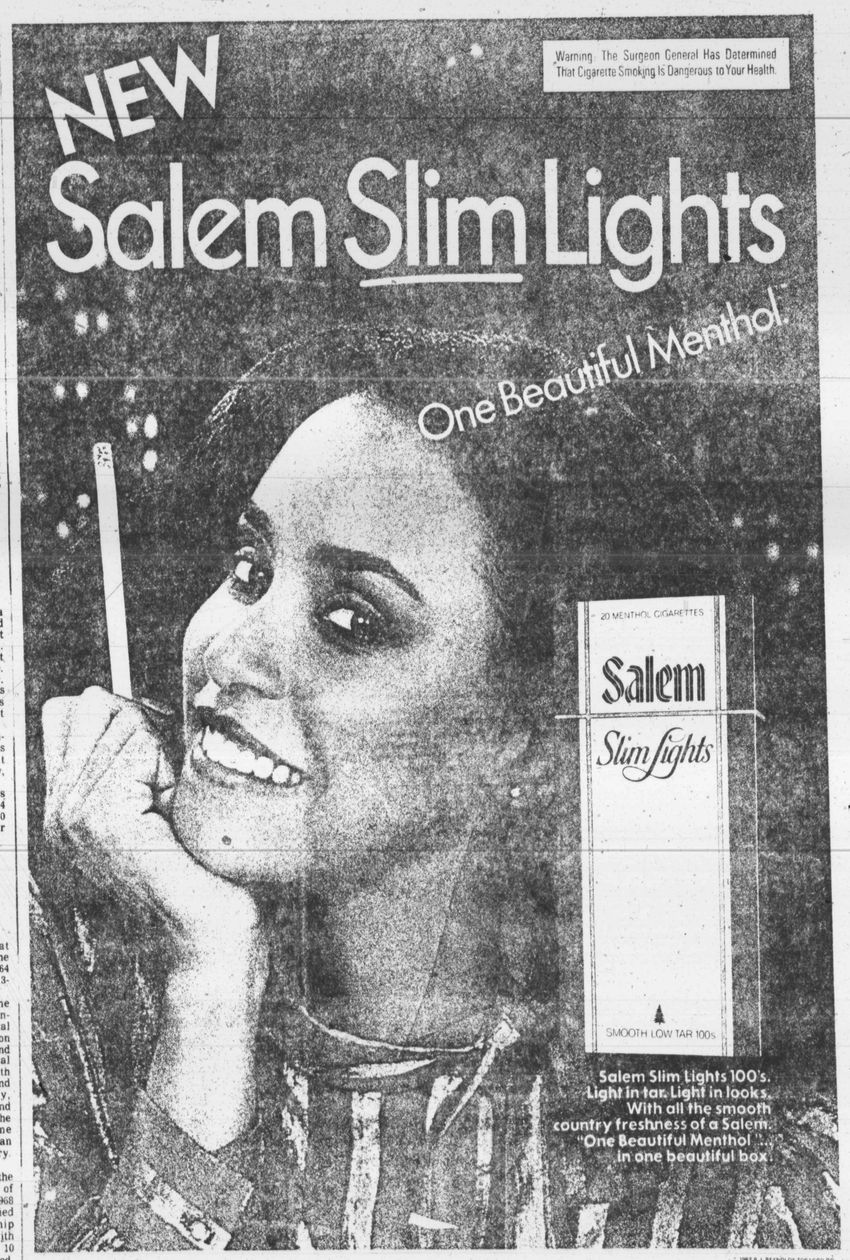
U.S. District Court Judge Charles Richey will decide the legality of the settlement on Friday, Feb. 12 in his courtroom. The settlement calls for a Training School, more entry-level positions, four new openings for journeymen and a $300,000 fund for black employees. Also for a separate fund to be established for those employees who hired counsel for their class action suit.

The suit, filed in 1973, claimed that blacks and women were being discriminated against by the printing industry in recruitment and placement. The EEOC contended in the suit that the industry violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and D.C. Code Section 13-422(a).

Two unions- The Graphic Arts International Union, Local 42B and the Washington Printing Specialities and Paper Products, Local 449 filed complaints with the EEOC in 1973 and 1979, respectively, claiming that blacks and women were denied the opportunity to become journeymen craftsman in the printing industry.

Robert Anistead, the elected president of Local 449 between 1968 and 1974, said he applied for an apprenticeship with Merkle Press, with whom he worked for 10 years, and was denied.

Aaron Treadwell, who worked for Judd & Detweiler for nine years as a jogger, claimed he was twice denied an apprenticeship position. Both of these men were part of the suit.



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OUR WORLD

★ PARTYLINE ★ PACESETTERS ★ PEOPLE

Lambda Kappa Mu observes annual Founders' Day

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Women's Editor

DEspite the horrendous weather on Saturday, Jan. 23 nearly 200 folks, (sorors and their guests) turned out for the annual Founder's Day of the Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Iota Chapter, held at Blue Crest North at 12 noon.

Neither snow nor ice nor bitterly cold temperatures stopped the celebration of this sorority of black business and professional women which was orginally founded in New York in 1937 by the late Florence K. Williamson Norman, and which devotes itself to scholarship efforts and community service.

The growth of the organization has now extended to 16 states — New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusettes, Michgan, Wisconsin,

(Continued on Page 11)

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY RESIDENT CONDUCTOR William Curray (C) receives the Lambda Kappa Mu (Iota Chapter's) Community Award from Mrs. Ovella Queen, Awards Chair (L) and Mrs. Marie Dowell, chapter basileus, during the sorority's annual Founders' Day held at Blue Crest North Saturday, Jan. 23.

(AFRO Photos by Roman Hankewycz)

IOTA's CHAPTER AWARD is presented to Mrs. Fannie Ewell (R) by Mrs. Shirley Watkins, Founders' Day Chair.

OUTSTANDING KOPELLE AWARD is garnered by Miss Sheron Nixon, 17 (C). Presenting is Mrs. Elaine Alexander, (L) coordinator Iota Kopelles as proud parents Mr. and Mrs. George Nixon (Bertha) look on.

SOME IOTA CHAPTER KOPELLES caught by the AFRO photographer are (front row, L to R): Emily Lee, Lisa Mack, Bunny Queen, Roxanna Brooks and Alnita Anderson; (back row, L to R): Kathy Wilmer, Rhonda Johnson, Sheli Fleming, Kelly Jones and Keli Fleming.

DANCIN' THE NIGHT AWAY during the Supper - Dance hosted by the W.N.M. social club Saturday, Jan. 23 at La Fontaine Bleu are (left panel, L to R): Nikki Randolph and Edward McDaniels; (Right panel, L to R): Dorothy and John "Junky" Wood.

W.N.M. CONVIVIALITY is being enjoyed by (L to R): Louise G. Murphy, Bernice McDaniels and Gloria Carpenter.

W.N.M.'s host Supper Dance

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Women's Editor

More than 100 guests braved the "extremely Wintry" weather Saturday, Jan. 23 to attend the W.N.M.'s Supper - Dance held at La Fontaine Bleu, Erdman Ave.

The Black - Tie affair was elegant and fun as club members and their guests feasted on delicacies (the 'Piece - d - Resistance' being breast of chicken stuffed with crabmeat), sipped cocktails and danced the night away to the lively tunes of Dennis Fisher.

To add to the gorgeously bedecked and bejeweled guests' festive mood, each table was decorated with a special individually designed floral piece.

One guest remarked of the food: "It was one of the best meals I have ever had."

Many must have echoed his sentiments as all who came to partake at 8 p.m. stayed on and on to enjoy.

Members of the W.N.M!'s, a social club of long standing in Charm City, are Gwendolyn Carter, Kay Carter, Robbie Chissell, Gladys Daniels, Toy Harris, Norma Maiden, Helen Odom, Barbara Patterson, Hortense Perkins, Nikki Randolph, Ellsworth Rhetta and Merita Stokes.

Partyline

Super-Bowl bash hosted by the Judes

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Women's Editor

Among the many Super - Bowl parties was a super, super bash given by the Judes — George and Vashti - at Gatsbys (N. Charles St.) on Super Sunday, Jan 24.

Their many friends who gathered around four TVs in the elegant Billy Holiday Room included Milton and Doreva Stanley, Marsden and Annabelle Rawlings, Dave and Bea Wright, Ralph and Marian Smith, Elroy and Mable Young, Bruce and Ella Edemy, Quentin and Louise Lawson, Al and Janet Woolridge, Paul and Bettye Moss, Errol and Mildred Taylor, John and Camay Murphy;

Also Aaron and Mary Ellis, Royal and Hermione Weaver, George and Juliette Carter, Billy and Marguarite Carroll, Ben and Adele Forman, Regland and Dot Matthews, Ben Brown, Dave Turner and Cliff Murray.

The bar was open and between bites of stuffed rockfish, a la Johnathon Edges, roast beef and all the trimmings guests placed their wagers in a pool for the closest score for the winner.

Although Cincinatti was the favorite Hermonie Weaver and Ben Forman walked off with the winnings by picking the 49ers by 28 - 21 score.

HOSTESS AND DAUGHTERS — Mrs. L. Vashti Jude and daughters (L to R) Elise J. Mason and Laura J. Gardner pose happily during the super zsuper Bowl Bash hosted by George and Vashti at The Gatsby's, 1800 N. Charles St., Sunday, Jan. 24.