Prison workers warned of over-crowding hazards

Sexual assault on social worker dramatized long standing complaints

The recent sexual attack on a woman social worker at the Maryland Reception - Diagnostic and Classification Center (MRDCC), dramatizes long - standing complaints lodged by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Maryland Classified Employees Association (MCEA) against the state prison system.

For years representatives of these groups said they have been complaining about the understaffing of correctional officers in over-crowded prisons.

The state's recent crime crackdown by state officials, tighter prison policies and more prison terms, forced a 27 percent increase in the inmate population in Maryland's already over-crowded prisons.

According to MCEA Labor Relations Representative, Ricardo R. Silva, the security problems at the MRDCC continuously were brought to the attention of state authorities.

"MCEA informed the Commissioner (Corrections Commissioner Jon Galley) in June last year that the new Reception Center needed several architectural improvements to eliminate its blind corners.

"We also insisted that the Administration have two officers in each (pod) (bi-level cell-blocks housing inmates with 12 units and offices out of the line of sight of the security officer guarding the area) area continuously.

"One officer should cover the control desk and the other officer should make rounds of all remaining areas in the pod," Sliwa said.

Last summer, MCEA claims they voiced their concern over the design and staffing of the MRDCC.

AFSCME Assistant Director, William Bolander concurs, the Center had "blind areas," where there was "vision obstruction" and a person could be attacked.

Prison security guards have said they are upset over the frequent and increased number of attacks on them by inmates.

AFSCME Local 1678 President, Ed Davis, said the proof of such attacks can be found in the spiraling cost of the Accident Leave Bill passed in the Maryland legislature last year.

Davis said that bill, supported by AFSCME, was funded at $1 million per year to give up to one year of recuperation time to state workers injured on the job (without any loss or reduction from earned leave time).

Maryland lawmakers now are haggling over continuing the program which has skyrocketed in cost to $2 and one half million.

At the Maryland House of Corrections alone, according to Davis, the 1977-78 calendar year averaged 25-30 inmate attacks on officers per month. In the 1981 calendar year, however, he said the figures jumped to 45-50 attacks monthly.

Davis said the fact the Maryland prison system was designed to accommodate 7,000 inmates when it actually houses 9,000 prisoners, can only exacerbate attacks on officers.

State proposals to place inmates in County prison facilities receives MCEA support. Executive Director, Joseph Adler said, "anything that can lighten the load" would receive MCEA backing.

He conceded however, "It's not a long term solution. They're going to have to send inmates there or build a new prison, because the system is bursting at the seams."

This is not good enough for AFSCME's Ed Davis. According to the Maryland House of Corrections security guard, that plan costs "the taxpayer more money everyday."

"In the state prisons, it costs $15-18 a day (to house inmates) and now you're talking about paying the premium rate to house a man in a local detention center for a maximum of $35 a day," Davis said.

"That's twice as much. And who pays for (prison) management's negligence but the taxpayer," he asked.

A common cry of both organizations is the purported attempt by prison authorities to make guards the scapegoats when there are inmate break-outs.

Bolander cites as an example, correctional officer, Herbert Mays, who was suspended for 10 days without pay for last June's House of Corrections escape of two prisoners.

The State Personnel Office recently returned Mays his back pay and rescinded the suspension, because the officer had six tiers of prisoners (294) to guard alone, and in light of that, there was no evidence of negligence on his part.

The state prison authorities covertly have cut the staff of prison guards by moving them from one prison to another, Davis said.

He cites a proposed reduction of the House of Corrections Annex Staff by 10 percent last year. According to the AFSCME President, prison authorities had planned to take 26 guards to send to the Maryland Correctional Institute for women, where 50 guards are needed.

After a press conference and AFSCME complaints, only eight guards were transferred to the women's facility. That left the House of Corrections with 215 guards instead of the 223 correctional officers — with no prospects of refilling those slots, the union chief said. What is the Solution?

MCEA's Executive Director said the union is scheduled to meet with Maryland Speaker of the House, Benjamin L. Cardin, to discuss appointing a joint committee to investigate the security needs of the correctional system and to urge that more money be pumped into the system.

MCEA's recent meeting with Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Tom Schmidt, netted some state cooperation: more two-way radios will be provided to replace broken ones, and the pledge to test new security devices which will be utilized if within state budget constraints.

In the next few days, Davis says, AFSCME will file a grievance stipulating due to the shortage of staff and reduction in overtime, both prison employees and the general public are in jeopardy.

The union chief said the federal court case of Juan Coles vs. Mark Levin, et al., to support AFSCME contentions the state of Maryland has a duty and obligation to provide for the safety and security of inmates, as well as employees and the general public.

AFSCME has gone still further in its crusade against the persistent crowded conditions.

Bolander says a bill is being drafted to demand the ratio of corrections officers and inmates be at least three prisoners to one security officer.

That may offer some hope for the people working in Maryland's prisons. If it does not pass, they will have only 95 new prison guards, allotted in the state budget, for the entire Maryland prison system.

The Maryland Correctional Training Center in Hagerstown requested almost that number alone. Hagerstown will get 36 of the guards.

MCEA's Joseph Adler said "95 (guards) is by no means enough, but 95 is better than zero."

He added MCEA is "pushing with the Corrections Department to increase the number of dollars" the state is spending.

Though crime is high on the priority list of Maryland lawmakers, Governor Harry Hughes' new budget devotes only three percent of the total budget to police and prisons.

Nevertheless, prison funds dominate the Governor's budget for construction. Public Safety and Correctional Services is earmarked for $35.5 million for new buildings to relieve the state's overcrowded prison system.

Adler claims building new prisons alone is not the answer.

"Before building new prisons, the state needs to stuff some money in the existing institutions in need of upgrading. Some of them are having real problems," he said.

Davis said the prison system is "a system in the throes of a crisis."

"It's no longer a question of will (the prison system) blow up, but when will it blow up," he said.

Legislator snipes at Hughes' gas plan

ANNAPOLIS — Gov. Harry Hughes' gas tax proposal and his overall transportation program is misdirected and unjustified, the chairman of a joint Legislative Committee on Transportation said earlier this week.

Del. Thomas Kernan, D-Baltimore, said the Hughes' transportation plan fails to provide for the possibility of additional cuts in federal highway aid and underestimates the eventual cost of Mass Transit operating deficits.

"I think the governor has failed to address the two most pressing crises we can anticipate in the next decade," Kernan told a joint meeting of the House Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees.

Kernan's comments were perhaps the sharpest attack yet on the governor's proposal to raise the gas tax to provide more revenue for the Transportation Department, a proposal politicians are finding increasingly hard to swallow in an election year.

The legislator did not offer his own estimate for how high a tax increase should go, but others on the two committees said they were concerned about taking the political heat of raising a tax, possibly not raising it enough and then having to go through the whole unpleasant routine again in a year or two.

Kernan said transportation officials have been unable to justify, at least to him, the need for the road repair and maintenance projects they say will be completed if gas tax is raised.

"It's important to recognize that we still have not seen evidence that has convinced me with hard facts that justify the projects the governor has proposed," Kernan said.

He characterized the governor's road building plan as expansive at a time when other government programs are becoming more austere, adding that new rounds of federal budget cuts may demand more money be placed in human services programs rather than in highways.

He also said the transportation program neglected to include millions of dollars in needed bridge repair projects and, in any event, was based more on a fear of higher costs caused by inflation than on actual need.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we could apply that logic to anything," he said.

Hughes has proposed adding a four percent tax on the wholesale price of gasoline to the existing would be 13-cents-a-gallon and would raise about $80 to $90 million.

"There isn't a subdivision today that wouldn't favor the governor's proposal," Kernan conceded, noting all jurisdictions are having trouble paying the cost of filling potholes and repairing roads and bridges.

He said, however, "the governor's plan is in the wrong direction."

Transportation Secretary Lowell Bridwll, however, defended the program, saying the projects that would be built with a new revenue are merely the same projects local officials have agreed are necessary, but which the state has not been able to build for lack of money. UPI.

Gospel choir at Naval Academy

Annapolis — The Georgetown University Gospel Choir will perform at the Naval Academy's Mitscher Hall Feb. 20, at 8 p.m., as part of the academy's observance of Black History Month.

The event is free and open to the public.

The choir, which began two years ago, is under the direction of Ronald Harbor, who also is musical director of the Fort Belvoir Liturgical Choir in Arlington, Va.

The Gospel Choir's appearance is the Naval Academy's second event for this year's Black History Month.

The final event will be a performance by the Hatcheet Center for the Performing Arts of Springfield, Mass, Feb. 27, at 8 p.m., in Mitscher Hall.

Black History Month is observed each February at the Naval Academy and includes special guests and emphasizes accomplishments of black Americans.

For more information call 267-2738.

Swisher okays intruder shootings

State's Attorney A. Swisher said under Maryland law, a citizen can shoot an intruder in his home if he has an honest intelligent fear of great bodily harm or death.

Swisher made the above statement this week following an editorial in the Morning Sun and after the Feb. 14 shooting of a burglar who entered a disabled man's apartment and was shot and killed by the residential manager, who was called and came to the aid of the tenant.

Last week, a Bel Air pipefitter was acquitted of shooting a youth after a break in at his house.

Last month in a national news magazine interview, Swisher said, "whenever you reasonably and intelligently fear you or someone near you, such as a family member, is in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death, you have an absolute right to use fatal force."

Swisher says we cannot have open warfare on our streets between law abiding citizens and criminals. "Hopefully, the police will be present to deal with such open crimes. If a victimkills an assailant while defending herself, I will defend her right to do so," said Swisher.

Attorney Elijah Cummings, president of the Monumental Bar Association does not agree with Swisher. He told the AFRO, "It is very unfortunate that a state's attorney would make a statement to the effect that citizens of this city should bring any type of harm to another citizen.

"It is the job of the state's attorney to enforce the law. Self defense cases are determined on a case by case basis. The state's attorneys job is to look at the facts of each case and determine whether that case fits in the law of self defense.

"It is our opinion that the state's attorney is saying he would not prosecute certain people before the case even comes to him. This misleads people about the law."

Western Md. delegate sues to stop new prison

By John W. Frece

ANNAPOLIS — Delegate Paul Muldowney, the Western Maryland legislator who sued the state to stop construction of a new prison near Hagerstown, said Wednesday he intends to ask the court this week to speed up action in the case.

"I'm not going to allow the state the luxury of procrastinating until the case is moot," Muldowney said.

The Hagerstown Democrat said his attorney, John Urner, will probably file papers later this week in Washington County Circuit Court seeking an injunction against the state to prohibit further planning, design or other activities related to the new prison until Muldowney's lawsuit is settled.

He said his request for an injunction should be granted a hearing within 10 days.

Muldowney filed suit Feb. 1 to stop the state from constructing a 720-bed prison originally planned for Jessup, which Gov. Harry Hughes and the Board of Public Works instead agreed to build south of Hagerstown.

Muldowney contends the legislature has not authorized the new prison to be built in Washington County, nor has it given approval to a prison the size of the one the state now wants to build there.

"I honestly believe they have circumvented and violated the law," he said.

Muldowney said he feared the state may try legal delaying tactics while the design and construction of the prison continued to the point where Muldowney's suit would be rendered moot.

"If the state drags its feet, the construction project would be well along and I'm just not going to let that happen," he said.

Muldowney's suit named as defendants both the state and VVKR, the Virginia architectural firm originally hired to design a 528 - bed prison at Jessup and which is now working on the design for the larger Hagerstown facility. (UPI)

Former Black Panther speaks at Morgan U.

In a speech Wednesday evening at Morgan State University Kwame Toure, formerly Stokely Carmichael, emphasized the role of students in the liberation of African people.

"Toure's appeal to the student population stemmed from his belief that students are "capable of putting to use progressive ideas." His focus was on laying out ground rules for wiping out the exploitation of African people.

He said African students especially need to be aware how they can contribute to the African National liberation process.

Toure, presently a member of the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, an organization committed to the liberation of African people, formerly was a civil rights leader in the 60s.

As a student, Toure was a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Black Panther organization. After joining the panthers, Toure left the country and traveled to Africa.

There, he visited the country of Ghana, the first country to gain independence from Britain in the late 50s, and was indoctrinated into the teachings of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

Nkrumahism, the doctrine followed by the AAPRP, follows the line of socialism and Pan-Africanism which states returning the means of production to the people and developing higher technology for use on the African continent.

In the early 70s Toure joined the AAPRP and since has lectured at different colleges and universities across the country speaking on the liberation of African people.

Toure presently resides in Guinea, a country on the west coast of Africa.

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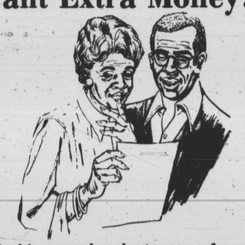

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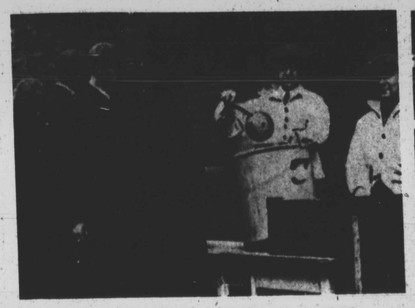

Baltimore soup line for the poor 1932

Jobless line here this week in 1982

SEE STORY PAGE 28

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Big new AFRO contest Win all-expense paid trip to the Carribean details inside

Mardi Gras 'best couple'

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Women's Editor

This year's Omega Mardi Gras, hosted by the Pi Omega (Baltimore) Chapter, was one of the most well - attended, colorful and lively events of the 1981 - 82 social season.

Held at Martin's West Friday, Feb. 19, from 7:30 p.m. until 1 a.m., the affair, which attracted 1100 Omega brothers, their wives, sweethearts and guests, was a real winner.

The hot buffet was superb. Also available throughout the evening was a variety of sippables.

At the musical helm that "Zim Zemerel" of black musicians, Bobby Felder, (of Washington, DC) with his Number One Band, sounding out the best so expertly that the floor was a continuous maze of dancers, many in lovely formal garb, but many also in costumes.

And . . . Oh! . . . those costumes — Pirates and princesses, space people, folks in Spanish and Oriental garb, clowns (glimpsed a awesome Charlie Chaplin and clown get - up), devils and harem girls — you name it — it was there!

See photos Page 10

The AFRO goes to Omega party

More photos page 9

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

FRUIT OF THE LOOM DUO garnered the First Place win in the "Best Couple" category of the costume competition during the Omega Mardi Gras '82, held Friday, Feb. 19 at Martin's West. Winning couple is Ben and Pat Logan.

Raid on 2 discos nets guns, dope

Cops strike Park Circle clubs while 1,000 teens party

Four sets drug paraphernalia and alleg illegal substances were amo the items recovered from two northwest Baltimore disco clubs Feb. 14, in a raid by some 40 police officers armed with search and seizure warrants.

Sgt. Eddie Phillips, Officers Hank Mann and Officer Kevin L. Harris, the Northwestern District anti clothes unit, along with a crew of uniformed officers, raided Giovanchy's and Pascal's disco clubs in the 3300 block of Park Circle at approximately 1:15 a.m.

Police said there were approximately 1,000 patrons in the two clubs and no one was injured during the raid.

Among other items confiscated by police Giovanchy's were one purse containing 14 handrolled cigarettes, three manila envelopes with suspected controlled dangerous substance, one syringe, six manila envelopes with residue, 36 manila envelopes found in various locations of the dance floor and seating area.

Also, a 25 caliber gun with the clip and three cartridges was found in flower pot next to the coatroom. Police said they also found a pistol in the cabinet of the beverage area.

The police report also states 38 handrolled cigarettes were found in the dance area of Pascal's, 20 manila envelopes with residue, 65 manila envelopes with controlled dangerous substance, 10 plastic bags, three tin foils, one glassine bag containing a white powder, one plastic bag with six yellow pills, seven blue pills, 26 packs of cigarette paper, a .38 revolver with five cartridges, and a gun with four cartridges.

According to police, the warrant had been signed by Judge James Parrott and was for alcohol violations, drugs and guns.

Police state the owner of the clubs, Edward Raymon (Slim) Butler was advised of the warrant. Everyone was allowed to leave the club after the male patrons were patted down for possible weapons.

Last month, police report a student was shot while in Giovanchy's. He was found lying on the parking lot in front of the disco bleeding from the right leg.

The victim told police he was dancing inside the disco and observed "six or seven males all between 16 and 18-years-old dancing with guns in their hands."

The victim said a short time later he heard five or six shots and then discovered he had been shot. The student told police he does not know who shot him.

When police arrived on the scene, police said approximately 200 people ran out of the club and the manager of the disco advised the officer one of the teenagers had a gun.

Continued on page 2

Daily media slams Judge Murphy on property deal

Two local judges un-named in a TV newscast earlier this week as owners of a deliorating apartment building on Liberty Heights Ave. were identified in the Thursday edition of the Sun as Judges William H. (Billy) Murphy Jr., and Askew Gatewood Jr.

At AFRO presstime, Judges Murphy and Gatewood were not available for comment.

Inspectors found 135 violations of the city housing code at the apartment building in the 3600 block of Liberty Heights Ave., where there are 30 apartments.

The apartment complex is owned by Becca Associates. The tenants now are living rent free and the owners say they have spent money on renovations and the heating systems.

The AFRO, however, will have a complete investigative report in next week's edition.

Is MTA racist? black bus drivers can't agree

Members of the Almagamated Transit Union, Division 1300 voted overwhelmingly to not bring a suit against the Mass Transit Administration concerning what some members claim are discriminatory hiring and promotional practices Wednesday.

At two special meetings Feb. 24, 665 union members voted down the measure, while only 66 cast votes in favor of bringing a class action suit against MTA.

Union officials told the AFRO they estimated membership at 1,700, the majority of whom are black.

A card sent to the membership said, "the purpose of this meeting is to discuss and decide whether the union will file suit against MTA concerning their hiring practices."

According to Elvern McElveen, the a parent spearhead of the movement to bring the matter to a vote, the most important issue - whether MTA is discriminatory in its selection of who will move into managerial and supervisory ranks - was obscured.

Instead, the vote became a personal attack upon him, McElveen said.

However, Harry Sterling, a union official, told the AFRO "the key issue was should the union be involved in . . . taking up a job issue outside of the collective bargaining unit."

If the union had done so, it would have set a precedent across the nation in labor circles, he said.

Levérn McElveen

But , the union's official position was "not to support and go along with the action of the case. The union said 'no'," Sterling said.

During both meetings, at the firefighters union hall on West Monument Street in the morning and the second in the auditorium of Baltimore Polytechnical Institute, both sides were allowed to present their arguments.

Keith Rawlinson, a MTA spokesman, told the AFRO the MTA was unaware of the union meetings.

"We don't know anything about the matter with the union. We can't comment until they present us with a formal charge or until they bring it (the problem) to us," he said.

Apparently the matter stems from McElveen's, a MTA bus operator for about five years, efforts to move into a supervisory position with the company. He said over the past 12 months he has submitted about 13 resumes to MTA applying for an above job.

"I've been told I did not have the minimum qualifications," or that he was overqualified, McElveen said.

He said he presently is pursuing a masters degree in public administration at the University of Baltimore.

In apparent response to his rejections, McElveen said filed a class action suit against MTA last March. A ruling by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said no discrimination occurred on an individual basis, he said.

McElveen said he filed a retaliation suit last October, but that case still is pending.

During the morning session, which was closed to the press, members walked out of the smoke-filled, crowded meeting hall after listening to the arguments.

"What's this mess about?" a member asked one of the union's election committee members, who manned the sign-in tables distributing voting cards.

"I heard enough of that," one operator said as he walked to the doorway leading outside.

Continued on page 2

The credit interest debate rages

Are you ready to pay 36 cents on the dollar

A recent forum at Morgan State University pitted members of the business community against labor leaders over the issue of deregulation of interest rates, an issue now being debated in the General Assembly.

Harold Young, a spokesman for the Baltimore Marketing Association, told the AFRO his organization hosts forums and seminars "to try to make the public aware of issues worth their attention."

At the Feb. 18 Morgan forum, at Jenkins Hall, several members of the banking and business community, including Raymond V. Haysbert, president of Parks Sausage Co., and Norman Ringold, vice president of First Federal Savings and Loan in Annapolis, spoke in favor of deregulation, Young said.

Those opposed were Mrs. Mimi Waxter, wife of city councilman Thomas J. Waxter, and Thomas Bradley, an AFL-CIO union official.

What brought the panelist together was a discussion of what some black legislators have called one of the "hottest" issues of this session's Genral Assembly.

Some legislators, such as Del. John Douglass, D-6, have told the AFRO he is unwilling to support total deregulation of interest rates, but relief is needed.

Continued on page 2

Under proposed interest rate law a $7,000 car bought on time would cost $9,520.00

Local exec wants total deregulation

Raymond V. Haysbert