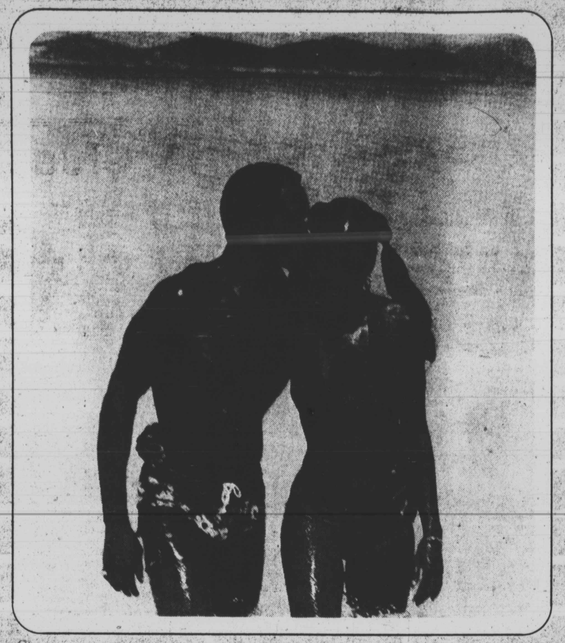

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(2) Only entries and subscriptions received between February 15th and May 15, 1982 are eligible for the drawings.

(3) All entries and subscriptions received must be post-marked no later than May 15, 1982.

(4) There will be no substitutions for these prizes.

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(12) Must be 18 years of age or older to win in the drawings.

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Black ministers may boycott MNB unless...

A group of 250 black ministers threatened to boycott the state's largest bank unless it reverses a decision to relocate so it can charge credit card user fees and

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The Baptist Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity which represents more than 113,000 churchgoers contends the move is Maryland National Bank's effort to increase profits at the public's expense.

In a letter to Richard O. Croswell, a vice president of Maryland National Bank, the group said "It is ironic that at a time when everybody is being called upon to make sacrifices, take lower wages and welfare cuts, and millions of unemployed are being asked to pay higher interest rates on every commodity for less services, that your institution would move in order to increase its profit margins."

The ministers also demanded a meeting with bank officials and Croswell said he has agreed.

The ministers said they will call for an immediate boycott if the Maryland National Bank does not change its position.

The Rev. William E. Johnson,

Continued on page 2

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 90TH YEAR

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Vacation in the Carribean - see details inside

Con artists rooking Baltimoreans

MTA murder trial

Witness identifies suspect

The state's first witness in the MTA murder trial of Robert C. Perry, identified Perry as the man who allegedly shot him in the arm and is charged with killing James Keys, a bus driver.

Robert C. Perry, 35, who is being held on bail at City Jail showed no emotions Thursday morning, when Charles L. Pettus Sr., president of the union told the jury and defense attorney Dwight Pettit, "Your client show me. Ain't no doubt about it. I was running for my life and looking for a place to hide in case he was behind me."

Pettus was shot in the left arm April 16, 1981 and treated at Union Memorial Hospital. Keys, a 49-year-old bus driver, who also was a member of the executive board of the union was killed.

(Continued on Page 17)

ANTI-HIJACKER HERO — Jean Celestin, left, is with cousin, Francoise at Miami International Airport earlier this week, after Celestin helped subdue would-be hijacker Guillermo Lazare Major-Diaz aboard United Flight 574 Monday morning. Police said the pilot tricked the would-be hijacker into thinking they had landed in Cuba. Celestin, a Chicago area professional driver, then moved down five rows of seats and threw a body tackle on Major-Diaz. "He didn't have a gun and I thought there was no reason to be afraid," he said.

6 reported victims of latest flim-flam

A 51-year-old man, who police are calling a "con artist," is wanted for larceny flim flam, after he allegedly persuaded six citizens to give him their money.

Police said Napoleon Jackson, formerly of the 2500 block of West Fayette Street, often uses a Jamacian accent when he approaches his victims.

Jackson, who is described as 5-feet, 9-inches tall and weighs 180 pounds, is accused of stopping people on the street and asking for the location of a ficticious hotel.

Police said when the victim tells Jackson they have never heard of the hotel, he uses a signal and an unidentified man, who has been working with him, walks up and begins talking with the victim.

While the two suspects and the victim are talking, police said Jackson pulls a roll of money out of his pocket.

He then tells the victim if they find him a place to stay, he will give them $100.

However, before giving the victim the money, Jackson usually tells the man or woman, to place their money in the bag with his and hold the bag until he gets his luggage out of a locker, police said.

According to police, as soon as the victim places their money in the bag with Jackson's money, his partner distracts the victim's attention and Jackson quickly exchanges bags.

Napoleon Jackson

Continued on page 2

Two teens turn state witness in Phillips trial

Opening statements are expected today (Friday) in the Dr. George Franklin Phillips murder trial. At AFRO presstime, the jury still was being selected.

Donald Braxton, 17-year-old Douglass High School student, who Assistant State's Attorney Sam Brave said is the alleged shooter in the Sept. 21 murder, is the first one of the five teenagers charged as an adult with murder, to go on trial.

Dr. Phillips, 72, of the 1500 block Bentalou St., was shot and killed as he was about to climb into his car and drive to Provident Hospital. He had planned to visit a patient scheduled for morning surgery when he was shot.

The AFRO has learned two of the other teenagers, who are charged with murder, will testify as state witnesses at Braxton's trial.

If convicted, Braxton faces a life sentence. The other teenagers charged with homicide, attempted armed robbery and handgun violations are Kevin P. Smith, 17, of the 1900 block of Wheeler Ave; Dean D. Wright, 16, 1800 block Payson St., Gregory Brittingham, 14, of the 1600 block Bentalou St. and Walter Vaughn, 18, of the 1700 block Pulaski St.

Judge James Perrott will preside at the case that is expected to last two weeks. Morris Kaplan is the defense attorney and Keith Matthews will be assisting Brave as an assistant state's attorney.

Conaway charged with $227,500 misuse of funds

The Legislative Black Caucus will function as usual even though its chairman has been accused by the state's Insurance Division of keeping more than $227,500 in premiums from policy holders that were supposed to have been sent to insurance companies.

The Maryland Department of Licensing and Regulations's Insurance Division has charged Del. Frank M. Conaway, D-40th, owner of Frank M. Conaway and Associates Inc., and three insurance agents, G. Leo Hunt, Carol Smith, and Alford Laws, with collecting homeowners and automobile policy premiums from customers, but never forwarding the money to the insurance companies.

Byron Roberts, an Insurance Division spokesman, told the AFRO the investigation was launched Dec. 7, after several complaints were received from different insurance companies.

Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings, D-40th, told the AFRO he was speaking for himself but that the other Black Caucus members probably shared his views about the charges leveled at Conaway.

"I regret he's in that difficulty. I think it would be fair to go about business as usual until he's had his day in court," Rawlings said.

Sen. Clarence Blount, D-41st, said it would be presumptive to take any kind of action in the Black Caucus now, because Conaway is innocent until proven guilty.

"As far as I know, he's innocent until proven guilty. Charges have been made, newspaper articles have been written, but you don't try a person over that," Blount said.

A hearing on the administrative charges filed by the Insurance Division against Conaway had been scheduled for March 16, the delegate's birthday, Roberts said.

But, at Conaway's request, the hearing has been postponed. A new date has not been set, but it probably will be after the close of this session of the General Assembly, he said.

Prosecutors from the State's Attorney office in Baltimore have asked to review evidence the Insurance Division has collected in the case.

Insurance Commissioner Edward J. Birrane Jr. said prosecutors requested the meeting after hearing of the charges filed by his office against Conaway.

Continued on Page 17)

Del.'s life threatened

Annapolis - Two state troopers escorted Del. Frank M. Conaway, D-40th, through the halls of the Maryland Legislature Thursday following telephone death threats made against the lawmaker.

Authorities said the two death threats were made Wednesday night against Conaway, a Democrat accused along with three associates of mishandling hundreds of thousands of dollars in insurance premiums.

(Continued on Page 17)

Slum landlord charges denied

Murphy cites problems of Northwest property

Last week the AFRO reported two local judges and a lawyer are the owners of an apartment building with more than 130 housing code violations.

Accusations of slum landlord have particularly been hurled at Baltimore Supreme Bench Judge William H. Murphy, Jr., although Orphan Court Judge Askew Gatewood and attorney James Bentley are co-owners.

The property at 3631 Liberty Heights Avenue was boarded up last Wednesday by the bank holding the mortgage, Fidelity Federal Savings & Loan, in an attempt to protect the building from vandalism However, tenants live in the building and owners had not been notified.

Murphy calls the violations "cosmetic" because they do not relate to health or safety.

Nevertheless, a year ago, tenants complained to the Baltimore Tenants Association of no heat and water, holes in apartment walls from water damage and old plaster and garbage in the halls.

City records show water and heat violations have been remedied.

The three-partner ownership known, as Becca Associates, purchased the property at a tax auctiop for $140,000 in December 1979. They said they hought the building only needed a few repairs, but later realized they needed about $200,000 worth of work to refurbish it.

At that time Murphy and Gatewood were not judges, (Murphy successfully ran for office one year later).

Becca Associates had plans to turn the building into moderately priced condominiums, for people in the community to have a possibility of ownership.

The hopes of refurbishing the apartment building as planned were dashed after the bank backed down on loaning money to turn the building into condominiums, according to Murphy. He said they explained the project was not feasible, so the property remained a rental unit.

At AFRO press time, Judge Gatewood refused to comment and Bentley was unavailable. But Murphy told a tale of the original Catch-22.

Judge Murphy said he and Judge Gatewood are prohibited by the judicial code of ethics from managing property.

Continued on page 2

Cookie crunch kicks off Girl Scout sale

The AFRO's Vanessa Johnson will be among the area celebrities today (Friday) noon at Baltimore City Hall competing in the eighth annual Girl Scout Cookie Crunch.

Representatives of local media will square off and for every cookie Mrs. Johnson crunches a box of cookies will be purchased by the AFRO and donated to the AFRO Clean Block clubs at Murphy Homes and School No. 122 Kindergarten on Preston Street.

AFRO staffers have been crunching cookies for the past eight years starting with that very cold outdoor crunch in Hopkins Plaza.

Girl Scout cookies will be on sale at City Hall during the Crunch at $2.00 per box. Girl Scout troops throughout the Baltimore Metropolitan area will also be selling the seven varieties of cookies in their neighborhoods through March 30.

Proceeds from the annual cookie sale provide one-half the operating budget for the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. These funds are used to support troop activities in each neighborhood, to maintain and improve local Girl Scout camps and to provide fun and educational program for girls between 6 and 17 years of age throughout Baltimore City.

Last Friday the AFRO attended the Second Annual Baltimore Is Best Cookie Castle Contest finals where 1500 girls in 155 troops throughout Central Maryland entered the contest. Cookie

Continued on page 2

GIGGLING GIRLS — Nichol Williams and Morsela Parks are members of Brownie Troop 192 from Lansdowne, MD. and attend River View Elementary School.

AFRO Photo by Vanessa Johnson

The troop's 38 members won a blue ribbon for their Strawberry Shortcake Castle at a recent Girl Scout - sponsored cookie contest.

'Not guilty'—Treadwell

Mary Treadwell, former co-founder of Pride Inc. and ex-wife of Mayor Marion Barry, pleaded not guilty to mis-appropriating funds from apartment complexes under the control of P. R. Properties, a subsidiary of Pride Inc.

Defendants Robert E. Lee and Charles Rinker also pleaded not guilty as they appeared in U.S. Federal Court Wednesday morning.

Action was delayed on Joan Booth, Treadwell's sister, and Ronalf Williams until they can obtain their own counsel. Williams appeared in court without counsel.

All defendants were released on personal bond and required to report to pre-trial services, stay in contact with counsel, surrender their passports and not leave the United States.

A status hearing was set for March 22. Treadwell and the other defendants have had trouble obtaining counsel.

Judge John Garrett Penn ordered Treadwell and Booth to appear at Magistrate's office to see if they qualify foc court appointed counsel. Williams asked for a court-appointed lawyer.

MAR