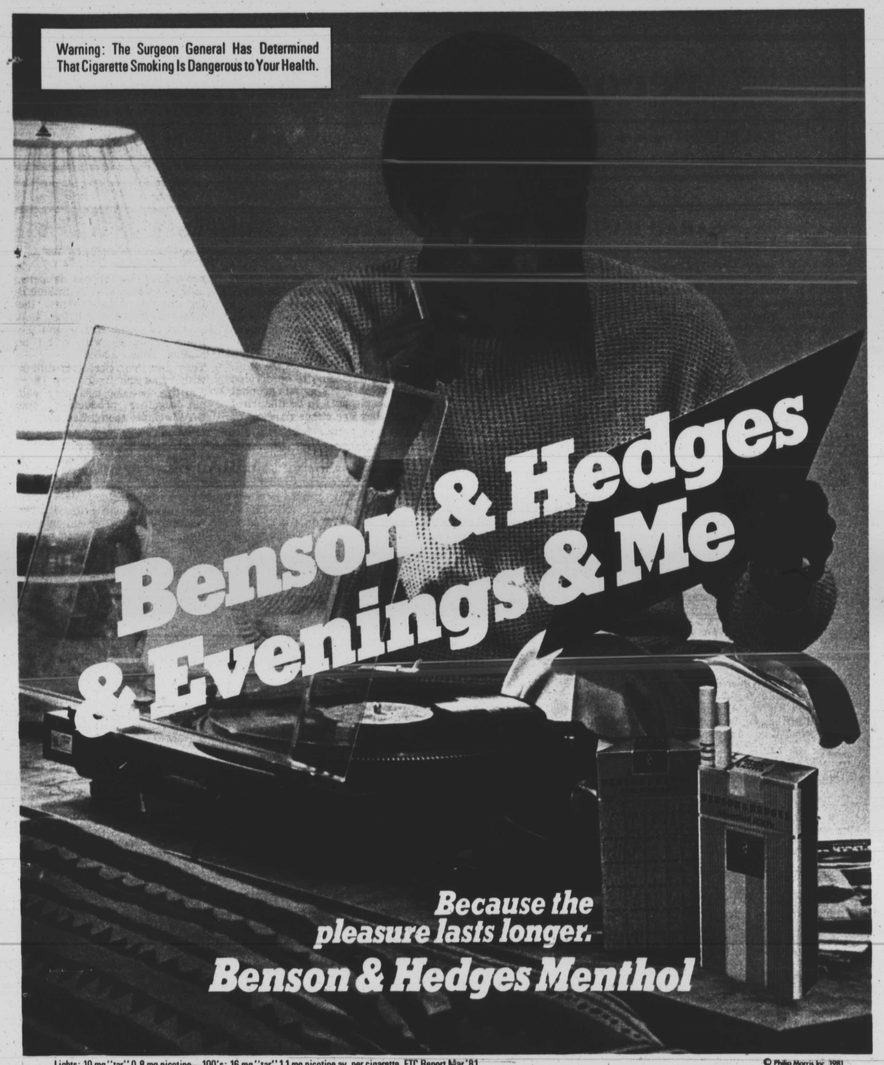

Lights: 10 mg "tar," 0.8 mg nicotine—100's: 16 mg "tar," 1.1 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Mar.'81.
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NAACP to probe lottery commission bias charges

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Will Teddy Pendergrass ever sing again?

Surgeons say next 4 days critical for injured singer, paralysis could be permanent

From wire sources and AFRO Philadelphia correspondent Mildred O'Neill

Will the electrifying, super soul singer Teddy Pendergrass ever perform again?

This is the question on the minds of his legions of fans throughout the world and a medical riddle that may be answered within the next four days as doctors work feverishly to prevent Pendergrass from being permanently paralyzed following a near - fatal accident in the Germantown section of Philadelphia early Thursday morning.

This is the second brush with death for Pendergrass, deemed by many pop music observers as the most powerful and magnetic soul balladeer since the late Otis Redding.

Three years ago Taaz Waters - Lang, Pendergrass' woman manager was gunned down gangland style just as she stepped out of a car driven by the singer. The slaying has never been solved. Ms. Lang was the sister of West Coast vocalist Myra Waters.

Police have ruled the smash-up of Pendergrass' $108,000 Rolls Royce as entirely accidental.

Pendergrass had recently returned from London and his last concert in his native Philadelphia was on February 28.

The 1:30 a.m. crash trapped Pendergrass, 32, and a passenger, Tenika Watson, 31, for 45 minutes before rescue crews pried open the jammed doors of his 1981 rolls royce in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital officials said Pendergrass was undergoing tests to determine the extent of his neck injuries. The singer was transferred to the hospital's spinal cord injury center after initial treatment at Germantown Hospital.

Ms. Watson was released from Germantown Hospital after treatment for multiple contusions, hospital officials said.

Police accident investigator Martin Kelly said Pendergrass was driving south on narrow, winding Wissahickon Drive when he apparently lost control of his vehicle.

The car hit a concrete guardrail in the center of the roadway, spun around, crossed the northbound lane and struck two trees.

Kelly said police investigators were unable to talk to Pendergrass and had not determined where the singer was headed when the accident occurred. Kelly said there were no indications of drug or alcohol use.

Police took the singer's car to a police garage, where it was being examined for possible safety defects.

A statement released by the singer's family thanked his fans for their "prayers and expressions of support."

Pendergrass, a Philadelphia native, who lives in the city has seven platinum albums to his credit.

The accident forced cancellation of weekend concert performances om Louisville, Ky. and Columbus, Ohio, the singer's press agent, Diana Parker, said.

Pendergrass came to fame in 971 as the lead singer with the Blue Notes. Their string of hits included "If You Don't Know Me By Now," "The Love I Lost," "To Be True," and "Bad Luck."

Since he split from the Blue Notes six years ago, the singer has known success after success, including his latest, "It's Time For Love."

His style, described as electrifying, often leaves his largely female audiences shrieking in the aisles for more.

Pendergrass began singing at age 2. He was an ordained minister at 10 and a self-taught drummer by age 13. It was as a drummer, with the Cadillacs that he first came to the notice of Harold Melvin, who then was lead singer with the Blue Notes.

Teddy Pendergrass

Braxton guilty of shooting Dr. Phillips

"A stick up artist and assassin" is how Assistant State's Attorney Keith Matthews described Donald Braxton, 17, who was found guilty in the first degree murder of Dr. George Franklin Phillips, guilty of robbery and guilty of use of a handgun.

A criminal court jury returned with their verdict in less than four hours on Thursday, March 18, Criminal Court Judge James A. Perrott presided at the trial.

Dr. Phillips, 72, of the 1500 block of 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 sugery when he was shot.

In his closing argument to the jury, Matthews told the jurors that Braxton had said to a friend he shot the doctor because he could have recognized him.

Two of the six teenagers charged with the murder of Dr. Phillips were the state's keywitnesses. Last week Gregory Brittingham, 15 and Eric Brown, 14, testified that Braxton had tested the gun before he shot Dr. Phillips.

Others charged in the case and are scheduled for a trial are Dean Wright, 16, of the 1800 block of N. Payson St; Walter Vaughn, 18, of the 1700 block N. Pulaski St., and Kevin Smith, 17, of the 1900 block of Bentalou St.

Using a blackboard to describe the state's witnesses, defense attorney Morris Kaplan drew a large 'b' and 's' on the board. He told the jury, "This is all the state has B S."

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NAACP to probe lottery commission

The NAACP has given the Maryland State Lottery Agency about 30 days to complete and return a survey addressing the lottery's alleged discriminatory hiring and promotion practices.

Dr. Emmett C. Burns, regional director of the National NAACP, told the AFRO the survey was unveiled today at a 10 a.m. news conference at the civil rights organization's Baltimore offices.

The survey, which is to be hand delivered to state lottery officials after the news conference, was developed after Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, D-7th-Md., accused lottery officials of practicing racism against black citizens on March 5.

Mitchell charged the Maryland State Lottery drains money, about $5 million weekly, from black and poor communities providing them little financial return.

He said the state lottery practices a "subtle form of racism against black citizens in both its employment and promotion practices," and that it hires and promotes few blacks, does not contract with black businesspersons for advertising, printing and other services and awards few lottery terminals to blacks.

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Mistrial ruled in bus murder case

After hearing nearly 10 days of testimony and deliberating for nearly nine hours, in the murder trial of a suspended Mass Transit Administration bus driver, who was charged with killing a bus driver and shooting a union official, a criminal court jury could not reach a verdict.

Judge Peter D. Ward declared a mistrial March 16 in the shooting death of James H. Keys, 49-year-old bus driver and board member of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300.

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Teen nabbed in Greenmount dope ring

A 17-year-old male , allegedly one of the top three operators in the $5 million a year heroin operation police charge was heahed by Mrs. Cornelia 'Butch' Fryson, was on bail for murder when he was arrested last week and charged with narcotics violations.

Floyd Williams, who has been charged as an adult with a 1981 murder, is being held without bail as a juvenile on the narcotics charges.

According to Assistant State's Attorney Thomas Kane, the juvenile is scheduled to appear in court April 7 for a waiver hearing in order that he may be tried as an adult in the narcotics case.

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Mrs. Cornelia "Butch" Fryson

William "One Arm Reds" Holt

Union shakes up 'Shake and Bake'

A labor dispute by members of a local ironworkers union against the general contractor hired by former Baltimore Colt Glen Doughty resulted in a brief interruption of the project's work schedule, but the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center should be completed on time.

However, several arrests have been made by police since the dispute began Thursday, March 11.

The center, which is the brainchild of Doughty, received funding last September when Doughty received a $4 million loan from the city's independent financial trustees.

Before he received the loan, Doughty had tried, unsuccessfully, for three years to fund the center through private investors. When completed, the Shake and Bake center will be the home of a bowling alley, a roller skating rink, a fast-food restaurant and an electronic game arcade.

The first arrests at the West Baltimore construction site came after four days of picketing by members of Local 16 of the Ironworkers Union, AFL-CIO. The ironworkers said they are protesting what they claim is nonunion and nonlocal labor being used to build the family center.

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(AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz)

IT LOOKS LIKE A STAND OFF — Baltimore City police officers and members of the Ironworkers, Local 16 of the AFL - CIO confront each other at the construction site of the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center in West Baltimore. Relations between the police and the ironworkers have not been peaceful and since the labor dispute began last wek, at least 12 ironworkers have ben arrested for failing to obey police orders.

Motel murder of model teacher has cops baffled

Left Montrose job, found strangled in Pulaski Highway motel

Baltimore city homicide detectives find themselves faced with a deadly puzzle.

How could a model teacher and mother of two children, leave her class at the end of the school day and end up strangled to death in a motel favored by truckers and other knights of the road.

Police are calling the Feb. 12 murder of Mrs. Dianne Jones, 37, a "mystery." Mrs. Jones, of the 800 block of St. Georges Lane in Edgewood, Md, was found dead by an employee at the Drake Motel, 819 North Point Road off of Pulaski Highway.

Police state Mrs. Jones checked in alone at 7:15 p.m. and signed her name on the register. The next morning at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 13, when Mrs. Jones had not turned her key into the desk, police report an employee discovered her body while checking the rooms.

According to homicide detectives, Mrs Jones was found on the bed of the $23 a night room. There were no signs of a struggle and she was not sexually assaulted. The cause of death was manual strangulation.

The only thing missing was the victim's pocketbook. Detective Joseph A. Segreti said the victim's car was found outside the hotel.

Mrs. Jones was employed at Montrose School in Reisterstown as a teacher. When she left home that morning for work, police state she told her sons she was going to a meeting.

Police said there was never a meeting planned for Feb. 12.

Mrs. Jones lived alone with her two sons who are now staying with their father. Floyd Coupling, father of the two children told the AFRO, "We are divorced but we had a good relationship. She loved and cared about her sons. It was strange for her to go to a motel."

Coupling says he believes someone might have forced Mrs. Jones to go to the motel. The AFRO has learned that Mrs. Jones remarried and her second husband died from an illness.

She was a graduate of Morgan State University and received her master's degree in special education from Coppin State College.