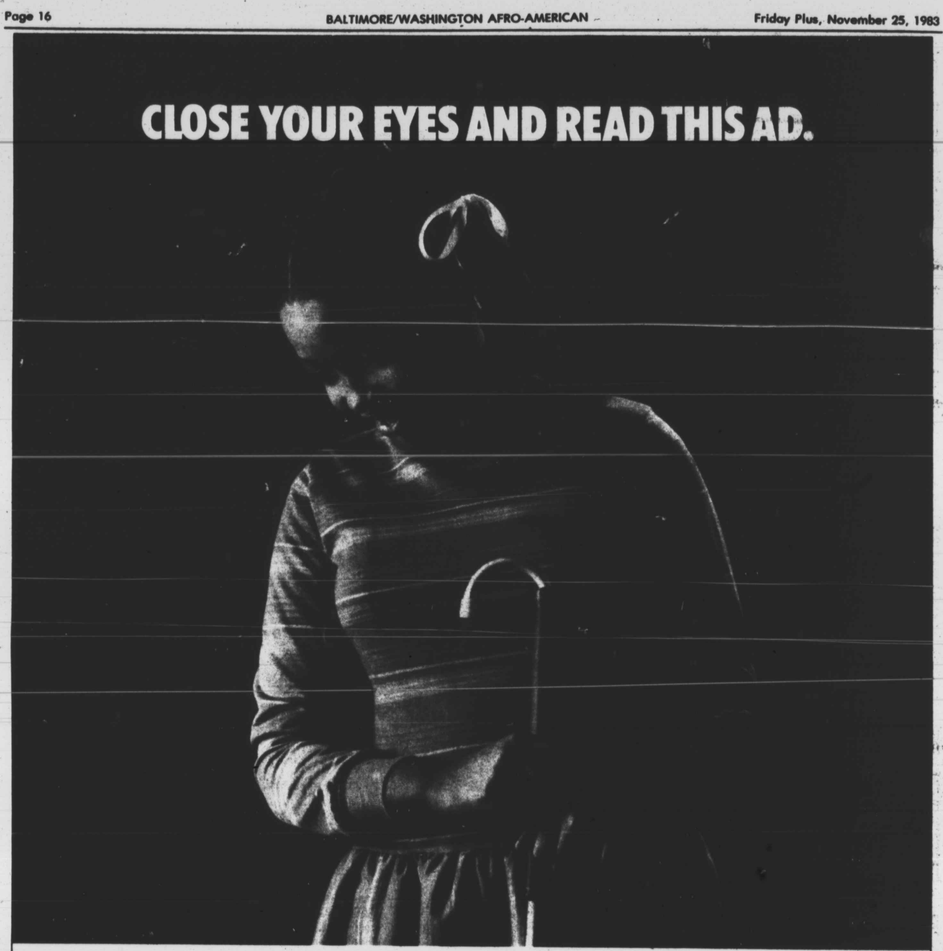
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND READ THIS AD.



You've just experienced a part of Tiesa's life. Tiesa's blind. She can't read newspapers, watch television or go to the movies. But with the training and education she receives from The Maryland School for the Blind, she leads a meaningful and productive life. The Maryland School for the Blind is just one of the educational institutions to receive financial assistance from the State Department of Education. In 1984, the General Fund will contribute over 811 million dollars in aid to the State Department of Education. The State General Fund continues to provide over 85% of the operating costs of The Maryland School for the Blind.

In 1984, the public education agencies will spend more than 35 cents of every General Fund dollar and almost 30 cents of every dollar appropriated. Sixty nine percent of these funds is budgeted to the State Department of Education to be used primarily for the support of elementary and secondary education.

Public higher education in Maryland is provided directly by the State at the University of Maryland, Morgan State University, the six state universities and colleges, and St. Mary's College of Maryland.

We hope this opened your eyes to a part of what the General Fund contributes to public education in the State of Maryland.

THIS MESSAGE WAS PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND STATE LOTTERY.*

MARVIN G. FUNCHL, DIRECTOR

*The Maryland State Lottery contributed over 198 million dollars to the Maryland General Fund in Fiscal Year 1983.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Venereal disease is up

(See below)

SATURDAY LATE CITY EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 92ND YEAR

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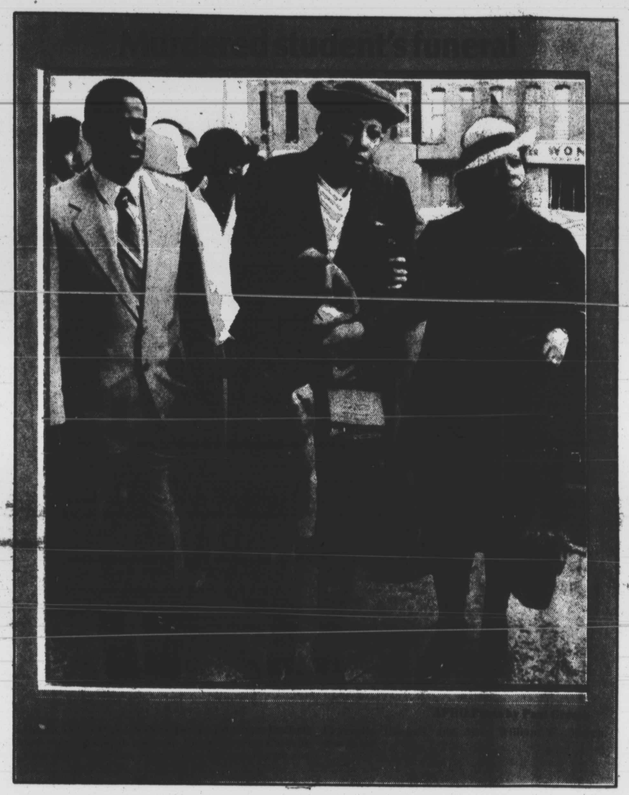
3 arrested in Harlem Park murder

Westside apprehension came in dark of night



B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

City police Thursday arrested three 16-year olds on murder charges in the fatal shooting of a Harlem Park Junior High School student inside the school last week.

Dewitt Duckett, 16, was fatally shot in a hallway as he tried to give his jacket to his attackers.

Police Spokesman Dennis Hill identified the three youths as Ranson L. Watkins, a Walbrook High School student, Alfred A. Chestnut, a Harlem Park student, and Andrew L. Stewart Jr., a Douglass High School student.

They were charged as adults with robbery, murder and handgun violations, Hill said. They were arrested at their homes between midnight and 1:40 a.m. on warrants based on witnesses' accounts of the shooting.

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Friends says 'so long' to Dewitt Duckett

By Pam Widgeon
and Paul Evans

The November morning was partly cloudy and warm for a dead boy's farewell.

Family, friends, classmates, teachers, elected officials and administrators gathered to say so long Wednesday to Dewitt Edwayne Duckett at St. Peter Claver's Catholic Church, Fremont and Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Mass was solemn. The gray casket was closed through the hour-long rites.

Though stunned, the family bore its sorrow with a remarkable stoicism.

Duckett, a 14-year-old Harlem Park Junior High School student, was shot once in the neck in a second floor hallway after he refused to give his varsity Georgetown University basketball jacket, which he was wearing to his assailant.

The Rev. Joseph Del Vecchio, priest at St. Peter Claver's Church, where Duckett was a member told the mourners, "We try to find a meaning for this death and it is very hard.

"We have to put our trust in God and trust his will. I have no explanation for it. It is important how we respond to this incident.

"We can respond the way Christ would. When Christ was on the cross that Good Friday afternoon, after going through the lost of blood, the insults and finally being nailed to the cross. The first words from that cross were father forgive them for they know not what they do.

"Our response ought to be the response of Christ. We have to pray for forgiveness and change what needs to be changed. Pray for ourselves because we are the ones still here.

"Those who did this act of murder are also the ones who need the love of God. If all of us live the way Christ wants us to live, we would not be here today. This should never happen again. It will never happen again if we are committed to the love of Christ."

In reading the obituary, Rev. Vecchio said, "Often God sends no summons before him, and death comes without reckless footsteps to all. The angels of silence came and sealed the lips of Duckett at 2:35 p.m. Nov. 18

Duckett was born May 28, 1969 and was the son of Joseph Edward Duckett and Franzelle Edwina

Continued on page 2

Board appoints new deputy fire chief

Almost two weeks after announcing that the Baltimore City Fire Department would revamp its promotional practices, the Board of Fire Commissioners has made good on its promise.

Two top-ranked fire officials have been promoted to the position of Deputy Fire Chief. The men, Battalion Commander William L. Hunt, and Battalion Chief Henry D. Fowlkes, were selected following a five-man interview process, conducted by the board.

Fowlkes is only the second black to be elevated to the nine-member post. He is a 25- year fire department veteran and was ranked second behind Hunt on the promotional list.

The first black appointed to a

Continued on page 2

Deputy Fire Chief, Henry D. Fowlkes

PARENTS ASK

Are there enough security guards in our city schools?

By Pam Widgeon
and Arthur Johnson

There are 101 security officers for Baltimore's approximately 130,000 students, but parents and administrators have been asking for some time if that is enough.

Prior to November there was only one security guard assigned to Harlem Park Junior High school, 1501 Harlem Ave. according to Earl R. Jones regional superintendent.

"No way in the world we could have prevented that. We could have had as many as 15 security officers" Jones told the AFRO.

He was speaking of the Nov. 18 slaying of Dewitt Duckett a 14-year-old student at Harlem Park Junior High School. Duckett was pronounced dead at University of Maryland Hospital at 3 p.m.

He was shot once in the neck in a school hallway after he refused to give his varsity Georgetown University basketball jacket to his unknown assailant. This was the first time a student was killed in a city school.

The tragic death of Duckett was not the first serious problem the school has had according to parents and teachers.

In June, the communications committee consisting of concerned parents of Harlem Park sent a letter to Dr. Joel Carrington former regional superintendent.

Excerpts of the letter said, "Last year the majority of the staff of Harlem Park Junior High school sent you a list of concerns which we felt needed immediate attention....

"In the fall you initiated a process through which your regional team observed the staff and the school. Dr. Worsham presented the findings of the regional team to our total faculty.

"Those findings contained many of the same problem areas which we had identified formerly. The concerns that we brought to you last year have not been resolved. In fact, the problems that exist here now are even more severe than last year...."

Nearly 250 parents attended a PTA meeting at the school on Wednesday evening. One parent who is an active member of the PTA told the AFRO "We were trying to avoid this before someone got hurt. We have sent letters to Mrs. Pinderhughes.

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AFRO Photo by Carl Ferron

JACQUELINE GARNER AND FAMILY — Tyrine, 6; Carolyn, 9; Sheldean, 10; and Earl, 14. Not pictured is the Garner father, James Jr.; and one foster child.

Black families do adopt the so-called high-risk children

By Arthur Johnson
AFRO Staff Writer

The belief that black families don't adopt black children is a myth, according to Jackie Garner, president of Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Baltimore.

"The extended family in the black community is a form of adoption. We don't have everyone running to the adoption agencies, but informal adoption goes on all the time. We all know someone who has taken some child in and raised it as their own," she said.

Black Adoptive Parents organization began four years ago when Mrs. Garner and her husband, James, were trying to adopt their six-year old son, Tyrine.

"The worker called and said she had a 16-month old baby boy with medical problems, but something clicked, and I just knew that this was our child,. He was the child I was waiting for."

"Sometimes you look at a picture but we didn't see a picture. We knew."

Tyrine was considered a "very,

Continued on page 2

NOV