Reactions mixed about court ruling on student searches

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

City school students suspected of carrying drugs, concealed weapons or other contraband may now be searched thanks to Tuesday's ruling by the Supreme Court.

In a 6-to-3 decision, the court gave school officials the power to search if they have "reasonable grounds."

Under the ruling, students still may not be subjected to unreasonable searches. This upholds the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution which guarantees protection against unreasonable search and seizures.

The ruling comes from a specific case in which a Piscataway (N.J.) High School student's purse was seized when she was suspected of smoking, a violation of the school's rules.

Without a warrant, her purse was searched by the assistant principal and it was discovered she possessed drugs and that she was possibly involved in selling drugs, which she later confessed to doing.

The student claimed that the search was a violation of her constitutional right against unreasonable search and seizure.

A New Jersey juvenile court ruled that her purse had been seized legally, but in an appeal to the Supreme Court of New Jersey, the decision was reversed, saying that the assistant principal did not have grounds to believe that the student was involved in criminal activity.

School officials have been awaiting the Supreme Court ruling, hoping that it would give clearer guidelines for them in maintaining school safety.

The ruling raises questions such as the definition of "reasonable grounds" and what happens if the concept is abused.

For some parents, the ruling is too broad and too open-ended. Said a parent of a Douglass High School student, "What happens if your child is misidentified as someone else? they embarrass him, frisk him, they search his locker, they embarass him, and then they say, I'm sorry! No thank you, no matter how they dress it up, it is a fourth amendment infringement!" The woman declined to be identified.

In city schools, the concept of In Loco Parentis prevails. This means that a Principal has the same rights as a parent in securing a student's welfare. This gives the principal the right to search and seize student property if probable cause exists.

Larry Burgan , head of school police for city schools doesn't think that his staff of 114 of school police officers will abuse the concept of "reasonable grounds."

Said Burgan, "We hold our officers here to a requirement that they will have a sound basis for the actions that they take?

Burgan is glad that the court ruled in the manner in which they did. "The state law is validated by the Supreme Court and it validates what we've been doing in the public schools."

In the 1983-84 school year, there were 1,786 reported violations in city schools. 1,391 of the cases were cleared by arrest. The violations ranged from trespassing, vandalism, and common assault, assault without a weapon) to the single homicide where a Harlem Park Junior High student lost his life over a NBA jacket.

The ruling has principals like Northwestern's Boyse Mosley cheering, "Bravo, Bravo, Bravo. This gives us another tool to make the schools safe."

Mosley feels that the majority of parents will support the ruling.

Lottery adds new administrative post

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

The Maryland State Lottery may be adding another officer to its administrative posts this summer if the position is approved as part of the state's annual salary review plan not yet passed for FY86 by the General Assembly.

The salary review plan covers several hundred state positions.

According to State Personnel Secretary John O'Brien, the position of chief deputy director for the state lottery was created in an effort to have second level supervision in place in th absence of the lottery director.

"At the moment, as I understand it, there is a director and four deputy directors. There is not a number two person per say in the office. This is an attempt to have a second person included," said O'Brien.

The position, if approved by the legislature would pay $49,200 and be filled by one of the four current deputy directors. Martin Puncke lottery director will appoint one of those deputies to the major new position. Of the lottery's four deputy directors only one is black.

"We're talking about an anticipated situation," said Lottery Director Martin Puncke when asked if he had anyone in mind to fill the newly created position, "...the effective date for the job can't be before July 1, but we're very hopeful that it will go through."

Puncke says that the new position of chief deputy director for the state lottery is being requested to help in the administration of the lottery.

Asked whether or not the filling of the new position would fall under the mandate put forth by Governor Hughes last year to increase the numbers of blacks, women and minorities in managerial positions at the state lottery Puncke replied, "No it does not. It will fall into a mandate where we fill the position from those eligible who are best qualified."

The filling of the position says Puncke does not prohibit a woman, black or other minority from being placed in the number two spot at the lottery, but "it does not mandate it either," he added.

"It's my understanding that no position would be exempt from the governor's statement declaring his support for fair employment practices in state government with special emphasis on protect ing the rights of blacks, women and other minorities," said Lou Panos, press secretary to Gov. Hughes.

"What is being done here is totally inconsistent with the spirit of the governor's action," declared David Glenn of the Maryland Human Relations Commission, "Now what the lottery has done or wants to do is take one deputy and make him a super-deputy. Now they have a director, a super-deputy and three deputies which totally upstages the governor's intentions. When I saw it in the personnel listings a couple of weeks ago I was completely baffled...it doesn't make sense administratively."

The principal responsibilities of the chief deputy director of the state lottery will be to continue the administration of the director of the lottery, in addition to carrying out special assignments and projects and serving as the lottery head in the director's absence. Martin Puncke has served as director of the state lottery since its inception twelve years ago.

Science Fair at Towson State U.

The 30th annual Baltimore Science Fair will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 30 - 31, at Towson State University.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Towson and Baltimore City in cooperation with Towson State University, the Science Fair which features science projects of junior and senior high school students will be held in the University Union on the TSU campus. It will be open to the public on Sunday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Awards ceremony will be held Sunday, March 31, at 5 p.m. Admission is free to the public.

Robert J. Weiss and Felix Tarasco, of the Kiwanis Clubs, together with Dr. Robert Caret, dean of Natural and Mathematical Sciences at Towson State, are co - chairing the fair.

The first Science Fair in 1955, limited to students from Baltimore City, attracted 56 junior and senior high school participants. More than 200 science projects in the physical and biological sciences will be exhibited in this year's fair which includes students from Baltimore City and Baltimore, Howard and Carroll counties.

"The Science Fair is an academic venture," explains Mr. Weiss, "that involves the teacher, the student and the family in a constructive and unified way." The first - place winners in the senior division will be awarded an all - expense paid trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Shreveport, Louisiana May 12 - 18 with their teachers, where they will represent the Greater Baltimore Area in international competition.

Further information is available by calling Robert J. Weiss, director of the Baltimore Science Fair, (301) 321 - 6618.

—'He was like a son

Continued from page 1

surrendered his badge and gun and has been placed on administrative duty.

Officer Arlene Jenkins, a Police Department Public Information spokeswoman, told the AFRO Thursday that no details of the shooting can be released at this time. She said Police Commissioner Bishop Robinson handed down a statement Jan. 15 at 2 p.m. saying that his department has presented the case to States Attorney Kurt Schmoke "and it is inappropriate to give any additional information."

The Killians will be remembered for the false arrest suit she filed against a local department store in 1981. Councilman Mitchell won the suit and the award of $1 million was declared as the first of its kind.

—Lil-Melvin-Hawkins

Continued from page 1

Williams to the April, 1984 shoting of Charles Frazier, an individual who had agreed to cooperate with the on-going investigation of Williams."

(Frazier, in fear for his life, has been hidden away in U.S. protective custody.)

(Walter Robinson, who has turned government witness has been hidden away also by the government along with his family. The federal authorities believe that the Robinsons lives are in danger.)

The government states in summary, "A complete review of the record, however, indicates that, independent of any hearsay testimony, there was clear and convincing evidence of defendants' dangerousness; particularized evidence of defendants' history of drug trafficking was documented by prior felony convictions, entirely apart from the testimony of government agents.

"In addition, both men had prior convictions involving weapons, and, at the time of Williams' arrest, two handguns were uncovered in his home.

"These are not individuals charged with a first offense, nor are they individuals with no history indicative of a predisposition to violence."

Judges Winger (chief judge), Phillips and Murnaghan handed down the Appeals Court decision which keeps Williams and Hawkins in prison without bail.

—Fired Sinai workers

Continued from page 1

and Zimmerman, council to 1199E said of Monday's hearing, "What Sinai is arguing is that these individuals quit their jobs when they went on strike." Zimmerman is representing the claimants in this matter.

Added Zimmerman, "The hearing examiners impression is that Sinai is trying to create a new interpretation of the law — that strikers quit their jobs when they go on strike."

Zimmerman said that the position taken by the hospital during the negotiation sis contrary to what they previously told the union.

"Sinai is saying that by not coming back to work during the strike, the workers refused suitable work which will disqualify them for unemployment compensation."

Zimmerman said that some of those workers could end up on the welfare rolls if they are unable to find employment.

1199E had also filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board. Regional Director Louis D'Amico refused to comment on the status of their case.

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State program helps 906 welfare recipients to find jobs

Since beginning in the fall of 1982, the Maryland Employment Initiatives program has enabled 906 recipients of welfare to obtain employment, according to the Employment Initiatives Second Year Report released by the Department of Human Resources.

The Employment Initiatives provides employment and training opportunities to AFDC clients participating in the Work Incentive Program (WIN) and began with two projects in parts of Baltimore City (OPTIONS) and Wicomico County (BET).

According to the second year report, during FY 1984 717 individuals actively participated in one or more of the program components, with 589 entering employment. The average wage was over $4.00 per hour.

"The success of Employment Initiatives has provided firm evidence that AFDC clients do want to work, and when given employment and training services as well as supportive resources, they make every effort to gain employment and become self-supportive," said Ruth Massinga, Secretary of Human Resources.

A variety of program components including skills training, welfare grant diversion funded on-the-job training, work experience, and job search assistance as well as remedial education are available to clients and tailored to meet their specific needs.

"One of the greatest strengths of the Employment Initatives is our ability to view each client as a total person, assess his or her needs with their active involvement and then coordinate those services and resources needed to provide the client with the best chance at becoming economically self sufficient," said David Siegel, Director of the Office of Welfare Employment Policy which administers the Employment Initatives projects.

The ability to coordinate resources available from local agencies such as Departments of Social Services and Job Training Partnership Act agencies, is a key factor in the success of the program, noted Siegel.

Another major factor contributing to the success of the Employment Initatives, according to David Siegel, is the Grant Diversion Component which allows the program to subsidize the wages of participants in on-the-job training. "Maryland was one of the first states to receive waiver authority for grant diversion, and continues to be one of the most successful," said Siegel.

The success of the two original Employment Initatives projects has led to an expansion of the program to five new juridictions, including Anne Arundel, Allegany, Dorchester, Frederick and Harford Counties.

Copies of the Second Year Report are available from the Department of Human Resources, Office of Welfare Employment Policy, 1100 N. Eutaw St., Room 207, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Lotto jackpot $2.5 million

Since there was no Jackpot prize winner for the Lotto drawing of Saturday, January 12, 1985, Martin M. Puncke, Lottery Director, has announced that the current week's Jackpot prize for the drawing of January 19, 1985 will have an annuity value of approximately $2.5 million for a single winner.

In the Lotto drawing of Saturday, January 12, 1985, there were 190 second tier winners of $1,221 each. These winners correctly matched five of the six winning numbers in that drawing. Also, 9,272 Lotto players won $31 each for correctly matching four of the six winning numbers.

PRESIDENT REAGAN meets with The Council for a Black Economic Agenda Tuesday in the Cabinet Room. Seated (L-R) are President Reagan, Harvard University Professor Dr. Glenn Loury, and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige. The Council, formed last November, is headed by Robert L. Woodson, president of National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. (UPI)

Black leaders take economic agenda to the White House

President Reagan, bent on a post-election drive to shore up his support among blacks, heard an appeal from black community leaders Tuesday to form "a strategic alliance" to enhance black economic independence.

On a day of observances marking the birthday anniversary of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Reagan was presented with a black economic agenda that mirrored his own views that economic development should take precedence over government assistance.

"We must move away from the maintenance programs of the welfare state and expand business formation rates and the economic development activity of the black community," Robert Woodson, chairman of the Council for a Black Economic Agenda, said after a 15-minute meeting with Reagan.

The session was described by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Samuel Pierce, the only black in the Cabinet, as a sign Reagan will "push hard" to make peace with blacks in the aftermath of an election that saw most of them oppose his re-election.

"This is going to be an ongoing, continuing process," Pierce said. "That was not done before. We did not have any ongoing and continuing process of communication with the black community on a regularized basis."

While Reagan made no commitments and listened more than spoke, participant Dan Smith said the president directed his staff to work with the community leaders on their economic agenda. He said the presentation was "well received."

Smith characterized the meeting as "strategic talks" directed at "re-establishment of a dialogue between this president and black America" and development of a strategy for economic independence to "see if we can't heal some of the wounds that have become so visible over the last few years."

"We are deeply concerned that the black community, in order for it to overcome some of its difficulties, must establish a strategic alliance with the Reagan administration," Woodson said.

He suggested black leaders who worked against Reagan in his first term and opposed his re-election are wedded to failed solutions of the past.

Hanlon Park Condominiums host open house

The public and Press are invited to an Open House tour of Hanlon Park Condominiums on January 18, 1985 at 11:30 a.m. Hanlon Park is located at the corner of Liberty Heights Ave. and North Hilton Street, approx. 1 mile northwest of Mondawmin Mall.

The tour will be headed by Baltimore City Council President, Clarence "Du" Burns and Council members Reeves, Spector and Waxter. Beginning at 3307 Liberty Heights Ave. which is one of the professional spaces, the tour will include inspection of the work in progress at the unit that will include My Dream beauty salon, whose owners, Col. Ed and Alice Woods recently settled on.

The tour will also include the review of several completed residential units. These spacious units containing more than 1,000 sq. ft. come equipped with refrigerator, range, dishwasher, disposal, washer and dryer, wall-to-wall carpet, central air-conditioning and balconies.

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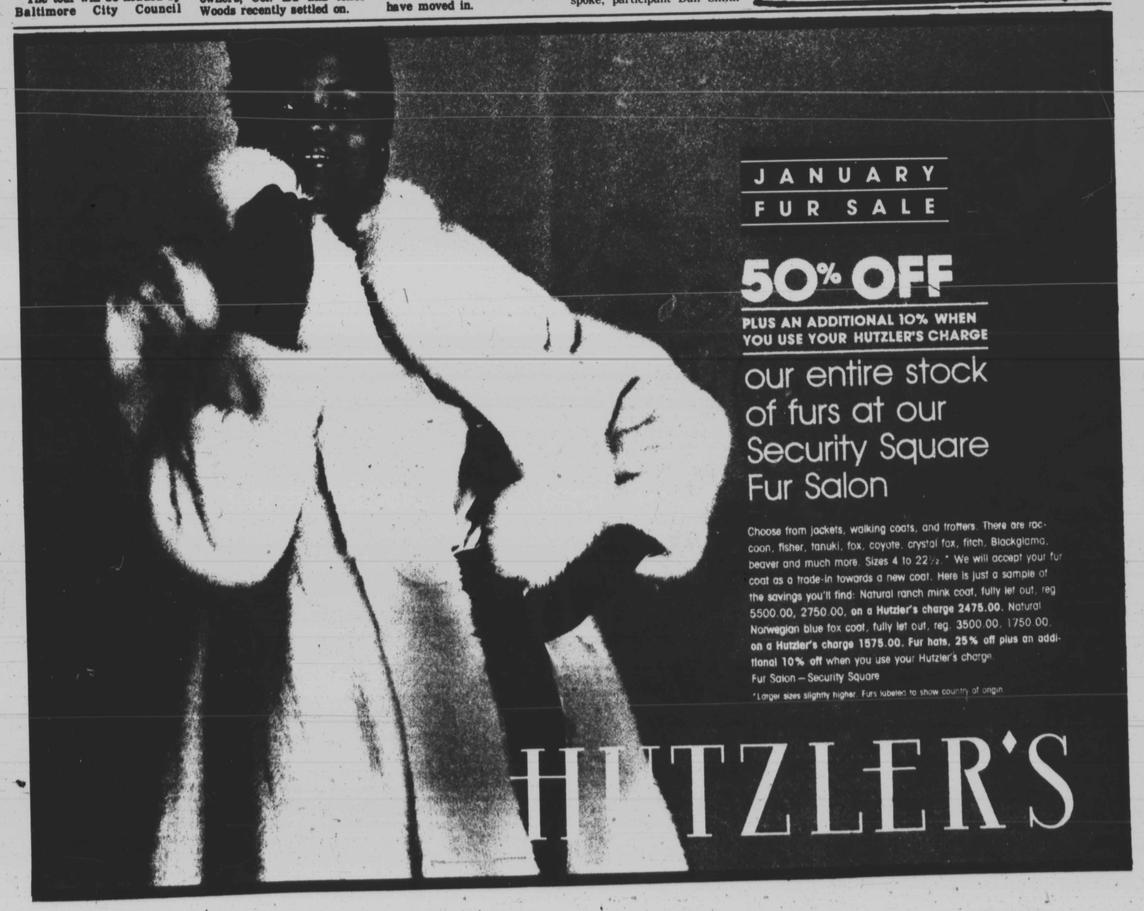
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