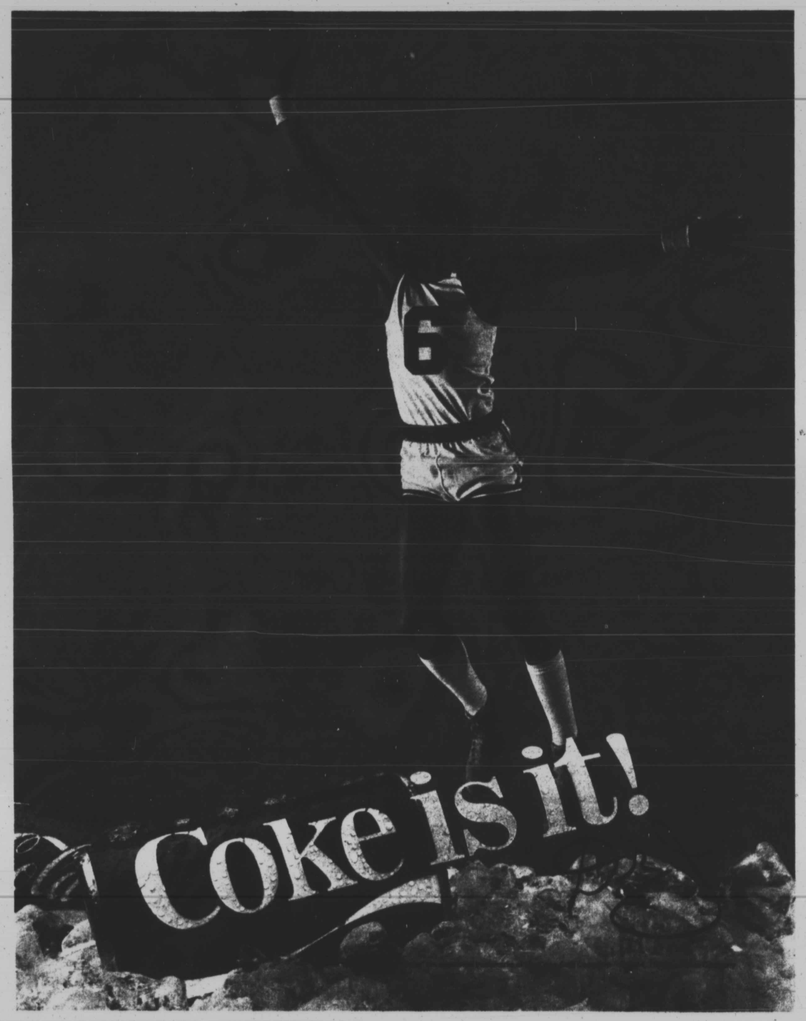

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The Afro-American

93RD YEAR No. 54 BALTIMORE, MD. FEBRUARY 16, 1985 40 CENTS

Outrage over TV mini-series 'The Atlanta Child Murders'

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

Mary Welcome, the former Atlanta attorney who served as lead counsel for Wayne Williams throughout his 1981 murder trial, says the movie about the Atlanta child murders was grossly inaccurate and misleading.

Welcome, who viewed the two-part series at home with friends and family, charged that the producer of the movie Abbey Mann and his fellow writers preyed upon negativism and played up racial aspects of the trial that didn't exist at all.

"I had to keep asking myself and wondering whether or not that was the same trial I participated in," said Welcome after viewing the movies final episode. "The whole thing was fiction with very little facts."

Mary Welcome
"Whole thing is fiction with very little facts."

Maynard Jackson
"Rank avaricious exploitation"

Lee Brown
"...grossly unfair"

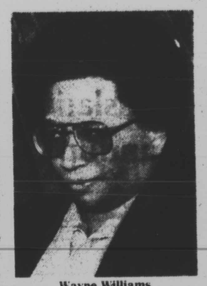
Although Welcome says she agreed with the overall impression of the movie that Wayne did not receive a fair trial and was convicted without a great deal of creditable evidence, she disagreed with the way Atlanta was portrayed, along with its police department and city officials.

Some of the distorted facts, Welcome pointed out, included the TV use of a majority black jury with a black female foreman of the jury, when in fact, a white male served as foreman of the jury throughout the Williams trial.

"It would appear that if Wayne were railroaded," said Welcome, "a black jury did it."

The movie created the characters of two black detectives, Ben played by Ross Freeman and Walker played by James Earl Jones.

The person in charge of the task force was white during the actual trial but the movie portrayed him as black says Welcome, because if they had gone with the facts and put a white at the head of the task force then, "that would cause writers of the movie to criticize a white person," something they weren't about to do she said.



Wayne Williams

"Criticism is not limited to a black city, a black police department or a black mayor," charged Welcome, "everybody must share in this blame."

Mary Welcome served as the lead counsel for Wayne Williams from the trial's beginning to the end however in the movie her role was minimized and the character played by Jason Robards was projected as Williams' lead counsel.

"In the movie they had to have a hero," reasoned Welcome. "They needed a great white hope. So, they minimized my role because they had enough blackness to do what they wanted."

Welcome, who was not consulted during the films' making, says she would have been reluctant to participate anyway, because she would have given them facts and they weren't about to accept that.

"I would not have wanted to participate in something false like that," she added. "There was no integrity there whatsoever. The producer was a stranger to truth."

Former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson called the CBS movie based on the murders of 29 young Atlanta blacks "rank, avaricious exploitation" Wednesday and refused to rule out possible legal action.

"What we have here is a set of falsehoods which confounds belief, done purely for profit," said Jackson regarding the two-part movie.

"The implication (of the movie) was that we didn't care about our children," said Jackson. "That offends me personally."

In a telegram to co-producer

Continued on page 2

Doughty responds to auditors' charges

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Staff Writer

The former manager of the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center, Glenn Doughty, took time Thursday to respond to allegations, raised by the city finance director, that the center is a "financial quagmire". He accused the city auditors of "lumping" figures together that have confused the "average lay person."

Finance director Charles L. Benton made the statement while appearing before the Board of Estimates Wednesday to request that it approve $250,000 in additional funds to continue center operations.

He informed the board that the family entertainment center was $291,000 in debt, and alleged that the center had bills, including gas and electric and telephone, that had not been paid for as many as six months.

The Board of Estimates subsequently approved the $250,000 fund allocation.

However, the former Baltimore Colt wide receiver who retired from pro-football in 1980 and built the center on Pennsylvania Ave. to "give something back to the community", had a different story to tell Thursday.

According to his account of the $291,000 debt, the bulk of that money refers to an unpaid insurance premium secured from a California firm of about $120,000.

"Because of the publicity we got this summer, as of October 15, our insurance went from $25,000 to $100,000 annually. No insurance company including Lloyd's of London would insure us," he said.

It was largely with the aid of a local businessman Terry Addison, that Doughty was finally able to locate a firm in California willing to issue a policy in order to keep the center doors open.

An additional amount of approximately $110,000, according to Doughty, is for local real estate and property taxes, with the remaining roughly $50,000 reportedly covering bills for operating expenditures.

This including ($4,200) for bowling pins and ($3,000) for bowling and skating sales tax.

As for the allegation that part of that debt is attributable to six-month-old utility bills, he insists that those bills are "current" and were paid up to at least January.

Said Doughty, "Anybody that knows anything about heating and phone bills knows you can't go over two months without pay-

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MTA to resume old bus schedule

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

Eight months after introducing the new Metro Connection, Mass Transit Administration (MTA) officials have agreed to return regular through bus service to the northwest section of the city after the subway closes.

Metro Connection, which went into effect June, 1984, called for the discontinuation of complete bus service throught the northwest section of the city in order to force an increase in ridership on the Metro Subway.

The result of discussions between MTA officials and community groups in the Mondawmin and Penn-North areas, the change is one of many to begin Monday, March 25.

Among other changes to come, the Metro Connection bus service on the M-3 line will be extended from the Mondawmin station to Pennsylvania and North Aves.

Patrons may transfer to the Metro at Mondawmin or continue by bus to the Penn-North area, where they may transfer to MTA buses on the Nos. 13 or 19 lines.

Another change already initiated is the erection of windscreens at the Mondawmin station as well as additional information placed on signs to aid passengers.

The buses that will deliver straight-through bus service after the Metro's 8 p.m. closing time are Nos. 5, 7, and 28, eliminating night-time transfers at the Mondawmin station.

Last-trip bus service on Metro Connection routes M-1, M-2 and M-3 will leave the Mondawmin station at approximately 8:30 p.m. After that time, and until the Metro reopens at 5 a.m., the Nos. 5, 7 and 28 lines will serve the northwest section of the city.

The through routes are also in effect on weekends when Metro does not operate.

According to MTA administrator Ron Hartman, the changes will reduce bus-to-bus transfers and passenger waiting time. He also said the changes are expected to save some patrons money, since fewer transfers are required.

"I feel real proud of the committee," commented Darnell Miller, organizer of the protesting group which later named itself the Better Transit

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Former WJZ-TV head is said to have bogus credits

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

He has been called a tough administrator, a trouble-shooter, one who knows how to get the job done. He has been called a leader, a pacesetter, a professional's professional. He's been referred to as a role model for both blacks and whites who aspire to "make it" in the media.

Despite these glowing accolades, Paul Yates, the former general manager of WJZ TV, who currently is on personal leave of absence from his position as vice president and general manager of KYW TV in Philadelphia, is still under scrutiny by various national media because of discrepancies concerning his resume which the AFRO reported in its Tuesday edition.

Yate's resume, listing bogus academic credits, was first exposed in an article appearing in the February issue of **Philadelphia Magazine**. Another article that appeared in last Friday's **Philadelphia Inquirer** also confirmed those discrepancies.

Yet another article is due to be published by the **Inquirer** that, according to its author, is "far broader, far deeper" than what's been published so far and Paul Yates will be included as one element of a "much larger topic."

Although the reporter, Bill Narimow of the Philadelphia Inquirer, was reluctant to talk to another reporter about the article he has been working on for the past four to five weeks, he did say that what had been published so far concerning Yates was routine writing" and did not pinpoint "specific falsehoods" surrounding the general manager "that are serious."

"I've been trying to interview him (Paul Yates) for several days now," said Narimow, who was unsure of when his latest article would be completed and published.

Jim Thompson, the vice president of sales at KYW TV since May, 1982, has been named acting general manager of the station during Yates' absence. KYW TV, which has experienced extremely low ratings over the past few years, saw some improvement in its rating numbers during the administration of Paul Yates, a station spokesman has confirmed.

"Paul was a bit of a strange kind of guy," acknowledged Randy Dennis, morning drive personality at V103 radio, who worked with Paul Yates from 1973-75 at the Sheridan Broadcasting Network." He gives off the impression of being all business and

PAUL YATES

knowledge about this business of media, but it's all psychology. I think he was psych major in school. As an administrator, he commanded respect because he

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Legislative roundup

A recent technological breakthrough in the screening technique of sickle-cell anemia could give House Bill 108, sponsored by Delegate Mary B. Adams (D-40th), the push it needs to become Maryland law.

Reintroduced for the second time, this bill would require the manditory offering of screening of newborns for sickle-cell anemia and establish an educational component to inform the public about the disease through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

"My faith has been restored that the General Assembly will respond to the needs of black children with this legislation," said Mrs. Adams.

A heightened concern about health care in this 1985 session coupled with the refinement of an existing screening technique prompted Delegate Adams to submit the bill for reconsideration during this session.

The bill was previously introduced in the 1984 legislative.

Consumers who purchase "demo automobiles" would get a break, thanks to a bill introduced by Senator Troy Brailey.

Senate Bill 38, which has passed the Senate and is now in the House, requires a motor vehicle manufacturer to provide a certain notice in the warrantly if the manufacturer chooses to include miles of operation other than those incurred by the consumer within the warranty period.

"If you buy a car and it's a demonstrator model and you're given a new car warranty, most people don't pay attention to what's on the speedometer.

"The way the law is, the owner is charged with whatever mileage the car shows. If you've got a warranty that's good for 12,000

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Col. William Harris, 66

He brought Baltimore some of its finest moments

All they can do is wait. The children wait. The family waits. The friends wait. The church waits. The fraternity brothers wait. The community waits.

They wait for Col. William "Box" Harris, 66, to return to his native city to be honored, to be mourned, to be blessed, and to be buried.

He collapsed after an apparent heart attack earlier this week in Japan while he was lecturing about the role of blacks in the nation's military history as a part of Black History Month. His wife, Ivy, mother of their two daughters, Barbara and Donna, was with him when he died.

The body is being flown home from Japan by way of Korea and is tentatively expected to arrive at Baltimore Washington International Airport sometime over the weekend. Because of the delay involved in shipping the body, funeral or memorial plans are only tentative, Col. Harris's sister, Mrs. Nellie Bowie, said.

"Everyone, the army, the police department, really just everyone has been wonderful," Mrs. Bowie said Thursday. She said Mrs. Harris "is holding up well under all of this. The Army was wonderful. She was escorted home from Japan by a female Army officer, and the family met her Wednesday night at the airport about 10:40."

The story of Col. Harris's life is that of the native son who made good.

Col. William Harris

He was born on November 12, 1918. He attended Storer High School in Harpers Ferry, W.Va., from which he was graduated in 1940. He was graduated from Morgan State in 1949 and received an A. B. degree with a sociology major from the University of Maryland in 1949.

From June, 1949 to June, 1950, he was the Recreation Leader at the city Department of Recreation. From June, 1950 until September, 1950, he was a social worker with the Department of Public Welfare. He served in the United States Army from September, 1950 until May, 1952.

From May, 1952 until November of that year, he was a field representative for Johnson Publications.

Col. Harris worked with the state as a parole and probation officer from November, 1952 until April, 1956.

From April, 1956 until August, 1965, he was a Deputy U.S. Marshal, with the U.S. Department of Justice, but located in downtown Baltimore.

In August, 1965, he was named Program Development Officer, with the state Department of Economic Opportunity. Under the Economic Act of 1964, Col. Harris was responsible for providing technical assistance to communities, public agencies, private non-profit associations in developing, conducting, and administering community action programs. His territory consisted of the Eastern Shore counties in the state.

In 1970, he became the first black man to head an entire division of the police department, when he was named Chief of the Traffic Division.

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