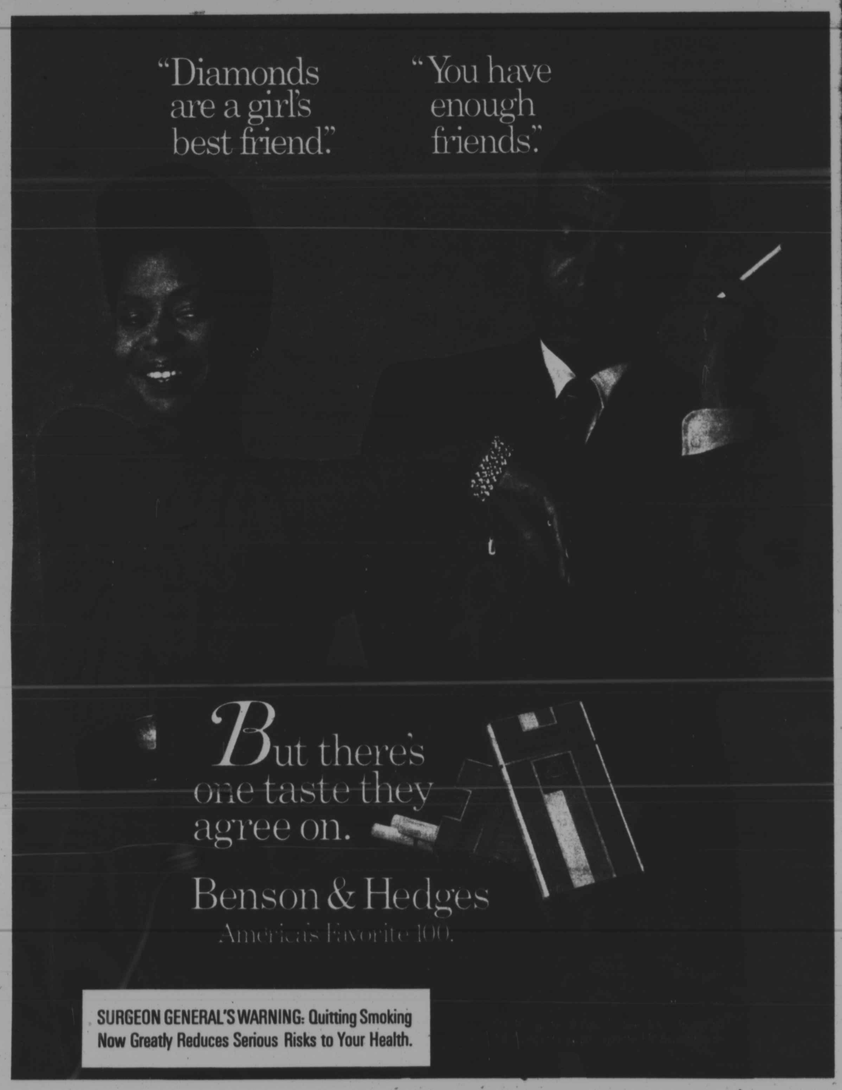

RITES FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Football hero mourned

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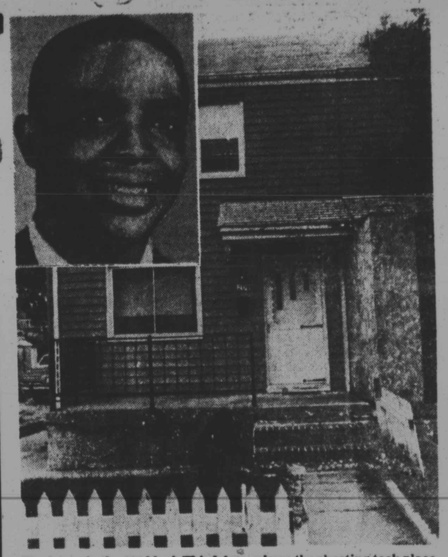
(AFRO Photo by Paul A. Greene)

PICTURED IS THE FIRE ENGINE THAT WAS struck by a car racing a red light Monday at the intersection of North Avenue and Poplar Grove Street. The center vehicle hit the engine, locked together, spun and jumped the median and pushed two other vehicles into the bus pictured right. The first driver died, and 22 others were treated and released from area hospitals.



The house in the 200 block Third Ave. where the shooting took place. Residence is in the Lansdowne section. Shown in inset is Ernest Williams.

DID WHITE GIRL

Pull the trigger?

Football hero Ernest Lee Williams, Jr., the star of Landsdowne Senior High School's varsity team, prized his Number 15 uniform. He kept it clean. It was seldom dirty. How so proud it made him.

Thursday it became his shroud.

Dozens of tearful friends and classmates gathered the same day at Russ Funeral Home to mourn and view Williams's body. For many of them the last time they saw him, he was on the football field playing earnestly, even in defeat.

At his feet were flowers brought by his friends and classmates. At his side was a picture of he and his best friend, Eric Page, as they posed at a local disco. In his hands was a brand new Spaulding football.

Funeral services are scheduled for Friday at 1 p.m. at Leadenhall Baptist Church, 1201 Leadenhall St.

* * *

Mystery still surrounds the shooting death of the 16-year-old black youth who police believe was killed accidentally while at the residence of one of his younger white female companions at about 3:15 p.m. Monday.

However, to avoid harrassment of the involved, county police are withholding specific details which might identify them in their communities.

"We want to avoid saying which of the girls' houses this occurred at because of the closeknittedness of the community. It would make her easily identifiable to those who aren't already aware," County Police Spokesman Brian Uppercue told the AFRO Wednesday.

The victim, formerly of the 2900 block Lakebrook Circle, was pronounced dead at 10:10 p.m. at University of Maryland Hospital Monday.

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Westside toxic cleanup to begin soon

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

The clean-up procedure for toxic chemicals found stored in an abandoned building in the Union Square Community on West Baltimore Street will begin next week and is expected to take three or four days.

Members of that community listened at a meeting on Wednesday evening as public health officials from city, state, and federal agencies discussed the procedures and explained the potential impact on the community.

Much of the audience was filled with residents of the Hollins House, a high rise apartment complex for senior citizens.

The meeting, held in Hollins House, also drew several state legislators, including Dels. Larry Young, Ruth Kirk, and Mary B. Adams.

Joining them later were Del. Elijah Cummings and state Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell, III.

Community residents, and especially residents of Hollins House, were given assurances that the procedures would pose little or no danger to them.

According to Ron Nelson, of the Waste Mangement Administration, "No relocation of anyone will be necessary during this operation."

At least 15 containers of chemicals were found in the former Union Art Gold and Silver Plating Company at 1009 W. Baltimore Street.

Samples taken from those containers indicated presence of cyanide-bearing compounds as well as other acids. The toxic materials are commonly used in metal plating and are stored in containers ranging from 15 to 25 gallons.

At the meeting, residents raised questions as to the danger of the chemicals, as they were told there was no danger in the cyanide and the other acids were kept apart. If combined they would produce hydrogen cyanide gas which, if in strong enough concentrations, would kill almost instantly.

Bucky Walters, a public health official with the Center For Disease Control in Atlanta, explained, "250 parts per million will kill you in a minute...if all the chemicals were to come together...we would get two parts per million."

Walter said if the gas escaped, "It would be lighter than air," thereby rising. If that happened, "We'd ask you to close your windows," said Walters.

But those representatives were confident that none of the community would be in any danger.

Mike Zigler of the EPA said he had $50,000 authorized for the clean-up, and said he didn't think he'd need more.

Before the clean-up can begin, cars from a used-car lot behind the building must be moved. Children attending the nearby James McHenry Elementary School will find the playground a little crowded as that's where the

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A crisis in affirmative action cases

By Lamont Curry
AFRO Staff Writer

One of the generals of the '60s, the founder of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), one of the architects of as he said "the movement that has fizzled into disarray," came to Baltimore to address a group of Affirmative Action Officers Wednesday, at the Baltimore Hilton.

James Farmer, author of "Lay Bare the Heart," keynoted a luncheon themed "Politics and Power In Affirmative Action" at the Hilton Inn on Reisterstown Road. The affair was sponsored by the Maryland Association Of Affirmative Action Officers (MAAAO).

Established in March 1975, the association is designed to bridge the gap between diverse groups of Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action personnel in the public and private sectors and to further strengthen Equal Opportunity programs throughout the state. It also provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information relative to federal, state, and local anti-discrimination mandates, according to organizers.

"In the '60s after the March on Washington, we had 75 percent of the American people with us. They wanted to see Affirmative Action programs in place.

"Now white America feels that blacks have made too many gains — much too fast. We have to work out a strategy of action to deal with the political climate of opinion in the nation," he said.

Farmer said that many purport the myth of a class struggle as opposed to a racial one.

"It's racism . . . Neo-conservative Reaganites argue that if a person works hard and saves money, that person will enjoy unlimited progress, regardless of race, creed or color.

"Black conservatives like Thomas Sowell, the economist, say that we can pull ourselves up by the bootstraps. Clarence Pendelton, of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission touts the position daily. James Meredith, the beneficiary of the movement, the first black to be forcibly admitted to the formally segregated University of Alabama is now arguing that Civil Rights is all wrong.

"Why is it popular for people to voice this view . . . when people in power purported the view, 'ders gold in dem der hills," he said, as he leaned back laughing. Farmer granted an exclusive to the AFRO in his suite.

Asked if blacks should stop begging to be accepted and build something for self, he said:

"We must do both. We have to develop enterprises and businesses of our own, but we must have a choice. If we want our own we should have it, but if we want to work for someone else — we should be able to — If we want our own community, we should have it but if we want to live in someone else's, we shouldn't be denied," he said.

Attorney Vivian M. Lawyer, president of MAAAO, said that although there's been a trickle-down effect with respect to the current administration's straying away from enforcing on-the-books Affirmative Action programs, therefore erosion is pervasive in Maryland, the policies are not eroded.

"I think we're approaching the crisis stage, people are afraid of losing their jobs (Affirmative Action Officers) because if the laws

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POLITICS '86

Dr. Augustus Adair, a longtime professor of political science at Morgan State University, will announce today (Friday) that he will be a candidate for the Seventh District Congressional seat currently held by Rep. Parren J. Mitchell.

Adair will make the announcement, he told the AFRO Tuesday, at 12:30 p.m. in the McKeldin Student Center on Morgan's campus.

* * *

Mrs. Helena Hicks, noted northwest Baltimore community activist, announced Wednesday night her intention to file as a candidate for the House of Delegates seat now being occupied by House Speaker Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mrs. Hicks made her announcement on Wednesday evening at Howard Park United Methodist Church. Numerous federal, state, and city political luminaries were present.

Attorney Dwight Pettit has scheduled a press conference for Tuesday, Nov. 5 to announce his intention to run for the U.S. Congress, in the 7th Congressional District, at Eastern High School on 33rd and Lockraven.

Orchard Street fundraiser Sat. night

Baltimore's Mondawmin Mall Shopping Center will become one gigantic casino Saturday night when hundreds of guests participate in a gala fundraiser to benefit the Orchard Street Church Museum Project.

Billed as "Monte Carlo Night at Mondawmin Mall," the affair will be held on Nov. 2 from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. at the mall, located at Reisterstown Road and Liberty Heights Avenue.

Tickets are $30 and will be on sale at the mall entrance on the night of the fundraiser.

The event is being sponsored by the Committee for the Preservation of the Orchard Street Church. The group hopes that the casino party will help raise the $100,000 needed to begin construction on a black cultural arts museum project inside the abandoned church building.

Taking as its theme, "You Don't Have To Leave Town to Visit Monte Carlo," Mondawmin will literally be transformed into a huge game room complete with game tables, beautiful girls, flashing signs and lighted ceilings and plenty of live entertainment.

Cash prizes and gifts will be given out to lucky winners and there will be lots of free food and a cash bar.

The Orchard Street Church was built by slaves and free blacks in 1837.

It is said to be the oldest black church in Maryland and reportedly was used as a conduit by which slaves were able to make their way to freedom before, during and after the Civil War.

Stories of a tunnel being located in a church sub-basement and used to hide slaves have remained a part of the Orchard Street mystique and continue to today despite attempts by some to discredit such information.

However, those who have studied black history are well aware that the term "Underground Railroad" refers not necessarily to an actual railroad or tunnel, but rather to a secret trail of safehouses, barns and churches used to house runaway blacks during slavery.

The church, which today remains a part of Baltimore's black community's proud heritage, still stands in its original location in the 500 block Orchard St.

Wounded Morgan student transferred

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Michael Shaw, the Morgan State University student who was injured Oct. 3 on the campus by a bullet to the head, was transferred from University Hospital to Montebello State hospital on Oct. 26.

Reported medically stable, young Shaw is able to speak but is not able to walk. He is paralyzed on one side.

A Montebello hospital official told the AFRO the Morgan student is in therapy most of each day.

She says he prefers "snacks foods" to hospital food, which he does not like. He wears white pants and tennis shoes.

Young Shaw is the son of Dr. Roosevelt Shaw, a member of the Morgan faculty. The AFRO was unable to reach his parents.

However, the Montebello official says the young man's progress is as good as could be expected and termed "fine."

The Oct. 3 near-fatal shooting left young Shaw with a bullet in the head. He was walking with a male friend when the shooting occurred shortly after 10 p.m.

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