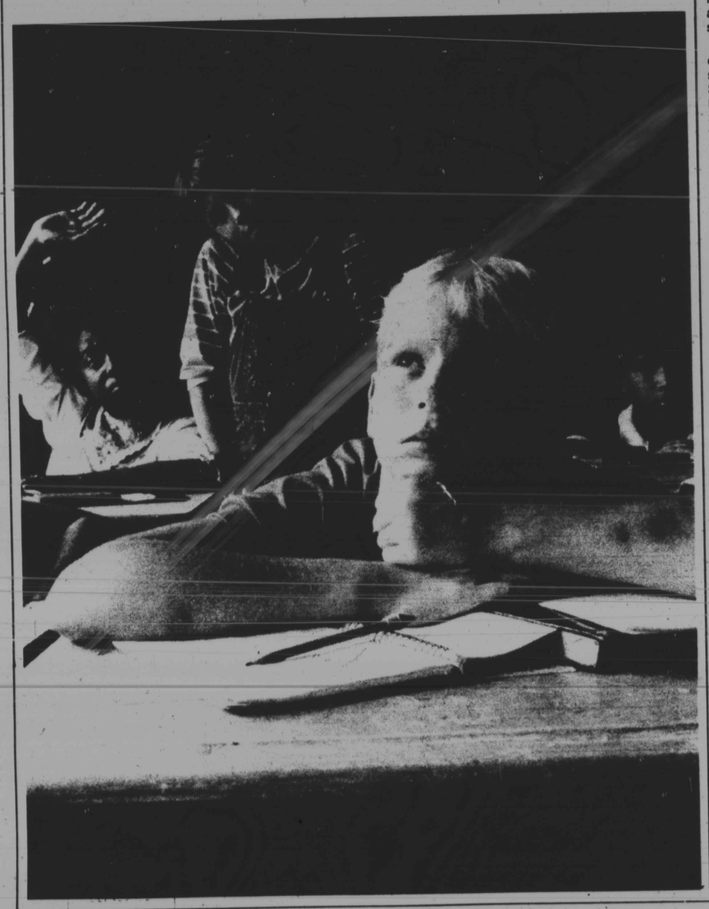
THIS KID HAS THE HIGHEST MARKS IN HIS CLASS.



Billy is an abused child. In the classroom, he's pretty tough to beat. But at home, it's a far different story. And the marks that Billy displays on the outside don't even compare to the far deeper ones he carries within. But thanks to the State of Maryland, Billy now has a fighting chance for a spotless future.

Through the efforts of a program sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Human Resources, the State General Fund provides protective services for children. Additionally, the Maryland State Department of Human Resources operates a variety of other family services including Foster Care, Adoption Services, Public Assistance and Day Care.

The Maryland General Fund scores high marks with all Marylanders in need.

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MARTIN M. PUNCKE DIRECTOR

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AFRO Mrs. Santa Fund need $$$

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LATE CITY EDITION

Baltimore Afro American

94TH YEAR NO. 38 BALTIMORE, MD. December 21, 1985 40 CENTS

Enjoying holiday festivities are (l to r) Maxine Brockington, Johnnie Mae Moore and clown Milton Randall.

PROVIDENT HOSPITAL PLAN:

'Link' with University and Lutheran discussed

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

Provident Hospital appeared to move one step closer to financial solvency this week when its trustee, George L. Russell, announced that the hospital might "link" with the University of Maryland Hospital and Lutheran Hospital to form a West Baltimore health network.

According to Russell, "the creation of a system with these members offers an opportunity for reducing the total number of beds in service in west Baltimore.

"Also, the elimination of duplicative services and coordinated management and planning that benefits all of the approximately 370,000 people living in the West and Southwest portions of Baltimore."

The proposal has one catch however. Officials at Lutheran Hospital say they've had no official word from Provident regarding the move.

"Until we do," said Emerson Goodwin, public relations official for Lutheran, "we're not in a position to discuss it."

Of the move, Russell said, "It just makes good sense to sit down with Lutheran and University to devise a health plan for west Baltimore."

Russell said at a press conference held Tuesday afternoon at Provident, that he had talked with University of Maryland hospital officials, but had not spoken with Lutheran officials.

When discussing a linkage possibility, Russell appeared optimistic, indicating that if such an affliation were to occur, Provident would have to maintain its identity and the hospital's clinical chief and the majority of its board would remain black.

"I don't contemplate any joint boards or any other board," said Russell.

The linkage is one of the tenants of Russell's recovery plan for Provident which was requested by Governor Harry Hughes. The plan played a big part in determining whether Provident would receive additional funds from the state.

In addition to linkage, Russell said that further cuts are coming," and indicated that the cuts which have been made, "have not

(Continued on page 2)

Jailed AIDs carrier put into solitary confinement

By LaMont Curry
AFRO Staff Writer

Douglas Farmer, 20, languishes in solitary confinement in the Baltimore County Detention Center because he's been diagnosed as an AIDS carrier.

Lawyers for Farmer have filed a $100,000 discrimination suit in U.S. Federal District Court against Warden Mark A. Levine, charging him with discrimination for unfairly bunching the prisoner with death row candidates and discipline problems.

"I don't think it's right," said an unnamed source who tipped off the AFRO. "He doesn't really have the disease, he's only a carrier. He's locked-up for 23-hours a day and denied privileges because of the Warden."

"That is absolutely not the case. He's in medical isolation because we've received instructions from medical authorities that his health status could endanger the general population as well as himself," said Baltimore County Detention Center Warden Mark A. Levine.

He refused to speak in specific terms of Farmer, to protect his right to privacy, he said. But, other observers allude that Farmer is homosexual and the fear is that he could initiate an AID epidemic at the center.

Attorney Nevitte Steele, Farmers' council, declined to discuss specifics in the case when the AFRO contacted him at his office. He did not want to discuss the case for the record but said that his client has a legitimate concern.

No trial date has been set in the case but Judge Herbert F. Murray and U.S. Magistrate Paul Rosenburg are to hear the case.

Farmer, held on a half million dollar bail for credit card and check fraud has been incarcerated five months, drew the attention of the medical examiner to himself, according to Levine.

"He told us he was having problems with his health. Once he was examined we were instructed as to isolating him.

"He understands but he just doesn't agree," said Levine.

Protest rally held for the Elkton five

By Brion Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

ELKTON, MD. — NEARLY 200 town residents, along with several NAACP representatives, rallied and marched here Wednesday to protest the treatment of five young black men accused of raping a white woman in July.

On Saturday July 13, Elkton police arrested Oscar Lee Gude, 26, Sheraton Gude, 20, Sherdonald Gude, 17, Ronald Fitz, 20, and Richard Purdie, 17, after relatives of the alleged victim reported the incident.

The Wednesday crowd of mostly black citizens held signs and chanted outside the Elkton Circuit Court, showing their displeasure with the selection of an all-white 12 man jury Friday, Dec. 13 when the trial of Donald Fitz began.

Of the five black men arrested in the July rape incident, Fitz was the only one who was able to raise his bail. He was held in lieu of $10,000. The others have remained in the Cecil County Detention Center.

Wednesday's march was led by Rev. Emmett C. Burns, regional director of the NAACP who said that the incident has grown into a much bigger issue than expected.

"The strong racial overtones of this case has caused it to snowball into a pretty big issue. When it first developed, officials here thought it was no big thing, but it is," Rev. Burns told the AFRO.

He said that the NAACP will monitor the entire trial which court officials expect to end next week. Rev. Burns described Elkton as a "small, conservative, but backwards town."

"It seems to me that people here are interested in keeping things pretty much the way they are, but if the way things are doesn't include justice, then things here must change," he said.

Among other civic leaders present Wednesday were Cecil County NAACP representative, Rev. Donald O. Hamilton, and Rev. Dr. Henry Harris, pastor of Pentacostal Church of God.

Tracy Brown, an Elkton businesswoman, feels that the outcome of the trial will influence the treatment of blacks by county law enforcement officials in the future. The case has been compared to the infamous case of the Scottsboro Boys, nine young black Alabama men charged with the rape of two white women in a railroad car in 1931

"Justice must be established in Elkton and other similar towns as well. I think that this case has drawn great attention, so if there is injustice, the people will be aware of it," Ms. Brown said.

A concern of one of the young

(Continued on page 2)

Bethel AME joins fight against teen pregnancy

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

Bethel A.M.E. Church has joined the growing number of organizations that are battling the problem of teen pregnancy and teen parenthood.

On Thursday, Rev. Joan Wharton, director of Bethel's Outreach Center, announced the formation of a "Teen Parenting Enrichment Program," which said Wharton, "will minister to the needs of the teenaged parents."

The center will provide short-term and long-term counseling, seminars on various aspects of parenting and workshops. "Our emphasis will be on the teen parent and the father of the child," she added.

Rev. Wharton is also hoping to make scholarship funds available for those teen parents wishing to further their education.

There will also be a "Christian Pregnancy Prevention" component which will go into the public schools and lecture on a Christian approach to teen sexuality.

"We received a vision in February," said Rev. Wharton in reflecting on the origins of the program. "We had a vision and faith and we just moved on it."

Rev. Wharton said that as the church began to move, the funding sources "came to us!" She credits Mrs. Vivian Washington as an important person in helping them develop the program.

She is the executive director of the Baltimore Council on Adolescent Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention and a long-time advocate of such programs.

Rev. Wharton said the program is needed in the Upton community where Bethel is located and that census tracts have indicated that the Upton community has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the city.

"Through our counseling component, we saw that we have a major teen parent clientele right here." She added, "No other church out here is doing this." with pride in her voice.

"I knew that God placed me here for a reason and that there was some work to be done when I took over as director," she said. "This is going to make a difference, an impact. I believe that."

Teens interested in the program are urged to call the Outreach Center at 728-2557.

Beware phony workers

Officials of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services have sounded the alarm on unknown persons who have been posing as social workers to gain entry into homes and have stolen money, etc.

The agency director, Dr. George G. Musgrove, said this week that all BCDSS staff have identification cards with their pictures and social security number.

"People who let others into their homes on face value are vulnerable," said Myrna C. Jackson, chief communications services, BCDSS. "People are actually gaining entrance to the homes of families receiving services because those people don't think to or are afraid to ask for identification."

Thus far there have been two cases reported in Baltimore City and no arrests.

Dr. Musgrove is urging potential victims to avoid letting anyone into their homes without proper identification.

"Do not let them in and call police, immediately," he said.

National NAACP officials here Monday

New York officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will converge on the site of their new headquarters Monday to accept a donation to the building fund and to meet the local media.

The 76-year-old advocacy organization is set to relocate its national offices from Brooklyn, New York to Baltimore City.

According to Felicia Kessel, NAACP director of public relations, AME Zion Bishop Alfred G. Dunston will present $20,000 to the agency's building fund.

A press conference has been scheduled for 11:00 a.m. at the new site in Seton Industrial Park - 4805 Mt. Hope Dr.

Mrs. Santa Fund — $19,077.02

The Twelve Plus One Club, a group of professional Social workers and educators contributed $100 to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa Fund. Shown are: Mesdames Jean Thomas-Carter, Vice President; Audrey E. Williams, Historian; Mrs. Santa's Helper, Ms. Shawn Murray of the Circulation Dept.; Anne Reed, President and Naomi H. Evans, club member.

(Photos by Vanessa Johnson)

It's not too late to help Mrs. Santa Fund

Details on page 18

Case No. 200

Dear Mrs. Santa:

I guess I don't know how to start, except—please help!

You think of all the people who have less than you do, and you thank God for what you do have, but it is not enough sometimes, when you wake up knowing you don't even have breakfast or dinner for your kids.

So, you try to figure out what to do to just make it until payday. There are six kids and when they want to eat—no one cares where nor who gives it, they just know they are eating.

My husband is working full-time, I'm working part-time—just trying to get by. A classic paycheck will go fast, but yet never far enough.

Sometimes you say about the utility bills, let them turn it off—I just can't handle it. Then there is never enough for a coat or shes or pants—something for school.

Even with both of us working, we are lucky if there is $2 left between us on payday. Now there is the oil which you had planned to get all summer—but never could because the money had to be used for something else.

In this weather, you've got to have heat—the kids need heat. I'm just asking, please help us to make sure we can have a nice meal for the holiday.

The children are 2, 7, 10, 13—boys; and 11, 17—girls. Thank you for whatever you can do.

A Family Trying

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