—Violence in city schools

Continued from page 1

Currently the school system is requiring visible identification cards in some schools, coats in lockers, parents at doors (in those schools where there are parent volunteers) and limited accessibility (read that most doors locked), said Pinderhughes.

The school system is calling for more parental involvement, strong gun control legislation and stringent trespass laws to aid them in their fight against violence.

When education chair Iris Reeves (5th) asked Patterson what alternative programs were currently in place, Patterson cited Harbor City and School No. 178, the Francis M. Wood Alternate High School.

Francis Wood admitted less than 20 students last year from the school system, students who had been termed "disruptive" and subsequently suspended.

Harbor City, a working partnership between the school system and the Neighborhood Progress Administrations office of Manpower Resources admitted 95 suspended students and 4 who were expelled from the school system.

This resulted in only 120 students being helped versus the 2,000 students who were suspended last year.

School officials say however, that of that number, a small number were suspended for a second time, an occurrence that offers them some hope.

It offered no hope to Marilyn Hunter, a former teacher, a parent, and an education advocate.

Hunter in questioning the accuracy of the number of students suspended each year, along with the 600 students who are deemed eligible for the special education curriculum, surmised that those numbers "don't reflect the number of kids teachers would like to refer."

"If we're looking at referring students in middle and senior high schools, it's too little, too late," she said.

Hunter urged the school system to look at elementary school students. She said that a lack of oral skills has been found in some cases, to be a root of disruptive behavior at this grade level.

Hunter also contended that there are no services for the parents of disruptive students, recalling her own experience in getting help for her child.

"They're people making $50,000 or $60,000 pretending they're furnishing services for these children, and they're not," she charged.

George Buntin, executive secretary of the city branch of the NAACP said his organization supported metal detecting devices in the schools, along with a dress code and the return to strict disciplinary rules.

"We have to do what is necessary to make the school environment safe for those who want to learn," she said solemnly.

"We understand the problem of crime is a community-wide problem. But, let's get the guns out of schools."

The NAACP also supports security guards posted at doors and the use of school crossing guards inside the schools during the day as an added security measure.

Dr. Irving Hamer, headmaster of the Park Heights Street Academy in testifying, said, a separate facility for "disruptive kids" is not a new format.

Indeed, one only has to look at the Montrose School or the Charles A. Hickey School to get an idea of its effectiveness. Recent incidents at Montrose suggests the concept in and of itself is not always successful.

"If you put 200 disruptive kids in one place, who is going to manage them?" he asked.

"They're not treating the problem. Kids are frustrated, angry and alienated," he observed. Hamer said kids suffer from a lowered status in the community. "You can tell that by anybody's budget," he continued.

"You don't approach the problem by blaming the kids," he said.

Hamer offered several suggestions. He called for the formation of a commission on youth, in which young people would participate.

To boost the chance of employment for those kids who won't and don't qualify for such city summer employment programs and the "Blue-Chip-In," Hamer suggested the creation of a local lottery.

"Employment is a symbol of status for all adults and for any young person who doesn't have a job, it's demoralizing."

Hamer applauded the "Blue-Chip-In" program but he said it's exclusive and the students who participate would be able to meet the program's high attendance and academic standards anyway.

"What about the average student?" he asked. "What about the student who doesn't have the best attendance or the highest grades?"

He suggested a long-term residential facility for these kids, provided they are in school.

"There are more kids hanging on the street at 2 p.m. than we are willing to admit, or I dare say, document."

While the testimony of the adults yielded much information and insight, it was the testimony of a 13-year-old student, a Hectrese Sanchez-Rosado, which put a lot of things into perspective.

Sanchez-Rosado, who attends the Northern Parkway Junior High said she found herself involved in a physical altercation because "It's so crowded."

Speaking before committee members and the audience of parents, education advocates, the diminutive student said she could have benefited from having someone to talk to.

"If there's not enough space, there's going to be some pushing and fighting."

Sanchez-Rosado said she had considered suicide three times. She, like many students, say they have to get into trouble before they can get some attention from school officials.

Indeed, she said she finally met her counselor after getting into trouble. "Unless you display a violent attitude, you get no help."

Councilman Nathaniel McFadden (2nd) who sits on the education committee said he was not satisfied with the actions of the school system. In 1984, the school system formed a task force to address such issues of violence in the schools.

According to McFadden, the school system failed to follow its own recommendations.

"I'm not pleased," he said. "There's just too much to be done." McFadden said he felt many of the solutions could be implemented within the present educational structure.

"We simply can't continue to transfer these students from school to school."

—Metal detectors

Continued from page 1

one. At 2:47 Sunday morning 24-year old Tyrone Jacobs was on the dancefloor at Gatsby's dancing to his favorite tune when an unidentified gunman walked in and blasted him at point-blank range. Jacobs died instantly.

Three other partygoers were struck by gunfire as the large crowd scattered and stampeded the door. The gunman escaped unnoticed.

Johnson said that continued violence in the area could eventually hurt his business.

"The area already has a bad name. If this kind of thing goes on, people who attend my classes will begin to wonder if it's safe to come around."

Liquor Commissioner John Jefferies told the AFRO Thursday, "The shooting situation places us at a disadvantage because I don't think we can force club owners to install metal detectors. To do so would place a tremendous financial burden on the owners."

"Of course, I think metal detectors at nightclubs would be a good idea, but we can't force them.....But if legislators say so, it'll be a law," Jefferies said.

"This isn't to say that we condone what's been happening, but we can't force owners to install metal detectors. We feel that concerned owners should install them voluntarily to protect their patrons," he added.

Councilman Tony Ambridge, who supported anti-handgun legislation in Baltimore during previous months, shared the sentiments of the liquor board commissioner.

"I think such legislation would place a tremendous burden on club owners. It would be infringing on the private sector. I can see how it would protect people who frequent such nightclubs, but to mandate such a thing would be unfair," Ambridge told the AFRO.

* * *

Wendell Stith, manager of the Book Nook, which is located next door to the Gatsby's told the AFRO, "Well we close at 2 a.m., so luckily no one was even here when the shooting took place, but I don't like all of this shooting and I'm for anything that will stop it. I think that with metal detectors, if a person has nothing to hide it should be no problem."

"The objective is to keep guns outside of the clubs where they can hurt patrons. So if metal detectors accomplish this end, I have to be for them.....I wouldn't want to see my man go out of business, but people to continue to get shot in the club, that's what may happen. It would be a shame, but this shooting business has gotten out of hand," Stith added.

When the AFRO contacted Thirty-second Street Plahza, the club's public relations agent, Julius Mackey, said that a metal detector would be unnecessary at the popular eastside nightspot because the "clientele" that frequents the club is a different set than that of Gatsby's.

"Look at some of the other clubs on our level.....Hamilton's Landing, Impulse, or Sirens.....I feel like this, if they don't need metal detectors then we don't need one. Gatsby's is a whole different scene," he said.

On Dec. 24th, shotgun fire killed Club Disc Jockey Danny Green as he was enjoying an evening at Moreco's International Nightclub, in the 5400 block of Reisterstown Rd. Although Moreco's has had a metal detector since Dec. 24th, it was useless in saving Green.

On the morning of Feb. 16, three males, ages 28, 23, and 19, were shot while partying at The Underground, a social club in the 2100 block of Edmondson Ave.

In that incident, Donald Midget, 28, Willie Smith, 23, and Devin Small, 18, were shot in the leg, back, and thigh when two men and woman opened fire as a crowd left the club. The trio is still being sought.

Pat Gibson, manager of The Acropolis nightclub said that his club does not accommodate the kind of crowd found at Gatsby's and Thirty-second Street Plahza and therefore a metal detector there would also be unnecessary.

"Acropolis is not a disco anymore....we're all top 40 now. So we have a top 40 type of crowd. It's really not a problem," Gibson said.

—Reagan HUD

Continued from page 1

would enter the race sometime in the next two months. He added that he will hold a press conference at his church on Monday morning at 10 a.m. where he will publicly announce his resignation from the federal government.

Crosse is a native of Grenada and first came to the United States in 1957. He ran unsuccessfully for City Comptroller in 1979, served for two years with the Republican State Central Committee, from 1980 to 1982, before joining the Reagan Administration as HUD cabinet appointee in November, 1982.

He was appointed special ambassador to the tiny Caribbean nation of St. Kitts-Nevis, in 1983. His name has also been mentioned in connection with a possible ambassadorship to his native Grenada.

Crosse is the founder of S.A.F.E. (Society for the Advancement of Families) a Prince Georges County pro-life organization.

—Bishop John Ricard

Continued from page 1

to respond. Del. Nathaniel Exum (D-24th) of Prince George's County pointed to the differing attitude of Catholics on some issues.

"The Catholic Church is also opposed to the death penalty. But I'm baffled as to why Catholics aren't consistent in their protest against the death penalty."

Several of the parish priests attending the luncheon were involved in housing efforts for their respective communities and they urged caucus members to continue their work in steering funds for housing to the city.

Father Murray, in sharing the difficulties his parish has had in securing vacant houses to renovate for families said, "There are people waiting to get housing out there."

As federal funds for housing dry up, the priests, as do other housing advocates, look to the state to meet the shortfall.

Bishop Ricard said the Catholic Church supports gun control, "fully and completely." Ricard said he was currently developing a roster of pastors who have buried people who have been killed from gunfire, as a measure to show the support of the ecumenical community.

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People in the News

Flamer heads Morgan fundraising campaign

Cecil Flamer

Cecil E. Flamer, a Certified Public Accountant and a partner of the prestigious Ernst & Whinney accounting firm, has been selected to chair Morgan State University's Annual Fund Raising Campaign for 1986.

A 1969 Morgan graduate, Flamer asserts that he decided to become involved in his Alma Mater's efforts to obtain additional funds because he firmly believes that there is a need to perpetuate such institutions as viable educational options to high school graduates.

"When I graduated from high school, I could have gone to several predominantly white schools because I had the necessary grades and access to financial aid," he says. "However, I chose to attend Morgan because I felt comfortable there, having come from a segregated background.

"I had certain emotional needs at that time in addition to my educational needs, Morgan provided me with a sanctuary where I could prepare myself to deal with mainstream America while pursuing the kind of education I needed to compete effectively in my chosen profession."

While times have changed considerably since the 1960's with all citizens having greater mobility within our society, Mr. Flamer contends that predominantly black institutions of higher learning continue to fulfill a vital role and that steps should be taken to insure their continued viability.

"I believe that Morgan provides an excellent training ground for today's brightest students. Over the years, Morgan has produced numerous outstanding graduates including Earl G. Graves, the publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine and Rep. Parren Mitchell. Morgan also has the ability to understand and meet the needs of students who require extra help.

"Morgan fosters the intellectual and social growth of students who have not had all the advantages in life. I personally know of several instances where Morgan prepared students to be accepted in graduate schools that they could not have attended as undergraduates."

Defining his role as chairman of Morgan's 1986 Fundraising Campaign, Flamer indicates that he plans to concentrate on three major areas: 1) development and implementation of an executive giving program for corporate leaders; 2) soliciting large donors to become members of the President's Club; and 3) coordinating the overall activities of the campaign.

Because he is actively involved with Maryland's corporate community, he believes that he can add a needed dimension to Morgan's fundraising efforts.

"I'm convinced that once corporate leaders are comprehensively informed about the positive developments that are taking place at Morgan, they will be more inclined to open their purse strings to the university.

"There is a need for them to have a greater understanding of the major impact that Morgan has on Maryland in general and on their firms in particular. Actually, these corporations are major beneficiaries of the talent pool produced by Morgan as well as the revenues that Morgan graduates spend on their products."

While he plans to work aggressively to attract additional corporate support for Morgan, Flamer also realizes the need to bolster alumni contributions to the university. To accomplish this end, he is setting up a calendar of speaking engagements with alumni organizations to enlist them to participate in the campaign.

This coming Saturday (Mar. 1) he will address the Howard Cornish Chapter of the Morgan State University National Alumni Association. The organization's monthly meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at Heritage United Church of God located at 3106 Liberty Heights Ave.

2 men linked to AA and city women's assaults

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Baltimore city police and Anne Arundel County police believe that they have traced a string of crimes of last week to two local men, Donald Francis Corbin, 25, 2400 block Annor Court, Westport and Charles Bradley Summerville, 23, 1000 block Bethune Rd., Cherry Hill.

The two men are being held in Baltimore under $700,000 bail for a series of holdups, yokings and attempted robbery.

From information received, Anne Arundel police have linked the stolen car the two men were driving to yokings and attempted robbery in and around Glen Burnie and Arnold.

The most serious of the crimes is the multiple stabbing of Mrs. Susannah Louise Rice of Arnold who was returning to her home at 1 a.m. Feb. 21, from the airport. Mrs. Rice is the wife of Anne Arundel County School Superintendent Robert C. Rice.

The key to the circle of crimes, all last week, is the stolen late model, compact, maroon station wagon with temporary tags that victims said their assailants were driving in Baltimore.

Anne Arundel County women say their assailants also drove a car of that description.

Two women said they were followed from the Baltimore-Washington International Airport by men in the same kind of car. One woman said she locked up her car when she realized she was being followed and kept honking the horn until the men sped away.

Mrs. Rice, confined to the AA County General Hospital with five stab wounds, said it was before dawn Feb. 21 when she arrived by plane from a Dallas business trip.

She told police she drove to her Arnold home and was taking her luggage from her car trunk when a man pulled a car up beside her. He asked directions to a street, Mrs. Rice told police. She said he then pulled out a knife and struck her five times.

Mrs. Rice said slashes in her coat indicate the man was trying to get her purse from her shoulder.

The crimes, including purse snatch, weave a path from the Baltimore/Washington Airport and follow county women to residences in Glen Burnie and Arnold, police state.

The Baltimore city offenses link Corbin and Summerville and the stolen 1980 car. Police said they spotted the car on Sterrett Street in Baltimore 6:30 p.m. Feb. 21 and laid in wait to see who would arrive to drive it.

It was not long before Corbin and Summerville returned to the car. They offered no resistance as they were arrested.

The Baltimore city charges by more than five local women include purse snatchings and muggings, police state.

Gwendolyn Brooks at Central Pratt Mar. 9

Gwendolyn Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, will speak in the Wheeler auditorium of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St. at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Mar. 9, continuing the series of special events planned for the Pratt Centenary.

Recently appointed Poetry Consultant at the Library of Congress, Ms. Brooks is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters and recipient of numerous poetry awards, including the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Memorial Award.

She won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1950, the first black writer to be so honored, and for 17 years has been poet laureate of Illinois, heir to the mantle of Carl Sandburg.

Born in Topeka, KS, Ms. Brooks grew up on the south side of Chicago, where she still lives. For more than 40 years, she has moved readers with her poetic commentary on the black experience and everyday life.

Gwendolyn Brooks

Her best-known works include "A Street in Bronzeville," "Annie Allen," "In the Mecca," and "Young Poet's Primer." "The World of Gwendolyn Brooks" is a popular anthology of some of her finest writing.

Her highly acclaimed autobiography, "Report from Part One, 1972," is a poet's "concentrated and evocative summary of her life and the meaning she has found within it."

She is working, at present, on a second volume, as well as a sequel to her only novel, "Maud Martha."

Speaking at an awards ceremony, writer Lerone Bennett, Jr., said: "Gwen Brooks is honored not only because of the quality of her poetry, but also because of the quality of her life.

"By this, we mean to say that she is a poem. She is a poem of commitment and dedication to her craft and her community, she is a poem which teaches us the value of vision and will and growth, she is a poem which vibrates with our inner dynamics, she is grace in free verse, she is a lesson, she is a sermon, she is a rhyme, a rhythm, a Reality."

Gwendolyn Brooks' appearance at the Pratt library has been planned in connection not only with the centenary, but with Women's History Month.

Admission to the Mar. 9 event is free, with seating on a first-come basis. The public is cordially invited.

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