# THESE TROOPERS GOT CAUGHT SPEEDING.

At 9:17 PM, a two car crash took place on the Beltway. Just 30 seconds after notification, the Maryland State Police Medivac helicopter was airborne and speeding toward the scene. Within twelve minutes, they had transported the crash victims to the Shock Trauma Center, where they received life saving treatment.

The Medivac Program is sponsored by the Maryland State Police from funds provided by the State General Fund. In addition, the fund also supports the State Civil Defense System, the Fire Prevention Commission and other general Maryland State Police functions.

The Maryland General Fund ensures that Marylanders are never left up in the air when an emergency arises.

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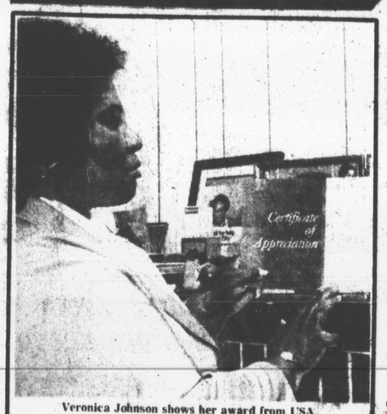
- SPORTS — Sizing up the O's during preseason, page 23.
- DAWN MAGAZINE takes a visit to Atlanta, GA in this month's travel feature.
- FRIDAY PLUS — AFRO Coloring Contest winners have been selected.
- LOTTERY — Page 13.


Veronica Johnson shows her award from USA.

# Urban Services workers in shock over job layoffs

By R. B. Jones
Part Two

Their faces registered shock and distress as they marched in front of City Hall carrying picket signs.

Thoughts of "how could it happen to me" and "am I next in line for the axe," created tension lines in the faces of the 70 or so union members who demonstrated Monday evening to protest layoffs in the Urban Services Agency.

Most of the picketers were either persons who had been laid off or persons who still worked in the neighborhood centers. That segment of the agency, Neighborhood Assistants II suffered all 21 layoffs.

The executive director of Urban Services Dr. Lenwood Ivey insisted in an interview last week that the cuts were dictated by the way the block grants designated for neighborhood services came over from the Neighborhood Progress Administration.

However, Paul Schurick, spokesperson for the Neighborhood Progress Administration said otherwise. "Yes the NPA was forced to cut 15 percent across the board in all our programs and we may have to cut 25 percent more before the fiscal year '86 is over. However the Community Development Block Grant comes to the Urban Services Agency as a lump sum.

"USA determines how it will be used and where it goes. We don't determine which unit in USA gets the money. The money is used under certain broad guidelines; the money must be used to help low-income or moderate-income people directly; it must be used to eliminate slums and blighted areas. Inside those guidelines USA has discretion on how the funds are used," said Shurick.

However, the conflicting stories of NPA and USA, while relevant, do not tell the whole story of the increased human suffering the layoffs cause.

There is tragedy on both sides of the line in the layoffs. The workers were deprived of their jobs and the residents of areas served by Urban Services, some of the most destitute in the city were deprived of people who often provided services that were matters of life and death.

As she carried a picket sign, Veronica Johnson, a 15-year veteran of the agency was perplexed. "I'm here trying to figure out why I'm unemployed. I have awards for outstanding performance on my job and I know I'm one of the best neighborhood assistants, but that didn't seem to matter."

Johnson last worked for the USA Center on North Ave. at Druid Hill. That center is one of the busiest in the agency because of its accessible location and according to Johnson because the people there really cared.

We had clients come from all over the city because they heard the service was good. It was because we had people who would go above the call of duty. They would do things on their own time, burn up their own gas to help residents who were in need. I know. I've done it.

"There were so many things we had to do in the neighborhood centers because the residents needed so much help. In the fall and winter we sign people up for energy assistance. We sign people up for weatherization. From January to April 15, we do people's income taxes free of charge. Last year I personally helped 57 individuals do their federal and state taxes," she said proudly.

Help was a frequently used word at the demonstration Monday evening as bewildered workers wondered why the people who do the actual helping in this service agency were being the ones to bear all the layoffs.

Johnson continued, "In the summer I had to supervise the Summer Corps workers. Year round I had to help residents find emergency food, sometimes shelter. I had to make home visits to verify that Social Services recipients needed stoves or refrigerators or washing machines."

"DSS is short of staff so they can't send out caseworkers to verify the need and the residents would have to go without unless they received verification."

"Neighborhood workers have to intercede a lot of times between landlord and tenant. We have to go knock on doors and let people know what services and programs exist to help them."

Frequently Johnson described her activities as though she is still employed by the agency and still in the anti-poverty war trenches. In a way she is.

"Even though I'm not working now I do some volunteer work to help some of my residents who are elderly or unable to get around well. When I was working for the agency I often did things on my own time anyway. The residents still need help whether people are laid off or not."

Johnson like many of the employees of Urban Services employees is angry. "Why was I laid off when there are people who still have their jobs who do much less than me? If you work as a neighborhood assistant you have to do eight to twelve things

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# Horrible living conditions uncovered

(See column 3)

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Baltimore Afro-American

94TH YEAR NO. 62 BALTIMORE, MD., MARCH 15, 1986 40 CENTS


Estranged wife dies during operation

# Husband to sue Provident

By Valerie Smith-Maddox
AFRO Staff Writer

The attorney representing Kirby Reid, husband of the 29 year-old woman who died at Provident Hospital on March 3 said his client is taking legal action against the hospital.

According to Attorney Marvin Ellin, Reid is charging the hospital with Anesthesiological and Medical negligence via a malpractice suit.

Reid's wife, Beverly Ann entered the hospital on March 3 for what was to be a routine gynecological procedure. She was to have a tubal ligation. In laymen's terms, she was to have her Fallopian tubes tied.

It was to be a routine female operation. Done on an outpatient basis. In and out.

However, Mrs. Reid never had the operation.

Shortly after being put under anesthesia, the tube which was connected to an anesthesia machine — the other end of which was in her throat — became disengaged from the machine.

That incident proved to be fatal as Mrs. Reid died as a result of two tears in her windpipe, which causing her lungs to collapse.

Ellin said the report submitted to him by the hospital was "well considered and took days to prepared." He said he was disturbed because there was no incident report. "An incident report is standard operating procedures," he explained.

"The report does not have the spontenacity that one expects to find in an incident such as this," said Ellin. He also noted that while the death occurred on March 3, the report which he received was dated March 12.

"It's obvious that the tube produced a hole in the trachea," said Ellin, who said the autopsy confirmed it.

Ellin said he consulted another anesthesiologist who reviewed the records given to him and pronounced Reid's death a case of "substandard care."

Ellin declined to disclose the amount of the suit, citing Maryland law which prohibits the disclosure of a sum at the outset of this kind of suit.

Ellin said however, "the claim is made for more than $5,000."

The death certificate, issued by the medical examiner's office Tuesday, termed Mrs. Reid's death during the routine surgical procedure as an "accident as the result of a "therapeutic misadventure," shoptalk for mishap during medical treatment.

Dr. Ernest Brown, chief of Provident's medical staff declined to discuss specifics in this cases, explaining that he was not associated with the case.

He said however, that a "therapeutic misadventure" is something which happens that shouldn't have.

"It is not due to any reocgnizable carelessness," he explained.

While medical examiner Dr.

Continued on page 2

## Provident won't talk to us

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

In the case of the tragic death of 29-year old Mrs. Beverly Ann Reid on the operating table on March 3, there is total news blackout at Provident Hospital.

The only response from Provident Hospital's executive offices was "no comment," this received from Mrs. Ermina Grady, assistant to the president, Reginald A. Johnson.

The AFRO was also unable to reach George L. Russell, the appointed chief administrator who has been in Annapolis on the Provident crisis this week.

Mr. Russell has not returned calls from the AFRO.

The anesthetist, Dr. Gerald Gantt who was in charge of the gas and oxygen tube when Mrs. Reid died was unavailable. He never returned repeated calls.

Gynecologist Dr. Derek Lindsey was reported "not on schedule" Thursday morning. Dr. Claude Hill, Obstetrics chief, was "not in."

The physicians directly in charge when Mrs. Reid was in the operating room never responded to the AFRO's calls.

# 11 appointments in latest Green Bag

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Dr. Anne Osborn Emery is among the 11 black citizens recently named to Maryland's state boards and commissions. Dr. Emery's appointment is to the State Board of Higher Education for a term of five years from July 1, 1986.

Each of the approximately 185 other appointments made in February by Gov. Harry R. Hughes are contained in his "Green Bag" of members to the state's 69 boards and commissions.

Both need Senate confirmation by the Maryland Appointments Committee headed by State Senator Clarence M. Mitchell, III.

Delayed by the governor is an appointment to the Workmen's Compensation Commission. The vacancy yet to be filled is one left open by the retirement recently of a member.

There are 15 or 20 applicants for the post which pays $58,000 to $60,000 to the member who sits

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# The Elkton Five are all doing fine now

By Brian M. Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

After a tense, racially-motivated episode involving her son and four of his friends, as Shirley Fitz says, they have learned a valuable lesson and seem to be doing fine now.

Her son, Ronnie, and four others were charged with the rape of a 36-year-old caucasian woman who, up until the incident, lived as their neighbor in the town's Sheffield Park section.

Thursday, Mrs. Fitz reported that her son has since found employment at Rockhill Pontiac in Newark, DE.

"Ronnie works as a car-prep man there and he seems to like it. I think he likes it, but he's always looking for something better," Mrs. Fitz said.

According to Mrs. Fitz Sherdonald Gude and Richard Purdie have returned to school and their principal says that they're both improving academically.

Sheraton Gude, Mrs. Fitz told the AFRO, is now working as a maintenence man at the nearby DuPont Corporation.

"All of the boys are working now except Oscar Lee, but he's a hard worker so I'm sure he'll find something soon," Mrs. Fitz said.

"I'm glad that the whole thing is over with. Mrs. Gude, Mrs. Purdie, and myself really went through a lot. The talk has quieted down some. They really don't talk about it much anymore."

"I really hope that this whole thing has taught the boys a lesson. ...I think it has. What's funny is that the woman rides through here at night waving and smiling at the boys... I don't know why. She acts like nothing happened," Mrs. Fitz told the AFRO.

# Sess's to reopen

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Staff Writer

Sess's Restaurant, the Division Street eatery which first opened its doors just before the close of World War II and enjoyed popularity for over four decades, has been sold to an East Baltimore businessman.

Cephus Murrell, a real estate executive with property holdings throughout the city, purchased the restaurant spot known for its "down-home cooking" in January for $23,500.

Sales of the once-thriving eating establishment, which stands at 1639 Division St. across from the childhood home of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, was arranged by the brokerage firm of Mitchell-Johnson Properties, Inc.

The original asking price of $40,000 was negotiated down to $23,500 when the buyer agreed to purchase the three-story property in a "as-is" condition.

William Sessoms founded his restaurant in 1944 and ran it for years until his death at age 81 in 1982.

His daughter, Louise Sessoms-Pinder, took over running the restaurant after his death and operated the family business until she took ill in December, 1984. She died several months later of complications related to a respiratory ailment.

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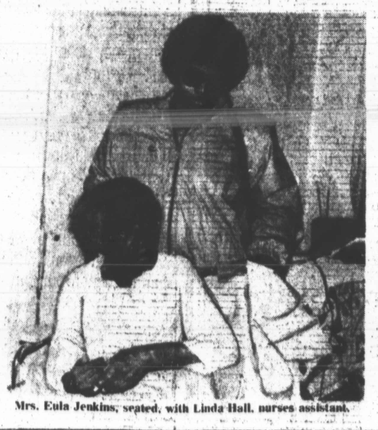
Sess' Restaurant on Division Street.



Mrs. Eula Jenkins, seated, with Linda Hall, nurses assistant.

# She's blind, he's sick

By Lamont X. Curry
AFRO Staff Writer

Eula Jenkins is 80 years old or more. She doesn't know.

She's been blind since the 50s when her boyfriend, in a jealous rage, crushed a bottle in her face. She hasn't seen him since, she said. "I don't know what happened to him."

She lives with her 56-year-old son and two cats at 602 Pitcher St. They live in hollowed niches, between mounds of filth, yards of roach-filled cobwebs, and mountains of clothes and memorabilia.

"I ain't about helping anymore...I cooks, cleans and takes care of my mother. This place was alright until I got sick and went to the hospital...," said Andrew Jenkins, the sole survivor of Ms. Jenkins' six children.

"Oh Lord! Oh Lord!" He said Thursday as he guided the AFRO through a maze of accumulated debris and a variety of pungent odors.

His mother's head was crowded with a light-gray mane. She sat in a room on the second floor that she's restricted herself to since last summer when she visited a Constant Care clinic.

She is bright, pleasant, manner, articulate and concerned that as much as she needs help and another place, she doesn't want to be separated from her son.

"I want a nice place to stay for me and him."

"All I have is him. I cannot live without him until God takes us apart. Don't let the people on earth do it... Let God do it... I

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## EXISTING, NOT LIVING

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MAR 1986