—Vandals rip

Continued from page 1

accessed by a rear 3rd floor window and was ransacked severely.

"We can't verify or discount a political connection to the break-in.

"Personally, a professional would have done a better job then to force his way into a rear window by breaking the glass," said Wells. He said fingerprints were found on the premises and that the investigation is continuing.

Laverne Hanna is deputy director of Welfare Rights. She was the first one to discover the break-in Wednesday morning.

"When I walked in I noticed the file cabinets and desk drawers opened. . . .

"I heard steps upstairs and called Bob. . . .

"When he didn't answer, I went outside and called the police," he said.

Hanna is convinced the break-in was political sabotage.

"They wiped out the information on the computer. They turned through the manual to the page that illustrates how to erase.

"They stole the keyboard, a microphone and two telephones. the other telephones and televisions were destroyed. It was all about anti-information," she said.

Cheeks, who feels within himself that the aim was not to destroy his BUF or Welfare Rights Information, said that he moved his offices to Arlington Avenue after a series of fires in East Baltimore drove him away.

He said the only indication he'd received otherwise was an ugly letter that he'd received last week. The letter, which referred to Cheeks as a Nigger several times, said that his problem was based on the fact that he ignored middle-class black people and concentrated on the poor. This was the crime, he said.

Cheeks estimated the damage at $10 to $15,000 but has yet to access the complete damage.

Hanna listed $60 in food stamps and $40 cash among the missing.

Cheeks is seeking the seat being vacated by State Sen. Clarence Mitchell, III, who is seeking the 7th Congressional District post his uncle, Parren Mitchell is vacating.

—Suspected arrested

Continued from page 1

said investigators have physical evidence connecting Hunter with the other slayings, but she would not elaborate.

Harvard said the theft of a 25-inch console television set at one of the victim's apartments made police believe a second person was involved because it was unlikely "one person is capable of removing that TV, taking it down the stairs and removing it from the scene."

Maj. B. L. Neikirk, the head of the task force investigating the killings, said Hunter "did have an accomplice," but declined to elaborate.

Hunter was being held in the Atlanta City Jail's maximum security section and authorities said guards were checking him every 15 minutes.

"We don't know how he chose his victims," Newkirk said. "It is speculated the crime, probably were intended to be burglary-robberies in an effort to obtain articles to sell for monetary gain, possibly for drugs."

Hunter became a suspect after a tipster visited homicide headquarters last Thursday.

"After talking with him, the dominoes started falling," Sgt. Jake Turner said. "We stayed until about 3 o'clock that morning. That's when we really got in the meat of everything that let us know we had zeroed in on one suspect. From that point on, we started locking in."

Hunter was arrested Sunday for breaking parole from two forgery convictions in 1985. Court records show he was convicted of passing four stolen checks. Police would not say if he ever has been arrested for violence.

The recent slayings began with Copeland's death. The other victims were Aretha Clements, 61, whose body was found March 6; Dena Mae Mike, 62, who lived just around the corner from Clements, was found dead March 11, and Grace Hill, 65, was found April 9.

—Shot 4 times

Continued from page 1

tell what will happen next. It's getting to be really wild," Ellis added.

Police were unable to provide any clues as to why the shooting occurred, but several inhabitants of the neighborhood said that Hill was shot because of unruly treatment of prisoners at the City Jail.

"You see, I was over at the jail for a few months last year for something petty, and a lot of times a guard will throw his weight a little bit too much. If the guard is really 'thorough' that's one thing, But if the guard is throwing his weight around just because he's a guard, and can't really back it up on his own, sometimes inmates remember it and hold a grudge. You know, it's a small world," said one young man who requested anonymity.

"Sometimes people in authority positions take their jobs too far and forget that there are people out here who don't care. I think that Hill got himself into one of those positions," he added.

Initially police had no suspects in the shooting, but after the victim provided them with the suspect's nickname and a description, a warrant for Cornelius Smith, 25, of the 1600 block of North Broadway was issued. The suspect faces charges of attempted murder and use of a handgun in the commission of a felony, police said.

After several attempts, the AFRO was unable to contact the victim's family. Neighbors said that Hill's home on Lafayette avenue has been "very quiet" since the shooting.

"There's usually someone there all of the time, but since the shooting, it's almost like no one lives there. They're probably spending a lot of time at the hospital," one neighbor said.

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row, if I wanted to hear that."

Pettit said he might use a poll much later down the line. "It's much too early for one. All the players aren't in the game."

* * *

Jacqueline McLean, often-touted as a candidate for the seventh district congressional seat, who made a very respectable showing in the poll, said she's "very flattered" about all this talk about her being the next congress-person from the seventh.

"I don't know who started the rumor," she said, adding that since the poll results in Tuesday's paper, she's received a number of calls.

She said she's also been bombarded with questions about a potential candidacy.

"It's flattering that people have the confidence in me to go to the Congress and represent them. It's great for the ego!"

"I haven't said I'm running for Congress," she reminded.

When asked if the many questions and the poll results have swayed her, McLean answered, "Not really."

"I just might end up one day in a weak moment saying, 'I'll do it, I'll run.' "

—Pratt library

Continued from page 1

ting usage we can better determine the number of people who use the library. We're holding our own,"

According to the director the world of libraries has changed and so has the publishing industry and the information business. "Everything in the publishing world is expensive and so are the technical items and computer-related materials.

"Ten years ago the average price for a hardback book was in the $9.95-6.95 range. Now they average around $15.00. That creates serious problems for us. Many times we cannot respond to the public's demand for materials. The format change in information from print to online and microforms happens quickly. If we have to wait because of budgetary problems then we find that the things that we're looking for are often out of print.

"We're in a situation where we have to buy instantly but in limited quantities."

Mrs. Curry also noted that the staff and the board are doing a cost analysis to see where services can be improved and costs can be cut.

When questioned about whether the library will begin charging for some of its services, Mrs. Curry was uncertain." Charges for some on-line computer services might happen, but the basic services of the library will remain free for a long time. The library charter says this is a free public library and the trustees are committed to that."

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REGULAR AND MENTHOL

Local NAACP aims to be the nation's biggest branch

By Johnnie Tyler

The Baltimore NAACP is in the midst of a major campaign with a goal of making the branch the largest and most active in the nation. Twenty thousand members which equal five percent of the black Baltimore population is a goal that all NAACP branches have been asked to achieve and the Baltimore branch, with the increased attention on the NAACP resulting from the move of the national headquarters and the hosting of the national convention, hopes to be able to achieve that goal.

The church community and the black business community have stepped forward to help the NAACP to achieve its goal. "Throughout the years the NAACP and the black churches have marched together, arm in arm, as one to achieve notable successes in the Civil Rights struggle" stated NAACP third-vice president Rev. Benjamin Foust, pastor of the St. Johns AME Church.

Rev. Gregory B. Perkins, pastor of the St. Paul Community Baptist Church and Branch Religious Affairs Chairman, stated that "The NAACP is virtually a lay organization of the black church." "An organization that brings together ministers and members of black churches throughout the community regardless of faith affiliation." "We continue to claim it as our own," says Perkins.

The Harbor Bank of Maryland is having NAACP Day at the bank on Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Joel Byrd, vice president of Harbor Bank, states "The NAACP is one of the primary organizations that has made the existence of minority businesses like the Harbor Bank possible. Its continued existence is an absolute necessity if minority businesses are to continue to grow and prosper."

Robert Clay, owner of the Popular 32nd Street Plaza nite spot, is giving the use of the club to the NAACP on April 30, to help in the membership drive. Patrons will be asked to pay $12 admission on that evening, to see entertainment provided by ACTSO winners and a fashion show by Lady Marion's Boutique. For the $12 admission, all will receive a $10 membership in the NAACP. George Buntin, executive secretary of the Baltimore branch, states, "Black businesses who know the work of the NAACP and what it has meant for their very existence have been very helpful to the organization, and we are glad to have that support and, at The 32nd Street Plaza." To show off the talents of our young people from the ACTSO Program.

Buntin states that ACTSO which stands for "Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics" is one of 17 programs, including housing, education, economic development, political action and voter registration, of the Baltimore branch that is run by volunteers to improve conditions in the local community. Mrs. Enolia McMillan, president of both the local branch and the national NAACP, states "The NAACP is a national organization that fights for equality and fairness of all people." "It's an interracial organization that, while it is run by blacks and primarily serves a black constituency it also includes amongst its membership persons from all racial backgrounds and fights for all those who have been disenfranchised regardless of race."

The public is invited to become a part of the ongoing membership drive. Buntin points out that all who bring in 10 or more memberships will be able to choose the record album of their choice. Album of their choice. Albums were donated by radio stations and many of the city's finest restaurants including the New Duke Martin's have donated gift certificates for dinners for two. In addition, most of the hotels in the Inner Harbor have donated hotel suites that, along with the restaurant and other gift certificates, will be awarded weekly to those persons who bring in the most memberships.

Those persons wishing to volunteer are to call the branch office at 366-3300 from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Buntin also noted that the local branch, working along with the Maryland Republicans, will sponsor a Job Fair on Wednesday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

Other activities of the local NAACP include a benefit concert for the 1986 Convention Planning Committee on May 3 at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, featuring the Dells. The Manhattans and The Chilites and a dinner sponsored by the Harlem Park Youth Council, featuring Dr. Irving Hamer of the Park Heights Street Academy as speaker. The dinner will be held on May 7 at the St. Johns AME Church and the cost will be $7.

The dinner will commemorate the historic 1954 Supreme Court school desegregation decision.

GET ONBOARD—Thomas L. Saunders, coordinator at the 'Get on the Schaefer Train' party, with Robert DiPietro, former mayor of Laurel and treasurer of Marylanders for Schaefer, and Mayor Schaefer. The April 9 event was said to have been attended by 3,000 people at diverse locations around the city such as Godfrey's Famous Ballroom, The Five Mile House, The 32nd Street Plaza, Castro's, Roots Unlimited, and the Steeplechase Lounge.

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