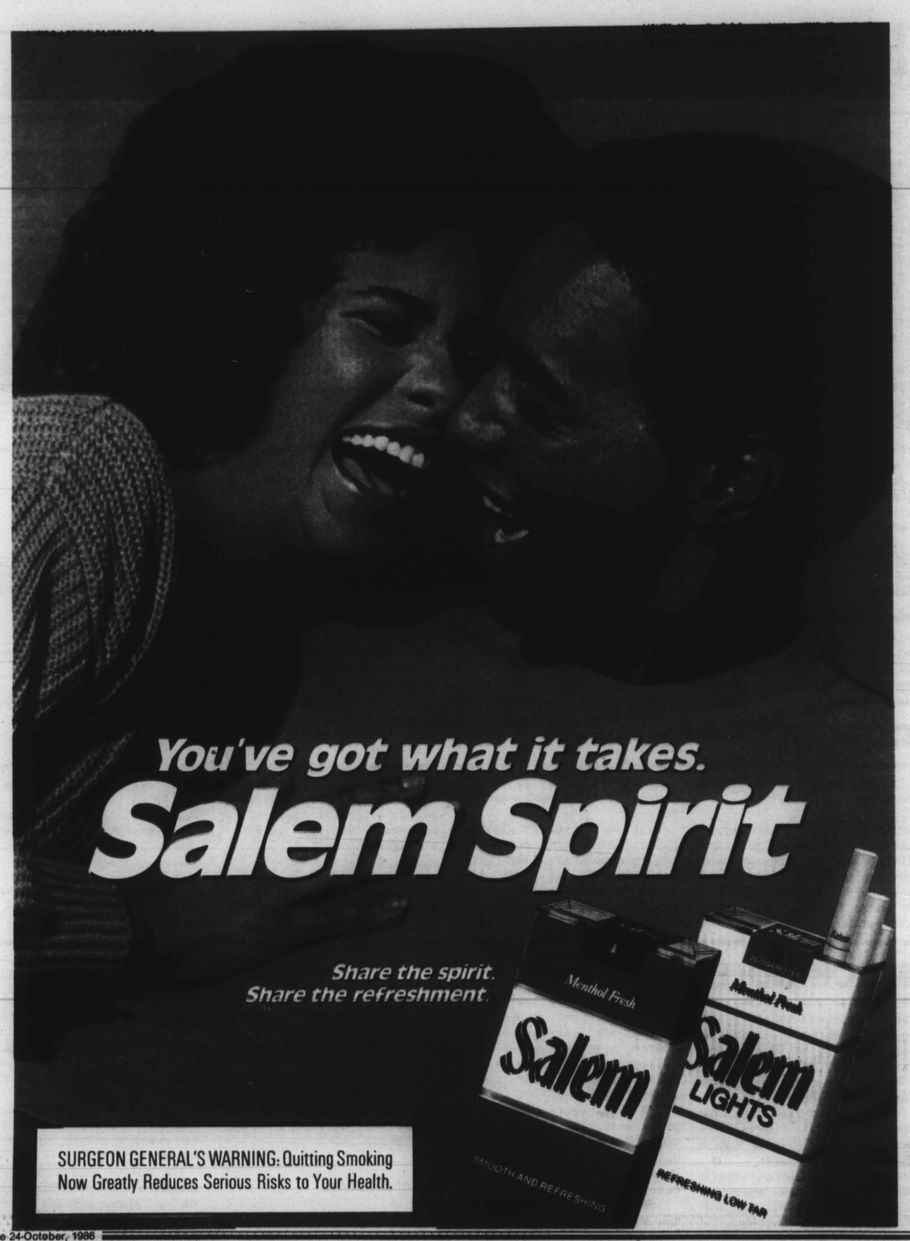

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AFRO goes on patrol in the projects

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LATE CITY EDITION

Baltimore Afro-American

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A jubilant new congressman, Kweisi Mfume claims victory as his five sons proudly watch.

No surprises in election results

By R. B. Jones
(Data supplied by Arthur W. Murphy)

Hohum . . . the 1986 general election elicited about as much excitement and enthusiasm from voters as the playing of Lawrence Welk's theme song at a punk rock nightclub.

From the top of the ticket to the bottom most of the choices that voters in this city faced were obvious ones.

The gubernatorial race between William Donald Schaefer and Tom Mooney was such a mismatch that if they were in the boxing game, the athletic commission would have never sanctioned the fight.

Louis Goldstein faced no foe for the comptroller's job that he has held so long it must now seem like a family heirloom and Joseph Curran was unopposed for Attorney General.

The battle between Barbara Mikulski and Linda Chavez for the U.S. Senate was no contest, with Mikulski getting over 60 percent of the vote while Chavez got high marks for the amount of negativity in a campaign. She edged out St. George Crosse on the basis of frequency of low blows although his were further below the belt.

The Courthouse Team of State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke, Clerk of the Circuit Court Sandra Banks and Register of Wills Mary Conaway were able to pass untroubled and unchallenged into another four-year term.

Shelton Stewart was unopposed for sheriff.

The only races that generated any excitement in this city were the Seventh Congressional District and the Circuit Court.

The General Assembly races were almost non-existent. Of the nine state senators up for reelection from Baltimore City, only two faced token opposition, Troy Brailey D-40th and Nathan Irby D-45th.

In the 39th, Michael Mitchell faced nearly invisible opposition from Victor Clark, a perennial GOP candidate, in the race to occupy the seat vacated by Mitchell's brother Clarence M. Mitchell, III, in his futile quest to replace Con. Parren Mitchell in the 100th Congress.

Of the nine legislative districts in the city only three featured any attempt to challenge the Democrats by the GOP for the delegate seats and those weak efforts took place in the 42nd, 43rd and 44th districts.

If the Republican Party is not dead in Baltimore City, its last few rattling breaths are being heard.

Lemuel Chester, 39, was elected to the County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday. He becomes the first black ever to serve on a county-wide body on the Eastern Shore. One black serves at city level in Snow Hill.

Chester, who is a drug and alcohol counselor with the Dorchester County Health Dept. will serve a four year term.

The repudiation of St. George Crosse could not have been more complete

Crosse should have known he was in trouble when he barely beat Isaiah Fletcher in the Republican Primary while Kweisi Mfume was garnering 44 percent of the Democratic Primary vote against a strong field of candidates.

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Some nine-alarm fire area residents still can't go home

By Paula J. Wagner
AFRO Staff Writer

As late as Thursday evening, fire fighters were still battling to control continued smouldering of the nine-alarm blaze that erupted at approximately 9 p.m. Tuesday, off Washington Blvd. in the southwestern part of the city.

Capt. Patrick Flynn of the Fire Department said fire fighters are expected to remain at the location for at least two more days until they have succeeded in removing the debris of the burnt warehouses and completely ended the fire.

The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company is also still trying to replace utility services in many of the area houses that were cut off by the fire and left many residents in temporary shelters.

According to Captain Flynn, BG&E is having a problem restoring services in some homes because of their inability to reach underground facilities on Clifford Street, a small alley-like pathway behind Washington Blvd. that remains filled with fire debris.

Most of the 38 people in the Red Cross emergency shelter, set up in the Darguth Methodist Church, at 527 Scott St., are fire victims whose homes suffered minor damage, or have no utility services, according to shelter manager, Jeff Solomon.

One elderly woman who sat pensively at the shelter, said her windows and doors were torn down by fire fighters who gushed water inside the unit trying to control the spread of the fire.

Another shelter resident, who had just returned from his job as a mechanic, said he had no immediate plans and that the seven members of his household, including three children, were forced to remain at the shelter because they had no relatives able to house them.

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Parks Sausage Co. workers end strike

By Manotti L. Jenkins
AFRO Staff Writer

Workers at the Parks Sausage Co. voted Wednesday to end a two-day strike and continue production.

Apparently satisfied with a new three-year contract offering a $520 cash bonus before Christmas, an hourly wage increase during the next two years and an increase in benefits, the workers returned to the South Baltimore plant early Thursday morning.

Over 100 workers had walked out earlier this week following a breakdown in talks between company officials and representatives of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 27 over terms of the contract.

The conflict centered around the Union's demand for a 65-cent-an-hour wage increase for the workers over the next three years and the company's offer of an only 50-cent-an-hour hike.

The new contract includes the cash bonus plus a 20-cent-an-hour increase in October, 1987 and October, 1988. In addition, there are provisions for major medical coverage and life insurance.

According to reports, the workers, who were receiving about $8.50 to $10 an hour, voted 54-11 to accept a preliminary settlement between the union and the company.

The settlement was reached after a six-hour bargaining session between the two sides with a federal mediator.

Union officials could not be reached for comment.

Company president, Raymond

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THE AFRO WAS THERE:

Hoopla and gloom on election night

Mfume supporters rejoice

By Roz Hamlett and P.A. Tatum
AFRO Staff Writers

The frenzied fervor Kweisi Mfume supporters displayed election night at the Belvedere Hotel registered somewhere between the religious ardor of an old-fashioned tent revival and the good-natured zeal of a victorious world series baseball game.

Perhaps anticipating a large crowd of election-night groupies, the air conditioning in the large first floor suite had been turned so high that early birds sat around shivering in their overcoats.

The temperature rose quickly, due in part to three open bars placed strategically in the room's corners, and to the intensity of the Mfume supporters when they began rhythmically chanting, "M–FU–ME, M–FU–ME!!" and stomping the floor, impatient for their shining star to appear.

At 10:25 p.m. Kweisi Mfume, the new 7th Congressional District representative, once a young boy from Turner Station arrived ready to begin writing his own bit of history.

Flanked on both sides by his five handsome young sons, Mfume declared, "With all due respect to the Rev. Jerry Falwell, the American flag does not belong to you and the right wing!"

As the Melvin Miles Jazz Quintet, also known as the Morgan State University Jazz Combo, broke into the opening bars of "Mr. Magic" Mfume announced triumphantly, "We've made history here tonight."

The room was decorated gaily with large black and gold balloons. The 300-plus crowd munched on potato chips and pretzels as they drank gallons of white wine, beer and ginger ale.

Earlier in the evening, before Mfume campaign official Rodney Orange whipped the crowd into higher states of frenzy, Edward Smith, who at one time served as campaign manager, expressed his happiness and relief that the long campaign had reached its conclusion.

Asked if he was glad it was all over, Smith gave a heartfelt "Yeah!!!!" and said he planned to return to his law practice headquartered at St. Paul St.

Among the many well wishers on hand for the beginning of the Mfume era of Congress were Dr. Levi Watkins, City Councilwomen Iris Reeves and Agnes Welch, former city councilman Edwin Johnson, Sheriff Shelton Stewart and aide Irvin Conway, and the Rev. Douglas Myles.

Writer/educator Kip Branch also was on hand covering the event for a New York City-based national magazine. Branch, a childhood friend of Mfume's, knew the new Congressman during the days he was known as "PeeWee."

Late in the evening, U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes arrived to wish the freshman Congressman well. The evening marked an ending and harked the beginning of a new era.

Drama at Schaefer bash

By John Robinson

It was an evening of low drama Tuesday at the victory party of Gov. - elect William Donald Schaefer at the Omni International Hotel downtown.

A ho-hum affair for Schaefer supporters as they nibbled hor d'oeuvres, listened to music of a four-piece band called the Swing Central, and waited for the inevitable: Schaefer's landslide victory.

Robert Parham, an assistant at the Kirk Avenue Mayor's Station, was among about two dozen blacks attending the affair, parham said Schaefer had strong support among black voters in the city and predicted that a number of blacks would be ap-

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AFRO goes on patrol in the projects

By Roz Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

Skillfully maneuvering through five blocks of heavy rush hour traffic on Orleans St., lights flashing and siren screaming, Unit 222 abruptly halted and Officer Robert Reason jumped out of the car in pursuit of two juveniles, armed with a gun.

Nothing.

Just a bee-bee gun—someone's idea of a joke. But everytime Officer Reason turns the corner at Orleans and Aisquith Sts. to begin his nightly patrol in the Lafayette projects, he feels a little tension, a little anger. . . .

The "highrises," are home to drug dealers, junkies and the poor; where there is respect paid to little cellophane packages of heroin and to those in possession of it.

To the right, an old woman with one arm silently slinks by, barely noticed by anyone . . . just ahead, a young drug dealer sports his brand new Maxima, with the glass so darkly tinted that you can't see anything inside, except the 20 or so gold chains that he wears around his neck that appear to weigh at least five pounds apiece.

As night falls, dealers and junkies gather about the children's playground and a man with a clipboard in his hand takes the evening drug orders. When Reason approaches the crowd, they scatter like roaches to the corner.

"I'm only going to say this one time and one time only. Stop this loitering., If I have to speak twice, you're going to jail. You will not buy, sell, rent or lease drugs here," he says forcefully.

Stepping back to the car, Reason is openly frustrated when he says he knows he can't stop it, he can only control it for eight hours.

Displaying a passionate hate for drugs, Reason, a patrol officer from the Southeastern Police District believes that drugs are at the root of most violent crime.

"I don't like what they do to people and I don't like what they make people do," says the 27-year-old officer, who has been on the force for nine years, where he spent three of those years as a cadet.

Not many calls are coming in now, so Officer Reason stops in front of the 7-Eleven store on Fayette St. to catch up on his paperwork.

A little girl walks over to his window and says, "Hey mister, that boy messin' with me," then points off in the direction of a young boy, who quickly ducks behind the corner of the building.

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The Lafayette Projects are the scene of much violent crime, mostly due to the high degree of drug trafficking in the area.

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