—Shanty burned

Continued from page 1

About 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, two unidentified suspects were seen running from the shanty as it was set to blaze, mimicking the Johns Hopkins event that occurred this past summer.

A student studying in the library witnessed the event and telephoned the campus police who were at the scene minutes later. According to Captain Gregory Roetke, the fire was immediately put out and the suspects were chased, but they managed to escape into a building and were not apprehended. No one was in the shanty at the time.

The shanty was erected Dec. 8 by the University of Maryland Baltimore County's Divestment Coalition, a group made up of members of the International Students Association, the Progressive Action Committee and the Black Student Union.

The Coalition is demanding that the University of Maryland immediately withdraw the $7 million investment it has in the racist republic of South Africa.

Chuck D'Adamo, a graduate student and member of the Coalition said the shanty is intended to make a protest statement on the university's involvement in South Africa and to serve as a South African information center on campus.

D'Adamo said the Coalition had obtained permission from the vice chancellor of student affairs, head of security and head of physical plant before attempting to build the shanty on the Catonsville campus.

Black Student Union's president, Al Essien, who is also a native Nigerian, said he believed the arson was nothing more than a "prank." There's nothing to indicate otherwise, Essien said.

On a campus known for its racial tension, Essien said new chancellor Michael Hooker says he is committed to alleviating animosity between blacks and whites. However, Essien said, referring to the Coalition, "There's no stopping us."

The Coalition is preparing to meet with the Board of Regents February 6, when they will again voice their demands for divestment.

D'Adamo said the university has a social responsibility to make a stand when democratic values are being contradicted. "Students," he said, "have a right to voice their concerns on university policies."

The Divestment Coalition of University of Maryland at Baltimore is also aligned with the UMBC group against the university's involvement with South Africa.

At a later meeting, scheduled for May, the Board of Regents is expected to meet at the UMBC campus. The Coalition for a Free South Africa, the Johns Hopkins group, is expected to show its support.

—Cross-county chase

Continued from page 1

Baltimore.

Brown was wanted by police in three jurisdictions for a series of armed supermarket and commercial robberies. While he was on a $50,000 bail for an alleged market robbery that occurred March 27, detectives obtained warrants on him for a total of five armed robberies that all occurred in September.

Three of these incidents were reported in Baltimore County, one in Baltimore City and another in Howard County. Brown is also believed responsible for numerous other holdups in the Baltimore-Washington area.

The Super Fresh store was the site of an earlier robbery attempt in February that was stopped by Howard County police.

Police said two handguns apparently used in the robbery were recovered along with a sizable amount of money in the car and on the suspects.

—Tragic fires

Continued from page 1

can catch a sleeping family unaware.

Flynn advised that once the tree dries out, it should be discarded immediately. All holiday wrappings should be thrown out and if an artificial tree is used, a color wheel rather than electric lights are safer because one bad wire could electrically charge the entire tree.

He added that the tree should never be placed at the base of stairs or across an exit, as this will block a potential route for escape in the event of fire.

Oftentimes, cords are run under rugs and the foot traffic causes wear and tear on the insultation and occasionally people will use lighted candles and then leave them unattended. Such potential fire hazards should be avoided said Flynn.

Last year, a dry tree caused a fatality on Monroe St. and according to statistics, 39 people have died in house fires in Baltimore this year, as compared to 36 at the same time last year.

The following are 11 vital steps to follow should fire strike:

— alert others by shouting "FIRE"
— walk in a crouched position
— escape through the nearest exit
— don't waste time dressing
— don't try to gather valuables
— never open a hot door
— if possible, place a wet cloth over nose and mouth
— close all doors behind you
— meet at a pre-established location outside your home
— call fire department from a neighbor's phone
— never go back into a burning house

—Provident

Continued from page 1

receiveable," said Wasserman.

When Lutheran acquired Provident Hospital it assumed only secured debt owed to the State of Maryland. The new hospital, Liberty Medical Center is not liable for any of the claims against Provident Hospital's assets.

Also, when Lutheran purchased Provident it received all the land, buildings, and equipment of Provident leaving very few assets for creditors to be paid from.

When questioned about the difficulty of collecting on unpaid bills, from nongovernmental sources, Wasserman admitted that the reaction has been mixed.

The filing deadline for all claims against Provident ended in November and Venable, Baetjer and Howard's claim and George Russell's claim run from August 1985 to July 18, 1986. Their fees after July 1986 will be paid under the Amended Plan for Reorganization under Liquidating Expenses.

Wasserman was not sure when Provident's affairs would be concluded.

Cambridge voting rights suit has been resolved

A two-year-old U.S. Justice Department voting rights suit filed against the city of Cambridge, came to and end last week when a U.S. District Judge signed a consent decree that should provide for more black representation on the city council.

The decree, signed in Baltimore by Judge Norman Ramsey, stipulates that the Eastern Shore city would have to hold a special election in the city's Third Ward to fill the seat vacated in September when Councilman Guy Windsor died. The ward, after a city redistricting plan, is now 60 percent black.

The Justice Department filed the suit, after protests by the Eastern Shore NAACP, on the grounds that the representation of blacks on the five-seat council was not nearly commensurate with the percentage of blacks in the city.

Blacks make up 40 percent of the Cambridge population, but currently, there is only one black on the council.

The black councilman, Edward Watkins, who is from the city's 90 percent black Second Ward, said he isn't totally satisfied with the agreement but feels "it is a move in the right direction.

"I certainly think it sets the stage for other municipalities on the Shore todo the same thing," Watkins continued. The councilman, who has been in this position for 17 years, is also city council president.

The city's general election, slated for 1988, could result in higher representation for blacks because the city changed its at-large voting system last year to a district system in an attempt to end the suit.

The Justice Department had originally alleged in the suit that the at-large system was a violation of blacks' voting rights under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

However, the government refused to drop the suit and insisted that the special election be called.

City Attorney Richard Matthews acknowledged that the major significance of the agreement from the city's standpoint is that it will save the city money. He noted that the city had spent $45,000 in defense against the suit as of November.

"My thinking on it (the agreement) is that the suit could have been fought and defended by the city, but it would have been very expensive," Matthews said. "What the Justice Department requested (the special election) was not so unrealistic that we couldn't live with it."

Watkins also appeared to be thinking in terms of the city's interest in his judgement of the agreement.

"The decision will end the federal government's direct involvement, and I certainly hope the city will be able to move forward from these suits and get from under the handle of the federal government," the councilman said according to United Press International.

Eastern Shore NAACP officials could not be reached for comment by AFRO presstime.

Epilepsy Foundation concerned over drug testing

Mandatory testing for drugs and how it might affect people on legitimate drug medication was the point of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

Testifying before the Subcommittee was Richard Pollak, of New York, former editor of the Nation and a novelist.

Pollak who himself has epilepsy recently reported in the New York Times that of the estimated 2.4 million Americans who are diagnosed as have epilepsy 80 percent have their seizures controlled with anti-convulsant drugs.

He said the anti-convulsant medication makes this impressive record possible but has at the same time turned into a "bitter pill of forced revelation" because testing especially in the workplace invades privacy.

Pollak reports that during the last three years Fortune 500 companies have gone from three percent to nearly 30 percent of those which now test employees for drugs.

The Epilepsy Foundation of America is concerned that the tests will force many individuals to reveal medical conditions unrelated to their employment and place them at risk of job discrimination due to stereotyped beliefs about those conditions.

The foundation reports that individuals who are subjected to pre-employment drug testing may be denied jobs without ever knowing that they have been misidentified as drug abusers.

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International News

IN TOKYO — The Rev. Jesse Jackson meets with Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako doi at the JSP headquarters recently. The U.S. black leader, speaking at a press luncheon, said Japanese companies are breaking labor laws in the United States and risk losing an economic war with America if they do not become more sensitive to special interests there.

Jackson warns Japan against dealing with South Africa

TOKYO — The Rev. Jesse Jackson warned today that Japanese companies may face boycotts in the United States unless Japan starts doing more business with American minorities and stops doing business with South Africa.

The civil rights leader and head of the Washington, D.C.-based Rainbow Coalition met today with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone for more than 45 minutes on racial and trade issues. He said Japan's chronic trade surplus with the United States has hurt minority progress.

"We seek to renegotiate the relationship, or we will organize to end the relationship," he said. "We will no longer accept a one-way relationship or relationship with South Africa."

Jackson arrived in Tokyo earlier in the day on a five-day visit to Japan that he said was to call attention to human rights questions, seek better treatment of American minorities by the Japanese and demand that Japan pull out of South Africa.

Nakasone infuriated American minority groups in September by saying that while racial similarity fueled progress in Japan, education levels in the United States were held back by blacks, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans. He issued a formal apology five days later.

Nakasone did not apologize directly to Jackson, according to Foreign Ministry officials. But Jackson told reporters the "insulting statement is still very much a live issue" because it was symptomatic of broader Japanese attitudes.

"The impression is that there's tremendous insensitivity," Jackson said, adding that unless Japan takes steps to improve its posture, "then we will consider what companies to selectively withdraw from or engage in economic boycotts against."

Jackson said, while blacks buy 12 percent of Japanese cars and about 10 percent of the electronics products sold in the United States, only a handful of minorities hold dealerships to sell Japanese products.

He accused Japan of foot-dragging on ending business contact with the white minority government in South Africa, claiming Japanese firms have actually expanded operations there to fill the void left by the withdrawal of American companies.

"We don't want to play musical chairs in South Africa," he said.

Jackson said he would also meet this week with top executives of Japanese auto and electronics companies to press for heightened sensitivity to racial questions.

He said he would point out that American blacks generate $210 billion annually in consumer spending and Hispanics spend $125 billion a year.

JACKSON JOINED Osaka citzens to carry a banner in a march calling for a revision in Japan's immigration laws which asks for fingerprinting non-Japanese.

Five miners killed in battle, UDF fears new crackdown

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — At least five people were killed in intertribal battles that spread from a gold mine to nearby farms, in the third major black factional battle in 10 days, officials said.

The government, meanwhile, appeared to be gearing up for a new clampdown on the media and anti-apartheid organizations.

Two miners were stabbed to death and at least 12 wounded in fighting late Tuesday at Kloof gold mine, 45 miles southwest of Johannesburg, said a spokesman for the owners, Gold Fields of South Africa. Three other blacks were killed when the fighting spread to surrounding farms, but mine officials said it was not certain they were mineworkers.

Gold Fields spokesman Attie Roets said mine security officers fired tear gas to defuse "what could have been a serious incident" between Zulu, Xhosa and Pondo mineworkers.

It was the third serious factional battle among black mineworkers in 10 days. Twenty were killed in two nights of fighting Dec. 5 and 6 at Vaal Reefs gold mine, 85 miles southwest of Johannesburg.

In Johannesburg, an opposition lawmaker monitoring media freedom hardened fears that the government is about to order a harsh clamp on news organizations.

President Pieter Botha declared a nationwide state of emergency on June 12, imposing sweeping restrictions on the foreign and domestic news media in South Africa and granting authorities sweeping powers of arrest and detention in a bid to quell intensifying racial unrest.

More than 2,300 people, the overwhelming majority of them black, have been killed since a wave of violence against the white-minority government and its policies of racial separation, known as apartheid, erupted in September 1984.

Murphy Morobe, spokesman for the anti-government United Democratic Front, believes any new crackdown will spread beyond the media.

Morobe said, "Reliable information from a range of sources inside the country indicates that the state is plannng a massive operation against all democratic forces before Dec. 16," the Day of the Covenant holiday marking the white Afrikaner victory over Zulu warriors in 1838.

One possible sign of a clampdown to come was the decision confirmed recently not to renew the work permit of American correspondent Michael Parks of the Los Angeles Times.

"We regret the action," a U.S. Embassy spokesman said. "Michael Parks is a highly regarded journalist. We staunchly oppose any action which would interfere with freedom of the press, freedom of speech or the free flow of information."

A highly placed government source who asked not to be identified said broad restrictions on reporters would probably be imposed this week under the state of emergency.

The official said the new restrictions will affect "a variety of subjects relating to the security situation." Many of the press curbs imposed June 12 were weakened by court challenges.

More restrictions imposed on press by S.A. government

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — In the second crackdown on the media this year, the government has muzzled independent reporting on the country's racial and political unrest.

The harsh restrictions, which took effect Thursday, place more stringent curbs on domestic and foreign reporters than those ordered under the state of emergency imposed June 12 by President Pieter Botha.

The key provisions of the restrictions include a ban on reporters being present at scenes of unrest, reporting on the movement of security forces, boycotts and the detention of political dissidents.

The order, signed by Botha, also forbids newspapers from publishing blank spaces or symbols to indicate censorship. Authorities were given the power to confiscate television footage, film, recordings or publications suspected of overstepping the curbs.

"The government is serious about the regulations and intends making sure they are applied," Bureau for Information spokesman David Steward told reporters at a briefing.

The restrictions, published in the Government Gazette, selectively censor evidence in courts by forbidding reports on allegations of maltreatment by emergency - law detainees before a judge rules on the case.

Infringements can be punished by up to 10 years in jail or fines equivalent to $9,000.

Steward, who briefed South African editors and foreign diplomats at separate closed meetings Thursday, said, "The purpose of the regulations is not to limit the national debate but only insofar as references to aspects of the national emergency."

He said courts will have the final say on enforcing the restrictions.

The new restrictions require reporters and editors to submit sensitive reports — on violence and anti - government consumer and school boycotts, for example — to officials for approval before publication.

The Foreign Correspondents' Association, representing some 100 journalists, said the government has "imposed one of the severest systems of censorship in the world."

IN JOHANNESBURG — A mother weeps as she attends a Christmas party organized by the Black Sash civil rights group to press for the release of black children detained under South Africa's state of emergency.

Mobuto Sese Seko and Reagan discuss Zaire's debt burden

WASHINGTON — President Reagan met December 9 with President Mobuto Sese Seko of Zaire and promised the United States will do its best to help find a solution of his country's heavy debt burden.

In remarks following their Oval Office meeting and a luncheon in the African leader's honor, Reagan spoke of "Zaire's heroic effort in implementing economic policy reform. He said that the country had gone through "four years of painful sacrifices" while working to "develop the potential of the private sector."

"We have tried to help and encourage the business community to invest in Zaire," Reagan said. "Unfortunately Zaire's determined efforts to improve its economy have been complicated by a drop in the markets. The debt remains a heavy burden."

Reagan said, "We promise to do our best to pave the way" to solve the debt problem.

"President Mobuto has brought a voice of good sense and good will to international counsels," said Reagan. "He has stood uniformly for the peace settlement of all disputes, but has not shrunk from responsibility in sending troops to defend Chad against Libya's criminal aggression."

Reagan said their talks also focused heavily on the problems of southern Africa, such as the independence of Namibia and the need to remove "all forces stationed in Angola," referring to the Cuban troops assisting the Marxist Angolan government.

Mobuto gave one of the shortest farewell responses in recent history. Speaking in French, he told Reagan: "Together we have surveyed all issues. I go home in full awareness that I have the full support of your country and can assure the people they can count on you."

Leon Sullivan:

Apartheid must end by May 31!

WASHINGTON — The Rev. Leon Sullivan, who devised equal opportunity policies adopted by many American firms in South Africa, said today he will urge a U.S. boycott of the nation unless the Pretoria government ends apartheid by May 31.

Sullivan set his deadline as he issued an evaluation of how major corporations doing business in South Africa are working toward equal opportunity for blacks and minority races. The report showed that less than one-third of the 184 firms are making "good progress."

The other firms fell into "marginal" categories or were described as "failures." The reason for the poor showing, Sullivan said, "is because my principles are tough."

Each participating company signs a "statement of principles," now commonly referred to as the Sullivan Principles. Firms must give minority workers equal pay. for equal work, pay the minimum wage, contribute to the education of minorities in the communities, train workers for management positions and perform other acts to promote social justice.

Sullivan said each year the standards are raised.

The Philadelphia minister said his principles are effective, but South African leaders must take immediate decisive actions to dismantle the system of rigid racial separation or face a "full scale revolution involving all of Africa, destroying South Africa.

If that happens, he said. "Millions will die and the superpowers will be part of the struggle."

Sullivan called on President Reagan to pressure South Africa leader Pieter Botha to abolish apartheid. He also said the pope and other church leaders must make a public stand on the issue.

If no concrete improvements are made by the May deadline, Sullivan said he will make specific recommendations on how to begin a complete U.S. boycott of the nation. He said he will personally control use of $100 billion in corporate investments in South Africa by May. He said he already has commitments totaling $60 billion.

"If the Sullivan Principles had eight more years to move ahead on its own, you would see such significant changes in that country that it would be astounding and appalling," he said. "You would have a silent revolution that would...become a groundswell of momentus proportion.

"The fact is, though, that you don't have six years. You don't have five years. You don't have three years, because there's a freedom movement in South Africa. The winds of change have come to South Africa...and it won't be stopped until apartheid is ended, pulled up by the roots."

THE 1986 NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS pose for a photograph pose for a photograph prior to the recent award ceremony held in Stockholm on December 10. They are from left to right: Gerd Binnig, Switzerland (Physics); Yuan T. Lee, USA (Chemistry); James M. Buchanan, USA (Economics); Heinrich Rohrer, Switzerland (Physics); Ernest Ruska, West Germany (Physics); John C. Polany, Canada (Chemistry); Dudley R. Hersbach, USA (Chemistry). Front row: Stanley Cohen, USA (Medicine); Wole Soyinka, Nigeria (Literature) and Rita Levi-Montalchini, USA (Medicine).

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