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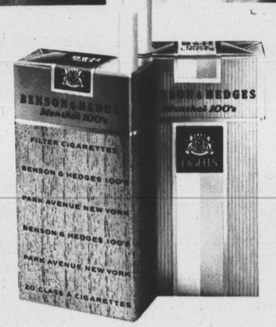

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Assembly tackles lead paint problem

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Baltimore Afro American

95th Year No. 5 2 BALTIMORE, MD FEBRUARY 7, 1987 50 CENTS

AFRO Photo by Paris Gray

Social Studies Teacher, Adolph Bailey, and his fifth grade class are making a black history collage, emphasizing outstanding blacks.

Parren is furious over bribe reports

Former Maryland Rep. Parren Mitchell Wednesday labeled the New York Daily News "a despicable rag" and reiterated his claims he is innocent of any wrongdoing in the Wedtech bribery scandal.

Mitchell, when contacted by the AFRO yesterday, said he has established a committee of six lawyers, who have gotten together to analyze the situation and to see what, if any, avenues of redress are available to him.

"The attorneys will meet this coming Thursday, Mitchell said, "and I hope that within two weeks, they will be able to give me their final recommendations."

The lawyers on the committee are both local and national.

The Daily News Tuesday quoted sources as saying that Mitchell, two New York congressmen and the Bronx, N.Y., borough president are under investigation in connection with alleged bribes paid by the Wedtech Co., a defense contractor.

In addition, published reports have indicated that Mitchell had been subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury in New York Wednesday.

Mitchell and federal prosecutors in Baltimore have repeatedly denied that Mitchell, a Democrat who retired this year after 15 years in Congress, is the target of any ongoing federal investigation. Mitchell also said he had not received a subpoena as of 3 p.m. Wednesday.

"No one in the Wedtech company has ever called me, contacted me or visited me," Mitchell said.

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Parren Mitchell at his press conference earlier this week.

Balto. far ahead in teaching black history in schools

By Paula J. Wagner
AFRO Staff Writer

"In the past we had many, many kings," Adolph D. Bailey, a social studies teacher, pointing to pictures of "Great Kings Of Africa," said to his fifth grade class at Cherry Hill Elementary School.

His students, like many others in the Baltimore City schools and in some private schools throughout Baltimore and the nation, have been using February, the month set aside in honor of black history, to focus on the black contribution in America and the world community, at large.

But Bailey, a teacher for over 20 years, according to Principal William Howard, was baffled and uncertain of the knowledge he chose to pass on to his students.

"I won't try to pronounce their names," he said, "I know you all cannot pronounce them." And the class giggled. "We've been famous for a long time. We don't have any kings in Africa now," he concluded, and moved on to a discussion of two famous black American scientist.

The group of fifth graders were attentive, patient and appeared

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NAACP BUILDING FUND	
Goal	$150,000
Total to date	5,560
Campaign ends April 4	

FBI searching for man they say swindled Harbor Bank

A Baltimore man is being sought by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with defrauding the black-owned Harbor Bank of Maryland of $110,000.

Bruce G. Browne, 43, of the 1200 block of Alexander Ave., has been charged with bank fraud, after he allegedly used fictitious documents to obtain loans from the bank, totalling $124,000.

"The bank actually lost a total of $110,000 when the scheme was discovered and managed to recover $14,000 of the money," said Andy Manning, FBI spokesperson.

Joseph V. Corless, Special Agent in charge of the Baltimore offices of the FBI said a federal warrant was issued on January 27, 1987 for Browne's arrest.

Corless also said that in 1985, Browne, owner of Hotel Motel Industrial Valet and the Belvedere Valet, used a fraudulent life insurance policy and financial statements to obtain a $125,000 line of credit. He allegedly borrowed an additional $17,000 in 1986.

According to county police spokesman, Sgt. Brian Uppercue, Browne has used a variety of

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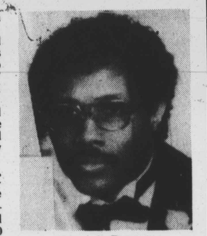

Bruce G. Browne

Black History Month

Black History Month Special—"A Video Afternoon with Sylvestre Watkins," Sunday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m. in the Edgar Allen Poe Room of the Pratt Central Library, 400 Cathedral St. Watkins, editor and publisher of Black Heritage magazine, and producer and host of the cable television series, "The Syl Watkins Show," will present and discuss three of his programs with a regional focus: "Maryland Blacks: A History;" "Mount Vernon Blacks;" and "John Jackson: Virginia's Black Folk Guitarist."

• • •

The Baltimore City Health Department is celebrating "Black History Month" by presenting three seminars. On Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. a seminar on Black Contribution in the Health Field will be held in Room M-201 at 111 N. Calvert St.

On Feb. 18 at 3 p.m. Ernest Hammond, assistant professor for Comprehensive Science and Science Education at Morgan State University will speak on "History of Health Care: Black Perspective." The event will be held in Room M-201 at 111 N. Calvert St.

Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. Glenwood Brooks, Ph.D., Practicing Psychologist will lecture on "Black Culture."

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ANNAPOLIS ROUNDUP

Gen. Assembly tackles lead paint problem

By Roz Hamlett
AFRO Annapolis Bureau

Legislators in Annapolis are considering a bill which would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop temporary housing for victims of lead paint poisoning and their families.

The relocation housing program would provide the family with an alternative solution to the problems posed by work crews removing the toxic lead paint from their homes, while they are present.

"The lead paint problem in Baltimore City is the single most insidious and invidious problem in housing," said Ira Cook, who represented the Property Owners Association of Greater Baltimore, before the House Appropriations Committee Wednesday.

Cook said that if the family remains present during the clean-up process, often the problem becomes so severe that by the time the work is finished there is more lead dust in the house than if they had left the intact paint alone.

Presently, intact lead paint is not a violation of the housing code.

Children, who breathe in the dust are often readmitted to the hospital for reoccurring health problems associated with lead poisoning.

Dr. Julian Chisolm, a pediatrician at the Kennedy Institute Lead Clinic said that lead paint has been shown to cause a reduction in I.Q. and that the learning abilities of children with a high content of lead is severely

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Frank Green calls AFRO

By Roz Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

Hours before he attempted to flee his Harford County jail cell, accused police killer, Frank Green, Jr. called the AFRO and said he was not receiving justice from prison officials.

According to reports, Green removed blocks from a wall in a recreation room and escaped into the pipe chase.

He allegedly removed parts of a heating duct system, in order to escape to the roof of the Harford County Detention Center in Bel Air, MD.

Green has been charged with one count of attempted escape and one count of malicious destruction of property, after the bricks were discovered loosened Jan. 18.

A trial date has been scheduled for Feb. 23, 1987, when Green will face charges of first degree murder, after the September in-

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Group attacks Maryland insurance discrimination

By Clarence Brown

The MCAC, a consumer rights group, has asked the Md. state legislature to stop insurance companies from discriminating when writing policies, especially in Baltimore City.

"We are trying to get legislation passed to get some equality," said Gary Johnson, a spokesman for the Maryland Citizen Action Coalition, at a press conference in Annapolis Thursday.

"It's just unfair," Johnson said.

About 50 members of the organization that has at least 15,000 members statewide and many more nationwide, held a press conference outside the House Economic Manners Committee.

The lawmakers were holding hearings on two bills. One would prohibit all types of discrimination in the insurance industry.

The other bill would establish a People's Counsel, who would

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Statue for Druid Hill Park

AFRO Photo by Paul A. Greene

A reflection of Hugh Harrell's pride in black American culture—introducing "Burhead."

Baltimore sculptor, Hugh Harrell has one thought in mind. He wants to create "Burhead," a giant statue for a black male "thinker."

He also wishes to give his creation to the city of Baltimore; Burhead is slated to take up permanent residence in Druid Hill Park, although park officials don't know specifically where.

"The placement of Burhead has been tentatively decided to be somewhere along the Auchentoroly Terr. side," said Rick Pryzbylowski, spokesman for the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

The statue will be bronze-cast by 8½ foot giant, and is expected to cost more than $10,000 to create.

The project will be funded by the Mildred Andrews Foundation.

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