PEOPLE

HONORED EMPLOYEE — Joanne Watkins of Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., presents long-time employee Elizabeth Shipley with a gift honoring her service. The award, which was a surprise to Shipley, was made last week.

Cryor exhibit opens

Cary Beth Cryor, assistant professor of Fine Arts at Coppin State College, recently returned to Baltimore from West Africa, where she studied after receiving a Fulbright-Hayes Group Study Abroad fellowship.

Friday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. a collection of artifacts from the tour collected by Cryor will be on exhibit at the Dundalk Gallery, 7200 Sollers Point Rd., in Dundalk.

Cryor currently is assistant archivist at the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, where she is helping to collate and index more than 95 years of documents and photographs in the AFRO files.

Cryor earned a master's degree in Library Science with an emphasis on special collections.

Cary Beth

Southern Baptist celebrates Black History Month

On Saturday, Feb. 20, from 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m., Southern Baptist Church will hold its annual Black History Celebration, in the church at 1701 North Chester St. in East Baltimore. As part of the programs, there will be schools from the area displaying individual and group projects. The schools to be represented are Harford Heights, Collington Square, Dr. Bernard Harris, and Elmer A. Henderson Elementary.

Blacks killing blacks discussed at CCB

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Every three minutes a black person is a victim of a black crime. And black males are usually the culprits and victims of those crimes.

To reduce violence among young black males the Community College Of Baltimore sponsored a conference entitled, "Strategies To Reduce Violence Among Young Black Men," last Tuesday.

Much of the violence among young black men comes from arguments over drugs and the money associated with it, said Dr. Gary Mendez, Director of Criminal Justice of the National Urban League.

"The people getting killed over drugs are the people who deal in drugs," he continued. "They don't kill normal people."

"One reason we have so many of our people on drugs is because we haven't laid out the rules and expectations for family members," he continued.

Mendez added that white police officers are the only people that chastise blacks for using or selling drugs.

"No one from the black community says anything to drug dealers about selling drugs."

Mendez travels to various cities in the country promoting his "Children of the Sun" project which consists of teaching young black children about culture, history, heritage and values.

The Mendez program teaches black children that crime is not a part of their black heritage.

"Only within the last 30 years have we been committing crimes," he said.

He told the predominantly black audience that blacks must teach their own children about their heritage because whites will not do it.

The "Children of the Sun," project is an innovative community approach designed to reduce the crime rate and violence among young black children.

Violence among young black males could be reduced if they were taught more about culture, history, heritage and values, Mendez asserts.

"You are children of the sun," Mendez tells the children in his classes. He also tells them they are chosen people from the sun's rays. That is why blacks are not affected by skin cancer like whites, he said.

He said children respond very positively to his message because they have never been told anything like that before.

Mendez pointed to two black teenage boys in the audience and told the crowd their job was to protect the community. But everyone in the community is afraid of them, he added.

"We have not taught them what we expect from them." Once black males find out people are afraid of them they start acting like people expect them to act, he added.

When Mendez goes into a community he talks with people who want to change the crime issue in their neighborhoods and tells them they first must define the problems themselves. Too many people rely on white people to tell them what the problems are, he said.

He tells them he will not deal with racism, poor housing or poor education.

"We've always had the worst of everything but it's only been in the last 30 years that blacks have started committing crimes," he claimed.

The next step is to formulate a plan of action. People in the seven cities he has worked in have come up with solutions such as picketing places where they sell drugs.

"They don't want you to attract attention to them." This is a way to run them out of the community, Mendez said.

Another strategy Mendez uses is to have all the ministers in the community talk about crime in the neighborhoods on a certain Sunday.

"We need to lay out rules and regulations in our own community and we need to collectively take a position on crime," he stated.

Renters' tax credits offered

The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation wants to inform area residents that the State of Maryland offers a Renters' Tax Credit Program for renters age 60 and over or those 100% disabled.

Eligible renters can receive a tax credit or direct check payment of up to $500 a year based upon a comparison of the applicant's income and the amount of "assumed" property taxes in the person's monthly rent.

Persons must apply each year in order to receive this credit. The application filing deadline is July 1, 1988 and eligible applicants will receive payment by direct check from the State of Maryland.

When completing the 1988 Renters' Tax Credit application form the applicant must attach a photocopy of his or her 1987 Federal income tax return if one was filed. The application form explains the income guidelines and the other eligibility requirements.

CONGRATS — University of Baltimore grad, Rev. Marie Phillips Braxton, center, gets congratulations from former Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns and her husband, Rev. Ronald E. Braxton, pastor of Emanuel AME Church, Portsmouth, Va., and their two children, Sannon, 7, and Derek, 3. Mayor Burns received honorary degree during the Sunday graduation. See more in If You Ask Me.

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Art of Africa on display

The Parent's Association Gallery and Alpha Phi Alpha are proud to announce the opening of a new exhibit, "Phumalanga: Tapestries from Swaziland". The exhibit opens with a reception on Feb. 10th from 4:30 to 6:30 and closes on March 4th.

"Phumalanga" means "rising sun" in siSwati, the native language of Swaziland and is the name given to the weaving workshop which produces the tapestries.

The tapestries are hand crafted from designs by Albert Reck, the director of the workshop, and other Swazi artists. The wools are woven, dyed & spun by Swazi weavers.

A number of the workshop artists have been working in this country on a special project, interpreting the cave drawings of African Bushmen in the past 2,000 years.

The Gallery is open Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

The tapestries on display will also be available for purchase. For more information you can call the Stamp Union Art Center at 454-4753, Monday thru Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Burns to be honored

The Engineering Society of Baltimore, Inc., will honor the former mayor, Clarence "Du" Burns, February 27, for his services to others.

"Du" Burns will receive the society's annual Civic Achievement Award, which is given as part of the Engineers Ball held at the conclusion of Engineers Week.

Burns was elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1971. He became City Council Vice President in 1977, and in 1982 he was elected Council President.

In January 1987, Burns succeeded Governor Schaefer as mayor.

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—Over 300 at rites

(Continued from page 1)

caine shortly before he was searched by Capitol Heights police during a drug sweep.

Marshall died two-and-a-half hours later of a possible drug overdose in his home in Landover, police said.

Last week, Marshall announced he intended to accept a scholarship to play football at the University of South Carolina.

About an hour before the funeral, Principal Lewis sat in his office at Forestville High School going over his speech for Marshall's funeral.

Taking a short break from writing his thoughts, Lewis said Marshall was a potential Paul Robeson. He said Marshall, like Robeson, had the potential to develop into a fine scholar and athlete.

"He was intelligent, compassionate, gentle and giving," the principal said.

"He was somebody that had tremendous athletic and artistic ability," said Lewis. "He tried to be a positive influence."

Lewis said people from Forestville High School feel grief, guilt and rage over Marshall's death.

Edward Gray, a classmate of Marshall's said, "Whenever you needed someone to play ball with he was always there.

"If you wanted to talk about anything, he was always there," he said.

Gerome Price, another classmate, said Marshall was a great guy. "He kept you out of trouble," he said. "He was a leader to everybody."

Marshall, who died Saturday morning after collapsing at his Glenarden home, "had a considerable quantity of cocaine in his bloodstream that resulted in his death," Dr. John Smialek told the newspaper.

Smialek has not released a formal autopsy report, but said his determination cocaine had dissolved in Marshall's stomach and entered his bloodstream seems to support police reports that Marshall ate six small chunks of crack, a powerful cocaine derivative, early Saturday morning.

Marshall, a Forestville High School running-back who last week signed a full scholarship with South Carolina, allegedly ate the drugs at about 1:30 a.m. Saturday to avoid being arrested after being approached by police on a street in Capitol Heights.

Marshall died at about 4:10 a.m. Saturday at Prince George's Hospital Center.

Toxicology tests showed 4.5 milligrams per liter of cocaine in Marshall's bloodstream, which Smialek called "a high concentration of cocaine."

Smialek, attending a convention in Philadelphia, could not be reached for further comment this morning.

Smialek, attending a convention in Philadelphia, could not be reached for further comment this morning.

Smialek did the autopsy on former University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias, who died June 19, 1986. Marshall lived within about two miles of both the high school and college attended by Bias, whose death helped prompt nationwide anti-drug campaigns.

Marshall had a Sports Illustrated magazine cover with Bias' picture and the words, "Death of a Dream," taped to his bedroom wall.

While Marshall's family and friends contend he ws not involved in drugs, he reportedly was arrested in December on the same block where he was seen by police Saturday, and charged as a juvenile with possessing narcotics with the intent to distribute. South Carolina athletic officials have also said they had no indication Marshall used drugs.

—Reservoir Hill

(Continued from page 1)

the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Quantico, Va. to try and establish a profile of the killer and gather clues, Lanham said.

"She probably went willingly," he said, because police believe she knew her assailant.

Parents in the audience wanted assurance from police that a psychopath would not try and kill again. But police could not guarantee that would not happen.

Approximately 65 people attended the meeting.

Del. Howard P. Rawlins said, "La-Tonya was our daughter. She was our future."

He and Del. Ralph M. Hughes, both of the 40th legislative district were in attendance to lobby support from the community to encourage Gov. William D. Schaefer to give the toal $1.5 million set aside for foot patrolling, instead of cutting it in half.

"It's difficult to vote for a dome stadium and a rapid rail system, when we don't have a foot patrol," Del. Hughes said.

Many of the Reservoir Hill residents agreed. In fact, many complained about the lack of foot patrolmen in their area.

"I don't see foot patrolmen .... They're not eveident," George Phinney, chairman of the Reservoir Hill Community Council, said.

But a rather frustrated and feisty Maj. Mervin L. Spiwak, of the police department, declared foot patrolmen are in the area.

"I have to agree with the gentlemen, until La-Tonya's death, we didn't see any foot patrolmen at all," one woman said. "They are more concerned with the businesses."

The City Council's Fourth District Delegation Sheila Dixon-Smith, Agnes Welch and Lawrence Bell, Council President Mary Pat Clarke and Police Commissioner Ed Tilgham also attended the meeting.

"We have to be the eyes and the ears for our children," Councilwoman Welch said.

Since La-Tonya's death, police have conducted a 30-man task force search, 24 hours a day, to find her killer.

"This is a complex case. We have interviewed hundreds of people," Col. Lanham said. "There has got to be somebody out there in the Park Avenue and Newington areas who saw her."

To help ease the neighbors fears, police discussed and encouraged residents to enroll in the Block Watch and Citizens Patrol programs, and to reinstate the declining Red Ball Parent Program, in which after parents are screened, a red ball would be placed in their windows for children to see and go to in times of trouble.

Col. Lanham said, "I hope (La-Tonya's) death will leave a legacy of community involvement."

—D.C. residents

(Continued from page 1)

Commonwealth attorney for the city of Alexandria, David Dunlap, sellers could be convicted of a misdemeanor and fined $1,000 but if the paraphernalia was sold to a minor. would net a felony conviction.

And in nearby Prince Georges County, drug paraphernalia merchants are fined $500 and charged with a misdemeanor that could receive a two-year sentence and a $2,000 fine if convicted again, said Alexis Revis of the States Attorney's office.

But despite the exception, Tuckson continued to chide the makers of Tops Paper, the Chicago based Republic Tobacco Company that "should have been embarrassed to place an ad for rolling paper.

"We are in the worst epidemic of drugs that this city has ever faced and we don't need to have public space covered with advertising for drug paraphernalia," Tuckson said.

When contacted, however, an executive of the firm said the company had no decision in the billboard locations. These, said Republic sales manager Warren Schoening, were selected by the Maryland based Rollings Outdoor Advertising.

"These billboards and other drug paraphernalia are always strategically placed in predominantly black neighborhoods or areas that blacks frequent, CCSR member Leroy Hackett said. "There is no question that it's done deliberately."

But Rollins operations manager David Powers, defended the firms decision to place bill boards in low income area's by saying residents there often rolled their own cigarettes because they lacked the money to purchase packaged brands.

"When was the last time you saw anyone roll a cigarette?" asked Mr. P., who owns the clothing store that will serve as the site of Saturday's rally. "If you have the paper then you should also be required to sell at least four types of tobacco with 30 packages of each."

Mr. P. added that he was vehemently opposed to drugs and drug paraphernalia but said the problem is "getting worse and the only way to combat it is to join it."

"I think that certain types of drugs should be legalized and administered through both the federal and state governments," Mr. P. said. "And counseling would be required as long as the addicts continued to go to these centers. That way you could gradually decrease the dosage. Millions of dollars could be saved and this would eliminate at least 90 percent of the nation's crime."

This community has one hell of a drug problem," said Mr. P. who opened his Kennedy street store 11 years ago, "but it's not only here but throughout the city and all over the country. It's everybody's problem."

Ward Five Councilmember Harry Thomas also agreed on the the magnitude of the city's drug epidemic and said he supports the efforts of CCSR which more stringent enforcement of the current drug paraphernalia laws.

"There should definitely be some modifications in the bill," Thomas said. "It breaks my heart to see youngsters that I once worked with involved in drugs. I'm all for ridding the community of not only the bulletin boards but of anything that contributes to the drug problem."

Drugs, said Thomas, are "one of the two most urgent problems in my area" and according to the councilmember, "there is no one in the Ward that will remain unaffected."

Thomas said he is deluged with phone calls from ward five constituents who live in constant fear of drug trafficking and dealers. In one instance, the mother of a 17 year-old high school student pleaded with him to have her son transferred to another school after he was pressured and then beaten over his refusal to sell drugs by another group of students.

And in Montana Terrace "a northeast community sometimes dubbed "the drugstore" by city police - residents are subjected to acts of violence on a daily basis," Thomas said "One woman who reported drug activity to police had her car fire-bombed," he said.

"This problem has to stop because it is destroying all of our young people," said Thomas. "Just last month I attended the funeral of a brilliant young man - a straight A student who had gotten a full tuition scholarship to attend George Washington University. I had no idea he was involved in drugs."

"Last week, someone slipped a note into my mailbox that informed me that a kid around the corner was into drugs," he said. "The next day he was run over by a car."

"I don't know where this thing will end but I'm not going to give up until I give the neighborhood back to the people and take it away from the drug dealers," Thomas said.

—Citywide services

(Continued from page 1)

ly at his church during the Lenten season.

According to Rev. Lyman Farnham, of Memorial Episcopal Church, the ecumenical Lenten services originated after the death of former civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

"After King's death, we felt a need to worship together," he said. "It is to both bring denominations together and also races."

Other ministers assembled at the service said it is vital that denominations worship together and break down the barriers.

"These services are devised to do away with historical divisions and it says that we are one," said Rev. Marion Bascom, pastor of Douglas Memorial Community Church.

Rev. Eugene Matthews agreed the body of Christ is one.

"We are all a part of one body of Christ, although we have differences and diversities of experience," he said.

Rev. Marcus Wood, pastor of Providence Baptist Church, expressed the importance of togetherness.

"The whole essence of Christianity is togetherness," he said. "This is a chance for us to cross denominational lines and witness the closing days of the life of Jesus," he added.

Rev. Vernon Dobson, pastor of Union Baptist Church, said the traditional services have been of great significance over the years.

"It is a continuing fellowship I hope never stops," he said.

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY KEITH HALE
An award-winning Black photographer, Mr. Hale is currently on staff with the Chicago Sun Times. Over the years his work has appeared in major publications, including EBONY and ESSENCE. The photograph below is of Mr. Hale's daughter and her great grandmother.

FEB 1988