—Pulaski Street Association

(Continued from Page 1A)

Legislative and Fourth Councilmanic) of drugs.

Vice President Greene said the group formed neighborhood block watches and encouraged the Western district police to help.

The police started Zoned Enforcement By Residential Assistance (Operation ZEBRA), using undercover officers to battle Pulaski's drug problem.

"We have disrupted the supermarket atmosphere, that sort of prevailed in this area," the city's state's attorney said.

Simms said Payson and Pulaski Streets were heavily populated with drug-trafficking before the groups banded together.

Simms, Bell, the delegates and Western District police officers were awarded certificates from the Pulaski Street Neighborhood Association on the City Council.

Before Bell began to hand out certificates, he told the Pulaski Street association's members to work together to continue the fight against drugs.

"If we all pull together in this thing, there's nothing we can't accomplish . . . It's one thing I've learned in city government and that is, the squeaky wheel always gets the grease," said Bell.

The organization had a vacant house that was used by drug dealers razed earlier this year to demonstrate their seriousness to rid its community of drugs. The house was located t 2009 Pulaski St., Greene said.

"We had it totally wiped out," she addded.

—Dr. Christmas

(Continued from Page 1A)

Dental Society and the Me-De-So Club.

He was a member and vestry man of St. James' Episcopal Church.

Dr. Christmas was educated in the Baltimore public schools and received his bachelors and D.D.S. degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

He served as a dental officer in the U.S. Armed Forces for two years in Germany.

Dr. Christmas is survived by his wife, Vashti Christmas; his mother, Mrs. Jeanette R. Christmas; his son, Bernard H. Christmas, Jr.; his uncle, Rev. Oscar Christmas and many friends.

Funeral services will be held Monday, July 25, at St. James' Episcopal Church at 10 a.m The wake will begin at 9:30 a.m.

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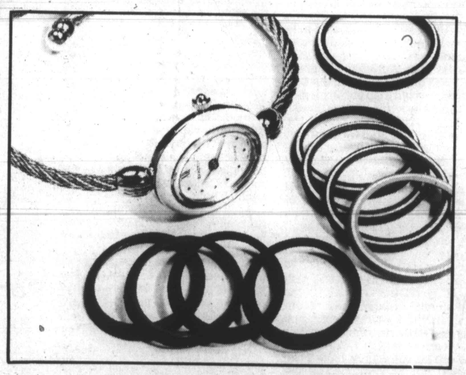

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METRO PROFILE

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■ Lifestyle 4B

Curt Anderson: a profile

president, Maryland Legislative Black Caucus

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Del. Curtis Anderson, D- 44, was elected as chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus recently, but over five years ago, when he was first elected as a delegate, Anderson did not dream it would come to this.

Anderson ran for a position with the State House of Delegates after he was fired from a news anchor position with WMAR-TV, Channel 2.

He had joined co-workers in protest against certain terms in their upcoming contracts and was fired as a result. A station co-worker suggested that Anderson run for delegate in the district since he was out of work and he had some spare time.

To Anderson's surprise, he was elected.

Although the idea to run was not his own, the young politician decided to remain in the political arena because he says, he is dedicated to serving the community.

The young politician was born in Chicago and raised in Baltimore City. After high school he did not intend to go on to college. "All I wanted was money and a car," he said.

But as he saw many of his friends going on to continue their education at various colleges, he decided he would join them. He received scholarships to Rutgers University, Johns Hopkins and Bucknell in Pennsylvania.

That year, in 1967, he was drawn to New Jersey's Rutgers, but qujt after three years.

When he returned home to Baltimore, he received notice that he was drafted but was able to get several postponments until he returned to a collegiate life at Morgan State University. He graduated with a degree in political science.

As a struggling college graduate and husband with a pregnant wife Anderson took a job with the Baltimore Urban League making $13,000, a salary he said he was proud of at the time.

But he decided to take a chance on another career when a journalist friend told him WBAL Channel 11 was seeking a sports reporter.

He knew his chances for getting the job were good because they were specifically looking for a black male for the position, he said.

"When I went home and told my wife that I had taken the job she looked at me like I was crazy," he said.

They started me at $10,000 per year with a promise to significantly increase his salary if he lasted through the 90-day trial period.

"I figured television reporting couldn't be but so hard," he commented.

"I was sent to anchor-type schools and taught the best way to address the camera and how to talk," he explained.

He said he was never given any tips about reporting but he learned from other experienced reporters.

The dynamics of news reporting were easy for Anderson to grasp. He could already write well and he saw nothing complicated about broadcast journalism.

He started as a weekend news anchor and remained a weekend news man for four years, after he requested, many times, to be moved to the weekday news spots.

But after four years of being denied a transfer to the weekday assignments, something he attributes to discrimination, he went to another television station, Channel 2 in 1980.

He received a significant increase in salary when he started with WMAR but after two years, staion employees, including Anderson went on strike and as a result, the then experienced reporter, was fired from his job.

He ran for political office in 1982 because a friend suggested he do so and won.

There had never been a black representative in the Northeast Baltimore district and Anderson did not think he would win it the first time around.

But the race was not easy, his competition consisted of about 10 candidates, four of whom were incumbents.

"When I met the people, going from door to door, I got a feel for what people wanted," he stated.

The novice politician campaigned hard that year, knocking on more than 90,000 doors in his district, he said.

His opponents and others in his district, initially did not take Anderson seriously, given his sudden interest in running for political office.

During a meeting one evening at a black church, where some of the constituents had a chance to meet the candidates, two of the black candidates challenged him to tell them what service he had given to the black community.

"Luckily I had done some volunteer work with the United Negro College Fund, the Fuel Fund, and other organizations," he said.

"That summer did something to me in terms of commitment," he added.

Although it was not his idea to run, Anderson realized how important his job as a legislator would be, after talking to many of the constituents and listening to their needs.

And he keeps in touch with what his constituents want and need by going to community meetings and visiting churches on Sundays.

Anderson and each of the legislators feel they bring something special to the statehouse but when all of them gather together, it is apparent that they are all talented and all replaceable, he said.

"If the voters don't like what you're doing, you're gone," he continued.

Anderson has a good working relationship with the members of the Black Caucus, he said.

And being the leader of the group comes naturally to him because for the last two years, he has served as vice chairman of the Caucus.

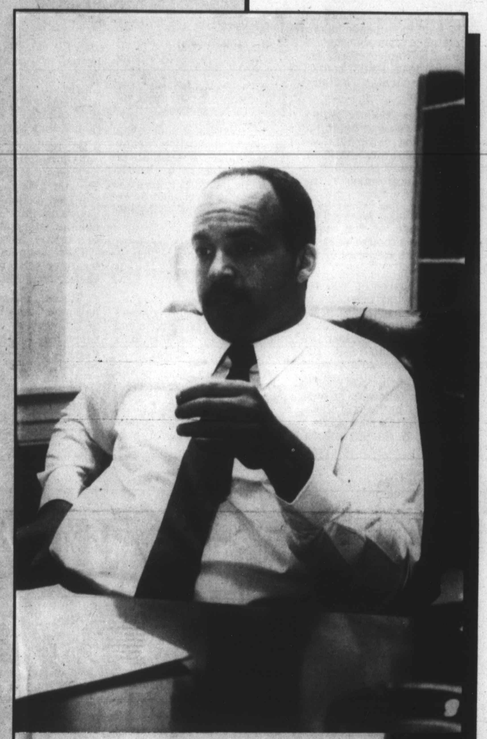
The issues Anderson sees as important to blacks in the state include minority set-aside programs, education and sanctions against South Africa.

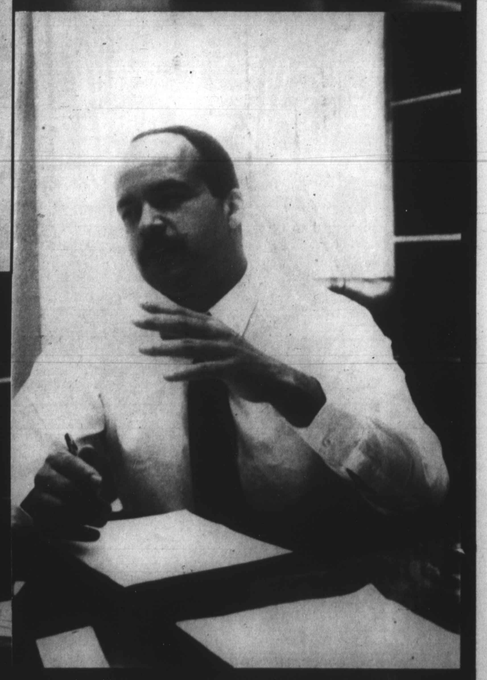
The young politican also went to law school in 1982, very shortly after leaving Channel 2, concentrating both on his political and legal careers. He went to classes in the evening. Presently, he is a litigator and argues both civil and criminal cases.

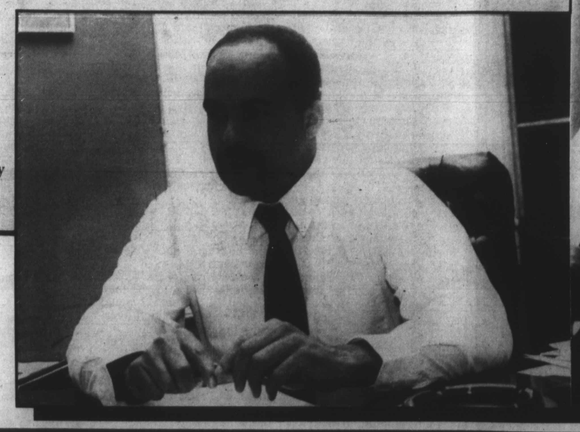
Now, Anderson has two careers, that of a politician and a lawyer. But he will be in the political arena for no more than six more years, he said.

"I don't see my political career lasting too much longer than that," he said.

He plans to practice law, long after his political years fade in his memory.







Photos by Paris Gray