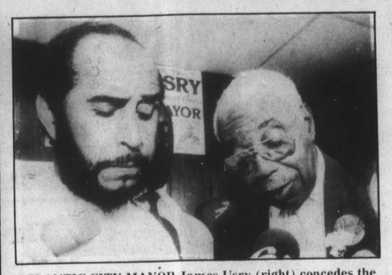
National News

TRENTON, NJ MAYORAL CANDIDATE Douglas Palmer is all smiles at his campaign victory speech where he claimed a 299-vote win over incumbent Mayor Carmen Armenti. Mr. Armenti said he will ask for a recount.



ATLANTIC CITY MAYOR James Usry (right) concedes the election as an equally depressed supporter listens. Mr. Usry lost the runoff election to City Councilman Jim Whelan on June 12. Mr. Usry, who replaced imprisoned Mayor Mike Matthews six years ago, is presently under indictment for alleged criminal activity.

Boy set afire by bully goes home 'fine'

NEW YORK — Three months after he was hospitalized with severe burns and captured the hearts of the nation with his bravery, a 12-year-old boy set afire by a bully has left the hospital, thanking God and his doctors for his recovery and warning: "Drugs are not cool."

David Opont of Brooklyn was burned March 7 and told police his 13-year-old attacker tried to force him to smoke something he thought was drugs.

Opont became the focus of national attention, receiving visits from former President Ronald Reagan, Jesse Jackson and the president of Haiti, the boy's birthplace.

Despite his celebrity status, the slight, soft-spoken boy blinked shyly as family members, carrying balloons, pushed his wheelchair into the bright sunlight on his first trip outside New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center's burn unit, where he has been since the attack.

He broke into a broad smile as reporters and onlookers applauded and called his name.

Opont sat with an elastic gloved right hand across his lap and a book tucked against his leg.

Dr. Cleon Goodwin said the boy wore elastic compression garments under his clothing to help reduce scarring. A bald patch on his head revealed a reddened scalp that Dr. Goodwin said could be repaired with skin grafts.

"For the first month and a half, we weren't sure if he would make it," Dr. Goodwin said. "His spirit had as much to do with his recovery as anything."

"I thank God, for the doctors and nurses," Opont said in a voice just above a whisper.

He said he felt "fine," and "had fun" in the hospital, had suffered "not a lot" of pain and would take "less" than the two years doctors expected for his recovery.

David Opont

Dinkins, Sharpton call for racial harmony

NEW YORK — Mayor David Dinkins met briefly with the Rev. Al Sharpton, a vocal and controversial civil rights leader, and both men called their talk "a giant step" forward in achieving racial harmony in the city.

Mr. Dinkins and Rev. Sharpton had planned to meet together with the family of Yusef Hawkins and community leaders from Bensonhurst at a church in that area of Brooklyn. Hawkins was the Black teenager shot to death when he was confronted by a gang of White Bensonhurst youths last August.

Mr. Dinkins and Rev. Sharpton, who have not been seen together in public for years, conferred privately in a hallway at St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church crowded with Sharpton supporters and mayoral aides. Afterwards the mayor said, "I told (Sharpton) I thought this was a giant step forward."

Mr. Dinkins also said he was satisfied that New York's Black leaders are willing to speak with people from Bensonhurst, and he repeated his call for reconciliation. "It's very, very important to join together and fight the common enemy, which is poverty, drugs, crime, homelessness, and the lack of adequate health care and educational opportunities," he said.

Mr. Sharpton emerged from his meeting with Bensonhurst residents a half - hour after Mr. Dinkins and echoed the mayor's sentiments. "We think it's a giant step in the right direction," he said. "We hope that it will add to the cause of racial justice and racial harmony in the city."

Mr. Dinkins and Rev. Sharpton have clashed indirectly several times since the mayor took office in January, usually through the media, on how best to achieve racial justice and harmony in the city.

Al Sharpton

David Dinkins

Va. Beach gets off to slow summer start

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The "Vacancy" signs are still up at many hotels and business is sluggish along the resort strip as the city begins a summer season considered crucial to its future.

Some hotel owners and merchants have expressed concern about the slow start, which comes on the heels of the first economically flat tourist season in the city's history.

It also follows the violent 1989 Labor Day weekend that cut deeply into local businesses' annual summer earnings.

Bouncing back from last year's Labor Day weekend riots has been the city's top priority in recent months. More than 100 businesses were vandalized or broken into, causing more than $1.4 million in damage.

The city is mounting a major public relations campaign to erase television images of young Blacks clashing with riot police and replace them with those of happy families roaming the beach.

Last year's violence occurred during an annual gathering of students from predominantly Black colleges and universities that has also grown to attract young people from throughout the East Coast. More than 100,000 are expected to attend the event this year.

A great deal is at stake in the tourism business; the city's 2.5 million visitors this year will generate $500 million, Ricketts said. That includes $30 million in direct local tax revenue and another $20 million in taxes to the state.

Muslims to open African info center

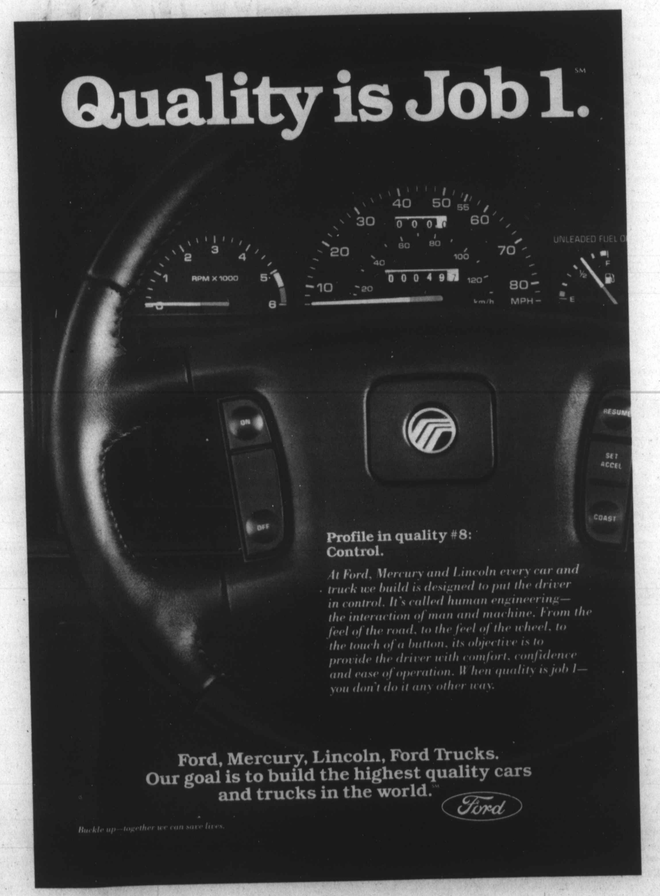
Minister Louis Farrakhan and his organization, the Nation of Islam, will open its' first Information Center in Africa in Accra, Ghana.

"I don't see the necessity of opening a mosque in Ghana, as we know it in America," said Abdul Akbar Muhammad, African representative of the Nation of Islam, "There are a number of mosques, churches and lecture halls in Ghana that we can speak in to further the peoples' understanding of the program of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam under the direction of Minister Louis Farrakhan."

Mr. Akbar, a Minister in the Nation of Islam and businessman who has traveled extensively worldwide, was chosen by Minister Farrakhan to head the Ghana project due to his expertise and ability in international affairs.

The Information Center will serve as an information outlet for the African continent about the program of Elijah Muhammad and the work of Minister Farrakhan in America today.

Ghana, according to Mr. Akbar, was the logical choice for the Nation of Islam's first African Center. In 1957, under the leadership of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana was the first African nation to gain post - war constitutional independence. Dr. Nkrumah, a strong, committed Pan - Africanist, invited many noted African - Americans to come and share their technical skills and expertise.



Community Calendar

The Asili Repertory Theatre currently is conducting Actor Workshop/Auditions through July 21. Company membership is open to men and women actors of all ethnic groups.

The company meets Monday-Thursday from 7 until 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Union Baptist Church, 1219 Druid Hill Ave. The Asili company will open its 1990-91 season with a revival of N. R. Davidson Jr.'s "El Hajj Malik: The Life and Times of Malcolm X."

For more information call Sanifu Onaje Mwananchi at 301/728-5509.

* * *

The Baltimore Arena is conducting a backstage tour for children on July 10 and 11, both days from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The tour will include sporting activities as well as special guests from the Bullets, Blast, Skipjack, Thunder and entertainment organizations.

For more information call 347-2090. The Baltimore Arena is located at 201 W. Baltimore St.

* * *

Car buyers and sellers can meet at the Automobile Flea Market at Painters Mill on Sunday, June 24 through Oct. 15 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

* * *

A flea market to benefit recreational opportunities for foster children of the Woodbourne Foster Care Program will be Saturday, June 23 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

It is the group's Third Annual Flea Market and Celebration and will feature treasures from attics, games and entertainment for children, hot dogs, soft drinks and home baked goods.

For more information call Jerry Walker at 435-9300.

* * *

The Baltimore Tennis Club will have its annual Open Tennis Tournament in Druid Hill Park, July 5-8. Sponsored will be Men's, Women's and Senior Singles and Doubles.

Call Jean Smith at 788-0345 for information.

* * *

Maryland photographers will exhibit their works at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center now through June 29.

"Starting With Photograph" is ope to the general public and is free from 12 noon until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 12 noon until 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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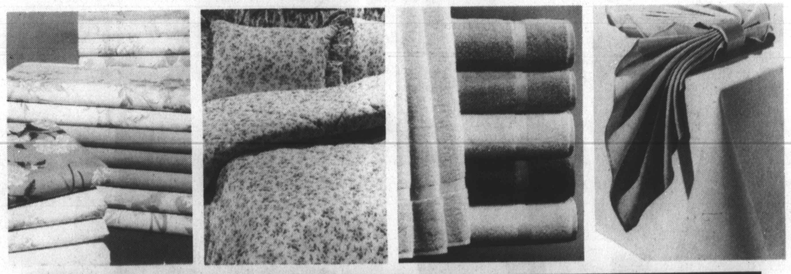

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Entire stock of lined and unlined styles in a variety of fabrics, colors, sizes. Top treatments also 50% off. Additional sizes, colors by special order. 3 week delivery. (D.105)Orig.* $59 to $465
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ALL LACE & EMBROIDERED CURTAINS.
Entire stock of lace and embroidered curtains. Most available in white and shell. Top treatments also at savings of 50%. (D.104/105)
Orig.* $60 to $260
SALE 29.99 TO 129.99

Curtains/Draperies (D.104/105) Sale in progress. *Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. $5 delivery/handling charge on all special orders. A different selection at each store. At all stores except Manassas, St. Charles.

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