16 hurt in race melee inside Arizona prison

TUCSON, Ariz.—A racially motivated melee erupted June 21 among about 100 inmates of the Tuscon Prison Complex, forcing guards to open fire with buckshot and wound 16 prisoners, two seriously, authorities said.

The violence at the prison's Cimarron North Unit broke out about 5 p.m. MST when Black and Hispanic prisoners began throwing rocks at each other inside the facility's dining room, Department of Corrections spokesman Mike Dominiak said.

"It started off as a one-on-one confrontation between a Black and Hispanic," Diminiak said. "Then people started picking sides and went outside."

White inmates joined in the melee, siding with the Hispanics against the Black prisoners, the spokesman said. "They started throwing rocks at each other and then at the staff," he said.

A prison official ordered guards to fire a warning shot into the air and when it had no effect, tear gas was used, he said, adding that about 100 prisoners were involved in the incident.

When the prisoners started moving toward the guards in a threatening manner, a lieutenant in charge of the situation ordered "four rounds of buckshot shot into the inmates," Mr. Dominiak said.

He said 16 prisoners were hit, including two or three wounded seriously enough to be flown by the helicopter to a medical center in Tucson for treatment. Eight of the prisoners were treated at the prison, and the rest were hospitalized.

Mr. Dominiak said the shooting defused the melee although some prisoners remained in the prison yard after the confrontation.

Corrections Director Sam Lewis and his assistants flew to Tucson to evaluate the situation, he said.

The prison north and south units together housed 771 prisoners Thursday, Mr. Dominiak said.

MARILYN QUAYLE, wife of the vice president, embraces 2-year-old Dennis during a visit to the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington.

3rd Bensonhurst case goes to trial

NEW YORK — The third man to go on trial in the Bensonhurst racial slaying "knew a gun was on the scene" when he helped recruit a gang that killed a Black youth who wandered into the Brooklyn neighborhood, prosecutors said.

John Vento, 21, is being tried on second-degree murder charges in the killing of Yusuf Hawkins, 16.

Assistant District Attorney Pamela Hayes said during opening statements in the trial that Hawkins was shot "all because Johnny Vento and the boys went along with a plan to take care of 'the n . . . s.' "

Miss Hayes will try to prove that even though Mr. Vento did not fire the shots that killled Hawkins, he should be convicted of second-degree murder because he knew a gun was present when the gang confronted Hawkins and three Black friends.

Mr. Vento's lawyer, Gerald DiChiara, said in his opening statement Monday that his client did not know Fama had a gun and did not share Fama's intent to kill.

The Hawkins killing on Aug. 23 inflamed racial tensions across the city and led to a series of protest marches.

Barry's lawyer attacks credibility of witness

In his first two days on the witness stand in the trial of Mayor Marion Barry, convicted drug dealer Charles Lewis repeatedly testified that Mr. Barry frequently used crack and cocaine. On the third and final day on the stand for Lewis, defense lawyer R. Kenneth Mundy worked to undermine the credibility of the witness.

Steering clear of Lewis's accounts of drug use, Mr. Munday instead tried to show inconsistencies in other statements and challenged the convicted drug dealer's ability to recall dates and details.

Lewis, a former city worker and native of the Virgin Islands, initially told a grand jury in January 1989 that he never uses drugs with Mr. Barry. He changed his story before the panel after being arrested on unrelated drug charges in the Virgin islands and indicted in Washington.

Lewis has testified that on four different days in December 1988 he smoked crack with Mr. Barry in the bathroom of a Ramada Inn in downtown Washington. He said the two plotted together to cover up their drug use when they discovered police were investigating.

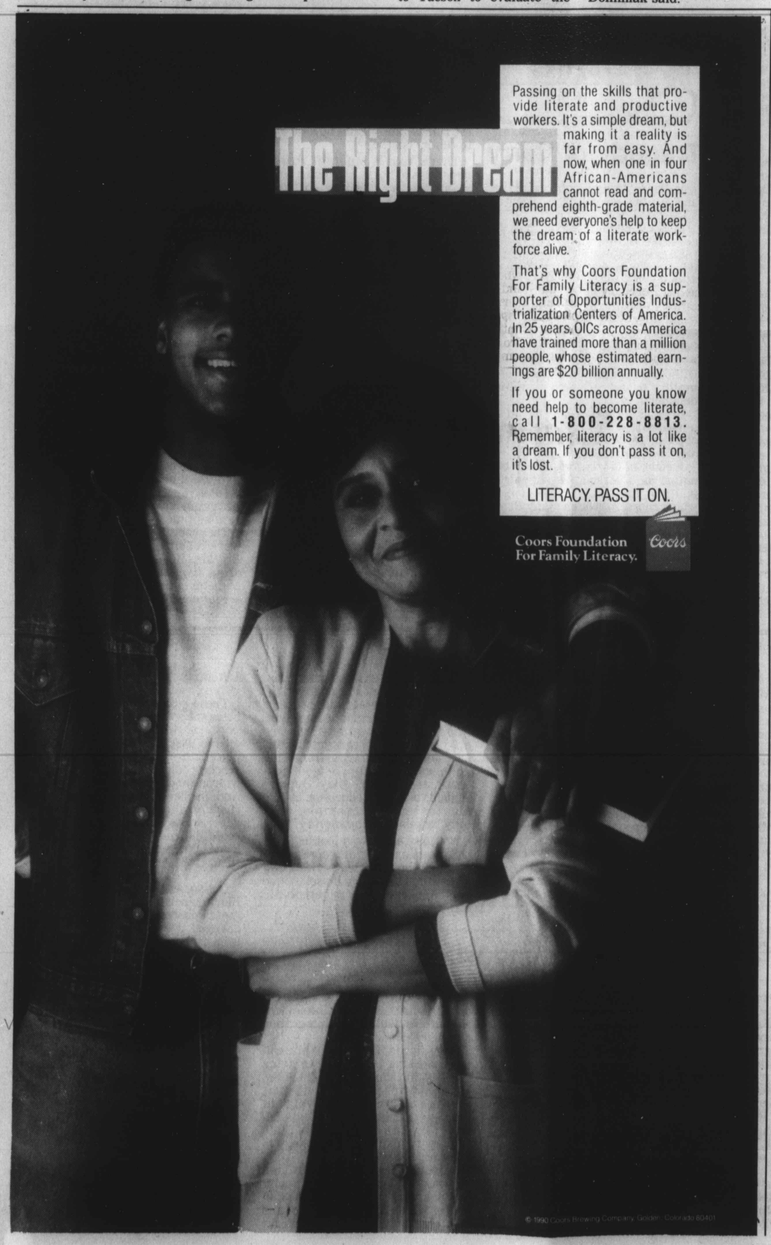
Lewis had caused Mr. Barry to laugh when he said the mayor unscrewed light-bulbs in the bathroom for fear they were being used as surveillance devices.

Mr. Mundy asked Lewis why Mr. Barry would smoke crack in the hotel room if he was feeling so suspicious.

"I can't speak for the mayor," Lewis said, "but in general, people who do drugs take all kinds of chances."

Mr. Barry is charged with three felony counts of perjury, 10 misdemeanor counts of cocaine use and one misdemeanor count of conspiracy to possess cocaine.

If convicted he faces a maximum 26 years in prison and $1.85 million in fines.



Jack and Jill Convention to be staged in Memphis

MEMPHIS — Debbye Turner, the reigning Miss America and blues legend Bobby Blue Bland will be the featured speaker and entertainment at the 29th National Convention of Jack and Jill of America, INC. More than 1,500 Black families will attend the week-long conference which wil be July 15-22 at the historic Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis, Tenn.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose goals and objectives are to provide a medium of contact for children that will stimulate growth and development and constructive educational, cultural, civic, recreational and social programs.

This 52 year-old organization continues its mission of dedicating its resources to improving the quality of life for Black children.

The theme for this year's convention, "Empowerment of the Black Family: Global Implications for the Future," will include local and national speakers. The Memphis host chapter has planned a convention filled with childrens' and fathers' activities, plenary sessions and informative workshops for mothers.

The Southern Hospitality will be plentiful with lots of historic sites to see, entertainment and family love. "Over the 52 years of our existence, Jack and Jill has helped strength the unity of the Black family and stresses a united commitment to address and help alleviate disturbing community problems that plague Black families, said Dr. Eva C. Wanton, national president. Jack and Jill of America, has 199 chapters in seven geographic regions which emcompasses 35 states, including several chapters in the Baltimore - Washington - Richmond areas. Membership is more than 9,200 mothers and associate members, and over 27,000 family members.

Black jobless rate held steady at 10.4%

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Employment for Blacks showed little change between April and May, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The unemployment rate for all Blacks remained constant at 10.4 percent for both months.

The rate for Black men showed a slight decrease from April's 9.4 percent to 9.1 percent in May. For Black women, the rate went from 9.2 percent in April to 9.1 percent in May. Unemployment for Black teens increased from April's 25.8 percent to May's 29.4 percent. Black male teens and the highest unemployment rate at 31.1 percent, up from April's 27.2 percent. Black teen women had a May unemployment rate of 27.6 percent, up from April's 24.3 percent.

This week in education

Sojourner-Douglass tenth commencement.

The Honorable Kurt L.Schmoke will deliver the keynote address at the tenth anniversary commencement ceremony, Sunday July 1 at 1 p.m. in the Dunbar Senior high school auditorium.

Thirty-eight candidates for graduation will be awarded the Bachelor of Arts degrees.

Distinguished honorees for the Doctor of Humane Letters are the Honorable Kweisi Mfume, U.S. Congressman from Maryland's 7th district and Mayor Schmoke.

Students receive a whale of a reward

Baltimore City public and private school students with at least three A's on their most recent report cards will receive a "whale of a reward from the National Aquarium in Baltimore: an invitation to a special open house on July 17.

The event offers those high-achievers free admission and exclusive visiting hours (7 to 9 p.m.) and includes a number of special aquatic activities.

To obtain free admission students must register by phone at 576-3870.

At the door, they must present their most recent report cards which show they earned 3 A's in any one marking period of the past school year.

Students must also be accompanied by an adult who will receive free admission, and other family members may either enter at a special discounted price of $2.00.

Additional information about the open house is available by calling the Aquarium at 576-3888.

Helping students to read

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke presents "City That Reads" bookmarks to the Samuel F. B. Morse's 500 students on May 21. During the visit the Department of Transportation recently presented 1,000 new and used books and a donation of $100 to its adopted school. The donation was given during a 3 month book drive and to support the school's parent lending program. Mayor Schmoke also presented the school with a new "Reading Zone" bench and bookdrop.

Teachers will get an income boost

By Joy M. Tyler
AFRO Education Reporter

The Baltimore Teachers Association has managed to convince the Baltimore City Council to approve a tax shelter program that will raise the take-home pay of many city teachers and employees by nearly $1,000 a year.

Called the "Pick-Up Program," city school employees who had previously sacrificed hundreds of dollars a year in pay because the city has not acted to enable them to participate will be able to join their co-educators at no cost to the city or state.

Since its implementation for state school employees in January of 1989, the Baltimore City Teachers Association has been working to win this extra income for teachers since last February when it learned they were being denied a benefit State teachers received.

"This a major victory for the Teachers Association," said an elated Maryilin Hunter, representative of the organization.

"The City Council was unanimous in its decision to pass the legislation, and we want to thank Mayor Schmoke who personally intervened to help and those council members who were instrumental in helping us get what was long overdue", said Hunter.

The passage of the Pick-Up Program will affect nearly 2,000 teachers, administrators, custodial workers, and many others who are members of the retirement system who were hired before 1980.

In 1988 the Maryland General Assembly passed the legislation allowing employers who participate in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems to "pick up" employee contributions, exempting those contributions from federal tax during the employee's working career.

It was enacted, in part, based on the fact that passage would not decrease state revenues, and the program affected federal tax only.

County offers gun safety program

Baltimore County's two-year-old effort to reduce Handgun violence will be moving into middle school classrooms this fall, thanks to a $90,510 grant from the U.S. Justice Department.

Acting on a proposal by County E-7E-xecutive Dennis F. Rasmussen, the County Council recently approved using the money to educate students about the dangers of handguns.

According to Mr. Rasmussen, the new funding will enable a team of six county police officers to provide a four-unit lesson on handgun awareness and protection to all sixth and seventh grade public school students, as well as to the county's evening classes beginning in September.

In addition to the middle school curriculum, the educational effort will include a series of newspaper, television, and radio public service announcements to be distributed countywide.

In making the announcement, Mr. Rasmussen pointed to a recent National Association of Counties report that a young person is either killed or injured by a handgun every 37 minutes, and that on a average day, 135,000 children bring guns to school.

"We view this prevention effort aimed at middle school youngsters as the logical next step in the county's ongoing campaign to reduce handgun violence, promote handgun safety, and save lives," said Rasmussen.

Initiated by the executive in May of 1988, the county's Handgun Violence Reduction Program seeks to inform local residents of the proper use, maintenance, and storage of handguns, as well as general safety tips and information about handgun Laws.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
NEEDS/PERFORMANCE PUBLIC HEARING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
JULY 12, 1990 AT 6:00 P.M.
BOARD OF ESTIMATES ROOM

On Thursday, July 12, 1990 at 6:00 p.m., the City of Baltimore will conduct a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This hearing will be held in the Board of Estimates Room (Rm. 215), City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street. The primary purpose of this hearing is to obtain the views of citizens on community development and housing needs and to review the City's past performance in connection with community development block grant funds. The public is invited to attend and express their views.

Persons unable to attend the July 12th public hearing may express their views in writing. All written comments must be mailed to Mr. Robert Goetz, Chief, Monitoring and Documentation, Room 355, 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The deadline for written comments is July 24, 1990. For further information, telephone 396-4207 or visit Room 355, 417 E. Fayette Street.

Robert W. Hearn, Commissioner
Department of Housing and Community Development

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