—Bob Wade

(Continued from Page A1)

lacklustre inheritance from a dishonored predecessor.

No matter the dishonor, the predecessor was white.

At this point, perhaps, it should be admitted that there is no justification to the contention that any wrongdoing by Bob Wade is no worse than any charged to Lefty Driesell, even if they were different in nature . . . . Two wrongs, as the saying goes, don't add up to a right.

But, be reminded, there are black wrongs and white wrongs . . . . "Black is beautiful," some say, but "white is right," say others.

Some voices cry "double standard," which it is — always has been in similar circumstances . . . . The cries of different treatment arise today in the State Legislature . . . . But some of us question the depth of the concern in Annapolis, especially since our legislators permitted the term of a black man as chairman of the State Racing Commission to be sliced to two years.

Previous to his ascendancy to the post, the term of the chairman's job was an unlimited number of two-year stints.

But back to the subject of Wade and his personal hawks.

Please, friends, don't believe for one minute that the turmoil at College Park was inspired by anything other than racism . . . . Bob Wade was targeted from the moment he professed an interest in the job as successor to the revered Lefty Driesell . . . . revered because he had reasonable success on the court while ignoring morality among his non-student athletes.

Bob Wade was a hard-working, no-nonsense coach who had produced consistent winners at a small inner-city Baltimore high school . . . . His record caught the attention of (then) Chancellor John Slaughter at the University of Maryland . . . . He was offered the position and he accepted it.

In addition to the feeling that he could do the job, Bob Wade may have had in mind a fellow named Jerry Faust.

Jerry Faust was a successful high school football coach who eight years ago was hired by Notre Dame . . . . Like Bob Wade, Jerry Faust had no previous experience at the college level, so if he could try at a school like Notre Dame, why not take on Maryland? . . . . Even if he, like Faust, is released when his contract expires after five years? . . . . Should he expect less?

But Wade missed a 3-point play: (1) Maryland is not Notre Dame, (2) Father Hesburgh who hired Faust and Jerry himself are white, and (3) John Slaughter and Bob Wade are black.

As Archie Bunker would say: "Case closed."

—Welfare recipients

(Continued from Page A1)

tion in clients' public assistance grants.

During the last two months, DSS, the Office of Employment Development, the Baltimore Urban League and the Mayor's Office of Children and Youth have co-sponsored a series of forums in the six councilmanic districts to inform welfare recipients of the new changes.

Perhaps Project Independence's slogan sums the changes best: "Welfare has been a good place to visit, but you no longer have to live there!"

Case managers from both DSS and OED will work with clients to help find them jobs or educational opportunities. Urban League's Manpower Centers will also cooperate to find clients jobs.

Gary Umphrey, Harbor Learning Center's principal, said clients who lack a proper education will be tested and their school records will be examined before clients are placed in an appropriate educational setting.

For example, Umphrey said those who need strong remediation will be placed in the new East Baltimore Vocational School in East Baltimore.

And DSS plans to provide day-care to families, because the department realizes many mothers can not look for jobs because there is no one to watch their children.

An additional 1100 slots are slated.

Joy Jones, of the Mayor's Office on Children and Youth, said there are 68,000 children under 12 who live with their 37,000 AFDC (Aid to Families and Dependent Children) parents in Baltimore.

James H. Ethridge, assistant director of OED, said his office hopes to help 7,000-8,000 people find jobs and schooling annually.

But some people, including Councilwoman Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, 5th District, are concerned the case workers'loads will be too heavy.

"What I see as the real problem is what is the meat between the two pieces of bread," Spector told Ethridge and the panel of city agency representatives May 10.

"It is vague to me how you're going to get the case managers to get the job done," said Spector. "The case manager is the whole key and you're so vague."

Ethridge said there are still details to be smoothed in the $8 million or more initiative.

"We understand we don't have all the answers right now, but we know we have to get the job done," Ethridge replied.

Irvin J.Conway, chair of Maryland Welfare Rights, said his group supports Project Independence, but he too is worried about the case loads.

Conway said some caseworkers have voiced their fears about the case loads becoming "an added burden". Workers now handle approximately 400 cases.

"We are not satisfied they can handle it," Conway said.

Shirley E. Marcus, DSS acting director, said the department has had trouble in the past recruiting and retaining people. There are 56 vacancies in the department currently.

"We are concerned about workloads, but we are also adamant that Project Independence will work for the citizens in Baltimore," Marcus said at a forum May 5 in Federal Hill. "It's not going to be easy."

Ethridge said workers probably would not receive raises, because there is a regular pay-increase channel they must follow in the city.

Project Independence began in July 1988 across the state to assist welfare recipients to enter the job market.

Iris G. Reeves, 5th District, said she is "up-beat" about Project Independence, but realizes there are "things that have to be flushed out".

"This will be positive and it can go a long way to help build the self-esteems and confidences of our constituents," said Reeves.

AFRO photo by P.A. Greene

LAID TO REST — Michael Eugene Thomas, 15, was buried Monday in Maryland National Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Bernard Pearson, Reginald Reynolds, Byron Pearson, Wilbert Reynolds, Nelson Hall and Walter Thomas.

—Farewell 'Mikie'

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vice May 8 at Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church, a small brick church in Beltsville, Md.

Many were still stunned by the senseless slaying of a quiet, loving young person, who was known for his warm and friendly smile.

"We are in a state of shock...and I'm not sure how long it will take to overcome this tragedy," said James R. Gross, Meade's school principal, as he tried to comfort Michael's family during the funeral service.

"The youngsters and teachers at Meade High School will continue the tradition that Michael has set and always will remember what he stood for," the principal said.

He added "there was nothing bad about Michael's school record."

"He was a very cheerful person," said friend Karen Brown, a Meade 11th grader. "I can't believe this happened to him."

She was one of 38 students who received written parental permission to attend the ninth grader's capacity-filled funeral.

"It was a senseless death," said Linda J. White, of Anne Arundel County. She said Michael used to work on her yard.

White called Michael her "buddy" and said he had "promised to be that special person".

Friends and family say Michael wanted to go to college and hoped to become a professional basketball player, perhaps for the Boston Celtics. He played defensive end for the Glen Burnie GORC football team.

Michael and his father, Gordon T. Hall agreed if Michael saved half of the money for the expensive tennis, Hall would pay the balance.

"They tried to stop him from buying the tennis and his grandmother said she begged him not to buy them, but he wanted them," said White about Michael's desire for the Nikes.

Meanwhile it was a cool and gloomy day, both outside and inside the church as people cried and said good-bye to their "Mikie".

Michael attended public schools in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties and played basketball, football and track and field.

"He was a nice young man and he really worked hard and tried to do his best all the time," said Michael's English teacher Jane C. Foppe.

He also attended Sunday School and church services at Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Michael, originally from Cheverly, Md., is survived by his parents, Yvonne Johnson and Gordon Hall; sister, Tracey Johnson; grandmothers, Birdie Thomas and Gladys Hall; grandfather, Walter E. Thomas; great grandmother, Mattie L. Thomas; godmother, Jean Smith; six uncles, three aunts and many other relatives and friends.

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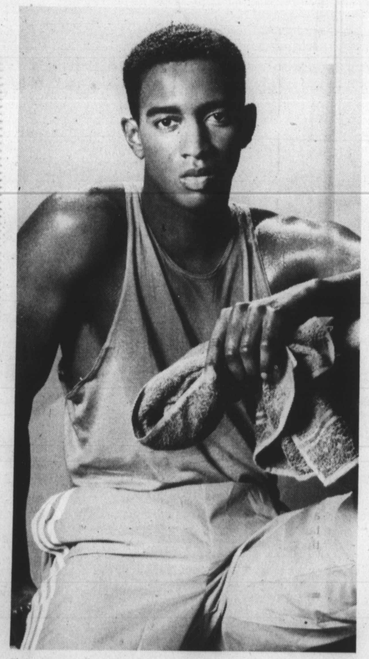

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-Palladium

(Continued from Page A1)

who were scheduled to hold a breakfast at the Palladium.

"They said that it did not look good for them to patronize a business owned by anyone involved in illegal activity. Once again I lost money because of the deception of others."

Butler said, "I am going to stick with my business to the very end. Blacks don't contribute much money to their own businesses so they are often in jeopardy of going under from lack of support."

Business owners who wish to file bankruptcy under the provisions of Chapter 11 are required to submit a detailed business plan outlining the methods of payment to creditors and the exact time in which those payments will be made. If the plan is accepted by the bankruptcy court judge it will then become law.

Chapter 11 affords protection to business owners with outstanding debts. Creditors cannot within the allotted time for repayment sanctioned by the court, seize property or equipment from the business nor may they sue the debtor for payment.

The business owner completes their part of the bankruptcy contract by adhering to the court's payment schedule.

Butler said, "Filing Chapter 11 allows me to use the bankruptcy laws that were enacted in the first place for the protection of businesses, all businesses.

"A million large corporations file each day, it is no mark of failure for them to do so, why should I not be able to get the help that is written into the law just as they do?"

Butler said, "The city of Baltimore was also a contributor to my financial problems. The city offered to buy the buildings and land on which I owned two nightclubs. The offering price was low, so I told them I would consent to that price only if they would throw in the six acres of land where the Palladium now stands, as part of the sale."

Ed 'Slim' Butler

"After the sale was completed I decided to build the Palladium on the six acres of land I received along with the deal for the former nightclubs I sold up where the park circle industrial development is located."

"I applied for a $693,000 loan. The money comes from the federal government but the money is awarded by the city. I said that I would go through with the loan application only if the project could be constructed without the Davis Bacon wage scale (union wages, which add a substantial cost to the construction project) applying to the entire project, only to the site, that is the outside of the building and not the building itself."

"The project was half completedwhen I was told that I would have to come up with an additional $495,000 (for Davis Bacon) which was ridiculous because I had already been assured by the attorney assigned to me by the city as well as the city real estate officer that the Davis bacon rules would not apply to any costs but the site, not the building."

Butler continued, "Father Joseph Sellinger, the President of my alma mater, Loyola, wrote a letter promising to pay that additional costs involved if those costs still applied after taking the issue to court. We were notified that Father Sellinger's promise by way of a letter of credit would not be accepted.

"Father Sellinger had made an earlier promise to stand behind me financially when I was late received payment from the city of Baltimore for the nightclubs I sold at Park Circle.

"I did pay my debts as soon as the money came from the city but there was never a problem about accepting Father Sellinger's promise at that time.

"To this day the city still has me marked as unpaid for a loan that I never received. It's a $693,000 loan that I never received the money for.

"It's no secret that smart black businessmen refuse to build in the city? We never give our businesses the support they need. They know that most blacks would rather be somewhere owned by white folks, giving their money to them. Then they think they are in heaven," said Butler.

"Minister Louis Farrakhan spoke at the Palladium and did so without paying the $10,000 that the large downtown establishments required him to put up for security.

"I later began to receive backlash for accommodating the Minister and the Nation of Islam but I figure if Jews can go to Jewish establishments, Italians can go to place of their own, and every group has somewhere which they own why is it not possible for blacks to do the same?"

Butler believes that blacks should view the financial decline of his business as a consequence of their non-support for all blacks businesses in general. Butler says, "If prominent black businessmen are in league with those who wish to destroy me and black owners like me, how can we hope to acquire anything?"

"We must be included in all levels of decision making, that way we can make a change for the better. Every ethnic group supports the political candidates whom they wish to favor their plans. Blacks often do not contribute to candidates, so they cannot hope to take anything out," said Butler.

"I could just sell the Palladium, recoup some of my losses and walk away but I don't operate that way. Other businesses have filed for bankruptcy why is it that I am singled out and labeled a failure? That is exactly what the catering monopolies want people to think," said Butler.

At presstime the AFRO was unable to reach David Gillece, Director of BEDCO (Baltimore Economic Development Corporation) who could shed some light on the specifics of Ed Butler's loan application.

Other calls to the offices of the Multi-family and Commercial Development Office in search of information concerning the status of Butler's loan were also to no avail.

When the AFRO reached Richard Kagan, an attorney in the City's solicitors office, he could not comment. "It is possible that the bankruptcy proceedings may include information which I am not at liberty to disclose publicly," he said.

—Morgan

(Continued from Page A1)

it keeps going up."

The plan calls for a schoolwide ceremony, May 21, 10:00 a.m. which will include Congressman Kwiesi Mfume as commencement speaker. The graduates will then attend the individual ceremonies to be held at 12:30 in different locations across the campus.

Rumors of complaints have reached the school administration, but Douglass said, "there is no way everyone can be pleased."

"There might be isolated problems," Douglass said. "We are trying to give people what they want as much as possible. In the past many people complained that the single ceremony was just too long."

Since both undergraduate and graduate class ceremonies will be held, one complaint referred to the possibility of parents with more than one family member graduating from different schools, in different locations, at the same time. Those parents are left with a difficult choice to make.

"One percent of the parents might have two kids graduating in one year," said Douglass. "If I had two kids graduating I would be so happy I wouldn't care if I made it to both ceremonies or not."

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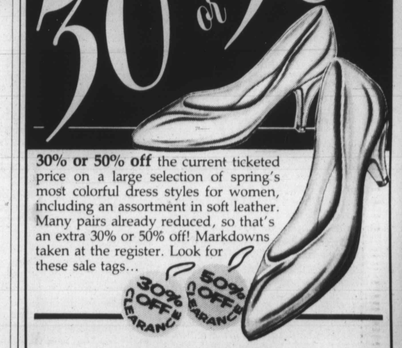

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