WEATHER
A 2-C weekend: cloudy and cold. Friday: increasingly cloudiness. Sat-Sunday: uncertain.

Baltimore Afro-American

INSIDE
Mid-year graduates hold closing exercises—Page 9

63rd Year, No. 54 Copyright 1955 by AFRO-AMERICAN CO., for all material previously printed in the current National Edition. BALTIMORE, MD., FEBRUARY 5, 1955 Late City Edition ★★★★★★★ 28 Pages Price 15c

Slim Myers, Sonny Pratt In Numbers Raid

Tyson Faces 18 Years In Bathroom Murder

NUMBERS
Slim Myers, Sonny Pratt taken in raid

- Police say they collected 90G's a day
- Report heat's on numbers men uptown

Is the "heat" again on the numbers racket in Baltimore?

That was the question being asked this week following the arrest of two of the city's better known sportsmen and the police plan to make additional arrests of men believed to be key figures in the uptown numbers racket.

The two men arrested late Tuesday, at a house in the 2900 block Elgin Ave., are Alonzo R. (Slim) Myers, 37, of the 2100 block Presbury St., well known businessman, and Harry T. (Sonny) Pratt Jr., 30, of the Elgin St. address, who in 1945 fell heir to his father's $50,000 estate.

Since that time, Mr. Pratt has operated a Washington night club, worked as a Social Security employee, and been emeshed in a series of legal difficulties as the estate dwindled to almost nothing.

* * *

ARRESTED along with Mr. Pratt and Mr. Myers was John Franklin, 47, of the 3100 block Presstman St., who listed his occupation as "chauffeur." Mr. Myers gave his occupation as "real estate" while Mr. Pratt was identified as a "salesman."

All three men are scheduled to face a preliminary hearing on Saturday at 3 p.m. in the Northwestern Police Court. Their attorney, State Senator Harry A. Cole, is expected to ask for their release on the grounds their

(Continued on Page 2)



TYSON ON STAND — AFRO artist gives conception of scene in Criminal Court on Wednesday when Lucien Tyson took stand in his own defense in the bathroom murder trial. Man standing near mike is his attorney, Joe Rosenthal. Judge is John T. Tucker. Girl seated at right is Mrs. Mae Faulkner, Tyson's niece, who conferred frequently with his attorney. Court stenographer is seated at table and court clerk talks with Judge Tucker. Jury of 11 men and one woman is in background.

SHERATON
- Balto. hotel yields to JC pressures
- Belvedere, open to all, closes again

(See Editorial Page 4)

The Sheraton - Belvedere Hotel has yielded to jim crow pressures of the Baltimore Hotel Association and rescinded its policy which admitted all guests regardless of color.

Albert S. Fox, manager of the hotel, confirmed for the AFRO the report that the change had been made as of January 21, thus ending a democratic policy which had been in effect since Dec. 7, 1954.

He said:

"We have tried to pioneer in Baltimore on a policy which we thought would work. Unfortunately, it has not worked and we have rescinded that policy.

"We did not receive the cooperation we expected and on that account, we must return to the policies of the hotel associa-

(Continued on Page 2)

Dr. Forte, receptionist, plead guilty on operation charges

Dr. Allen U. Forte pleaded guilty to four charges of performing illegal operations, and one charge of practicing medicine unlawfully this morning (Friday) in Criminal Court.

Dr. Forte faces a jail term of not less than 3 years in each case, and/or fines of not less than $500 or more than $1,000 on each charge.

His receptionist, Mrs. Ernestine Thomas, pleaded guilty to one charge of performing an illegal operation.

Judge Herman M. Moser, is holding the cases under advisement pending a report from the Probation Department.

Additional charges involving four illegal operations and one for the unlawful practice of medicine were dropped by the state.

THE CASES IN which Dr. Forte pleaded guilty involved four teenagers, two colored and two white, and a 35-year-old white woman who admitted that they had been treated by him.

The girls said they had paid about $200 each for the operations.

Deputy State's Attorney Harold Grady said that during the raid last July 9, police recovered from the doctor's office several rubber and metal tubes running 12 to 15 inches in length with wires in them.

Other medical instruments and a considerable quantity of assorted medicines along with $6,000 in cash was also recovered. Teh money was later returned to Dr. Forte.

BEATING
- Infant dies of injuries; mother held
- Cherry Hill child suffers broken jaw

A 30-year-old mother of eight children, is being held by police who are investigating the death of her one-year-old child whom they suspect was beaten to death.

Among the injuries the child suffered was a broken jaw. Police said that Mrs. Peggy Daniels of the 2900 block Denham Circle, Cherry Hill, admitted she had slapped her daughter, Felicia.

According to police, the mother called an ambulance, Tuesday at about 2:10 p.m. The child was pronounced dead on arrival at University Hospital at 2:25 p.m.

There were fresh wounds on the little girl's face, police said, and hospital authorities, suspect-

(Continued on Page 2)

Haggard man sobs after conviction on murder count

'Bathroom Murder' trial ends with Lou Tyson near collapse in crowded and tense court

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

Before a crowded and hushed courtroom late Wednesday afternoon, a jury of 11 men and one woman returned a second-degree murder conviction against Lucien M. (Lou) Tyson in the slaying of his school teacher sweetheart, Mrs. Mildred G. Nicholson.

As the verdict was read, Tyson's body quivered violently as he cried within himself, and eventually had to be carried from the courtroom — a broken and aged man.

Thus, after two days, the sensational "Bathroom Murder Case" trial came to an end with the haggard Tyson facing a minimum of five and a maximum of 18 years imprisonment in the Maryland Penitentiary.

The actual sentencing was deferred by Judge John T. Tucker at the request of Joseph Rosenthal, defense attorney.

* * *

THE GUILTY verdict was returned by the jury after two hours and 38 minutes of deliberation during which spectators in the courtroom could hear the voices of the jurors coming from the jury room as they shouted at one another.

At one point in the deliberation, the jury was reported standing at 10 to 2 in favor of convicting Tyson on the lesser court of manslaughter, one juror threatening to stay in the jury room for "three days" in order to obtain a second-degree conviction.

When the jury finally filed back into the courtroom a death-like hush settled over the room as spectators remembered Judge Tucker's warning against any outbursts of emotion.

Tyson, who had remained immobile throughout the two-day trial, looked like a man without hope or the will to live.

* * *

THE 37-YEAR-OLD defendant stood to receive the verdict and as the foreman said "guilty of murder in the second degree" he clenched his hands together.

For what seemed, like an eternity in the hush of the courtroom, Tyson stood in the same position as he rubbed his hands and then ran one finger fiercely across the edge of the table.

* * *

FINALLY, his attorney, Mr. Rosenthal, tugged him by the arm and Tyson sat down.

He put a handkerchief to his eyes and grabbed his head with his hands. With his head bowed low, Tyson slumped down into the chair and his body shook with silent sobs.

Mr. Rosenthal sought to no avail to console his client, but Tyson was a man past consolation as the sobs continued to wrack his thin body.

* * *

THE VOICE of Judge Tucker broke the stillness of the courtroom as he asked:

"ARE YOU ready for sentencing, Mr. Rosenthal?"

The attorney then asked that sentencing be withheld and his request was granted.

Then two court aides helped Tyson to rise and he was carried from the courtroom, an aide on each arm, as he appeared to be a man in a world of his own.

* * *

TYSON DID not cry alone, there were tears from his two attractive nieces, Mrs. Mae Faulkner of 1613 Duekland St., with whom he lived, and Mrs. Mae Swanston of NYC, who wept with their "Lou."

"OH LOU," Mrs. Faulkner cried in a sorrowing voice as the aides helped the broken man leave the courtroom. Her eyes were a well of tears and Mrs. Swanston's face was streaked with signs of the tears she had shed.

Mrs. Faulkner, who had stood by her uncle since the day of the slaying Nov. 7 finally broke down and wept softly, as he left the courtroom where for two long days she had sat close to her uncle as the state wove its web of evidence about him.

"He was like a brother to me," she said.

* * *

THE SLAIN teacher's daughter, Miss Betty Harris, a Morgan State College senior, showed no sign of emotion when the verdict was returned.

The real drama of the trial came on the second day when a succession of witnesses paraded across the courtroom with none presenting as pathetic a picture as the suspect himself when he took the stand in his own defense.

Tyson sat slumped in the witness chair, with his shoulders bent, as his hands toyed with a yellow handkerchief. His voice at first was clear and distinct as he testified about his background and his rela-

(Continued on Page 5)



LUCIEN TYSON
He cried when verdict came.

Only Democrats have council contest in 4th; GOP's are in

Republicans in the Fourth District can take a breathing spell after the city primaries, March 1.

With the withdrawl of one of the four councilmanic candidates Saturday, there will not be a primary race for the GOP party in the area since three candidates can win.

* * *

AS FOR THE Democrats, it's a different story. The race is expected to become a dog fight with six colored candidates and seven white, including an incumbent, battling for the three seats.

* * *

ON THE REPUBLICAN side, Meyer Geartner withdrew from the race leaving the field to Linwood Koger Sr. and E. Gaines Lansey and Harry Brinsfield.

Both Koger and Lansey have been endorsed by the Fourth District Political Organization whose headquarters are located at 2120 Druid Hill Ave.

* * *

THIS WEEK, the organization endorsed two of the six Democratic candidates, Lloyal Randolph and Melvin Callaman.

Randolph, an anti-Pollack man, strongly denounced the Fourth District Democratic political boss (Jack Pollack) in accepting the support of the organization.

* * *

RANDOLPH TOLD the members, "I have no dealings with Mr. Pollack and have never had any dealings with him. If I wasn't with him while he was on top I certainly have no business with him now that he's on the ropes.

* * *

"AND that's where we should keep him," Mr. Randolph concluded. "Right on the ropes where he is now."

Other Democrats who are seeking the three nominations, March 1 are:

Josiah Henry, J. Howard Payne, Ernest Perkins, Walter Dixon, Solomon Liss, David Hurwitz, Morton Perry, Sidney Rodman, Richard Rombro, Morgan Amimo and Maxwell Alpert, incumbent.

In the Fifth District, Charles Law, Democrat, is battling against 19 other candidates for one of the four council seats.

3 more 'ghosts' on voting list

The furor over "ghost" voting growing out of the discovery of ten voters listing a house in the 800 block Montford Ave., as their residence may spread to other areas.

An examination of the list in the 6th Precinct, Third Ward in the Fourth District has also revealed some "ghost" voters.

The residence at 3400 Woodbrook Ave., lists Fourth District Councilmanic Candidate Lloyal Randolph and his wife, Cornelia.

But also listed at the number are three persons, Harold, Irwin and Norris Adler, who actually do not reside there.

Presumably the three Adlers will cast their votes from the Fourth District from the Woodbrook Ave address, in the March 1 primary.

Nat Mills, numbers squealer, out of jail

Nat Mills, the 51-year-old convicted numbers man who squealed on five other accused lottery violators in January, was released from jail, Tuesday morning and ordered to pay a reduced fine of $250.

Mills had originally been sentenced to 60-days in jail and fined $1,000, after a court hearing, Jan. 21, involving a numbers raid in the 1600 block Madison Ave.

Judge John T. Tucker of Criminal Court, dismissed the five accused on grounds of illegal search, and sentenced Mills who entered a guilty plea through his attorney Maurice Siegel.

* * *

HOWEVER, AFTER reconsidering the fact that Mills had given police helpful information, Judge Tucker suspended the jail sentence Tuesday and reduced the fine.

In changing the sentence, Judge Tucker said, "Since (the trial) I have been wondering whether or not I did the right thing. I am not convinced that I did wrong, but I have come to the conclusion that I could have done better and given him more credit than I did."

The five persons who were dismissed at the trial were: Mrs. Emma Hunter, Wilbert Stewart, Mose Mahoney, James Coles and John Dunn.



NAT MILLS

No relief seen in congested schools

Over-crowding and part-time classes still plague the school system, a report to the Board of School Commissioners, Thursday, shows.

Miss Mary A. Adams, assistant superintendent, told the board that 4,948 pupils, in 21 schools are still on part time, and that there is no immediate relief in sight for six of the schools.

Most acute, she said, is School No. 148, Rosedale St. and Westwood Ave., where 1,522 pupils are on part-time. This is one of the schools where no immediate relief is planned.

Among other schools on part-time schedule ares:

The Joseph Lockerman School No. 100, Mount and Saratoga

(Continued on Page 2)

News Summary of Vital Statistics

CRIMINAL COURT RECORD

Bastardy—Zarra Talton (3 cases), pleaded guilty, 2 years in House of Correction, in each case, to run consecutively; Vernon B. Harris, pleaded guilty, 2 years in House of Correction, from January 19; Charles Beckles, guilty, 2 years in House of Correction, probation to pay $7 a week; James H. Jones pleaded guilty, 2 years in House of Correction; Ulysses Bagwell, pleaded guilty, 2 years in House of Correction, to run consecutively with other sentence.

William Williams, pleaded guilty, 2 years in House of Correction, from January 18th; William A. Armstrong, pleaded guilty, 2 years in House of Correction; Donald Garrett, pleaded

(Continued on Page 2)

DEATHS

Sixteen deaths were reported to the local health department this week. The list of deaths follows:

Rena Clark, 1609 Bruce St.
Maureen Hynson, Worton, Md.
Virginia Jones, 901 E. Madison St.
Annie Evans, 1626 N. Durham St.
Leroy Thomas, 923 N. Stricker St.
Carrie Brockington, 751 Dover St.
Mary Ervin, 2828 Brighton St.
Annie Johnson, 635 Dolphin St.
Walter Robinson, 922 Greenmount Ave
Winifield Jobes, 1330 Division St.
Robert Hill, 1903 W. Saratoga St.
Lawrence Haynes, 2710 W. Lanvale St.
Joseph B. Holmes, 2309 Braddish Ave.
George Black, White Hall, Md
Minnie Hill, 1904 Pennsylvania Ave.
Moses Carroll, 822 Lemon St.

REALTY DEALINGS

William H. Johnson and Co. to Louis Peramel and Co, 2011 Druid Hill Ave., GR $100.
Fairfax Invest. Corp. to Charles Valion and Co, 2555 Edmondson Ave., GR $96.
Clara Clark and Co. to William J. Clark, 509 N. Fulton Ave., GR $75.
William Spriggs and Co. to Homes Inc. 1107 N. Montford Ave. GR $50.
Mercantile Safe Dep. and TR. Co. to John H. Sause Jr., 2303 E. Lafayette Ave.
Grand Realty Inc. to Charles H. Watts and Co., 1503 N. Broadway, GR $120.
Louis H. Pinkney and Co. to Straw Man Inc., 1531 N. Appleton St.,

(Continued on Page 2)

MARRIAGES

Among the 23 couples who obtained marriage licenses, here, this week, were the following four non-resident couples:

Columbus Croom, 30, and Miss Gladys Jones, 34, both of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Edward Hancock 32, and Miss Hattie Harper, 23, both of Petersburg, Va.;

Joe Wyatt, 54, and Miss Eva Press, 43, both of New York City, and Roger Bryant, 23, Washington; and Miss Anne Bradford, 20, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Baltimore couples who obtained licenses were:

STOKES-HARRISON — William, 25, 715 W. Fayette; Carrie, 19.
BRYAN-MCLEAN — George, 18 2006

(Continued on Page 2)

Be Sure to Get Your Copy of
NEGRO HISTORY WEEK SUPPLEMENT
As Part of
THE FRIDAY AFRO
FEBRUARY 11, 1955
Stories of Negro History—Yesterday and Today.