Mother tried and guilty but child abuse goes on

A 20-year-old mother of two Mrs. Kathy E. Henderson was convicted recently in Criminal Court on charges of assault with intent to maim, assault and child abuse.

Mrs. Henderson is accused of placing her two-year-old daughter, Vanessa Ann in a tub of boiling hot water thus inflicting burns which covered 85 per cent of her body and caused doctors to amputate eight of the child's toes and eight of her fingers.

The two day trial held before Judge Sol Friedman revealed that Mrs. Henderson had placed the child in either a tub of cold water then a tub of hot water or a tub of hot water only, as punishment for her having wet the bed.

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The incident, reportedly occurred on March 14 at Mrs. Henderson's home in the 1100 block Orleans St. Melvin Jackson, an alleged boyfriend, testified that after he discovered the child had wet the bed he told Mrs. Henderson who put the baby in "A tub filled with cold water."

Mr. Jackson's testimony indicated that sometime later Mrs. Henderson "discovered the baby still in the tub of cold water in a state of shock," she then filled the tub, "with hot water."

He told the court that when he took the child out of the water "Her skin begin falling off."

There was also some conflict as to how much time elapsed before the child was taken to the hospital. But what is known is that a police investigation into the case was not conducted until May, two months later.

William Henderson, the estranged husband and father of the injured child told the court that he learned of his daughter's injuries from the neighbor. "Kathy had called me earlier," he claimed, "and said she was going to do something to the baby." He reported the threat to the police.

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Judge Robert Watts granted custody of both the injured child and her 22 month old brother William Henderson III, to Mr. Henderson's mother. Judge Freedmen delayed sentencing the mother until December 5 pending a December 4, pending a pre-sentence report from the probation department.

Dr. Robert Drachman, chairman of the Child Abuse Assessment Group at Johns Hopkins Hospital told the AFRO that the tragic circumstances surrounding the terrible injuries sustained by young Vanessa Henderson "Are not unusual. In fact," he declared, "they are becoming more prevalent all the time."

Child abuse, while not often as terrifying as the Henderson case, "Comes to our attention here at Johns Hopkins several times a month," Dr. Drachman said, "particularly over the past couple of months."

The Child Abuse Law requires that suspected cases when brought to the attention of hospital personnel must be reported within three days to the Protective Services Bureau of the Department of Social Services and the States Attorney's office.

Dr. Drachman pointed out that "The problem of child abuse is very difficult to track down and too often people who are confronted with the problem don't know what to do or where to go.

"Families who have these problems are confronted with too few resources and need much more help."

The Federal Government has funded the Office of Child Development under the Help Resource Project. "To assist families in this area in future weeks the AFRO will present a comprehensive study of the problems of child abuse and the resources available both in terms of law enforcement and child rehabilitation programs.

Race hinted in group-home distribution of juveniles

A blue ribbon subcommittee of the Greater Baltimore Committee has found that half of the crime committed in Baltimore is charged to juveniles ages 15 to 24.

Of that group 91 per cent of those sent to state run group-homes are black while 70 per cent of those given private purchase group-home care are white.

The report came after five years of investigation by the Crime and Justice Subcommittee and was presented to the Governor's Commission on Juvenile Justice headed by Juvenile Court Judge Robert L. Karwacki.

The committee found that either because of "The bulge in population of juvenile age caused by the baby boom (In 1973 it was estimated that 32.4 per cent of the region's citizens were below the age of 18) or by other social factors, about 50 per cent of the arrests for Index Crime — murder rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft — in Baltimore City were juveniles in 1974."

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Aiding the committee during the investigation were six highly placed professionals intimately involved in the system of law. They included:

Juvenile Court Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman; Robert C. Hilson, director of Juvenile Services Administration; Michael J. Kelly, dean, University of Maryland School of Law; Robert C. Murphy, Chief Judge, Maryland Court of Appeals; Donald D. Pomerleau, Baltimore City Police Commissioner and Peter S. Smith, director of the Maryland Juvenile Law Clinic.

Chief among the committee's recommendations relative to the state's maximum security juvenile institutions, was its insistence that the $9.6 million already appropriated for a new maximum security institution "Not be spent for that purpose. The institution," the report states bluntly, "should not be built."

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Instead the committee strongly urges the expansion of the state's community-based residential facilities. Presently, Juvenile Services Administration provides a flat rate of "$600/month/child."

This has proven to be considerably less than the $800 to $1000 it actually costs to provide adequate facilities for the child. The result is that "... agencies, which are generally run on a non-profit basis," have had to "... dip heavily into their endowments or abandon service altogether."

There are two types of facilities available for juveniles in Maryland. They are group homes and residential homes. Children in group homes attend public schools while those in residential homes attend school on the premises.

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Presently, Maryland provides 63 community-based facilities; four of which are operated by Juvenile Services. In Baltimore City there are 21 facilities, including the four run by JSA. Baltimore is also responsible for three group homes and the Maryland Youth Residence Center.

There are not enough residential treatment facilities in the state, therefore 16 out-of-state-facilities are used.

In an over-all evaluation of the residential facilities the committee found what it called "A distressing pattern of residential dispositions."

"In every case but one," it states, "state-operated training schools and group homes serve predominantly black juveniles and the purchase of group home care from private providers is for predominantly white juveniles. This situation must not be allowed to continue."

The disposition shows that 68.8 per cent of the admissions to the Maryland Training School and 51.3 per cent of the admissions to the Montrose School were black.

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Furthermore, "A majority (91.9 per cent) of the admissions to the three state-run group homes were black even though these homes accounted for only 23 per cent of the total number of community and residential placements."

An overwhelming 70 per cent of the private purchase of group home care placements were for white juveniles.

The findings and recom-

(Continued on Page 7)

Strict rules laid down for C & P phones

(UPI) — —Effective Jan. 1, the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. must fix all but the most unusual service problems within 24 hours, according to rules adopted by the public service commission after seven years of study.

Non-service phone problems must be corrected within eight hours and if special repairs are needed, written notice and an estimated completion time must be provided.

"Other utilities in Maryland have rules," said H. Joseph Ismail, PSC Chief Communications Engineer. "This was the only one that didn't have them."

"No one ever attempted it before," he added.

Ismail said C and P at first opposed the rules, but dropped their objections three or four years ago.

"Our people have worked with the Commission staff for a long time now on this," said C and P spokesman Frank W. Just. "No one here is concerned about meeting the requirements."

Another change requires the phone company to submit four annual reports to the PSC on its customer service relations and three times annually on planning. "We won't have to dig for this anymore," said Ismail.

Other new regulations say:

If new phones are not installed within five days of request, the phone company must give written reasons for the delay.

The company cannot disconnect service if someone who previously lived at an address failed to pay a bill or if directory costs are unpaid.

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Divorces Filed

Carole A. Weems vs. Ernest Weems; Essie Johnson vs. Joseph N. Johnson Sr.; Samuel Bull vs. Marie A. Bull;

Dorothy K. Fillyaw vs. James H. Fillyaw; Leon Henderson vs. Mildred Henderson; Edward G. Malecki vs. Patricia L. Malecki;

Leonard L. Giles vs. Melvina Giles; Loretta W. Warfield vs. Joseph R. Warfield.

Divorces Granted

Albert B. Brooks Sr. from Thelma Brooks; Robert T. Redd from Roslin Redd; Marie Cromwell from John W. Cromwell; Leo Abdool from BernadetteAbdool;

Albert J. Piccoli from Madeline E. Piccoli; Freddie F. Weaver from Hilda Weaver; Shirley Lynch from Billy Lynch;

Brenda Mays from George Mays; Roberta Chapman from Frederick J. Chapman; Marianne Meushaw from Leo G. Meusraw; Cherie Joyce Howard from Roger Allen Howard; Margaret Lorraine Miles from Edward H. Miles

City officials take oath on Dec. 2, 4

Ceremonies marking the inauguration of city officials in the recent city general elections have been set for Dec. 2 and 4, according to City Hall sources.

Mayor Schaefer and City Comptroller Hyman Aaron Pressman will take the oath for their second terms in office on Dec. 2 and swearing in ceremonies will be held Dec. 4 for City Council members.

Schaefer and Pressman's ceremonies are set in the Inner Harbor on the plaza of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, 601 Light St. Mr. Schaefer becomes the 44th mayor of the City of Baltimore.

The public is invited.

"Although the ceremonies will see some special flourishes, the inauguration will proceed along traditional lines, with Mayor Schaefer taking the oath of office administered by Robert H. Bouse, clerk of the Superior Court. The mayor will in turn administer the oath to Mr. Pressman.

After the swearing in the mayor and city comptroller and all guests will move to the second floor of the Science Center for a reception, which is open to the public.

Musical renditions will be offered by the Douglass High School Wind Ensemble, conducted by Thomas DeLaine; and the Baltimore Boys Choir, conducted by William Partridge.

City Council members will be sworn in in the War Memorial Building at 1 p.m. The members will hold their usual council meeting at 4 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Race hinted

(Continued from Page 6)

mendations of this committee are being reviewed by the Karwacki Commission.

• • •

Members of the subcommittee are: Edgar M. Boyd, chairman, partner at Baker Watts and Co.; Rodney J. Brooks Jr., president, Tongue, Brooks and Co.; Mark F. Collins, publisher, News American; H. Rodney J. Brooks Jr., president, Tvongue, Brooks and Co.; Mark F. Collins, publisher, News American; H. Vernon Eney, partner, Venable, Baetjer and Howard; Zanvyl Krieger, president, Lord Baltimore Hotel; Henry G. Parks Jr. board chairman, Parks Sausage Co.; William M. Passano Jr., president, Waverly Press, Inc.; William L. Siskind, owner, Baltimore Hilton Hotel and ex-officio member, C. Edgar Smith Jr., president, Central Savings Bank.

Naomi Grand Chapter has awards day service

The Naomi Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Thanksgiving awards day service was held last Sunday at Greater New Hope Baptist Church where the Rev. Dr. L. E. Hicks is pastor.

Miss Helen V. Benton is Grand Worthy Matron, Jesse L. Pettus, 33 degree, Grand Worthy Patron and John V. Thornton, 33rd degree, Most Worshipful grand Master.

Miss Benton notes there was a capacity attendance with "heart warming expressions of gratitude from the awards recipients and an inspirationally refreshing sermon by the Rev. Dr. Hicks."

Sister Hagar W. Armstrong, OES Star of Bethlehem Chapter No. 11, presided along with Sister Laura Gibson, Calvary Chapter No. 3.

The scripture was read by Worthy Matron Edna Jones and prayer by Worthy Matron Ruth Austin, Payne's Rose of Sharon Chapter, The Greater New Hope Baptist Women's Chorus, Order of Eastern Star Inspirational Chorus, and the Youth Choir provided the music.

Past Matron Laura Denison gave the response to the greetings.

The Community service award was presented to Mrs. Cornelia Smith, Regional Sepcialist, Community and Student Affairs Team Baltimore Public Schools.

Mrs. Clara Burmmell, Grand Matron Emeritus received an award for outstanding service. Those who recieved certificates for 21 years of continuous membership were Mesdames Mildred Knight, Rising Star Chaper No. 2; Sarah Carter, Calvary Chapter No.3; Mary Smith, Calvary Chapter No. 3; Willie Harper, Queen Esther Chapter No. 4; Ethel Wells, Queen Esther Chapter No. 4; Lillian King, Queen Esther Chapter No. 4; Louise Brookins, Ruth Chapter No. 6; Elizabeth Jones, Payne's Rose of Sharon Chapter No. 7; and the late Mary Chaplin, Electa Chapter No. 8.

Among others participating on the program were Worthy Patron Robert GibsonHonorable Clarence Wycoff, Past Matrons Vandaly Johnson, Ruth Chapter No. 6; Gladys Murphy, Martha Chapter No. 9; Beatrice Lee, Beacon Chapter No. 318; Worthy Patron Bernie Vaughn, Calvary Chapter No. 3 and Wyatt Brown, Electra Chapter No. 8.

Grand Chapter officers are Grand Associate Worthy Matron Helen M. Carter; Grand Worthy Patron Jesse L. Pettus, 33rd degree Grand Associate Worthy Patron Vernon Mullen; Grand Treasurer Phyllis Byrd; Grand Secretary Mary C. Frazier; Grand Conductress Ardessa Pitts; Grand Associate Conductress Naomi Mullen and Grand Trustee Deanna Wagstaff, Mary L. Pettus and Mary L. Johnson.

Program committee members were Past Matrons Sarah Johnson, Beacon Chapter No. 10; Hagar Armstrong Payne's Rose of Sharon Chapter No. 7; Laura Gibson, Calvary Chapter Nov. 3; Elizabeth Sawyer, Ruth Chapter, No. 6.

Also Worthy Matrons Edna Knight, Travis Torraine, Lillian Boyd and Leola Stewart.

Other committee members were Past Matrons Mary Robinson, Marie Mister, Laura Dennison, Gertrude Young, Ida Cullens, Lillie Johnson, Annie Harrell, Beatrice Lee, Mable Crosby, Mary Ervin;

Also, Past Matrons Sue Andrews, Mamie Person, Annie Wilson, Margie James, Elmira Thorton, Ethel Wells, Dorothy Wallace, Hagar Armstron, Bertha Garrett, Effie Williams, Rebecca Porter, Corinne Bolling, Josephine King.

Sisters Bessie Epperson, Maude Coleman and Worthy Matrons Edna Knight, Lillian Boyd and Leola Stewart.

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Mr. Toylor enlists in Air Guard

Quentin K. Toyloy of the 470o block Chaiford Rd. has recently enlisted into the Maryland Air National Guard.

Airman First Class Toyloy has been assigned duties of weapons mechanic with the 175th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Middle River.

The unit has several openings in the weapons area. In addition to mechanics there is a need for load crews. This very important function is that of hanging the various ordnance loads on the A-37B Dependly attack fighter.

Applicants in this area must obtain good scores in electronics and mechanical tests. If you think you qualify for one of the best part-time jobs call 687-6270, ext. 31 and ask for Sgt. Stedding.

Del. Young fills slot on commission

Delegate Larry Young (D-38th Leg. Dist.) has been appointed to the Humane Practices Commission, established by the Legislature to study the state's treatment and care of the mentally ill and retarded.

The commission is made up of two members appointed by the president of the Senate, Senator Rosalie Abrams and Senator John Bishop; three members appointed by the governor to represent voluntary citizen groups, Richard F. Depkin, Bruce G. Eberwein and Dr. Paul U. Lemakan and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House, Delegate Craig S. Knoff and Delegate Larry Young.

Del. Young also serves on the House Environmental Matters Committee; recently chaired a City Delegation Sub-Committee to Study Out-Patient Care and Costs; is an urban environmentalist by profession and represents inner-city West Baltimore.

Disaster loans deadline

Gerard J. Lang, district director, Baltimore Office, Small Business Administration, announces the deadline for filing disaster loan applications for physical damages sustained as a result of Hurricane Eloise in Dec. 4.

Thus far, 110 applications have been processed, totaling 424,770.00.

No applications will be accepted after Dec. 4. For further information, call the Baltimore District Office, 962-2267.

DEC. 9

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 9 the Baltimore County Youth Commission will sponsor a meeting to inform young people about upcoming legislation which will affect youth during the next legislative session. The program is at 6:30 p.m. in the Towson library.

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