Fathers must still pay, despite court decision

A recent court decision making it illegal to require divorced men to be fined or imprisoned for failure to support their wives will have "very little" impact on non-support cases coming before the Baltimore Criminal Court, sources in the court said.

Under the old law (Article 27, Sec. 88A) men were obligated to pay for the support of their wives simply because they were men. The decision by the Court of Special Appeals changed that.

But most of the non-support cases that come before Judge Edgar Silver, who handles all non-support cases for the Criminal Court of Baltimore, are child support cases, according to Joyce T. Ellis, Judge Silver's law clerk.

"It's interesting because people think that the statute found child support unconstitutional, when really it did no such thing," Ellis said.

For non-support cases that will be coming to trial in the future, Ellis said, the state's attorney will not be prosecuting anyone for spouse support.

That office will also be dropping charges against any husband for spouse support, but continuing to prosecute for child-support, she said.

In regard to past cases that have been tried already requiring men to pay fines to their wives, Ellis said the courts will "have to extract the portion (the man) is paying which was allocated for the wife."

The decision came as a result of the conviction of a Queen Anne's County man for desertion and non-support of his wife. The conviction was ruled invalid by the Court of Special Appeals because the Declaration of Rights prohibits sex discrimination.

The court said Lewis F. Coleman was charged under a law that was superseded by new articles in the constitution.

Coleman was convicted under a law which held that, "any person who shall without just cause desert or willfully neglect to provide for the support and maintenance of his wife, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. . ."

It is almost inevitable, Ellis said, that legislation will be introduced in the upcoming general assembly to modify the provision in the law which previously required men to pay their wives support.

September is Sickle Cell Month

What is sickle cell anemia?

Claybourne Black, chairman of the Baltimore Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia says, "The average child in school, not to mention many adults does not know what sickle cell is."

Sickle cell anemia is a hereditary blood disease in which the red blood cells sometimes assume a strange shape like a sickle. It affects approximately 1 out of 400 blacks, causing considerable pain, suffering and a shortened life span.

September has been proclaimed Sickle Cell Month and the Baltimore Committee on Sickle Cell is trying to promote, finance and conduct programs to provide research, treatment and education in sickle cell anemia.

POSTER CHILD — The National Association for Sickle Cell Disease Inc., has selected Bridgett Carlette Earby, 9, as its 1977 National Sickle Cell poster child.

The committee is composed of physicians and laymen and was organized in 1969. The office is now located at 445 East 25th St.

Sickle cell anemia received little medical attention until 1970 when Congress appropriated more than $100 million for research of the disease.

Symptoms of Sickle Cell are paleness, tiring easily and poor eating habits. One may complain of pain in the arms, legs, back and abdomen.

The condition is usually not suspected until the blood is examined.

If you are interested in the fight against sickle cell, you may help by volunteering your services to the committee or by sending a donation to the Baltimore committee.

JOBS: without one, mental depression

Depression crushes you when there's no job in sight, and it could have irreversible effects. It destroys your personal pride and independence.

John Harvey says he sees examples of the symptoms everyday at the Northwest Community Medical Center in Park Heights, where he is the director.

Once depression attacks a chronically unemployed person, "he might come here for valium or som other medication," Harvey said, resulting in "secretive addiction," from a prescription standpoint.

"I've seen so many talented young men who I knew were sharp, who are now alcoholics," Harvey said.

The typical vicious cycle, Harvey said, might do something like this:

"Here's a guy 25-years-old (out of work); he's too old to work at a McDonalds, and even if did (want to work there) at $2.50 an hour or whatever they pay, he couldn't make it anyway.

Young black males, who statistically are out of work the most, face two distinctively but equally destructive patterns.

"Most of our patients are on Medicaid," he explained. "There is a stigma (for men) sticking that red and white (Medicaid) card through the window (for payment). You can just see it in his eyes that he wants to pay for it himself."

Society allows "mothers and women" to use Medicaid cards without regret Harvey ventured. Men, however, are supposed to be the breadwinner.

"You can see the pain" when he has to use Medicaid for service, he said.

Equally disturbing is "welfare-itis," Harvey said seriously. Some young men, who've been regularly unemployed for so long "that now they don't want to get a job," Harvey said.

be "getting (welfare) himself, but he is "surviving on a girlfriend or mother or aunt who is getting welfare."

To Harvey, that dependence is both physical and mental. Yet it is quite understandable: "His only way to survive is to find some psychological way." But this is a battle, day in and day out," to become "independent."

However, that battle saps the strength and must be won quickly, Harvey said.

"The longer it takes (to get a job) the tougher, like any addiction, it is to break out of that vicious cycle," Harvey explained. "Idleness is a "sickness," Harvey says. Attempting to escape a stagnant state, unemployed black youth seek an "environmental escape route," he said.

"We have escapees," he said, "who come in here to get out of the cold, to get away from that asphalt jungle or to just be here."

Faced with nowhere to turn, a person bursts Harvey says and "we're hit with it." That's when an "individual loses it" and lets his underlying depression "all fall down on him."

—Morgan

(Continued from Page 1)

(Drs. Oakley Saunders, William Lockwood, Elaine Davis, James Priest and Mr. John Burleith).

CCC raised 17 questions about Morgan's future, broken into four specific subject categories: Board (of Regents) Structure and Procedures, Role and Objectives of the University, Communication Between the Board and the Public and Relations with the Alumni Association.

The president of MSU's national alumni group, Leonard Jackson, made his organization's statement on the "Goals and Objectives" of Morgan.

After his presentation, he told the AFRO the Alumni's "immediate concern" is to "improve the operational aspects" of the Board of Regents, "which causes us to have adverse" publicity.

MSU President, Dr. Andrew Billingsley, earlier this year, the subject of newspaper articles questioning his use of MSU and Foundation funding, said "most of the things" the three groups pointed out, the Board is "already sensitive to."

During a break in the regularly scheduled bimonthly Regents' meeting, Billingsley said, "what they are saying is helpful.

"It's good to have the community's support," the president added.

However, MSU trustee, Edna Campbell, though conceding that "we got your message," his told IMA's Rev. Vernon Dobson, his brother, Rev. Harold Dobson, and Johns Hopkins' Chester Wickwire, that "maybe you are here in an adversarial position."

The Board "welcomes your help," Mrs. Campbell asserted, but pointed out there are never "changes overnight."

Both sides emphasized that Wednesday was just the first of many meetings on Morgan's relationship with the community. CCC asked for assurance that its question be answered at the next meeting in November.

Board Chairman, G. James Fleming was noncommital, however, emphasizing that his group would try to comply.

—Mayor

(Continued from Page 1)

set up" to go through and summarize such a great amount of information. "Somebody on the mayor's staff could pick through and summarize it for us. He owes it to us."

An NAACP — Mayor Schaefer meeting would point out city's employment "deficiencies," McMillan said. "What some may call a deficiency, others don't," McMillan explained alluding to the city government's concept of compliance.

The NAACP's request two weeks ago, for the meeting came on the heels of local church requests for federal investigation of the city's use of federal job money.

Ironically, Samuels pointed out that the information McMillan asks for has to be compiled by the Manpower Division itself. Asked about a possible self serving conflict, Samuels said, "I don't know who else could get it, they've got the records."

Once the meeting is set up, McMillan said, she "thinks it would be very much in order" to ask members of the Baltimore's church community (especially the interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) which called for the federal investigation).

"We are really working for the same thing," she said.

—Teen

(Continued from Page 1)

hollering at me. They said I was telling a lie about (the white policeman)"

The girl described one of the people who entered the room as being female, short, light, with glasses and blonde hair.

The girl also told the congressman a law official attempted to get the girl to change her testimony and said that a high ranking black policeman and a detective were the ones making her say that the policeman searched her.

The teenager is being represented by attorney Michael Mitchell.

There is a tight wall of silence surrounding the Elijah Davis slaying, the girl's allegations and other elements of the situation. Thus far investigators have no comment.

That tax on nonreturns succeeds

Montgomery County, which is the only place in the state that has a tax on nonreturnable beverage containers, has every right to keep such a tax because of a recent ruling by the State Court of Appeals.

The county tax provides that containers with up to 16 fluid ounces will be taxed two cents each while containers with greater capacity are taxed four cents each.

The tax affects "every distributor who supplies to a dealer in Montgomery County nonreusable beverage containers containing beverages."

The Maryland Soft Drink Association, Inc. joined by the city of Rockville, argued the county was imposing a local sales tax that violated the state constitution.

The decision affects Baltimore because if the city council decides to impose such a tax it would have a good chance of being successful in court if opposed.

The end result, of course, would be higher prices.

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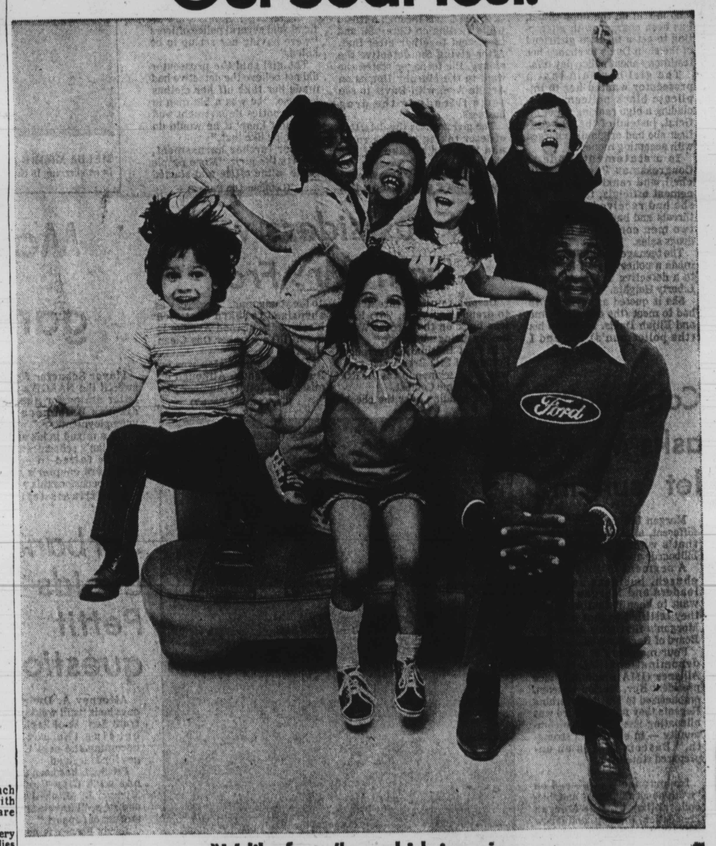

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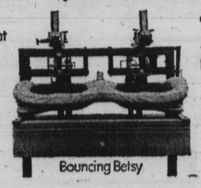

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For All We Know

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

OPENING of the World Trade Center on the Port of Baltimore Monday is slated to be one of the most brilliant affairs of the season. Hosts, the Johns Hopkins University and the Maryland Port Administration, have sent out special invitations.

The Port Administration is the state agency responsible for management and development of this, the world's 6th largest port. Johns Hopkins is in a supportive role through its Center for Metropolitan Planning and Research, a committee of businessmen which works for improvement of the economic circumstances of the Port.

THE DAY-LONG affair begins with the seminar at the World Trade Center which is the tallest building on the Baltimore horizon. Participants are the director of the port of Hamburg, Germany; president of the Ellicott Machine Corp.; Maryland National Bank's International Department senior vice president; Maryland Port Administration's Brussels, Belgium manager; Maryland's Port Administration manager from Tokyo, Japan.

Moderator is W. Gregory Halpin, deputy director of the Maryland Port Authority.

The day also includes a cruise, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres; dinner at the Dundalk Marine Terminal with Dr. Steven Muller, Hopkins president, speaker.

Late in the evening, the festival ends with the party ship, the Port Welcome, sailing up to the World Trade Center for more and more fanfare.

Joseph L. Stanton is the Maryland Port administrator and co-chairman along with William P. Colliton, chairman of the policy committee, Center for Metropolitan Planning and Research.

ANNAPOLIS' outstanding citizen, Carl Snowden, is continuing his valiant battle against the FBI which he claims has kept him under surveillance for political reasons.

After many months, the young activist has finally obtained an appointment with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility.

Aiding Snowden in his lengthy and expensive efforts to cut through red tape for the hearing are Hawaii's Senator Daniel K. Inouye, chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence and Maryland's Senator Charles McC.Mathias Jr.

Snowden claims the FBI failed to keep its check to ordinary investigation of his civil rights activities and instead subjected him to harassment.

FOR HIS JOURNEY to Washington, Snowden is armed with reams of documents and information to prove his point.

Who is Mr. Snowden? He is second vice president of the Anne Arundel County Branch of the NAACP and longtime fighter for human rights.

The period in which he waged his greatest war against discrimination and prejudice was in the 1960s.

Since then there have been many criticisms and charges against the FBI tactics used against such citizens as Dr. Martin Luther King and some of Baltimore's leading black activists too.

A SALUTE to H. Russell Frisby Jr., the native Baltimorean and 1975 graduate of the Yale Law School, who is now an assistant Maryland attorney general. He represents the Comprehensive Health Planning Agency of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

A 1968 graduate of City College, Frisby was member of Cable, McDaniel, Bowie and Bond law firm.

CAMPAIGN, that's what we should do to see that we get the Maryland Court of Appeals post vacated by Judge Frederick J. Singley Jr. at his resignation as senior associate jurist, effective Oct. 31.

Singley, age 65, was appointed by Gov. Agnew October, 1967 to fill the seat vacated by the retirement of Judge Reuben Oppenheimer.

Judge Jerrold V. Powers's resignation as an appellate judge was effective Oct.15. There is another vacancy we could fill.

SEPT. 22 is the date of the 8 a.m. kickoff of the United Fund CICHA Campaign. Ceremonies are set for the Hilton downtown.

WALBROOK JUNCTION is scheduled for a new shopping center and black businesses are encouraged to locate there.

THE REV. CLENNON KING, the man who protested segregation in the Plains, Ga. Baptist Church, took his fight to Hawaii and followed the church's former minister there. Now, he's back and at home in his Divine Mission Church in Albany, Ga., worried about bills and debts that have piled up verrrrry high.

TEENAGERS fail to get some jobs because employers feel $2.30, the minimum wage, is too high "for a kid." Most adults think youngsters should work for "practically nothing."

ARGUMENTS against those kind of employers include the one of "common sense" which says it costs more NOT to employ young people when you look at the rise in crime and trouble from idleness.

AUTUMN ARRIVED - this week and summer ended. Ready for winter or not, there are those persons who have basked in the summer's sun who must find shelter. Where will they go? Even they do not know.

Before they can pull themselves together, snow will fall. Some of these human beings will die from exposure. Others will "somehow suffer through it."

The first closed shop clause in a labor contract was won by the Journeyman Cordwainers' Union in New York City in 1805, according to "Labor Firsts in America," a publication of the U.S. Department of Labor.

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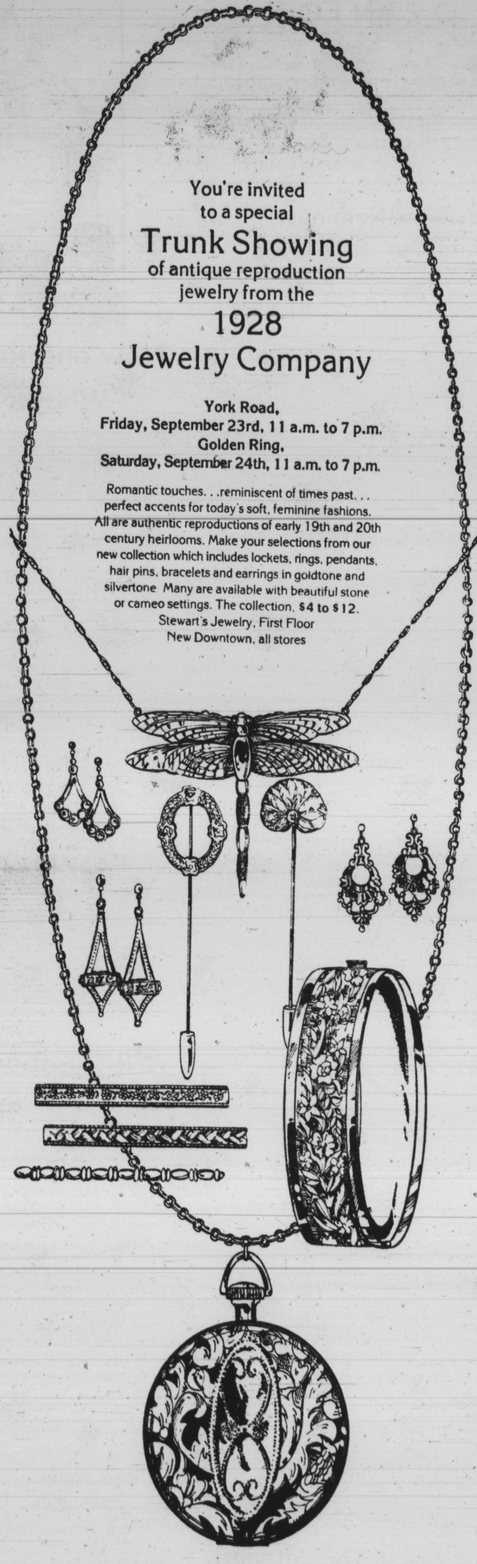

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