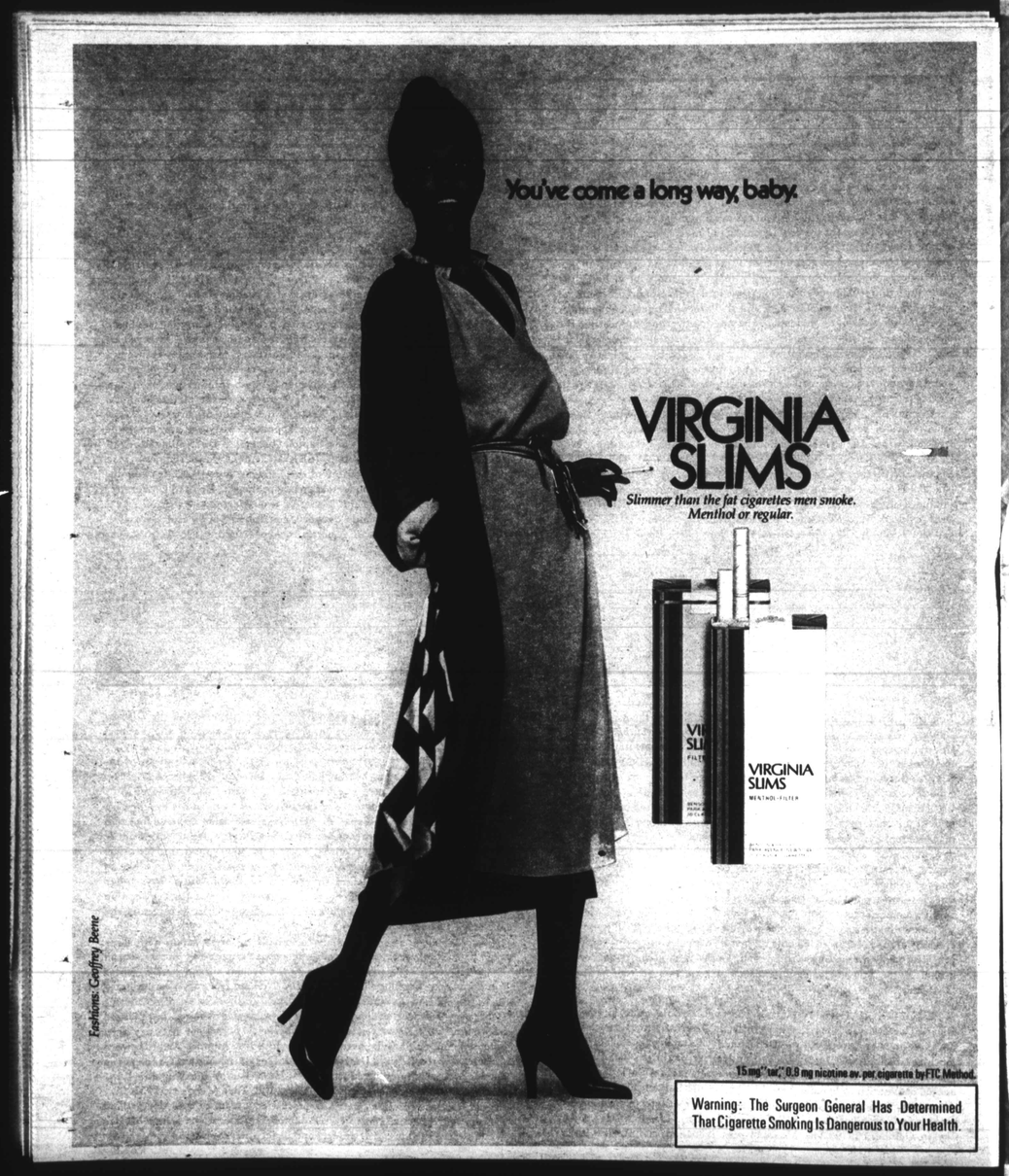

Headless woman identified as mom of 8

See story column one this page

AFRO circus coloring contest winners
See Showtime

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE NOW IN OUR 87TH YEAR

7,000 hear gospel 'prince' Cleveland
See Living Church

87th Year No. 62
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BALTIMORE MD. MARCH 17, 1979 LATE CITY EDITION 30 CENTS

'You can't eat on 17 cents a meal!'

Needy families take fight to State House, City Hall

Welfare moms storm Annapolis

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

READY TO PROTEST — Welfare mothers board buses en route to Annapolis to fight for legislation that would increase their below standard welfare grants.

Charm City's glittering image is tarnishing in the eyes of many Baltimoreans who are constantly plagued with inadequate housing and below standard welfare grants.

These people have little faith or proof that Baltimore is truly deserving of its "All - American City" title.

And they are doing something about it!

The fight for human survival gains steam in our city.

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

It's really hard to feed a family of four on just 68 cents.

Today, 68 cents doesn't buy very much with consumer food prices constantly soaring.

Even at a lead:
that promises to give you "change from your dollar" the only hamburger which includes portions of a well - balanced meal (meat, bread and green vegetable plus a pickle) costs 80 cents.

Yet, hundreds of Baltimore families receiving public assistance payments are expected to feed themselves with just 17 cents per person for each meal.

(Continued on Page 3)

Headless corpse suspect named

That badly decomposed body with its head missing found in a two story row house in Southwest Baltimore on March 9 has been identified by police.

Police rep[illegible] Mrs. Essie Mae Robinson, 49, who lived in the 3000 block W. Lanvale St. She was identified by fingerprints. Investigators say they are still looking for the victim's head.

A warrant was issued March 15 for 31 - year - old Gregory Neil Leach, who lived at 20 N. Morley St., where the body was found.

His 1973 Chevrolet is still parked in the rear of his home and a neighbor told police Leach was a construction worker who kept a large assortment of saws in the house.

(Continued on page 2)

Angry tenants jam housing boss' office

AFRO photo by Robin McGinty

PROTESTING AT HCD — Mark Sissman (L), assistant commissioner of Housing and Community Development, listens to complaints from east Baltimore residents about their housing conditions. They are (L to R) Bernice Oliver, Geralmay Scott, Mattie Sykes and Dorothy Graves.

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

Twelve women residents of the Johnston area of East Baltimore went to Housing and Community Development Commissioner M. Jay Brodie's office Wednesday, March 14 to demand that they get habitable housing units within the next two months.

The women, currently renting from private landlords say the houses they reside in are substandard. This was the second consecutive week they took it upon themselves to visit Brodie's office unannounced.

(Continued on Page 23)

Son gets life for killing his mom

Nathaniel Lee Young, 38, convicted of first - degree murder by a Criminal Court jury in the March 21 killing of his mother, Mrs. Annie Young, received a life sentence on March 13.

Judge Elsbeth Boothe suspended all but 20 years of the life sentence. Young, who lived a block away from his mother, killed her four days after they had an argument.

Assistant State's Attorney Charles P. Lamasa told the jury that Young may have been planning revenge on his mother since she cursed him four days before she was killed.

Mrs. Young, 76, had been stabbed three times in the chest and once in the back. She was found sitting in a chair by her son Sandy Young Jr., who lived with her at 1744 Eager St.

(Continued on page 2)

Looting cases show need for more black judges

The more than 500 looting cases coming to trial after the 'blizzard of '79' clearly demonstrate one need at least — more black District Court judges.

The Monumental City Bar Association in a study released this week, reports that of the 22 District Court judges only three are black. None has been assigned to hear any of the looting cases which began March 15.

Reports released by the police department show that 95 percent of those arrested were black.

Edward Smith, president of the Monumental Bar group, said that he is "acutely aware of the problem which presently exists in the District Court."

"The Monumental Bar group believes," Smith says, "that equal justice under the law cannot be dealt out equitably when a predominantly white judiciary sets in judgement over predominantly black defendants no matter how good are defense attorneys representing black clients.

"These situations have not corrected themselves," he said. "We believe that something must be done."

The study shows that in a city that is predominantly black the District Court handled over 32,000 criminal cases and 56,000 civil cases in 1978.

The study also shows until recently the District judgeships have been patronage positions "doled out by the governor to past political allies for services rendered."

When the judgeships became elective and Judge William H. Murphy Sr. successfully campaigned for one of the positions in 1972, exclusive white District court arrangement began to change.

But not enough, says Smith.

Smith said at the present time the present status of the District Court still means that blacks' chances of obtaining equality within the system are bleak.

Seasoned black criminal lawyers presenting cases within the District Court system experienced unequal treatment in these courts.

Sources said Monumental Bar attorneys have experienced incidents of rudeness, unfairness, and racism. Black defendants and lawyers alike would fare better under a more racially balanced District Court system.

—LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT—
Old pros Dixon, Brailey

Delegate Isaiah Dixon

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

This article is another of a series featuring each of Baltimore's black delegates and senators in the Maryland General Assembly.

Delegate Isaiah "Ike" Dixon has introduced a bill that would give Baltimore city residents lower automobile insurance rates by eliminating residence as a basis for insurance rating.

(Continued on Page 3)

Rent control is the major issue Delegate Troy Brailey plans to tackle during the 1979 General Assembly.

(Continued on page 2)

Delegate Troy Brailey

EASTER
APRIL 15TH
Place your special Easter In Memoriam TODAY. Tributes will be published Friday, April 13th.
SEE AD INSIDE OF THIS ISSUE FOR VERSES.
728-8200
Mon. - Friday
8:15 - 4:30
Deadline Tues. April 3rd

Mitchell fete

Baltimore native son honored

WASHINGTON — The March 14 birthday gala honoring Baltimore's native son, civil rights great Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., brought NAACP leaders and foremost citizens of all races to the Washington Hilton for the impressive celebration which lasted over six hours.

(Continued on Page 24)

Clarence M. Mitchell Jr.