KKK cross found outside Eastern Shore church

Reports from Preston, site of past Ku Klux Klan activity on Maryland's Eastern Shore, described a recent discovery of a burned cross found leaning against the Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church, where the NAACP staged an anti-Klan rally.

It is believed the cross was burned elsewhere and was brought to the black church as a symbol to discourage future rallies in Preston. The incident is under police investigation, but has renewed concern by local residents.

The main township of Preston, with a population of about 500, is all white. Preston boasts several millionaires among its residents and is the home of the Preston 151 Line, a national trucking firm.

Blacks live in nearby Jonestown or in isolated areas outside of town.

"There are some whites in Preston who want to join the Klan," a young black construction worker, who is hoping to purchase a house in Jonestown, said. "The problem is that you don't know who they are and you are afraid and suspicious of all whites."

He said it was the white women of the local church, who informed their black counterparts about the proposed Klan rally. Many Preston residents do not want any disruption in their community, he said.

It also is believed the Klan is attempting to recruit in the smaller communities on the Eastern Shore, especially those with wealthy residents.

Another perceived danger lies in the element of fear said to be felt by those in the black communities, who feel it is necessary to arm themselves and to be alert to possible aggression.

"We heard that it was 'open season' on blacks," Pete Aldrich said. He and his wife, Deborah, are members of Mt. Pleasant Church.

"Our first responsibility is to protect our families and our homes," he said.

Teen charged with Korean grocer's murder

A 17-year-old man is at City Jail for the Nov. 29 murder of a Korean grocer, while police continue their investigation as they look for two other teenagers.

Kevin Bernard Smith, of the 2500 block Fairmount Ave., was arrested Nov. 29 at his home and charged with first degree murder, armed robbery and handgun violation.

According to police, three teenagers entered the Pratt Street grocery store around 6:05 p.m. Suk Bum Chung, owner of the store and another employee were standing in the front area of the store when one of the men went to the rear.

When one of the employees followed the man and attempted to help him, police report he stated he heard a gunshot and saw two of the men taking money out of the cash register before leaving the store.

A 25-year-old man, who refused to give an unidentified man his money Dec. 1, was shot in the leg.

Police report Mark Graves of the 3300 block Mondawmin Ave., said he was walking in the 2300 block Hilton St., when a man between 25 and 27- years old was walking behind him and shouted he wanted his money.

According to police, Graves ignored the man and continued to walk. Police said when Graves ignored the man and continued walking, he was shot from behind. At AFRO presstime, Graves was listed in satisfactory condition and had refused to talk with police about the shooting. Police would not confirm or deny if the shooting was drug related.

MSU Student shot

A 19-year-old Morgan State University freshman was shot in the back Dec. 1, following a basketball game between Morgan students and St. Gregory's Catholic Church.

At AFRO presstime, Raymond Smith was listed in stable condition. Police said the victim became involved in an argument with a member of the St. Gregory's team

When the game was over and Smith was walking towards his car with his friends, police said he was shot in the back by an unidentified person.

No arrest had been made at AFRO presstime.

Rent activists begin compliance law campaign

The Baltimore Housing Alliance, formerly Baltimore Rent Controll Campaign, recently announced the beginning of a public education campaign concerning the new substantial compliance law for Baltimore City tenants.

This law was passed as a result of massive public response to rent control in 1979. It requires on landlords to bring rental property up to code before any rent increase can take effect.

At a recent press conference, in the 200 block of North Parrish St., where tenants have withheld rent for six months under the provisions of the rent escrow and substantial compliance laws, George Buntin, Baltimore Housing Alliance spokesman, explained the campaign's purpose.

"We want all tenants to be aggressive in exercising their rights and in turn the Baltimore Housing Alliance will be extremely active in informing tenants about laws which protect them," he said.

Buntin presented a package of public education posters to Baltimore City Tenant Association President, Rudy Vlasits. BCTA will be the contact point for tenant information requests. Their number is 889-7803.

"The North Parrish St. Tenant Council is an example of what collective tenant actions can do. We're still fighting to improve the laws for tenants, but we're letting people know they do have some legal tools at hand," Vlasits said.

The Baltimore Housing Alliance will be circulating posters and attending community meetings to explain the use of current housing laws by tenants.

By the way...

By Joe Black

Since 1960 Black people have had rallying cries such as: "We Shall Overcome"; "Power to the People"; and "Nation Time"; however, for the Black Brothers and Sisters in the 1980's there can be but one rallying motto and that is: "Survival Time."

The national administration is forcefully telling us that the government is not going to take care of us. But rather than curse this unforeseen negative action, we should heed the encouragement of a Black man who suggests: "Take the first step, stand on your feet, there is always help for the problems you meet."

Although they are suffering, I say that there is help for the Black, the poor, and the elderly, and I am not talking about any form of hand-outs. God has given to each of us a mind for thinking and a body for working and He helps those who help themselves. Thus, I am reminding you that Black survival will come through political participation and economic growth. My friends, Black America, with its projected annual gross income in excess of $100 billion dollars, is not a poverty state – we just have misguided priorities. For example, as we labor through the years we are content to think that Social Security will support us when we reach the age of 65. But why shouldn't we think and plan to live a little better during our golden years? We can if we heed these words of Mr. Allen Beasley: "No man should stay poor, begin to save; get up! Don't be a slave.

Let's pledge to gain economic freedom by saving rather than spending. The task won't be difficult – to save $10.00 each pay day we only need to sacrifice some of our weekly alcohol and tobacco purchases. The Black philosopher tells us: "Don't be a slave to strong drink, a slave to dope; even a slave to creditors; it's no joke. Remember, it's not the one with the highest I.Q., but rather what each chooses to do."

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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NAACP may move headquarters to South

Baltimore is not to be one of several cities to be seriously considered as a possible new home city for the NAACP because its black population does not have its political "act together, an NAACP official said.

The NAACP is considering moving its headquarters from New York to Washington, D.C., Richmond, Atlanta, Memphis or Detroit, said the Rev. Emmett Burns, Middle Atlantic Director of the NAACP.

"There are several places we are considering," the Rev. Emmett Burns, Middle Atlantic director of the NAACP said.

"New York is such a high density place that the rent we're paying is going to increase 100 percent or more," he said. "It's gotten too expensive and the landlord has fixed his rates in concrete."

Though he said the final decision will not be made until January, Burns said NAACP officials "are leaning toward" staying in New York. "It's possible that other arrangements at other sites in New York could be made."

Baltimore ruled out— '...doesn't have its political act together'

Burns said the NAACP is in financial trouble, a problem he said is particularly aggravating at a time the organization is fighting President Reagan's economic policies.

"We were hoping people would rally around us, but they haven't done it yet," he said. "Reagan is bad news for everybody; that's why I want to see him impeached."

Burns, one of the civil rights group's more outspoken leaders, recently urged House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino, a Democratic congressman from New Jersey, to begin impeachment proceedings against the President.

Burns said Richmond, Atlanta or Washington would be good sites for the NAACP to go because the cities have black mayors and "blacks in political control. The NAACP would bring even more prestige to that arrangement."

He said he found no irony that Richmond, capital of the confederacy, is being considered as the site for the NAACP headquarters.

"I don't think that has any significance any more," he said. "That's only in the minds of people who want it to be the capital of the confederacy again."

Americans believe city living worse

A clear majority of the American people — some 58 percent — believe that this nation's cities are worse places in which to live today than they were 10 years ago, according to the "The Merit Report: A Public Opinion Survey."

Twenty-eight percent of those surveyed said city life was about the same while 8 percent thought things were better in urban America and 6 percent expressed no opinion.

This was one of 10 questions asked of 1,195 American adults reached by telephone across the country. At the same time, a tototal of 3,752 persons voluntarily expressed their opinions on the same slate of questions in the three Merit Opinion Centers, 30-foot computer-equipped motor coaches, parked in Washington, D.C., Chicago and Los Angeles.

This new public opinion survey was launched officially on Oct. 19 when two black mayors—Tom Bradley of Los Angeles and Marion Barry of Washington—joined Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne by way of a live satellite hook-up, in registering their individual answers on the computers in the Merit Opinion Centers.

Scott noted that The Merit Report had found that persons over 50 years of age are more negative (67 percent) about city life than persons 18-34 (49 percent). The survey said 64 percent of those living in the northeast section of the U.S. are more likely to be critical of life in urban centers than those living in other parts of the country, Mr. Scott reported.

On the question in their daily lives, more than half the American adults surveyed (58 percent) said they are feeling more stress today than they did five years ago.

A further breakdown by age showed that persons 18-34 years of age are as likely (64 percent) as those 35-49 (66 percent) to notice an increase in stress.

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Mandel may finally be coming home

The Justice Department is recommending that President Reagan order former Maryland Gov. Marvin Mandel released from federal prison in January, four months before Mandel's term ends, it was disclosed.

Justice Department officials who declined to be identified said the recommendation was sent to the White House following a review of the Mandel case.

The Washington Post reported the recommendation calls for Mandel to be transferred to a pre-release center in Maryland.

The proposal is a response to Mandel's last-ditch effort to win presidential clemency. The recommendation was sent last week to White House counsel Fred Fielding, the Post said.

A White House spokesman declined comment on the status of Mandel's request for early release.

The Justice Department declined comment on the report. But Mandel's lawyer, Arnold Weiner, said the department's pardon attorney reviewed the case in August. He said he had not been notified of any specific recommendation.

Reagan has the final word on executive clemency, one of the most unrestricted presidential powers. The Justice Department recommendation is considered crucial to Mandel's hopes for release.

Of six co-defendants convicted in 1977 of federal mail fraud and racketeering charges, Mandel is the only one still in prison.

The former governor has served more than 18 months at the Federal Prison camp at Elgin Air Force Base in Florida. He has exhausted all other means for early release, having appealed unsuccessfully for a parole date before the U. S. Parole Commission.

Last year, the commission ruled that Mandel should serve until May 14, nearly his entire sentence. The order came in spite of federal prosecutors recommendations that he be released early.

Mandel has charged that he has been discriminated against, saying other public officials convicted of public corruption have gained early release.

Mandel was convicted of helping others develop a race track while he was governor.

Woman murdered downtown Cristfield

Crisfield, Md. (UPI) - A Philadelphia woman, who once lived in this Eastern Shore fishing hamlet, was killed during a violent attack local police said Wednesday.

Authorities said the body of Sandra D. Bond, 25, was found Dec. 1, near an abandoned bakery in downtown. Further details were not available, police said.

Police had not made any arrests and were continuing their investigation, a police spokesman said.

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