Officer on trial

Teen denies carrying weapon in shooting incident

A 19-year-old man who accused a white police officer of trying to kill him testified Tuesday he wasn't carrying anything in his hand when he fled from the officer.

Timothy Sampson was shot in the head by Officer Scot Mears Aug. 8 in an incident that set off a furor in the black community of Cambridge, the Eastern Shore town where the shooting took place.

Sampson said he fled because he was on probation and didn't want to go to jail.

A friend of Sampson's, Craig Ames, testified that Sampson drank beer and gin on the night of the shooting, but Sampson said on the stand he didn't remember drinking anything.

He said he was on probation for a crime in Caroline County and "got scared" when he saw a police car approach. He also said he did not have a driver's license.

"The last thing I remember, I was at St. Clair School (in Cambridge.) The only thing I could think of was to get away from the officer. I just didn't want to be locked up," he said.

Earlier, Mears told investigators he shot Sampson in self-defense because he saw something in the man's hand he thought was a gun.

Mears is charged with intent to murder, assault and use of a firearm in a felony.

Sampson said he wasn't carrying anything in his hand. A black hat was introduced into evidence and a ballistics expert said the hat had a bullet hole in it.

Following the incident, police refused to release Mears' identity for several days, setting off vocal protests by blacks in the town.

Two witnesses testified the bullet that hit Sampson in the head bounced off a nearby wall. Dr. James Spence, the surgeon who operated on Sampson said the bullet penetrated just four inches and did not damage the man's brain. The bullet was not removed.

Sgt. William Welch, a state police ballistics expert, said he found lead in the wall behind where the man was shot.

But a Maryland forensic expert, Rose Marie Lanzetta, said she found no brick or motor on Sampson's clothing.

William Hurley of the Dorchester County police force testified Mears was "a very good, aggressive policeman. He is one of the best."

Fish market may be renovated

The 77-year-old wholesale fish market in the city's Inner Harbor might not move to Jessup if a proposed renovation gets approval from the Maryland Food Center Authority.

Last fall, the 16 merchants in the fish market threatened to move from the landmark building because of a lack of interest by the city. But Tuesday, Baltimore planners reversed their stand and proposed a scheme that would include a 700-car garage and a restaurant.

The market, built in 1904, was first threatened eight years ago when a plan to extend the Jones Falls expressway included demolition of the old brick structure that houses the market.

Last September the merchants applied to the authority to move to the state operated wholesale food center in Jessup.

The food authority gave the go ahead for a study of the renovation plan, which will probably be completed by April 20. Early estimates of the cost were about $25 million.

One of the seafood merchants, William Martin, said the fishmongers at the market were solidly behind the city's plan. "The plan meets the needs of everybody, the retail merchants, the wholesale merchants, the city and everybody in the city," Martin said.

City planner Mark Wasserman said there was an "outcry of protests" when the fish market merchants threatened to move to Jessup.

Auto sales drop to all-time low

With many Maryland automobile dealers wondering how they will be able to survive another abysmal selling season, at least one says the strapped economy is of no concern.

Eric Nelson, sales manager at Gladding Rolls Royce, said the economy "doesn't really bother" his customers. "We just sold a rolls convertible for $160,000. The customer paid cash, no lien."

Nelson said he sold 30 cars this year, compared to 14 last year. That's a 114 percent jump, for cars costing more than $100 000 each.

Although Nelson noted most of his sales have been to out-of-state buyers, he said Baltimore is "coming up" in the luxury car department. In 1981, nine of the posh vehicles went to Baltimore area residents.

Expensive homes are also moving well in Maryland's otherwise depressed housing market. Alex Dietrich, a real estate agent with O'Connor Flynn, said Homes above $150,000 are still moving well.

"I've had my best year ever," he said. "My sales have been mostly in the high price category, and that's really what's made the difference.

Such English words as yam, goober, canoe and banjo have their origins in early African languages.

By the way...

By Joe Black

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at time of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made that statement many years ago, but I dare venture that it is apropos in 1981 because this is truly a time of controversy and challenge.

The Reagan administration is advocating actions that many interpret as being negative toward the Black, the poor and the elderly. Yes, as I travel about these United States I have heard the Black, the poor, the elderly muttering "woe is me," because President Reagan's projected budget cuts have had a negative effect upon their lifestyle. But when blacks look about for help and/or guidance, it seems as through Black leaders labeling the President insensitive and racist is the only encouragement or sympathy that they receive. It may be that rhetoric like this is an effort to polarize the poor and seniors in their behalf, or it is an effort on behalf of those members of our race experiencing [illegible] at the Dole.

We have always at the time when our leaders seem to change their rhetoric. The Black, the poor, the elderly already know [illegible] feeling of anxiety about [illegible] challenged [illegible] our land. The [illegible] of our leaders is that [illegible] Americans that [illegible] we will take [illegible] the Lord helps those who help themselves. In other words, [illegible] that we can survive without the government taking care of us.

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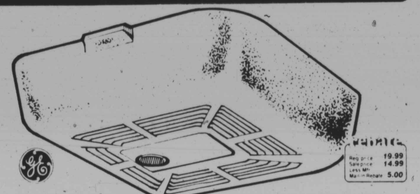

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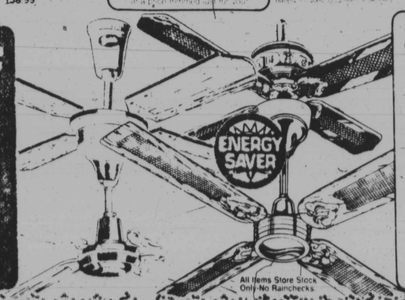

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Device used by dentists aid in tumor surgery

By Bruce Olson

An ultrasonic device used for decades by dentists to remove plaque from teeth is being used by surgeons at the Johns Hopkins Hospital to break down and remove brain tumors, officials said this week.

The device, called a cavitron, allows brain surgeons to remove tissue in 20 minutes where it used to take several hours. It is shaped like a giant ballpoint pen and vibrates at a high rate of speed to melt the tumorous tissue.

Dr. Don Long, chief of neurosurgery at Hopkins, said, "Speeding up the operations reduces a good deal the amount of complications that can happen in an operation."

He said the cavitron costs about $40,000 and has been used in several hundred operations during the last two years at the Baltimore hospital.

He cited the case of Joe Trott, 21, A Baltimore man who came to the hospital in 1980 suffering from double vision and on the verge of a coma.

The tumor was four inches in diameter and had displaced the brainstem at the top of the spine. Using the device in five separate operations, the tumor was removed and the man's life was saved.

Long said the tumor was the largest ever encountered by Hopkins' doctors and Trott would have died had it not been for the device.

Trott is now a student at Georgia Tech where he made the Dean's Honor List last Semester.

"It's hard to say how many lives have been saved by using the cavitron, but it is a tool that has immeasurable value to surgeons," Long said.

Long said the machine is very similar to the dentist's tool, except it doesn't have a drill at the end.

"It works through vibration, melting the tumor like butter. Then a suction device removes the tumorous tissue without any danger to other nearby tissues. These are very delicate operations and it's very useful," Long said.

Lawmakers sue Hughes over inspection program

By John W. Frece

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — Three state legislators sued Gov. Harry Hughes and other top officials Wednesday in an attempt to stop a planned auto emissions testing program from going into effect in Maryland in January 1983.

Delegates Charles Kountz, Kenneth Masters and Louis Morsberger, all Democrats from the Catonsville area of Baltimore County, contend in their suit that the auto emissions program is unconstitutionally discriminatory because it applies only to the state's most populous areas.

Anne Arundel County Circuit Judge Nathaniel Hopper issued a "show cause" order requiring the state to explain why the judge should not issue a permanent injunction against further expenditures for the emissions program.

Named as defendants in the suit along with Hughes were Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein and Treasurer William S. James, the other two members of the board of public works, and Motor Vehicle Administrator William T. S. Bricker.

On Nov. 10, the Board of Public Works voted 2-0, with Goldstein abstaining, to approve a five-year contract to a California firm to set up 10 auto emissions inspection stations in Maryland.

The program is designed to clean up air pollution, but applies only in the jurisdictions with the greatest numbers of vehicles: Baltimore and the counties of Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, Carroll, Harford, Prince George's and Montgomery.

The program was initially approved by the General Assembly in 1979, at a time when states were under pressure from the Federal Clean Air Act to do something about pollution or face the loss of millions of dollars in federal highway funds.

Now, however, the Reagan administration has suggested the clean air requirements may be relaxed and some state lawmakers believe that means the auto emissions program is no longer necessary.

A full-fledged court hearing on the issue is expected sometime early next year, Kountz said.

Kountz also said he has pre-filed legislation for the 1982 General Assembly session that would repeal the emissions program. If passed, issues in the lawsuit would become moot.

Under the program, the inspection stations would be established in the eight jurisdictions and motorists with vehicles registered there would have to submit to an annual $9 exhaust system inspection.

Vehicles that fail would have to obtain repairs and be re-tested free within 30 days. If the repairs exceed $75 and the vehicle still flunks the test, the motorist would be given a waiver.

Plane crashes in Glen Burnie

A small, twin-engine plane encountered difficulty in a heavy snowstorm and crash landed along a major local highway Tuesday, Anne Arundel County authorities said, with the pilot apparently escaping serious injury.

Lt. Carlos Downs said the Beechcraft plane crash landed at 11:15 p.m. Tuesday along Crain Highway, a four-lane thoroughfare that cuts through the center of Glen Burnie. Police and fire officials quickly responded to the crash site, Downs said, adding, "We understand he walked out of the plane."

Downs said he did not know if passengers were on board.

The plane radioed nearby Baltimore-Washington Airport shortly before it crash landed, Downs said, adding that the pilot was apparently trying to get back to the airport.

Exec nets suspended term

A federal judge issued a five year suspended sentence to a former Maryland bank executive and ordered him to pay restitution of $27,000 for his conviction in an embezzlement scheme.

Charles Rutter, of Dunkirk, previously a vice president of the First National Bank of Southern Maryland in Upper Marlboro, was given sentence and fined Tuesday by U. S. District Judge Joseph Howard.

The FBI said Rutter, 40, embezzled the funds from November 1976 to June 1981 and pleaded guilty last month to the bank embezzlement charges.

Besides the other penalties, the judge placed Rutter on three years probation and ordered him to perform 200 hours of community service.

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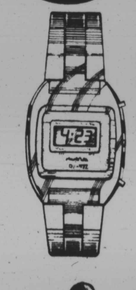

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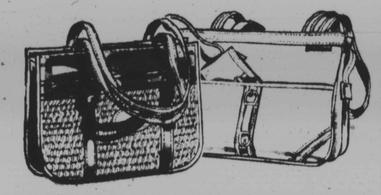

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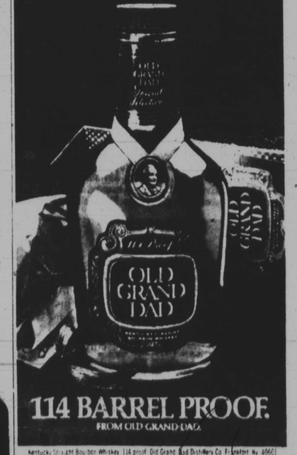

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