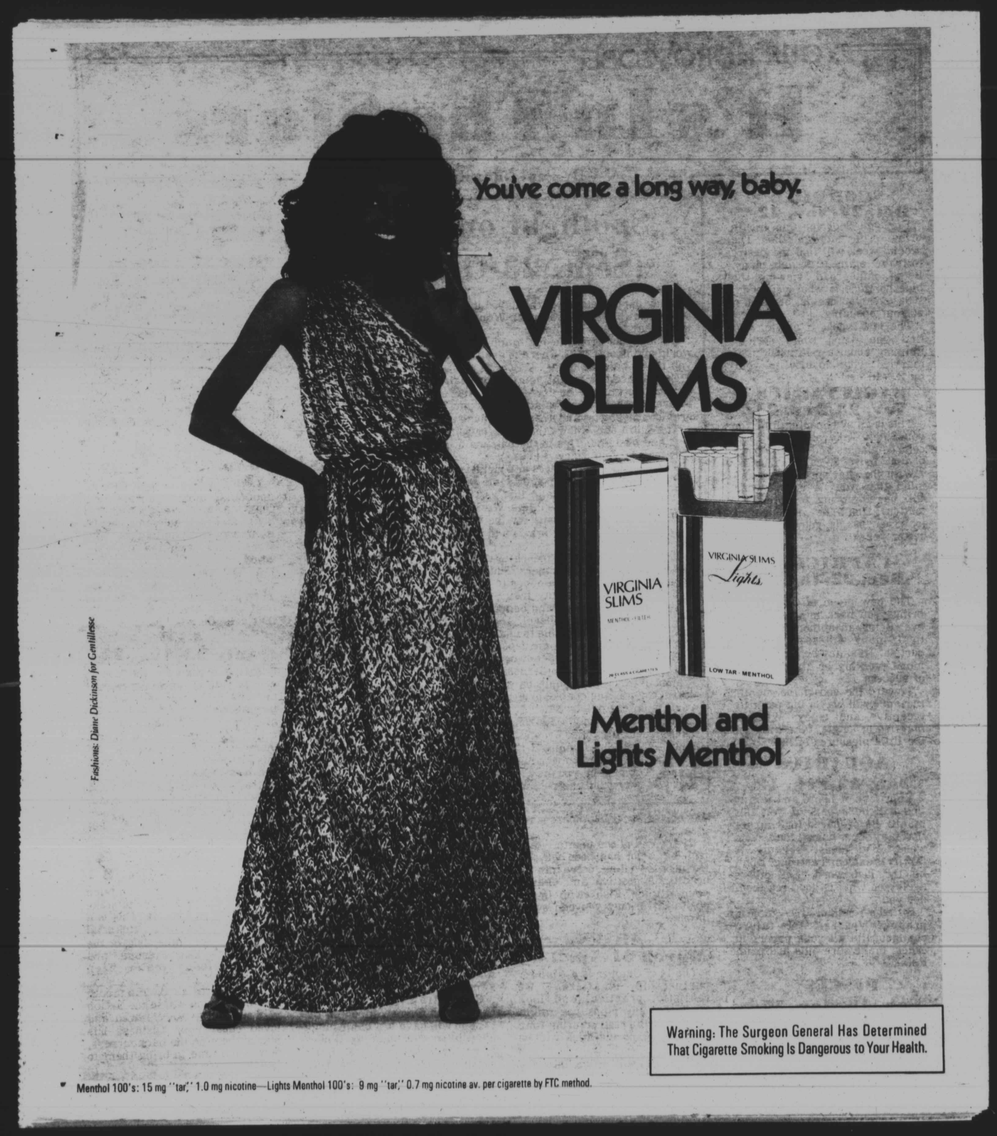

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Mother says daughter unable to care for herself

Is Natalie Cole ill?

By Ida Peters

Natalie Cole who shaped up in the late 1970s as one of the most gifted and potentially influential female singers in all of pop and in 1977 effectively challenged Aretha Franklin for the "Queen of Soul" crown is reported to be ill in California.

Her mother, Mrs. Maria Ellington Cole, has filed a petition in Los Angeles Superior Court requesting she be appointed conservator of her daughter's estate valued at $300,000.

In her petition, Mrs. Cole, former wife of the late Nat King Cole, said her daughter has been ill and is unable to care for herself.

The petition states that the Grammy Award - winning singer has property, numerous contracts and a number of other business interests that require immediate attention and that "she may suffer loss or injury if her property and business interests are not attended to."

The petition also states that Ms. Cole will not be able to attend the Nov. 12 hearing, and "does not wish to contest the establishment of a conservatorship, does not object to the proposed conservator and does not prefer that another person act as conservator." Ms. Cole has a five - year - old son, Robert Adam Yancy.

Earlier this year, the singer switched to Epic Records from Capitol Records, the label with which she began her recording career and also served as the recording home for her father. Her debut album for Epic is scheduled for release by the end of this year.

Glenn Bruman, publicist for Epic Records in Los Angeles told the AFRO Wednesday that "it is true that Mrs. Cole has filed to be appointed conservator of her daughter's estate." He says he did not know about an illness but that it was a simple legal matter between Natalie and her mother.

The New York office spokesperson for Epic Records said she had no information on Natalie's illness but that Natalie has been working steadily with producer Stanley Clarke, up to two weeks ago. Her one - month vacation (or hiatus) had been planned sometime ago and she is expected to be back in the studio in the middle of November, the record company said. "There have been no change in plans."

Natalie Cole was born Stephanie Natalie Cole on Feb. 5, 1950 and reared in the warm, velvet cocoon of her parents wealth in Los Angeles. In 1968, two years after her famous father died of cancer in 1965, she entered the University of Massachusetts from which she graduated in 1972 with a B.A.

She won the NAACP Award as best female recording artist in 1976, Grammy Awards as best new artist and best rhythm and blues vocalist 1976, 1977; Grand Prize, 5th Tokyo Music Festival, 1976.

Natalie Cole married her recording co - producer Marvin Yancy on her birthday Feb. 6, 1977 at her husband's South Side Chicago Foundation of Life Baptist Church. The national

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Natalie Cole

Magazine down but not out

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Metropolitan magazine contrary to many circulating rumors is not folding, nor is it filing for bankruptcy, what is actually happening says vice president and associate publisher, Eric L. Douglass, is "we have suspended operations which really means we have let go some of our staff."

The magazine began four years ago when former State Sen. Robert L. Douglass purchased it from Bridgeforth Enterprises. Before the purchase, the publication was called Beauty Beat and was geared toward the beauty culture, barbers and beauticians.

Beauty Beat was owned and operated by Lutricia and Linwood Bridgeforth of Bridgeforth Enterprises.

Mrs. Bridgeforth who left Metropolitan some time ago said, "we decided to change the name because readers and advertisers were asking for articles related to the black community. So we decided to go with a more city type format, and we got some investors, and that's when

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AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

IN THE SPOTLIGHT — City Council vice - president Clarence Du Burns (C) was surrounded by news reporters as Monday's Council meeting ended. Burns assumed the duties of the council president from Walter Orlinsky, whose resignation came moments earlier. Burns is expected to be the Council's selection to fill the president's seat when Council meets again Monday. Nathan McFadden (L) looks on.

Urban League program to train unemployed

The Baltimore Urban League Word Processing Training Center at 322 N. Eutaw St., will begin training 40 unemployed Baltimore area residents for careers as word processing operators Monday, Oct. 25.

At the Wednesday morning ribbon cutting, Mayor William Schaefer said, "Today I have the pleasure of launching an exciting new blue chip-in program that will train our city's unemployed for jobs with a future - jobs created through high technology.

"Today, we are launching a program that will help make Baltimoreans competitive in this new job market. And what better partner to have than IBM, a company that has always been a leader in high technology."

The mayor thanked IBM for its generous commitment of more than $300,000 in word processing equipment, training materials and instructors.

The Word Processing Training Center will train 80 disadvantaged residents in fiscal 1983 and place

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The nation's greatest historians here through October 24

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Probably there are more famous black Americans gathered today through Sunday at the downtown Hilton Hotel "than you would ever expect to see in a life time."

They are members of the Association for the Study of Afro - American Life and History (ASALM), the oldest and largest black history organization in the world, founded by Carter G. Woodson in 1915.

The convention with 3,000 persons in attendance began Oct. 20 and extends through Sunday, Oct. 24.

The convention includes the famed Journal of Negro History and the Associated Publishers, divisions of ASHLA.

Arriving from every state in the nation, there are famed authors of black history books present such as Dr. John Hope Franklin's From Slavery to Freedom and those writers such as Dr. Benjamin Quarles , Dr. Charles Wesley and Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, the noted physician.

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Two judges, nothing less

Georgia Goslee

Kenneth L. Johnson

By G. James Fleming

The entire city is ready for more black judges — to make the Supreme Bench more representative of Baltimore City's population and to balance the racial and male-female ratio of the judiciary (of a total of 23 Supreme Bench judges, there are only six blacks and only two women).

On Nov. 2 — Election Day — there are three vacancies to be filled — and the two black candidates are Georgia Goslee and Kenneth L. Johnson, both with unquestionably high credentials and rich experiences in the law.

Like the six black judges now serving the city so eminently, they measure up to every qualification.

All that remains to be done is for the Baltimore City voters — black and white, Democrat and Republican — to turn out in the largest numbers (repeating the grand performance of Primary Day) and vote for Georgia Goslee (lever 10-E) and Kenneth Johnson (lever 11-D).

These two candidates for judgeships are working together ("One for all and all for one") and both can be elected by pulling down the lever for each of them, regardless of the voter's party registration.

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City schools receive Ford Foundation grants

Edmondson, Northern and Walbrook High Schools were presented with $20,000 Ford Foundation grants Thursday designed to strengthen activities that have helped the schools' overall performance in recent years.

These Baltimore high schools were among 50 nationwide chosen by an independent panel of educators to receive the grants as part of the Foundation's City High School recognition program.

"City high schools across the country are doing a better job than some people realize or want to acknowledge," Susan Berresford, the Foundation's vice president, said. "Their leaders, their staffs, their students and parents, and their communities are demonstrating purpose, will and total accomplishment."

The $20,000 grants were awarded on the basis of proposals submitted to the Foundation by 107 schools, which had received $1,000 recognition awards in the first stage of the program.

The grants will support a variety of activities to enrich the offerings of the schools.

Edmondson High will use the grant to help seniors improve their performance on scholastic aptitude tests and thereby gain

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Park Heights Academy celebrates 5th year

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

The Park Heights Street Academy, the only black private college preparatory high school of its kind in Baltimore, celebrates its fifth year in operation today during its Founders Day Convocation at the Enoch Pratt Free Library at 400 Cathedral Street from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Headmaster Irving S. Hamer, Jr. will lecture on "Education Beyond 1980."

The Academy is considered a "second chance educational opportunity for a number of young people who have left school prior to receiving the high school diploma."

Dedicated to developing per-

(Continued on page 30)

Drugs: Its people, places and things

A millionaire by age 26, his business: dope

Last of a series

EDITOR'S NOTE: The incidents and events in this report are true and are based on the direct observations of an AFRO investigative reporter. The identities of some people in the report have been changed and in some cases personalities mentioned are composite characters based on the experiences of individuals.

Frank Matthews moved from Durham, N.C., when he was 11-years-old and had his first run-in with the law for stealing chickens at the age of 13.

At the time, it seemed he would go the route of so many other ghetto teenagers ending his life in obscurity or a string of juvenile and state institutions.

But the soft spoken youth had a head for organization and the heart to take a risk to end the poverty which had plagued his family. So he went into business and became his own boss and by

Heroin legislation controversy rages on

the time he was 26 he was a millionaire several times over.

His business: dope.

The stocky five-foot, nine-inch Matthews made his base in New York but he frequented Baltimore recruiting dealers, as he did in more than 20 other cities around the country.

Profits were tremendous, the money coming fast from his South American connection. Soon he had property and businesses in several states and had risen to a position of king pin and was the most successful black drug dealer in the United States.

Matthews carried duffle bags of money in a the trunk of his cars for spending change and once misplaced a Rolls Royce in Harlem, a black and white-colored Thunderbird being his favorite automobile.

He may have forgotten where he left his $100,000 Rolls but the street people — dealers, addicts and hustlers — did not forget whose car it was. When police finally confiscated the vehicle, there was an inch of dust on the car and the duffle bag of money was still in the trunk.

Having built his organization without the help from the Mafia, police were slow to recognize Matthews had become as big as he was; indeed there was sheer disbelief within the ranks of the police that a black without organized and traditional mob support could rise to the position he occupied.

As did the Mafia at one time, Frank Matthews had a summit meeting in Atlantic City with his dealers from across the country.

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