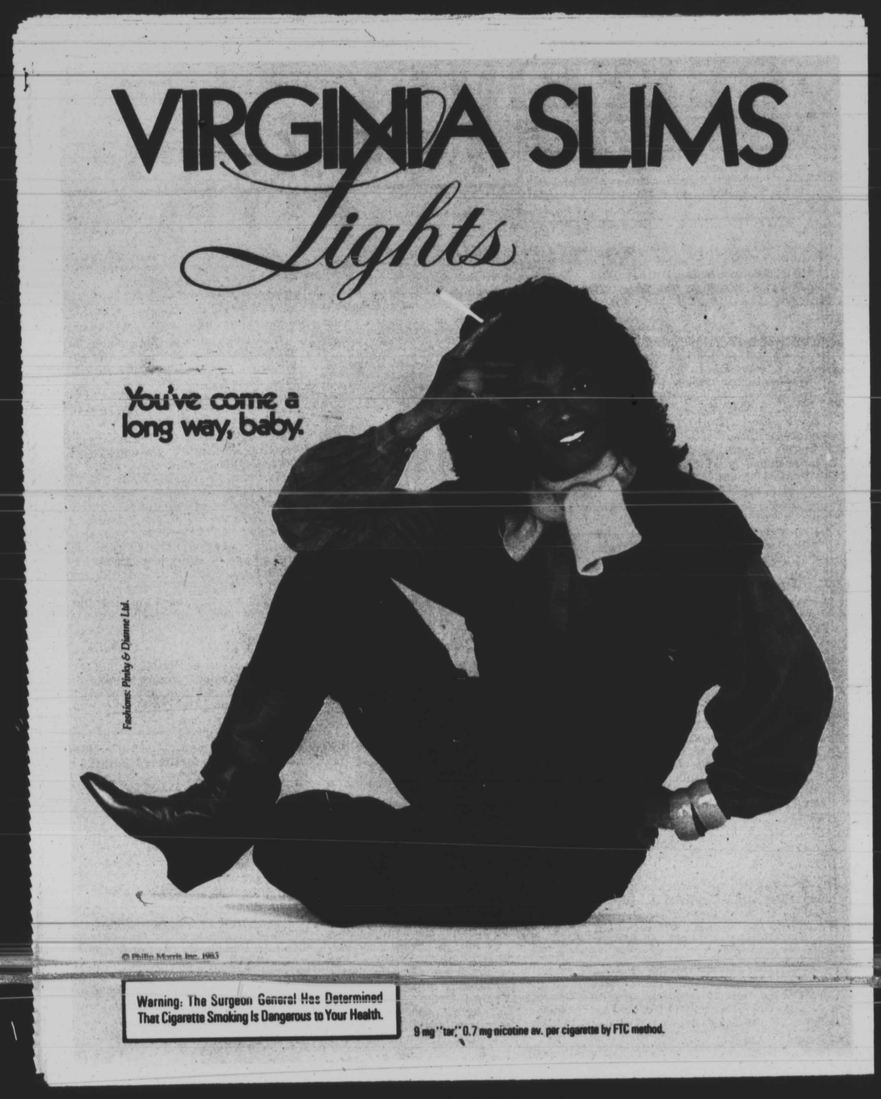

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Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 91ST YEAR

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AFRO photo by P. A. Greene

ERNIE'S reward — Heavyweight boxer Ernie Shavers, who was in town earlier this week for a fight at the Civic Center against Baltimorean George Chaplin, gets a reward of a double helping of chicken from Sister Sawa Al - Mateen at Lake Trout at the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center Wednesday afternoon. Shavers lost the decision to Chaplin but it looks as if the delicious chicken dinner may help him overcome the disappointment of defeat.

BWRO under attack

Cheeks says United Way is trying to destroy group

By Patricia Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

Bob Cheeks, executive director of the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization (BWRO), is charging his group is under attack by the United Way of Central Maryland and his arrest Tuesday on an almost three-year-old warrant is part of the attack.

United Way officials have called Cheeks' charges "unfounded" and said they are not involved in any "underhanded" pressure against BWRO.

Cheeks told the AFRO that on Tuesday, March 1, he was arrested by city Sheriff's officials just as he and his group were forming their picket lines in front of the United Way's headquarters on Light Street.

The group has been demonstrating in front of the United Way building protesting what it calls discrimination by race and class; the United Way's posture against the poor and its conscious attempts to destroy the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization.

Cheeks said the BWRO also is protesting the fact the United Way withdrew more than $14,000 in funds from his organization.

Ronnie Weiss, a United Way spokeswoman, told the AFRO the funding has been restored and she denied her organization is opposed to BWRO's activities and politican stance or that the United Way is trying to destroy the BWRO.

"The funding was reinstated Feb. 10," Ms. Weiss said.

She said the United Way has been funding the BWRO for four years and it is aware of the group's programs and activities. Ms. Weiss said funding was withdrawn because the BWRO did not submit its documents on time.

But once that information was provided, the BWRO received its funding, she said.

"They provide needed services, that's why we fund them," Ms. Weiss said.

The two organizations are scheduled to meet March 10 to iron out their difficulties.

In the latest incident, Cheeks said on Tuesday around 12:30 p.m. he was approached by a Sheriff's official who "asked me to come in."

The warrant which lead to Cheeks' arrest resulted from a demonstration which occured in early July 1980 on the opening day of Harborplace.

Cheeks and about a dozen of his supporters were arrested for demonstrating there without a permit.

The protesters marched at Harborplace to demonstrate against its opening and to draw attention to the plight of city housing residents who had been deprived of hot water after a strike by city employees.

Cheeks said he went to court and was fined $50 and also was ordered to pay $50 in court costs. The BWRO leader said he refused

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AFRO photos by Patricia Tatum

UNITED WAY PROTEST — Members of the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization are picketing the United Way headquarters on Light Street. The BWO's Executive Director Bob Cheeks was arrested on a 1980 warrant Wednesday. He says the arrest and his group's picketing are connected.

Merchants oppose Sunday openings

By AFRO Staff and wire sources

Earlier this week, the Maryland State Senate gave preliminary approval to a measure that would allow stores to stay open on Sundays in Baltimore, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County.

"An inordinate burden would be placed on Baltimore merchants if they are not permited to open Sunday," said Sen. Julian Lapides, D-44th, head of the city Senate delegation.

Baltimore City senators tacked on amendments to the bill that would include the city and Anne Arundel County.

However merchants' associations and other citizens groups are opposed to the abolishment of the blue laws saying it would be a burden if they had to open on Sunday.

Louis Goldstein, president of the Old Town Mall Merchants Association, told the AFRO his group is "unalterably opposed" to Sunday openings.

"We did a survey of all the mall merchants and not one came back positive" to being open on Sunday, he said.

Goldstein said the Old Town Merchants are working with other groups to lobby against the legislation. He said the mall's merchants oppose the measure because of religious and other reasons.

"Most of the shops are owner - operated and they already work six days a week," he said. "To open Sundays would mean a 7-day work week if we're going to meet our competitors."

Goldstein said large stores and suburban malls would make a profit being opened an extra day.

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Few minorities in new harbor construction

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

A Rouse company spokesman said the $120 million retail-hotel-office complex scheduled to open at Harborplace in 1986 will bring 2,500 permanent jobs to the downtown location.

But the director of the Maryland Minority Contractors Association said Tuesday his organization has had difficulty securing work for even a few minority architects and planners in the project's design phase.

In a related matter the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 Monday that a city is free to "favor its own citizens over others" and can impose local hiring requirements on construction firms bidding for municipal contracts.

Rouse company spokesman Scott Ditch said the 28 - story structure would house 50-75 shops, 400,000 square feet of office space, and a 550-room hotel. A 1,200-car garage will be tucked underground.

Ditch said in addition to the 2,500 retail, office and hotel service jobs the project would temporarily employ as many as 3,000 construction workers.

The multi-purpose structure is to be built on a site presently occupied by a 350-space parking lot across Pratt St. from Harborplace. Construction is expected to begin by the end of the year.

The Rouse company spokesperson said his company would seek minority involvement in both the developmental and operational phases of the project.

"It is our policy to make available opportunities to minorities, both in the construction and the business opportunities," Ditch said. He said he expects the level of minority involvement to be similar to minority involvement in its original Harborplace development.

But MMCA director Hanford Jones said although his group has

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Herpes diagnostic tests under study at Md. General

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Herpes, a highly infectious virus that has been around since the days of the early Greeks, and has yet to meet a cure, will soon be more satisfactorily diagnosed through a new and simplified lab procedure.

Increased research in the area of herpesvirus has made possible the availability of a diagnostic test that is the target of experimentation at Maryland General Hospital.

Dr. Arthur McTighe, a staff pathologist at the hospital, is currently studying a variety of techniques to detect genital herpetic infection.

The method he uses is a tissue culture tube for isolation known as "Immulok Cultureset."

The procedure which takes less than five minutes allows the physician to grow the virus in a laboratory setting and then render an accurate diagnosis.

Since cultures have proven more sensitive and more specific, McTighe feels the method will be more effective.

Once the specimen is taken it is then placed in an Immulok Cultureset for a maximum period of 48 hours. If the patient is infact infected by the herpesvirus, the test results will show positive indication and proper treatment can then be prescribed.

Should the results however indicate the presence of any other kind of viral infection the physician will also be able to make the necessary prescription for treatment.

According to McTighe one of the advantages of the new procedure will be the eradication of misdiagnoses. He said patients frequently suffer a lot of unnecessary mental strain because they have been told they have herpes, when they do not.

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Woman read about missing man in the AFRO

Snow victim reunited with guardian

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Levi Johnson, a 51-year-old mentally retarded adult who was found imbedded in the snow on Feb. 15 in the 1800 block of North Avenue, and was taken to Maryland General Hospital for treatment of hypothermia, was reunited Wednesday with his guardian of nine years, Mrs. Elizabeth Howard of Robert Street.

Mrs. Howard told the AFRO she tried to locate Johnson but was unsuccessful. After several attempts she finally saw a description in The AFRO that led her right to him.

Johnson, who was described by the Baltimore Police Department's Missing Persons Squad as a rather difficult case to solve," has a severe speech impediment which made him incomprehensible to members of the force and hospital staff.

According to hospital officials Johnson displayed physical signs of a previous stroke that added to his speech problems.

Ms. Patricia Waterman, a social worker at the hospital said it was impossible to even attempt to obtain medical insurance for Johnson because he could not answer any of the necessary questions on the insurance application.

When initially rescued from the overpowering blizzard Johnson had no identification and could not communicate anything about himself that would aid the hospital in notifying his family.

Mrs. Howard said Johnson has no family and has been a "rommer" in her house for the past nine years. She also said when she first noticed Johnson was missing she was not alarmed because he has wandered away from the house in the past but usually returned.

This time it was different. Johnson did not come back. Mrs. Howard indicated that Johnson may have been trying to obtain an identification for his food stamps when he was captured by the snow.

According to Mrs. Howard,

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CIRCUS COLORING CONTEST
See page 19

AFRO photo by P. A. Greene

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME — A patient at Maryland General for the past two and a half weeks, Levi Johnson was glad to see his guardian, Mrs. Elizabeth Howard who came to identify him. Johnson, according to Mrs. Howard, was moved to tears when she entered the hospital room that has been his home for longer than he imagained.

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