—The 'Squee-gee Kids'

Continued from page 1

in hand, race into the street to gather as much business as possible within the 60 to 110 seconds allotted them.

Sometimes motorists acquesce, sometimes they don't.

Once the job is complete, they hold out waiting palms to receive restitution for their services. Mostly, they get quarters or dimes.

"They (motorists) just give me anything they want. If you be nasty to them, they're gonna be nasty back to you," offers Anthony during a break in business on McCulloh Street at the W. North Avenue crossing.

Like Anthony, Carlos is a member of the squee-gee corps. He is all of 10 years old going on 11, "next month" he announces, standing slightly above four feet tall.

He says he gives some of the money he makes washing cars to his mother and spends the rest on clothes. Each boy also says that his mother approves of his part-time occupation, sometimes allowing them to work the corners until 8:30 p.m. on school nights and, on weekends, till 10:00 p.m.

"I tell her I'm going to wash windows," says Anthony who admits that he doesn't always ask permission.

Darnell, 8, says he tells his mother that he gets the money from washing windows. "I've been doing this since he (Carlos his uncle) taught me. I make around about $30."

The three boys stake out the choice territory along the West North Avenue motoring strip, setting up their buckets on the corners between Pennsylvania and Mount Royal Avenues.

Some days they are joined by the older solicitors selling roses and on Sundays by the newspaper boys.

When traffic is light, they lean against existing structures and jingle the coins in their pockets. It gives them a pint-sized sense of manhood.

They boast eagerly about the sum of their weekly incomes, sometimes inflating the actual figures. Each sees himself not as a menace to the public, but simply as the new breed of youthful urban hustlers who have found a novel approach to making pocket money.

"We didn't do nothing," says Anthony, "You can tell by the good boys and the bad ones."

The growing negative public sentiment towards squee-gee kids coupled with the fear that they may represent a safety hazard largely to themselves, currently threatens to do away with their newfound occupation.

On the one hand, there is the mounting concern that these unsupervised youths place themselves in imminent danger from the cars which race by them.

Then there are the increased complaints from motorists who allege that they are the target of verbal and physical abuse at the hands of the youngsters.

A City Council bill, Bill 609, has been introduced to address both concerns by proposing to ban the practice altogether.

Anthony, Carlos and Darnell have viewed both sides of the safety issue from W. North Avenue.

"One boy got hurt. He was running across there to wash the window and a lady drove off. She didn't see him and hit his leg by mistake. He's still walking," recounts Carlos, who witnessed the accident along with his younger nephew.

They have also witnessed the abuse of some squee-gee kids towards motorists.

"We got put off the corner down there (pointing to the intersection at Mount Royal Avenue further down the street) two weeks ago because these boys were throwing water and cussing people out because they didn't want them doing their windows," says Anthony.

Volunteers another youngster whose mother won't allow him to join his friends in the streets, "One boy threw a rock and the man got out and jacked him up."

They insist that they have never insulted a customer. "I walk away," Carlos says. Darnell on the other hand, says he simply wipes off whatever water has been splattered on the car window and moves on.

Asked what each would do to make pocket money if city officials ban their car washing antics, the three shrugged their shoulders showing little or no sign of worry.

"I'd pump gas," says a self-assured Carlos.

Striking a chord of defiance, their young friend, who can only stand and watch while his buddies live on the edge of youthful danger and rattle pockets full of coins, warns, "If they say we can't do it, still do it!"

Northwest Baltimore Corp. selects new president

Northwest Baltimore Corporation is pleased to announce the newly elected board president, Mrs. Janie Geer.

Mrs. Geer, a veteran community worker and a committed concerned citizen, is a licensed practical nurse at the University of Maryland Hospital. Mrs. Geer is president of Cylburn Community Association, past chairperson of Park West Medical Center, Inc., vice chairperson of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC), political arm of the Maryland Licensed Practical Nurses Association. She is recipient of the John Gilbert Award (issued by the National Association of Community Health Centers), Baltimore City Mayor's Citation - 1979, and a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, Lanvale Street and Fremont Avenue. She serves as a minister's

Mrs. Greer

fellowship and with the Nurse's Unit.

Mrs. Geer has exercised leadership, and excellence in people services.

Bowie College to honor Vietnam vets

On March 22, 1985, Bowie State College will be honoring Jan Scruggs.

Mr. Scruggs, a Vietnam Veteran, and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, was very instrumental in raising millions of dollars toward the building of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. He is also an alumnus of Bowie State College.

Notables from the Federal, State and local governments will be on hand to present proclamations at the "Salute to Jan Scrubbs," to be held in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts Center, Room 145 at 5:30 p.m.

A concert by the U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Command will follow a reception. The public is invited and admission is free.

For further information call, 464-3300.

—Stray bullet victim

Continued from page 1

Several shots were fired as the young man ran into a house in the 1700 block of Valley St.

The intended victim had escaped the gunmen's fire, but Juan Kent, who still sat on his grandmother's steps with his cousin, was hit in the back of the head by one of the bullets. He fell to the pavement.

"My nephew came in the house and yelled 'Juan got shot'. I went and looked out the door and saw Juan lying on the pavement with blood streaming from his head."

An arrest warrant for Lawrence Wilson, 27, of the 1100 block of Forrest St., has been issued in connection with the shooting.

One Forrest St., resident told the AFRO, "They were playing basketball, and Lawrence came and told his brother and cousin that some guys at the court were trying to "bank" (gang up on) him.

"I know they left for the courts with guns, but they didn't get the one they meant to."

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—Paul Yates resigns

Continued from page 1

fellow workers in Philadelphia read, "After a great deal of thought and soul searching I have made the decision to resign my position with KYW-TV. I will be relocating to Washington, D.C. where I will be involved in several new ventures."

The memo continued, "... I have enjoyed being part of the KYW family for the past year. I wish you well in your future endeavors and I have no doubt with the team in place that you will succeed."

Contacted by the AFRO at his Philadelphia residence and asked to comment on his recent resignation Yates responded." I have nothing to say. What you get from the folks at Westinghouse should be sufficient."

Yates resume listed him as having received an undergraduate degree in English, a master of arts degree in education and a master of science degree in psychology, all from the University of Pennsylvania, published articles have reported.

The University of Pennsylvania denies ever having any student by the name of Paul Yates.

Also listed as part of the accomplishments made by Yates before he reached age 32 was that of a teacher, a football and a wrestling coach, a school superintendent, marriage counselor, children's counselor, industrial psychologist and policeman.

According to Linda Rubin, a Group W corporate spokesperson, Jim Thompson, a former vice president of sales at KYW-TV, has been named acting general manager of the station. Who will fill the position permanently is uncertain at this point.

"Generally Paul was well liked," stated Joanne Calabria, public relations director for KYW-TV, "... the general consensus seems to be that if this is what Paul wants to do then we wish him luck."

Yates refused comment on what his specific plans would be once relocating to the D.C area.

Conaway calls for state police chief's resignation

Frank L. Conaway, former Delegate to the Maryland General Assembly for the 40th Legislative District, called on current Chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, Elijah Cummings to spearhead a move to replace Colonel Wilbert T. Travers, chief of the Maryland State Police.

Conaway told Cummings that Travers has had more than two years to do something about the problems of promotions, cronyism and racial discrimination, and had indeed been given mandate for that, when he took over the job.

"While it is true that Travers inherited many of the problems that now exist, there certainly has been ample time for a good administrator to have resolved the problems."

Conaway further said, in the best interest of the State of Maryland and the highest level law enforcement agency in the state, it would be to every citizens' best interest for Colonel Travers to be replaced.

—NAACP

Continued from page 1

there are over 7,000 students at age 17, twenty percent of which will be of registration age by April 4th.

"We have a goal of registering 5,000 students," said Marvin 'Doc' Cheatham, chairman of the NAACP Voter registration Committee, "...But we'll be satisfied with registering 2,000."

The League of Women Voters will also be assisting the NAACP in school registration efforts. Other volunteers are also needed. Anyone interested in assisting should call the NAACP office at 366-3300 or in the evenings phone 'Doc' Cheatham at 669-3830.

Among some of the schools targeted for voter registration are Poly, Douglass, Dunbar, Western, Walbrook, Northwestern, Forest Park, Lake Clifton, Southern, Northern, Southwestern, Mervo, Laurence G. Pacquin, and the Baltimore School for the Arts.

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN (Registered U.S. Patent Office)
Second class postage paid at Baltimore, Md.
Circulation audited by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC).
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Company, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. Phone (301) 728-8200.
John H. Murphy 3rd, President; Mae E. Dyson, Secretary; George C. Lottier Treasurer; Frederick A. Howard, Vice President — Production; Kenneth O. Wilson, Vice President — Advertising. Robert W. Matthews, Executive Editor. Paul F. Evans, Associate Managing editor Ronald B. Jones, Assistant Managing Editor.
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—WJZ-TV

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country's apartheid system to be recorded by any foreign media.

WJZ had balked at the idea of preempting another popular late night show "Entertainment Tonight", arguing that the program generates greater profits from the sales of local ads.

However, thanks largely to the efforts of Councilman Kweisi Mfume, who expressed outrage at the station's earlier decision to air Nightline in its standard slot beginning at twelve midnight, news of the controversy first surfaced locally.

"I'm just essentially pleased that the management of WJZ-TV recognizes the very strong feelings that have been expressed locally with regards to apartheid," Mfume commented shortly after news of the station's change of heart reached him.

The fourth district councilman had complained that by refusing to pick up the show one half hour earlier, many viewers would not have an opportunity to see the exclusive Nightline segments.

"For someone who has to get up at seven in the morning to go to work, the difference between 11:30 P.M. and 12 midnight can seem like the difference between night and day."

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Test used by blood collectors is no surefire detector of AID

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

The Health Education Resource Organization (HERO), and the Maryland Health Department want people in Maryland to know that the newly licensed screening test for the HTLV-3 virus is not a test for AIDS.

Currently, there is no vaccine or reliable test for this nearly always fatal disease.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is believed to be caused by the HTLV-3 virus. The virus breaks down the body's immune system, leaving the victim helpless in fighting many diseases.

Until recently, it was thought that homosexual and bisexual men suffered the greatest risk of the disease. Haitians, intravenous drug users and hemophiliacs were also considered to be high risk potentials.

However, more recent data suggests that the disease is spreading to the general population, affecting those groups, thought to be non-risk.

Cases of heterosexual AIDS have been reported in the Caribbean, in Africa, and in the U.S.

Study findings released on Friday in the Journal of American Medicine suggest that sexual transmission of the disease between husbands and wives may be more common than previously thought.

Over 8,597 cases have been reported nationwide since 1981, as defined by the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA (CDC).

However, health officials estimate there are many more unreported cases which don't meet the rigid standards defined by CDC.

In Maryland, more than 54 percent of the reported victims of the disease are black and that statistics has many state health officials worried.

Said an official who wished to remain anonymous; "Black people are under the assumption that AIDS is a white man's disease only. It is not. Black people get it too."

Edward King, Education Specialist, Minority Outreach, HERO said, "The test is to determine if a person was ever exposed to the HTLV-3 virus. If a person was exposed, the antibodies may still be present in the blood."

"It can't tell you if you're going to get the disease," added King.

Peter laqueur, executive director of HERO said that the test will help to protect the blood supply. "This is the major purpose behind the screening test," he stressed.

Beginning in April, said Laqueur, alternative testing sites will be established to screen for the antibodies. "We don't want those in high risk groups to go to blood centers and pollute the supply."

Laqueur said that while everyone who donates blood is first screened for such diseases as syphilis and hepatitis, a small number of those who donate register false positive readings, which means that, for example, they may well have hepatitis, but the test will read negative.

Those people included in the high risk groups are urged to go to the alternative testing sites rather than to blood donation centers.

People who are not in high risk groups are encouraged to continue to donate blood.

Those with questions on the screening test, are urged to call HERO 947-AIDS (Baltimore). Those outside of Baltimore can call 800-638-6252.

Local Marine wins Lotto Jackpot

The Maryland State Lottery announced that Jeffery A. Green, 21 years of age and a resident of Brentwood, Maryland, has won the Lotto Jackpot for the drawing of Saturday, March 2, 1985. The winning numbers selected that evening were 30-32-33-34-36-39. The total annuity value of that Jackpot was $1,354,544.29.

Mr. Green is a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps., single and presently stationed in Arlington, Virginia. He has fifteen months left to active duty before being discharged. The first check he will receive totals $62,544.29, and the remaining nineteen checks payable at $68,000.00. Mr. Green selected his own winning numbers and purchased his ticket at 7-11 in Bladensburg, Maryland. He intends to continue his education after he is discharged from service with his winnings.

In the Lotto drawing of Saturday, March 2, 1985, there were 277 second tier winners of $891 each. These winners correctly matched five of the six winning numbers in that drawing. Also, 8,687 Lotto players won $36 each for correctly matching four of the six winning numbers.

CPL. JEFFREY A. GREEN

Reception to honor Community Relations Commisioners

A reception honoring past and present Commissioners and Directors of the Baltimore Community Relations Commission will be held in the Garrett Room, Eisenhower Library, on the Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University on Saturday, March 23, 1985.

This ceremony celebrates the eve of the Commission's (CRC) 30th Anniversary of service to the citizens of Baltimore. The function of CRC is to formulate a program which will eliminate discrimination in Baltimore and promote community harmony.

The Mayor and City Council established the Agency in 1956. It was named the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and with the broadening of its enforcement powers, it was remanded the Equal Opportunity Commission in 1962. With a much broadened responsibility, the Commission was renamed the Community Relations Commission in 1964.

The Commission has grown significantly since 1956 and now has enforcement powers that cover employment, public accommodations, education, and health and welfare agencies on the bases of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age and physical and mental disability.

In keeping with its 1964 name change, the Commission has also expanded its community support services. The services include Intergroup Relations Training, Crisis Intervention, Technical Assistance, Liaison Services and Mediation Services Programs. The Agency also operates the oldest Rumor Control Center in the country.

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