—Council bill

Continued from page 1

hired or licensed in the city.

Persons convicted of or being investigated for certain criminal acts, including first or second degree murder, rape, child abuse, child pornography, child kidnapping, child abduction or the commission of a sexual offense, would be prohibited from working with daycare youngsters.

The proposed bill would not be retroactive and would not affect current employees or daycare center operators.

Welch denied Monday that the bill's intent was to single out day care centers arbitrarily.

"I would like to see some measure to protect our children and allow them to reach the quality of life in Baltimore that we are always talking about," she told fellow Council members.

She accused the public and some lawmakers of always talking about wanting to protect children but said that they frequently "get soft" when the time came to pass laws guaranteeing that protection.

She cited the failure of a statewide bill that would have required that all agencies having direct involvement with children undergo similar background inquiries as proof.

The House Bill introduced by the city legislative delegation did not survive a committee hearing and was subsequently defeated during the past General Assembly session.

Another of the bill's supporters Councilman Jodie Landers, (D. 3rd) who co-sponsored the proposed legislation with Welch, said that while he was aware that some "providers" felt that they were being singled out unfairly, some daycare centers have had problems with child safety in the past.

"I sort of agree that maybe we should extend its (the bill's) coverage, however, if they stop and think about it this gives them an added protection.

"It protects the reputation of the center and makes sure they have qualified people working for them. Without this law they can't do that."

At least one daycare center operator said she liked the idea but also said she felt the background checks should be retroactive as far back as three to five years from the date that the bill takes effect, should it be enacted by the Council.

"The pedophiles could try to get jobs before the deadline takes effect. I think it would be a healthy idea. You can't be too careful," said the director of the Glover-Tillman Learning Center, Sheila Tucker.

She said her only objection to the bill concerns the fate of the hundreds of community volunteers who donate their time free of charge to the center.

"I'm wondering if they'll have to have background checks too," said Tucker.

—Clifton J. Gordy

Continued from page 1

years he has served as chief of one of the busiest divisions in the 130-member Baltimore State's Attorney's Office — the Trial Division.

A graduate of the University of Maryland Law School, one of Gordy's most publicized cases was that of Daniel Shanahan, the former city police officer charged in the July, 1983 death of motorcyclist Booker Lee Lancaster.

The appointment of Mr. Gordy to the Circuit Court comes at a time when many in the community have voiced strong sentiments that the Murphy vacancy be filled with a black in a continuing effort to see a more balanced racial representation among Baltimore's judges that is more reflective of the total community.

"We have a 60 percent black population and the bench should reflect that but it does not," said Judge Kenneth Johnson commenting on the recent Gordy appointment. "Hopefully some day, if the governor continues making appointments the way he is, we will see that 60 percent. I think Mr. Gordy's appointment is a very good one and I'm pleased to have him down here."

Currently seven of the 23 judges who sit on the Circuit Court of Baltimore City are black. Mr. Gordy, who is due to be sworn into his new position within the next two weeks will become the 8th black judge and 23rd member of the court.

Judge Thomas E. Noel, Arrie W. Davis, David B. Mitchell, Milton B. Allen, Solomon Baylor, Kenneth Johnson and Robert B. Watts currently form the full complement of black judges who sit on the Circuit Court of Baltimore City.

Judge Watts, who has sat on the Circuit Court for the past 16½ years (appointed Dec. 1968) will be retiring from that position this July, thereby creating another judicial opening while reducing the number of black judges on the city's Circuit Court from eight to seven.

"I've known Mr. Gordy since 1970," declared Judge Milton B. Allen, a nine-year veteran of the circuit courts. "He is an excellent lawyer, an excellent trial lawyer, a top prosecutor and he'll make a great judge."

"I am elated, very pleased and look forward to being an asset to the court," said Gordy in an interview with the AFRO earlier this week.

"I also look forward to campaigning," continued the judge-designate, "and will start as soon as I'm sworn in."

Mr. Gordy will face election to his new position in November of 1986. At that time another black member of the circuit courts, Judge David Mitchell will also face an election campaign. Circuit Court judges serve for a term of 15 years after winning an election.

In addition to the Gordy appointment, the governor also filled newly created judgeships by appointing William M. Nickerson to the Baltimore County Circuit Court, Theresa Alice Nolan of the Prince George's County District Court and Alan J. Karlin to the Baltimore City District Court.

—Foster Moms day

Continued from page 1

The average length a child stays in foster care is five years. Foster parents receive a monthly grant that covers clothing, room and board based on the child's age and needs. Grants can range from $161 a month for an infant to $183 for a teenager.

As with adoption, one of the biggest needs in the city is to find foster families for black teens, sibling groups and babies.

Requirements for becoming a foster parent are not what could be considered too demanding, but appropriate. Those requirements are: 1. You must be between 21 and 60 years old, but consideration is given to anyone who calls in over 60 years of age; 2. You have independent income; 3. You have adequate space for additional children in that each child must have his own bed and adequate storage space; 4. You're in good moral standing in that a police clearance is required for everyone 18 years and older living in the home; 5. You're in good physical and emotional health or a medical report is required; 6. You may work but working parents cannot care for preschoolers; and 7. That you participate in training prior to approval and yearly thereafter.

"The most rewarding experience I get is seeing them grow up and placed into a nice capable home where someone is able to take care of them and love them like I love them," shared Epps, as her grandson Cricket constantly fidgeted in grandmom's lap. "The worst part about it is when it's time for them to leave and be placed in a home. It not only upsets me, but the kids and my husband. But we've learned to live with it. We realize we can't keep them all: we are just helping out until a permanent home can be found."

Anyone interested in finding out more about the foster care process should call 234-3022 or 685-8231.

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—Assault victims

Continued from page 1

Komlos recalled her experience.

While driving home one evening, Komlos noticed a car behind her. The car speeded up and eventually overtook her.

In passing, she said she heard a noise, "like a pop." She felt pressure in her head and then she felt the blood.

She had been driving between 45 and 50 miles per hour. Her main concern was to stop the car safely to avoid more injury.

When the car had stopped, she heard a voice saying, "Oh my God, who did this to you? Let me get you to a hospital!"

Komlos said she was grateful for the "Good Samaritan."

But the "Good Samaritan" did not take her to a hospital. Instead, he took her to his apartment, where he raped, stabbed, and drugged her.

He kept her for a total of nine hours.

She tried her best to defend herself, but it was of little use; she could not see.

Eventually, he left her, and she made her way out of the apartment, only to hear a voice say, "Oh my God, who did this to you? Let me get you to a hospital!"

Another "Good Samaritan," or lightning striking twice?

The man helped her to get to a hospital where she spent five hours in surgery.

Her head wound would result in permanent blindness, and the experience would change her life forever.

Like many rape victims, Komlos struggled with the meaning of the experience.

There was mental anguish, anger, remorse, and pain. But when it was over, Sharon Komlos had decided to take control of her life once more, and live it to the fullest within these new constraints.

"There are external forces around me of which I have no control over, but life goes on," she said.

"Everybody is victimized in some fashion when a crime is committed. Everybody pays, everybody suffers," she added.

"Just by virtue of being a human being on this earth," she continued, "you're exposed to it. We have to really make it less desirable for a person to want to commit a crime."

Ms. Komlos has been traveling around the country, talking about her experience. She has also written a book on her ordeal which will be available in the fall.

Her attacker was sentenced to an aggregate total of 104 years in prison. This was not the first time he had committed the crime.

Kitty Bryne, of the Baltimore Center for Victims of Sexual Assaults said that anyone can be a rape victim, but among almost all victims, the hardest thing for them to do is to realize that they've been victims.

"They are the victims. They have nothing to be ashamed of," said Bryne.

"Anyone can be a victim," she said. "We hope to help victims of sexual assault to regain control of their lives. We help them to find a way to cope with the violence that they're all prepared for. It's possible to survive, to cope, to fight back."

Other participants in the seminar included Ginny Mahoney, of the Victim/Witness Program, U.S. Attorney's Office, Ofc. Jean Newborn, Balto. City Police Sex Offense Program and James E. Olsson, Ph.D., Chief of Psychology, Circuit Court of Baltimore City.

Ofc. Newburn explained the police department's procedures for handling rape cases; Ms. Mahoney explained the impact of the Victim/Witness program, and Dr. Olsson spoke on the psychological effects of rape.

"There's an impact phase, where there is shock, disbelief and disorientation. A person's total sense of self can be shattered," he said.

There's a recoiling period which brings with it a wide fluctuation of feelings. They run the gamut from feeling like you're in control to feeling totally helpless.

Sometimes there are feelings of guilt and self blame. "Many people say 'what if this or that . . . .' But in most cases, any victim of crime is blameless," he said.

The final state is integration. "Putting the experience in perspective and getting on with life," he said.

"Some people need more individualized help in coping," he continued.

"But we've found that having a cool professional attitude is the biggest mistake — victims of crime need a warm human being," he cautioned.

With recent statistics indicating that one in every 700 females will be subject to rape, members of the Metro Crime Stoppes Unit urged members of the audience to use the service.

Said Sharon Komlos, "Crime Stoppers are the eyes and ears of the community when they (the police) can't be there all the time."

AFRO notes

Medford Reynolds, for more than 50 years Advertising Supervisor and Night Foreman at the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers is seriously ill at Provident Hospital.

The native of Alberque, New Mexico came to the AFRO from the Kansas City Call.

Victorine Q. Adams, former City Councilwoman, escaped injury Thursday morning when her car was heavily damaged in a collision at Windsor and Hilton. She was on her way to the funeral of Mrs. Sara Brown at St. Cecelia's Church. Mrs. Adams says she is glad that neither driver was hurt.

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"...discrimination is discrimination, no matter what it is based on."

Smokers Get a Raw Deal

By Stanley S. Scott

The civil rights act, the voting rights act and a host of antidiscrimination laws notwithstanding, millions of Americans are still forced to sit in the back of planes, trains and buses. Many more are subject to segregation in public places. Some are even denied housing and employment: victims of an alarming — yet socially acceptable — public hostility.

This new form of discrimination is based on smoking behavior.

If you happen to enjoy a cigarette, you are the potential target of violent antismokers and overzealous public enforcers determined to force their beliefs on the rest of society.

Ever since people began smoking, smokers and nonsmokers have been able to live with one another using common courtesy and common sense. Not anymore. Today, smokers must put up with virtually unenforceable laws regulating when and where they can smoke — laws intended as much to discourage smoking itself as to protect the rights of nonsmokers. Much worse, supposedly responsible organizations devoted to the "public interest" are encouraging the harassment of those who smoke.

This year, for example, the American Cancer Society is promoting programs that encourage people to attack smokers with cannisters of gas, to blast them with horns, to squirt them with oversized water guns and burn them in effigy.

Zealots, stop maltreating cigarette users

Harmless fun? Not quite. Consider the incidents that are appearing on police blotters across America:

• In a New York restaurant, a young man celebrating with friends was zapped in the face by a man with an aerosol spray can. His offense: lighting a cigarette. The aggressor was the head of a militant antismoker organization whose goal is to mobilize an army of two million zealots to spray smokers in the face.

• In a suburban Seattle drug store, a man puffing on a cigarette while he waited for a prescription to be filled was ordered to stop by an elderly customer who pulled a gun on him.

• A 23-year-old lit up a cigarette on a Los Angeles bus. A passenger objected. When the smoker objected to the objection, he was fatally stabbed.

• A transit policeman, using his reserve gun, shot and fatally wounded a man on a subway train in the Bronx in a shootout over smoking a cigarette.

The basic freedoms of more than 50 million American smokers are at risk today. Tomorrow, who knows what personal behavior will become socially unacceptable, subject to restrictive laws and public ridicule? Could travel by private car make the social engineers' hit list because it is less safe than public transit? Could ice cream, cake and cookies become socially unacceptable because their consumption causes obesity? What about sky diving, mountain climbing, skiing and contact sports? How far will we allow this to spread?

The question all Americans must ask themselves is: can a nation that has struggled so valiantly to eliminate bias based on race, religion and sex afford to allow a fresh set of categories to encourage new forms of hostility between large groups of citizens?

After all, discrimination is discrimination, no matter what it is based on. □

Stanley S. Scott is vice president and director of corporate affairs of Philip Morris Inc.

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FROM MAY 20-MAY 24

Week-long protests set for South African embassy

The African Committee of the Maryland Federation of Organizations has announced that it plans to conduct a week - long demonstration in front of the South African Embassy, in Washington, D.C., from May 20 to May 24.

As part of the growing wave of organized denunciation of the apartheid government, the African Committee plans to coordinate the protest efforts in Maryland to maximize the effectiveness of the impact of the demonstrations.

A spokesman for the committee stated, "We are extremely pleased with the level of support offered on behalf of the South African Protest effort. Organizations from around the state are rapidly pledging their support by agreeing to participate in the demonstration, sharing organizational responsibilities and making significant cash contributions."

Tentative plans call for major sectors of the community, such as churches, labor unions, fraternal organizations, and student government associations, to assume the responsibility for one day of the week - long protest.

The church would organize churches around the state so that the focus will be upon their commitment and contributions. The same would hold true for the other four days, each spearheaded by a different sector.

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D., Md.) reportedly said, "The Maryland presence will be felt around the world. I am extremely proud of the groups who have come from all over the state to join in this righteous call for justice."

The background to this new wave of protests is as follows:

A coalition of civil and human rights groups began holding daily pickets and civil disobedience actions on Nov. 21, 1984, at the South African Embassy, in Washington, D.C. The protests were triggered by the racist apartheid government's arrests and detentions of 21 black South African labor leaders and the increased government repression against thousands of South Africans who had begun holding mass demonstrations against the country's new constitution.

The new constitution created separate houses of Parliament for Asians and Coloreds (mixed racial group), but it gave these groups little or no voting power, since the white minority government exercises complete political control over both houses. The constitution continues to deny the vote and other unalienable right to South Africa's majority black population.

The South African regime is escalating its repressive violence. Nineteen unarmed blacks were gunned down by the police in the township of Uitenhage, on March 21, 1985. The government has banned all meetings by the 29 groups who oppose apartheid, for six months. During the first three months of this year, more than 100 demonstrators against apartheid have been murdered by the police.

At the onset of the South African Embassy demonstrations, the Free South African Movement demanded the release of the 21 black South African labor leaders; an end to South African Apartheid; an abolishment of the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" which uses "friendly persuasion" rather than punitive measures to force the South African Government to end apartheid; and the release of Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, the South African freedom fighters who have been imprisoned for more than 20 years.

Political and civic leaders from across America have demonstrated and have been arrested for their protests against apartheid. The local Free South Africa Movement has staged two massive demonstrations in front of the South African Embassy. The Maryland Federation of Organizations will articulate Maryland's increased awareness of the linkages of human rights concerns by coordinating a week - long demonstration.

Each day of the week has been designated for different groups to demonstrate:

Monday, May 20, churches; Tuesday, May 21, labor unions; Wednesday, May 22, fraternal organizations; Thursday, May 23, student organizations; and Friday, May 24, MD Free So. Africa Movement.

— —

Bus seats are available at $5 per person. Subsidies will be provided for students and others upon request.

For bus reservations, call 962-4531 or write to: The Maryland Federation of Organizations, 1902 N. Ellamont St., Baltimore, Maryland 21216.

Scientologists Are Solving The Problems of Drug Abuse

In early 1984, the Church of Scientology submitted documents to the Canadian Minister of External Affairs and to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) revealing that the Canadian, U.S. and British psychiatric communities had received funds from the U.S. and Canadian governments to carry out secret and brutal "mind control" experiments. Between 1956-1965, these experiments were conducted on unwitting Canadian citizens with such mind-bending drugs as LSD.

Canada was chosen as the site for these tests. It was not until 1960 that Canada had a Charter of Rights to protect its citizens from such abuses. At the time of the Church's submission, nine victims of these savage experiments were suing the CIA for $1 million apiece for the harm they had sustained at the hands of the psychiatrists.

The Church asked the Canadian government to investigate and prosecute the actual criminals — the psychiatrists who had taken the payments and then brutalized innocent people. No investigation has occurred, however, to date.

The "treatments" used by the psychiatrists included drug-induced "deep sleep" periods lasting up to 60 days, during which the unwitting and often unwilling subjects were given numerous devastating electro-convulsive shock treatments. Subjects were also given repeated applications of mind-altering drugs such as LSD, often against their will.

The Church has also exposed the reckless testing of deadly chemical substances on unwitting American citizens by the CIA and by other U.S. government agencies. These exposés have detailed, for example, how some 1,000 U.S. fighting men were used as human guinea pigs in "mind control" experiments with LSD and other even more powerful mind-bending drugs at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal and elsewhere from 1954 to 1975.

Irresponsible actions such as these by our own government help to explain why drug abuse in America has been allowed to reach such alarming proportions.

According to recent estimates, the United States has some 32 million marijuana users, more than 30 million people who take psychiatric drugs, 492,000 heroin addicts, and more than 12 million cocaine users.

While the federal government estimates that an incredible $53 billion are spent by Americans on illicit drugs each year, there is remarkably little government effort to handle drug problems, and still less work to prevent them.

For nearly 35 years, the Church of Scientology has seen that drugs are a destructive influence in life, and has helped tens of thousands of individuals recover from their damaging effects.

The Church's work in the prevention and reduction of drug abuse and drug-related crime expanded greatly in 1966, when a heroin addict serving time on his fourth sentence to Arizona State Prison, Willie Benitez, found that his 19-year drug addiction problem, which had forced him into a life of crime, resolved through his studies of the works of Scientology Founder L. Ron Hubbard.

Determined to help his fellow inmates with similar drug problems, Benitez founded an organization called Narconon. The word comes from "non-narcosis," meaning freedom from the stupor produced by drugs.

Narconon grew, spreading beyond the Arizona prison's walls as men and women found they could live a new, happier and more prosperous life — without drugs.

Narconon today is thriving, with hundreds of staff operating dozens of centers in the United States and in many countries overseas. With nine new centers opening in the United States, Holland, Spain and Italy in 1984, Narconon is the fastest growing drug rehabilitation program in the world.

As the Church of Scientology itself has expanded, its work has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. With its strong emphasis on the value of drug education, the Church has been diametrically opposed to massive government support of programs which foster drug use, including the billions spent each year on psychiatric drugs.

Although the effectiveness of our technology in salvaging people from the damaging influence of drugs and our exposés of brutal government-funded psychiatric experiments have met with opposition from vested interests who stand to profit from a drugged America, our work in making these abuses known and freeing people from drugs will continue.

The Church of Scientology, in its continuing war against the harmful effects of drugs, is daily bringing about the miraculous freeing of individuals from these toxic substances. "Success stories" by the thousands have poured in from people all over the world.

The Church has observed, in case after case, that an individual who has been freed from the numbing effects of drugs is better able not only to help himself, but to take greater responsibility for others around him, and for the society as a whole.

An individual thus freed is more himself and is better able to pursue his own true goals in life, unclouded by the fog of drugs.

The Church of Scientology will continue to expose those who would betray their fellow man for the personal profit to be had in peddling drugs. The Church is committed to freedom for the individual, and freedom from drugs must be part of this.

For further information, call: Toll-Free 1-800-367-8788

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