—'They're talking!'

Continued from page 1

Fountain be given back their privileges at the hospital.

"Although we did not come up with specific proposals in this meeting, we had a somewhat friendly dialogue and that could lead to more progress at the next meeting." Dr. Ray expects another meeting to be convened in the next two weeks.

Somewhat less enthusiastic about the meeting was Dr. Ernest O. Brown. "The meeting was the most productive that has occurred, but none of the medical staff has a new opinion. The president and the board took no new stand either," said Dr. Brown.

He added, "We have no confidence in the president and the board of trustees. In order for things to turn around there has to be a new president and a new board.

"Since the board can number up to 35 persons and there are presently only 16 on the board, the other 19 places can be filled by qualified persons who would add balance to the board. This is the only way that the hospital can forge ahead."

Dr. Brown also added that he would support nearly any proposal to save the hospital that included the removal of Dr. Saunders.

Dr. Saunders when contacted by the AFRO would not respond due to a participants' agreement not to speak with the press.

Rev. Harold Dobson, Co-chairman of the meeting, expressed optimism for a settlement of the dispute and of the hospital's financial woes.

"We had people talking to each other and that was a positive sign. They're going to compromise with each other. They have to. Their livelihoods are at stake. Doctors spend a lot of time getting their MDs and they can not be easily absorbed into other hospitals."

"They conversed back and forth. Previously they only talked at each other through the media, instead of talking to each other. The fact that they stayed five and a half hours is a good sign. As they talked I think that they realized that they really did not have any specifics," said Dobson.

He viewed the beginning of dialogue as clearing a big hurdle. "I'm optimistic," said Dobson, "because Provident has been under fire before. In 1973 the hospital was in trouble and the black community raised over $2 million to save it. I believe the hospital will survive this crisis too."

No followup meeting date has been set for the continuance of the dialogue.

—Farmer's Market

Continued from page 1

farm grown food items.

Concession stands to serve hot breakfast to those bargain conscience shoppers visiting the popular out-door downtown marketplace will also be on hand.

Food items produced by farmers from the Baltimore and Harford county areas are featured at the annual marketing event which will operate for the next several months.

"We truly want farmers who grow their own produce. We don't want people who go down to the farms and buy it. We want farmers who actually grow and pick their produce. We want to make sure it's truly home grown," said Brent Burkhardt, a public information officer with the Baltimore City Office of Promotion and Tourism which sponsors the yearly outdoor market.

The Baltimore Farmer's Market was founded in 1977 occupying its first site near the Community College of Baltimore's Harbor Campus.

Since that time the market has maintained several different downtown locations largely in the vicinity of Pratt and President streets, according to Burkhardt.

Its latest move was prompted less by the interference from expanding downtown development projects and more by a need for increased space and better shelter from the sun's rays which often hindered farmers, he said.

The current site will include some 51 farmers and four concessionaires. Annual rental fees for the outdoor booths are $75 each.

Participating farmers retain all proceeds from their sales, Burkhardt said.

There is currently a waiting list for new farmers interested in joining the outdoor marketplace event, he said.

—'China White' kills

Continued from page 1

tions of today's most sought after narcotics.

"These are drugs that are made to have the same effect as the real thing. They're modified by illegal chemists to be slightly different as a way to beat standing laws against controlled substances. As a result, last November, the president signed a bill that would allow drug authorities to treat these drugs and controlled substances with equal consideration.

"So, if we come across a drug that is 'new,' we can see that it is classified as a narcotic or controlled substance in a very short period of time, thus allowing us to treat guilty parties accordingly," O'Leary told the AFRO.

Unfortunately for heroin users, the presence of Sentanyl or "China White" means the constant threat of instant death. Detective Mark Smith said, "It's sad, but actually there's no warning that we can give to heroin users.

"China White" is almost indistinguishable when compared to real heroin. Only a chemist can tell the difference. What happened in D.C. could happen here or anywhere. The only way to be safe is to not use the stuff at all."

—Court rejects

Continued from page 1

his office door and "to restore all office privileges, files and personal belongings returned.

To follow is a statement from Dr. Banks' attorney, A. Dwight Pettit:

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia abstained from issuing an injunction in the matter of BANKS v THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRO-AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY.

By Order of May 23, 1985, The Court, while not ruling on the merits of Dr. Banks' action or the legality of his removal indicated that due to the fact that Dr. Banks was not an employee, thus not losing income, the fact that the administrative director has the responsibility for the day to day administrative duties and finally that there was an upcoming meeting and election where this matter might be resolved internally, that the court would not intervene by injunctive relief.

Further it should be noted that the court did make a finding of fact that the so called "polling" was "no more than simple notification of the action taken by the Executive Council."

Thus there has still been no showing or ruling that Dr. Banks has been legally removed from office.

—Squeegee kids

Continued from page 1

parts and which spawned charges of racism and discrimination among the city population, was mended.

What also resulted were proposals for solutions to the controversy which received the unanimous backing of the full Council body on Tuesday night.

"The bill would have passed anyway eleven to seven and that's what people need to understand. All of the black members could have refused to compromise and we would have ended up with nothing," said Fourth District Councilman Kweisi Mfume in defending Tuesday's vote.

So what did each side really get in this strange split decision outcome?

On the one hand, the eleven white council representatives who voted in favor of the original bill to make it illegal to steal into traffic to wash car windows for quarters along busy city intersections got just that.

Squeegee kids will no longer be able to stand on corners waiting for rush hour motorists at their own discretion, once final passage of the bill occurs on Monday.

On the other hand, the seven dissident council officials, who were black, and who each argued in support of the embattled youths for a variety of reasons, managed to secure a few key concessions.

"The burden of doing something with the kids fell on the Council and by it being in the main black kids it was a hard political blow to black council officials," said City Council President Clarence H. "Du" Burns.

But Tuesday's amendment proposals, drafted by a special three-member task force appointed by Mayor William D. Schaefer to intercede in the heated dispute and make some kind of conciliatory recommendations, signaled a margin of victory for the seven who opposed the original bill.

Firstly, the task force, comprised of Baltimore City Police Commissioner Bishop L. Robinson, City Solicitor Benjamin L. Brown and Mary Ann Willen, Director of the Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice, agreed to decriminalize the legal penalties for violators of the pedestrian law.

Persons now caught impeding the traffic flow will be subject to the issuance of a police citation and a possible $50 fine.

The original bill called for the imposition of a $100 fine with the possibility for arrest.

The task force amendments also advise that police be first required to urge persons to "cease and desist" from any unlawful activity before implementing any legal penalty.

Juveniles are to be remanded to the custody of their parents or guardian and deferred to a special rehabilitation program operated by the police department, according to the new amendments.

An added incentive for the squeegee kids will come with the proposed establishment of a Youth In Business program under the auspices of the Neighborhood Progress Administration to create a training program for city youngsters to provide them with supervised employment opportunities.

The program will also encourage community organizations to identify special "squeegee stations" within their respective communities where the practice can be done legally and with the necessary adult supervision.

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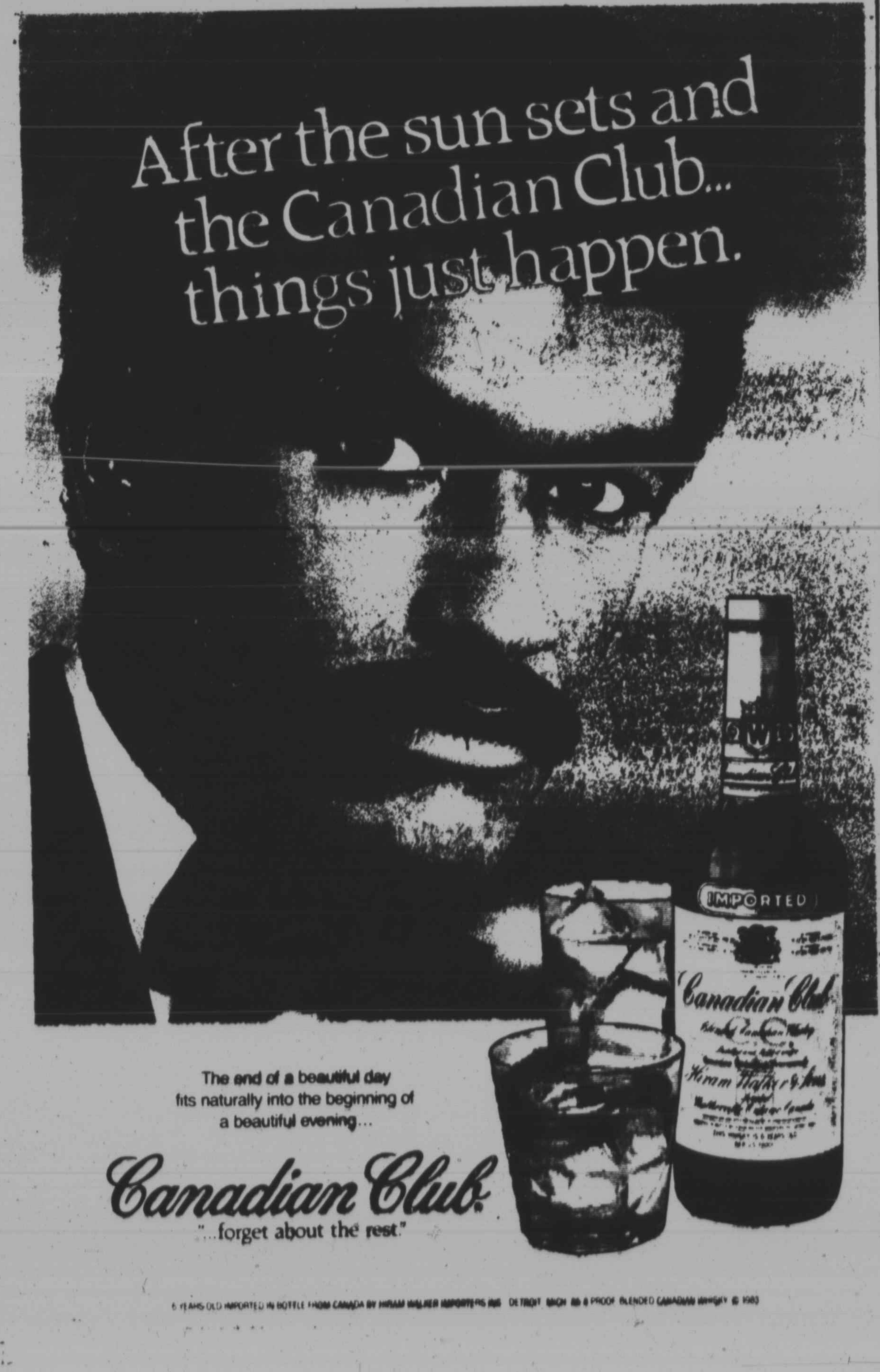

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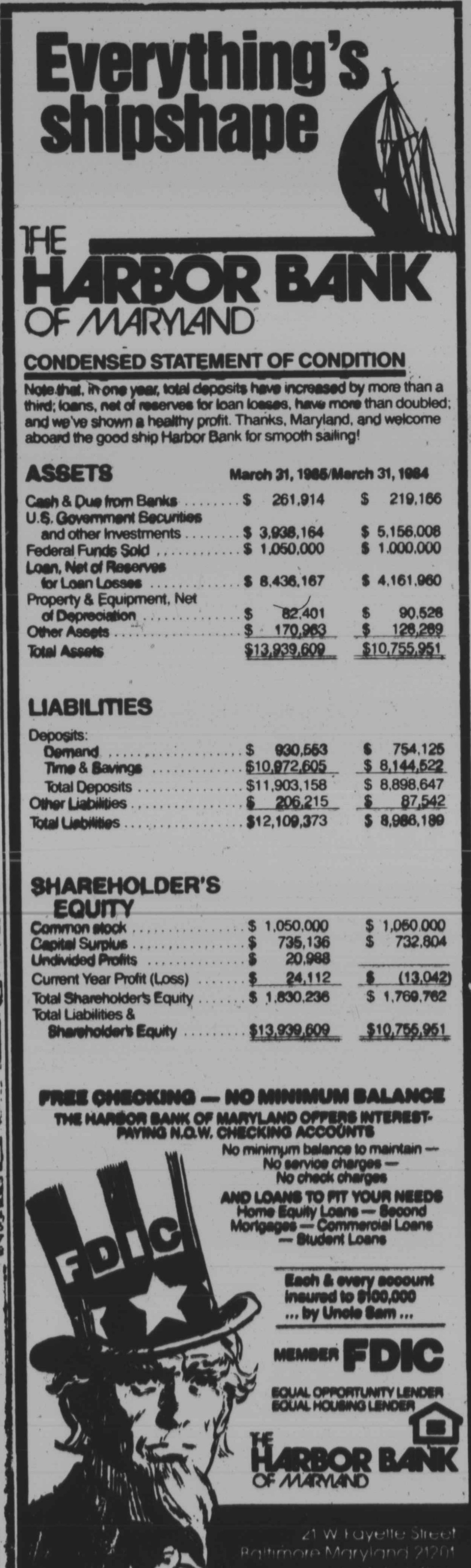

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Cash & Due from Banks	$ 261,914	$ 219,166
U.S. Government Securities and other Investments	$ 3,938,164	$ 5,156,008
Federal Funds Sold	$ 1,050,000	$ 1,000,000
Loan, Net of Reserves for Loan Losses	$ 8,436,167	$ 4,161,960
Property & Equipment, Net of Depreciation	$ 82,401	$ 90,528
Other Assets	$ 170,963	$ 128,289
Total Assets	$13,939,609	$10,755,951
LIABILITIES		
Deposits:		
Demand	$ 930,553	$ 754,125
Time & Savings	$10,972,605	$ 8,144,522
Total Deposits	$11,903,158	$ 8,898,647
Other Liabilities	$ 206,215	$ 87,542
Total Liabilities	$12,109,373	$ 8,986,189
SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY		
Common stock	$ 1,050,000	$ 1,050,000
Capital Surplus	$ 735,136	$ 732,804
Undivided Profits	$ 20,988	
Current Year Profit (Loss)	$ 24,112	$ (13,042)
Total Shareholder's Equity	$ 1,830,236	$ 1,769,762
Total Liabilities & Shareholder's Equity	$13,939,609	$10,755,951

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East Baltimore woman found innocent in lover's death

By Brion Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

After nearly two hours of deliberation last Friday (May 24), a 12-man city jury acquitted Norma Johnson, 25, 263 South Dallas Ct., in the stabbing death of her boyfriend, Ronald Cann, 36, on the morning of Jan. 15.

"Well, I guess this means that there's another killer on the loose in our city," said Detective David Hahn after the not guilty verdict was delivered.

The testimony of the defendant revealed the mysterious circumstances that led to the murder charge against Ms. Johnson.

According to Assistant State's Attorney Julius Sylvestri during interrogation, Ms. Johnson contradicted earlier statements made to detectives Hahn and Jerry Goldstein, that she awakened on the morning of Jan. 15 and found Cann lying near the kitchen with a stab wound to the heart.

Sylvestri, during cross-examination, charged Ms. Johnson with changing the story after concluding that it wouldn't hold up.

According to Sylvestri, Ms. Johnson later changed her story to say that at 10:20 that morning, Cann came into the apartment, woke her and said that he had been cut.

In her testimony, Ms. Johnson stated, "I woke up and saw the cut on his chest. It only looked like a scratch. I offered to call an ambulance, but he said he was OK, so I went back to sleep. It wasn't the first time that he'd been cut."

"So you're telling the jury that your boyfriend came in the house at 10:20 in the morning, showed you where he'd been stabbed in the heart, said he would be alright, and you roll over and go back to sleep? I find that hard to accept," stated Sylvestri.

"When Detectives Hahn and Goldstein came to the house, it seemed like they were trying to accuse me of killing my own boyfriend. They kept asking questions and trying to confuse me. They never told me I was a suspect," Ms. Johnson told the court.

The court later learned that Ms. Johnson had not been informed of her rights, or that her statements would be used against her as the state charged her with the murder of her lover whom she had dated for nine months.

"I was in a deep sleep after drinking beer. So when Ronald said he would be alright, I went right back to sleep," Ms. Johnson added.

"You didn't mention the valiums Ms. Johnson. How often do you use them?" asked Sylvestri.

"I hadn't used any in over two years, but that night I was extremely tired and I wanted to relax," Ms. Johnson replied.

"So you're telling the court that this was the first time in two years that you were so tired that you took valiums to relax?' asked Sylvestri.

"Many nights I've been tired," answered Ms. Johnson, "but it was the first time in two years that I had run across any."

Disputing the testimony of her next door neighbor and three year associate, Johnathan Scribber, Ms. Johnson denied that she and Cann had fought in the apartment on the evening prior to the discovery of his death.

"Ronald and I argued earlier that day because he had friends in the apartment shooting drugs. I didn't care if they used drugs or not. I just didn't want them shooting up in MY house!" said Ms. Johnson.

"Sure, I was mad, but there was no fight about it," Ms. Johnson added.

Relying on the findings of State Medical Examiner Gregory Kaufman, that the victim died almost instantly from the three-inch carving knife wound to the heart, Sylvestri asserted, "This man did not come in from the cold to die. He was killed right in the dwelling where he was found. To dispute this you are saying that Dr. Kaufman, who has performed over 3,000 autopsies, doesn't know what he's talking about."

"You don't have to accept Dr. Kaufman's findings as facts. He's a witness for the state," said Defense Attorney Sally Chester.

"My client was badgered and brow-beaten by the police. Ms. Johnson showed no bruises or marks that would indicate that she had been in a fight. The police had no other suspects, and they didn't try to come up with any. Ronald Cann could have been rolled in the hallway before he entered the apartment, but the state wants to convict his girlfriend of murdering him. The person who killed Ronald Cann is still out there on the street. The fact of the matter is that there is just too many gaps in this puzzle to convict my client of Cann's murder," Attorney Chester said in her closing argument.

The deceased's family and friends left the downtown courtroom cursing and weeping after the "not guilty" verdict had been delivered.

"It's a damn shame," said one family member as they boarded the elevator.

Detective Hahn said, "I still have to go along with Dr. Kaufman. It's hard to believe that she had talked to the man at 10:20 that morning. When I got there at 11:50, rigor mortis had set in. I touched him . . . he felt like a piece of concrete. He must have been dead for at least five hours."

Three inducted into Women's hall of fame

The Baltimore City Commission for Women is pleased to announce the names of the three women chosen to be the first inductees into the Baltimore City Commission for Women Hall of Fame.

The three notable women are Juanita Jackson Mitchell; Jeannette Wolman and Dr. Harriett Guild. They are being honored for their nunumerous contributions to the Community and society.

On Wednesday, June 12, 1985, from 5 until 7:30 p.m., at the Belvedere Hotel, Charles and Chase Streets, The Baltimore City Commission for Women will host a Cocktail/Reception to honor these women. Tickets are priced at $20.00 per person.

Tickets to the Cocktail/Reception may be purchased from a Commissioner or by telephoning the Baltimore City Commission for Women offices at (301) 394-4274.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

INTENTION TO INCREASE TAX RATE ABOVE CONSTANT YIELD TAX REBATE

In compilance with and pursuant to the provisions of Article 81, Section 232C of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The **CITY COUNCIL OF BAITIMORE, MARYLAND** will hold a public hearing of its intention to increase the property tax rate for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1985 **above the constant yield tax rate.** The constant yield rate is designed to product for a local government at the same amount of property tax revenues as in the previous tax year.

The hearing will take place at:
7:00 P.M.
Monday, June 10, 1985
War Memorial Building
Gay and Fayette Streets

At that time, the **CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND** will hear comments regarding any tax rate increase and explain the reasons for any proposed in increase.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend this hearing and present their views.

CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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