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- AFRO CLEAN BLOCK — Sign up your block today! See page 7.
- BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS REVIEW — MEAC and GIT tournament news
- FRIDAY PLUS announces the winners of the "Win A Chance To Rap" contest
- LOTTERY — Page 16.

Rev. Blackmon murder suspect arrested

(See Column 1)

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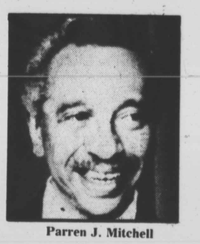
LATE CITY EDITION

Baltimore American

94th Year No. 84 BALTIMORE, MD MAY 31, 1986 50 CENTS



Steven Sachs



Parren J. Mitchell

Sachs and Mitchell, is a linkup coming?

By Racine S. Winborne

Has Rep. Parren J. Mitchell emerged as the leading figure to fill the Number Two spot on Steve Sach's gubernatorial ticket in the Sept. 9 Democratic primary?

Usually reliable sources have reported exclusively to the AFRO that the senior member of the Maryland delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives has been approached about running for lieutenant governor.

On Wednesday, the congressman chuckled when questioned about the news, telling the interviewer to attend a Monday morning press conference at his Bloomingdale Road district offices on June 2 for any further information.

Organizers over at the Sachs for Governor campaign headquarters provided little additional details though a senior spokesperson admitted that discussion about possible running mates were underway.

"I guess rumors are running rampant but I have no comment right now," said Deputy Campaign Manager Jeff Risberg.

One source who asked not to be identified acknowledged that the congressman is a leading candidate.

Sachs' Baltimore City Campaign Coordinator Larry Gibson told the AFRO on Wednesday that there were no "contenders" and said he believed that whomever the candidate's running mate emerged to be he or she would be the first and only choice.

He added, "I believe the entire community will be pleased with Steve's choice of a running mate." Asked if Cong. Mitchell's name has been mentioned, Gibson said he could not comment at the moment.

Gibson did say that the selection process is moving ahead "quite satisfactorily" and hinted that some kind of announcement might be made in less than two weeks.

The filing deadline for all candidates running in the fall primary elections is June 30.

Provident Hospital merger must happen today—or else!

By R. B. Jones

As a state deadline for a merger between Provident Hospital and another health care institution draws near, frantic efforts are underway to sign an agreement by May 31 (D-day).

According to informed sources, merger proposals between Provident and GBMC (Greater Baltimore Medical Center) and Provident and Lutheran Hospital are on the table and are being weighed carefully.

Unless Provident merges with one of the two institutions by tomorrow (Saturday), the troubled hospital will lose a state loan of $2.5 million. This in turn, will cause the hospital to lose a city loan of a million dollars that is contingent on the state aid.

Lutheran has been suggested as a possible merger partner with Provident since a state-sponsored consultant's study suggested that over 2,500 hospital beds be eliminated in the state in 1985.

Both Provident and Lutheran serve a west Baltimore population that is predominately black. One of the points of contention in the merger talks between the two institutions is the use of the name Provident.

According to AFRO sources, Lutheran officials are insistent on dropping the name Provident Hospital for marketing reasons.

Sources also indicate that Lutheran officials are willing for Provident to have a black controlled board and continue to have black department heads.

The problem as the Lutheran officials see it, is the negative image associated with the present name Provident and the marketing problems that could ensue.

Another point of contention in the negotiations between Provident and Lutheran, is a demand on the part of some black people involved in the negotiations that the Lutheran Church not become the owners of the hospital.

Sources indicate that GBMC also has a strong proposal under consideration but there are misgivings about that merger because Hospital Workers Union 1199E is very strong at Provident Hospital and GBMC in the eyes of 1199 E and other observers attempted to break the union in a strike two years ago.

A person close to the negotiations, who did not want to be named, believed that Lutheran was in the stronger negotiating position for a possible merger with Provident.

Whatever institution Provident merges with will most likely have to allow the hospital to retain a measure of black control due to the more than 90 years of service Provident Hospital has rendered to the black community and its historic role as an employer as well as a healer.



AFRO Photo by Paris Gray

Two clean-up crew members at work removing trash and furniture from the lot behind the 1400 block of West Lafayette Ave. As reported in last Friday's AFRO, the lot, which is enclosed by the 1400 block of West Lafayette Ave. Calhoun, Mosher, and Stricker Streets.

The AFRO story got results, cleanup underway promptly

By Brion M. Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

A clean-up crew, equipped with truck and steam shovel, showed up Tuesday morning at the lot behind the home of Mrs. Nellie Sanders in the 1400 block Lafayette Ave. And when they did an elated Mrs. Sanders phoned the AFRO to say, "They're here! They're here right now, Thank you very much!"

The lot, which is enclosed by houses in the 1400 block Lafayette Ave., Calhoun, Mosher, and Stricker Sts., was an eyesore in the West Baltimore neighborhood and was the concern of an article that appeared in the AFRO last Friday.

After the article appeared, City Councilman Nathaniel McFadden phoned the AFRO requesting the exact address and location of the lot.

On Tuesday morning McFadden phoned the AFRO and said that he initiated the clean-up through the Urban Services Commission, an organization which he chairs.

"Yes, I got them on it right away. We have the manpower to handle problems like these if we're made aware. Apparently this situation accumulated over a period of time. The Urban Services Commission tries to stay on top of situations like these. This was just one that slipped through the cracks, but we're on top of it now," McFadden said.

Residents, and Mrs. Sanders in particular, were complaining about the lot and the unsanitary conditions it created for the neighborhood.

Aside from being a haven for rodents and other animals, Mrs. Sanders complained that the lot prevented her and her husband, both retired city workers, from fully enjoying their home.

"Because of the weeds, flying bugs, and dust created by the lot, we would never sit out on our back porch or in the back yard like other folks. It was just too much," Mrs. Sanders told the AFRO.

"But now, we should be able to sit back there some of the time. It's warm now and it gets hot in the house sometime you know," she added.

The lot, according to residents of that community, went uncleaned for over a year. It was the site where families who moved out of the neighborhood left unwanted furniture and other former belongings.

At night, residents complained, that rats and mice would hide inside of tires and the abandoned furniture on the lot. So much trash had accumulated there that

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News American says 'so long Baltimore'

By LaMont X. Curry
AFRO Staff Writer

One person said that the closing of the Baltimore News American marks the end of an era, another said that it should have closed years ago.

The News American was one of two afternoon newspapers here whose last edition, May 27, marked the end of a 213 year tradition.

The Hearst Corporation, which owns The News-American, had been trying to sell the newspaper since last fall. Unidentified sources reported that the paper has been unprofitable for years. It lost $8 million in 1985, the source reportedly said.

Ralph Brown, 49, MTA driver, said that he used to read the News American until it was reduced to "I don't know what you would call it — it was so concise.

"I can sympathize with the people who lost their jobs but that's it.

Mrs. Ethel Brown, 79, said that she's always used the News American.

"I remember when it was the News Post. I'll miss it.

"I've never used the Sun because the News American has always contained more interesting approaches to stories," she said. Charlotte Gough, 75, agreed.

"I will miss it. I enjoyed reading it all of my life..." she said.

Wiley Rowe, 72, said that he

Continued on page 2

Suspect arrested in Rev. Blackmon murder

By Brion M. Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

An 18-year-old Randallstown youth was arrested Tuesday night and charged with the murder of the Rev. Franklin Curtis Blackmon on May 17.

The youth, Robert Emanuel Williams, was arrested and charged with the crime after neighbors of the late Rev. Blackmon identified him as running from the area shortly after the break-in and shooting.

He was arrested at his home in the 8500 block of Glen Michael Lane at about 8 p.m. After his arrest he was transported to the Baltimore County Detention Center where he is being held without bail, per District Judge Patricia Pytash.

Williams, who was born in Trinidad, has been charged with first-degree murder and burglary. He was a plumber-trainee at the Woodstock Job Corp Center. Administrators there phoned the AFRO when Williams didn't return Wednesday and they learned that he was charged with the May 17 crime.

Baltimore County Police spokesperson, Sgt. Brian Uppercue told the AFRO, "We have several witnesses who say they saw him; otherwise we wouldn't have charged him with the crime."

Sgt. Uppercue said that county police arrived at young Williams as a suspect, through information given during interviews with neighbors and other area residents.

"Several witnesses told police that they saw him fleeing the area shortly after the crime was committed. Otherwise we wouldn't have charged him," Uppercue said.

However Uppercue added, "We believe that Williams wasn't working alone, therefore our investigation is continuing."

Uproar over policies at Mergenthaler Tech

By Rosalyn M. Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

Policies implemented by the chief administrator of a city-wide high school have been labeled "unfair" and may be creating frustration among teachers and students, according to charges leveled by two faculty members.

Charles Dugger and Mrs. Charlotte Wortham, both faculty members of the Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School, allege that the school is being run like a police state and the attendance policy, which fails a student after six unlawful absences within one quarter is grossly unfair.

According to documents presented to the AFRO, it is the school's policy that homeroom begins at 8 a.m. and students arriving after 8:10 are considered absent for the day, but may attend classes.

Said Charles Dugger, an English teacher at Mervo, "Anytime an administration cares more about policy than the welfare of the student, they don't need to be in the school system. This administration is insensitive to the real needs of the kids. Teachers are required by the principal to fail students, who would have otherwise passed because of the lateness policy."

However, the principal, Dr. John Nauright, said that since the policy has been in force, there has been a 90 percent improvement in punctuality at the school.

"The charge of this school is to ready students to enter the work world. The major feedback from employers of city high school students is that they have poorly developed habits of punctuality and attendance. Even if we turn out a good student, who has succeeded academically, if he still has bad habits like lateness when he enters the work world,

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POLITICS '86

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Political Writer

OOPS . . . For the record, the correct spelling of Rep. Barbara Mikulski's name is B-A-R-B-A-R-A- M-I-K-U-L-S-K-I and it wasn't our mistake!!!

• • •

SECO/SDI — The Southeast Community Organization and Southeast Development, Inc. will host a candidates' night for governor and the U.S. Senate on May 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Scheduled to appear on that night are Attorney General Steve Sachs and Mayor William D. Schaefer, both candidates for governor, and for the U.S. Senate, Rep. Michael Barnes, Gov. Harry Hughes, Baltimore County Executive Donald Hutchinson, A. Robert Kaufman, Rep. Barbara Mikulski and Linda Chavez.

SECO/SDI will hold the political forum inside the auditorium of School No. 27, at the corner of Fayette and Chester Streets.

• • •

HELP! — Who is Jake Moborovic and for what is he or she running?

• • •

ANNIE DECIDES TO TRY AGAIN — Social activist Annie Chambers, an unsuccessful candidate for the Baltimore City Council in 1983, says she will run for the House of Delegates in the 44th Legislative District.

That announcement was scheduled to take place on Thursday from her official campaign headquarters at 2634 N. Charles St.

True to her work, Ms. Chambers has dubbed her campaign "The Campaign for Poor and Working People" and says she is determined to unearth the funds which she feels are available throughout the state to provide quality education, decent housing, and jobs for all people.

She serves as president of Operation Life, a welfare rights advocacy organization, is a former member of the Southeast Community Organization (SECO), and organized the first public housing rent strike in O'Donnell Heights.

• • •

WE WERE RIGHT — That rumor is circulating once again that Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. will run for Congress if his brother, Michael, will try to take over as the senior [illegible] the 20th, headed for Annapolis and the next Maryland

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MAY 1986