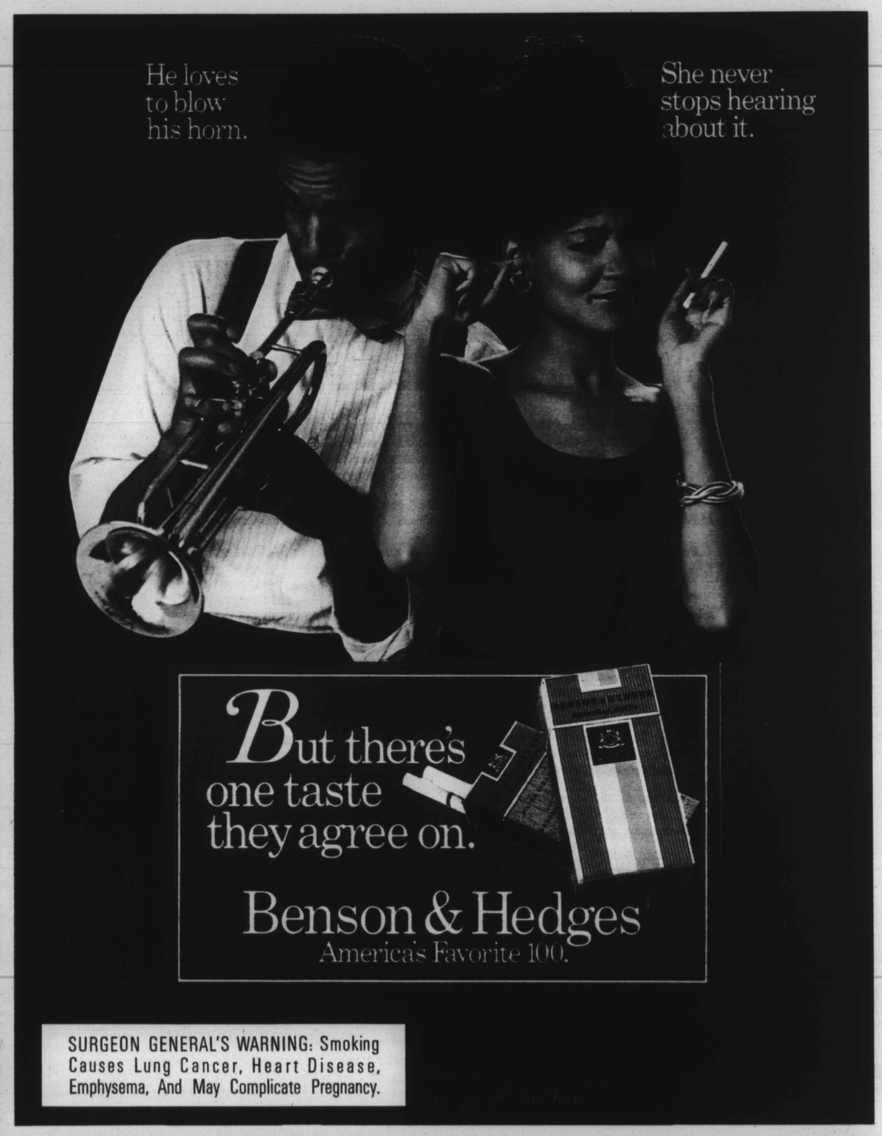

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Dr. Rhetta's body is still unclaimed

(See Col. 1)

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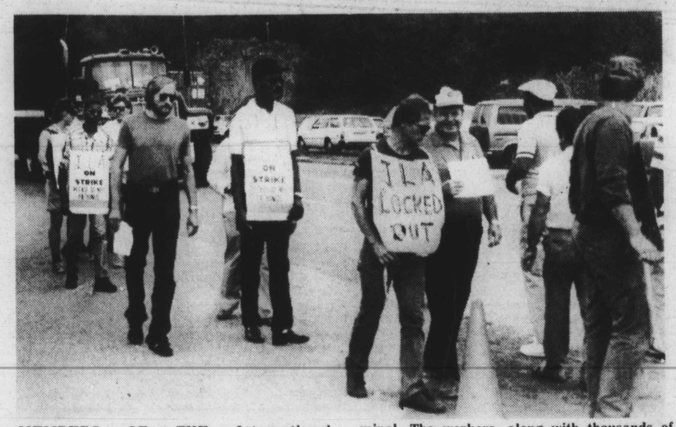

MEMBERS OF THE International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 333 in Baltimore display picket signs during a demonstration Thursday at Dundalk Marine Terminal. The workers, along with thousands of longshoremen on the East Coast, are striking because of what they see as an unacceptable contract proposal by dock employers.

BALTIMORE LONGSHOREMEN:

'We were locked out!'

By Manotti L. Jenkins

Baltimore's 3,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) discontinued work at local ports Wednesday as a result of unresolved conflicts with waterfront management, but the black president of ILA Local 333 argued that local media have not reported the story correctly.

According to union local president, Edward Howell, media reports on the dispute give the impression that the workers took the primary initiative to halt the loading of cargo ships in Baltimore, and in 11 other ports on the East Coast, but the management was the culprit.

"They're saying it is a strike," said Howell, "but they (management) locked us out." He added that the terms presented by management for a new contract for the workers was totally unacceptable.

"They said to us that you have to work for what we want you to work for or you can't work at all," Howell continued. "We're always willing to help the port . . . we don't intend to hurt the port or the state of Maryland.

"All we want to do is get a fair contract and go back to work."

The dispute is centered around a decision by port employers to incorp-orate a two - level wage system, wherein longshoremen who handle containerized cargo would continue to be paid $17 an hour, while workers handling conventional cargo would have their pay decreased to $14 an hour.

Additionally, management wants to eliminate a 20 - year - old guaranteed annual income agreement to the longshoremen with the Council of North Atlantic Shipping Associations (CONASA), which represents the employers in several ports, is that it must compete with the wage structures approved by the ILA in ports in the southern region of the country.

Local longshoremen argue that it is not fair for management to use the wage decision in southern ports as a measuring stick because the standards of living in the South is lower than in Baltimore.

The pay cut would mean that many longshoremen could see

Continued on page 2

Noted doctor's death shrouded in mystery

Rhetta's body still unclaimed

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

A supervisor in the District's medical examiner's office has said if the body of Dr. Barnett Rhetta isn't claimed after a month, the noted physician might end up as a cadaver in a medical school, or he might be cremated.

The former, perhaps, next to a malpractice suit, may very well be every physician's nightmare.

That end yet lies in the distant future as Rhetta lies -- three weeks after his death -- in the Howard University Hospital morgue.

A prominent Baltimore physician, Rhetta died Sept. 12, the victim of an apparent heart attack.

Continued on page 2

Frank Reddish final rites held Tuesday

The bereaved widow, Mrs. Evelyn Reddish, is supported by her son, Dexter Reddish to her left and Leroy Dyett, who handled the funeral arrangements, on her right.

By Roz Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

Strains of pipe organ music and quiet whisperings floated through the sanctuary of Mount Zion United Methodist. Through the open windows, a light breeze stirred and a steady stream of traffic whizzed by on Liberty Heights Ave.

A somber, restrained mood hung in the air as members of Frank Theodore Reddish's family silently filed past his open casket to tearfully pay their last respects to the man affectionately known by many as, "Uncle Frank."

Elaborate flower arrangements were lined up in front of the altar, stretching from one side of the church to the other and a spray of white mums and blue ribbon adorned the top of the casket.

The heaviness lifted somewhat as the Rev. John C. Warren pronounced from the pulpit, "Happy

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POLITICS '86

Tragedy in the 42nd

SHIRLEY PULLIAM — Finished fourth.

HELENA HICKS — District splitter?

By P. A. Tatum,
AFRO Staff Writer

It was an opportunity missed — the chance to elect a black delegate to a historically white - represented district. Something went awry.

Several factors seem to have figured into no black candidates winning the Democratic primary in the 42nd Legislative District in Baltimore's northwest section.

Consider that four blacks ran even though it was widely recognized the district had enough black votes to elect only one of them.

Consider also a state senate race of vital interest to the district's heavy voting Jewish community which came out in even larger numbers than usual.

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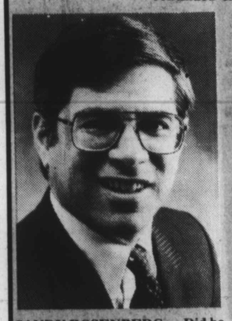

SANDY ROSENBERG — Did he deliver?

LARRY GRAY — Can a Republican win?

Who will coach O's: Robinson or Ripken?

By Sam Lacy

The big question at the moment is who will be named to succeed the retired Earl Weaver as manager of the Orioles.

Will it be Cal Ripken Sr., or Frank Robinson?

From all indications, these appear to be the only serious candidates for the job.

But the answer to today's question may lead to another tomorrow; one that could be equally as big from a psychological standpoint.

How will the choice of Robinson affect the relationship with Ripken and the other coaches? And what about the chemistry of the team?

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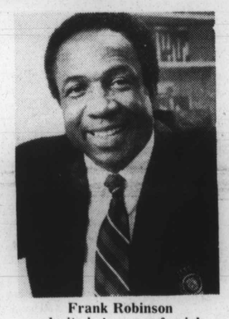

Frank Robinson admits he's eager for job

Kids squabble and everybody is a loser

By Roz Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

A childish squabble over a skateboard, between one eight-year-old boy and a nine-year-old boy, became a police affair — that is, after their parents got wind of it, last Sunday.

While the two children fought, the nine-year-old white child was allegedly bitten on the thumb, kicked in the neck and hit in the face by the other child, who was black, according to police.

But the eight-year old told the AFRO, "Everyday he messes with me and picks on me. When we fought, he told me, your a ---- is grass," he said.

Police, mistakenly summoned to an aggravated assault, by the nine year old's irate mother, took the eight-year-old into custody.

While the officer was there, he couldn't hear dispatch call him because the parents of both children were arguing so furiously.

As a result, backups were sent to Northern Baltimore neighborhood to apprehend the eight-year-old, whose mother was not allowed to accompany her son to the station because she was behaving in such an argumentative way, police said.

"Normally, it is not our policy to let people ride in the car, but in the case of juveniles, this rule is not strictly enforced, however

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Exit ramp closes

The State Highway Administration will close the exit ramp from the inner loop of I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) to southbound Jones Falls Expressway. The ramp will be closed from Friday, October 3 at 10:00 p.m. until the morning of Sunday, October 5 so the deck of the bridge can be resurfaced.

A detour will reroute traffic to the next exit. Motorists are advised to obey all traffic signs, stay alert and to drive gently.

Mom and grandmom in school too

Innovative program underway

By Paula J. Wagner

The Tench Tilghman Elementary School, located in southeast Baltimore, is fighting adult illiteracy in the community.

Each Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., parents and grandparents sit in their established area on the second floor of the school, next to the fourth and fifth graders, and try to recapture the basics missed years ago.

Parents are coached in basic arithmetic, reading and writing skills. Following their graduation from this program, they will be encouraged to enter the GED program, also housed at Tench Tilghman.

Some of the 20 listed parents in the program admitted to have been involved with other GED programs, but they found their curriculum too advanced.

Parents also said that they found the morning hours convenient because they didn't have to concern themselves with babysitters and were secure about their children's well-being.

School officials conceded they had hoped to attract more parents, but they were happy with the 20 who registered. A total of 35 parents showed interest but only 20 parents are involved.

Lucretia Coates, coordinator of the Basic Skill Program, as it is called, said, the lack of parental education is affecting

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Instructor Arthur Scribner from the Adult Education Office teaches parents in the Basic Skill Program at Tench Tilghman Elementary School in southeast Baltimore.

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