Few at Crosse headquarters

By Manotti L. Jenkins
AFRO Staff Writer

If you sought refuge from the cold and rainy atmosphere outside election night, then the headquarters of Seventh Congressional District Republican candidate, the Rev. St. George Crosse, was definitely not the place to come.

Because the temperature in the small Park Heights Ave. facility succintly depicted the overall mood inside: cold and uncomfortable.

The 30 or so supporters at the headquarters--at least half were children under age 12--kept their coats on the entire time, as they reluctantly awaited the election returns.

The only noises that could be heard were the sounds of the color television set in the room and the laughter and "rap" music played by the youth.

As the candidate walked in at 8:30 p.m., clad in a black three-piece suit, he jovially asked, "How is everybody?"

As the handful of supporters snacked on sandwiches, chicken and punch the AFRO questioned many of them regarding their candidate's chances for a victory.

With no results from the race in yet at 8:45 p.m., one supporter said, "Well, this campaign brought some good people together to work with it, so in that respect, I guess he's a winner."

Still before any returns had been broadcast, Crosse called his people to a certain section of the room at 9:10 p.m. for a "pep talk." He didn't seem very optimistic either.

"We cannot count anybody out yet. We made a better showing...we might have won, I don't know yet," he uttered.

At 10:00 p.m., the candidate appeared on Channel 2's election coverage where one panelist on the program questioned the "fairness" of his campaign.

Crosse, with 32 percent of the precincts reporting a substantial lead for his opponent, refused to concede defeat.

But at 10:37 p.m., with 77 percent of the precincts reporting Mfume with 85 percent of the vote, Crosse's supporters seemed to concede for him, as they began cleaning up and bidding their farewells.

"If the people of the (seventh) district have spoken, I will work with Kweisi...and bring him all the expertise that I have," Crosse said to the AFRO.

He concluded, "I was running a campaign against the media. The media ran a campaign against me...including the AFRO with its innuendos, it's cartoons and its lies."

—Fire area residents

Continued from page 1

The man, who wished not to be named, said he had no utility services and was not allowed in his rented home in the 800 block of Washington Blvd. by police officers who had the area blocked off.

At the time of the AFRO's visit, only two shelter residents were available. Others were not back from their jobs and many had gone to the Marriott Hotel, downtown, which donated bathroom facilities to the fire victims.

In one of the 20 or so cots packed tightly in a rear room of the church basement, a child, approximately six continuously banged his head on his pillow as he slept.

One of the Red Cross staffers, Mrs. Gloria Friedline, said 'It affects the children more than people realize when there's a fire like this.'

Mrs. Friedline also said the shelter would be opened as long as possible.

Captain Flynn said the cause of the nine-alarm fire that forced an initial evacuation of 150 people before it was brought under control early Wednesday, was still being investigated.

It is termed 'suspicious,' Captain Flynn also said and federal investigators are being called in to help with the investigation of the fire that had caused an estimated $10 million in damages.

The fire destroyed two warehouse belonging to Harbor Ironworks Building and Maryland Overpak companies. According to Captain Flynn three private homes were severely damaged.

Solomon said many people preferred to remain in their homes despite the lack of utilities because they were afraid of break-ins and theft of their property.

Any one wishing to send donations to aid fire victims are being asked to contact the Red Cross headquarters at 2701 N. Charles St. or contact Catherine Stark at the Urban Services Agency, 904 Washington Blvd.

—Parks Sausage

Continued from page 1

Haysbert, Sr., said the resolution was particularly important for the company because the strike cost it about $32,000 a day.

According to Reginald Haysbert, vice-president for Human Relations, the relatively quick agreement can be attributed to the company's good relationship with its employees.

"We look forward to working successfully with all our employees for the next three years," he commented.

New NAACP head

The Rev. John L. Wright, pastor of First Baptist Church of Guilford in Columbia, MD is the new president of the Maryland State Conference of NAACP Branches, Youth Councils and College Chapters.

The Rev. Wright, formerly the Howard County Branch president, was elected during the group's 46th Annual State Convention recently in Hagerstown.

He succeeds Nathaniel K. Smith, who served as president for 11 years and did not seek reelection. Rev. Wright defeated incumbent executive vice-president Constance Y. Brown and Baltimore County president James Pennington.

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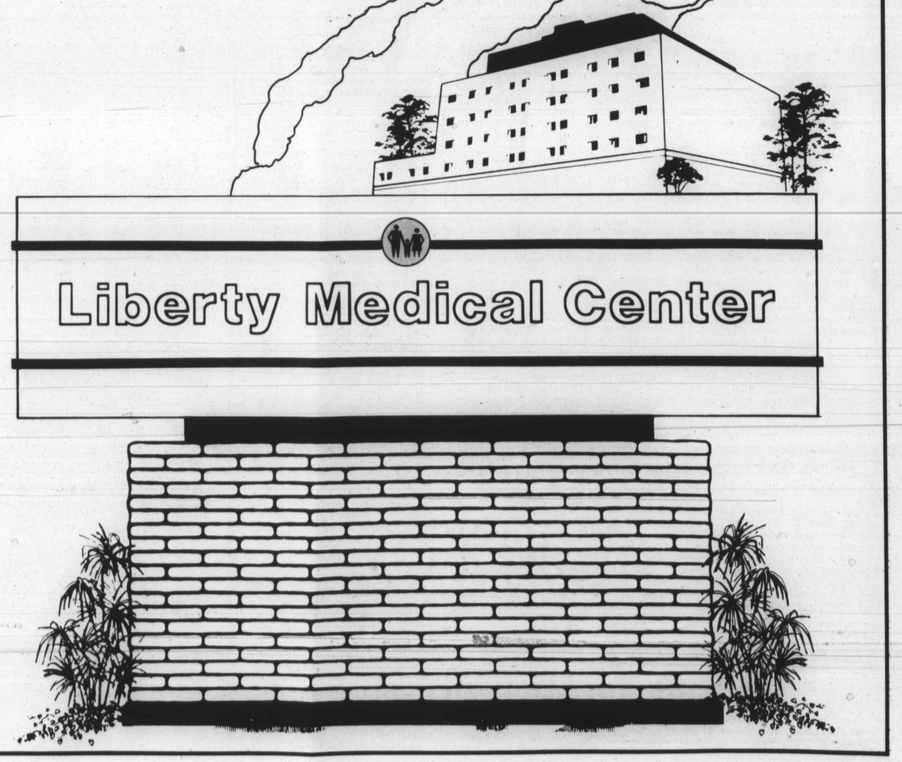

Dropout rate high for youths in zones 13,15,18,23,29

By Paula Wagner
AFRO Staff Writer

If you are a parent of a 16-year-old, live in zones 13, 15, 18, 23 and 29 you have a 40 percent chance of not seeing your child graduate from high school, according to recent studies done by the Office of Alternative Education.

Studies show that the danger period for school drop-outs occurs during the ninth and tenth grades when students become sixteen years old and have the legal option to choose to go to school or not.

Experts are not sure what to do, only that this is a critical period and something must be done to address the problem.

Northern High School principal, Mrs. Betty Edmonds, said the law that dictates a 16-year-old has the option to choose if he or she wants to go to school is a contributing factor to the grave drop-out rate in city schools, and the law should be eliminated.

"We tell them education is lifelong," Mrs. Edmonds said. "We teach them to be citizens; we teach them to do what they need to do ... and kids want to give it (not going to school) a try..."

She also attributes part of the drop-out problem in Baltimore city schools to the system's emphasis on "specialized" schools.

With the major drop-out problem occurring in the so-called comprehensive or "zoned" schools, Mrs. Edmonds posed two questions: "How would you feel if at the eighth grade you weren't 'good' enough to go to one of the top nine schools? What incentive would that give you to go to school?"

"When the girl student sued to go to Poly in 1974, that's when they (the school system) should have stopped all this specialization," Mrs. Edmonds exclaimed. "Instead they expanded..."

Craig Cutter, director of planning for the city schools, said "Youngsters are more able students with higher interest in education." Entrance criteria is required and students are expected to have above average academic achievement and good attendance.

Betty Edmonds said many of those children in zoned schools are from the same background and share the same characteristic (low income, black, family situation, etc.) as those in specialized schools.

Recent study done by the Office of Alternative Education showed a projected overall figure of a 40 percent drop-out rate in the Baltimore city schools.

According to Irene Williams, associate in charge of the drop-out project, Baltimore is on the level with most urban centers that have an average of 50 percent drop-outs.

A school study showed, in the 1984-85 school year, 6,244 or 11.5 percent of total Baltimore public school students dropped out of schools.

Zones 15, 17, 18, 13, 23 and 29 are cited to be the area for the highest drop-out rate in the city. Most of the support programs are targeted for these locations, according to Mrs. Williams.

Mrs. Williams said potential drop-outs can be recognized as early as in the kindergarten. Poor attendance, low self esteem and health problems are among the traits for students in this category, according to Mrs. Williams.

Early intervention and identification programs are currently being implemented to reach the potential problem at its early stages. Elementary school teachers will be trained how to show more sensitivity to students and will be given a list of sources for referral.

Also on the elementary level will be new guidance counsels, campaigns for more parental involvement, and an overall attempt to "change the school climate and make it more conducive," says Mrs. Williams.

Alternative schools for those students who feel they can't make it in the traditional setting have been created.

At present there are four such schools: Francis M. Woods, (reported to have had 110 student drop outs in 1984-85), Harbor City Learning Center, Harford Institute, that offers a more adult setting and Lawrence Paquin for pregnant teens.

Currently in four major middle schools is the Within School Suspension Centers that will demand the suspended student's presence in a special class, where behavior will be dealt with.

Being considered is the Pupil Retrieval Centers, where staff members will go after the drop-outs and potential drop-outs and place them into some educational setting for GED.

The Outward Bound Program will take troubled kids out into the wilderness, whereby it is believed he will learn about himself and how to handle his behavior.

Among the schools with grave drop-out rates are Southwestern with 530 drop-outs in 1984-85; Southern, 501; Frederick Douglass, 477 and Francis M. Wood, 110.

Child advocates criticize Montrose

(UPI) — Advocates for troubled youths and community organizations say they are disturbed by a state plan to convert the Montrose School for juvenile delinquents into a facility to help emotionally or physically disturbed youths.

The advocates criticized the plan to renovate the 100-year-old facility in Reisterstown, saying they feared it would lead to the kind of warehousing of children that currently is criticized at the school.

"I don't think that model treats people and rehabilitates people," said Donna Stark, executive director of Lighthouse Youth and Family Services, a youth services agency in Catonsville. "Our institutional history tells us it doesn't work. Aren't we replicating our own mistakes?"

The State Health Department hopes to revamp services for children and youths in an effort to catch children before they make their way into Maryland's juvenile justice system.

The department seeks to identify children who are at risk from infancy and track them through adolescence. It calls for a variety of preventive and rehabilitative services that would be available through schools and community mental health centers and would involve parents and families.

Montrose currently has 230 residents and has been criticized by an internal state memo, which recommended the school be closed.

But the department's new plan would continue to house youths there, where they would enter specialized treatment units for drug and alcohol abuse, sex offenses or behavior modification.

Jack Bevard, spokesman for Associated Catholic Charities, asked if the health department team had thought of any other ways to house juvenile offenders securely.

"If the land did not exist, if you didn't have the buildings, would you dream up this concept?" he asked.

As part of the plan the state would contract out certain services at Montrose, which would be renamed the "Hanover Complex."

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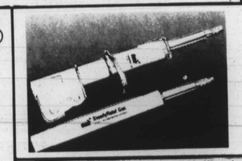

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