CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Money dispute leads wife to shoot husband

An argument about money took a dangerous turn for Adolph and Sarah Jackson of the 3400 block of West Northern Parkway as Sarah shot her 50-year-old husband and called the police to report the shooting.

When Officer Chris A. Wade arrived and knocked at the front door, he was met by Sarah who surrendered and said, "I did it, I did it. I shot him," according to police report.

"Where is the person you shot?" Officer Wade asked her. She told him that the victim, (her husband, Adolph) got into a van and drove himself to the hospital. The officer later learned, however, that Adolph was driven to the hospital by a witness.

Police report revealed that when the argument began early Friday morning, Adolph slapped Sarah, snatched up her car keys and ran downstairs. She followed him downstairs where the argument continued. The report quoted Sarah as saying, "You never want to give me any information. You're always hiding things from me. I'll find out myself."

At that time, she ran upstairs to the bedroom and got the gun and put it inside her robe pocket. Sarah then looked out of the window and saw her husband getting into the car. At that time he looked up at her and asked, "Did you find what you were looking for?"

The report said that the 45-year-old Sarah walked back downstairs, stood on the sidewalk, and as they began arguing again, she removed the gun from the holster, pointed it at her husband, and fired twice.

Apparently she missed, because her husband came towards her. She fired twice again, and this time she did not miss, as he fell to the ground, and yelled for someone to call for an ambulance. The report said that Adolph was shot to the left ear and to the chest.

A witness came out at that time, put him in the van, and took him to the Sinai Hospital, where he underwent surgery. He was listed in good condition.

Officer Wade's report showed that after the shooting, Sarah ran into the house, locked the door and called the police. She then went back upstairs, put the gun back in the holster, and laid it on the bed.

The gun was recovered by Officer Wade, and Sarah was arrested and charged with assault with intent to murder and handgun violations.

In another shooting incident, Ronald Bishop of the 900 block of N. Wolfe St. was killed Thursday morning, when an argument turned into a serious fight.

Police report showed that the 38-year-old Bishop, who was a carpenter was involved in an argument with Clarence S. Sommerville, 37, of the 900 block of Wilmont Ct. The argument, which started in Bishop's bedroom, was witnessed by Randolph T. King.

King, 43, told Officer Charles Gutberlet that the argument escalated into physical confrontation on a bed. While Bishop was on top of Sommerville, he picked up an electric iron, which he used to strike Sommerville on the head.

At that time, King got in between Sommerville and Bishop to break-up the fight. Then, all three individuals, Sommerville, Bishop and King walked downstairs. King began conversation with another witness, McKinnley Gray, 54, of the same 900 block of N. Wolfe St.

The report stated that approximately three minutes after coming downstairs, Bishop and Sommerville confronted one another again in a living room in the first floor. At this time, Sommerville, armed with a chrome plated revolver was observed shooting Bishop.

When police arrived, they found members of the Baltimore City Fire Dept. Medic No. 10 and engine Co. No. 24 administering aid to Bishop, who was lying by the front door of 908 N. Wolfe St. Bishop was rushed to the Johns Hopkins Hospital Emergency room, where he was later pronounced dead.

The police found Sommerville lying on the floor next to a bed, bleeding from a laceration to his head. He was taken from the scene of the incident to Church Hospital, where he is now being held for observation with fractured skull.

The handgun used in the shooting was recovered by the police and handed over to the crime lab. Homicide detectives are continuing investigation in the case.

13 charged in drug operation

NEWARK, N.J. — Complaints from public housing tenants led federal investigators to arrest 13 people suspected of running an $8 million-a-year heroin ring that catered to "a cross-section of middle America."

Among those arrested in raids in New York, Newark and Puerto Rico early Tuesday was suspected ringleader Jerry Ortiz-Colon, 25, a native of Puerto Rico now living in New York City, and his wife, Marisa Cedeno, 18.

The arrests followed a seven-month investigation that began when residents of the Columbus Homes housing project complained to the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration about drugs being sold on streets there, said Lawrence P. McElynn, assistant special agent in charge of the DEA's Newark office.

About 50 heroin users, most from outside the project, were arrested during the operation by agents who trailed them after watching them making drug buys.

The buyers were "a cross-section of middle America that surprised us," McElynn said, adding that they included computer engineers, registered nurses and skilled workers.

Ortiz-Colon and his underlings are believed to have grossed $8 million a year, including $5.4 million from sales at the Columbus Homes, McElynn said. He said they apparently sold 1,000 doses of heroin a week at the project for $10 to $15 each.

The group allegedly bought heroin from wholesalers in New York and then sold it to users and dealers in New Jersey.

DEA agents spent $10,000 on undercover heroin buys during the investigation, McElynn said. Their last purchase was an ounce of pure heroin for $4,000.

McElynn displayed packets of heroin stamped with "brand names" that included "Jedi," "Pure" and "Puma." DEA spokesman Victor Pedalino said the brands indicate different degrees of purity.

"There's no quality control," Pedalino said. "we've had people coming out of the projects who would get sick before they reached their cars."

Heroin with those brand names have been linked to overdose deaths in other parts of New Jersey, McElynn said.

During the investigtion, Ortiz-Colon told the agents he hoped to retire to Puerto Rico as a millionaire by the end of the year and then to invest his money in an ice cream factory and to sponsor a Little League baseball team, McElynn said. He had already been buying homes for his relatives. (UPI)

Mother pleads guilty to leaving child in attic

CROWN POINT, Ind. (UPI) — The woman who left her 9-year-old daughter trapped in an unheated attic where the girl suffered frostbite that later forced amputation of both of her legs, pleaded guilty last week to child neglect.

Darlwin Britt, 25, pleaded guilty to one count of felony child neglect and faces a 14-year prison sentence. The guilty plea was made in exchange for an agreement by prosecutors to dismiss two other counts against her.

Lake Superior Judge Richard Maroc took the plea bargain under advisement and set a May 27 hearing for formal sentencing.

Britt was charged with three counts of felony child neglect for allegedly leaving her daughter Darlwin Carlisle, 9, in the frigid attic of a garbage-strewn house in Gary for at least three days in January, when temperatures remained below freezing.

Prosecutors said Britt entered and left the building on one or more occasions during the three-day period, all the time promising to ease her daughter's condition but never keeping the promise.

Darlwin Carlisle was rescued Jan. 16 by a workman sent to board up the house.

Drug probe targets P.M.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — U.S. officials declined comment last week on reports federal investigators are using information in the trial of an alleged cocaine kingpin to build a case against Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden Pindling.

Several witnesses testified in the Jacksonville trial of alleged drug lord Carlos Lehder that he often bragged about having bought protection from Pindling and other Bahamian government officials.

Pindling has denied the corruption charges and was cleared by a Bahamian civil inquiry in 1984. The inquiry noted that some of Pindling's wealth was unexplained but there was no proof he had knowingly accepted a bribe. The issue came up again during his re-election campaign last summer.

The Washington Times reported this week that separate grand juries in Jacksonville and Miami were investigating alleged links between Pindling and the drug trade in the United States. The report said an indictment was imminent in Jacksonville.

The New York Times also reported a grand jury in Jacksonville is investigating Pindling and said one official said it was looking into allegations he took payments from smugglers in return for letting them use islands in the Bahamas as part of the traffic route.

U.S. Attorney Robert Merkle, who is prosecuting Lehder, declined to conform or deny the reports Friday during a news conference on another matter in Tampa.

"I'm not going to say anything about that," he said.

Shortly after Merkle rested the prosecution's case at Lehder's Jacksonville trial on Thursday, he was asked about the reports and said: "I wonder where they got that? I have nothing to say about that."

The Florida Times-Union quoted two government sources as saying Drug Enforcement Administration agents not involved in the Lehder investigation are pursuing prosecutions of Pindling and others.

It quoted the sources as saying Pindling would be prosecuted under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization statute. The RICO act targets continuing organized criminal activity over long periods of time.

One witness in the Lehder trial, former drug smuggler Andrew Richard Barnes, has said during court proceedings he has learned from prosecutors about a "second wave" of indictments stemming from testimony in the Lehder trial.

Despite the rumors of impropriety in Pindling's government, the Bahamians have turned over banking and business records that enabled Merkle's office to build a case against Lehder, and Bahamian officials came to Jacksonville to testify in the case.

"Jackie Robinson Nite"
at
The Stadium
Come Celebrate With The
AFRO-AMERICAN
Newspaper Family
Saturday, May 21st
Get Your *FREE* Tickets
While They Last!

Clip and bring this coupon to the AFRO-AMERICAN Circulation Department beginning Thursday, May 5th through Wednesday, May 18th between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Only.

Orioles You Gotta Be There '88

—LIMIT 4 TICKETS—
PER FAMILY

*This offer does not apply to employees and families of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

REDEMPTION COUPON

AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD
Circulation Department

"Jackie Robinson Nite"
At The Stadium

I would like _____ ticket(s).
Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: ( ) _____

ORIOLES VS. MARINERS

Edison faces pre-sentence probe

By Ejike Obineme
AFRO Staff Writer

Chief Judge Robert H. Hammerman has ordered a pre-sentence for investigation for Joseph W. Edison who was found guilty of first degree murder last week by a Baltimore City Circuit Court jury. It took the jury about 3 hours to come up with a verdict.

Edison, who was also found guilty of conspiracy, escape and handgun violations will be sentenced June 15. The maximum sentence he could get for first degree murder is life imprisonment as the state did not give any notice that they wanted to seek the death penalty or life without parole.

The pre-sentence investigation, which will be carried out by the Probation Department will last for a month, and will provide detailed information about Edison's background. Hammerman said that when a judge sentences someone, he should be able to know the negative and the positive things about that person.

He said, "We (judges) have wide discretion in sentencing and we want to know how to use that discretion."

The only charge Edison was not found guilty of was attempted murder of a police officer. Edison was alleged to have pointed a gun at Officer Darryl A. Kane, Nov. 6, 1986, but for some reason the gun did not fire when he was being arrested.

In his closing argument last Thursday, Assistant State's Attorney Edwin O. Wenck had argued that "one does not point a .38 caliber revolver at an officer without intending to kill him."

In answering one of Wenck's questions during testimony about his alleged escape from prison, Edison had said, "only a fool would do that." Wenck used that "smart" answer to make his case against Edison. "We never accused Edison of being a fool," he said, "he is intelligent and cunning, and able to take any opportunity given to him."

Wenck then disputed Edison's claim that what the officer thought was a gun was a black hat. Picking up the gun that Edison allegedly pointed to the officer, he said the gun is capable of firing but it is not the greatest thing in the world.

Then pointing at Edison, Wenck addressed the jury, "He wants you to believe that he waved his hat in the direction of Officer Kane, but we submit to you that he wanted to kill Officer Kane." Wenck did not believe that a criminal being pursued by a police officer will stop and wave a hat at the officer.

Before the defense attorney, Franklin Kolbe addressed this particular issue, he observed that many things were wrong with the case. He said the prosecutor knows they should have investigated the case more but because of their obsession for Edison, they decided to forego the investigation and press charges.

Koble told the jury that he did not buy Officer Kane's story. He wondered how Edison could have pulled a gun twice on Officer Kane without the officer pulling his own gun at all. He quipped, "Maybe he thought he was bullet proof."

Apparently, the jury agreed with him as Edison was acquitted of the attempted murder charge. But the punishment for first degree murder, which was among the charges he was convicted for is heavier than what he could have received for attempted murder.

Gay activist stands up for rights

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

At age 15, Andre Powell knew he was different from other male teenagers.

He dated girls, but privately desired boys.

He often fantasized about boys and suspected he was gay.

Powell told a heterosexual high school friend he dreamed about another boy and his friend asked Powell if he was a homosexual.

"I knew what that meant, but I never applied it to myself," said Powell, a Baltimore Justice Campaign member.

Baltimore Justice Campaign is a gay rights group, heavily lobbying for the passage of Baltimore City Council Bill 187, which would protect gays and lesbians from discrimination in the workplace, education and public accommodations.

In class, students would joke about homosexuals, and the jokes would not matter to Powell, but after he realized he was gay, he became self-conscience.

He recalled his social studies teacher discussing gays and the uncomfortable feeling he had. "I felt if I blinked an eye, everyone would know I was gay," said Powell.

That fear of being discovered gay was the reason he did not tell his family he was gay until, he was 26 years old.

Once Powell said he overheard his mother talking about a gay man and she said the reason the man was gay was because his mother made him a homosexual. She made him bake pies and cakes, Powell said his mother said.

"I said to myself, I'm gay and I don't bake pies and cakes," said Powell.

He finally told his mother and father he was a homosexual when he moved into a one room apartment with a male friend and took his double bed.

His father questioned his need to take a double bed to live with a man and said it sounded like "love to me: Powell became irritated and said, it was."

His father disapproved, but his mother looked at the floor and said, "Well if that's what you want to do," said Powell.

Powell, 33, said he learned to cope being gay by reading lesbian and gay books, which helped him realize he was not the only gay teenager in the world.

As a teenager he suffered verbal abuse, but little physical abuse, like many gays and lesbians do, because of society's fears and stereotypes.

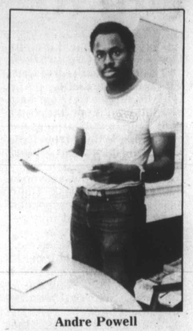
According to Powell, most gay men are not promiscuous and feminine, like the stereotypes.

"We're breaking away from that (femininity) more and more," Powell said. "It's just not attractive."

Powell, an office manager for a heating oil company, said, "I don't want to be a woman. I just love other men."

". . . It's not so much the sex, but the emotional feeling I get from loving another man," he said.

He currently lives with his boyfriend, a school-teacher, and the couple practices safe sex, because of the threat of contracting Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). He has lost over 20 friends to the fatal disease, Powell said.



Andre Powell

He said black gays have to take more responsibility for their lives and practice safe sex, because they usually fail to do so, to avoid the persecution in the black community.

The black community has placed a stigma upon homosexuality, Powell said. And as a result, black gays and lesbians are discriminated in the majority world for being black and homosexual and in the black community for being a homosexual.

Black gays and gays in general, have been accused of "piggybacking" on the black Civil Rights Movement, for wanting protection under the law, Powell said.

Many people forget gays and lesbians marched in the marches and sat in the sit-ins, said Powell.

He said Council Bill 187, if passed, would not "take anything away from the Civil Rights Movement. It would enhance the protection."

"People often forget, people of color are lesbian and gay," Powell said.

He said many opponents to the legislation, oppose the bill because they say it sends the wrong message to children and create bad role models.

"But what about the lesbians and gay role models," asked Powell. "If I was 15 and there had beenpositive role models, I may not have had to fear being found out."

Powell said, he is proud to be gay and believes he was born gay.

"No one made me gay," he said.

A former Catholic, Powell has become "turned off" by religion, "I didn't feel like sitting in church and having the preacher tell me I'm going to hell, because I'm in love with a man. He did not tell the guy next to me, he was going to hell, because he was in love with a woman, said Powell.

"The creator created us the way we are . . . It's not like the devil got into us and made us go another way (homosexual)," Powell said.

He is a graduate from Essex Community College. He studied music and mass communications.

Powell would like to adopt a child, in the future, but many states forbid homosexual child adoptions.

Powell said gay people must have self-pride and strength to survive in an anti-gay society.

"We must hold our heads up and say I as a person have rights and as a person I demand a certain level of respect," Powell said.

Troop

Continued from Page 1A

Held. "The rumors hurt our sales because right now 80-90 percent of our sales are to young black and Hispanic people. The Klan is trying to discredit us, and use us as a tool to express their message."

Wil Cunningham, one of Troop's regional sales managers, who is also black, said he would not be associated with the company if it was linked to the KKK. He added that former Detroit Tigers star, Willie Horton had opened his own store selling the sportswear, after satisfying himself that the rumors were false.

This view is also supported by Chicago Defender Journalist, Henry Locke, who has followed the story since rumors about the alleged link began in California at the beginning of the year.

According to Locke, he could find "no link" between New York-based Down Sports and the Klan. "The more I searched the less validity I found to the rumors."

And when stories of the alleged connection reached Wisconsin, journalist, Sharon Gibson of the black-run Milwaukee Community Journal investigated the story. She even contacted the three major networks after claims that a program had been broadcast linking Troop merchandise to the Klan.

But according to Gibson, she could find no link between the two.

And Held is determined to silence the rumors once and for all. He said he is speaking with the press in an all-out effort to dispel them.

"We don't want to be associated with this (the Klan) at all. We know that the Nazis and them (the Klan) are one of the same thing. Right now we are laying down our cards, and confronting the whole issue."

Meanwhile the NAACP, and Bishop's College said they will both be making similar efforts to establish the exact status of the company.

Ambulance, MTA bus collide on Westside



(AFRO Photo by Paul Greene)
Police check overturned ambulance.

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

An ambulance and a Mass Transit Administration bus collided Monday morning in West Baltimore, flipping the ambulance over and trapping two passengers inside, a Baltimore Fire Department spokesman said.

Capt. Patrick Flynn, of the Fire Department, said Medic Unit 12 was responding to a call for a sick child at 9:07 a.m. on May 16 in the 900 block of Argyle Avenue, travelling southbound, when a No. 21 bus, travelling westbound on Dolphin Street, struck the ambulance in the rear causing it to turn over, about 9:12 a.m.

The driver, Selwyn Shields and the medic, Terry Hale, were trapped inside for a short period of time, before firemen removed a windshield and rescued them, Flynn said.

The ambulance's lights were on, said Flynn.

Hale was taken to University Hospital and treated for a possible concussion, said the captain.

The MTA bus drier, unknown at press time, was also taken to University for treatment, said Anita Pesses, a MTA spokeswoman.

Apparently, there were no passengers on the bus.

The accident is under police investigation.

NABA plans annual dinner

The Baltimore Metropolitan Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc. will have its 11th annual scholarship awards dinner on Thursday, May 19, at 6 p.m. at the Palladium. They will award $5,000 in scholarships. Call Valerie Thornton at 889-3987.

We write about what we see and about what you see. If you see something we should write about call us.

James Abraham, City Editor
Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN
(301) 728-8200


Christian Dating Service

Are you tired of your lifestyle?
Are you sick of going home looking at the inner walls of your apartment or home?
Become a member of the **Christian Dating Service. Call 792-3874**

Council hearing raises hackles

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

Over 100 people testified for and against the controversial gay rights bill that would protect homosexuals from discrimination, Thursday afternoon in the Baltimore City Council Chambers.

Local people and out-of-towners addressed City Council Bill 187, which would prohibit discrimination against persons based upon their sexual preference in employment, education, health, public accommodations and welfare services.

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke and Council President Mary Pat Clarke have endorsed the twice defeated bill.

But there is wide-spread opposition to the bill.

During the public hearing, more than 100 testified against the bill, while only 18 testified in favor of it.

Elbert Streets, a Timothy Baptist Church member, who opposes the bill, said, "Homosexuality is a sin."

"God did not make man to go with man and he did not make woman to go with woman," Streets said. He began his testimony by quoting Romans 1:24 from the Bible.

Streets asked the Council to "not allow this bill to pass, (because homosexuals) have no rights."

If gay men and lesbians want rights, they should become heterosexuals, Streets said, as a crowd of opponents applauded.

But the Council president intervened and banged her gavel and said, "This is not a theater. We are not here for entertainment. If you want entertaiment, go elsewhere."

Gene Antonio, author of The AIDS Cover Up, traveled from Texas to testify against the legislation and said, "I think employers are entitled to be selective in hiring employees."

"Homosexuality is a learned behavior," Antonio said. ". . . It is a maladaptive behavior."

He added, "What is learned can be unlearned."

Antonio said homosexuality was unconstitutional and immoral and sodomy, a label for homosexual sex acts, was a felony.

A gay nurse, in favor of the bill, said he was harassed by co-workers and publicly humiliated on public transportation.

"I was called a faggot and a queer and all kinds of obscenities," the nurse said. His time card at work was painted with obscenities, also, he said.

"I feel I need equal protection under the law," the nurse said.

The city now protects against discrimination based upon race, religion, sex, age and national origin.

Religious organizations and employers with 15 employees or less would be exempt from Council Bill 187 if approved by the City Council.

Jerry Raitzyk, father of a 21-year-old lesbian, said he supports the bill because homosexuals and their families have little wheres to turn to when they are faced with harassment and difficult times.

The father said when his daughter was a teenager attending the Baltimore School For the Arts, she was verbally abused. "It was very rough," he said.

Raitzyk said, "we're not here today to decide on moral values. We're here to decide if all of Baltimore will be protected."

Marion C. Bascom, Douglas Memorial Community Church pastor, supports protection for homosexuals, also.

"I'm speaking on behalf of people we see to be different," Bascom said, as he exceeded the three minute testimony time limit.

Bascom said some of his parishioners, like any other church, are gay and lesbian, and need to be protected.

"Homosexuality is as old as mankind," said Bascom.

Two former Baltimore Orioles pitchers, Scott McGregor and Tippy Martinez, testified against the bill, which the Council was expected to vote on yesterday.

McGregor said, "I come here as a youth leader . . . . If Bill 187 is passed, it would send the wrong message to the youth of this country that there is an alternative lifestyle."

McGregor, now a pastor at the Rock Church in Baltimore City, said children should be taught to get married, have children and raise them according to God.

"(But) this bill would confuse the direction of children," he said.

Andre Powell, member of the Baltimore Justice Campaign, a gay-rights group lobbying for the bill, said despite the opposition, he was still optimistic that the bill would pass.

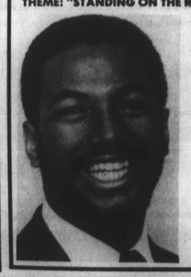
"A lot of opponents say we shouldn't have any rights," Powell said. "But we have the same rights as anyone else."

"We have the basic right to employment, to pay bills, to pay rent, to pay for clothes on our backs and to put food in our stomachs," Powell said.

UM DENTAL SCHOOL GIVES FREE SCREENINGS

In honor of Senior Smile Week, May 15-21, the University of Maryland Dental School will give free dental screenings for senior citizens age 60 and over. The school is located at 666 W. Baltimore Street, on the campus of the University of Maryland at Baltimore. For an appointment, call 328-7101.

140TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
and
REVIVAL
of
MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2110 Madison Avenue (Madison Avenue at Bloom Street)
Wednesday, May 18th-Thursday, May 19th-Friday, May 20th, 1988
7:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 22nd, 1988 — 11:00 A.M.
THEME: "STANDING ON THE ROCK: STEPPING OUT IN FAITH"



Revival Preacher:
REV. MICHAEL WAYNE WALKER
Messiah Baptist Church
Brockton, Massachusetts
REV. CURTIS A. JONES, PASTOR
REV. REGINALD J. DANIELS, PASTOR EMERITUS