Bankruptcy claim nets prison term

Roddy L. Gillus, 32, from Baltimore, was found guilty in a federal court last week, on a two count indictment charging bankruptcy fraud and use of a false social security number to obtain a 1986 Corvette. Gillus is subject to imprisonment up to 5 years and a fine of $250,000.00 for each count, according to U.S. Attorney Breckinridge L. Willcox.

The verdict relates to charges brought by the government that Gillus intentionally changed the last spelling of his name, changed one digit of his social security number, and gave an incorrect date of birth in order to create a false credit history.

Willcox said the testimony presented by officials from General Motors Acceptance Corporation showed that Gillus has financed a 1980 Camaro through GMAC. The Camaro was repossessed two years later.

By changing his name, social security number and date of birth, Gillus was able to create a new credit history beginning in 1985 when he purchased a 1986 Buick through GMAC with his wife, Brenda R. Strange, as cosigner on the loan. The new credit history enabled Gillus to purchase a 1986 Corvette in April of 1986 from Fox Chevrolet. GMAC officials testified that payments were not made on the Corvette from July through October of 1986.

On November 26, 1986, Gillus filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 13 which allows for adjustments of debts for individuals with regular income. When GMAC officials came to repossess the Corvette, Gillus attempted to retain it by arguing the bankruptcy laws allowed him to do so.

The trustee in bankruptcy testified that, at a Meeting of Creditors held in the Bankruptcy Court on January 7, 1987, Gillus denied that he had ever used a different spelling of his name or a different social security number.

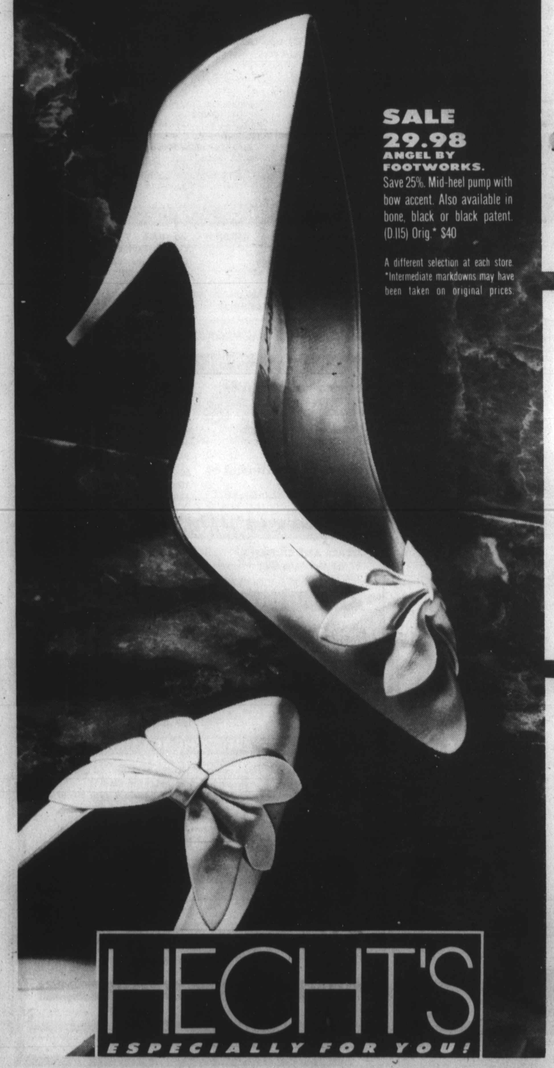
Special Agent Roberta Parker also testified that Gillus had two different Maryland driver's licenses, one under Gillus and another under his correct surname.

Willcox said, "We will not tolerate abuse of the Bankruptcy Court. The law allows debtors to make a fresh start, but they must be honest with the Court and its trustees.

Sentencing is set for July 7, 1987. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry Adams.

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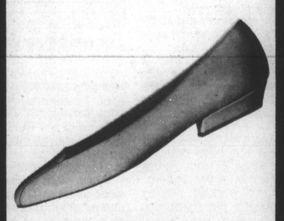


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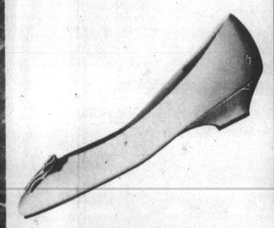
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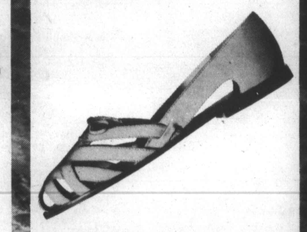
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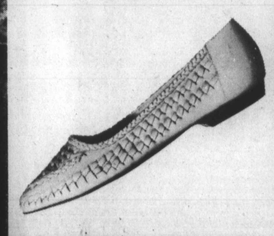
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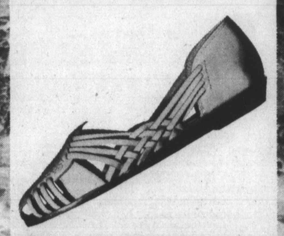
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Tony and Dorothy Porter

Seniors to celebrate

By Chris A. Heidelberg, III
Special to the AFRO

"Who is to say that seniors can't get out there and dance?" asks Susan Akridge, Program Director of Liberty Medical Center's Seniors Get H.E.P. (health education and promotion) program.

Akridge made this comment referring to senior citizens, not high school seniors.

Seniors Get H.E.P. is celebrating its first anniversary, fittingly in conjunction with Older Americans Month.

The senior citizen program will hold its first Seniors' Prom at the Palladium on Saturday, May 21st from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The affair will feature live music from the jazz and big band era. Approximately 400 seniors are expected to attend. Admission is free, provided the person brings another older person who will enroll in the free health promotion program at Liberty Medical Center.

Membership is the goal of the prom and maximizing wellness is the goal of the program.

The prom is the crowning jewel of this community service program that is made possible by a grant from the Health Services Cost Review Commission and the Liberty Medical Center. The program provides all its services free of charge to anyone 55 years of age or older. Participation does not affect any other medical services that the member may receive, and results of the assessment can be shared with the members physician.

Anyone interested in obtaining additional information about the Seniors Get H.E.P. program can call (301) 578-2391. The Seniors Get H.E.P. program is located in the West Building of the Liberty Medical Center campus at 2600 Liberty Heights Avenue.

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The Afro-American's professional opportunities section. CAREER CORNER is featured in Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Editions.

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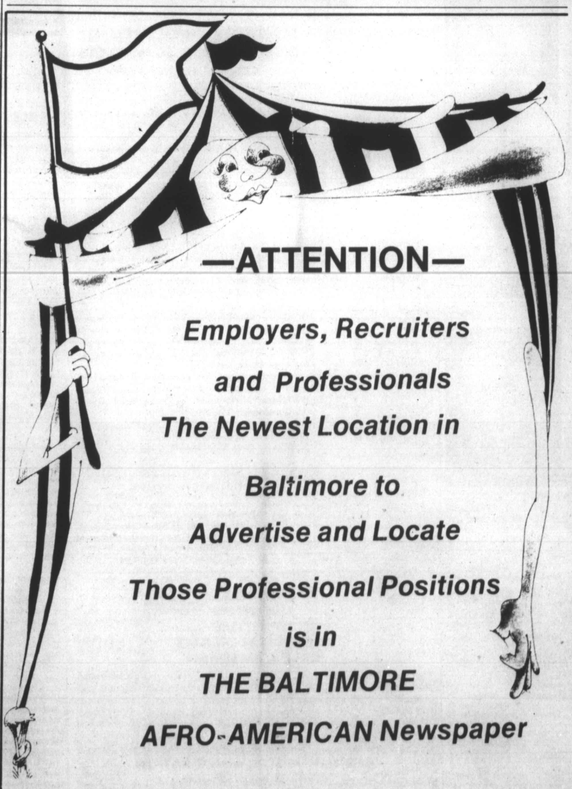
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