—Rev. Abernathy

(Continued from Page A1)

funeral service will be noon Monday. The funeral service will be noon Monday. The body will be noon Monday. The body will be on view at West Hunter after the memorial service until 9 a.m. Monday.

Plans for graveside services were unavailable but the inscription Abernathy wanted on his tombstone was simply, "I tried," said his son, Ralph David Abernathy, III.

The family also requested donations be sent to the Doctor Ralph Abernathy Foundation headquartered at the church.

Abernathy's son, a state representative, said his father was never satisfied with the achievements of the civil rights movement he presided over with King.

"There probably could not have been a civil rights movement without the contributions that he made," said Andrew Young, a former rights worker, former mayor of Atlanta and now candidate for governor of Georgia.

Rev. Abernathy, King's closest friend, was with the civil rights leader when he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968, and shortly thereafter assumed his friend's position as president of the SCLC.

Rev. Abernathy, like King, was committed to nonviolence and maintained a Gandhi-like demeanor evening during the worst confrontations with police in various areas.

Rev. Abernathy bowed out of the national spotlight in the 1970s but created a stir last year for writing about Rev. King's reportedly extensive extra-marital affairs in his autobiography, "And the Walls Came Tumbling Down."

Shortly after its publication in October, Rev. King's Ebenezer Baptist Church called for a boycott of the book and some members of the civil rights community called on Abernathy to restrict statements they say tarnished Rev. King's reputation.

Rev. Abernathy defended the book, saying his claims about King already were widely known and were included in at least two other publications.

Referring to King as his "dearest friend" and a man he "dearly loved," Abernathy insisted that omitting "my friend's weakness for women" would have made the book less credible.

Church address: West Hunter Street Baptist Church, 1040 Gordon St., SW, Atlanta, Ga. 30310.

The Baltimore chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will hold a memorial service in memory of Rev. Abernathy Monday at 7 p.m. in the Garrison Blvd., United Methodist Church, 2506 Garrison Blvd.

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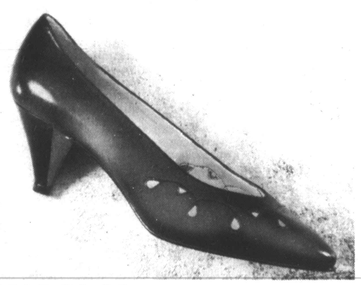

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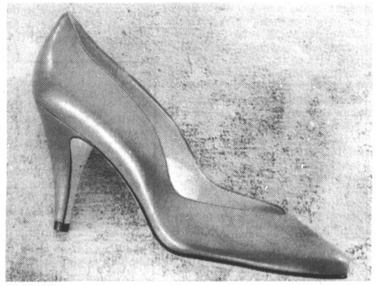

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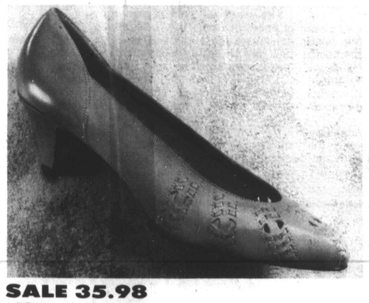

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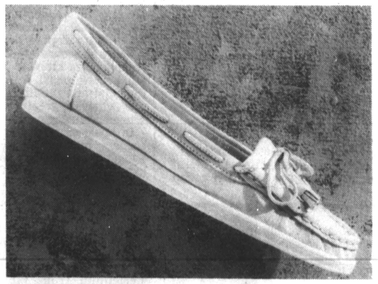

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Saturday, April 21, 1990

Judge Paul Allen Smith:

From District Court to Circuit Court?

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

Judge Paul Allen Smith isn't angry or experiencing sour grapes syndrome when he states that he is qualified to sit as a judge on the Circuit Court bench.

After all, as one of 10 siblings sired by a Baltimore Baptist minister who is still active in his East Baltimore Church, Judge Smith was taught never to lie.

Evidence to back up his statement is documented by the Judicial Nominating Commission that has three times nominated Judge Smith for appointment to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

He has also served more time trying court cases than any of the judges who presently sit on the Circuit Court. He estimates the total to be "over a quarter of a million cases."

"Circuit Court vacancies are filled by the Judicial Nominating Committee. The committee interviews applicants and formulates a list of qualified applicants. I was on that list," said Judge Smith.

"The committee submits its recommendations to the Governor who then makes the final selection. That system is a politically motivated one, not one that is based on merit."

Judge Smith continued, "I know that I am a good judge and the commission knows it. In order to qualify for a promotion to the District Court from my position as a Juvenile Master I had to prepare documentation of my accomplishments.

"I found out by going through court records, that in trying over 1,000 cases only eleven exceptions were taken and of those cases in only one instance was my decision on the case altered. That is a success rate anyone aspiring to a promotion would be proud of."

Judge Smith says that he is often asked if his campaign is racially motivated. He replied by saying, "My qualifications for the Circuit Bench should be enough of a campaign to run on. Race is not the platform on which I am running, qualification to do the job is."

"Although there are inequities in the Judicial nominating system I am not going to campaign by standing on a soapbox and proclaiming to the world that I am Black so cast your vote for me, no — I am better trained, I desire the position and I am qualified.

"But,the fact remains that Blacks have not been appointed as judges in proportion to the numbers they represent in a city whose Black population is above 60%.

Photo by Barney Carroll

JUDGE PAUL A. SMITH

"This inequity should be addressed. At both the District and Circuit Court levels, Blacks are not getting their fair share of appointments.

"If you look at the amount of Black women appointed to the Bench you will find even fewer. Judge Mabel Hubbard is the only one who has ever made it to the District Court bench.

"Of the 24 Circuit Court Judges 7 are Black; of the 23 District Court Judges 5 are Black. That amounts to 47 Judges of which only 12 are Black. That means that less than 1/4 of the total amount of the judges in Baltimore City are Black."

"That is one of the reasons I decided to run for Circuit Court Judge. The other reason is my family; my wife Veronica and my four children, Paul Jr., Anthony Aarika and Colby. The two youngest children live at home with us in the Reservoir Hill section of the City.

"I am active in my block and community association and I know that if I am elected as a Circuit Court Judge, my tenure on that bench will be an extension of my commitment to not only my neighbors but to the entire city of Baltimore."

Paul Allen Smith was born to an East Baltimore family headed by his father, Rev. Alex Angus Smith, pastor of Baltimore's Memorial Baptist Church, located at the corner of Caroline and Preston Sts.

Judge Smith attended Dunbar High School and Morgan State College. Later Judge Smith served in the U.S. Marine Corps and returned to his native Baltimore to attend Law School at the University of Maryland.

"Law School wetted my appetite for the bench. I hope the citizens of Baltimore will find me worthy of becoming a Circuit Court Judge when they go to the polls," said Judge Smith.

Photo by Barney Carroll

(L-R) Mrs. Veronica Smith stands next to husband, Judge Smith receiving guests at a recent fundraiser for the judge's circuit court campaign.

Photo by Paul A. Greene

Judge Smith confers with District Judge colleague, Judge David Young during the lunchtime court break.

Photo by Barney Carroll

Mother, father, and the sisters and brothers of Judge Smith poise for a family photo. Sitting (L-R) Mildred Griffin; mother, Evelyn L. Smith, and father, Rev. Angus A. Smith. Standing, left: Angus A. Smith, Rita A. Hatcher, Sylvia Smith, Harry A. Smith, Judge Paul A. Smith, David A. Smith, Lenora A. Bevins, Evelyn R. Branch. Right: Phillip E. Smith.