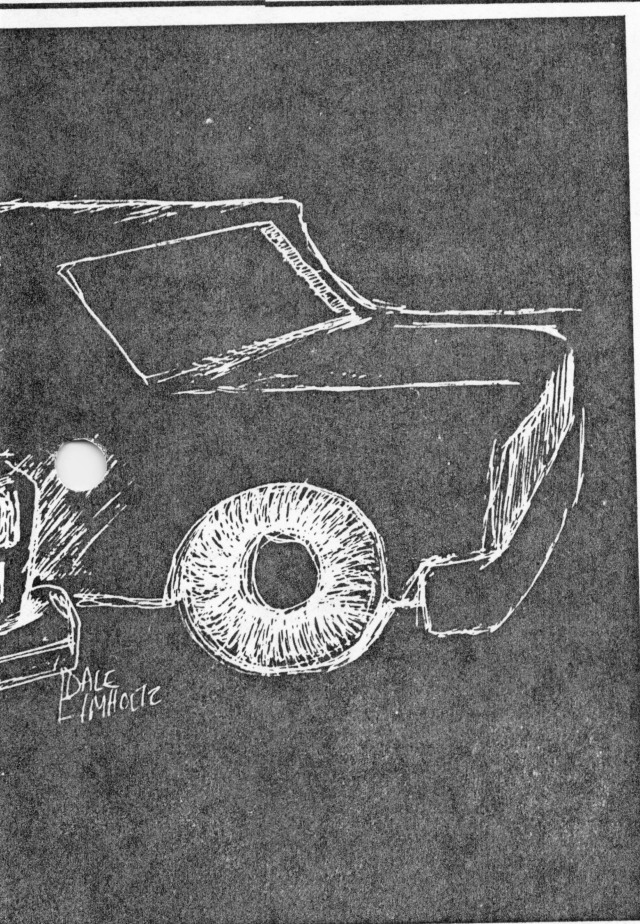


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Wednesday, July 24, 1991 46 pages, 4 sections plus inserts 50 cents



g on down here'

The police call it working "reversals."

On a recent Friday evening, a group of men gather to discuss the evening's events. They are dressed in blue jeans, sweatpants, T-shirts, tennis shoes and baseball caps. Most are not clean-shaven. Some wear earrings. And, they don bullet-proof vests, beepers and automatic weapons.

If they look like drug dealers, that's good. They should. This night, two undercover officers will pose as drug dealers and the others, hiding nearby, will rush in and arrest those who buy the "drugs" from the officers.

What is sold isn't real cocaine. But, according to police, it looks real, feels real and even tastes real. It numbs the mouth

Residents fight Glymont library closing

Move blamed on budget woes

By SUZANNE WHITE
Independent Staff Writer

Petitions are popping up, the Indian Head Town Council has fired off a letter to elected officials and the town's Veterans of Foreign Wars post has joined the drive to halt the closing of Glymont Library.

"I would say there are a lot of people who are very concerned about the closing," said Ann Bowen, an Indian Head resident who launched a petition calling for the branch, located on the corner of Route 210 and Glymont Road, to remain open until a proposed new

library is built.

Bowen said she has joined with Mark Trapani, who started a petition drive in nearby Potomac Heights. She wants to wait a few weeks before presenting the signatures to the Charles County Commissioners and Board of Library Trustees. Bowen does not know how many names have been collected.

In June, the Board of Library Trustees decided to merge the Glymont and Bryans Road branches earlier than anticipated, jolting patrons who have frequented the facility for years. Plans are to move Glymont into the Bryans Road branch by Sept. 30.

See Library, A-9

Billingsley design contract awarded

Bid also accepted for Middletown

By JAMES HETTINGER
Independent Staff Writer

Road projects that will widen the eastern portion of Billingsley

tracts.

The commissioners awarded the Billingsley Road contract to Whitman, Requardt and Associates, a Baltimore-based engineering firm that proposes to do the design for

Library

The decision for the premature merger is twofold. First, there are restrictions on the budget — the libraries have been asked to operate with the same amount provided last year. And secondly, \$15,000 to \$20,000 would be needed to wire Glymont for automation. The other library branches have been wired.

Richard Treleven, assistant director of Charles County Public Libraries, said it would cost roughly \$40,000 a year to keep Glymont open, in addition to the automation costs. Last year's budget was \$717,120, about the same the libraries are operating with this year. "For us that meant an approximate shortfall of about \$50,000," he said.

Treleven added that many counties are closing and consolidating libraries due to economic conditions. He said Montgomery County is closing about seven facilities, but he added some have been "saved by community outcry."

"It just seems like the library board has taken a strange position this," said Bowen, who has been visiting Glymont 14 years. "I understand they're not too pleased up at Bryans Road because they're already crowded into a building."

Bowen said aside from not having a convenient location for Indian Head and Potomac Heights residents, volunteer reading tutors will no longer have a place to meet with pupils. Teachers hold sessions in Glymont's conference room. Treleven confirmed there will be no similar room at Bryans Road. He said any extra space would be used for priority items like books and services.

Charles County Commissioner Dale Speake has received many calls from county residents in his district about the Glymont closing. He stressed that the commissioners did not make the decision to close and merge the branch. Speake said the new facility may open within one to two years and that "it could be closer to Indian Head than Bryans Road" once built.

Treleven said the new library is slated to be built on a site adjacent to Ruth B. Swann Memorial Park

in Bryans Road. Both branches were to be consolidated and moved into the new building in January 1992 when it was scheduled to open. The architectural plan was completed last summer, but according to Treleven, plans to bid the project were halted when the economy showed signs of slowing.

The new library, once completed, will cost \$970,000. "Our feeling is that it will probably be a couple of years away at best," said Treleven about the construction plans. He said 11 percent of county library patrons use Glymont, while about 19 percent use the Bryans Road facility.

The Indian Head Town Council has written the commissioners to voice its support to keep Glymont open. The members asked if there was anything that could be done to avoid the move, stating, "The citizens of Indian Head enjoy the accessibility of the Glymont branch, and the intended move will greatly reduce the number of users in Indian Head."

A motion was unanimously passed by the VFW Post 1800 in Indian Head which requested the commissioners to consider any action that would prevent the closing of Glymont. "We thought the children and the people in this area need this library," said Commander John Goff. He added that the branch is vital to area schoolchildren from General Smallwood Middle School and Indian Head El-

practical but impossible."

Klemkowsky said the designs

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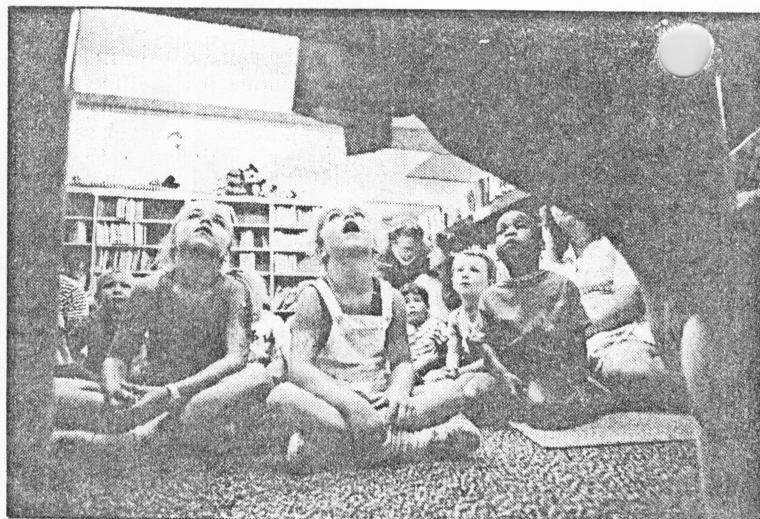


Photo by Gary Smith

All eyes at the Glymont Branch of the Charles County Library follow a story read by children's librarian Margaret Beigel Tuesday morning. In the front row, from left, are Shawn and Kelly Thompson and Charles Howard.

ementary. Smallwood is within walking distance of the Glymont branch.

"I suppose it could be saved if the amount of money needed to keep it open and retrofitted could be found, but I don't necessarily think that is the wisest investment we could make, because it would cost the taxpayer and we're going to get a new library anyway," Treleven said.

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