Here's what Governor's Commission had to say in its annual report

Here in a nutshell is what the Governor's Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations said in its annual report which was published in detail in last Friday's edition of the AFRO - AMERICAN, dated March 16.

* * *

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS —Found that discrimination exists in Baltimore in all of the hotels, 75 per cent of the restaurants, 50 per cent of the department stores and 97 per cent of the theatres.

* * *

HOTELS — Report cited "written complaints that colored delegates to national conventions had been refused room accommodations in downtown Baltimore hotels."

Also cited the removal of the Mid-Eastern Conference of the United Community Chests and Councils from Baltimore to Buffalo as a result of hotel discrimination.

Called the Hotel Association "the hard core of resistance" in breaking down discrimination in local hotels. Said that various attempts were made to set up meetings with the Association to discuss the situation but all requests were rejected.

Concluded: "The Commissions enter 1957 with the firm resolve to make every effort within their power to convince the Hotel Association as to the injustice of the kind of discrimination being practiced and at the same time to use their influence to have the City Council pass an ordinance which would resolve the present situation."

* * *

RESTAURANTS "Status quo" was the way the report described this situation. Said that little attempts had been made to arrange meetings with the Maryland Restaurant Association.

Also reported unproductive efforts to end discrimination in the White Coffee Pot Restaurant in the Gwynns Falls shopping center.

Said no discrimination exists in the Sun Ray Drug Store in the same center; Howard Johnson's Restaurant on Pulaski Highway; the Yellow Bowl Restaurant, 1234 Greenmount Ave., YWCA dining rooms, snack shop of Central YMCA; snack shop of the YMHA, the Manhattan Drug Store, Monument St. and Rutland Ave.; Angell's Pharmacy, St. Paul and Madison Sts., and "perhaps countless others."

* * *

THE REPORT recommended "that legislation be enacted in this area which would make it possible for private management to change existing policies and practices to conform to the democratic processes which are prevailing in other areas of day-to-day living."

* * *

THEATRES — Reported unsuccessful attempts to arrange a meeting with the management of the Northwood Theatre after the show place had been picketed because of its discriminatory policy.

Reported attempts to arrange other conferences with theatre owners in the northeast section of the city. Concluded:

"The Commissions feel that a public accommodations act either on a statewide or municipal level should be enacted making discrimination of this kind unlawful."

* * *

SOCIAL WELFARE — Reported various meetings held with representatives of family and child care agencies, professional medical groups and representatives of the Baltimore Hospital Council.

(1) That additional hospital facilities are sorely needed in Baltimore City, (2) that additional trained and qualified personnel are needed to staff existing institutions in this area.

(3) Restrictions limiting the educational opportunities of colored persons and members of certain religious faiths must be abolished so as to provide equal opportunities for learning in these professions. (4) considerations for board membership must be based on sound democratic principles so as to afford adequate representation of all groups."

* * *

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM —The report said that colored workers are being utilized far below the maximum potential. Concluded:

"This activity has not been as strenously promulgated as it might have been due mainly to the fact that Baltimore had had an FEP Law since July 18, 1956, and it is felt that in this area our efforts may well be coordinated with the FEP Commission when it begins operation."

* * *

HOUSING — Reported that the in-migration of colored families into formerly all-white neighborhoods was becoming the most troublesome area of friction between the races.

Cited meetings by the Northeast Intergroup Council on this issue and a subsequent meeting by the Commission which proved to successful that similar meetings have been scheduled.

* * *

EDUCATION — Reported that the number of colored children in formerly all white schools in Baltimore is now "more than double the number in the 1955-56 school year."

Scarface's pal given 5 year term

"This case has been colored with brutality on the part of (Scarface) Johnson and his subsequent death."

Chief Judge Emory Niles made this reference to Kenneth (Scarface) Johnson by Youth Court Monday in finding a youthful companion of the slain man not guilty of two serious felonies.

Carll Lee, 17, 600 block W. Saratoga St., on trial for rape and armed robbery, was convicted on a lesser charge of larceny and sentenced to not more than five years in the Reformatory.

Judge Niles also revoked a two-year's probation given Lee late last year and ordered the time served after the five year term is completed. This made a total of seven years.

* * *

ON THE witness stand, Lee admitted being with Johnson at 603 W.Franklin St. early on the morning of Feb. 11 when Willie Richardson was severely beaten and his wife, Mrs. Catherine Richardson, was criminally attacked.

Lee denied committing rape or robbery.

Mrs. Richardson, however, positively identified Lee as one of the two men who attacked her while her semi-conscious husband was being held at bay with a knife.

The Richardsons described the chain of events as a "night of terror."

* * *

JOHNSON, a 26-year-old former prizefighter, was shot to death by James R. Armstrong after he forced his way into the Armstrong's second floor apartment at the Franklin St. address, where Mrs. Richardson had fled seeking refuge.

Mr. Armstrong, 26, who later moved to the 1600 block Barecksen Pl., was exonerated at a homicide hearing last Friday. He was commended by Magistrate Meyer Cadin, who freed him.

While it is rare for a defendant to be freed by a magistrate on a homicide case, the circumstances surrounding the shooting of Scarface were of such a nature that Mr. Armstrong was not only freed but was released from custody without bail pending the Homicide Court hearing.

However, Judge Niles was critical of Mr. Armstrong's refusal to answer questions by Josiah F. Henry, defense attorney, in the Lee case.

"I think that the weak point in the State's case was Armstrong's hesitation," said Judge Niles.

The jurist was referring to Mr. Armstrong's hedging in responding to defense questions about a proported conversation he said he overheard in a jail cell between Lee and two other inmates.

* * *

UNDER QUESTIONING by James Gentry, assistant State's attorney, Mr. Armstrong said he overheard Lee admit criminally attacking Mrs. Richardson.

Mr. Henry questioned the witness closely on this point and Mr. Armstrong stated under cross examination that he had not discussed the conversation with anyone.

"Didn't you have a conversation in the State's Attorney's office and told someone about this conversation?" demanded Mr. Henry.

When Mr. Armstrong hesitated Judge Niles instructed the court reporter to note that a minute passed before the witness spoke.

"Why can't you answer the question?" the jurist wanted to know.

"Well, I can answer it," replied Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Henry then asked:

"Is it that you can't answer the question or you don't want to?"

Mr. Armstrong then said he discussed the matter in the State's Attorney's office Monday morning.

* * *

IN RENDERING his decision Judge Niles also noted that Mr. Richardson was unable to identify Lee in a police lineup as one of his assailants.

However Mrs. Richardson made a positive identification of Lee in the lineup, the court was told.

The jurist agreed with the defense contention that the inmates who allegedly discussed the attack with Lee should have been produced by the State.

Judge Niles, in freeing the youth of the capital offense, said, "I'm not in any way questioning her (Mrs. Richardson's) testimony."

* * *

IN DESCRIBING the "night of terror," Mrs. Richardson told the court she was listening to a spiritual program on the radio and reading her Bible when her husband and the two men came into the apartment.

Earlier, Mr. Richardson and the pair accosted him as he unlocked the front door to the building and forced him upstairs.

Mrs. Richardson related that when the three came into the apartment "I started to holler." She said the "big one" (meaning Johnson) gushed her and her husband was beaten.

"The big one attacked me while this one (pointing to the defendant) held the knife on my husband," said Mrs. Richardson.

Mrs. Richardson told the court that she made no further outcry because "the big one told the little one if I moved to cut his (Mr. Richardson's) throat."

The prosecuting witness said after Lee attacked her he left the apartment with a piggy bank containing approximately $7, a radio, her husband's topcoat and a small suitcase.

She said when Johnson went to the kitchen to see where Mr. Richardson was she fled to the Armstrongs' apartment on the second floor.

Mrs. Richardson related that when the Armstrongs answered her cries "I told them I had been attacked by two fellows and Willie had been robbed and beaten up."

According to Mrs. Richardson, when Johnson learned she was in the Armstrongs' second floor apartment he forced his way inside and choked her.

"He said he was going to kill all of us because we saw his face," Mrs. Richardson told the court.

She said she did not witness the shooting.

* * *

MR. ARMSTRONG said he fired the fatal shot when Johnson made a move to go into his pocket.

He said when he told Johnson that he was going to call the police shortly before the shooting the man said, "We're going to battle it out."

* * *

ON THE witness stand Lee testified that he saw Johnson and Mr. Richardson talking in front of a bar at Pierce and Pearl Sts. He said Johnson asked him to join them and the three of them went to the man's house.

The defendant denied that any force was used when they arrived at 603 W. Franklin as testified by Mr. Richardson.

Lee said inside the apartment for a reason unknown to him Johnson and Mr. Richardson began to quarrel and the prosecuting witness was struck by his companion.

The youth said Johnson ordered him to hold a knife on Mr. Richardson. Lee said it was at this point that he left the house.

When asked why he took the property owned by the Richardsons, Lee stated that he intended to give the things to Johnson the following day to appease his companion for leaving him at the house.

Homemakers Clinic at Fairfield Homes

HOMEMAKERS CLINIC — Residents of Fairfield Homes held a clinic Tuesday and heard experts in various phases of homemaking. Photo shows one of the demonstrations. Left to right: Mrs. Sally Burrough, Miss Ethel Bianchi, Home Demonstration Agent, University of Maryland Extension Service; Mrs. Rose Brown, president of Homemakers Club; Mrs. Emma Carmickael, Mrs. Lucille Buckler and Mrs. Juanita Harris.

How best can I make my money last from payday to payday? What foods are most economical to buy and prepare? Tell me, what can be done to improve my bare lawn?

These, and many other questions, were answered Tuesday at the Homemakers Clinic held at Fairfield Homes. Nearly 4,000 homemakers attended the six sessions included in the day's program.

One of the purposes of the clinic was to present some steps to be taken in the solution of problems common to many families.

A panel on "Leisure Time Activities In Our Community" gave constructive examples of how each person could contribute to the enjoyment of leisure time for all and yet save money.

PANEL MEMBERS were: Harold Gaprin, Principal of Schools 228 and 229A; Tina Parker, Director, Fairfield Homes Recreation Center; Tower Weeks, Scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop 235; and Eloise Frazier, V-Teen Director, Madison Avenue Branch, YWCA.

Mrs. Veola Boyd, Home Economist for Pet Milk Company showed how to prepare balanced, nutritious meals at low cost.

Mrs. Felisa Bracken, Home Economist, Department of Public Welfare, explained how to balance the family budget.

Steps to be taken to avoid blindness and to maintain general good health were outlined by Mrs. Jane D. Ellen, Executive Director of the Maryland Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Mrs. Ethel Bianchi, Home Demonstration Agent for the University of Maryland Extension Service, displayed aprons made from feed sacks draperies made from discarded sheeting and dresses made from discarded old clothing.

The high note in her demonstration lamp she had made from an empty whiskey bottle.

* * *

A MINIATURE YARD was set up in the community building to show the homemakers how to completely rebuild a lawn without backbreaking work.

This session was conducted by Nicholas Bock, Maintenance Supervisor, and Robert E. Fergusson, Housing Manager of the Fairfield Homes.

An unexpected participant in the clinic was Oliver C. Winston, Executive Director of the Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Agency.

Mr. Winston commended the homemakers for their accomplishments and for their interest and enthusiasm for learning how to improve.

Among the invited guests were: Harry B. Weiss, Director of Management; H. Robert Hendrickson, Project Operations Supervisor; Edgar M. Ewing, Assistant to the Deputy Director for Urban Renewal and Housing Agency;

Mrs. Flora G h a n t and Miss Retta Proctor, Clyde L. Clarke is Management Aide and Robert F. Fergusson is Manager of the project.

Stiemke, Case Workers for the Department of Public Welfare;

Misses Byrnes and Bathon, Health Nurses, and Mesdames Bucklew and Harris, Management Aides at O'Donnel Heights

* * *

DOOR PRIZE winners were: Mesdames Alice McMeekin, Audrey Pritchett, Charlotte Greene, Jessie Lewis, Pearline Nelson, Idelia Stephens, Mary Upton, Shirley Jefferson, Thelma Banks, Arlena Hobson, Louella Shoats, Ulyses Wilson, Jane Cooper, Sarah Atkinson and Lo-

NOTICE

THERE WILL BE NO MUNICIPAL GARBAGE, RUBBISH OR ASH COLLECTION SERVICES ON MONDAY, MARCH 25 MARYLAND DAY WHICH IS A LEGAL HOLIDAY. PLEASE DO NOT PLACE SUCH REFUSE OUT FOR COLLECTION ON THAT DAY. THESE MATERIALS WILL BE COLLECTED ON YOUR NEXT REGULAR COLLECTION DAY.

WILLIAM P. FANNON, Sanitary Engineer

Announcing . . .

MARY MERVIS

Delicatessen-Salads

Located in

New Lexington Market

Just Inside Eutaw St.

NORTH CAROLINA MUTUAL

Provides Security and Service Through Cooperation

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1956

ASSETS

Real Estate (Including HO & BO Bldgs)	$ 948,876.18
Mortgage Loans	15,254,371.03
Loans to Policyholders	2,169,525.87
Bonds	31,182,693.19
Stocks, Preferred & Common	1,348,610.40
Cash & Bank Deposits	1,496,910.31
Net Premiums Uncollected & Deferred	1,001,168.41
All Others Admitted Assets	598,877.44
TOTAL ASSETS	$54,001,032.83

LIABILITIES

Policy Reserves	$43,395,388.85
Reserves for Policy Claims	302,333.04
Dividends for Policyholders	862,406.16
Interest, Rent and Premiums in Advance	153,920.50
Taxes & Accrued Expenses	525,389.95
Security Valuation Reserve	526,375.63
Other Liabilities & Reserves	720,744.38
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$46,486,558.51
Reserve for Contingencies	3,264,474.32
Unassigned Surplus	4,250,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES, CONTINGENCY RESERVE AND SURPLUS	$54,001,032.83

The 58th Annual Statement of assets, liabilities and surplus of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company represents the combined efforts of the management, policyholders and employees of the company to provide for their security while at the same time to make a contribution to the economic and social well-being of our country and the public generally.

BUSY DOLLARS

The assets represent busy dollars serving the needs of our Federal and state governments and the political subdivisions thereof, and of business, industry and homeowners, and as a bulwark in our national defense. Through them every policyholder has a definite stake in America and the free enterprise system as well as the high standard of living of the people of this country.

The insurance in force on the lives of the 728,591 policyholders amounts to $233,113,305; and during 1956 a total of $4,438,582.93 was paid to policyholders and beneficiaries, bringing total payments under policy contracts of the company since organization to $57,888,249.08.

NORTH CAROLINA MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Home Office: Durham, North Carolina

"YOU CAN'T WIN BY YOURSELF"

JOIN or RENEW Your MEMBERSHIP! IN THE BALTIMORE BRANCH

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

SPRING MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN NOW ON!

EACH WORKER TURNING IN 50 or More MEMBERSHIPS WILL RECEIVE A GOLD NAACP LAPEL PIN

MEMBERSHIPS $2 AND UP

OFFICE: 402 DOLPHIN STREET

LA. 3-8503 — LA. 3-8504

Open Daily 9 to 5 — Saturday 9 to 1

NAACP MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 26th—8 P. M. at NAACP OFFICE — 402 DOLPHIN ST.

COMING SUNDAY, APRIL 14th

CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS SUNDAY

DR. MORDECAI JOHNSON,

President, Howard University, Guest Speaker

SHARP ST. MEMORIAL METH. CHURCH

DOLPHIN AND ETING STREETS

REGISTER TO VOTE CAMPAIGN NOW UNDER WAY!

Volunteers urgently needed. Come into OFFICE—402 Dolphin St. or call LA. 3-8508 — LA. 3-8504. Register and Vote Committee Meets Every Tuesday Night, 9 P. M. at The OFFICE — 402 Dolphin Street.

REV. JOHN L. TILLEY, Chairman

MRS. LILLIE M. JACKSON, Pres. DR. CHARLES E. WATTS, Treas. ROWEN N. JACKSON, Sec. MRS. ELMIRA MILLER, Asst. Sec. REV. H. C. GRAHAM, Sec. REV. J. LEON SHEPHARD, Chairman Membership Committee DR. CARL MURPHY, Chairman, Legal Redress Committee

THE WASHER RATED No. 1 BY INDEPENDENT CONSUMER TESTING LABORATORIES!

1957 NORGE AUTOMATIC WASHER WITH SUPER-RINSE

NOW ONLY $3.00 PER WK.

Model W-3

- Exclusive Time-Line Control . makes washing completely automatic from fill to finish.
- Exclusive Wave-Action Agitator . . double 4-vane design gives complete washability from top to bottom.
- 5 separate purifying actions loosen, flush-away everything from light lint to heavy sand!
- 5-Year Warranty
- Super Spindry . . extracts maximum amount of water from clothes without tearing, tangling, matting.
- Porcelain Wash Tub . . stays clean, protects delicate clothes, washes 9 full pounds per load.

FREE GIFTS FOR EVERYONE whether you buy or not

We Give Merchants Green Stamps

OPEN FRIDAY & SAT. 'TIL 9 P.M.

FURNITURE — APPLIANCES

LINOLEUM

MODERN SALES CO.

GREENMOUNT AVE. & 20TH ST. HOPKINS 7-7930

'Everyone in uniform is treated the same,' USO head declares

"We've never had any racial difficulties here. The racial situation is very healthy...Everybody in uniform is treated the same."

Thus Francis J. Cross, manager of the USO Club (Cathedral and Saratoga Sts.) explained last week the policy of his unit relative to the treatment of servicemen.

"The only thing we get in trouble about is when white fellows come in with their colored buddies and ask if they can eat together without being embarrassed," Mr. Cross said.

"They like to go out and eat together," he continued," and they will argue, 'this is my buddy, and I want to eat with him,' and that kind of thing."

* * *

IN AN attempt to solve the problem, he said, his staff has compiled a list of places where colored people are served without discrimination.

The Greyhound bus Terminal, Pennsylvania Railroad Station, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station are the places most often referred to them, he said.

The discriminatory policies in Baltimore hotels has also been a problem with which the USO has had to reckon, Mr. Cross said.

"We had a show group in the other day, and we couldn't get them into the Lord Baltimore Hotel because we had a colored boy in the group," he said.

"So we put the one colored boy up to the York Hotel (Madison and Dolphin)."

Sometimes, colored servicemen are referred to the Druid Hill YMCA, he said.

* * *

DESPITE THE current inconvenience in that regard, Mr. Cross felt that "the theater and hotel situations are on the verge of breaking out any day now."

The USO is international in scope, serving American servicemen wherever they are stationed around the world.

About 80 per cent of the funds come from the Community Chest in states where the Community Chest does not operate. The funds come from a similar group such as the United Fund Drive in New Jersey.

The remaining 15 per cent of the funds are raised by the local USO units.

Last year, Mr. Cross said $120,000 was sent to the national body of the USO by the local group, with $38,000 of that amount being returned for local operation.

THE BALTIMORE USO unit has a staff of three professional employees, none of whom are colored. But the volunteer USO committee which counsels the staff, plans programs, and interprets national policies for the local community, has two colored persons as members.

Mrs. Vivian Alleyne of 3410 Auchentoroly Terrace and Judge Everett Lane, judge of the Peoples Court, are both members of the volunteer committee.

Judge Lane, a member of the committee for four years, and vice president of the group for the first three, said that the USO performs a good job in providing service, entertainment and comfort for servicemen and women.

"I don't know of any discrimination in the USO there," said Judge Lane said. "They are will welcomed there, and there is lots of wholesome entertainment."

* * *

THE ATTENDANCE of the USO Club by servicemen and women averages "about 23,000 per month...187,000 yearly," Mr. Cross said.

"There is no record kept on attendance by races," he said, "but the attendance of colored personnel is very high."

He said that an average of 15 to 20 colored service people visit the club on Saturdays and Sundays with fewer than that number attending on weekdays.

"Now and then we see a colored boy here playing ping pong with some of his buddies during the week—but not often. Most of them are recruits from the Bainbridge Naval Training Base," he said.

"If a boy is in civilian clothes he challenged for his identification card. Now and then we have to throw out a civilian, but very rarely. Sometimes we get a few drapes."

* * *

MR. CROSS added that the local unit provides girls to attend USO-sponsored dances at the various military stations in the area.

"We have about 75 active colored girls on our list," he said. "They are very representative type girls who go out three or four times a week. Sometimes to the Army Chemical Center in Edgewood, Aberdeen, Ft. Meade, Bainbridge, and to the anti-aircraft sites around the city."

"We sent out about 60 girls last (Wednesday) night to Ft. Meade. Of that number, about 15 of them were colored—about the same proportion that we think there will be colored sailors," Mr. Cross said.

He added that the dances and the clubs are unsegregated. Ft. Meade, he said, was the last of the stations to have segregated clubs.

* * *

On Tuesday afternoon (Feb 18), an AFRO reporter who is a service veteran made a personal visit to the USO Club at Cathedral and Saratoga Sts.

There were no servicemen in the club at that time. Behind the desk in the rear of the spacious hall were two of the club's three professional aides—a man and a woman.

The reporter made himself comfortable thumbing through magazines and walking the room examining what-nots and looking over the selection of records on the juke box.

During the 20 minutes the reporter browsed about the club no one approached him or made any inquisitions of any kind.

A VISIT to the club on Saturday night (March 16), showed colored servicemen in attendance for the weekly dance.

Sixcolored persons were present as the dance began at 8 p.m. Five of them were sailor recruits from Bainbridge Naval Training base, and the sixth was a WAVE recruit from the same base.

Only one of the six colored service persons was alone. He stood at the juke box and played records until the hall was cleared for the dance for which "live" music was provided. Admission for the dance was 35 cents per person.

The other five persons appeared in company with their white training mates. Two of them, Eugene Mingo and Theodore Rivers were acquainted with their white friend, Ben J. Rogec when they all were in school in Akron, O.

Sailor Rogec called the USO "a great organization," because it gave "homesick" servicemen a chance to get together away from training. Sailors Mingo and Rivers agreed.

* * *

ONLY ONE of the colored sailors was seen dancing.

He was John Gauson Jr. of New York City who danced with colored WAVE Shirley Lane of Tampa, Fla.

They explained that they had been each other often during their seven weeks of "boot training" but Saturday night was only their second occasion to "get together."

WAVE recruit Lane found "the hostesses and everyone" at the club "very friendly."

Recruit Gauson, too, found the club to his liking because it takes a load off from recruit training. It gives a chance to see members of the opposite sex," he smiled.

The two recruit trainees had got together on a previous occasion at the USO club at the Bainbridge base.

* * *

AN OFFICIAL at the local club explained that most of the colored girls who go out to the base in buses supplied by the club because "they are more sure of getting dances" at the base.

"Over here, they may find one or two colored fellows, or they may find 16 or 18," he said, "but they go out to Bainbridge where they are sure to find lots of colored fellows."

Mrs. Alleyne, a member of the USO committee, called the scarcity of colored girls at the local club "a real problem."

"We need more girls than we can get," she said, and gave some probable reasons for the scarcity.

"The girls who would be available are working," she gave as one reason. "Then some girls' parents do not like the idea of the girls going to the camps.

"I think many of the parents will think of the USO as a segregated unit. But it is supposed to be. So far as I know there is no segregation.

"In the beginning they used to go in separate buses to the clubs, but they don't do that anymore. It's been from three to five years since the girls have gone in separate groups."

Mrs. Alleyne said that occasional talks with colored servicemen revealed that few of them come to the local USO because "they say it is out of their way."

They say the USO at Cathedral Street is difficult to reach but she emphasized that there should be no "second club uptown" for colored only.

Father Kagey to be honored this Sunday

Father Guy Kagey, 72, who has been the vicar of St. Katherine of Siena Catholic Church, Preestman and Division Sts., for eight years, is to be honored at a testimonial at the church on Sunday.

Father Kagey who resides at 206 W. Monument St., retires on March 4 at which time Father Christian assumed the pastorate.

The testimonial will begin with the benediction at 4 p.m. Father Kagey and the reception will follow.

Mrs. Irene Day, Mrs. Constantra Jackson and Joseph Lee are co-chairmen of the testimonial committee.

'Discrimination is standard procedure,' soldier says of USO

Although officials of the local USO club (Cathedral and Saratoga Sts.) assert that discrimination does not exist in the employment of colored workers, a colored soldier at Aberdeen told the AFRO that discrimination is standard procedure all over.

"If they have a dance at the camp, they don't try to get the colored boys to go to the dances," he said, "but they go to every extreme to get white boys to go."

The soldier, who asked not to be identified by name, said:

"At Aberdeen we have separate clubs. One is ours and two are theirs. We never go to the white clubs. It's not restricted by any orders, but we get the cold freeze, so we know not to go there."

* * *

"ON SATURDAYS and Sundays, the soldier said, "school girls and college girls have a dance. Usually, they will send two buses from the camp to pick up the girls.

"They will send two buses to pick up the white girls, and a carry-all (station wagon) to pick up ours (colored girls). They are taken to separate clubs."

Early last month, the soldier told the AFRO that there is no other form of discrimination at Aberdeen. "There is no segregation in our work," he said. "But after hours, he said, "we never see the white soldiers in our clubs, except for a mixed band (three white and two colored), and they go to all of the clubs."

Off the Beaten Path

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

Spring is called the vernal equinox and it comes March 21, and ends with the summer solstice, June 21.

Vernal is derived from the Latin virdis, which means green.

In the spring, plants begin to vegetate and grow and all the world becomes green with their foliage.

* * *

SPRING WEATHER may be marked with blankets of snow, but these snow accumulations are not the same as the ones in winter.

The Spring snowfall is for the purpose of allowing the ground to thaw underneath.

Scientists explain that the snow acts as an efficient insulator to keep in the heat of the ground, and after the snow has melted, it will be found that there is no frost whatever in the ground.

Spring is considered a stormy season while summer is calm.

* * *

THE LION and the lamb of March originated in the olden days when folks did not understand the why of this, the stormiest month of the year.

Scientists now explain that since in March the Arctic regions of the Northern hemisphere have their lowest temperature while in the Southern regions the weather is rapidly warming.

The great temperature differences cause the storminess and roaring winds.

Later in the month comes a sunny interval which banishes the lion, and introduces March in the role of the lamb.

* * *

WEATHER PROVERBS include the one about a "March in the weather" which usually brings rain.

"It's going to rain. Old Betty's joints are on the rack."

Her corns with shooting pains torment her."

And . . .

The moon and the weather May change together

But a change in the moon Does not change the weather.

And,

Evening red and morning gray Help the traveler on his way

Evening gray and morning red Bring down rain upon his head

* * *

FROM THE New Testament comes the quotation made by Jesus Christ: "When it is evening, ye say, it will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering."

The Zuni Indians said: When the sun is in his house, it will rain soon."

But who said: "When the stars begin to huddle, the earth will soon become a puddle?"

A CHANCE TO 'GET TOGETHER'—WAVE Recruit Shirley Lane of Tampa, Fla., and Sailor Recruit John Gauson Jr., of New York City, found a chance to "get together" at the Baltimore USO club Saturday night. Here they dance to juke box music before the dance begins with "live" music. Both are in training at Bainbridge Naval Training Base.

Volunteer group gives service in battle against city's slums

By S. F. YETTE

The war against slums in Baltimore rages furiously.

And in this war, one of the outstanding regiments is a youthful band of non-militant Brethren who are chalking up victory after victory against the monster called slums.

The monster threatens large parts of the city, and the regiment fights wherever the monster casts its shadow. The regiment is called the Brethren Volunteer Service.

Serving as a command post in the fight is the Pilot House at 1324 W. Lafayette Ave., where a group of young people have shown what can be done to improve blighted housing.

* * *

"WE'RE A group of young people sponsored by the Church of the Brethren," Dale Ulrich, director of the Pilot House, explained on Tuesday.

"The Pilot House, 1324 W. Lafayette Ave., is the headquarters for seven Brethren (one married couple, three men and two unmarried women) who are devoting at least two years of their life "to help build a better community by the elimination of slums and other unwholesome conditions."

The group is sponsored by the Brotherhood Service, Inc., 3812 Gwynn Oak Ave., and supported by the Church of the Brethren.

It had its beginning in 1949 when the First Church of the Brethren, 4500 Liberty Heights Ave., appointed a committee to determine how the church's "total function" could be improved.

* * *

THE COMMITTEE found that "too much of the activity, time and money of the church) were devoted to things for themselves and virtually none for the greater community of Baltimore."

As a result the Brotherhood Service, Inc., was organized.

For its first project, the organization raised funds to buy "at rock bottom" price slum property—now known as the Pilot House project in East Baltimore.

* * *

THE HOUSE was to be an example of rehabilitation in the community, and was therefore called a "pilot house."

But it soon became more than an improvement show place. It became a social referral center where other persons seeking to improve their property came to get legal and financial advice and advice on where to find dependable contractors to do work which the volunteer group could not handle.

It also served as a neighborhood meeting place where neighborhood groups came to plan cooperative improvements.

But the physical attractive ness of the first Pilot House soon spread to the houses west of a private family which bought the house for their use last year.

* * *

IN 1955 the volunteer service group moved into the vacant house at 1324 Lafayette Ave. The house rapidly falling into the same state of the slum monster from the young regiment set out to leave it.

They found the rickety partitions, rebuilt walls, refinished the floors, and scrubbed every thing until the old appearance of dilapidation was gone.

* * *

THE HOUSE not only serves as a pilot to others in the neighborhood who would improve their surroundings, but it is also a service center for those who are unable to finance the labor of their home improvements.

And as a service center, the Pilot House makes its greatest contribution.

The seven young people (ages 18 to 25) who live in the house contribute free labor to those persons who are attempting to fight the blight of slums from their homes.

In cooperation with the city's vast Urban Renewal and redevelopment program, the City Health Department has set rules governing certain improvements in city dwellings.

Whenever the property owner is unable to pay for the improvements, the owner is often referred to the Fight Blight Fund, a private organization which lends money in limited amounts to help meet the problem.

* * *

THE FIGHT BLIGHT Fund, in turn, often gets in touch with the Pilot House which sends one of its members (usually Mr. Ulrich) to make estimates of what the work will cost (in materials).

But this is a comparatively minor service offered by the Pilot House.

The members of the volunteer service are actually a crew of "handymen" who throw their varied skills to the task at hand—for free.

* * *

WITH A repertoire of skills ranging from laying concrete to making beds and caring for babies, the Pilot House crew often enables property owners to make necessary improvements by donating the labor and furnishing its estimate of materials costs over to the Fight Blight Fund.

William A. Andrews, chief counsel for the Fight Blight Fund, said that when the stimates are received, he "takes the property owner by the hand" and leads him to one of the usual loan agencies (FHA, etc.)).

Fight Blight tries to arrange the sufficient loan for the property owners through these "normal channels" with a home mortgage, but when they are unable to get adequate funds on their home, the Fight-Blight Fund usually makes them a second mortgage.

* * *

"WE TRY to arrange some financial help commensurate with their income," Mr. Andrews said.

"If they have too many bills to meet at that time, we try to schedule the date at which they will begin payment on the new one so they can meet it," he said.

But he added, "Of course, we realize that in many instances the loan will not be paid. Many of the loans we make are highly speculative—no one else would make them."

But on the other hand, Mr. Andrews pointed out that "our losses have been surprisingly small."

The Fight Blight loans are made at a straight 6 per cent interest rate, normally, Mr. Andrews said, adding that the rate is flexible to meet that home owners' needs.

"The borrowers respond very nicely," Mr. Andrews said. He believes that the people, themselves, want to see that some one else gets help."

* * *

LIKE THE Pilot House, this non-profit Fight Blight Fund was established out of a need to help those unable to meet the immediate demands of improvement.

The Pilot House is supported by the Church of the Brethren which provides food and a small allowance for the volunteer workers.

This enables them to make their volunteer contribution to a service born of the belief that the violence and killing of warfare contrary to the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament."

A statement by Richard L. Rowe and David Eiler, members of the first volunteer group in 1951, states that "the present concern . . . came through the realization that a negative stand against war was not enough . . . that positive Christian action on a world-wide basis is the only possible foundation for world peace."

* * *

THE CHURCH of the Brethren, then, not believing in the violence of war, has arranged a program with the U.S. Government by which two years of Pilot House service, service in the interest of national health and welfare," is substituted for military service for men who join the volunteer group.

In the W. Lafayette Ave. Pilot House are persons from across the face of this country who are contributing two years in this service.

They are: Mr. and Mrs. Dale Ulrich, Wenatchee, Washington; Samuel Errington, 20, of New Paris, Pa.; Kenneth Dewese, 20, Weston, O.; Norman Cain, 19, of Dayton, O., and Misses Sonia Bia Balmer, 18, of Paoli, Pa.; and Linda Binkley, 19, of Dayton, O.

WHEN DAY IS DONE—Three Volunteer Service workers, residents of the Pilot House at 1324 W. Lafayette Ave., relax in their living room after a day's work helping to improve other homes and save them from the slums. They work without pay. This room was formerly a small bedroom, but the Pilot House residents tore out the partitions, made and remodeled furniture, refinished the floors, papered the walls, and made it into a "livable" living room. They are, from left: Samuel Errington, Kenneth Dewese, and Norman Cain.

Democratic Viewpoint

BY ROBERT S. WATTS

The need to register and vote is a subject that is constantly discussed all over the city.

The League of Women Voters and other groups are amazed at the laxity as shown by some of our citizens.

When you stop and consider how really important it is that we have capable, honest, and dedicated office holders it is appalling when only a small number turn out to vote, or when it is revealed that registration is low.

The colored voter is no exception in this regard. We have not registered in the numbers that we should and we have not responded as we should on election day.

How often it is that in the City Council chambers and in the legislative halls of Annapolis representatives tell us, "You don't vote, so how do you expect me to stick my neck out."

* * *

WE HAVE seen a hotel resolution fail because we couldn't get 11 votes.

We know that we could have gotten those 11 votes if in the second, third and sixth districts—there was a large registration and the residents voted.

We know that we got and continue to get the votes of the 4th and 5th Districts because of our strength there.

We saw hundreds of citizens appear in Annapolis before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate asking for the passage of civil rights bill, but we have a feeling our demands will go unanswered because the chief opposition is how will a vote on these bills effect me politically and because the people who are for us should be we will not get a favorable answer.

Trite, we have seen many job opportunities appear in the political field and our requests have been forward, but in order to reap the real benefit of our potential strength, we must get on the books.

After getting on the books, we must appear at the polling places and intelligently exercise our vote.

We can obtain many benefits of citizenship by such action and at the same time increase the prestige of our city.

* * *

THERE IS a group in the process of formation, that intends to do something about the dismal registration picture.

This will be called on each of us to assist them in getting people to register.

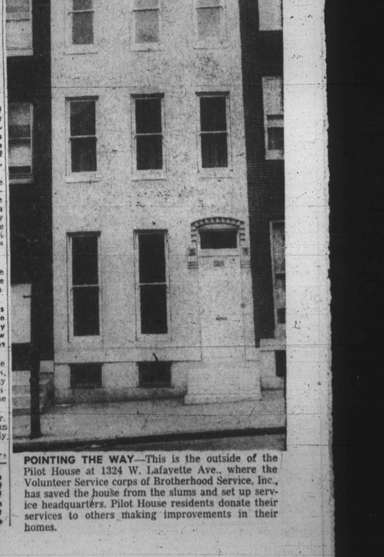
The ministers will lead this drive and will be asking members of their congregation to register themselves and to see that every member of the family and their circle of friends are also registered.

We need such a drive in Baltimore. It has been tried before, and each time there has been some success, but we need to keep driving until we have a fair percentage registered.

We can ill afford to shirk this duty. We least of all can afford the luxury of political inactivity.

Above all, we must make every effort in this direction for it can bring us the fullest blessings of citizenship, that which is denied many of our relatives in the South.

!? IS THE TOTAL set aside each week for News Tips and News Photos, For News Tips, call: MU. 5-6015, 6016, 1817 or 1812. If no answer, call LA. 3-2811. Bring your News Photo to the City Desk.



POINTING THE WAY—This is the outside of the Pilot House at 1324 W. Lafayette Ave., where the Volunteer Service corps of Brotherhood Service, Inc., has saved the house from the slums and set up service headquarters. Pilot House residents donate their services to others making improvements in their homes.