LENWOOD BRIDGEFORTH chairman of the Northwest Police Community Relations council has himself has had relations with the police and is asking citizens who live in his area and have complaints against the police to bring them to his attention.

Parren Mitchell, standing, was moderator for the panel. On Mr. Mitchell's left is State's Attorney Charles Moylan. On his right, Treadwell Phillips.

Meeting sparks heated debate on police-community relations

"What are you saying detective Walker is that in order for black people to get equal protection from the police we will have to pay more money?"

"I didn't mean it that way."

"Well, I'd just like to say that if the police can't treat black people in the right manner, earning seven thousand dollars a year, how will they act, earning, say, fifteen or eighteen thousand a year?"

"That's not what I said. I only meant that quality police service costs money."

This is only one of many hostile exchanges that took place between law enforcement officials and members of an angry audience during the "public participation portion" of the monthly meeting of the Maryland State Commission on Human Relations.

The meeting took place at Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights Ave. Tuesday night.

The commission announced that beginning this month, the business and public portions of its sessions will be held in separate locations at different times.

The topic of Tuesday's discussion was "Police Community Relations." The church served as a battleground for a down-to-earth confrontation between community people and a distinguished panel of public officials.

On that panel were:

Barren J. Mitchell, assistant director of the Urban Studies Institute at Morgan State College; David L. Glenn, executive director of the Baltimore Community Relations Council; Major William (Boz) Harris, director of the Police Community Relations Division; Detective Oliver Walker, attached to that division; William H. Adkins II, chairman of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations; and Charles E. Moylan Jr., State's Attorney for Baltimore City.

With Mr. Adkins acting as moderator, each panelist was asked to briefly outline his solution for the hostility that exists between the black community and the police.

The first speaker, Parren Mitchell, led off by pointing out that in the national surveys taken by polling organizations, "the white community consistently tends to rate the police as excellent or good, while the black community consistently tends to rate the police as fair or poor."

He interpreted the polls as an indictment of the police department by the black community.

"Law and Order legislation is the priority in this society but we will have to make fundamental changes in the police department if we are to enjoy a measure of rapport with them."

Mr. Mitchell suggested that the problems between the police and the black community could be solved by: an effective civilian police-review board, run by civilians; some mechanism by which residents get to know the officers in their community; and some method of expediting complaints against the police.

* * *

The next speaker, David L. Glenn, stated: "police are, by and large, abusive in their dealings with black people. They very seldom treat you with dignity and as a human being."

He also pointed out that "the police often, in our communities, act on behalf of private interests — realtors, merchants, and others."

"Most people in ghetto areas are more fearful of the police, than they are of muggers, rapists, thieves, and other criminals."

In summing up, he stated: "we have got to have some kind of mecanism for black people to effectively file complaints against the police."

State's Attorney Moylan declared: "There has been a great failure in the past and I admit that grievances against the police by black residents have been legitimate, but the police are our first line of authority."

In his talk, Moylan said that economics and not the race determines the treatment of the black community by the police.

Moylan was opposed to Parren Mitchell's suggestion that police officers come from the community in which they serve, and he felt that the key to the problem was more education and better pay.

Echoing the same sentiments, was Detective Oliver Walker, who emphatically stated: "You get what you pay for. If you want quality policing, you are going to have to pay for it."

Det. Walker, a veteran police officer attempted to explain to the audience the difficulties of being a police officer, and that it was a thankless job.

"Why don't you give it up then? If it's too hard for you, then you should quit." Walker was asked.

A member of the audience began chiding Walker for defending the police department. No sooner had the officer finished than a barrage of angry denunciations and questions forced Major Harris to come to the rescue of his harassed colleague.

"A lot of the questions that you are asking can only be answered by Commissioner Pomerleau," stated the major.

During the hectic question and answer period, the State's Attorney was interrogated, and then denounced for his record as public prosecutor.

"Mr. Moylan, everytime something happens to black people, you don't never do anything about it. I came and told you about what happened out at the Malcolm X rally, you said you didn't know anything about it. I came and told you about the police dog being put on this black woman, you claimed you didn't know nothing about that."

Olugbala of the S.O.U.L. school blasted Moylan during a heated debate. He told the prosecutor, "On Aug. 10, a white police officer raped a black woman in Druid Hill Park at gunpoint. The policeman hasn't served a day of that 12-year sentence. Right now, he is out on the street on five thousand dollar bail; why don't you do something about that?

"Everything that happens to the black community, you don't never no anything about it, but let a black man do something, and you'll have him in jail in a minute."

Charging that the entire city government was corrupt, Olugbala said that "what is going on in Newark, N.J., with the trials of the mayor and other high officials, should be happening here in Baltimore."

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held public participation meeting at Heritage United Church of Christ. The meeting was sparked by some heated exchanges between the audience and representatives of th police department. Olugbala, left, of the SOUL School, was one of the principals at the meeting.

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Tutorial services okay for 260 school children

A $5,977.54 tutorial agreement between the Department of Education and Johns Hopkins University was approved Wednesday by the Board of Estimates.

The tutorial services are to be provided for approximately 260 elementary school children from schools which receive funds under Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The funds are to be spent on instructional materials and supplies, busses for transportation of the tutors children and supervisor resource teachers.

All funds are federal and the contract period will run through the coming June 30.

Among other action, approval was given the Community Action Agency for lease of the first floor at 706 N. Gay St. from the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. as a Neighborhood Development Center.

* * *

This will replace the facilities termed inadequate at 1209 E. Monument St. Monthly rental is $130.

Board approval was also given to the erection of a new scoreboard at Memorial Stadium, although Frank Cashen, Orioles general manager, protested that the one planned is a ten-year-old model and is inadequate for all-purposes scoring.

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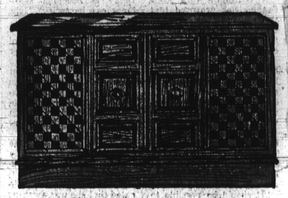

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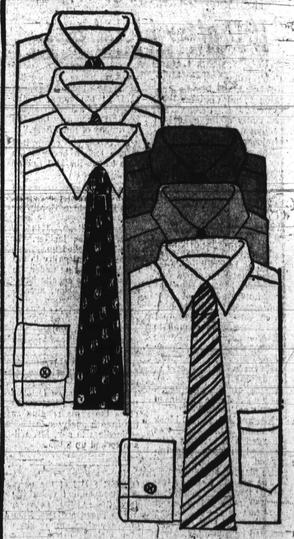

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SATURDAY'S HOURS: Downtown 9:30 to 5:30, Westview, Towson, Southdale 10 to 5:30, Eastpoint 10 to 9:30

Gadabouting in Baltimore

Peabody and Pierians will receive for Delores Jones

With Lula Mackey

Delores Jones, whom Peabody Institute calls its "top vocal student," will be guest at a reception given by the Institute and the Pierian Club on Sunday evening, February eighth, at seven. When Mrs. Jones made her debut in the Peabody production of the opera "La Navarraise" by Jules Massenet, in Washington, the past March, critics were lavish in their praise of her. The Post critic said that s he, in the title role "brought a knowing-ness and dramatic impact that was reminiscent of Maria-Callas at her best."

The Singer, who has studied in Nebraska, South Carolina and at Hollins College, Virginia, is currently studying with Madam Alice Duschak at Peabody.

The sponsorship is an additional facet to the Pierians' program, which is devoted to the arts. Mrs. Ernest Johnson is chairman for the Pierians' endeavor, which is being cosponsored with Peabody's Opera Committee. The reception will be in Unger Lounge of Peabody Dormitory.

* * *

With scarcely a breathing spell from arranging one of the most beautiful weddings of the late fall for her daughter, Nannette, in Washington, Mrs. Percival Carlton Smith is back in the same role...arranging the wedding for another daughter, Laura Davene (also the daughter of Dr. Smith of Baltimore) and Norman L. Caldwell.

This wedding, too, will take place in the Memorial Chapel of Plymouth Congregational Church in Washington, where Mrs. Smith has lived since leaving Baltimore.

The ceremony is scheduled for January 24th, at two in the afternoon, with the reception to follow in Northwest Gardens.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Wiles of North Eliamont Street have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Carmen Christiana Wiles, to Mr. Curtis Ray Artis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis E. Artis of Edmondson Village.

Miss Wiles, a graduate of Western High School, attended Ohio University in Athens, Ohio for two years and will graduate from the University of Maryland in June 1970 with a degree in speech therapy. Her fiance will graduate from Howard University with a degree in electronics engineering in June 1970.

A July wedding is planned.

* * *

Despite the unforgettable frigid nights of last week, weather-hardened members of the Baltimore Chapter, Howard University Alumni Association, made their way to the Bateman Avenue Igloo of Dr. Herbert Frisby (Arctic explorer) to hold the regular meeting.

After a quick thaw-out, accelerated by the decor which greeted them, the members proceeded on a lecture tour of the basement museum, inspecting the various artifacts in the host's Arctic collection.

Thereafter as a brief business session devoted mostly to planning for the observance of Howard's Charter Day in March...Then food and fun.

A delicious repast, generously saturated with appropriate Xmas spirit followed.

Suddenly Dentist-Jazz Pianist Dr. Carl Franklin decided to go upstairs and tryout the new Steinway. Everyone followed, and assisted by the host, tickled the ivories until well after midnight. The group sang and danced soul, closing with the Alma Mater song.

Among those present were Mesdames Mary Ellis, Gwendolyn Brooks, Gladys Simms, Thelma Ashe, Lilla Barnum, Louise Anderson; Roland Gaines (president); William Curtis and Mrs. Carl Franklin and HerFbert Frisby.

* * *

Swinging party on Sunday ago was the Couples' Club's wing-ding in the Forest Park home of the Charles Laws.

You know that after a decade regime of the men of the group, 'tis new to the hands of the gals...and they are not caring about making money ('twas a stocks and bonds to-do) they just care about making merry.

Ethel Rich is the new president...and her aim is to show how to be president and not work at it, says she. So, it was Vernice Reynolds and Adell Foreman who designed the party, and those who romped through the evening were:

Mr. and Mrs. "Stud" Greene of Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Parker, Glen Tarter, Lawrence Mapp, Donald Patterson, Hiram Butler, Charles Hicks of Frederick, Md., John Gaskins, and Willie Adams; and Henry Parks.

Their hosts were Messrs. and Mesdames Bill Stanford, Medford Reynolds, William Warrington, Ben Foreman, Charles Law and James Murphy, Dr. and Mrs. Lonnie Green, Cliff Mackay (she was galavanting in New York), and Mrs. Rich.

* * *

New group on the town scene selected the distinctive and beautiful Center Club, atop One Charles Center, to make its bow on Saturday, December 21.

It was a pre-holiday formal dinner affair with husbands as their special guests.

Gaily gathering at seven for cocktails in the penthouse lounge, they enjoyed the lights of the city, more radiant than ever with the added sparkle of Christmas.

With a gourmet dinner at eight, stealing moments between courses for dancing, they reminisced about how they got their "roots" (this was a lucky unscheduled happening of late summer), and how their octets got together monthly thereafter.

It was not an unscheduled happening that they ultimately and uniquely chose to be known as THE Club.

The members are Jimmie LaForest, president; Gladys Daniels, Jean Wilson, Alice Pinderhughes, Merita Stokes, Bea Wright, Harriet Trader, and Robbie Chissell.

Husbands present were Samuel Daniels, Kenneth Wilson, William Pinderhughes, John E. Stokes, David Wright and Drs. Albert LaForest, Herbert Trader, and Herbert Chissell.

* * *

Another new group, the Sunday Brunchers, had its first meeting on Sunday, with Louise Robinson of Braddish Ave. as hostess.

This is also a club with no strings, and planned for relaxation with good food and conversation.

Members are John and Merita Stokes, Simon and Kay Carter, Paul and Betye Moss, Samuel and Gladys Daniels, Royal White and Raymond and

(Continued on page 10)

THE ENGAGEMENT of Miss Carmen Wiles to Curtis Artis has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Wiles of Baltimore.

Illustrious Women

MRS. EDITH SPRIGGS

By BETTYE MOSS

Mrs. Edith Giles Spriggs is noted as a senior citizen who has not lost her zest for living.

Those who know her well say she has carried over her devotion to the classroom to every day life and stands out as a good neighbor.

Mrs. Spriggs resides in the 2300 block of Druid Hill Ave., with her husband, Joseph Spriggs.

She is a retired public school teacher. He is a retired painter-contractor.

They observed their 45th wedding anniversary last October.

* * *

When she retired from the Baltimore schools in 1962, Mrs. Spriggs could look back on 30 years in the classroom.

Her most rewarding years were spent at the Francis M. Wood School for Handicapped children.

She remembers it gave her great satisfaction to see her youngsters who were deaf, or otherwise handicapped and in need of special education, respond to her instruction.

Her field was home economics which she 'just loved' and, in fact, to this day enjoys sewing and related activities.

* * *

'I just love children,' she says quietly, 'and I never tired when working with them.'

Although a recent illness has slowed her down a bit, Mrs. Spriggs finds many things to do in her leisure time.

For example, she is an active member of St. James Episcopal Church ('over 53 years'), where she belongs to the Bragg Guild and formerly served as secretary.

* * *

She is the organizer of the 2300 block Druid Hill Ave. Neighborhood Club, founded 20 years ago.

And, she likes to sew and help out at the church recreation center when she can; loves to play cards (pinochle); and read ('anything I can get my hands on ... yes, I read the AFRO regularly.').

Plus, she has done volunteer work at the Druid Health Center. Mrs. Spriggs is also a member of the Phi Delta Kappa, the teachers' sorority to which she has belonged for over 18 years.

Born in Baltimore, she is one of ten children of the late Charles H. and Joanna E. Giles. Her father was superintendent of the old Laurel Cemetery.

* * *

She was educated in Baltimore schools, Douglass High, class of 1926; and Morgan State College, before beginning her teaching career in 1932.

Mr. and Mrs. Spriggs have one daughter, Mrs. Warren Tilley (Elmira), wife of the Harbor Tunnel guard, and a Douglass High Teacher.

They have three children, Angella, 14; Warren Jr., 13; and Wanda, 6.

MR. AND MRS EDWARD SHELL of Baltimore celebrated the 60th anniversary of their marriage, Saturday evening.

Sunday's 'North Star' looks at black politics

The dynamics of black politics in the Baltimore area will be examined in a special political discussion on WBAL-TV's "North Star," Sunday, Jan. 18, at 7:7:30 p.m. on WBAL-TV.

State Senator Clarence Mitchell, III of Baltimore City, "Activists" member Sampson Green and Baltimore City Councilman Dr. Emerson Julian join program host John Slade for the lively discussion.

"North Star," a weekly series of programs examining the achievements of black Baltimoreans, is produced by the WBAL-TV Community Service Department and presented by Schmidt Baking Company and General Foods.

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