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ALL MERCHANDISE MUST GO!
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CASHIER WILL TAKE... *33 1/3 OFF EVERY PRICE TAG

*ALL SALES FINAL NO LAY-A-WAY-NO REFUNDS-NO CHECKS!

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BALTIMORE • DRUID PARK DRIVE BETWEEN REISTERSTOWN RD. & LIBERTY HGTS. AVE. (AT THE SITE OF OLD CARLIN'S PARK)
OPEN MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 10 A.M. TO 10 P.M.

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Happiness Is A New Pair Of Shoes

Mr. and Mrs. Hill have served East Baltimore for 36 years

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Hill stand in front of the 580 Gay St. shoe business which they have run for 36 years.

By MARY CURTIS

"Don't be afraid" is the advice Ezra Hill gives to young blacks who want to start a business.

Mr. Hill should know. For 36 years he and his wife, Mrs. Doris Hill, have owned and operated a shoe store.

Avalon Shoe Store at 578-580 Gay St. is now one of the most successful in East Baltimore.

But, it has not always been so easy for the Hills.

When they first opened in 1937, they were the first of their race to have a business in East Baltimore.

Mr. Hill, 58, began after he graduated from Douglass High School "without a serious goal in mind."

He explains, "No blacks were in the shoe business so I thought I'd give it a try."

* * *

Only one company would give him credit in the beginning. Now he is successful and deals with many companies including Marco Shoe Co., the one that gave him a start.

In the late 1940's when at a shoe show at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Mr. Hill was refused main elevator service and was told to use the freight elevator.

Even then, Mr. Hill's pride would not let him accept that.

He reveals "I went from manager to manager until I got my ride."

In 1950 a Tennessee shoe firm stopped his supply of shoes after finding out his race.

He said, "I have suffered through many such indignities, but I've tried to forget them."

* * *

Mr. Hill thanks his family for their help and notes, "My wife is instrumental in the store's success." According to Mrs. Hill, "The struggle was worth it."

During their 30 years marriage they have also been able to raise a family. Their oldest daughter, Miss Doris Hill, 27, works for the Social Security Administration.

Miss Constance Hill, 23, graduated this year from Morgan State College with a degree in Spanish.

Ezra Hill Jr., 20, obtained an economics degree this year from Lincoln University, Lincoln, Pa. He plans to enter the family's business.

* * *

"I would be happy if my son continues in the shoe store," commented Mr. Hill Sr., but then he added, "it's his choice."

In addition to helping her husband in the store Mrs. Hill is active at St. Cecelia's Church, her parish. Mr. Hill has been a lifetime member of Faith Baptist Church.

Mr. Hill is most grateful to "the little people;" who patronize his shop.

"I give them good service and good merchandise and they come back. They have supported me throughout the year," he explained.

After a discouraging start, life looks good for the first black merchant on Gay Street.

Young Darryl Anderson gets fitted for a new pair of shoes by Avalon salesman Benny Wilson while mother, Mrs. Jesse Anderson looks on.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill show off the interior displays of their successful shoe store.

Hampstead Hill 9th grader, best scholar

Miss Mary Ash, Hampstead Hill Junior High School 9th grader was presented with a special award for highest scholastic average at the school's graduation ceremony Wednesday. She received another award for perfect attendance.

Over 600 students received diplomas and were promoted to the 10th grade. Nearly 70 per cent of them will enter Patterson High this fall.

Benjamin Russell was also honored for musical achievement.

Musical performance and play, "Oliver" were some of the exciting highlights of the graduation exercise which was attended by a large number of persons.

Students and their relatives also saw a series of color slides of teachers and students of the school at work presented by Rudolf DaPaola, a 9th grade teacher.

Three 9th grade students, Guana Williams, Ben Russell and Beth Bochetta gave speeches on the role of Hampstead Hill 9th grade students in junior high school, high school and beyond.

Dr. Warren P. Culberton, principal, congratulated the students and advised them to strive for greater achievement.

* * *

The graduating students are: Frederick Baltimore, William Bradley, Robert Coleman, Theodore Dobson, William Greenwold, Robert Natzki, Timothy Poole, James Rothgeb, John Simkus, and Jeffrey Singleton.

Also Charles White, Jerry Schmincke, Herbert Williams, Regina Bannon, Victoria Bennett, Rodelle Bentley, JoAnn Dombrowski, Shirley Harris, Mary Ann Hundt, and Marcella Laughlin.

And, Deborah Ratajczak, Victoria Robinson, Martha Taylor, Tanya Wallace, Terri Whitt, Donna Woodard, John Askew Benjamin Burton, Minus DeWitt, Michael Eaton, Mark Ewachia and David Gegorek.

Also, Eugene Hampton, Harry King, Terry Kolschenreuther, Anthony Landy, Eric Taylor, Reginald Woodley, Barbara Anderson, Theresa Deforenzo, Diane DePasquale, Sharon Hammonds, Wanda Hensley, Kathleen Jones, Marsha Miller, Nicolette Tsalafoos, Sharon Tucker, Terri Ziegler, and Darlene Broadwater.

Also, Joseph Bloodsworth, Jerry Bonds, Harvey Dawson, Lee Feaster, Melvin Johnson, William Johnson, Nick Kionsis, John Mack, Brian McCarty, Anthony McGirt, Daniel Meigarejo, Charles Misterka, Larry Prosser Sparks, Reginald Prosser Sparks, Reginald Werrell, Catherine Corso, Jane Craft, Mary Jo Daley, and Linda Franklin.

Also Rhonda Kiser, Cynthia Jankowiak, Debra Munson, Doreen Powell, Hrisoula Spyropoulos, Linda Jewell.

And, Mike Blake, Wayne Fleming, Donald Ford, Vincent Hawkins, Morris Mayo, Charles Roux, Rodney Shields, Anthony Stephens, Bruce White, Craig Makell, Carla Butler, Barbara Ford.

And, Lavinia Johnson, Or Ryum Kim, Flora Locklear, Catherine Martin, Patricia Stevens, Deborah Tunstall, Dorothy Wells, Regina McCallister, Cheryl Carey, Polly Perkins, Timothy Keel, Robert King, George Rousseau, Cedric White, Mark Giardino, Tyrone Scott.

Also, Jacqueline Bailey, Denise Bert, Minnie Bowden, Tanya Stancil, Daisy Curgean, Regina DellUomo, Katherine Earhardt, Ruby Harris, Michelle Harrison, Sandra Herring, Joni Lee, Catherine Lucas, Carol Moore, Hazel Musser, Mona Rockwell, Sheila Small, Renita DeCosmo, Mary Mullins.

Also, Joseph Alderman, Kevin Boyce, Frank Carnohan, Joseph Glinowiecki, Michael Greaver, David Johnson, Donald Johnson, Donald Maney, George Mitchell, Tony Phelps, Paul Pratt, Brian Speddon, David Thomas, Toni Butler, Carlotta Faulkner, Theresa Fitzpatrick, Jean Gantlier, Bonne Heagy, Lachelle Holman, Debris James.

And, Nancy Mackenney, Bonita Marks, Terri Poindexter, Renee Powell, Robin Robinson, Brenda Scarpulla, Nicia Strickland, Edith Williams.

Also, Roger Booker, John Draper, Willie Edwards, Nelson Eisel, Max Elrod, Michael Hoffner, Richard Jones, Haven Marine, Douglas Mayle, Robert McClurg, Craig McNair, Michael Partlow, Frank Robbins, Susan Burris.

Also, Patricia Cooper, Deborah Douglas, Linda Eaton, Jane Freeman, Gloria Harlowe, Bonita Hess, Ruth Mulcahy, Etta Perdue, Sandra Pryor, Irene Shock, Robin Taylor, Lois Wagbright, Frances Weissner, Kam Wilks, Darlene Zawadzki.

And, Chris Bezilla, Clifford Boothe, Michael Dunnigan, Denis Fitzpatrick, Billy Hunt, Michael Kindel, Michael Law, Constantanino Meigarejo, Richard Thomas, Joseph Zielinski, Charles Zill.

Also, Victor Valenzuela, Jonathan Blasche, Debra Adams, Jane Biggus, Tyra Curley, Lois Elliot, Janet Freeman, Carrie Hurt, Dorothy King, Harikia Maranas, Michaela Morosko, Marguerite Rothgeb, Barbara Springston, Bernice Swann, Barbara Wilson, Carolyn Young.

And, Larry Hopson, John James, Andre Jennings, Isaac Jones, Edward Kelch, Louis Mayo, Delman McNeil, Timothy Miller, Dale Nelson. Also, Lesner Palmer, John Robert, Charles Shott, Theodore Smith, Joseph Watson, Juan Woodard, Brenda Carter, Ruthie Clark, Janice Holland, Darlene Smith, Rhonda Wrigut, Sandra Yokum, Barbara Wilke, Stella Basinger.

And, Earlie Barnes, John Goolwin, Philip Goralski, Wayne Grissom, Francis Schwartz, Theodore Wojtas, Roberta Absnire, Christine Chojnagki, Mary Czizmazia, Dina Hurt, Margarette McFadden.

And, Sharon Stineburgh, Rosemary Tirabansi, Cynthia Barton, Patricia Boden, Cheryl Bland, Patricia Brooks, Linda Burgiarsai, Wanda Feige, Brenda Gault, Rosemarie Howack, Melinda McDonald, Alma Meadows.

Also, Ann Louise Bonanowski, Janice Smith, Helena Telakowicz, Donna Wach, JoAnn Wilczynski, Barbara Williams, Maxine Westmoreland, Ronald Brown, Charles Kessler, David Leuschner, Donald Mahala, William Middleton, Cary Oechsler, Clyde Reynolds, Eugene Tagliaferro.

Also, Roosevelt Tyler, Wilmer Warren, Kevin Willner, Douglas Wilson, Garry Wyatt, Darlene Biscotti, Debra Beck, Cynthia Butler, Loretta Durant, Patricia Kerns, Christine Leonard, Katherine Lepkowski, Marilyn Reynolds, Valerie Ringgold, Sylvania Smallwood, Patricia Wasowicz, Virginia Taylor.

And, Jack Brabach, David Culotta, Steven White, Michael Lewandowski, Lawrence Church, Deborah Newell, Jeffrey Young, Mona Drsal, Maryanne Foos, Pauline Ongsingco, Audrey Stevenson.

Also, Mary Cox, Yvette Ferguson, Judith Labatue, Dorie Lucas, Darlene Ragins, Sandra Servance, Elaine Thompson, Miryan Vilbabon, Thomas Anderson, Victor Fuqua, John Grams.

And, Purnell Gray, Gary Hartman, Gabriel Impallaria, Ernest Lang, Jerome Manuli, Bob Marrs, Darrell McBride, Thomas Pirog, Marty Pozoulakis, John Ucarpulla, Gerard Spedden, Rodney Winkler, Stanley Wolinski, Diane Cooper.

And, Vearo Green, Wanda Harris, Deborah Huffman, Louise May, Barbara Ryba, Frances Sekora, Patricia Turner, Carolyn Davis.

Also, Charles O'Connor, Steven Disney, Robert Frazier, Edward Genco, Randy Lutes, Ricci Ross, Tom Sadler, Erlene Pryor, Cathy Smith, Jean Watson, Celeste Weaver, Peggy Williams, Karen Young.

And, Sandra Halcott, Rosetta Hardges, Ellen Pulley, Angela White, Patricia Collar, Maryann Jenkins, Margaret Lee, Patricia Melton, Gloriann Ortega, Christine Palermo, Celestine Parker.

Also, Frank Dudeck, Bernard Fieden, John Griffin, Raymond Hosks, Carl Kurgan, Larry Moore, Michael Picarello, David Pierce, George Weiman, Edward (Barney- Lee, Ernest Ceriale, James Kane, George Lewis.

Also, Gregory Prioleau, Edwin Szetela, Sharon Bernat, Linda Bivons, Mary Harlock, Kandy Kane, Madeline Kikola, Robin Leuschner, Janice Lupo, Lisa Peir, Helen Binko.

And, Bonnie Dembeck, Verna Friend, Patrice Koenig, Anna Macenas, Marie Rzepecki, Victoria Spalt, Sharon Sufozinski, Marian Topa, Angela Trawinski.

Also, Joseph Bednarek, Joseph Bell, Jerome Biniasz, Paul Campbell, Kirk Hanks, Victor Kocent, Joseph Korkoren Randall, Debbie tash, David Linetty, Stephen Matusek, Gregory Panowicz, Philip Perrone, Timothy Sakowski.

And, Mark Shank, Herbert Simms, John Simpson, Delroy Tinsley, Thomas Faulfeller, James White, Herbert Spencer, Tiki Stamatopoulos, Patricia Dandridge, Debbie Edwards, John Fackett, Brenda Fitze, Sherrie Hawkes, Julia Miotla, Vivian Mitchell, Kathy Mitchem, Guana Williams.

Also, David Baker, Eric Gilliam, Benjamin Glass, Harry Mayle, John Thomas, William Nishcuik, Koby Rockwell, John Siegmund, Veronica Baino, Elaine Beckman, Rosemary Clark.

And, Linda Gronberg, Vivian Hall, Dannette Johnson, Sharon Newby, Donna Wilke, Joanne Licavoli, Yvonne DeLaPena, Dawn Densmore, Theresa Fromm, Evelyn Powell, Charlotte Eatin, Lauretta Sapp, Susan Scherer.

And, Lawrence Ames, Joseph Bereczky, James Dantzler, Richard Gaster, Michael Gorner, Melvin Hancook, Wesley Hardwick, Roger Heimbach, Kevin Jackson, Gordon Lee, Paul Maltese, Donald Manuel, James Mayo.

Also, Sam McClenon, Karl Moeller, Victor Moore, Gregory Rostkowski, Benjamin Russell, Melvin Staniewicz, Harlan Thacker, Jay Trotta, Mark Clagett, Mary Ash, Regina Crappell, Robin Davis.

And, Lesa Dixon, Irene Filippou, Debra Hagert, Deborah Keibler, Marianna Maio, Connie Morrow, Deborah Pritchett, Patricia Ramsey, Schwartz, Patricia Strickland, Cathleen Volz, Wanda Watson, Althea Weathers.

Also, Robert Baker, Kevin Brown, Benjamin Colvin, Kenneth Jackson, Gary Jennings, Robert Meadows, Michael Rakowski, John Ross, Aaron Whitcomb Jones, Beth Bocchetta, Anna Boyko, Doris Elburn, Karen Ellison.

And, Madeline Foreman, Shirley Frederick, Kimberly Garrett, Kathleen Horn, Tina Johnson, Judy Kufel, Helena McKelvin, Nancy McNeal, Diann Perry, Robin Thacker, Frances White, Judith Zamenski.

Sen. Welcome appointed to prison study group

Maryland State Senator Verda F. Welcome, D-4th District, has been appointed vice-chairman of a new legislative committee on corrections.

The appointment, made by Senate President William S. James, came as the result of Senator Welcome's long standing interest in correctional services.

At the time of disturbances in several penal institutions last year, Senator Welcome urged President James to reorganize a standing committee to deal with these problems.

* * *

She pointed to legislative responsibility for correctional institutions to investigate, oversee, gather information and make legislative recommendations.

The 4th District veteran legislator cites as imperative considerations improvement and acceleration of training programs for guards and raising of salaries of prison guards to a level commensurate with policemen's salaries.

She also indicated that she wished to examine closely the effects of a ruling made following the disturbances that prison guards could carry guns while off duty.

March of Dimes honors news media

News media in Baltimore and certain individuals were honored at the Lord Baltimore Hotel last Friday by the National Foundation March of Dimes in appreciation of their contributions to the foundation's 1973 fund raising effort.

City Desk reporter, Willie Egyir, received the certificate on behalf of the AFRO.

Over 80,000 persons took part in this year's 25-mile Walk-A-Thon which raised $95,000 as compared to $500,000 last year.

* * *

Present at last Friday's ceremony were George S. Wills, state chairman of the foundation; Richard M. Patterson, Greater Baltimore chapter chairman; and John J. Connolly of the national executive board. Also present were committee members of the Walk-A-Thon.

Special awards went to Alan Christian of WCBM Evening Talk Show; Hyman Pressman and Susan White of WMAR.

Mr. Connolly praised the citizens of Baltimore for their keen participation in the Walk-A-Thon and expressed the hope that many more persons will help to make next year's a greater success.

AFRO City Desk reporter Willie Egyir accepts March of Dimes certificate of appreciation from Hyman Pressman, chairman of the Walk-A-Thon Committee.