YEOMAN FIRST CLASS, Charles Wright receives a commendation letter from Cpt. R.W. Goode, commanding officer, U.S. Coast Guard Yard, for an outstanding job as the yard's human relations instructor. Earlier Wright received a letter of appreciation from the commandant of the Coast Guard for his achievements in race relations in Washington where he taught racial awareness classes for Coast Guard members. The occasion was Wrights last minutes in the Guard, after serving four years. He is on his way back to his home town, Atlanta, where he anticipates being an equal employment opportunity officer.

The United Nations Hotel is for 'forgotten people'

PHILADELPHIA—In November, 1971, Dan Lasdon, a 34-year-old business executive purchased a large rundown four-story building at 7th and Dauphin Sts.

In so doing he opened a Pandora's box that is still affecting the community as a whole.

The building was the old Washington Hotel, which prior to the turn of the century, had been one of the finest hotels in the city. But by the 1950's it had become no more than a hovel for the destitute, elderly, and the sick and crippled, who had been discarded by society.

Initially Lasdon was dismayed, and there were those who tried to convince him that the hotel should be boarded up and abandoned like all the other buildings in the neighborhood. Knowledgeable real estate people insisted that putting money into a building in this area was foolhardy. They renamed it the "United Nations" Hotel.

Not it was and take out as much money as he could.

But as he became more involved with the hotel, he developed a personal interest in the people who lived there and realized that if he closed the building, they would have no roof over their heads, and no place to turn.

At a considerable investment of his own time and money, he repaired, repainted and literally 'cleaned up' the 100 roach infested rooms in a renovation program that soon became a challenge to him. In so doing he gave the people back their dignity and helped convince them somebody cared.

Lasdon employed hotel residents to paint, repair and clean the hotel, thus offering them a feeling of accomplishment and at the same time bringing money directly into the community.

Due to the racial and ethnic mixture of the tenants he then renamed it the "United Nations" Hotel.

He established rapport with the tenants and is now on a first-name basis with most of them. His philosophy of giving people a decent place to live and treating them like human beings has been rewarded by the residents taking care of the hotel like it was their own home.

The hotel houses both permanent residents and transients. The permanents are provided with large clean rooms with maid service for $65 to $80 a month, and transient guests can have a place to stay as long as they need it, for a nominal daily or weekly payment.

Along with the modernization program it soon became obvious that better food, medical care, and some form of recreation facilities were a necessity, to make the hotel a really livable facility.

Arrangements were worked out with the North-Central Philadelphia Community Mental Health and Retardation Center, (a federally and state-funded organization) to provide these services and the center personnel now occupy a large modern room on the groundfloor of the hotel.

The program is under the direction Dr. Turner Johnson, director of the North Central Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center, and offers group therapy, social services, art therapy and recreational therapy.

It operates on a five-days-a-week basis and includes a fully balanced lunch served daily. In the case of the elderly or physically handicapped, lunch is brought directly to their rooms.

A real attempt is being made to re-motivate and encourage social encounters between residents of the hotel and other residents of the immediate community.

Both Lasdon and Dr. Johnson feel that a full stomach and recreational opportunity will give these people a will to live and do something constructive with their lives.

A number of city and state officials have reviewed the rehabilitation program and all have praised the efforts of Johnson and Lasdon. Much help is needed of course, but the corner has been turned. Temple University and two very farsighted bankers, James Allleck of Continental Bank and Norman Bitterman of Central-Penn Bank have assisted, by providing funds for modernization and in doing so have put money back into the community.

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Security unit back at work at Tuskegee

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — The suspended security force at Tuskegee Institute has returned to work following a meeting with administration officials which settled a dispute surrounding the wearing of arms at the school's Logan Hall gymnasium.

In a meeting attended by security force people and representatives of the administration, including Harold Logan, the school's business manager, an agreement was reached which allowed the 20-man team to return to work following its recent suspension.

The force was suspended from duty after refusing to stand guard unarmed at the Tuskegee-Florida A and M basketball game in Logan Hall.

* * *

The men, who usually wear weapons at all times, were told not wear arms at the Logan Hall game.

According to Lois Bowman, assistant to the vice president for development, the school administration felt that due to the crowded conditions in Logan Hall, the security force should not wear arms.

At the meeting following the force's suspension, it was decided that the men would return to work and be allowed to wear arms on the entire campus with the excention of Logan Hall, where no arms would be worn.

Gov. Carter urges hiring increase

ATLANTA — Gov. Jimmy Carter has issued a stiff warning to Georgia State departments to step up their hiring of blacks and women or else face legal consequences in court suits.

"I've pleaded and cajoled for you to go out on your own," the governor told asembled state officials most of whom he appointed. "Now there is developing an effort to bring legal action against the state."

State Rep. Billy McKinney, is pursuing court action due to his malcontent over state government hiring of minorities and women.

* * *

In letters to the federal government asking that Georgia's federal funds be cut out due to lock unfair employment practices, McKinnty cited case after case of alleged racial discrimination, referring to individual departments as "bastions of minority and sexual discrimination."

Councilman hears call to Columbus

AKRON, Ohio—City Councilman James R. Williams will concentrate on solving urban problems if elected lieutenant governor, he says. He recently announced his candidacy in the May Democratic primary.

A former teacher and urban reneweal administrator, the attorney feels that he could be a valuable assistant to the governor and legislature in developing programs to help the cities solve their mounting problems.

Early this month Williams appeared before a Democratic candidate screening committee in Columbus.

* * *

The 40-year-old lawmaker is vice chairman of the Summit County Council of Governments and chairman of Alpha Phi Alpha Homes, Inc., owners of Channelwood Village.

Williams is past president of the summit County Community Action Council and played an important role in securing the Model Cities program.

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CAPITAL COMMENT

Pentagon Ex-Aide: Racism Still

By John W. Lewis Jr.
AFRO Washington Bureau

A former black high-ranking official in the Defense Department said last week that the controversial case involving Colonel T. M. Gafford's rejection for a military advisory post in Chile indicated that "there has been no significant change in Defense Department policies."

JOHN LEWIS

Frank W. Render II, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense, was fired in August of 1971 for his aggressiveness in eliminating discrimination in the armed forces. Although he did not want to comment specifically on the case of Col. Gafford, who was rejected by a Navy captain for the Chile post because he was black, Render did discuss the seemingly unchanged conditions in the military which existed during his 14-month tenure as head of the Defense Department's equal opportunity programs.

* * *

"The biggest problem when I was there was that there were no enforcement procedures for violations of the Defense Department's Human Goals Program," said Render. "I insisted that in order to carry out the responsibility I had, I needed enforcement procedures and guidelines.

* * *

"Just as the services have rules and regulations to carry out functions and there are sanctions if they are not carried out, there should be similar sanctions for equal opportunity programs. In equal opportunity programs, the sanctions were left up to the commander."

* * *

Render's recommendations loom as very important, since the Defense Department not only has not disciplined the Navy captain, but has no policy on the nature of punishment in cases of this type. Render's recommendations were contained in a report which was re-written and modified by Defense Department officials before being released publicly. Shortly after its release he was fired for "being too involved, for being an advocate of troops instead of the Defense Department and not understanding participatory management.

* * *

"If a commander didn't have his planes ready to fly or his PX stocked, and he failed to consistently carry out those functions, he would be disciplined. There are no such provisions in the human goals program," Render said.

* * *

"There were pretty consistent patterns of discrimination. I come from walk like a duck, talk like a duck and look like a duck, chances are 99 per cent you are a duck."

Render said he recommended "reward and punishment situations." "If a commander was outstanding, he might be given an award or a promotion. There should be criteria that make equal opportunity programs as important as any other responsibility of a military commander.

* * *

"If there was a failure, there should be punishment commensurate in military terms, including loss of command, demotion and verbal censure from higher authority. The key element in the Gafford case is that the original officer was not sent. Whatever else is said, Col. Gafford was not sent to Chile."

* * *

Render, now the executive director of the National Association of Minority Consultants and Urbanologists, said that his former position was a "damned if you do, damned if you don't job, "If you're on the Pentagon team, then you can't serve the people you're charged to serve. If you serve them, the top brass disapproves of what you're doing."

* * *

Render said that if a case like that involving Col. Gafford, an officer of that racist officer.

had recommendetd that a black officer not be assigned because of his race, the black officer should be assigned over the objections of that racist officer.

* * *

There's been a perpetuation of discrimination," said Render. The Defense Department has supported racist actions no matter who did them, it's unfortunate.

* * *

"When I was there, it was not a requirement, as I recommended, that the military services report racial incidents to my office at the Pentagon. I kept asking but I never got it. I would read about both minor and major incidents in the papers like everyone else.

* * *

"There were allegations. There were many instances where black officers were not promoted and they felt it was because of racial reasons. Those incidents were hard to prove."

Render was fired in a particularly harsh manner. "I found out the day I was asked to resign. I had no suggestion or hint it was going to happen.

* * *

"As a matter of fact, I had just delivered a major address at the Air War College in Alabama the day before. When I got back to Washington, I was fired."

Render said that any person involved in equal opportunity programs in the government "must understand that he assumes an advocacy role with great difficulty. The dimensions of equal opportunity programs do not lend themselves to a quiet operation."

Some people are willing to be quiet he said "content to work slowly on the inside." Others are not willing to do that.

Render was "a rocker of the boat." Many more will be needed within a Defense Department more concerned with covering up for an officer than giving justice to Col. Gafford.

Although black congressmen are angered that much of the spotlight in the Small Business Administration scandals is being turned on black businessmen, some of them note privately that all of those involved have tight political ties to President Nixon's Administration.

These black businessmen, they say, many of them athletes who publicly endorsed Nixon, in a sense have gotten their just due for supporting a President rejected by the mass of black people.

They feel that many of these businessmen, who now stand accused of securing SBA loans through the use of White House influence and in some cases of misusing the funds, gained personally at the general expense of blacks.

* * *

Supporters of the African liberation struggle are trying to determine the exact nature of the rumored agreement between Portugal and the United States for increased U.S. military aid.

* * *

The Portuguese, who need additional weapons to deal with Russian-made missiles now being used by guerrillas in the African colonies, are pressuring the U.S. for that aid in exchange for use of the Azores Islands base.

* * *

The U.S. used the Azores air base as a supply base during the airlifts to Israel in the recent mid-east conflict. The Azores agreement expires in February.

* * *

A recent Supreme Court case involving the right of an American Indian youth to wear his hair in a traditional style may have a far-reach effect on blacks involved in African culture.

* * *

The Supreme Court refused to hear the case of the youth, who was told by the school board in Pawnee County, Oklahoma that he couldn't attend school until he changed his style. Justice Thurgood Marshall, the only black Justice, dissented.

* * *

Seemingly, there would be nothing to stop local school boards from ruling that black youths could not wear the popular African-style braids or other styles adopted from Africa.

Meharry Breaks Ground For Tower

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ground was broken at the site for the new 12-story tower hospital which will provide additional clinical teaching opportunities for Meharry students, and increase the quality and scope of Health care delivery.

Councilman Morris Haddox, main speaker for the event, stated: "It is a pleasure to see the first spade of earth turned for this new hospital, which will bring the modern health care facilities to the citizens of this community.

Meharry has always served the community with empathy and understanding and this will help the institution to provide better health care delivery to more people and will provide a center of educational excellence for training more future health care professionals."

* * *

In addition to Councilman Haddox, earth was spaded by Dr. L. O. P. Perry, chairman of the Planning Committee for the new hospital, representing the Meharry faculty and staff; by Mrs. Edna Alexander, community Representative of the Meharry Advisory Council, representing the consumers and the community; Dr. A. P. Johnson, Alumni trustee and president of the Nashville Area Meharry Alumni Association, representing Meharry alumni; and by Charles Christopher, President of the Pre-Alumni Association, representing Meharry students.

The new 400-bed facility will provide improved teaching, diagnostic, and therapeutic services in internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics ostetrics and gynecology. Each service area will be provided with teaching cinference rooms equiped for audio-vidual aids.

Rectangular core structure connecting the present Hubbard Hospital with the tower will house the supportive functions of patient care and connect with all levels of the Comprehensive Health Center.

Following the erection and occupancy of the new building, considerale remodeling will be done in the present hospital particularly in the areas of emergency service, medical records, pediatrics, obsterics and gynecology, surgery.

The new hospital will be connected to the present hospital at the first five levels. An additional seven floors will be placed on top in a tower configuration.

The sub-surface will house radiotherapy, radiology, the morgue, and the core general services. It will also contain the dietary facility with a cafeteria, dining room and outdoor terraces for dining. Administrative functions will occupy the first tower level the remaining floors are for patient care.

* * *

The criss form of the building makes it possible to center the nursing station nucleus at a relatively equal and short distance from all patient rooms. Many spaces are oversized to facilitate student participation.

The main entry to the hospital, facing Allion Street, will have connecting links with the main floor of the existing west wing and the Comprehensive Health Center.

Recognizing the critical need of training more professionals in a variety of health fields, Meharry has committed itself to increase the student enrollment, beginning with 115 medical students in the freshman class of 1974.

Hubbard Hospital is the only Meharry controlled health facility open to Meharry students for essential training in clinical practices.

The hospital constitutes the central element in the clinical experiences of students, and the new facility will make it possible to approach the national ratio of 4 to 6 beds per student. In addtion, it will be an important facet in the new curriculum which exposes students early to clinical problems under the block system of rotations.

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At this Yuletide, pictures adorning the new modernized St. Gregory's Catholic Church on Gilmore Street remind us of the burden, which the Bible says Christ was born to bear. The two pictures at right are presently in the church and the 7 pictures below, showing stages of the cross, are among 14 which will hang in the church windows.

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