UMBC black graduates honored

Black graduates of the University of Maryland Baltimore County were honored recently by an awards ceremony to celebrate their achievements. The forty-three men and women were candidates for the bachelor's degree. Sponsored jointly by the Black Students Union, the Caucus of Black Faculty and Staff, the Office of Minority Recruitment and the Lambda Kappa Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority the ceremony was the first held at UMBC.

"Black Excellence" was the theme and the ceremony was well attended by family and friends of the graduates as well as faculty, staff and administrators of UMBC.

James J. Fuller, director of campus activities and a minister at Shiloh Baptist Church, delivered the invocation. Chancellor Calvin Lee congratulated the parents for their sacrifices in helping the graduates achieve the goal of graduation.

The keynote address was given by Norman V.A. Reeves, principal of the Ralph Young School For Boys. He urged the graduates to seek excellence in all their endeavors while viewing their accomplishments with humility.

A former counselor at UMBC, Mr. Reeves said, "Excellence in the abstract is unproductive and black excellence without commitment is useless. So, plot your courses to take you back to your communities to use your talents and skills."

Top awards for outstanding academic achievement, community service and student government involvement were presented to three students: Lewyn Garrett, Beryl Queen and Tommie Jackson, respectively. Lewyn, who received high honors for academic success, came to UMBC in 1972 as an 11th grade graduate of Mt. St. Joseph High School.

He completed his studies at UMBC in three, majoring in political science and African American Studies, and will enter Catholic University's Law School in the Fall. In addition to his studies, Lewyn was a freshman and sophomore senator, a member of the Future of the University Committee, vice president of the Karate Club, and a committee chairman for the Black Students Union.

Beryl Queen was coordinator for the African American Studies Program interns at Direct Search for Talent, chairman of the UMBC Student Affirmative Action Committee, a student social worker doing field experience at the Lower Park Heights Day Care Center, and a Big Sister to an adolescent girl for the Department of Juvenile Services.

Tommie Jackson served as vice president of the Student Government Association, senator for the UMBC Affairs Committee, Black Student Union Committee chairman, and charter line member of UMBC's Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. Each of these students was presented a gleaming plaque inscribed with the category of merit.

A special recognition for courage and determination was presented to Bernadette Tillery, who has managed to complete her studies while battling with sickle cell anemia.

She was unable to attend the ceremony on the advice of her physician, but a bouquet of flowers and a card signed by her classmates were taken to her.

CORRECTION

In the special bridal section, page 26, the name of Mrs. Willie M. Everett is missing. She is the former Miss Charmaine D. Johnson. The AFRO regrets the omission.

BLACK GRADUATES of the University of Maryland Baltimore County were recently honored at an awards ceremony. Among those honored were, Front Row from left: Lewyn Garrett, Donald Debnam, James Wiggins, Michael Gambrill, Tommie Jackson, and Darrin Brown. Second Row from left are Misses Romina Blackwell, Joyce Barber, Yvonne Diggs, Beryl Queen, Gwendolyn Jones, Beulah Williamson, Lorraine Bennett, Patricia Butler, and Linda Brinkley. Third Row from left are Misses Ann Marsh, Beverly Johnson, Mamie Moore, Eleanor Smith, Thelma Jones, Clarice Herbert, Rita Smith, and Angela Artis.

HRC discrimination hearing to continue in September

The public hearings in the case of St. George I.B. Crosse vs the Maryland Commission on Human Relations, will continue Sept. 15.

Mr. Crosse, an employee on probation, was relieved of duties over a year ago and is suing for reinstatement and back pay.

Hearings at the State Office Building, 301 W. Preston St., came to a halt Wednesday afternoon.

During the course of Wednesday morning's hearing, the attorney for the HRC, Kenneth Johnson made unsubstantiated allegations implicating a dishonorable press-citizen relationship between Mr. Crosse and the AFRO.

The allegations came during an outburst after Mrs. Crosse sought to probe HRC's executive director Elbert Guillory about his personal life in the office.

"I object! I object!," Mr. Johnson exclaimed.

He continued, "Now all this stuff will be in the press. He (Crosse) sent for a man from the AFRO."

At that point he commanded AFRO reporter Bryan Holt to stand and admit that he was requested by Mr. Crosse, to attend. Johnson demanded, "Didn't he call you and tell? Didn't he call you and tell you to come here?"

Mr Holt remained seated and informed those present that he was there to get a story on the hearing. He had spoken to Mr. Crosse to gather background information and background material, and that he had not previously spoken to Mr. Crosse.

Following this response, Mr. Johnson made no further allegations but continued to imply Mr. Crosse's incompetence as a lawyer.

* * *

Mr. Crosse filed his complaint with the State Office of Personnel after being dismissed from his job as intergroup relationships representative for HRC in December 1973.

He charges that his dismissal was "sexist" and racist in nature, and is seeking reinstatement with the agency and backpay.

Mr. Crosse told the AFRO that though his complaint was filed against the State and the HRC, he blamed racial problems between him and his supervisor, Ms. Esther Levin for dismissal.

He alleges, "Ms. Levin was racist and "sexist" in her attitude toward me. She is unable to cope with males, particularly black males, more educated and experienced than she."

Ms. Levin filed a memo giving an unfavorable evaluation of Mr. Crosse's work after the first three months of his six month's probation.

This was done though the Operations Manual of the HRC states that such an evaluation is to be done after the probationary period.

In her evaluation, Ms. Levin gave Mr. Crosse an unsatisfactory rating for the quality and quantity of his work.

Crosse then filed a grievance and was soon dismissed. In the official complaint before his termination, Mr. Guillory stated, "The employee has demonstrated an inability to perform harmoniously within this agency and has been offensive in his conduct toward his supervisor."

When Mr. Crosse's case against the HRC has ended, the State Office of Personnel will hear the complaints of Ms. Cynthia Smith, who was also fired from HRC during probation at the recommendation of Ms. Levin.

Ms. Smith told the AFRO, "I am basically charging the Commission with inconsideration, harassment, and abuse. My termination was more personally oriented than racially. We just didn't get along. As I see it, Ms. Levin just can't deal with women who have strong personalities.

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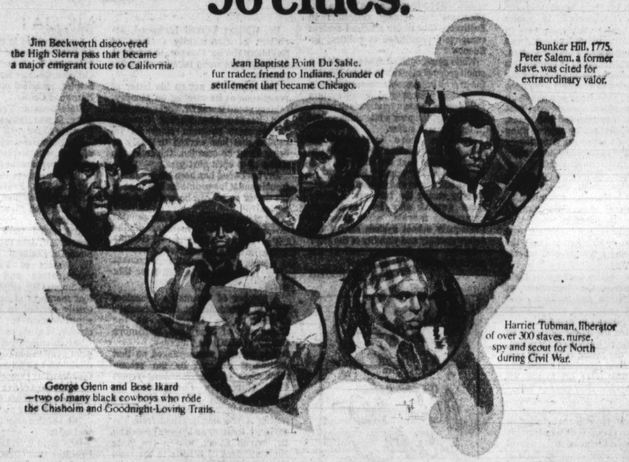

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Bystander, gunman slain in shootout

A gunman and a bystander were slain in what police state was a shootout between them and a gunman in the 900 block E. Biddle St. last Tuesday night. Two policemen were injured and were treated and discharged.

Dead were the gunman identified as Glen Wilson, 900 block E. Biddle St., and the bystander, Joey Jesse Leviner, 43, 800 block Abbott Ct.

Police reports show a number of police responded to 900 block E. Biddle St., to investigate the gun slaying of Percy Bunch, 21, also of the 900 block E. Biddle St.

At about 11:54 p.m. police said a man appeared from the east end of the block with a rifle over his head. Police said they ordered him to put down the gun and appeared to be complying but suddenly he raised the gun, went into a crouching position and fired in the direction of the police officers.

A group of officers returned the shot and the man was slain on the spot. Police said a bystander, Mr. Leviner was struck apparently by a stray bullet. He died while undergoing treatment at the Church Home Hospital.

Robbery suspect shot by police

A man described as a robbery suspect was shot five times by two officers after he allegedly pointed a gun at the officers last Tuesday morning.

The man, 19-year-old Barney Dean Hines, 1700 block Montpelier St., remains in serious condition at the Union Memorial Hospital. He is suffering from gunwounds of both thighs, chest and shoulder, police reports show.

Police records show a man wearing dungarees, stripped shirt and funny-looking sunglasses robbed a waitress at a restaurant in the 2900 block Greenmount Ave at about 3 p.m.

* * *

Two Northern District officers, police said, met a man whose description tallied with the alleged robber and when the officers ordered him to stop after identifying themselves the man pointed a gun at them.

The two officers report fearing for their lives they fired a volley of shots at the man who fell after about 10 shots were fired. Police said they recovered a grossman pellet pistol from the man.

BACA meets with HRC standards

In an effort to comply with standards set by the Human Relations Commission, The Baltimore Area Council on Alcoholism, Inc. has issued a statement of affirmative action to the community at large, and area recruiting resources.

Ms. Ann Balcerzak, coordinator of training and education for BACA, told the AFRO that "the Council wishes to inform the community that we are an equal opportunity employer."

She stated that, in an effort to promote and insure the hiring of minorities and females on the BACA staff, the Council will contact minority and female recruiting resources whenever a position becomes available.

The BACA employs clerical and secretarial workers, and educational, administrative, managerial, and program development personnel. For professional positions, a college degree is required. The BACA also uses volunteers to help in many programs and serve on committees. Volunteers only need have a willingness to serve in the field of alcoholism.

Antioch College Baltimore Center will hold commencement exercises for the June class of 1975 on July 29 at the Theatre Project, 45 West Preston St. Some 30 students will receive the Baccalaureate of Arts. The Center will also award the Master of Arts in Media Studies to its first graduating class

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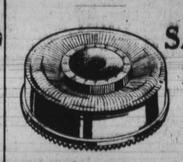

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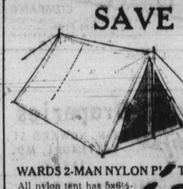

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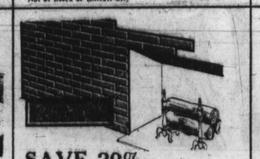

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