Dr. Bascom can hardly wait

By Paul Evans
Special to the AFRO

Marion C. Bascom talks like a man who can hardly wait to show his stuff.

The West Baltimore minister ran unopposed this week in the city's Primary Elections as a Republican candidate for president of the City Council.

He faces Walter S. Orlinsky, the present Democratic Council president, in the November General Election.

The Rev. Dr. Bascom, pastor at the Douglass Memorial Community Church and no novice at political wheeling and dealing, expects to devote his campaign to specific minority citizen concerns as health are, education and housing, along with political representation.

Even before the first returns were in Tuesday night, he explained how he intends to achieve this.

The Rev. Mr. Bascom insisted that his campaign will not be run as the usual Democrat versus a Republican or vice versa, the usual Republican versus a Democrat.

"My race will be a race toward change in city government. I shall desire to alert the total public to the need to have blacks participate in a meaningful way in city government," he said.

In a letter circulated to potential backers in late summer. The Rev. Mr. Bascom cited three major issues which propelled his candidacy.

They included:

1. The need to raise the level of human renewal in Baltimore. "Physical renewal is terribly important, but we become people-oriented in a new and creative way."

2. His personal qualifications for leadership. "As you know, my experiences have run the gamut administrative and the struggle for human rights.

3. Lack of minority representation in city government. "The major party has not developed an integrated ticket in the face of a preponderance of blacks in the City of Baltimore. This fact is an affront to me and because of this, I propose to be that person who will participate in the leadership of Baltimore City."

The Rev. Mr. Bascom predicted he would gather a "wide and varied cross-section of support," while he refused to reveal the strength of his campaign war chest. He emphasized obtaining the "maximum with the minimum" as the only reference to the financial stability of his campaign.

Discussion of issues on a mature level and the avoidance of "Loud and boisterous" arguments would be a key feature in his campaign style.

This could be interpreted as a slap at Mr. Orlinsky who is known for his fondness for angumentation.

Nevertheless, Mr. Orlinsky sounded confident Tuesday evening of beating back a Bascom challenge. But, that confidence was expressed with considerable black organization support at his door.

What the next few weeks may bring in a change of support may be a surprise, the AFRO learned.

WALTER S. ORLINSKY
Squaring off for historic confrontation

DR. MARION C. BASCOM

Douglass did well

John W. Douglass, the candidate for comptroller from East Baltimore's 45th legislative district, needed at least 50,000 votes in Tuesday's primary to make a "respectable" showing, the political pundits said.

Unofficial figures from the Board of Elections Supervisors slated Douglass with 31,865 votes and his opponent, the incumbent, Hyman A. Pressman, with 64,555 votes.

Though he didn't approach the 50,000 vote-level, Douglass said wearily, but optimistically, in his Forest Park headquarters late Tuesday night, "Under the circumstances, with the low voter turnout and all, I did rather well."

And that is how he took his defeat at the hands of Mr. Pressman.

The Douglass campaign's visibility was low initially. However, the candidate feels toward the end, his exposure improved and that his charges of Pressman's alleged fiscal incompetence and inattentiveness to detail were fully aired.

John Douglass is not bitter.

Rather, he blames the low voter turnout which was virtually zero in some of the heavily black precincts, known as AFRO precincts to this newspaper.

Beyond this, he unhappily pointed to what he felt, appears to be, a continuing pattern of apathy by whites in voting for black candidates universally recognized as able and willing to do the job.

Douglass cited the pattern of the George L. Russell campaign to become the first black major in 1971; the Paul L. Chester City Council president bid in 1971; and the 1974 write-in attempt by Milton B. Allen.

To this pattern, he adds his own name.

When he first decided to run for the comptroller's position some years ago, Douglass had envisioned inclusion on the regular ticket of the city's Democratic party.

This year turned out to be a political heartache.

Resisting appeals to form a ticket with a black candidate as either president of the City Council or comptroller, the mayor decided to let the other incumbents go it alone.

Thus, Douglass hopes to pick-up the citywide support any other ticket-mate

DEL. JOHN W. DOUGLASS (D, 45th)
Wiser for the experience . . .

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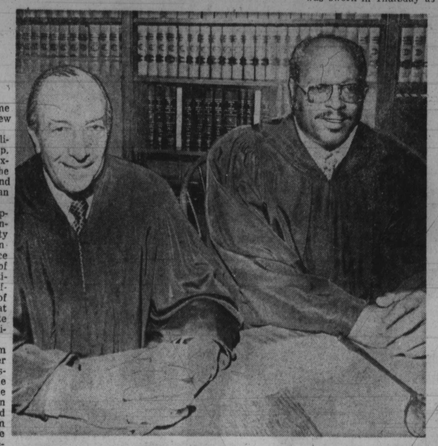

CHIEF JUDGE Anselm Sodaro (left) appointed Judge Harry A. Cole as chairman of the committee to investigate charges made by Judge Joseph C. Howard, that Supreme Court Bench judges preside over a Courthouse that is a bastion of discrimination based on race and sex. . .

Judge Anselm Sodaro was sworn in Thursday as chief judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

He has appointed Judge Harry A. Cole as chairman of a committee to represent the eighth Judicial Circuit. Judge Sodaro stated, "The committee is to consult with every segment of our educational, financial, business and professional community, with every department head in the courthouse, including the clerks, the sheriff and the State's Attorneys and to report to the full bench its recommendations as to what policy this bench should adopt by way of implementation as it pertains to all members of the Court House family."

* * *

Others on the committee are Judges Shirley B. Jones, Robert L. Karwacki, Marshall A. Levin and Basil A. Thopas.

* * *

Judge Sodaro added, "One of the major problems that has been plaguing the Supreme Bench involves the issue of fair employment and fair distribution of positions under the direct supervision of collateral to the Supreme Bench.

"One of the major problems which has been plaguing us involves the issue of fair employment and fair distribution of positions under the direct supervision of, or collateral to, the Supreme Bench.

"While it has been simmering for some time, it suddenly came to the surface by the exhaustive report of Judge Joseph C. Howard.

"While it has displeased some, I knew that sooner or later this senstive problem had to be faced forthrightly and that it could no longer be swept under the rug."

Last week Judge Sodaro named Judge Howard as chief of the Criminal Courts and Judge Robert B. Watts as a member of the Personnel Committee of the Supreme Bench.

Judges Howard, Watts, Cole and John R. Hargrove are the four black jurists on the 22-member Supreme Bench, the highest court of record in the city.

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1. All matter printed herein is hereby made part of the Contest Rules and Regulations. Contestants upon participating in the contest agree to abide by the rules set forth and no promises or agreements either written or verbal made by a solicitor or canvassor, not directly affiliated with the AFRO or the Contest Director's office will be recognized.

2. QUALIFICATIONS: Contest is open to all persons over the age of 16 years living in the Baltimore Metropolitan area.

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4. DENOMINATION VALUE: There will be three categories in denomination value: $5, $10 and $20.

5. COLLECTING WINNINGS: Tuesday winners will have to collect their winnings not later than 4 p.m. on Thursday of the same week of publication. Winning numbers appearing in Friday's AFRO must be collected by 4 p.m., Monday. Winners must be present at the AFRO in person and must show their winning certificate.

6. ALL WINNERS agree to have their photograph taken at the time of collecting their winnings. Winners not agreeing must abide by the decision of the Contest Director.

7. NO EMPLOYEE OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS nor subsidiaries nor distributors of said publication nor vendors handling said publication or any other member of his immediate family will be permitted to enter the contest.

Don't forget to get your LUCKY BUCK From your AFRO carrier or newsstand

A DREAM COME TRUE — For five years Elder James Mosley of the 1800 blk. of W. Lanvale St. has fought to have a new school built to replace the present No. 138 at Monroe St. and Harlem Ave. After vigorous fighting with the City Board of Estimates, the school is finally being built, with completion expected in the fall of 1977.

—At last

(FROM PAGE ONE)

classrooms where students used their work to cover the cracks.

* * *

Not only that, but Mosley also stated that in 1973, the school's furnace broke and with 35-50 degree temperatures, students were forced to attend school with no repairs to the furnace. Persuasively, Mosley pressed school officials and the next day, a new furnace was installed.

The building was originally constructed in 1896, and hunting around, Mosley has discovered that similar battles have been waged by others for the past 25 years, but no one until now has been able to get a replacement for the present P.S. No. 138.

* * *

Some of the assets of the new school besides clearing those faults mentioned are noted by Mosley as including a new library, a health clinic, a cafeteria (there is none at present, food is prepared in hallways and served at the students' desks), a music room, an art room, and a gym.

Mr. Mosley, who is currently self-employed as an odd-job man and a minister of the Church of Christ, Apostles, 1618 E. North Ave.

He now hopes to improve housing in the area, getting landlords to repair their properties.

—Masons expect 1,100

(FROM PAGE ONE)

centennial activities and will serve as toastmaster at the Sunday event.

David Ross, also Thirty-Thirty-third Degree, is co-chairman.

Massachusetts U.S. Senator Edward W. Brooke will give the main address and will receive the Prince Whipple Award.

N.Y. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the Prince Hall Legislative Award; Dr. Lerone Bennett, Prince Hall Heritage Award; Carl Rowen, author, lecturer and journalist, the Prince Hall Press Award; and Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy, president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Spiritual Leadership Award.

Other honorees include the Primas Black Award posthumously to Dr. Willard W. Allen, former Grand Master of Maryland Masons; the Epheram Blackman Award to Dr. Charles H. Wesley; Newport Summer Award, James A. Mingo; Colonel Milton Award, Dr. John W. Davis; and the Salem Poor Award, Frank R. Summers.

Maryland legislators, elected officials, and civil and fraternal leaders, as well as leaders in the Prince Hall Masons will receive citations.

* * *

Among organizations which will be cited are the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

Samuel T. Daniels, Grand Master of Maryland's Masons will receive the Peter Best Masonic Award.

The Sunday event is one of several which will be held during the Bicentennial year.

March 6, 1775, fifteen black men of African descent became Masons in a military regiment, one year before the American Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Later, those men received a charter or dispensation from the Grand Lodge (Masonic) of England to organize themselves under the title of Lodge 459. Later the name was changed to Prince Hall.

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Dr. Moses Barksdale

—Fake patients

(FROM PAGE ONE)

tween the age of 18 and 20-years-old. Neighbors told the police they have seen the two men in the neighborhood before. One of the men was wearing dark pants and a dark shirt.

—John Douglass

(Continued from Page 10)

of the mayor could expect in a normal election year were dashed.

The only concession the mayor has made to cries for increased political representation by blacks as both appointed and elected officials was the naming of Alvin Watson, a former vice president for business at Coppin State College as Deputy Commissioner of Health.

Douglass, then, went the route alone.

Most of his support stemmed from the traditional black political organizations in east and west Baltimore. Douglass was carried on their slates with candidates for City council. His brochures and campaign literature were in effect limited to what he had hoped would bring a substantial outpouring of black voters.

* * *

Douglass said he would continue his duties as a member of the House of Delegates. What of the future?

He categorically put to rest any rumors he may be interested in the congressional seat of Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D,7th) in 1976. "I am in no way interested in running against Congressman Mitchell," he said.

John Douglass is sadden by the low turnout of blacks, but he feels wiser for the experience. He radiates the subtle impression that this is not the last campaign in which he will stand before the voters as a candidate.

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