THE 136 YEAR OLD structure of Baltimore City College to undergo major renovation over a two year period.

Principal would like to see City College as open school

Maurice Wells, principal of Baltimore City College, said this week that he would like to see City College returned to its citywide school status with the "same drawing power as Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western High School."

Wells made the statement after Mayor Schaefer pledged at a rally Monday, $8.5 million in city capital funds for major renovations to the school.

Wells told the AFRO that there has been no firm promise on the part of school officials to return City to this status. He stated he also has not received any definite promise to establish new programs at the school.

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Wells said if the school was ever to return to the status it had before the beginning of the school year, he would like to see it equal that of Polytech and Western with a strong Liberal Arts program with an emphasis on humanities.

City College until last September had strict academic standards, drawing students from all over the city. According to Wells, with the beginning of the school year, City became just another comprehensive zone high school with the standard curriculum.

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Wells explained the idea of returning the school to its open status has received a great deal of support from the faculty, PTA and the Coldstream Homestead-Montebello Community Association.

He said they do not want to create an elite school but would have specific entry requirements based on academic performance and attendance.

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Wells pointed out that they could establish a program much like Polytech where a student could enter a four year course of study or a three year course of study.

But for now City College is coping the best way it can.

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Wells told the AFRO the basic problem the school has is that at the beginning of the school year the majority of the students did not want to attend City.

He said that before, the youths that attended the school wanted to be there. He stated that out of the 1,000 pupils enrolled now, all but 200 are new students. Wells explained the 200 students are seniors.

Wells said that at this point the change in the way the students feel about the school is for the better. He explained the staff has tried to build some sort of school pride and spirit into the youths, with some success.

He stated some of the students have taken an interest in what happens to the school and school activities and even have their parents and the community involved.

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A big example is the Coldstream-Homestead Montebello group.

The group has taken over a classroom to use as an office to plan for an open house next Tuesday and a charrette on June 4, 5 and 6.

According to Preston Davis, treasurer of the CHM Charrette Committee, part of the three day event will be dedicated to the school. He said that after the charrette is over they will continue to use the classroom as an office.

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Davis told the AFRO that the CHM group intends to take an active part in the planning of City's curriculum as well as the major renovations slated to begin in September.

Wells told the AFRO that during the renovation the student body will attend nearby Eastern High School on a double shift schedule. He stated the renovation, which will range from a new electrical system, plumbing and an internal communication system to a brand new gym, will take about two school years.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT is the name of the game as Preston Davis of the Coldstream/Homestead-Montebello Community Association views the progress of turning one of City College's classrooms into an office. The community group plans to use the room as a part of its effort to bring the community closer together with the school. (AFRO staff photo by Benjamin M. Phillips)

Early childhood education featured here next week

Mayor William Donald Schaefer has declared May 22 through May 28 Early Education Week in Baltimore. During this time an outstanding program of activities will be conducted by city schools' Early Childhood Education Area.

Highlighting the week-long agenda are Open Houses at all Title I Schools and Infant Centers, an Early Childhood Education Panorama set for May 24 at the Bentalou Elementary School (220 N. Bentalou St.) from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Parent-Teacher Conference at Walbrook Senior High School (2000 Edgewood St.) on May 22, from 8:30 to 2:30 p.m.

For additional information call the Early Childhood Education Area Office at 396-6710 or 396-6711.

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MP acquitted after telling about racial slurs

KARLSRUE, West Germany (UPI) A U.S. Army Court has acquitted a black military policeman (MP) charged with refusing to carry his pistol on duty, after hearing testimony that the MP had been racially insulted by his non-commissioned officers (NCOS).

The court found Sgt. Ronald Rouse, a 28-year-old MP from the New York borough of the Bronx, innocent of charges that he refused an order from his sergeant to carry his pistol while on routine patrol.

Rouse faced possible imprisonment and a reduction in rank on the charge.

The MP told the court that on March 18 he was working with two white non-commissioned officers, with whom he had previously had a racial argument. He said his officers had called blacks "poodle heads and nigger bastards."

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"I was upset about the prospect of working with these NCOS and wearing a weapon at the same time," Rouse said. "I had just taken some valium and when my first sergeant ordered me to carry a weapon I disobeyed."

The MP's doctor testified that Rouse suffered from "situational anxiety." He said he prescribed valium for him and told him not to handle weapons when under stress.

The army judge, instructing the jury after the hearings, said the doctor's testimony overrode the order issued by Rouse's sergeant.

After the verdict, Rouse told a reporter, "I was overwhelmed by the outcome, but it doesn't change the bad racial situation in my company and in the Karlsruhe area."

Rouse, a Vietnam veteran, said he knew of several black-white incidents, not only in his unit, but in other units stationed near Karlsruhe.

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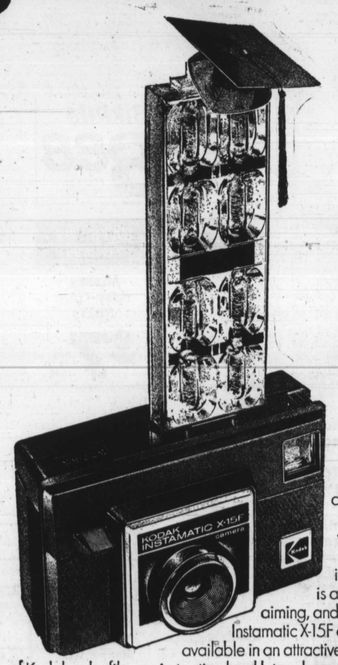

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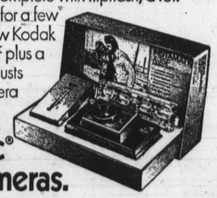

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Teen, 18, convicted of robbery

Rodney Curtis, 18 of the 800-block Lennox St., was sentenced to eight years in prison for the robbery of a 41-year-old man Oct. 13, 1975.

Criminal Court Judge Paul Dorf sentenced Curtis May 18 for the $20 holdup of David Johns, 2700 block Parkwood Ave.

Assistant State's Attorney Stephen Tully told the court Johns was walking in the 2600 block Pennsylvania Ave., when Curtis attacked him.

Tull stated when Curtis was a child he ate paint and received brain damage. Curtis was recently sentenced to four years for burglary and Judge Dorf stated the eight yers term he imposed will run concurrently with the other sentence.

Get ready for free st. car rides

Cooling evening rides will again be offered at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum on Thursdays beginning June 3 and continuing through Sept. 2. "Cool Off and Ride" was a favorite pastime of families on hot summer evenings of the 1930's, and is being revived by the Museum for the third summer.

Specializing in this service will be the Museum's two open cars which once carried passengers on similar trips around Baltimore. In addition to the open cars, the other vehicles in the collection will operate depending on weather conditions and demand.

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The first streetcar will leave the carhouse at 7 p.m. each Thursday, with trips every fifteen minutes until 9 p.m. Fares are 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children ages 4-11.

There is plenty of free, well-lighted parking adjacent to the carhouse, located at 1901 Falls Road, just north of Lafayette Avenue.

Musical entertainment, including such groups as a Sweet Adelines quartet and The Original Strawhatters, will be offered on most Thursdays.

A band concert by the Monumental City six, scheduled for a Thursday in August, will be one of the highlights of the summer.

Sunday operations will continue as usual from 1 to 5 p.m.

ERNEST HARVEY missing from home 11 days

Mom afraid son might be hurt

Mrs. Ruth Fortune said she is afraid something has happened to her son because he has never stayed away from home "this long."

Mrs. Fortune's son, Ernest Harvey, 10 of the 1000 block Shelbanks Rd., left home May 10. According to his mother, it was around 8:10 a.m. when he left to attend Arundel Elementary School in Cherry Hill.

After checking with the school, Mrs. Fortune stated with tears in her eyes, "I was told he did not attend class May 10.

"Ernest has left home before but he has never stayed out all night." He was last seen wearing brown pants, brown print shirt and black shoes. Call the missing persons bureau of the police department if you have seen Ernest.

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