New director wants hospital serving all parts of community

By Clarence W. Hunter

Curtis Wrenn sees the role of the University of Maryland Hospital as a community hospital as well as a state hospital.

"We are part of the community and the community is part of us," he said.

Wrenn was appointed associate director of administration at the hospital May 3. His job is to overseer the day to day operation of the hospital.

Another part of Wrenn's job is to take the director's place when he is not present.

"The chief concern of this office is to establish new lines of communication with all segments of the community," Wrenn commended.

Wrenn was born in Emelle, Ala., in a place called 19th Alley. He refers to the place where he grew up as "40 steps below the ghetto."

He attended public schools in Birmingham, Ala. and was graduated from A. H. Parker High School in 1949. Because he was too poor to attend college Wrenn went straight to work. When the Korean War broke out he joined the Army.

Wrenn never saw combat but rose to the rank of Sergeant around the time President Truman integrated the Army.

According to Wrenn when integration occurred he was placed in charge of a group of white men. He stated he discovered that they were smarter than he was so he went back to school.

Wrenn went to the University of Nebraska where he received a BA degree in Business. He was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer and began teaching, first at Prairie View College in Texas then at Lincoln University in Missouri.

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In 1958 Wrenn was selected to go to Iran as special assistant to the Shah on Supportive Military Operations.

He retired from the Army in 1970 and accepted a position at the Richmond Community Hospital in Richmond, Va.

Wrenn returned to school to receive his graduate degree from the Hospital Health Medical College of Va. From there he took a position at the Medical Center Hospitals in Norfolk, Va. before assuming his post at University Hospital.

Although Wrenn does not have any specific plans for the hospitals's operation he does want it to play a secondary role as a community hospital by helping every individual and rendering more service to all segments of the community.

Wrenn told the AFRO he is willing to meet with community groups or any citizen to hear suggestions as to the running of the hospital.

CURTIS WRENN
appointed May 3

"If he is dissatified I'm dissatisfied," he declared.

Wrenn said that he does not have any magic answers of solutions. He stated if the problem is defined he will find the solution.

When asked about possible mistreatment of patients, Wrenn stated that no employee will be allowed to mistreat any patient.

Married with six children by a previous marriage Wrenn enjoys classical music and what he calls "great books of the Western world."

However Wrenn's favorite hobby is "watching man do his best in anything he tries."

D.C. native in 'Guys and Dolls'

By Gail Hamer
AFRO Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — When Irene Datcher was just a tot, her godfather teased her that if she could roll her R's like singer Jackie Wilson, her reward would be one dollar.

Of course no one actually expected the child to take the challenge seriously but when little Irene opened her mouth and rolled those R's everyone was delighted.

"That was my first paid performance" laughed Irene as she acknowledged the forgotten incident recounted by her mother, Eleene.

"Irene, now a 25 - year - 1d actress and singer is portraying "Agatha" and is the understudy for the starring role of Sister Sarah Brown in "Guys and Dolls" at the National Theatre.

The black version of the 1950's musical by Lesser Swerling, and Burrows marks Irene's first performance in a Broadway - bound show and her first performance in Washington since she left for New York in 1974.

"I'm excited about being back and I'm just sorry that we will be leaving at the end of the month."

Since Irene has been performing in "Guys and Dolls" in her native Washington she has appeared on the Jerry Phillips show and on Petey Green's Washington which will be seen May 30.

"I really respect Petey Green and I commend the man's trying to accomplish in Washington," said Irene.

LOCAL GIRL MAKES GOOD — Irene Datcher, a native Washingtonian is currently appearing in "Guys and Dolls" at the National Theatre. Miss Datcher, 25, was raised in the Woodridge area and comes from a musically inclined family.

When she returned home in 1972 after graduating from the Cleveland Institute of Music at Case Western Reserve University, Irene worked consistently in local clubs and theatres including the Hayloft Dinner Theatre, The Top of the Foolery, and the Washington Theatre Club (now the Westend Theatre).

However she felt the necessity, as several other Washingtonians in the entertainment field to go to New York in order to further her career.

In late 1973 Irene got her opportunity when Voices Incorporated, a New York repertory company which has produced such stars as Melba Moore and Ted Ross of "The Wiz" asked her to join.

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Voices Incorporated gave Irene "a start" in the cosmopolitan world of New York Treatre and she began to feel a sense of affinity with other aspiring entertainers.

"We're like the roots of a plant that reach out a little further," she commended.

Irene has done several off-Broadway shows since she has been in New York, consequently her "weakest link (the theatre) was strengthened first"

In one of those productions, a rock musical called "Lucifer," Irene said that she almost died.

She played the part of a women accused of witchcraft and sentenced to death by hanging in Salem, Mass. in the 17th century.

The young actress explained that she constantly seeks to improve her performance and accordingly told the production people to tighten the noose.

"The next thing I can remember they were carrying me off the stage" which was in character because that's what they were supposed to do. Irene can now laughingly explain.

Irene, the product of a musical family sang in the early 1960s with The Datcher's Family Chorus, a group composed of Irene's father, Marshall; his 13 sisters and brothers; a few of their spouses; and a couple of family friends.

The Datcher Family Chorus was formed when the family church, Beulah Baptist, gave a tribute to Irene's grandmother, Roberta Datcher who is now the church clerk. The group sang some five years in area churches.

Although Irene helped organize programs and sang in recitals at Beulah Baptist, when her family moved in 1958 from far northeast to their present home on 17th St., NE in the Brookland area, she joined the church of her new - found friends.

'Blithe Spirit' at Dunbar

The Urban Services Cultural Arts Project announces the beginning of rehearsals for a June 17 and 18 performance by the Cultural Arts Repertory Theatre Company of Noel Coward's delightful comedy in three acts, "Blithe Spirit."

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Featured in the cast are, Morgan Stevenson, LaVerne Chapman, Jonathan Jones, Sylvia Hardison, Barbara Couser, Darrell Brown, Deborah Woods, Karen Wells and James Langley.

Directed by Alfie Brown, "Blythe Spirit" will be presentedat Dunbar Community High School on June 17 and 18 at 8:00 p.m.

The Cultural Arts Repertory Theatre Company is another of the many services provided to Baltimore residents, by the Urban Services Agency's Cultural Arts Project under the direction of Norman E. Ross.

Leaders on 'Meet the Press'

Five of the nation's black leaders will be the guests in "Meet the Press," Sunday, May 30 (NBC Television Network colorcast from Washington, D.C., 12:30-1:30 p.m. NYT).

Appearing on the special one-hour edition of "Meet the Press" will be Rep. Barbara Jordan (D.-Texas); Lt. Governor Mervyn Dymally (D.-Calif.); Mayor A. Jay Cooper of Pritchard, Ala. who is also the president of the Southern Conference of Black Mayors; Vernon Jordan, executive director of the National Urban League; and the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson of Operation PUSH.

Bill Monroe, executive producer of "Meet the Press," will be the moderator.

Linda Hopkins, star of "Me and Bessie" talks with AFRO reporter Michelle McRae at press conference at Painters Mill.

Arts and Music

Anna Marie Moylan Schary will be a guest teacher at the Community College of Baltimore's Summer Seminar, June 28-Aug. 5.

Mrs. Schary, who appeared in leading roles on Broadway in "West Side Story," "Toverlich," "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," "Mr. President," and CBS Television, is now working with the Maria Tallchief Dance Company in Chicago.

Modern, Ballet, Jazz and Movement exploration will also be offered to students and teachers at intermediate and advanced levels, at the College of campus, The Village of Cross Keys.

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The Susquehanna Festival Theater's final production of the 1976-1977 season, John-Michael Tebelak's musical hit "Godspell" opens May 12 for a two week run in Bel Air.

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Ann Flaccavento will direct the Bach Society of Baltimore in their last concert of the current season. This Sunday evening performance, May 23 will be held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, St. Paul St. and University Pkwy. at 8:00 p.m. Donald King will accompany on the organ.

Ninety-four members of the 1976 graduating class of the Peabody Conservatory of Music will receive diplomas at the commencement exercises on Sunday, May 30, at 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Louis Cheslock, who has been on the Peabody faculty since 1916 and is retiring this year, will give the commencement address. The Conservatory's Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music will be conferred upon Leonard Feist, chairman of the board of the National Music Council and a leader for over 40 years in the field of music publishing.

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The Walters Art Gallery will conduct a special lecture tour of the gallery's current exhibition, "Maryland Heritage: European Art at the Time of the Revolution," at 1 p.m. Tuesday (May 25) in the special exhibition galleries on the first level of the Centre street building.

In addition to being under thirty, all contestants must be U.S. citizens. One of the objectives of the organizers is to provide an opportunity for young American conductors to gain prominence in a field that is heavily weighed in favor of Europeans.

PARTICIPATING in the Muslim's Spiritual Jubilee were (L to R) Michael Abdul Rashid; Edward 2X Bass, of Cambridge, Md.; Rev. Marcus G. Walter Dean. Woods of Providence Baptist Church and Del.

Muslims sponsor spiritual jubilee

Nearly 1,000 Muslims attended a spiritual jubilee May 23 at the Calvert Educational Center, with ministers from the city participating.

Minister Michael Abdul Rashid, from Muhammad's Mosque No. six stated, "A jubilee reminds you of a party, but we are having a jubilee in the name of God."

Muslims in other states also sponsored a spiritual jubilee last Sunday. Minister Rashid said, We are living in a sinful and wicked world and a world where crime and criminals are taking over the streets, during which we have tried everything to solve our problems and everything has failed us. People don't care what they do as long as they can do their own thing. We are serious about establishing God in the hearts of people in Baltimore," said Minister Rashid.

Security at the spiritual jubilee was tight, with everyone entering the center being frisked and having to leave cigarettes, matches and cigarette lighters at the door.

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Men and women sat on separate sides of the auditorium. No one complained about being frisked because most people have become accustomed to being searched by the Muslims when attending their affairs.

Others participating on the program were Del. Walter Dean, Reverends Harold Carter, Vernon N. Dobson, Marcus G. Woods.

First black color girl in Naval Academy delighted

Annapolis (UPI) — The first black color girl in the naval academy's 131-year history is relishing her new position. But a little disappointed that she is gaining publicity for being the first black awarded the Honor.

"I'm a little bit sad that it took so long to get a black color girl," she said. "I hope in a few years we won't have to say the first black anything," said Stephanie McManus, 20.

She was selected for the honor by Jordan B. Smith, Commander of the 17th Company, which was chosen as the color company after competition in academics, sports and extra-curricular activities with 35 other companies at the academy.

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McManus Describes Smith — The naval academy's first black color company commander — as a "good friend."

A 1975 honors graduate of Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., McManus said she has an "undescribable feeling" about being selected color girl. She said her parents were overjoyed when they learned she had been chosen.

"This has been a happy household this past week," said McManus, who grew up in annapolis amost in the backyard of the naval academy.

She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Fisk with a degree in political science and history. McManus, whose ambition is a teacher at Annapolis High School, is interested in corporate law and plans to attend law school in the fall.

As color girl she will raise the colors of the 17th company, which will fly above the paval academy until next year's class graduates. The color-raising ceremony will be held next Tuesday, the day before the academy's graduation and commissioning ceremonies.

Michigan man admits killing funeral director

VIRGINIA BEACH (UPI) — A 21-year-old Michigan man has admitted to the 1975 stabbing death of a prominent funeral director and his 6-year-old grandson.

Richard C. Siebert pled guilty in circuit court, Wednesday, to charges that he murdered 62-year-old James W Hairston and James W. Robinson on July 10, 1975 in their beds at the grandfather's home.

Siebert faces a possible life sentence for each of the two murder charges.

Franklin L. Castle, 19, was sentenced in February to 99 years in prison after pleading guilty to charges that he participated in the murder.

Castle was sentenced by Judge Philip L. Russo, who is also presiding over Siebert's case.

At the time of Castle's sentencing, Russo said, "This is as brutal a thing as I have ever heard in my whole life. If I've ever sat in a case where a man deserves no mercy, this is it."

Police reports said Siebert and Castle broke into Hairston's home to rob it and then stabbed Hairston and cut the boy's throat when the two awoke in their beds.

Police said a small amount of money was stolen from Hairston's wallet.

Siebert confessed to the Hairston killings from his Detroit, Mich., jail cell where he was being held for the murder of an elderly couple there, authorities said.

Police said Castle and Siebert met in North Carolina, where they murdered a Fayetteville store proprietor.

The two reportedly split up after the Virginia Beach murders and Castle was later picked up in Pennsylvania for the murder of a woman in that state.

Woman bandit gets 35 years

Ms. Margo Talley, 26, pleaded guilty in Criminal Court May 26 to the holdup of a furniture store.

Judge Solomon Liss sentence Ms. Talley of the 3590 block Park Heights Ave., to 35 years in prison. Ms. Talley was one of several bandits who approached James McClellan, 43, last November in the 2900 block Springhill Ave., as McClellan was about to enter his home.

Court records state McClellan was beaten and placed in a closet, but later manage to escape.

Assistant State's Attorney Roy Breslow stated a 16-year-old co-defendant was recently given a 40 year sentence and another 19-year-old who pleaded guilty will be sentenced later.

Teen shoots cobbler, sentenced to 30 years

A teenager was sentenced to 30 years in prison May 25 for the armed robbery and attempted murder of a cobbler last July.

Criminal Court Judge I. H. Hammerman sentenced Johnny Ray Williams, 18, of the 1900 block E. 20th St.

Williams was convicted of shooting Malcolm Weems, 54, in the left cheek and taking $55 from his North Avenue Shoe Shop.

Assistant State's Attorney Roy Breslow told the court Williams demanded Weems to give him his money. When Weems told Williams he didn'thave any money, he was then shot in the face.

Weems was able to identify Williams as one of the neighborhood teenagers and he was later arrested at his home.

GENEVA — Ways in which the social security systems in African countries could be harmonized is likely to be one of the items on the agenda of the next African regional conference of the International Labor Office.

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Jesse likes job concern Rocky shows

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Black activist, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, says he's impressed with Vice President Nelson Rockefeller's interest in finding summer jobs for black youths.

Jackson, national director of the Chicago-based Operation PUSH, said he met with Rockefeller to explain his proposal for a summer cleanup of inner city schools as a means of providing jobs.

"My recommendation was that we take certain schools, first as models and let those students clean up those schools for the summer," Jackson said.

Jackson said he listed five pilot cities for Rockefeller where the program could be applied — Chicago, Gary, Ind.; Detroit, Los Angeles and Washington.

"He expressed a desire to expand it to 10 cities," Jackson said.

Eight face charges of assisting accused murderer in prison escape

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (UPI) — Eight persons are facing charges of helping Marie Unger, accuser of murdering a local policeman, and his cellmate Robert Miller escape from Washington County Detention Center May 14.

Hearings for four Washington County deputies charged with 29 violations of sheriff department violations have been set for June 4, Washington County sheriff Dick Ford said Wednesday.

The deputies —Terry Smith, Aldine Russell, Harold McCarty and Richard Mummert — have been suspended without pay since may 15, the day after Unger and Miller escaped.

Ford did not say what the chrages against the four were. He added more sheriff's employes may be charged with department violations related to the escape.

"There is a possibility that one or more department personnel may face disciplinary hearings in connection with the breakout sometime in the future," He said.

A Mercersburg, Pa., man was charged Wednesday in connection with the escape bringing to four the total of Unger's relatives and acquaintances arrested for aiding in the jail break.

Roger Dorty, 23, was arrested by Pennsylvania State Police who said he provided Unger and Miller with food and clothing. He released on $3,000 bond.

other three charged with aiding in the escape are Thomas Unger, Barbara Rexroth, 18, of Greencastle, Pa.; his brother, David, 19, also of Greencastle; and Donna Bateman, 20, of Fayetteville, Pa., an acquaintance of the escapees.

Rexroth is being held at the Washington County Jail on $15,000 bond. David Unger and Bateman are being held in Franklin County Prison in Chambersburg, Pa., pending extradition to Maryland.

Unger, who is accused of slaying Hagerstown police man, Donald Kline last December, is still at large. Miller was arrested by police in Savannah Ga., Sunday. The two were awaiting trial when they escaped through the ceiling of their cell.

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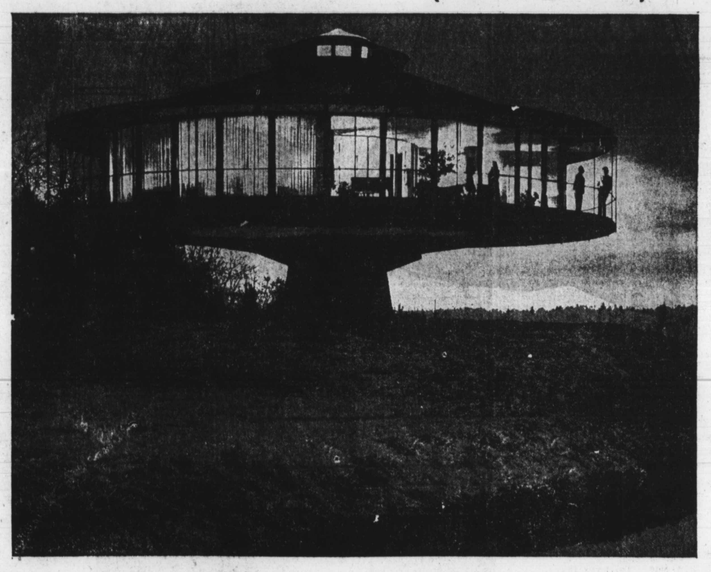

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