Black caucus, MSU sponsor leadership conference

A three-day conference on issues of importance to black citizens in Maryland has been scheduled by the state's Legislative Black Caucus and Morgan State University.

Called the Maryland Black Leadership Conference, the meeting will be held on the Morgan State campus from April 29 through May 1, with the theme: "A Citizen's Humanistic Values and the Quality of Life in Maryland: A Mandate for Social Action." The conference will be open to the general public.

PARREN MITCHELL — ROBERT WATTS — ANDREW BILLINGSLEY — MRS. MADELINE MURPHY — LINWOOD IVEY — AUGUSTUS ADAIR

• • •

Conference chairman, Del. Larry Young said the event is expected to attract 300 to 500 persons. He said it will bring together black elected and appointed officials, professionals, educators, social scientists, organizations and citizens for the purpose of discussing issues that "relate to the status of human values and to emphasized improved communication between Maryland's black leaders."

Some of the noted Baltimoreans expected to attend the conference include, Cong. Parren J. Mitchell, Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., Clarence M. Mitchell III, Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president of Morgan State and Mrs. Madeline Murphy, noted AFRO columnist.

Also participating are Judge Robert Watts, Linwood Ivey, head of the Urban Services Agency; Del. Lena K. Lee; Councilman Clarence "Du" Burns and Dr. Oakley Saunders.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Proctor is expected to be the keynote speaker at Friday night's opening session while Rep. Mitchell will be speaking at Saturday's breakfast meeting.

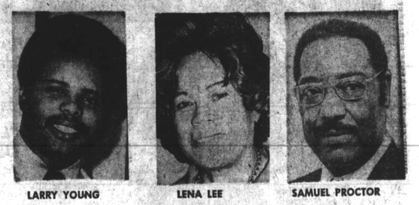
Saturday's session will also include all day workshops to examine areas of major concern to black residents.

Conference coordinator Dr. Augustus Adair has split those concerns into eight different categories and established eight task force committees. It will be the committee's job to handle the discussion on its topic during the workshops.

The sessions have been divided into sections with topics on health, education, urban policy and rural development and criminal justice and correction discussed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Subjects relating to business and industry, housing and land use, employment and income maintenance and civic participation will be discussed from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday's session from 1 to 5 p.m., will follow a town hall meeting format.



LARRY YOUNG — LENA LEE — SAMUEL PROCTOR

Gubernatorial candidates (announced or not) for the 1978 election will be featured.

Registration for the conference is $30 which includes meals.

For further information on the conference, contact Del. Young at 269-3072 until April 11 or Dr. Augustus Adair at 444-3347.

A MID-FILIBUSTER CHAT

Another hectic day for Sen. Douglass

By Paul Evans

SEN. ROBERT DOUGLASS

ANNAPOLIS — Robert Douglass, the state senator from East Baltimore, dropped his six-foot-plus frame into an over-stuffed leather chair in the Senate lounge Wednesday afternoon and discovered he had time to kill. So he said, "Let's talk now."

The 48-year-old head of the legislative black caucus was waiting for legislative okay to resume his frantic eleventh hour filibuster to amend the bill that would locate a prison where his constituents have sharply said they don't want it: in their backyards.

In many ways, it was just another "senatorial" day for Douglass who is celebrating his tenth year in elective politics.

He entered public life in 1967 when he was elected to the City Council after a reapportionment battle gave districts an additional member. Douglass represented the second district until December 1974, when he ascended to his present seat in the 47-member "upper" chamber.

Douglass seemed to loosen up — a respite from the pressure of having to talk constantly for hours.

"There was a schism within the black caucus this year. The other members said they wanted a constitution. So I cannot succeed myself," he said.

But, judging from his expression and the intonation of his voice, he's not leaving with regrets. Douglass has achieved what he set out to do upon assuming leadership of the 19-member caucus last January: making the group respected.

He was the first caucus head from East Baltimore and was elected with a majority of the votes, he said, from a body of 16 city people with three members from Prince George's County.

"I set about trying to improve the image of the caucus," Douglass said.

The cornerstone of the refurbishing of the public's perception of its black assemblymen was that "we would only take public stands on positions we all agreed on. Everybody would be working toward the same goal on the same issue. We decided to make our differences a private matter."

Douglass saw the caucus' prior image through the voters' eyes as unable to agree inept, quarrelsome and decimated by the Mandel Administration and owing positions of influence to the governor.

The improvement came with the solidarity displayed in the passage of the Morgan State University bill, just before Douglass took over. "We did everything right on that issue," he said.

It showed, he felt, that the power of the caucus could be enhanced with the kind of solidarity shown in the Morgan effort.

A more recent decisive example of the caucus' increased sophistication and political clout may be seen in the minority business.

This session the caucus honed in on black participation in the distribution of jobs and contracts in the $721 million city rapid transit project.

"This was deliberately decided," its chairman said. "We now have a higher percentage of black employe utilization and came off with 10 per cent of the money for black subcontractors.

That didn't just happen That didn't happen in Washington, it happened here. We decided that the black people of Maryland would be better served if we would all work together.

"I have gotten some criticism, some of it from your newspaper," he told the reporter, "about the way I have run the caucus.

"But that's the way it is . . ." his voice trailed off.

He stood up. Activity began again. Three bells rang. He had to hurry out. The Senate needed a quorum on the floor to conduct business.

HUD creates resource board

Everett H. Rothschild, director of the Baltimore Area Office of HUD, announced the creation of the Greater Baltimore Community Housing Resources Board. Organized by the local HUD office, the Housing Resources Board will assist HUD in the monitoring of the HUD approved Voluntary Affirmative Marketing Agreement with the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors.

Under the Affirmative Marketing Agreement, local realtors will undertake a program to prevent housing discrimination by increasing advertising, documentation of marketing activity, training of realtors and recruitment of minorities as realtors.

The Community Housing Resources Board will assess progress of the agreement, assist the realtors with problems which may arise in implementing the outreach program and advise HUD of the effectiveness of the agreement.

The Housing Resources Board is composed of a prestigious cross section of organizations throughout the metropolitan area who are engaged in activities which facilitate equal housing opportunity.

Don't buy baby animals

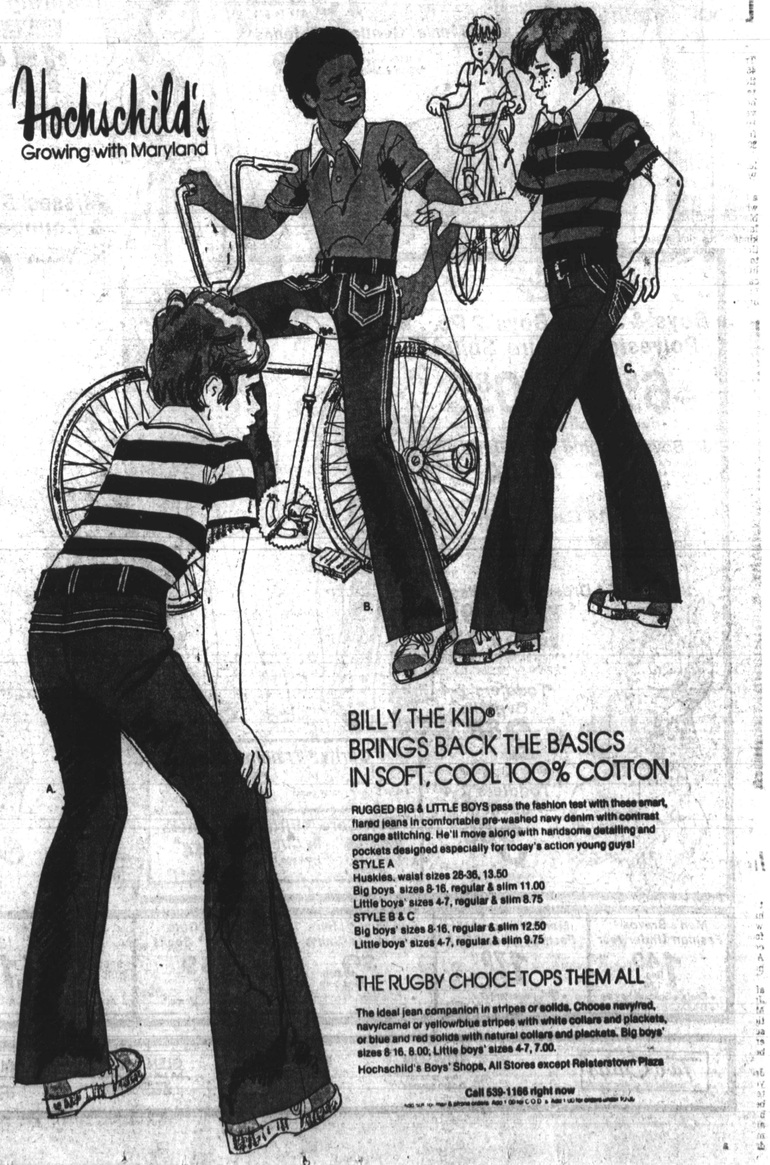
Parents are warned by the Baltimore City Health Department against buying ducklings, chicks and rabbits as pets or Easter presents for children.

Mr. Lloyd Ross, director of Animal Control, pointed out that children and other persons handling these animals do take chances of contracting diseases such as salmonellosis, which is prevalent among fowl. Youngsters not careful about washing their hands after petting animals increase their chances of transferring germs from the animal to the their mouths or the food they eat.

There is an ordinance in Baltimore City which prohibits the sale of ducklings and chicks in quantities of less than 25.

Parents of preschool children should delay purchasing any animals as pets until the child is old enough to understand the responsibilities of caring for a pet. At that time, a pet should be chosen that fits easily into the household routine. Many times small or young animals are accidentally injured by small children through rough handling.

Advice on purchasing animals as pets can be obtained by calling the Baltimore City Health Department, Animal Control Program at 396-0539. Unwanted animals can be brought to the Animal Shelter. The telephone number for this service is 396-0218.



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SHAKE-UP LOOMS IN METHODIST CONFERENCE

Will woman pastor succeed Sharp Street's Rev. Clifford?

The Rev. Richard Clifford, longtime pastor of Sharp Street United Methodist's 175 - year - old congregation, is going "upstairs" to become the Annapolis district superintendent as of June 2.

Other changes in the local pulpits are attracting Methodist attention as the Baltimore Annual Conference approaches.

According to presiding Bishop James K. Mathews, the 193rd Baltimore Annual Conference, set for May 30 to June 1 at Washington's American University, will see "a few" other changes but none on the district superintendent's level other than that of the Rev. Mr. Clifford who becomes the fourth black district superintendent out of a total of 10 now in the conference.

The Rt. Rev. Mr. Mathews also told the AFRO the conference now has 15 women ministers who hold the same status as male pastors

WOMAN PASTOR?

The question then arises, could a woman replace the Rev. Mr. Clifford at Sharp Street Church?

The Rev. Mr. Clifford will, as of June 2, move from Baltimore to Annapolis, and will preside over some 100 churches with estimates of congregations totaling 30,000 persons.

According to Bishop Mathews, the Rev. Mr. Clifford's new appointment was made about two weeks ago at on-going Bishop's Cabinet meetings where decisions are made on the pastoral changnges each year.

SHAKEUP ?

Announcement of new appointments always come the last day of the annual conference and true or not ture, each change is construed as a "shakeup" by the members of the various congregations.

There are some 300,000 members in the Baltimore Annual Conference and rumors of pulpit changes abound months before the May-June event which used to be held on Morgan College campus in the old days of the all-black Washington Annual Conference.

The Rev. Mr. Clifford succeeds the Rev. Edgar Hammersla who has completed the six-year term on the Annapolis District and will be moved down to the Faith UM Church pulpit in Rockville, Md. June 2 The Rev. Charles Johnson of Hughes UM in Washington, is said to be "most likely" to come to Sharp Street.

The Rt. Rev. Mr. Mathews said ministers are moved around through prolonged, conscientious and meticulous processes which come in stages under advice of the bishop's Cabinet.

I WILL RETIRE

Some eight ministers will be retired at the coming conference and these posts will be filled. The Rt. Rev. Mr. Mathews said each minister is guaranteed a pulpit and each church a pastor.

When asked, he said it is not likely Rev. Ernest Clark will be moved from Baltimore's famed Metropolitan UM Church nor will Centennial in East Baltimore have a new appointment.

The pastors of John Wesley and Garrison Boulevard UM Churches in North Baltimore are due to retire in two years, not this year, the AFRO learned.

A "likely" change may come if the Rev. James Smith is moved from Lewin UM Church at Lewin and Reisterstown Rd and placed in the pulpit at St. Luke's UM Church at Gilmor and Riggs.

The Rev. St. George Crosse, now pastor of Washington's Calvary United Methodist Church, may return to Baltimore as Lewin's pastor.

However, there's more significant news about the Rev. Mr. Crosse at this time.

A longtime F M Radio WCAO, 8 to 8:30 a.m. Sunday broadcaster, he has suddenly been replaced by the Bethel AME Church pastor on that station.

The Rev. Dr. John Bryant, son of the retired Bishop Harrison J. Bryant, usually broadcasts on WCAO Sunday 9:30 to 10 a.m.

However, with the Rev. Mr. Crosse taken off the air, the Rev. Dr. Bryant goes on at 8 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Bryant, riding the crest as a popular and dynamic minister and is also heard on, Radio WBAL and WEAA.

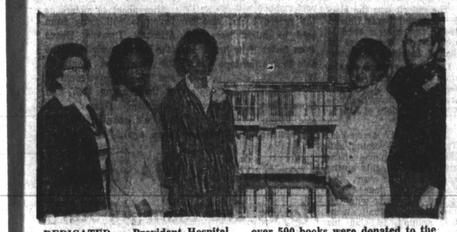
The Rev. Mr. Crosse also has other radio broadcasts.

The three district superintendents who are joined by the Rev. Mr. Clifford are:

Dr Harold Johnson - Baltimore North District

Dr. Levi Miller, Washington Central District

Dr. Irvin Lockman, Hagerstown District.



DEDICATED — Provident Hospital officials recently held dedication ceremonies for the new William R. Birt Patients Free Library. The library committee, composed of volunteer workers, announced that over 500 books were donated to the library. (L to R) Mrs. Lenora Pita, head librarian. Mrs. Betty White, Mrs. William R. Birt Mrs. Vivian Madison volunteer director and Julian Bauman.

BICYCLISTS PREPARING for the Ride a Bike for the Retired this year the event will be held on Sunday, April 24 starting at 12 noon. There will be seven set courses in in Baltimore city and county. Everyone is invited to ride. If you are interested, call 323-5600 or stop at the AFRO Public Relations office for registration forms.

Divorces filed

Gail Hankey vs. Frederick L. Hankey; Marsha Day vs. Robert A. Day; Clyde W. Garrison vs. Eva D. Garrison; Marion Carroll vs. Matthew Carroll; Bill Reese vs. Rosa Reese; John M. Maynor Jr., vs. Amanda Maynor; Ernest H. Moore vs. Verline Moore Brenda C. Butta vs. Robert H. Butta; Virginia Loetell vs. John Loetell; Juanita Solomon vs. William Arthur Solomon;

Divorces granted

[illegible] Simmons from Shirley M. Simmons; Kathleen Barnett from William James Barnett; Barbara Ann Waviand from Eugene Edward Waviand; Corrina D. Collins from Thomas Leon Collins Sr.; Rebecca Walker from Ernest Walker Jesse S. Stevenson from Lorraine M. Stevenson;

Mildred Jones from Marvin Jones; Doris LaVerne Scriven from Sylvester Scriven: Virginia F. Reid from Allen E. Reid Sr.; [illegible] Jones from Willie [illegible] Jr.; Margaret Mitchel Boone from Jack Alton Boone.

Labor leaders tackle city problems

The Coalition of Black Trade Unions consisting of 45 International and National Unions with 26 chapters across the country will hold its sixth annual convention at the New York Hilton in New York City from May 27 through May 30.

Its theme is The Challenge Ahead for the Black Workers.

"We will be talking about the methods by which we can increase black participation in the labor movement and the kinds of coalition, organization and efforts to be made to maximize the black political power in the political process," said William Lucy, president of the Coalition.

"We are also developing on-going programs which will help to alleviate some of the social problems of the black community," he said.

According to Mr. Lucy, Secretary-Treasurer of American Federation of State, County Municinal Employees, the convention will attract about two thousand members and friends who will discuss such topics as the full employment bill, national health insurce and majority rule in Rhodesia.

Mr. Lucy emphasized that the unemployment situation among blacks will be the key issue at the convention since blacks face a disproportionate burden in this area.

The convention delegates and guests are expected to hear speakers such as Ambassador Andrew Young, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; FCC Commissioner Benjamin Hooks, newly appointed executive director of the NAACP, Congresswomen Yvonne Burke and C. Delores Tucker, Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Workshops will include political action, organizing and communication.

The Coalition is a labor organization working within the trade union movement to improve living and working conditions in the black community.

SPRING IS HERE—Warm weather brings sports lovers outside. Gene Brown, 30, of the 3200 block Clifton Ave., a bank employe, plays tennis at Druid Hill tennis courts.

ROCHELLE HARDING

Teen missing from home 13 days

Miss Rochelle Harding, a 14-year-old Western High School student, has been missing from home since March 25.

Relatives state she left home around 7:30 p.m., March 25, to visit her girlfriend who lives on Madison Ave. However, her mother, Mrs. Clara Harding, said, "Rochelle never arrived at her friend's house. I am afraid she might be dead because she has never stayed away from home without calling me."

Miss Harding lives in the 1600 block East Eager St. with her family. She was last seen wearing a green jumpsuit with a green and yellow blouse and a green mini coat. She is five feet and weighs 130 pounds.

If you have seen Miss Harding, contact the Police Department.

Woman joins counseling staff

Janis Marie Leftridge has been appointed Professional and Graduate School Minority Relations Counselor at the University of Baltimore.

Ms. Leftridge comes to UB from the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, where she was Supervisor of Extended Hours Services. She also has been affiliated with the Baltimore County Department of Juvenile Services and John F. Kennedy Institute for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped Child.

A native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Ms. Leftridge holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Morgan State University. She currently is a student in the Evening Divison of the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Inmates cannot have public defenders

Inmates at state correctional facilities cannot have public defenders' aid when taking complaints before the inmate grievance commission, the State's Attorney General's office has ruled.

The ruling was made after Alfred R. Carey Jr., former head of the Maryland School Construction Agency, was represented by a public defender during an appearance before the Commission.

Carey, who was paroled Jan. 13 after serving one year of a three-year sentence for forgery and embezzlement had gone before the commission after a disciplinary committee found him guilty of driving a private car without permission at a work-release camp.

As a result of the Carey case, Col. Robert J. Lally, the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, requested the Attorney General's office to review the laws pertaining to legal representation before the five-member board.

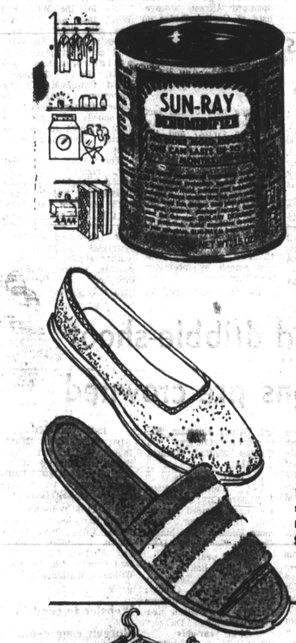
Carey was represented at the commission hearing by Alan H. Murrell, head of the Public Defender's Office. It was the first time a public defender had gone before the board.

As a result of the hearing Carey was removed from work-release and docked 20 days of good conduct time and five days of industrial credit due him.

Carey claimed he had not been allowed to bring in witnesses to testify in his defense before a disciplinary committee at the Maryland Correctional Camp Center in Jessup and appealed the case to the grievance commission.

The attorney general's office ruled that the Public Defender's Office had been established to represent indigent defendants in criminal matters.

The office ruled that the public defenders cannot represent inmates at parole hearings, adjustment hearings, matters before the inmate grievance commission and any domestic or civil matters. (UPI)



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