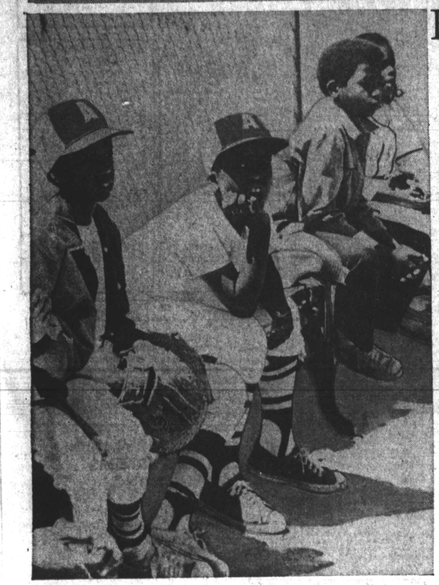
SUMMER SPORTS

The AFRO's weekly view of community athletics



MOSHER LEAGUE ATHLETICS players sit back and take in their team's big game loss against the Twins. AFRO Staff Photo by Norma Spencer.

Everyone plays in Mosher

AAAHHH. ..SWWWIIING!" the players in the baggy cotton uniforms yelled as their pitcher wound up and threw the opening pitch of the game. The pitch was a ball and the catcher lobbed the ball back to the mound... starting the cub baseball game between the first place Athletics and the Twins.

It would end with the third place Twins knocking off the frontrunners 6-5. During the game, however, Athletic manager Marlon Johnson explained the good and bad parts about coaching the next to youngest age group in the James Mosher Little League.

"Everybody has to play at least two innings," Johnson said, pointing out the rule is designed to give everybody a chance to feel the excitement of the game. "Oh, yeah" he smiled, when asked if there is some grumbling when players have to come out.

Parents, and the boys themselves, present the biggest problems when coaching on this younger level, Johnson revealed. His concentration weavered even though this was supposed to be an easy game for his team.

It only got rougher in the late innings.

"The bigger adjustments are with the boys. They get to be 12 years old, and they know it all," Johnson said.

"Sometimes they'll holler at each other," chimed in his coach Leonard Plummer. "We try to get them to offer constructive criticism."

As for the parents, Plummer might take the fifth because he's a former 'involved' parent who followed his son onto the field as a coach.

But Johnson says some of them will coach their kids from the sidelines, sometimes going against his instructions.

"I tell the parent...to let me do it, it confuses the boy" to have everybody giving orders, he said. "I just try to counsel (both) the boys and the parents" to solve the problem.

But for the most part, at this game, last Saturday the spectators, most, if not all of whom were parents, yelped, hollered and screamed, mostly for the players.

The differences in each fan's response matched the vibrant variety of the action on the field, which saw everything from swings at pitches over the batter's head, to a 'triple', which was really a misjudged fly that the Athletic right fielder seemed to see as an afterthought.

The color scheme of the players (maroon and white for the Athletics) was delightfully punctuated with forest green inner shirts, red, white and blue fielders' gloves and blue high top Chuck Taylor sneakers.

Despite the, seemingly chaotic nature of the games, however, the Mosher League competes under strict rules that Johnson gladly enforces.

"My boys don't throw curve balls," he said. "I stress that very hard. I don't want them throwing curves or side arm; I'd rather not have them" if they try to pitch that way.

Another rule, Plummer says, is the coaching decision not to play up any one member of the team over another. It keeps the players who might have more talent than others on an even keel with himself and his teammates–an instant ego deflator Plummer says.

"We try to get away from that," Plummer said of the practice of heaping on individual praise. "We'd rather take them as a team, no one man is better than another. It takes 15 players."

And rightfully so. Especially in this age group where major talent is the exception (despite emotional claims) and the rule is watching a player make a great play, (a shortstop in the hole, for example), then throw the ball on one hop past first base.

But that's the way the (Cub League) ball bounces.

JUST GIVE ME a couple more years. Twin batboy Chris Williams, 5, could easily be thinking as he recently gazed out onto the field, glove in hand. AFRO Staff Photo by Norma Spencer.

The Human Side

Hopkins karate leaps bar

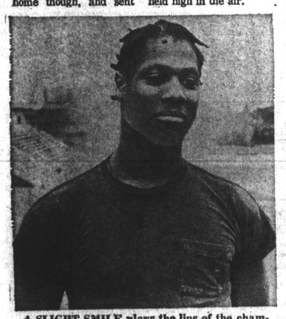
Leroy Hopkins almost missed the second biggest moment of his young life last week, but true to form, his mother came to the rescue

The 16-year-old who just graduated from Lemmel Jr. High last Friday set a new high jump record in the junior high track championships that same day. He attended his promotion ceremony, but failed to take his track togs with him.

He said his mother had them ready when he went home though, and sent him on to the meet, held at Poly High, where he soared 5 feet, 8 inches over the high jump bar to outclass the rest of the field.

"I could have done better," he said airily after the jump, restlessly sitting and standing in Poly's stadium after the meet. But "I hurt my toe running up to the bar. It hurt so bad it felt like my sock was coming off.

This last said with his foot, covered by scuffy Jack Purcell sneakers, held high in the air.



A SLIGHT SMILE plays the lips of the champion junior high school high jumper Leroy Hopkins. AFRO Staff Photo by Norma Spencer.

Remarkably, Hopkins has been jumping only for "about a month" according to his now former coach at Lemmel, Ralph Graham. "He's a super guy," Graham said of his naturally talented jumper.

"At times he's a little hyperactive, but attitudewise and scholastically, he is not too bad," Graham added, pointing out that Hopkins has a "75 to 80" average in school.

Hopkins says that his favorite hobby, karate, helped him become the junior high school champion.

"Karate stretches my legs and make iets me leap better," he said, walking almost skipping, toward the team bus. He was so happy he didn't even feel the chill wind that swirled into the stadium. "I break boards with a side jump."

That's how he goes over the high jump bar, with a side jump commonly called the Western Roll. It is best described as the manner in which Kato, the Green Hornet's side kick, used to jump at villians.

And its not too hard to imagine the hefty Hopkins, who screamed to everybody in the stadium "I'm the, that's me" when the P.A. announcer called out his name and record height, giving a karate yell as he runs toward the high jump bar.

The only problem, in Hopkins' otherwise carefree life, is figuring out how to enroll in high school at his favorite: Douglass.

"I am supposed to go to Walbrook, that's what is written down on my records," he said. "But I am going to try my best to go to Douglass. It's closer to home and there I can help out more."

Now that school track is over, Hopkins' coach Graham said he hopes to get his jumper to try out for the Baltimore Youth Games. This year's national competition will be held in Connecticut.

As he said that, Graham handed Hopkins, who lives at 1607 Bruce Court, a questionaire from Pete Pompey, the Youth Games track coach, instructing him to fill it out.

Hopkins just laughed, out loud of course, and held up his blue first prize ribbon.

Tourney aids charity

Druid Hill Park's Lakeside tennis courts were the site of the recently completed Alpha Phi Alpha tennis tournament for charity.

All the tennis balls used in the tournament, which ended last weekend, will be donated to Operation Champ, a local youth organization, according to Charles Robinson and George Maxwell, who make up the fraternity's tennis committee along with Russell Kelly.

Money from the tournament, gathered from the entry fees from its 67 competitors, was given to the Red Shield program of the Salvation Army, to "help kids go to camp," Robinson said at the tournament.

[illegible] had no intentions of making any money," Maxwell said.

The tournament had its start in October, the two said. The committee had "met every Wednesday night for the last two months" before the tournament in an effort to tie up all the loose ends, Robinson said.

Publicity for the tournament, they say, included applications mailed to city tennis clubs, organizations as well as word of mouth. Players came from as far away as Washington, D.C.

"We were spurred by our interest and the growing and obvious interest in tennis," Robinson said. A lot of people are "into a physical fitness bag" as well, Maxwell said.

Women get new league

Just ask everybody involved–players, coaches, sponsors, administrators–and you'll get the same answer in varying forms: the brand new Madison Square Unlimited Womens Basketball League has filled one of the biggest athletic cavities in Baltimore.

"It's about time that someone organized a basketball league for women in Baltimore City and the State of Maryland," smiled Ann Koger, 27-year-old coach at Coppin, who was dubbed the "spokeswoman" by her teammates on the Madison Square recreation team.

"We get the jump on other coaches because we see what's out there," Darlene Emerson coach at Morgan State said of the league which held it's first three-game slate of action last Friday.

"We bought it right away," said Osborne Payne, of the McDonalds on North Ave. and Charles St. which sponsored the league's uniforms and provided operating money. All league games are played at the Madison Square recreation center at 1400 E. Biddle St. every Friday until August 12.

"For me, it is a dream come true (and) older women were highly gratified" about the league, said Barbara Williams, 28-year-old co-director of the league, who, along with Koger, Antoinette "Bunny" Soares and Mariam Lewis, got with Madison Square director William Wells, and got the money. In April to form the six-team league which includes one from Washington, D.C.

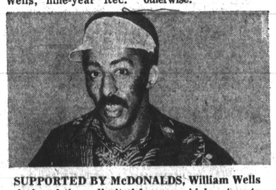
Nobody has dared compute the odds against starting a full league from scratch, least of all Wells, who has heard from just about everybody that "there's no money available," "there's no interest" in such a league.

"The Baltimore Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL) said 'not this year,' their budget was already planned," Wells, nine-year Rec. Department veteran, told the AFRO recently.

"McDonalds told me to draw up proposals, and they were impressed. We had 100 some girls try out just for my team," he said.

Williams and her three organizing female friends all knew the emptiness of not having any summer leagues available to women. All had played organized ball either during college, during the winter months, or in the armed services (Soares).

The Madison league will give women "something to do for a change in the summer," Koger said, applauded on almost every statement she made by her Madison Bears teammates. "It (will) bring out a lot of talent in the city that may not be discovered otherwise."



SUPPORTED BY McDONALDS, William Wells designed the unlimited league, which caters to over 60 women. AFRO Staff Photo by Norma Spencer.

Coaches' Helper

Q: What should a player with speed think about before and while he is hitting?

A: About hitting the ball on the ground, even if he is strong enough to hit the ball out of the park. He must think that the quickest way to first base is to make two people throw him out.

When he gets a hit (single), the fast player has in his mind a double, until the outfielder's throw holds him to a single. But, the player with speed should never settle for a single. He should draw a throw from the outfield by making an aggressive turn around first base.

Q: What type of lead should the fast baserunner take from the bases?

A: From first, he wants to drive back to the base. If he can walk back, then he should take a few steps more on his lead when stealing, remember that no catcher can throw you out if you get a good enough jump. Focus on the pitcher, study him.

For example, if the pitcher is a really tall guy, he usually takes longer to go to the plate.

Learn to read pitchouts. You know if the count is in favor of the batter — 2-0, 3-1 — the chances of a pitchout are slim. If the count is 1-2, 0-2, expect a pitchout because it won't put the pitcher in the hole.

On second base, the key is that the runner is in scoring position. Get a lead that will allow you to score on a hit. You are at second to score, not to go to third.

If you are on third, remember to keep all your momentum going toward the plate. Most young guys run down the line on the pitch, then end up going back to the bag or stopping when the batter swings.

Never! Make a walking lead on the pitch (while in foul territory) and break on the crack of the bat. You can score on a ground ball.

Q: What is the best way for a player to get signals on base?

A: ALL signals are taken on the bag! And the coach must station himself where everybody on base can see him clearly. When you get to the base, stay on the bag, check with the coach, even if he is not giving signals, or doesn't give any. Once the runner is assured of the signal, or sees there are none, he should immediately find the ball and look at the pitcher.

Q: How much should a baserunner rely on a base coach on a hit?

A: Unless the player is Willie Mays or Lou Brock, a good rule is for him not to look behind him, let the coach make the decision on whether or not to make the turn at second or third.

If the ball is in front of the runner, there is no need for the coach; the player is the best coach in such a case. He knows how fast he is running, what type of turn he has just made, etc.

When turning third, the runner is thinking score, score, score! He's going at top speed until the coach says stop. When he does, the runner should get back to third — fast.

THE COACHES' HELPER is a weekly AFRO Summer Sports page column designed to help coaches, players and fans better understand sports as they relate to younger athletes. Please send your questions at least one week before publication to: Coaches' Helper, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, care of Peter Harris, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md., 21201. You ask the question, and we'll find an answer.

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Future Games

JUNE 17

Madison Square Unlimited Basketball (Women): Towanda's Tigers vs. Lyndhurst, 6 p.m.; Ramlers vs. Madison Square, 7 p.m. and Sophisticated Ladies vs. P.S. 85, 8 p.m. (all games at Madison Square Recreation Center.

JUNE 18

Cub: Yale Heights vs. Highlandtown Exchange, Slentz, 11 a.m.; Gardenville vs. Salvation Army, (Radecke, 11 a.m.) and Famous A's vs. Baltimore Jets Clifton 4, 1 p.m.

Junior Cub: Cubs vs. Ednor Gardeners, Eastern High, 6:15 p.m.

Midget: Adam's Seniors vs. Eastside Braves, Herring Run 3, 3:30 p.m.; Presstman Cardinals vs. Violetville, Walbrook, 1 p.m. Little Italy vs. Sykesville, Patterson 1, 11 a.m. and Ellwood vs. Midtown, Patterson 1, 1 p.m.

Junior: Padres vs. Royals, Towanda, 6 p.m.

Senior: Knights of Columbus vs. C & R Motors Radecke Park, 1 p.m. and Chipps P.C. vs. Brills Radecke Park, 3 p.m.

Unlimited: Baltimore Blue Jays vs. Jessup Stars, Druid Hill 3, 3 p.m. and Baltimore Giants vs. Jessup Stars, Druid Hill 3, 3 p.m. and Baltimore Giants vs. Hilton Raiders, Druid Hill 4, 3 p.m.

JUNE 20

CUB: Pirates vs. Cardinals, Kacher, 6 p.m.; Yankees vs. Red Sox, Slonian 2, 6 p.m. and Yankees vs. Tigers School 144, 6 p.m.

JUNIOR CUB: Red Sox vs. Yankees, Al Smith Field, 6 p.m.

Midget: Highlandtown vs. Yankee Rebels Patterson 1, 6 p.m.; Loch Raven vs. Putty Hill, Redwood, 6 p.m.; Mary Dobkin vs. Midtown; Mary Dobkin, 6 p.m.; Gardenville vs. Adam's Seniors, Herring Run 4, 6 p.m. and Northwood vs. Brehms Eagles, Callahan, 6 p.m.

Senior: Brills vs. C and R Motors, Radecke, 6 p.m.; Reynolds Construction Spring Grove, 6 p.m.; Eastwood vs. Mike's Auto Mart, Joseph Lee, 6 p.m.; Lelite Giants vs. Towson Optimist, Druid Hill 4, 6 p.m.; Dixon Stars vs. Johnny's, Edmondson, 6 p.m. and Severna Park vs. Sullivan's Joseph Lee, 6 p.m.

lifestyles; fashions, women, **Reflections** food, youth, society, clubs

Lavern Whitt walks away with U.S. talented teen title

By Michele L. McRae
AFRO Staff Writer

Nineteen youthful ladies from across the State of Maryland vied for the title of Miss U.S. Talented Teen of Maryland last Sunday afternoon in competition at the Holiday Inn, downtown.

The local pageant was sponsored by Pinnie's Charm Studio, Mrs. Pinnie L. Ross, executive producer.

The audience left standing room only when they began filling the colorfully decorated ballroom of the hotel. The stage was aglow with green palms, complements of Wilhide Flowers accented by music rendered by Last Year's Brotherhood, directed by Harold Adams.

The well coordinated pageant began with the 19 contestants parading across the stage with confidence and poise carrying long stemmed roses to portray the theme, 'Beauty and a Rose.'

Charles "Chuck" House kept the pageant lively with his suave appearance as he acted as master of ceremonies.

Contestants were judged in four categories which included appearance, personality and achievement, performing talent and a question and answer segment.

And finally, the winners were announced.

Fourteen - year - old Lavern Whitt walked away with the title of Miss U.S. Talented Teen after performing an exciting gymnastics demonstration.

Miss Whitt is a student at Northern High School. Her hobbies include tennis, softball, track, trampoline, and gymnastics.

Sponsored by Al Laws, president, Ashburton Insurance Company, Miss Whitt plans to become a registered nurse. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Whitt of Baltimore.

First runner up Tilwona Boone of Howard County in Columbia, Md. is a student at Glenelge County School. At 13 years old her hobbies include singing, dancing, crocheting and playing her saxophone.

Miss Boone plans to become an obstetrician during her studies at Radcliffe College. She was sponsored by Equality Enterprises and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tyrone Boone.

Second runner-up was 15-year-old Nettie Millard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Millard. She is a student at Garrison Junior High School and enjoys creative writing, art and modeling.

Miss Millard's ambition is to become a poet and a fashion designer.

She was sponsored in the pageant by the Garrison High School National Honor Society of which she is president.

Lisa Bethel was third runner-up and is a student at Rockville High School, Montgomery County. Her hobbies are dancing, reading, modeling, track, sewing and shell collecting.

Miss Bethel is 15 years old and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lennard Bethel. She was sponsored by AMT Insurance Agency. Wanda Weems was fourth runner-up and is planning to become a dentist.

Wanda Weems sponsored by Thomas Noel, Esq. was fourth runner-up. She is a student at Woodlawn Senior High School and enjoys reading, jogging, playing tennis, and dancing.

At the conclusion of the pageant, pageant directors were honored by contestants and staff. Mrs. Ross was presented with a plaque from the staff and contestants that read: "This plaque is being presented to Mrs. Pinnie L. Ross for outstanding contributions to the improvement of our youth from assistant director and contestants of Miss U.S. Talented Teen Pageant, June 12, 1977."

Anthony Dease, a representative from the mayor's office presented Mrs. Ross with a proclamation designating June 12 as Miss U.S. Talented Teen Day in Maryland.

Last year's winner, Vanessa Jeanette Hall made a dedication message to Mrs. Ross, pageant director. The message touched the hearts of all present and read like this:

"MY WORLD OF DREAMS"

Today I am in my world of dreams. Happiness is my bed and love is my pillow. Faith is my partner and pride is my leader. I wish to toss and

Continued on PAGE 27

(AFRO staff photo by Norma Spencer)

MISS U.S. TALENTED TEEN — Miss Lavern Whitt, 14-year-old Northern High School student walked away with the title of Miss U.S. Talented Teen Maryland on Sunday when the seventh annual pageant was hosted at Holiday Inn, downtown. From left are Marti Franklin, assistant pageant director; Mrs. Pinnie L. Ross, executive producer, director and coordinator; Miss Whitt; Travis Winkey, associate director and choreographer and Miss Bill Whitt, mother of winner.

Beauty pageant June 19, 5 p.m.

Mayor William D. Schaefer has proclaimed June 13 through 19 as "Miss Black America of Maryland Beauty Pageant Week" in Baltimore.

The pageant will be held on June 19 at the Mondawmin Mall concourse, 8-9 p.m. and will include entertainment and many talented contestants. The winning contestant will be crowned "Miss Black America of Maryland" and in September, fly to Hollywood, Calif., to compete in the national finals.

During the program there will also be a jazz production number, choreographed by the associate director, Harrietta Wallace, in which all of the contestants will participate.

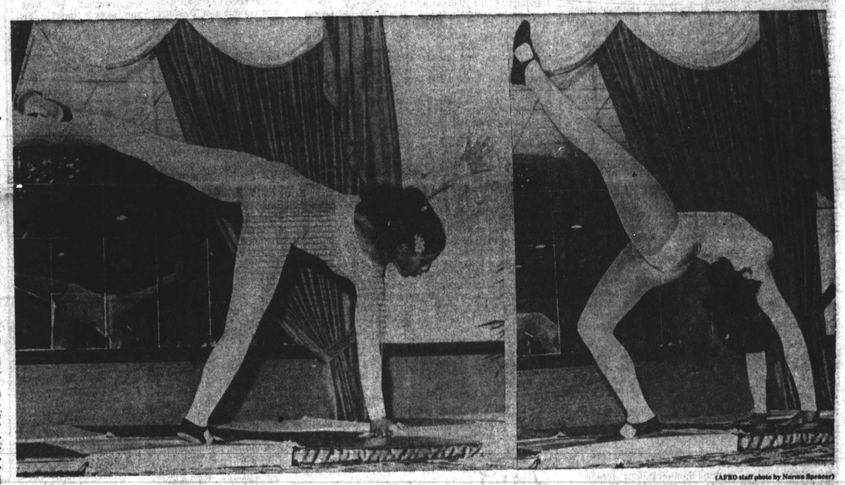
The contestants who range from age 18 to 25, work rigorously during rehearsals on many aspects of the pageant including their individual performances. Their talents include dramatics, singing, the art of terpsichore, and poetry.

The contestants are: Sidette Latta, Patricia Ross, Vanessa Mack, Michele Brice, Shedina Bouldin, Nancy Snead, Kathy Fitzgerald, Deborah Morgan, Margaret Freeman, Marsha Lee, Carolyn Jones, Jim McCowan, Cathy Smoot, and Deborah Finney.

Artartus Jenkins, singer, actor and model, will be the master of ceremonies while Rhonda Wilson, Baltimore vocalist and pianist will provide entertainment.

Pre-pageant activities will include an European method skin care demonstration, by Maurice Hulbert; a photo-exhibition of the contestants during rehearsals and at play, by Norfleet; and a cocktail reception.

For more information, call 542-8273.



(AFRO staff photo by Norma Spencer)

GYMNASTICS demonstration was the talent displayed by Lavern Whitt at the Miss U.S. Talented Teen Pageant on last Sunday at the Holiday Inn, downtown. The pageant was sponsored by Pinnie's Charm Studio, Ms. Pinnie L. Ross, executive director.

Harriet's and Cuffy's people join hands

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles to be submitted by Mrs. Cecelia Williams Bryant, first lady of Bethel AME Church who will lead the missionaries of the church to Guyana, August 17-25.

Cecelia Williams Bryant
AFRO Guest Columnist

There once was a woman. Her name was Harriet. Her African ancestry made her black. Her residence in Maryland made her a slave. Her belief in God and greater destiny compelled her to construct a railroad whereby her people might gain passage from bondage to freedom.

The account is a soul stirring experience in the narrative of human commitment; nourished and sustained by faith in the devine. Cynics also find themselves affirming the positive possibility set in motion by this sister beloved — Harriet Tubman.

A portrait of the many faces of freedom would not fail to omit a brother; whose people call him, Cuffy. We must travel south to identify him. Beyond the delta, further even than Cuba.

Finally on the northease coast of South America, we will find the place. It is Guyana; neighbor of Venezuela, Brazil, and Surinam. From the bosom of this soil there rose a house slave; who could not be pacified.

This Cuffy, who declared himself commander in chief of the African people and started a revolution on February 23, 1763. And his people continued on from Pin. Magdalenenburg in Canje, Berbice until finally on May 26, 1966 political independence from the British was secured.

Today, Harriet's people and Cuffy's people have decided to come together. Each having achieved a degree of political visibility; yet each in desperate need of meaningful development.

What can they bring to each other? Many will doubt that such a tree can bear fruit. Are not Harriet's people living in a democracy? But Cuffy's people are Socialist! Are not Cuffy's people self-determining? But Harriet's people are a minority still! Are not both involuntarily vulnerable to the economic vicissitudes of the big power brokers?

The seeming absurdity of the venture is underscored by the realization that for many of Harriet's children, this will be their first experience outside the country in which they were born. They are housewives, young professionals, political idealists, file clerks, retirees and Sunday School teachers, an African American historian, a musician, and an aspiring young photographer.

They have nought to bring but a faith in God, a common heritage, and a selfless desire to share their insight and experiences as a developing people.

They will go bearing gifts from the business, art, and medical communities of Baltimore. They will have with them a check to present to the women of Guyana to help in the building of a Youth Village at Vergenoegen.

The missionaries expect to receive an enlarged view of the meaning of development; to dialogue on the contemporary challenges of family life; and to propose possible models for the church in impacting the live of women.

The Guyanese women have been preparing for the coming of their Baltimore sisters. Preconceptions and anxieties for each as to how she will function, how, she will be received, have run the gamut. Prayer and study have resolved all fear. All that remains is to go.

Some may argue that the venture is frivolous and there are those here in Baltimore in need. To these; the missionaries would respond that they are painfully aware of this reality. Year after year, they have expended both energy and resource in an effort to respond substantively to the needs of our youth, our incarcerated, our emotionally disturbed, our shut-in, our crisis-torn. They have contributed to causes national and local. Yet the [illegible] diminishes,

Continued on PAGE 26

(AFRO staff photo by Norma Spencer)

SISTER CECELIA W. BRYANT the first lady of Bethel AME Church will lead the church missionaries to Guyana August 17-25 on an exchange of goodwill mission. Marian Scott, Bethel's master of music will also be traveling with the group.

Speaking of Women

(A look at what black women are doing locally)

Dr. Joan Scott Wallace, Morgan State University's new vice president for Administration has been admitted to the prestigious summer Institute for Educational Managment at Harvard University Business School. Dr. Wallace is the first woman vice president in public education in the State of Maryland and one of seven at this level in the nation's non-sectarian colleges.

A native of Chicago, Ill., Dr. Wallace came to Morgan after a successful career in academic and social agency management. She previously held the position of deputy executive director of the National Urban League under Vernon Jordan where she administered four departments, 150 people and a budget of 13 million dollars.

She has also served as associate dean and professor at Howard University School of Social Work; director of [illegible] Social Work at Chicago Circle Campus of the University of Illinois; director of Afro American Studies at Barat College in Lake Forest, Ill. and Social Work Analyst at the University of Chicago, Midway Research Project.

Dr. Joan S. Wallace

Dr. Wallace currently has more than a full-time job in the administration of her nine departments at Morgan. They include

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