News behind the news

Food: up, up and away...

Baltimore area food prices rose 7-10 of a per cent in May, with large increases in cereals, bakery goods and dairy products, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported this week.

Baltimore shoppers spent $19.45 for a basket of food in May that cost $10.00 in 1967. Similarly Baltimoreans now face 6.2 per cent higher prices for food items than one year ago.

The increases were partially offset by a sharp decline in fruit and vegetable prices, according to Alvin I. Margulis, the Bureau's regional commissioner.

Primarily responsible for the 3.9 per cent increase in cereal and bakery prices lats month was the higher prices for white bread, which was up 2 cents per pound, and flour, which was up 3 cents per 5 pounds.

Dairy prices rose 1.8 per cent, which was the largest advance in over a year, butter increased 4 cents per pound. American cheese and ice cream were also higher. Fresh milk, however, declined by one penny per half gallon.

The pries of both coffee and tea continued to climb in May with regular grind coffee rising 41 cents to $3.64 per pound, while a package of tea bags increased 9 cents.

Meats, poultry and fish increased 6-10 of a per cent last month. Pork sausage, roasts and chops rose 4 to 5 cents per pound, hamburger fell 2 cent per pound, and chuck roast, sirloin and porterhouse steak were also lower.

Thurgood says the struggle is not over

Portraits of three black Marylanders were presented to the State Tuesday and will soonmany in the Banneker-Douglass Museum of Afro-Amercan History and Culture in Annapolis.

Oil portraits of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, 18th century Benjamin Banneker and 19th century abbolitionist leader Frederick Douglass were unveiled at the State House in ceremonies attended by approximately 200 persons.

The main speaker at the event was Thurgood Marshall, who said an important aspect of racial progress is to understand black history.

"To honor your heritage is important, it seems to me," Marshall said. The struggle for civil rights is not over he said, even though blacks now hold position in the Supreme Court and in Congress.

Marshall, who was denied admittance to the University of Maryland in the 1930s because of his race, said "I have been all over the country and I have yet to be in any place where I have had to put my hand in front of my face to tell that I was a Negro."

The paintings will be displayed at Mt. Moriah Church, a 103-year-old structure which will become the Banneker-Douglass Museum of Afro-American History and Culture.

Student convicted of selling drugs

A 21-year-old University of Maryland student who pleaded guilty to selling $12,000 worth of LSD was sentenced to four years in prison.

John Lewis Parker was sentenced June 21 by Baltimore County Circuit Court Judge William E. Brannan.

Parker of Rolling Rd. in Catonsville was arrested February 25 after police saw him sell 4,000 LSD tablets to Rogers F. Clements on a parking lot.

According to Parker's attorney, Parker said he used the money he made from selling drugs to pay for his school tuition.

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Dan Henson is taking SBA job

Daniel P. Henson III, 33, a black Baltimore businessman has been nominated by the Carter administration to head the Region 3 office of the Small Business Administration, according to an SBA official.

Henson operates Daniel P. Henson Associates, Inc., an insurance consulting firm, and was a member of President Carter's Maryland presidential campaign staff last year.

Region 3, which includes Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia and Washington, D.C., approved 1,636 loans in fiscal 1976, handing out $136,852,000.

Mr. Henson's appointment comes after months of behind-the-csenes maneuvering by Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, D-Md., and A. Dwight Pettit, a local attorney who was co-chairman of Mr. Carter's state campaign committee.

It appears that Daniel P. Henson III has gotten his reward for helping the Carter bandwagon.

Columbia may be the way to go, says Harris

Patricia Roberts Harris, secretary of Housing and Urban Development, said Tuesday that communities like Columbia may provide the country with answers to many housing programs.

"Columbia is more important now than in 1968 when the first federal funds were made available to help the development of the new town concept," Harris said about the 10-year-old planned community.

Ms. Harris praised Columbia for its racial sensitivity, its low-cost housing and its energy conservation through the increase of homes.

Durning the 10th anniversary of the community five of the 14 members of the original planners returned to see the city of 45,000 which could grow to 110,000.

So far the development has grown to include 150 industries, 600 offices and businesses, 205 shops and 30 restaurants, a movie theater, and a hospital.

Ms. Harris said the federal financial assistance plans for 60 new town developments, including Columbia, will be enlarged to include small developments closer to large cities.

Over 45'ers getting raw deal on Fed jobs

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission said this week that it has evidence that federally financed social programs often discriminate against the elderly and that public jobs programs frown on applicants 45 and older.

A study by the commission is focusing on programs such as food stamps, medicaid, mental health, vocational rehabilitation, education, housing and public service jobs on which the government spends $23 billion a year.

Congress in 1975 made it illegal to discriminate on the basis of age in programs receiving federal funds. But the law does not take effect until January 1, 1979.

Eileen Bradley, director of commission task force on age discrimination, noted "community mental health centers as "a representative example of age discrimination."

But the centers are handicapped by a lack of money and shortage of staff members trained to treat the elderly, she added.

The preliminary findings are based on commission staff interviews with more than 300 federal, state and local program officials and a review of program files.

Mr. Fro with Dough

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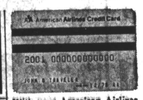

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Dobson objects to MSU center critics

The Rev. Vernon N. Dobson, pastor of Union Baptist Church, has taken strong exception to a series of AFRO articles on the Morgan University's Center for Urban Affairs written by columnist Madelina Murphy with Howard P. Rawlings.

In his rebuttal the Rev. Mr. Dobson said:

"I seldom, if ever, write letters to newspapers regarding their opinions because I believe journalistic freedom allows for diversity, and this can only occur where free expression is not only tolerated but encouraged.

"At this time, however, I am compelled to break this self-imposed rule because of an AFRO article written on June 11, 1977, by Mrs. Madeline Murphy and Mr. Howard P. Rawlings concerning the School of Urban Studies and Human Development at Morgan State University.

"As a result of knowledge that I have gathered as an active member of this community and as a member of the Cox and Rosenberg Commissions studying education in Maryland, I find that part of the article that proports to be factual and impersonal, is imprecise and erroneous.

"It is untrue that Dr. Favor has not given a detailed written report of the profile and progress of the Center since 1972 to 1976. The public record will verify this. The article is imprecise when it suggests that no other urban studies department in the state system has been funded at a level equal to that of Morgan's.

"As the writers pointed out in an earlier article, the Council for Higher Education violated its own rule when it allowed the University of Maryland to open a department of urban studies that has been substantially funded.

"However, they did not point out that concomitantly, the State reneged on its promise to Morgan University to continue appropriate funding for the Center when the Ford Foundation withdrew its support.

"In a public document, the Ford Foundation has published a report that has been given broad coverage in the national and local press declaring expenditures at Morgan to be more than justified because of the strength and scope of the program.

"The same report gives a scathing rebuke to other great universities and colleges of the eastern establishment for their lack of creativity and content. I am puzzled that the writers did not pick this up in their research, for it, too, is public information.

"There are other such documents appearing in national journals and periodicals, e.g., National Geographic and The Journal of Human Behavior, that substantiate this positive appraisal of the Center and acclaim its leadership role in the community of universities and colleges in urban affairs.

* * *

"Now as far as the Center's involvement in the community is concerned, I think it fair to say that scholars from the Center under the direction of the Dean, or the Dean, himself, have participated in every major thrust that this community has undertaken to liberate itself.

"I personally am aware of their work in housing, employment, food markets and co-ops, law and the justice system, welfare reform, public policy development and public education, health, and constructive politics.

Perhaps more than any other part of the University, the Center has been open and responsive to community needs. Many times, the Dean has been involved at great risk, both personally and professionally.

* * *

"Since it was the intent of the article to be factual and not personal, I think it might have been appropriate for the writers to look at the students, planners, and social architects who have benefitted from the academic offerings of the Center.

"Their profiles give credentials to an effective program that has produced the preponderance of young blacks in this field, as in medicine, law, and other professions. Much of the faculty has received tenure, some are pursuing the Ph.D. degree, and few, if any, have been terminated.

"I happen to minister to two of the bright young scholars who left the Center for advancement as a result of their experiences at Morgan. They credit the Center with their continuing pursuit of excellence.

"In response to the writers' recommendations, at the invitation of Dr. Jenkins, I served on a collegewide committee of the kind you suggest, chaired by Dr. Thomas Refner of the University of Pennsylvania, involving the academic leaders of the institution.

"I do not know that another meeting could produce any new information. However, I do know that every successful model of Ph.D. programs in black institutions started in the area of the demonstrated need and historic strength of the institution.

"Howard, for example, started the Ph.D. in chemistry. I think that Morgan would be unwise to start with urban studies, although this is a policy decision that I believe the University is much better equipped to make than either of us.

"I appreciate the invitation of the writers to respond to what I believe to be substantial differences in our assessments of the School for Urban Studies and Human Development.

However, this is not the first time that I have disagreed with Mr. Rawlings on educational matters. As members of the Cox Commission, I took strong exception to his view that Morgan should be a part of an urban consortium, and I do not agree that U.M.E.S. ought to be merged with Salisbury. Historically, such mergers bring about the dissolution fo the predominantly black institution.

"Further, I know that the writers were careful to suggest that what they have written is but a cursory glance at this institution, but I think that their conclusions if left unchallenged will be accepted in some corners of the community as valid and cause a further dissolution of one of our most valued community resources.

VERNON N. DOBSON

NATIONAL LIQUOR BOARD—Maryland State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein (R) congratulates Elmer O. Harris (L) on his election as second vice-president of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators which concluded its national convention in Baltimore recently. The state Comptroller's Office and the Baltimore City Liquor Board hosted the convention which was attended by more 300 persons from 32 states. Mr. Harris is a member of the Baltimore city liquor board.

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