RETIREMENT BANQUET—Miss Evelyn D. Wilkey former registrar and instructor of Cortez Peters Business School, was honored June 23. From (L to R) are Mrs. Fannie B. Poulson, guest speaker; Miss Wilkey, Mrs. Hortense D. Cain and Mrs. Marie Lewis, former faculty members of Cortez Peters Business School.

Miss Evelyn Wilkey honored at banquet

AFRO Staff Writer

Miss Evelyn D. Wilkey, who was described as the "beacon light of Cortez Peters Business School," was honored June 23 by friends, relatives, faculty members and former students of Peters Business School.

The occasion was a retirement banquet held for Miss Wilkey at La Fontaine Bleu with 480 guests attending. Miss Blanche W. Pettiford presided at the banquet.

Due to financial difficulties, Cortez Peters Business School, 1208 Eutaw Place had to close its doors last year.

However, Miss Wilkey, who has been in the field of business as an instructor and registrar at Peters Business School for 41 years, stayed with the school and saw it dwindle from 200 to two students.

Mrs. Marie Lewis, who served as a faculty member at Peters Business School stated Miss Wilkey was not only a leader for the students but a leader for her faculty.

"She has been the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of Cortez Peters Business School," Mrs. Lewis said.

Mrs. Evelyn Faulk, who represented the Kappa Chapter Iota Phi Lambda Sorority of which Miss Wilkey is a charter member, said the honoree is "a builder who has provided a foundation for people to go upward and onward."

Others who extended greetings were Mrs. Leona Holly and Wal. T. Dixon, who served as dean and worked with Miss Wilkey for years at the school.

Also, Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell and Cortez Peters Jr.

Speaker for the affair was Mrs. Fannie B. Poulson, head of the Guidance Department at Forest Park High School and a former student of Peters Business School.

Speaking of the honoree, Mrs. Poulson stated, "Cortez Peters Business School has sent young people out in the community because of Evelyn Wilkey.

Some 4,000 graduates have been blessed to have met Evelyn Wilkey who inspired them.

"We salute you tonight, Evelyn Wilkey. You are a woman of great faith and courage who stayed with the school and have performed every job at Cortez Peters School." Mrs. Poulson said.

The school was originally located at Druid Hill Ave. and Pressman St. It then moved to Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St., to Druid Hill Ave. and Dolphin St., then to Gold St. and was last located at 1208 Eutaw Place.

Miss Wilkey was with the school since its opening in December 1935. She has been an active member of Kappa Chapter, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. since the chapter was organized July 5, 1940.

She has served as dean of pledges and second vice president of the local level and Eastern Regional director and National Director of Education on the national level. She has initiated many programs which have contributed to the growth of the sorority.

In 1976, she was cited by Kappa Chapter as soror of the year.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, GBC STILL APART ON MERGER

Marriage of 'fat cats' hits snag

A possible merger between the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce (COC) and the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC), a critical step in the smooth operation of a proposed area economy rebuilding plan, failed to come off by its June 30 deadline.

A report was supposed to be issued by then, but the chairman of the committee working on the merger told the AFRO that it is "still meeting."

Jack Schlenger, the committee's chairman, said their were "no snags" in the talks, just problems any "fraternities" have trying to merge.

At the heart of the plan, which was publicized at a May 10 press conference, is the merger of the COC and GBC. The union was emphasized by the public relations firm Lippincott and Margulies, from New York, which was retained to create hte plan,

The plan, is designed to promote the image of the Baltimore Metropolitan area as one which could support business expansion.

Money for the plan was projected as coming from the private business sector (50 per cent), the five surrounding counties (25 per cent), Baltimore City (15 per cent), and "other," probably public sources, according to the COC.

Earlier interviews with county and city officials indicated a reluctance on the part of their jurisdictions to support the plan.

George Piendak, of the city finance department, said then, his knowledge of the plan was limited to "reading the papers."

Since then, Mayor Schaefer's budget has come under fire from city employes' unions for cuts in annual pay raises. Baltimore City's Board of Estimates has since passed the final budget.

Meanwhile, Schlenger says he's "hopeful" the full plan's status will be announced in the "not too distant" future.

One of the biggest aims of the plan is the stimulation of metro Baltimore's labor and economic growth.

However, interviews with officials of Atlanta's economic stimulus plan, pointed out that city's plan failed to attract many jobs for the young semiskilled and uneducated persons in the workforce, those who are out of work.

Parts of the Baltimore plan were patterned after the Atlanta plan, which has a reputation for being one of the most successful in the country.

State sales tax is 30 years old

What began as 'pennies for Lane' is now Maryland's second largest producer of General Fund revenue, State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein said recently, marking the 30th anniversary of Maryland's Retail Sales and Use Tax.

The state sales tax was established in 1947 during the administration of Gov. William Preston Lane. At that time Maryland, like her sister states, urgently needed additional revenues to implement new programs following World War II.

In the years immediately following World War II, few states had sales taxes, which were unpopular with the general public. Today, 45 states depend on some form of retail sales tax.

Revenues for the first year of operations in Maryland are estimated to be eighteen million dollars. In fact, more than twenty-three million dollars was actually collected. The first sales tax rate was 2 per cent.

Collections have grown from $23 million in 1947 to more than $419 million in the last fiscal year. Since 1947, more than $4.3 billion in Retail Sales and Use Tax revenues have been paid into the state treasury.

The Retail Sales Tax Division of the Comptroller's Office processes approximately 78,000 sales tax returns each month from vendors throughout Maryland. The number of sales tax accounts has grown by 39 per cent in the last ten years. The division maintains a taxpayer service section to answer questions from both taxpayers and businesses.

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"I trust all the workers. I think we turn out a great car here."

Eileen Gilleo, General Motors Assembly Division, Tarrytown, N.Y.

"I have a 1963 Chevy now and I hate to part with it. It's still working great. But this year, I'm going to buy myself a new car. Sometimes people go right around the plant with the cars they order. I don't think I'll do that. I trust all the workers. I think we turn out a great car here."

"I started my 25th year in January. I work on the outside moldings. It's called supplying the line. I have what they call "nests" that I put the moldings in. As the car comes down the line, I take the plastic adhesive paper off the moldings and the men put glue on each end and put it on the car so that it lines up evenly on the doors.

"It's a fast job. If it's a four door car, I have to make up three, six, nine pieces of molding within seconds because we're doing better than a car a minute. You have to keep moving all the time.

"It's really teamwork. If I put the molding down right, it's going to be right. If I put the stock upside down, then the men might have to take the molding off and reglue it. So it's just a case of thinking every time I put the molding down.

"Ours is a happy area. We laugh and joke and still do our job first. Some people might find the job drudgery. I just really enjoy my work. I feel proud that I make cars.

"I think there's more opportunity for girls today. The whole attitude at General Motors has changed in the last few years. I see more girls with different jobs. A lot of them are doing jobs that amaze some of the men.

"My foreman is really great. She can do any of the jobs on the line. In fact, she broke me in on the job I'm on now.

"If a person's really interested, I don't think it makes a difference if they're male, female, old or young. After you're here for a while, for most people doing a good job becomes like an obsession. They're proud of their work."

General Motors
People building transportation to serve people

Skate-A-Thon July 11

Members of the Baltimore Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia Inc. will sponsor their second annual disco skate-a-thon July 11.

The skate-a-thon will be held at Painters Mill Skateland from 8 p.m. until 4 a.m. Free transportation is being provided by B.E. and H. Services Ltd.

Buses will leave from the Sickle Cell Anemia office, 445 East 25th St. at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

The 8 p.m. bus will return at midnight and the 10:30 bus will return at 4 a.m. Proceeds from the affair will go to the Baltimore Committee in Sickle Cell Anemia Inc. Claybornе Black is chairman of the committee.

For ticket information call 889-1856 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. or 435-4032.

News behind the news

Human rights conference opens July 10 at Hilton

The Baltimore Community Relations Commission will be the host agency for the 29th Annual Conference of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies during the week of July 10-15, at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel.

Over 300 out-of-town conferees will be joined by human rights workers from throughout the Baltimore, Washington and Annapolis areas for an update on the state of human rights and equal opportunity laws.

The International Association of Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a nonprofit corporation whose members are engaged in identifying and eliminating discrimination in voting, employment, public accommodation, housing, education and law enforcement.

It serves a constituency of 550 state and local civil rights enforcement agencies in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

The conference will cover a wide range of topics such as women's rights, minority business programs, communications, desegregation, affirmative action and its future, and technical assistance training for directors, staffs and commissioners.

Keynote speaker for the official opening is Cong. Parren J. Mitchell.

Others invited to speak at the conference include Alexis M. Herman, director of the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor; Wilma Scott Heide, former Human Rights Commissioner and Eleanor Holmes Norton, who was recently appointed by President Carter as chairwoman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

A highlight of the conference will be an affirmative action workshop on "How To Avoid Illegal Discriminatory Practices" for labor, industry and governmental agencies.

The conference is open to all interested persons. For information about registration and reservations, telephone CRC at 396-3150.

JULIUS CHAMBERS
NAACP legal counsel

WASHINGTON — Home ownership among blacks has been increasing faster than among the natiin's population as a whole.

As a result, according to a study by Dr. Andrew F. Brimmer, home lenders should expect mortgage demand among blacks to accelerate faster than among whites.

BG and E will increase rates—no matter what

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BG/E) told consumers this month that if the Public Service Commission does not give it the authority to increase utility rates, B G and E will increase them anyway.

Despite the fact that July is a month when electric usage is at its highest level — air conditioners being a main contributer—B G and E said they wanted to regain money lost in May when company officials under estimated the cost of fuel.

The fuel adjustment rate, set a .552 cents per kilo-watt hour in June and raised to .703 cents for July, is an extra charge that can be collected without public hearings.

Also increased will be the purchase gas adjustment, a charge comparable to the electric fuel adjustment rate. It was 10.42 cents per unit of natural gas in June and is set at 10.33 for July.

This is what the increases mean to the average utility customer:

Electric bills will increase nearly $1 from the average June bill of $26.96 to a July figure of $27.89, according to Henry Lieber, a spokesman for B G and E.

Gas bills be -29.51 with the purchase gas agreement adding $9.69 to the average basic July bill of $18.41. The total bill was $23.96 a year ago, Leber said.

Divorces filed

Norma J. Jones vs. George A. Jones; Rosaline Rose Busby vs. Victor Allan Busby; Joyce LaVerne Burnside vs. Johnny Burnside; Vera V. Fields vs. Robert D. Fields; Howard Evans Sr. vs. Alma Marie Evans; Arnette Johnson Sr. vs. Linda Christine Johnson; Donald Raymond Newhouse vs. Susan Lyn Newhouse; Vanessa Thomas vs. Eugene W. Thomas; Carol Anne Sickle vs. Edward Charles Sickles; Scott D. Smith Sr. vs. Susan Smith; Harvey McCowan vs. Barbara McCowan.

Divorce granted

Alouise Copeland from Joseph H. Copeland III; James A. Wiggins from Bernice A. Wiggins; Patricia A. Inman from Lonnie G. Inman;

Vivian M. Barrett from Ralph E. Barrett; Edith Smith from William Smith Jr.; Sonia J. Lashley from Joseph Lashley Jr.; Rosa L. Swinson from Maurice Swinson.

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BY THE WAY...

by Joe Black

Alex Haley and ABC-TV gave this nation a great lesson in Black history.

And, for that matter, a great many Blacks of this nation got a lesson, too.

In spite of all the Black culture and history taught in schools today, "Roots" on television was surprisingly revealing to many Blacks.

The inhumanities our forefathers suffered at the hands of slave traders were enormous. And sad reminders.

But, while watching it happen, did some of us over-react to the point of clouding reason and thinking? Did emotionalism replace reality?

I can understand the feelings of antagonism that were created when we viewed the kidnappings, cramping aboard boats, whippings, seductions, and other inhumanities.

We can't let the sting of the past stir us to thoughts of violent retaliation.

Our ancestors used those years of torment to increase unity among themselves. To develop inner strength. To accept and overcome the sings and slams of their adversaries. From their suffering came spirituals. "He Knows Just How Much We Can Bear," "Rock of Ages," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

Today, Black Americans don't need power in song. But power in socio-economic growth.

We need visibility, and positive thinking to implement programs and practices designed to improve lifestyles of Black people and their communities.

"Roots" made our heritage highly visible. But some of us didn't see it for all it was worth.

While "Roots" was at the top of everyone's mind, we should have taken the opportunity to appeal for broadscale support of programs and practices designed to involve the lifestyle of Blacks within our society.

Next time let's make our feelings and emotions work positively.

Next time, let's be smart. Not mad.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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