Medieval children's museum

Step back in time at the Cloisters

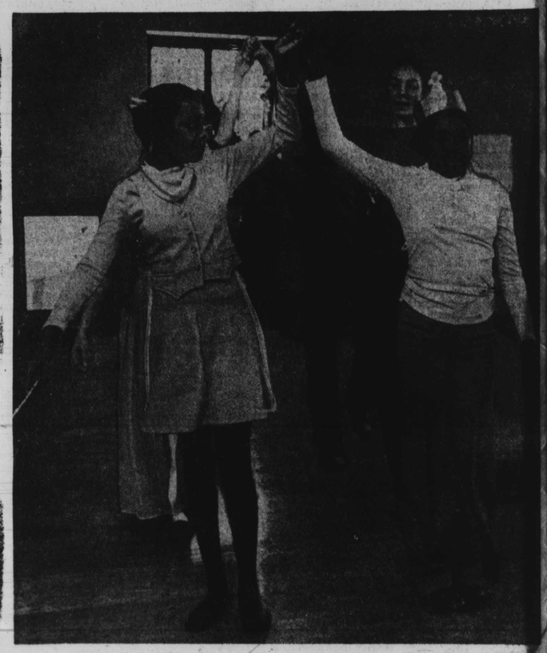
(AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz)

THE CLOISTERS — The Children's Museum, 10440 Falls Road, hosts visits from city school sixth grade classes. Housed in the museum are artifacts and exhibits of medieval history.

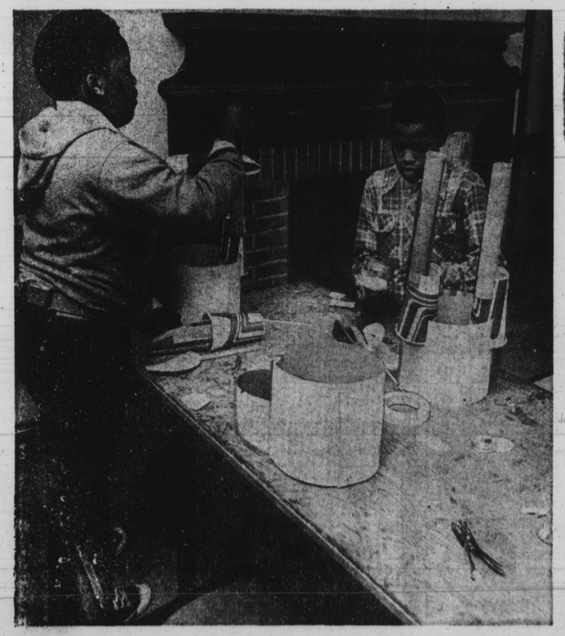
SHALL WE DANCE? — Sixth graders from Harford Heights Elementary, 1901 N. Broadway, learn the steps of a medieval dance from staff members of the Cloisters.

IRON MAN — A knight's suit of armor stands guard at the Cloisters Children's Museum.

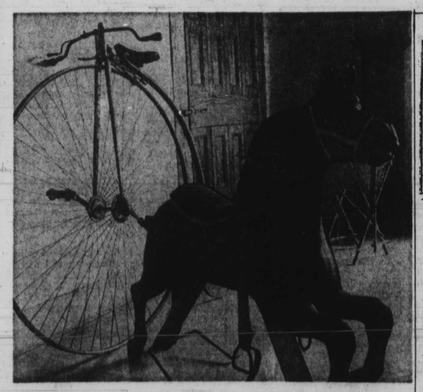
STAINED GLASS — A floral design frames an owl in a stained glass window at the museum.



STATELY GAVOTTE — Harford Heights sixth graders trace the steps of a dance done during the feudal period in Europe.



BUILD YOUR OWN PALACE — Avis Pettiford, 11, L) and William Gray, 12, sixth graders at Harford Heights Elementary school, construct castles with cardboard, paper cups and paper towel rollers.



MEMORABILIA — An iron horse, frozen in mid-gallup, and a very large wheeled bicycle are on exhibit at the Cloisters.

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Teen mom charged with smothering baby

(See column 2)

Tattle Tales hotter than ever Page 29

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE IN OUR 86th YEAR

86th Year No. 36

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Parliaments' new black rock opera Page 15

Mayor's aide explains $4,000 petty cash spending

Where did NAACP's cash go?

By Peter Harris
AFRO Staff Writer

Mrs. Marie Henderson's reported $4,000 Unity Ball petty cash allotment got explained last night. At the same time, Del. Troy Brailey's resignation was rejected and a new executive board controversy cropped up, as the local NAACP continues its in-house Merry Go Round.

At its annual membership and awards night — preceded by a board meeting at Union Baptist Church, the NAACP provided the AFRO with a breakdown of the $4,005 alloted to chairperson Mrs. Henderson for Unity Ball pre-arrangements.

(Continued on Page 27)

THE PARTY'S OVER — This was the scene in happier days at the September NAACP Unity Ball. Mrs. Marie Henderson, ball chairperson, and aide to Mayor Schaefer, fourth from left. From left to right, Mayor Schaefer, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Hooks, Mrs. Henderson, Mr. Henderson. Mrs. Henderson reportedly quit Schaefer's staff Thursday to join Baltimore County Executive Ted Venetoulis' administration (see story col. 2).

Sharing, caring

Mrs. Santa needs $5,686

HELPING MRS. SANTA HELP OTHERS — Mrs. Verna Williamson (L), board member of the General Electric Community Fund, presents Mrs. Santa with a check for $850. See Mrs. Santa's page inside.

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa has only six more days to raise more than $5,686 to meet her goal of $15,000 to take care of all her needy families.

To date more than 200 families have passed through her crowded office at 622 N. Eutaw St. to select warm clothes donated by many of you good citizens.

Many clubs and organizations have helped Mrs. Santa but orchids must go to Medina Temple No. 1 and No. 2 of the Hiram Grand Lodge. Thursday they gave a Christmas Party for the handicapped children of the Baer School.

Five bus loads of children saw a movie, received red hats and were entertained by Santa Claus and a clown. Each child received a Christmas stocking after the movie.

Mrs. Santa was there to receive the group's contribution of $100. Thanks for sharing and caring.

Call Mrs. Santa now at 728-8200 and make a contribution in memory of your loved ones. Or if you haven't sent your Christmas cards give to Mrs. Santa instead.

Dr. Jeudy pleads guilty

Dr. Turgot Jeudy who pleaded guilty to mail fraud charges, has agreed with the U.S. attorney's office to cooperate in the continuing investigation of doctors involved in fraud.

Dr. Jeudy, 58, has offices at 549 North Fulton Ave.

He pleaded guilty to a mail fraud charge involving false automobile accident claims.

He was indicted in February 1976 on 28 counts of fraud. The indictment says Dr. Jeudy charged for visits that were not made, increased the injuries on patients and submitted the claims for medical services never rendered.

All but one of the mail fraud charges in return for Dr. Jeudy's guilty plea were dropped.

Former city school chief named to Bronx post

Dr. Patterso.. gets big NY job

NEW YORK — Dr. Roland N. Patterson, Baltimore's first black school superintendent, has a new job two years after his dismissal from the local post.

Mrs. Edith Hicks, second vice president of the Community School Board 9 in the Bronx officially announced Thursday the appointment of Dr. Patterson as the new community superintendent effective Jan. 3, 1978.

Patterson, who was fired from his job as superintendent of the Baltimore city schools in 1975, will take over from Dr. Milton Stier, who served as interim acting superintendent of District 9 since July. He will be earning $42,000 a year.

(Continued on Page 2)

Mother, 18, held in baby's death

After 18 days of investigation and waiting for the results of tests from a medical examiner, a mother has been charged with homicide.

Ms. Renae Darlene Johnson, 18, of the 2800 block Brighton St., has been charged with smothering her 15-month-old daughter.

Police reveal on Nov. 25 they received a call to Johns Hopkins Hospital for a "sudden death report."

Dr. Theodore E. Harrison is quoted as telling police the death of Onecka Truesdale was a "direct result of suffocation and the child was dead upon arrival at the hospital."

Dr. Harrison described the child as a "normal healthy baby" prior to being brought to the hospital.

The medical examiner's office asked the police to investigate a "possible child abuse or neglect" cases since the cause of death was immediately determined.

Police report Ms. Johnson said on Nov. 25 she put her child in bed for a nap and later returned to the room and found a pillow over her face.

According to police, Ms. Johnson removed the pillow and her baby was not breathing. Police report the child showed no signs of abuse when she was brought to the hospital.

Grandmother, family plagued by rats, fire

'All I want for Christmas is a house with heat'

Mrs. Mary White is 58 years old, the mother of nine children and 12 grandchildren. She is unemployed, her husband has had two heart attacks and is not able to work.

Three years ago, while living at 2314 Eutaw Place, Mrs. White's nephew died in a fire.

The family was forced to move to the 1000 block of E. Preston St., where they stayed for one year and moved again because there were "too many rats in the house and in the area."

The White family lived at 2437 Barclay St., for two years until Dec. 13, around 4:24 p.m. when a fire took the life of Mrs. White's 22-year-old daughter, Francine White, and left the family homeless.

"All I want for Christmas is a nice house with plenty of heat," said Mrs. White.

"When I think of the problems we have had I get sick. My son was hit by a bus 10 years ago and died and now Francine is dead," she said.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson White, their four daughters and six of her grandchildren are now staying at 417 East 24th St., with Mrs. Arnittia Skinner.

(Continued on Page 2)

AFRO EXCLUSIVE:

Judge Howard talks about blacks, justice

(AFRO photo by Peter Harris)

JUDGE JOSEPH HOWARD — "I don't know of any judge who can sit on the bench with any sensitivity . . . and not be depressed with what he sees on a day-to-day basis."

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

Supreme Bench Judge Joseph Howard sat in his chambers startled, with a look on his face that told the story. Though it was too early in the morning for just about anything else, it was not too early for the good old fashion racism, he had just seen.

The white haired jurist was sitting in his chambers when a security guard, whose appearance suggested southern red-neck roots approached him.

"Judge, there's a boy out here to see you, he said he had an appointment with you at 8:30 this morning," the guard said, in a tone that gave the judge respect despite its undertones.

"That's not a boy," Howard refuted in a voice that asked what was wrong with the guard. "That's a reporter from the AFRO-AMERICAN newspaper, send him in."

I came in, and in time, realized that the incident was only a microcosm of what Howard has gone through since his arrival in Baltimore. His head has to be overpopulated with such events.

Despite the fact that many people consider his position to be exalted, the stocky judge spoke of being depressed and disgusted with how the judicial system operates.

He said that "economic genocide" and "rank racism" will force young blacks to commit more crimes in the future forcing many of them to serve time and preventing most from becoming men and women.

The judge may have first found his manhood when he made a trip in 1966 to help the Mississippi freedom fighters obtain their goals. About the trip, he said that is where he first found out who he was and what he was about.

During that period, he also recognized that the position of the poor and powerless would never change, unless there was an alliance among the more fortunate blacks.

So let it be written. . . An interview conducted with Judge Howard on Dec. 9 is presented here for the purpose of allowing the community to digest some of the views of a jurist many believe would have been appointed to the Maryland Court of Appeals had he been nominated.

AFRO: Would you comment on one of the things that had a great impact on you since you have been on the bench?

Howard: The realization of how restricted the control of the justice system has been, and indeed continues to be in the hands of a small group of lawyers that dominate the city and state bar associations.

That same group also dominates the progress and policy among lawyers, and dominates and controls the ability of minorities and women to become members of the bar. That realization is probably the most shocking as to my feeling about justice in this city and state.

AFRO: Does the dominance of that small group of lawyers extend outside of the courtroom?

Howard: Oh yes. I'm talking about the major law firms in the city of Baltimore and the state of Maryland

(Continued on Page 23)

'Mr. Fro' spreading holiday$

"Mr. Fro' keeps giving away money as Christmas nears.

Mrs. Lillie B. Jones of 1204 Myrtle Ave. won $10 when 'Ms. Fro' called her. She has been reading the AFRO for years and buys a paper faithfully every Tuesday and Friday.

Mrs. Carol Brigg of 2714 Virginia Ave. did not have a paper but said she is a regular reader.

Trooper's family hopeful

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

He pointed to his nephew's toys and gifts that his father had bought him for Christmas.

As he continued to rock in the family rocking chair, he told the AFRO, "When he (Gregg) became a trooper, it was like a dream come true."

Michael Presbury, brother of Trooper Gregg Alexander Presbury, 27, was speaking of his brother who is clinging to life at University Hospital.

Trooper Presbury, of the 300 block East 23rd St., is listed in critical condition at University Hospital.

He was shot four times with a .45 caliber pistol and received bullet wounds of the head, neck, left arm and right side.

Trooper Presbury who is fondly called "Danda" by relatives and friends has been a trooper for 15 months.

He was shot Dec. 12 when he stopped a car near Glen Burnie for a routine traffic check.

David A. Pfeiffer, 40, is charged with assault with intent to murder and is being held without bail.

(Continued on Page 2)

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