Miss Black Maryland breaks silence

By Michele L. McRae
AFRO Staff Writer

The one person overlooked thus far in the controversy surrounding the Miss Black Maryland Pageant is the lucky beauty that captured the title, Miss Michelle Yates.

While daily media saw fit to report only on the controversy stirring around pageant's outcome, Miss Yates spent her first week as Miss Black Maryland leisurely at home reading and listening to news reports.

It was not until the AFRO contacted Miss Yates that she really began her queenly reign.

The 18-year-old queen is presently a student at Morgan State College majoring in Mental Health Administration. She graduated from the Howard High School, Columbia, Md. when she was only 16 years old and prior to entering Morgan studied at the Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie (Tina) Yates, (Dad is an Engineering Scientist at the John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory and Mom is a homemaker) Miss Yates hopes that during her reign as Miss Black Maryland she will be able to help some facet of the community further develop its youth programs.

"My theme for this year as Miss Black Maryland will be 'Unity in the Community' and I will do my best to bring all aspects of community life together," said Miss Yates.

So far, Miss Yates has already made two public appearances, the first at the Alliance Toward an Active Community Political Banquet in Columbia, Md. and the second at the Miss U.S. Talented Teen Maryland Pageant, Sunday, June 11.

From now until mid-August, Miss Yates will be in high gear preparing herself for the national Miss Black Maryland pageant finals possibly to be held in Philadelphia, Pa.

Meanwhile, the other Miss Black Maryland pageant contestants, highly visible and vocal in the city last week, as they protested the pageant's outcome, have reduced their blasts at pageant executive director, Maurice 'Hot-Rod' Hulbert in television and newspaper interviews.

Now, these contestants are hosting barbecues for lawyers whose support they are enlisting for possible legal action against Hulbert.

While the situation is presently calm, whether the young women will continue to press the issue as a group, as individuals, or at all is questionable at AFRO presstime.

Several attempts to reach the spokesperson for the opposing contestants, Miss Jacqueline Harrington, have been unsuccessful.

As for Maurice 'Hot-Rod' Hulbert, he took the occasion of the Miss U.S. Talented Teen Maryland Pageant to mount the stage to express his views of the pageant controversy. Many present felt Mr. Hulbert's statements were in poor taste and inappropriate for the occasion.

City Statistics

DIVORCES FILED

Mary K. Hamilton vs. Ollie O. Hamilton.

Sharon L. Durany vs. David F. Durany.

Raymond A. Baynard vs. Maujuanita Baynard.

Brenda LeBurn vs. Richard A. LeBrun.

Harvey Thomas vs. Sandra G. Thomas.

Andrea Sharon Jenkins vs. James Andrew Jenkins.

Rosetta Wise vs. Arthur Lee Wise.

Frances E. Odle vs. William E. Odle.

Rayford M. Coward vs. Deloris Coward.

Edward Lyles vs. Mary Elizabeth Peay Lyles.

Joyce Ann Plummer vs. Brandon Mitchell Plummer.

Linda Patricia Enders vs. James Clifton Enders.

DIVORCES GRANTED

Samuel T. Jennings, Jr. from Carolyn J. Jennings.

Marian E. Robusto from Stephen A. Robusto.

Rose M. Curreri vs. Andrew A. Curreri

Carey Fleming vs. Mary Fleming

Merle Koenigsberg vs. Paul Koenigsberg.

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Our man in Cherry Hill

Cherry Hill Grapevine

William Henderson Jr.

There can be no disputing the fact that volunteers are the "unsung heroes," of the Cherry Hill community. They contribute to the community's civic welfare.

So, for the splendid quality of community service they have rendered, I would like to extend recognition to 50 members of the Cherry Hill Community.

They are: James R. Davis Jr.; Warren Murray; Eric Hicks, Ernestine Brown; Ester Stokes; Shirley Foulks; Rev. Thomas R. Vincent; Shepard Burge; Sarah Bundy;

Also, Gwen Johnson; Tharnell A. Stokes; Hilton Witt; Carrie L. Coit; Juanita Davis; Jeanette Lloyd; Marie Wallace; Ella Mae Ward;

Also, Shirley Slaffey; Laverne Coleman; Thomas and Louise Randolph; Cora Lindsey; Therocious Gray, Esq.; John Reed; Sharlene Braxton; Ricky Burgess; Clifton Burgess; Clifton Carroll; Vivian Fowlkes; Kerry Hamilton; Rodney Johnson; Kevin Langhorn; Ethel Watson; Bridget Loggins; Anthony Parker;

And, Almedia Robinson; Kevin Ruskin; Isabelle Simmons; Jerry Street; Lolita Tyler; Sherrie Vaughn; Vance Williams; Kenneth Wilson; David Winchester; Craig Young; Alexander Cooper; Carrie Cuffie; Pearl Jones; Viola Lee; Walter Monroe; William Murray; Louise Oden and Delores Lindsey.

CHERRY HILL CONNECTION DAY

As a means of making the citizens of Cherry Hill more aware of the services and resources that are available to them, The Cherry Hill Mayor's Station and MAKAWA House, in conjunction with other Urban Services Agencies and community organizations, are planning their third annual Cherry Hill Connection Day.

Any community groups that would like to participate in this worthwhile endeavor, or would like further information, should contact the Cherry Hill Mayor's Station at 396-4682.

MOST INFLUENTIAL RESIDENTS

Nominations for persons, male and female, who you feel are the most influential citizens of Cherry Hill, are still being accepted.

Remember, all nominees must meet the following criteria:

1. Individuals must affect, in a decisive manner, the lives, thinking and actions of a large segment of Cherry Hill's population.

2. The individual must command widespread community influence.

3. The individual must be unusually influential with these outside Cherry Hill whose policies and practices significantly affect a large number of residents in the Cherry Hill community.

If you would like to nominate someone, fill out this form and send it to this column.

CHERRY HILL'S MOST INFLUENTIAL RESIDENTS

Name_____
Occupation_____
Address_____
Phone (if known)_____
A member of what organization?_____
Reason for nomination_____

July 7, 1978 is the deadline for all nominations.

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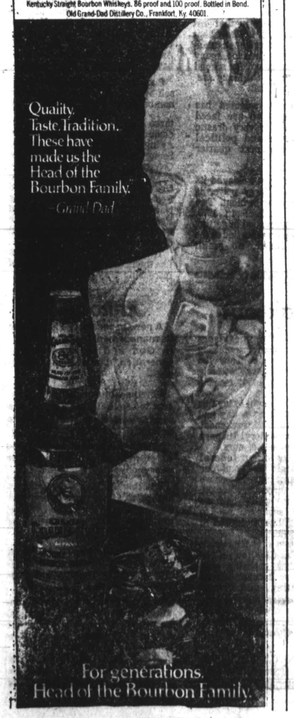

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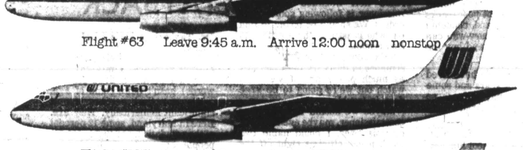

Flight #177 Leave 6:00 p.m. Arrive 10:08 p.m. 1-stop

To San Francisco

Flight #65 Leave 9:00 a.m. Arrive 11:30 a.m. nonstop

To Seattle

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3,000 at dedication services for new March Funeral Home

NEW MARCH FUNERAL HOME — Dedication ceremonies were held Sunday, June 11 for the new March Funeral Home. Approximately 1,000 persons attended. Guests were seated on the parking lot and grounds on the site at 1101 E. North Avenue. (bottom picture). In the top picture, Mr. and Mrs. William C. March (far right) accept keys to the structure, which features two chapels and eight reposing rooms, as well as lounges and dining areas for 27 employees. Also shown are: Dr. W. O. Dyson Jr. (L), president of Advance Federal Savings and Loan, which loaned March $430,000 for the building; Leon Hodges (second from left), architect, who designed the building and Roy Kirby, the contractor for the structure.

"I thank you for coming. This was my idea and my wife's idea. It represents over 20 years of hard work, but we had a dream and we prayed and we feel God had a lot to do with it. We dedicate this new facility to God, and to the memory of those we have interred."

The words are those of William C. March, president of the funeral home, which bears his name. He was speaking to 1,000 persons, who were present for the dedication and official opening of the $1 million plus facility at 1101 E. North Ave.

Guests were seated in chairs, arranged like church pews on the spacious parking lot area to the rear of the handsome structure. The warm sun and a light breeze, made the afternoon comfortable for guests, who sat with pride and gave complete attention to the speakers.

The June 11 opening marked the last of three events which had been held at the new location. The night before, ministers of all denominations filled both chapels for special prayers.

On Friday evening, members of the family and associates and guests were present for a mass of consecration conducted by Mrs. March's pastor, the Rev. Samuel Lupica, St. Ann Catholic Church.

Erich W. March, a son who is vice president and general manager, said 3,000 persons had toured the building in the three days.

The senior Mr. March, his wife, Roberta, who is secretary of the company paid special tribute to their neighbors for their patience and understanding during the 16 months of construction and the resulting traffic jams at the old location two blocks away, where frequently there was no place for them to park during funeral services.

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, 7th - Md., called the block - long structure "gorgeous", adding, "this architectural triumph is a triumph for the March family, and for the neighborhood."

Dr. W O. Bryson Jr., president of Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association, which made a $430,000 mortgage loan to March, largest in the association's 30 - year history and received special praise from Mr. March, who told of unsuccessful efforts to secure financing from larger banking institutions.

Dr. Bryson told the audience Advance now has over $21 million in assets and can continue making loans to businesses, churches and homebuyers if the community will put more savings in Advance. There was applause followed by "amens" from the audience at this and also when Bryson indicated Advance would be ready to lend March additional funds when there was need for expansion.

Samuel T. Daniels, director of the Council for Equal Business Opportunity, (CEBO), which put the financial package together for the Marches, called the new home "tremendous. . .we're blessed to have been a part of it."

E. Gaines Lansey, president of Ideal Savings and Loan, and an Army buddy of the senior Mr. March, was also responsible for part of the financing, along with the Small Business Administration. He said, "Thanks for allowing Ideal to participate."

Roy Kirby, the builder, called his handiwork "a very rewarding job," and observed that when Mr. March was dreaming and planning such a facility while a young man on Gay Street, he was dreaming and planning to develop his business while living on Milton Avenue not too far away from his East Baltimore neighbor.

Leon Bridges, the architect who designed the facility, said, "The Marches are really beautiful people. . .tremendous clients to work with. . ."

Also beaming with pride were the funeral home's 27 employees who were seated in a special section, along with three generations of Marches.

The employees, several of them young trainees, were dressed in new suits, and Mr. March explained he bought them and they were being paid to learn, adding, "I got my start under the GI bill. Somebody gave me a chance, and we feel we should do the same for these young people."

Helen Stafford, an administrative aide to Mayor William Donald Schaefer, presented his certificate of merit to the Marches. Crisp's Florist sent a bouquet to Mrs. March.

Music — hymns, spirituals and gospel songs — were featured. Soloists were Paul Dorsey, Virginia Wise and Edwina Bridges, who accompanied herself on the organ. The Wise Singers and the Brackett Specials, a group of youngsters directed by Raymond Wise also performed.

Prayers were by the Rev. Matthew Marcus, Little Ark Baptist; and the Rev. James Jones, associate pastor of Southern Baptist.

Following the formal program, the March family received the keys to the building from Bridges and the builder, Kirby. Then, they led a procession to the front of the building for ribbon - cutting. There was no talking or conversation as the procession proceeded. Only sound was the clarion voice of Mrs. Bridges as she sang several moving hymns including "He Lives."

Del. Joseph Chester, in whose East Baltimore district the business is located, said a quiet "amen" and, "this has been a great day" as he moved into line to join the march.

Political and civic leaders and fellow morticians from all sections of the city were in attendance.

At the beginning of the program, the younger Mr. March led the audience in a moment of silent prayer for Del. Arthur Murphy and Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, Morgan's president emeritus, who died within 12 hours of each other.

"We have too few leaders to lose two in such a short period of time," he said.

TRAVEL ESCORT CLASSES

- We are pleased to announce that our first travel escort class has completed the six - week course and graduates are now equipped to escort travel groups near and far.
- Our second escort class is now underway. Accompanying photo shows some of the students listening to instructions by Margaret Garrett, far right, of Galaxye Travel Ltd. We are also presently conducting a travel agents' course.
- You can register now for the fall course for travel escorts and travel agents. You may also register now for an exclusive travel club for singles or couples. This is your chance to meet new people and have a fun time.
- Here are the names of our escort grads: Evelyn Sisco, Carolyn Holmes, Carlton Freeman, Pamela Mullen, Jacqueline Knight Ellen Evans, Wanda Watts, Margaret Hawks, Cassandra Stewart, Gertrude Wharton, Vivian Grimes, Cathy Alston, Phyllis Taylor, Ernest Scott, Minnie Hargrow, Barbara Bridgeforth, Angie Chambers, Padget Hall and Eurasia Robinson.

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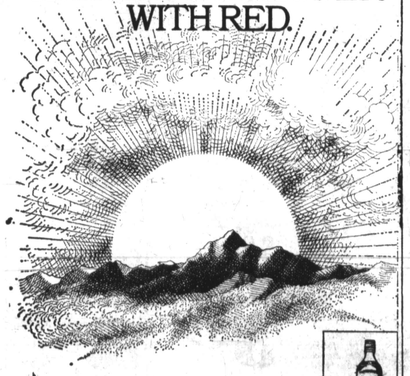

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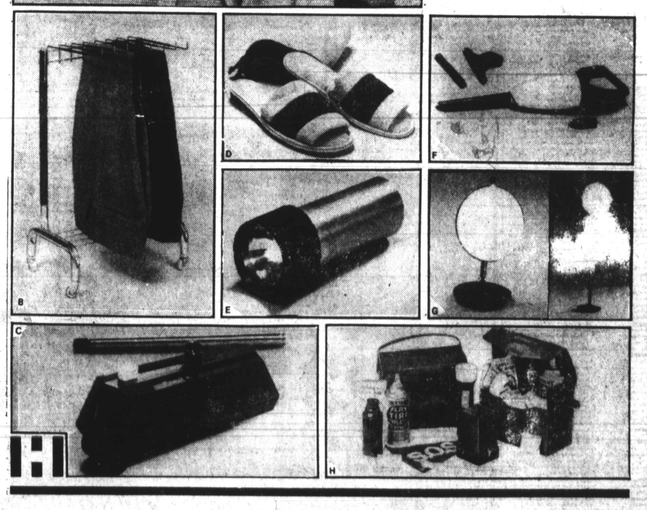

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