Rawlings fete turns into big political booster

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The Sunday, June 11, banquet for Howard Pete Rawlings was slated to be a non - political tribute to the strong, quiet civil rights fighter and a round - up of his career in the field of higher education.

However, it got out of hand and ended up as one of the most vibrant testimonials ever witnessed in this season of "candidate boosting".

Sponsored by "The Friends of Pete Rawlings" the event saw present not only the top local political figures and candidates and leading educators but also Pete's supporters, Sens. Verda F. Welcome and Clarence Blount, Dels. Troy Brailey, Olin Moyd, John Douglass and Del. Lena K. Lee.

The impressive souvenir booklet held "best wishes" advertisements from his Welcome 4th District Democratic Organization and hailed Pete as "our candidate" for the House of Delegates.

A large "much success" ad was from Blount's Five - in - Five Democratic Club. The patrons and friends list of hundreds of persons had names of most of the town's political and business figures.

In response to the many glowing talks given by the friends, educators and politicians, Pete admitted his endorsement for the House of Delegates "by such important people" was "entirely unexpected."

Visibly touched by many standing ovations and loud applause, the man who teaches at the Harbor campus Community College of Baltimore, received three awards.

Curtis Wrenn presented the resolution from the Maryland House of Delegates. Wrenn slated to leave his post as assistant director of University Hospital, has been supported by Rawlings in his fight against bias at the institution.

Sen. Blount presented the Maryland Senate Resolution "for Pete's advancing civil rights."

Main speaker, Dr. Jean Fairfax, a national civil rights figure and international church lay leader from New York, accented Pete's strong up - front leadership - "the kind we need to do something about problems for our own people."

TEAMMATES — Howard Pete Rawlings (2nd left) is shown at the tribute dinner Sunday with (L to R) Del. Troy Brailey, Sens. Verda F. Welcome and Clarence W. Blount.

Running in the 40th

State employee to run for House

He calls himself the "people's candidate."

"I know that sounds like an old cliche said Purcell Wylie, 30, leaning forward in his chair. "But it's true. Their needs are my needs."

Wylie is the newly declared candidate for the House of Delegates in the 40th Legislative district. He is an accountant for the Department of Natural Resources with no political experience.

He officially filed June 2 and is expected to announce his candidacy within the next two weeks.

Wylie's reasons for running are simple.

"I'm tired of the representation we have been getting and I feel I can do a better job," he said. "I want to be able to create an open line between Annapolis and the 40th, especially to the middle and low class residents in the district."

Wylie said he is running with no money and admits he has no political base. He explained he is relying on a snowball effect to create the necessary support and money he needs.

He added he is open minded and is not adverse to talking to any of the political organizations about joining a ticket.

How many times have you grumbled when you read or heard how more than forty percent of our Black youths are unemployed? What thoughts came to your mind? Racism? Unqualified? Well, some thoughts come to my mind, but they are not racism nor unqualified.

All negatives in the Black community are not the result of racism, and I am proud of the thousands of youthful Blacks who have acquired college educations. Unqualified is an excuse that the private sector will have to eliminate. But, my young friends, I want you to remember that acquiring an education should have done more than prepare you for a job, it should have also taught you how to think.

So, you haven't been able to find a position in the field in which you studied, but is that reason enough to sacrifice your pride and dignity. That's not! When you are not working, you are not only an unemployed statistic, but you are also without pride and dignity. You can't force business and industry to create new jobs, but you can retain independence and pride by working. Where? The same jobs that helped your parents and grandparents survive years ago...that's right, waiters, bellhops, and waitresses. As the old adage goes: "A bird in the hand beats two in the bush," and always remember that you can still look for your ideal position while working on the less desirable job.

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The NAACP Unity Ball—a good time was NOT had by all

Political Commentary
By GORDON W. CRANE
AFRO Staff Writer

The second Unity Ball, staged by the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP was a mixed bag.

But then so was the first one. This second time around, however, general chairperson Marie Henderson took the event to the outer limits of absurdity.

In terms of theatrics, it was a smashing success.

As far as advancing the cause of understanding between the races, it was a colossal flop.

Oh, the ball drew a full house. The quality of the food and drink was impressive. The 1,000 guests, which included a representative blending of all shades of the racial spectrum were cordial enough.

Middle class blacks, middle and upper class whites — sprinkled with a generous delegation of corporate and governmental types — moved and chatted easily in an atmosphere of controlled euphoria.

The ladies were draped in elegant gowns or classy, less formal attire. The same can be said of the men.

There was no shortage of rhetoric. Fact is it flowed like water down the Mississippi River.

But a few rare exceptions, the evening's words were in useless promoting the cause of civil rights.

For the record, I'm mindful of the impressive list of honorary chairpersons. But it does not require the intellect of a Phi Beta Kappa to understand that honorary anything is just that — honorary.

The job of putting the nuts and bolts of such an event together traditionally falls to person in charge, with the others knowing little, if anything, about what is really going down.

So this ball, like the first one, was the product of the creative genius of Ms. Henderson. And some board members — whose integrity is impaccable — have assured me that she was not reluctant to drive home that point whenever she felt the occasion demanded it.

Frankly, I have problems with Ms Henderson's all miss everything role in the affairs of the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP.

Ms. Henderson lives in Baltimore County. She works for County Executive Ted Venetoulis, thus putting her in a dangerous position of contaminating the affairs of the local chapter of the nation's oldest civil rights organization with partisan politics.

This year, if you have to be reminded, Venetoulis is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor.

When Ms. Henderson guided the first ball to a surface success, she was an aide to Mayor William Donald Schaefer.

More disturbing, reliable sources inform me, the date of this year's ball was moved up to June in order that it would not compete with the Mayor's Ball, scheduled for September.

This hint of political taint is given further credence when you consider the fact that Ms. Henderson's mother — Marguerite Campbell — is a trusted assistant to Mayor Schaefer.

To compound these contradictions, this year's bash was held at the Eastwind.

And try as I might, I can't shake the nagging conviction that the Eastwind is synonymous with the mentality of Eastern Baltimore County, generally known as Dale Anderson Country.

If you don't know that the mentality of Dale Anderson's country and the traditional goals of the NAACP are in eternal conflict, then you'd better hang it up.

These are but a few of the things about Friday's ball that boggled my mind.

To add to my bewilderment, the speaker was one Julius Caesar Hope. His most noble achievement of the evening was to say out loud that black people are at the bottom of the social, economic, and political ladder because they want to be.

Those were not his exact words, but that's how it came out. Julius Caesar Hope was more subtle.

"The black man is the black man's worst enemy," is the way he put it.

In fact, Julius Caesar Hope's entire speech reeked with the theme that blacks are no good and it's their own fault. A page directly out of the Benign Neglect Era of one Richard Milhouse Nixon.

To hear Hope tell it, blacks have been too shiftless, lazy, and good for nothing to pull themselves up by the bootstraps, although their oppressors conspired illegally and immorally to prevent them from even having boots.

The very next time the local, or any, NAACP chapter wants a speaker from the national office, the honoraglie Hooks should make sure that Julius Caesar Hope is safely locked in the office basement.

Julius is wacky.

What I am also saying, in essence, is that the little peoples' grip on the Baltimore NAACP is slipping.

In the glitter and glow of Friday night, I detected a definite absence of the dwellers of the East, South and West Baltimore ghettos.

First of all, they don't known and, rightly, don't give a damn where the Eastwind is. Their troubles are rooted in Baltimore. And that's where the concerns of the NAACP belong.

They don't have any problem with police brutality in Eastern Baltimore County. They do in the city.

The are fighting a daily war of survival with unscrupulous landlords and insensitive employers.

In the past they could rely on the NAACP. But not any more.

A case in point is the recent City Counsil hearing on the re - appointment of Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau.

It takes no imagination to know where Dr. Lillie May Jackson would have been during that hearing into the fitness of Pomerleau to serve another six years, for a total of 18.

THREESOME — Mrs. Marie Henderson, chairperson of the NAACP Unity Ball, chats with former employer, Mayor William Donald Schaefer and her present employer, Baltimore County Executive Ted Venetoulis.

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(Authority Jeffrey Paige, Treasurer)

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