OFF TO OREGON — NAACP ACT-SO winner from left back row are: Pamela M. Taylor, 18; Rhonda L. Lynch, 17; Cindy L. Gross, 16; Amy C. Neal, 11; Steven D. Savage, 18 and Charles P. Howard, 13. Seated in front from left are ACT-SO Committee members, Albert Jones, Dr. Cathy Pope Smith and Charles Stewart.

Six Baltimore youths participate in national NAACP competition

Six Baltimore youths will be off to Portland, Ore. next month to compete with winners from 19 other cities for national honors in the NAACP's Academic Olympics competition.

The program which is set up to encourage academic excellence of black youths was the idea of Benjamin L. Hooks, the NAACP's executive director and Vernon Jarrett, a syndicated columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Those talented youths representing Baltimore include, Rhonda Lynch, an eleventh grade student at Northwestern High, actor; Pamela Taylor, a twelfth grade student at Northwestern, painter; Amy Neal, ninth grader at Western, poet;

And, Charles Howard, ninth grader at Boys Latin, debater; Steve Savage, twelfth grader at Milford Mill, debater; and Cindy Gross, ninth grader at Pimlico, dancer.

The Baltimore competition began last month and hoped to encourage students to strive for academic excellence in as much as they strive for athletic recognition.

Even though all this year's participants are in the performing arts field, next year says Dr. Cathy Pope Smith, chairperson for the NAACP's ACT-SO Committee, "We had hoped to have students competing for awards in the areas of science, but abandoned that goal this year when we were unable to come up with enough contestants in those areas. Next year we expect to concentrate on the science and social science fields."

The Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP will honor the winners and participants of the local Afro-Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics (Act-So) competition on June 26, 7 p.m., at Coppin State College in the James Weldon Johnson auditorium, 2500 West North Ave.

This program will culminate a series of activities sponsored by the Act-So Committee this year. The program will feature leading citizens as speakers including Dr. John L. Crew Sr., superintendent Baltimore City Public Schools, Dr. Calvin Burnett, president of Coppin State College, Grover L. McCrea, member Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City Public Schools, Dr. Patricia Outlaw, Dean of Students, Towson State University, Mrs. Marion B. Coates, vice president and general manager for Mondawmin Mall, Anthony Robinson, attorney-at-law and William Johnson, ATM of Toastmasters and Toastmistresses, Inc.

Sylvester Graves, music teacher at Pallstaff Middle School, will sing, The Greatest Love and the Inspirational Ensemble of Calvary Baptist Church will perform.

In addition, the following persons in the Act-So Olympics will participate: Brian Benns, Wadena Redgell, Pamela Sykes, John Lee and Elana Smith.

The public is cordially invited to attend this program and lend community support for the six young people who will represent Baltimore City at the national academic olympics.

The names of the remaining twelve local winners will be announced at the convocation-awards program at Coppin.

The admission is free. Further information can be obtained by calling 637-6778.

STOP YIELD TURN

Conflict of interest charged at Perkins Hospital

ANNAPOLIS — The Superintendent of Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital has sent a report by a legislative auditor to the State Board of Ethics to determine if there was a conflict of interest by a member of his staff.

Superintendent Jay Lebow followed the recommendation of the state auditor, Pierce J. Lamb.dn, to have the board review a hiring of his partner as a consultant.

Lamb.dn said in his report that the doctor, a clinical director at the hospital, not only recommended his partner in private practice be retained as a consultant but also determined how much work he would do.

Lebow said the unidentified consultant helped the Jessup facility regain the accreditation it lost when the Joint Commission on accreditation of Hospitals withedld its approval in 1976.

On Aug. 19, 1977, the hospital regained its acceptable rating for one year or until another survey of the hospital is made.

Lebow said a major reason the accreditation was lost was because of insufficient patient treatment and physical diagnoses.

Hiring the consultant corrected the deficiency and cut overtime that had been paid to ho hospital employees who had to take patient to private doctors outside Perkins, he said.

The audit also found: —Meals woth $6,177 were given away in the employees cafeteria without checking to make sure those taking the meals were eligible for free food.

— The hospital was viving doctors about 10 hours of compensatory leave for each day of being on call for emergencies. A Department of Health and Mental Hygiene policy says such physicans should receive only three hours compensatory time.

—Watkins affair

(Continued from Page 1)

The source said, "You can easily see through it. They want to give him so-called protection around the clock so that the whites can watch him, where he goes and what he does and who he talks with.

"They want to know it all, they're just that slick."

Meantime, the AFRO learned the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) meeting in St. Louis from all areas of the nation, has condemned incidents of negative treatment of high ranking black officials as "part of a plan nationwide.

Baltimore Police Department executives and administrators are on the scene in Missouri this week through Sunday, June 25. NOBLE members numbering over 900 men and women are expected to take some steps to combat unfair and discriminatory practice within local police departments here and nationwide.

JURY SYSTEM BLASTED

At the core of it is the grand jury system which the NOBLE has continually blasted as undemocratic, unjust and a tool to destroy black citizens."

At the NOBLE's 1977 conventing in Atlanta, Ga., Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark spoke of the unequal use of the grand jury which historically has been employed to destroy black persons.

He noted how indictments are widely publicized as if the panel had found the person guilty "although the stated purpose is not to do so."

He noted that under the American democratic system of law, a person is held not guilty until proven guilty.

However, he said, the real evil comes in the damage that is done upon indictment "and the accused one has to get a lawyer, run into debt of sometimes $50,000 or more to prove himself innocent.

LEFT BLOODY, BROKE

Gibson said often times the person indicted is found not guilty of any crime but he comes out bloody, bruised and "suspected anyway and broke."

NOBLE is composed of black law enforcement officers above the rank of captain and educators in criminal justice.

Under a grant from the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, NOBLE develops an agenda of specific programs that effectively impact on crime in minority communities and enhance relationship between police and community.

Among the high-ranking officials from the 50 states is Baltimore's Deputy Commissioner Bishop Robinson.

Reforms sought in vet preference

WASHINGTON — A young woman recently scored a perfect 100 on her civil service exam for a position as an air traffic controller.

Based on just her score, she should have been tied for first place with five or six other applicants, but by the time the test scores were adjusted to add in extra points for all the veterans taking the test, she finished 167th.

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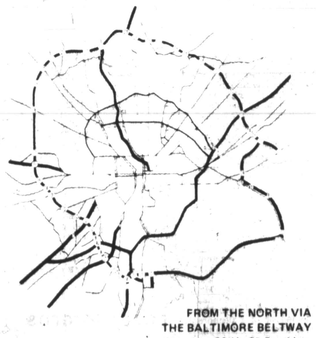

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St. Ambrose working to convert tenants to homeowners

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

"I am writing you because frankly there is a problem. Black folk are not receiving the kind of information we need to make us homeowners rather than tenants.

"Our grandparents on the farm usually owned their homes. That was a way of life and I along with many others took that for granted. But here in the city we are content to be only tenants."

The above disheartening words are excerpts from a letter written to the AFRO by Anthony Davis, a staff member for St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center.

His words are interesting because they represent the views of a center that works five days a week to help poor people become homeowners instead of tenants, if it is at all possible.

Because the center does not charge for its services, it seems important that a potential homeowner visit the center at least once.

Located at 319 E. 25th Street, St. Ambrose has been in existence since 1972 and has helped 700 families purchase modest homes in Baltimore City. In 1976, alone, it assisted 221 black families.

There are three main components to the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. They are pre-purchase counseling, rehabilitation and inspection, and delinquency and default counseling.

Thus first step for a family coming to the center for aid, is to consult one of the pre-purchase counselors to determine what approaches best suit their home buying capabilities.

"We try to explain to people what the homebuying process is all about," said Ralph Moore, one of the pre-purchase counselors. "We try to tell them what it involves. Very few people save the ability to buy a house for cash."

The next step is to figure out the maximum amount of money the family can spend on a house. Seyeral formulas are used to determine the maximum monthly payments a family can afford.

"Once we get an idea of what people can afford, we show them houses in the multiple listing service that are in the price range they can afford," Moore said.

The family then goes out and looks at the home in their price range and when they find a home that they like, a contract for the house is put in and they go to a bank or savings and loan institution to arrange for financing.

According to Moore, it usually takes no longer than two or three months, once a contract application is made.

The second function of the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center is to provide information regarding the rehabilitation and inspection of homes.

Don Lawson, an electrical contractor and staff person for St.Ambrose, said one of his chief functions is visiting houses for people who are potential buyers.

Lawson said he must check five different systems in a house: heating; electrical; plumbing; roof; and windows, doors, porches.

"When we're working with a tenant who wants to buy a house, the first thing we do is find out how much the family can afford," Lawson said.

If a family runs into financial trouble after they purchase the house, Joe Delcios and the default and delinquency department of St. Ambrose are set up to assist families in such a stage.

"Banks have a primary responsibility to service their borrowers," Delcios said. "We are here because sometimes the intervention of a third party is more helpful."

Delcios said the earlier a family comes into the center when they find out they are experiencing financial troubles, the better, because once foreclosure starts a lot of fees have to be paid to prevent this.

"Primarily when people get in trouble, the bank should find out what it is. The lender should find out whether the problem is temporary or permanent," Delcios said.

Once the problem is aired, Delcios said, there are certain alternatives the bank can provide that would help the family.

But St. Ambrose does more than just counsel families. It has its own realty comapny called Charm City Realty and it gets involved with the perils of local real estate agents taking families to out-of-state lenders.

It says in its 1978 annual report: "Today Baltimore's banks and savings and loans welcome mortgage applications from minority families and yet a large segment of the minority community continues to go out of state to fulfill its mortgage needs.

"We at St.Ambrose are deeply disturbed by this continuing trend and wish to offer an invitation to our minority brokers to re-evaluate the advantages of using our local lenders."

Reggie Vaughn, another staff person at St. Ambrose, said there is a reason why black brokers went out of town for financing although it no longer holds its weight.

"At one time local banks were not opening up to them (black real estate agents) so they had to go out of town," Vaughn said. "Now banks are opening up."

A second problem that the St. Ambrose staff says bothers them is the displacement of many black families who are renting properties from owners who decide to sell

The Harwood-Barclay section of the city in northeast Baltimore is a classic case and is one of St. Ambrose's pet projects. The 1978 annual report gives the following recount.

"In the spring of 1976, three of our staff began focusing their attention on Harwood, a small black tenant community . . . near Charles Village where predominantly white, middle-income families have flocked for more than a decade.

"As properties grew scarce in the more affluent Charles Village, the newcomers began looking toward Harwood and found a local entrepreneur willing to serve them."

The local entrepreneur's name is John Marcinski, according to St. Ambrose director Vincent Quale. The report goes on to say that Marcinski intended to alter Harwood's racial the house from under the tenants forcing them to move.

complexion to 90 percent white.

Reggie Vaughn gave a clear example of the power of Marcinski. "In the 2400 block of Guilford, two years ago an all black block, John Marcinski purchased three properties, then 29 properties. He evicted and replaced the families with white families."

To counter Marcinski's threat St. Ambrose's staff member Shirley Rivers, a Harwood resident, began asking her neighbors if they wanted to move.

"Hell no," they replied, "but how can we stay?"

So St. Ambrose began encouraging them to buy, negotiating prices with their landlords, effecting repairs, drawing up contracts and securing mortgages from our local banks and savings and loans.

Since June 1976 they have helped convert about thirty-five houses from tenant to owner occupants, according to their 1978 financial report.

Local club notes

Fullwood elected chapter president

Harlow Fullwood Jr.

Police Agent Harlow Fullwood Jr. has been elected president of the Miles W. Connor Chapter of the Virginia Union University Alumni Association located in Baltimore. Agent Fullwood is a native of Asheville, N.C., a former All CIAA, Little All American football player and Baltimore Colt draftee.

In addition to his other duties as trustee of the Concord Baptist Church and ace recruiter for the Baltimore Police Department, Agent Fullwood is one of the creative forces in the chapter.

In a recent letter to the chapter, Dr. Allix B. James, president of Virginia Union University wrote, "The Miles W. Connor Chapter had taken the leadership among chapters throughout the nation. As a result of your dynamic programs each year, other chapters have set new goals to be achieved."

In selecting Agent Fullwood to the post of chapter president, his supporters describe him as a "model of excellence in the home, church and community. He is a massive stone in the foundation of a great city. His contributions to the community are numerous enough to fill the pages of a volume."

There have been many successes in Agent Fullwood's life, some of which are the various recognitions and awards that have been conferred on him.

These include the 1973 AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers "Honor Roll" Award, the Baltimore Sunpapers Award in 1974 and 1977, the Governor's Citation in 1977, the Mayor's Citation for Outstanding Community Service in 1974, the Citizen Citation Award, Baltimore County Executive in 1977, the Virginia Union University National Alumni Award in 1977, the Miles W. Connor Chapter Award in 1977, Honorary Life Membership Award in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in 1976 and many other awards too numerous to mention.

Agent Fullwood's successes in life have not turned his head. To the contrary, each award and recognition has, in turn, generated an array of service projects and programs to which he commits himself.

According to the newly elected president, the chapter will focus its attention on intensifying its recruiting efforts in the local high schools to attract additional outstanding students to the Virginia Union University campus. Advertising will be placed in the local newspapers to depict the uniqueness of the over one hundred year old campus and to seek additional support from the Baptist churches in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

In addition, two chapter sponsored fund raising activities scheduled for 1979, are already predicted sell-outs based on last year's results.

On March 11, 1979, the Virginia Union University Choir will appear in concert at the Woodlawn Senior High School auditorium, and on March 31, 1979, the chapter will sponsor its Fifth Annual Scholarship Dinner and Dance which will be held at La Fontaine Rouge, 3407 Belair Rd. in Baltimore.

Agent Fullwood is married to the former Elnora Bassett of Quinton, Virginia, a school teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System, and they are the proud parents of two lovely children, Harlow III and Paquita Tara.

Other officials elected were David S. Jones, vice president and former president of the chapter; Mrs. Madlyn Jones, secretary; Mrs. Martha Valentine, corresponding secretary and Alvin S. Henderson, treasurer.

Chi Psi Sigma

Chi Psi Sigma Fraternity, Alpha Chapter will host its Annual Awards Dinner, Saturday, June 24 at 5 p.m. at the Quality Inn (40 West). Honors will be presented in the following categories: Small Business Man of the Year (Baltimore City); Man of the Year (fraternity brother) and key awards to high school graduates who have achieved in typing and accounting. These awards in the past have been given at the graduation exercises but it was decided to include these students in the dinner program.

High schools represented are Douglas, Dunbar, Forest Park and Walbrook. Aaron Ellis and John P. Lyles are co-chairman of the Awards Committee; Leonard W. Thompson, program chairman Robert Porter Jr., is president.

Freya Club

The Freya Club is planning an afternoon of entertainment on Sunday, June 25, 3 p.m. at the Officer's Club, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The program for the evening will be dinner entertainment guest speaker, Dr. Elizabeth F. Johnson from Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Dr. John holds undergraduate degrees in sociology and early childhood education. Her graduate degrees are in social work and Doctor of Law. She has also been the recipient of a honorary degree. Dr. Johnson will be speaking on "The Agenda for Black Women in 1980."

This is a scholarship fund raising affair. Anyone interested in attending this function please contact these numbers 838-6961 or 838-6919.

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