Police department recruiting women, minorities

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO staff Writer

The eee Baltimore City Police Department now has an on-going recruiting program aimed at increasing the number of minorities and woman on the force.

The current police trainee class of 37 includes 12 females and 15 blacks, the highest number of blacks ever to attend police training.

Police trainees spend 20 weeks learning criminal justice, self defense, first aid and how to handle firearms.

The class now in session will graduate in November and will have earned 15 college credits. Several current trainees have college degrees.

After graduation from the academy and one year on patrol, the police officers will be eligible for consideration to be police agents.

Any city resident between the ages of 21 and 35 may apply. Candidates must have a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalence acceptable to the Maryland State Board of Education.

City residents age 18 may apply for the position of police cadet. Cadets in training receive $177 per week, work in the department and attend college.

By the time applicants become police officers, they must also have a valid driver's license and be physically and mentally qualified to sustain the rigors and stress of being a police officer. Weight must be proportional to height.

Walk-in testing is conducted daily at police headquarters at 601 E. Fayette St., Monday through Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

The examination consists of a qualifying written and oral examination. There are 90 questions on the test and applicants must obtain a score of at least 56. Candidates must pass both parts of the examination.

Starting salary is $12,000 and upon graduation police officers earn $12,500. Police agents earn $10,000 per year.

Maj. Donald E. Woods, director of personnel, urges interested city residents to apply.

"If you feel you are qualified and wish to become a member of the police department we would like to see you. We are an equal opportunity employer and encourage minorities and women to apply," he said.

Agent Harlow Fullwood, who is known as the "dean of recruiters," was described by Maj. Woods as a "man with a thousand keys who has opened many doors in the black community that were formerly closed."

The major credits the black community and the Ministerial Alliance for the assistance they have rendered in recruiting.

The next class begins Aug. 6. Why not be a part of it?

CLASS ADVISER and students are (L to R) Agent Margaret Mullen, Patricia Carter, Donna Mazyck, Rosalind Tucker, Rose Thurman, Dorye Jackson; second row, (L to R): Sally Holzbauer, Michele Leonart, Linda Ballinger, Christine Spicer, Lalita Jett and Kathy Kelleher.

ATTENTIVE ACADEMY TRAINEE—Donna Mazyck, is one of the 12 females in a class of 37 students who are now attending classes to become police officers.

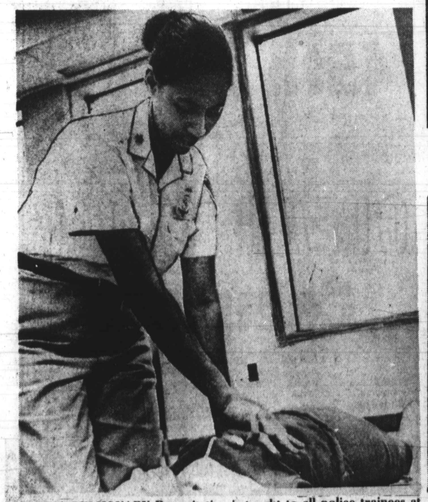
POLICE TRAINEES — who are now attending the police academy and will complete their classes on Nov. 23 are (L to R): Dante Nettles, Michael Smith, Charles Bellamy, Mason Land Jr., Robert Winder, Calloway Hatcher Jr. and Wallace M. King.

AFRO Photos bysMark Gail

20 WEEKS OF TRAINING — Police trainees spend from five to seven hours each day in the classroom. Students are shown listening to their class advisor Agent Margaret Mullen.

GRAB THE NECK FIRST — Police trainee Sally Holzbauen is shown demonstrating self defense on Wallace King.

REVIEWING CLASS NOTES — Police Maj. Donald Woods, director of personnel, is shown looking at students' notes following a class. From (L) are Calloway Hatcher Jr., Kathy Kelleher, Major Woods, Donna Mazyck and Tim Boyle.



CARDIO PULMONARY Resuscitation is taught to all police trainees at the academy. Lalita Jett is shown demonstrating on a doll.

THROW HIM ON THE FLOOR — After Sally Holzbauen grabs Wallace King by the neck, she shows how she flipped him on the floor.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. — Romans 6:23

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—WAS HE VICTIM OF BIZARRE RITUAL?—
Bank worker found dead-impaled with mop handle

See column one

BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT '79
A special 28-page supplement

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE NOW IN OUR 87TH YEAR

Arthur Ashe stricken
See Page 25

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War on higher rents begins

BATTLING RENT HIKES — Ali Shabazz, a member of the Peoples Campaign for Rent Control, addressed a rally July 31 to explain a petition drive to place a referendum on the November ballot to control rent increases in Baltimore City.

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

In photo at right, Sari Revkin, Jowyna Wilson and Juanita Dixion (L to R) look over petitions that have already been signed.

Citizen groups mobilizing

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

A grass roots campaign to fight rent hikes in Baltimore City is underway.

The Peoples Campaign for Rent Control is circulating petititons which would place a referendum on the November ballot to limit the amount and frequency of rent increasing.

The campaign includes members of the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization, neighborhood organizations, religious leaders and labor union members.

At a rally held July 31 at Union Baptist Church, Ali Shabazz, a member of the Peoples Campaign, said the goal of the referendum is to make decent housing affordable to all people.

"If all you can afford is $100 a month, you are still entitled to a home just as good as the millionaire's brother," he said.

Addressing a perspiring, racially mixed crowd of about 150 in the church, Shabazz said comfortable housing at moderate prices is difficult to find.

"It is coming down to pitching a tent in Druid Hill Park or camping in the Inner Harbor where AFRAM was held," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

'77 Pikesville double-murder still unsolved

Two years ago today (Friday) Aug. 3 Sondra Diane McMeekin, a 28 - year - old school teacher and Allen Phipps, 34 - year - old vice president of a Bronx, N.Y. construction firm were found dead in a swank room at the Pikesville Hilton Hotel.

Maryland State police first reported that Phipps killed Miss McMeekin and then himself in room 526 of the luxury hostelry. Police reports further state she was shot in the head and he was lying near her with the pistol in his hand.

However, the AFRO's inquiries into the background of both victims indicated there was something wrong and reporters began to amass many puzzling and contradictory elements.

(Continued on page 2)

Young bank employee's death 'suspicious'

"I'm not going to pay any bills. I am just going to enjoy myself."

Those were the last words Wardell Lee Melton made to a co-worker at the East 20th Street branch of Equitable Trust Bank, just before he left on vacation the week of July 21.

Melton, 29, of the unit block East Preston St., was found dead July 26 in his apartment. The young bank worker was dead, kneeling in his bathtub and had been impaled from the rear with a mop handle.

Police reports indicate that the victim's remains were strangely positioned. Investigators have been unable to determine whether the deceased voluntarily assumed the posture in which he died or was placed there by a person or persons unknown.

Police also have not determined whether the strange manner of Melton's death was the result of some sort of bizarre initiation or ritual.

His body was discovered after a neighbor complained about smelling an unusual odor coming from his apartment and called the police. Firemen were forced to enter his third floor apartment through a window.

The cause of death is still pending and the medical examiner has not been able to determine how long he had been dead. His body was decomposed. Tentatively, the examiner has said Melton could have died anywhere between July 18 and July 26.

Police state papers and clothing were found on the floor and blood was on the sheets. The radio, television and air conditioner were on in the bedroom and a fan was on in the hall.

(Continued on page 2)

Wardell Lee Melton

CreSaundra Yorkshire named to Loyola post

CreSaundra C. Yorkshire, career advisor and minority students services coordinator at Loyola College since 1977, has been named director of the College's career planning and placement office.

As director, Ms. Yorkshire will be responsible for administering Loyola's placement and career advising services for students and alumni including the on - campus recruiting program.

A Baltimore native, Ms. Yorkshire received a master's degree in clinical psychology from Loyola in 1979.

Before her most recent appointment, she served a dual role as career counselor to the school's graduate and undergraduate student population and as advisor to the more than 300 graduate and undergraduate minority students at Loyola.

She joined the Loyola administration in 1976, serving in the veterans and foreign student offices.

A member of the Mid - Atlantic Placement Association and the Maryland - D.C. Association for Career Development in Higher Education, Ms. Yorkshire is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the national Jesuit honor society. She was recently nominated for the "Outstanding Young Woman of America" award for 1979.

Ms. Yorkshire is a resident of the northwestern section of Baltimore City.

CreSaundra C. Yorkshire

ameo' to be grand marshals AFRO 87th birthday parade

MARCH ON DOWN! — The nine - member Chocolate City records singing group Cameo will be parade marshals when the Baltimore AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper holds its 87th Birthday Party and Clean Block Flag Ceremony in War Memorial Plaza, Monday, Aug. 13 at noon. AFRO Clean Blocks, queens, and city officials will parade from the AFRO Office at 628 N. Eutaw St. starting at 10:30 a.m. Cameo will lead the parade in full costume.

At 81, she's oldest AFRO carrier

While some people jog for exercise, Mrs. Geneva Smith says, "I get my exercise every Tuesday and Friday when I sell the AFRO."

Mrs. Smith, of the 600 block Portland St., will celebrate her 81st birthday on Aug. 9 and is the oldest AFRO carrier.

For nearly 15 years, she has been selling papers in South Baltimore and says, "As long as I feel fine I will continue to sell the paper. I just love selling the AFRO."

She has regular customers in her area and also takes papers to Leadenhall Baptist Church every Sunday for customers who formerly lived in her neighborhood.

Mrs. Smith is an active member of Leadenhall and was honored last year as one of the oldest members of the Nurses Unit.

When Mrs. Smith is not selling the paper, she spends her spare time making afghans.

"If it is cold I just bundle up and if it is warm, I take my time and sell my papers."

In 1970, Mrs. Smith won $50 in the favorite newsboy contest and will receive a certificate of appreciation on her birthday making her the oldest AFRO carrier.

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

VENERABLE AFRO SALESWOMAN — Mrs. Geneva H. Smith, of the 600 block of Portland St., has been selling AFROs in her block for 15 years. She will celebrate her 81st birthday on Aug. 9.