Lobbyist charged with racial slur

Dr. Jerusa C. Wilson, chairman of the Maryland State Board of Censors, said that he was called a "black nigger" in a meeting by Robert T. Marhenke, lobbyist for abolishment of the censor board.

Wilson said the meeting was called at Marhenke's request to discuss what Marhenke felt was excessive zeal in enforcement of censor board regulations.

"Marhenke said he wanted to talk to me because he felt the board was coming down too hard on enforcement," Wilson said.

"I asked him to be specific about his complaints, since no violations had been issued to his company. He began to tell me about the history of his complaints with the board as far back as 1916.

"When I asked him not to waste time on the past and to tell me what the problem is now, he stood up and said 'I see I can't talk to you 'cause you ain't nothing but a black nigger'."

Wilson said the meeting was held at the office of the Department of Licensing and Regulations, where the censor board is housed, and that Marhenke is owner of Cinema Film Exchange, a local distributor.

Francis Pollard, chief inspector for the Censor Board, described Marhenke as a "chronic complainer."

Pollard said as of July 1, criminal penalties for censor board violations have been increased, and the board is enforcing regulations more than they have in the past.

Pollard said he heard "about" the incident, but was not present in the meeting with Wilson and Marhenke.

Prior to July 1, violators were fined $5 per offense plus $15 in court costs, Pollard said. Since the new ruling, fines are $25 to $50 per offense plus court costs.

"Mr. Marhenke is a long-time complainer," Pollard said. "He's had problems with every chairman he's ever dealt with."

His company, Cinema Films, was once a local distributor of X-rated films. Presently, the company distributes primarily old films, as far back as the '30s and '40s, and those are shown primarily at colleges.

Films without Censor Board approval cannot be shown legally in the State of Maryland. When a film is disapproved, the distributor is asked either to make certain cuts in the film or to withdraw it altogether.

If a distributor does not wish to make cuts in the film, the board can file proceedings in the circuit court to have the film cut or banned.

When a film is shown without the seal of censor board, or with an unauthorized title change, or with a longer than approved running time, then the board can arrange for a search warrant, and seizure of the film by police.

According to Wilson, who was appointed to the chairmanship by Gov. Harry Hughes in May of this year, the censor board is up for abolishment, and Marhenke lobbies against the board in Annapolis.

"I want to call legislator's attention to the facts," Wilson said.

Marhenke has been repeatedly unavailable for comment.

Unemployment division cut $2 million

A $2.5 million cut in the budget of the Maryland Employment Security Administration will mean a staff reduction of 90 persons effective Oct. 1, according to Frank Heintz, executive director of the agency.

Heintz said the cut is a result of President's Carter's efforts to reduce the federal deficit.

Because of the cut, the agency, which administers the Unemployment as well as Employment Service Administrations must reduce its permanent staff from 746 to 656, he said.

Employees affected by the cut will be offered positions in the Employment Services Division and in the Department of Social Services, according to Heintz.

"If an employee is willing to accept another job, there will be no layoffs," Heintz said. "We will attempt to locate employees in the geographic areas where they now work."

Branch offices which sustained the heaviest reduction are the main office at Dolphin and Eutaw Sts., with a cut from 157 to 137, a reduction of 20; and Eastpoint, with a reduction of 21 employees, down from 51.

The Pimlico office, which opened a year ago in the 5700 block of Belvedere Ave., will lose three of its 16 employees. Other smaller offices from Westminster to College Park sustained an average loss of two to seven employees, Heintz said.

"We analyzed the claimload handled by each office," Heintz told the AFRO. "Eastpoint, which was cut proportionately greater than other offices, was the most overstaffed for its claimload."

Heintz said it is too early to tell what effect the staff reduction will have.

As a result of the cut, the agency must rely on a pool of temporary help to handle claims during months of heavy unemployment, which are December through March, according to Heintz.

"We must set up a new system for hiring temporary employees and establishing a pool to draw from," he said. "We are not asking permanent employees to take these positions because the pay will be hourly, with no fringe benefits."

Heintz said the 90 affected employees will be farmed out to other agencies with no loss of seniority or benefits.

The processing of unemployment claims should not be seriously affected by the staff cuts, Heintz said.

Obviously the cut comes at a bad time, with unemployment rising during the winter months. We would rather have been given time to reduce the staff by attrition.

But we are still under certain guidelines of the Department of Labor to be timely in the processing of claims," he continued.

"We will be asked to do the same amount of work with 12 percent less staff. We'll know better how it's working in November."

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OUR WORLD

Partyline, pacesetters, people

The AFRO goes to a 'Sweet Sixteen' party

BIRTHDAY GIRL — Miss Laureen Burton, cuts her "Sweet Sixteen" birthday cake at the party hosted for her by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Burton, at the Chic'a'LE Room on Park Circle Drive Saturday, Aug. 18.

Photos by Helen Baskerville

ROCK TIME — Youthful guests at the gala birthday party held in honor of Laureen Burton's sweet sixteenth year rock to the music of the Galaxy Sound Production. Park Circle Drive's ChicAnele Room was the scene of the fun.

PARTY FUN — Birthday honoree Laureen Burton laughs it up with friends (L to R) Bonita Billingsley and Dorita Forehand, while opening gifts at her ChicAnele Room birthday bash.

Miss Laureen Burton turns 'Sweet Sixteen'

The red, blue and pink decor of the ChicAnele' Room was the setting for a gala sweet sixteen birthday celebration held recently in honr of Laureen Elnora Burton. The number sixteen, chosen for the birthday cake design, was decorated with white, red and pink icing.

The party menu consisted of ham roll-ups with rye bread, macaroni salad, mini drumsticks, smorgasbord meat balls, chicken salad with petite buns, assorted cheese and cracker tray, old fashioned cucumbers, crisp vegetable bouquet with horseradish dip, iced melon and fruit bar, hodge podge party nibbles, petits fours decorated with hearts and ballerina dolls and fruit punch.

Prior to the cutting of her cake and the opening of gifts, Laurie was serenaded with "Happy Birthday" by her friends.

A corsage of pink and white carnations and sixteen long stem roses, courtesy of Oceanious Flower Arrangers, were presented as an expression of love by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Burton, her brothers, the Rev. William L. Burton Jr., Kermit C. Burton, Gerald L. Burton, sisters in law, Brenda Burton, Essexe Burton and niece, Marcella Burton.

The evening continued as friends danced to the music of Galaxy Sound Production.

Laurie, an "A" course student, attends Western High School, Maryland School of Ballet, Charlotte Abelada's School of Piano and Voice and is a member of Western's Drama Club and a graduate of Pinnie Ross School of Professional Modeling.

Laureen resides in the 3300 block of Leighton Avenue with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William L. (Evelyn) Burton. Mrs. Burton is a bridal consultant.

Guests present to share in Laureen's festive occasion were:

Ronald Alston, Micheal Blow, Almira Bowen, Angela Billingsley, Bonita Billingsley, Lauren Crawford, Karen Campbell, Julia Chance, Mark Cahill, Dean Curry; Clevetta Chandler, Kym Chandler, Ronald Denard, Micheal Dogan, Dorita Forehand, Delisa Gordan, William Holland, Thomas Holland, Karen Harvey, Leslie Hendricks;

John Hodge, Tracey Johnson, Marvin Jones, Kevin Johnson, Karmen Johnson, Regina Kirby, Lisa Morton, Brenda McDaniels, Dawn Maye, Preston Mack;

New Voice

Cecelia Brown — Gospel Singer

On the way up — See story inside

Lorne Matthews, Anita Pinkney, Keith Richardson, Mark Redding, Andrea Robinson, Calvin Robinson, Sukarno Richardson, Yolanda Richardson, Micheal Smith, Susan Smith;

Tera Savage, Keith Simmons, Kenneth Simmons, Terry Tucker, David Wells, Lisa Williams, Timothy Williams, Wills Carla, Angela Walker, and Hermieon Watson of Mobile, Alabama.

OPTIMIST CHARTER — Donald Fallon, governor of Md. District of Optimist, International, presents charter to Fred B. Marrow, president of the Northwood Optimist Club, a newly formed branch of Optimist International, an organization which devotes itself to the needs of youth, at their recent charter banquet at Martins Eudowood Gardens.

Northwood Optimist Club chartered

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Staff Writer

A charter presentation, sponsored by the optimist club of Lochearn-Rockdale on Friday, Aug. 10 at Martins Eudowood Gardens at 7 p.m., proved to be highly inspirational and thought provoking.

The purpose of the occasion was to officially install a new charter group. The optimist club of Northwood, which was organized on May 19, 1979.

Program toastmaster for the evening was Ron Broderick, who gave a warm welcome to all present and the introduction of the guests.

After the invocation, members and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner of sliced roast beef, baked potatoe, mixed vegetables, apple turnovers coffee and tea.

New members of the Northweed optimist group were installed by Donald Falloo, governor of the Maryland District of the optimist, International.

Officers of the new Northwood Chapter are: Fred B. Marrow, president; Arnold A. Allen, vice president; Edward G. Pettaway, vice president; Leonard L. McNeal, Sec-Treasurer; Urie B. Glass, director; William L. Harper, director; William Hopkins, director; Sylvester Jones Jr., director; Wylie Jones, director; Andrew W. Parker, director.

Other charter members of the Northwood Chapter group are: Calvin Armstrong, Michael Augins, Jesse Barr, Robert Byrd, Edward D. Dean, John A. Powell, James Simmons, Wayne S. Waddell, Ronald F. Sprately, John N. Fedd, Albert W. Holmes, Jr. Ellsworth D. Brooks, Royal E. Cofield, James Evans, Arnold Ross, Raymond Simmons, Robert Wells, Carl B. Wright, Herman J. Gadson, Merit Kaintuck, Rodney Lee.

Robert Marsh, past governor and god father of the Lochearn Rockdale optimist, gave an inspirational address, the theme which was "You Can't Make It Alone." He spoke of the expansion of Optimist International from its once male-only involvement to its present inclusion of women and girls. Response to the address was done by Fred Marrow, president of the Northwood Optimist.

Donald Fallon presented the charter t Fred Marrow.

Charter gifts, consisting of a bell and gavel, (Symbols of the organization) were presented by Ray Florence of the Lochearn-Rockdale optimists and the club banner was presented by Melvir Pride, National Club Building chairman.

After closing remarks by Fred Marrow the optimist creed was done by Arnold Allen and Edward Pettaway, vice presidents of Northwood Optimist.

The Lochearn-Rockdlae Optimits club and the nrely formed Northwood Optimist club are a part of the Optimist Internationa, which is a nationwide organization, the purpose of which is to be a friend to youth, to provide direction for all youth, including summer camp, sports activities, and other types of community activities that would keep young people involved with constructive endeavors.

Partyline

Schoolmarm retires in style after 30 years

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Staff Writer

Recently, Ms. Edith S. Clement retired from the Baltimore County School System after 30 years of service.

Mrs. Ruth Hedgepeth Lee, former resident of Baltimore and School Social Worker in Baltimore Public Schools journeyed from San Antonio Del Mar Baja, Cal., Mexico to participate in the celebrations, retirement reception and parties honoring Ms. Clement.

Ruth and her husband, Howard, moved to California 22 years ago. After working in the Bureau of Adoptions in Los Angeles for a few months, Ruth returned to her first love, school social work, in the capacity of a Director of Special Services.

For two years, the couple has been retired in their new home in Baja, Calif., located 15 miles south of the Mexican border on the Pacific Ocean.

Also attending Edie's retirement celebration were Mr. and Mrs. Nereus Jackson of New York City. Mrs. Elnora Jackson, a former teacher at Banneker Jr.-Sr. High School in Catonsville, is a supervisor of Library Services and Nereus is the supervisor for the New York City Housing Authority.

They are godparents of Mrs. Myrna C. Jackson, a supervisor in the Baltimore City Department of Social Services and Edith's younger daughter. Mrs. Myrna Jackson is the mother of Ms. Thea Jackson, a lovely young dancer.

Another very special guest at Edie's party was her father, Frank Swindell of Palatka, Fla. He is a retired Bridgeman for the Florida East Coast Railroad.

(Continued on Page 20)