Scouts get new leader

The Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Black Caucus held a reception recently to introduce Thea D.W. Childs, new executive director of the local Girl Scout Council to members of the black community.

On hand for the reception held at St. Philip's Lutheran Church were representatives from the mayor's and governor's offices and legislative members.

Yvonne Archer, chairperson of the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Black Caucus greeted the group of more than 30 persons and Jacquie Massey, second vice president, told the history of the Black Caucus.

GOVERNOR'S GREETING — Charles Caldwell, representative from the governor's office, reads a letter of congratualtions from Gov. Harry Hughes to Thea Childs, new Girl Scout director.

Two school board members resign

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Among those items on the top of Mayor William Donald Schaefer's list of things to do in 1980, will be the replacement of two members on the Board of School Commissioners.

Narindar U.M. Kelly who served as chairwoman of the board's committee to oversee the school proficiency testing program, resigned her post, effective Dec. 4.

"I felt during the summer that the demands of a career, raising a family and being a school board member were too much. Something had to give," said Mrs. Kelly who in 1976 was appointed by the mayor to fill the unexpired term of Robert Schaefer. She was reappointed to the board in January of this year for a six-year term.

Another board member, Betty Hyatt, director of the Citizens for Washington Hill organization has also resigned, leaving two vacancies on the nine-member board.

Mrs. Hyatt resigned in November for reasons similar to those expressed by Mrs. Kelly. "The school board deserves a commissioner who isn't as tied up as I am," said Mrs. Hyatt. "I could not do the job the way I really wanted to."

Mrs. Hyatt was reappointed to the board in January 1977 after she was appointed in 1976 to finish the term of Oscar Helm.

The Baltimore city charter allows the mayor up to 120 days from the date of the resignation to appoint replacements to the school board. Chris Hartman, spokesman for the mayor stated that the the mayor is now in the process of reviewing lists of persons for several boards and commissions. He did not know how soon the mayor would make a decision.

Once the mayor has named replacements, those persons must be approved by the city council's executive nominating committee.

When asked whether the two vacancies would hinder the board's ability, Mark Joseph, board president stated, "We are certainly going to miss the members, especially Narindar Kelly whose background in statistics helped us.

"But we'll do the best we can with what we have."

Artist teaches creative arts to city school kids

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Besides a forced reading of Ivanhoe, and probably a school trip to a museum or opera, how many city school-age youth are able to broaden their cultural horizons?

Not very many, unless they take the initiative alone.

Estelle Searcy, a Baltimore singer, actress and writer, has plans to change all of that. She is the chairperson and founder of the children's Artistics Projects, a program designed to give city youths a chance to expose themselves to the arts through song, dance, writing, ad drama.

"Children are our future leaders," says Ms. Searcy. "And I'd like to give them something positive to grow up with.I want to teach them, so that when I get old, they will respect me."

The program, which is offically only a month old, currently shares space at the Baltimore Experimental High School, located in the 500 block N. Cathedral Street.

"I think we live in a country which is too preoccupied with action, as opposed to contemplation or just thinking. We teach our youth to play football or basketball, but not to sit down and think creatively.I think we need a balance between the spiritual and the physical."

The program is geared toward youth 6 to 17, and grew out of dance classes which Ms. Searcy sponsored for young people at the Community College of Baltimore. The project has also been located in the Upton area before finding permanent headquarters at the Experimental School, and the Free Spirit Theatre before finding a permanent home at the Experimental High School. Currently dance and drama are the only arts taught, but Ms. Searcy plans on expanding the program in January to teach writing, music, and the visual arts.

The program has plans to present an animated film festival for children on Dec. 28, the Friday following Christmas. The festival, which will consist of 16 mm film showings and refreshments, will last for two and one half hours.

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ON BEATING WINTER FUEL COSTS

Experts describe repairman and oil delivery tricks

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

John H. Thornton, an industrial engineer and former president of the Fourth District Democratic Organization, and Eugene Jackson, head of the Urban Service Agency's Weatherization program, revealed tips on beating high winter fuel costs at an energy seminar sponsored by the Democratic Organization Tuesday, Dec. 18.

Addressing a small group of interested community residents, including state senator Verda Welcome, the two presented slides and films, as well as important information on both weatherization and the importance of being familiar with your home heating plant.

Jackson, who says his program was started in March of 1978, presented a training film used by the Urban Services Agency to train youth in weatherization techniques for the agnecy's insulating and weatherization program.

The program is free to area homeowners with certain maximum annual incomes, said Jackson.

For a family of one," stated Jackson, the maximum income level is $4,525. For a family of two add $1,375, for three, it is $7,000, and for each additional family member you should add $1,375." He also stressed the importance of calling the agency if a resident feels he may be above the maximum income level, but still desires a weatherization program for his home.

"Even if your income is above the income level, you may be eligible for another program," he said. "For example, if you don't qualiify for our project you may be able to buy the materials for weatherization from the Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development, at cost and the work will be done free."

The weatherization program is operated jointly by the Urban Services Agency, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Mayor's Office of Manpower Resources.

Labor is provided by the Manpower office, the program is administered by U.S.A. and the Housing office supervises the work. So far, 4,900 homes have been modified, out of a total of over 19,000 homes which are estimated as eligible for the program.

Jackson added that anyone interested in the program should contact a U.S.A. office for an application. He also pointed out that the program provides a free smoke detector along with the weatherization job.

Three numbers one can call for information on the program are 396-6280, 396-6281, or 396-6282.

Mr. Thornton, who teaches industrial engineering at Dundalk Community College, gave a short, illustrated lecture on home heating, and the tricks consumers should beware of when either receiving fuel or having maintenance work done on their heating plants.

After diagramming a conventional oil furnace, and pointing out the main trouble spots, Thornton described the main functions of furnace repair men, and what to demand when they arrive.

"All repairmen should have, when they come to inspect your furnace, a gas guage, a draft guage and a CO2 indicator. Otherwise, they're not prepared to do their job," he stated. "Also, make sure the repairman leaves a record of work done on your furnace, in case it acts up again. Otherwise, he can just go down to your cellar and sit there, and you'd never know."

He also cautioned against unsavory practices used by home custom companies, such as "riding the ticket" and over-weighing the oil.

"Sometimes, an oilman might deliver, say, a hundred gallons of oil to your home, then go around the corner and drop off fifty gallons. Then he'll bring the ticket back, and charge you for the entire amount. That's called riding the ticket, and it's illegal. It's against the law for an oilman to keep a ticket in the meter while his vehicle is moving. So make sure you get your ticket for your oil right after it is delivered."

Thornton also described what happens when oil companies use means of increasing the weight of the oil, in order to sell less for more money.

"Sometime, oil is mixed with a little water to make it heavier. Sometimes, you can tell when this has been done because you furhace will sputter instead of running regularly. Also, years ago oilmen would load their trucks at night, so that the oil wouldn't expand and gain wieght in the sun. Heat expands oil, so when it gets hot, it weighs more for the same amount. Today, many oil companies load their trucks during the daytime. Oil is priced at the amount it weighs at 70 degrees, so if it is hotter, you'll be paying extra for that additonal weight, but you won't be getting any more oil."

Thornton demonstrated several adjustments to one's oil furnace or radiator that can be made by a knowledgable adult.

"When your furnace gets too much air or water in it, it's possible to let it out by simply turning a small valve, called the vent valve, in order to blow off the excess. Steam and hot water radiators also have this valve, usually located on the sides or top. Sometimes, an Allison wrench is needed to make this adjustment."

Thornton added that bleeding your furnace or radiators, as the process is known, can save approximately $18 in repair costs.

The valve should be opened until oil, if its a furnace, or hot water, if it's a radiator, comes out instead of air or mist.

He also added that the best time to call the oilman for fuel is when the tank guage indicates that only a quarter tank of oil is left in the tank.

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BY THE WAY...

By Joe Black

Those of you who, through the years, have followed my "By The Way" commentaries have probably experienced times when you thought that I sounded like a broken record.

My remarks today will echo some previous thoughts that I have expounded on each year since 1974. Some of my words have provoked some of you into writing me angry letters and describing me as a "tool for the white man because I am "ripping off" the brother rather than dealing with the sociological ramifications of Black-on-Black crime." That is your prerogative, but I still choose to view Black-on-Black crime from the "bottom line" — that it is having a very negative effect upon the socioeconomic status of Black communities.

The sweat, tears, and lives that were lost during the social revolution of the 50's and 60's were not sacrificed so that we can kill one another or to keep the Black side of town in a depressed financial state. It is time for Black Americans to stand up and loudly denounce those criminals who are destroying our neighborhoods; because in too many towns, Black women and children are afraid to walk the streets once the sun goes down. Senior citizens are victimized because the attackers take advantage of their weakened bodies and slow reactions. Our community is deprived of convenience and economic growth because businesses hesitate to locate in inner-city because of the higher insurance rates and the risk of robbery or extortion.

And when we do speak out, we must make the courts understand that we want the same penalties applied for crimes against Blacks as the court applies when a white citizen is the victim; no longer will we tolerate a lecture and a $50 fine when a Black man rapes a Black woman.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation