Afro-American history commission plans forum

The Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture and the Enoch Pratt Free Library will present a symposium entitled Scholars and Activism: A Retrospect of the Civil Rights Movement of the'60s as part of the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in Maryland.

The program will be offered at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13, in Wheeler Auditorium at the Central Library on Cathedral Street in Baltimore.

Moderator of the symposium will be Dr. David L. Lewis, professor of history at the University of the District of Columbia. Dr. Lewis is the author of "King: A Biography."

Participants will include Dr. Louis Harlan, editor of the Booker T. Washington papers, professor of history at the University of Maryland (College Park) and vice-chairman of the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture; and Dr. Herbert O. Edwards, head of the Department of Religious Studies at Morgan State University.

Dr. Edwards is a former professor of religious studies at Harvard and Duke Universities and is presently editing a book on the sermons of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Another member of the panel will be Mrs. Janice Grant. Mrs. Grant, a teacher, was a plaintiff in the 1984 NAACP Teacher Desegregation Case in Harford County. Mrs. Grant helped establish a freedom school in Mississippi while she was affiliated with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The symposium will focus on their participation in the Civil Rights Movement in the South at the invitation of Dr. King. Harlan, Edwards and Mrs. Grant will examine their roles in Dr. King's marches and attempt to place the demonstrations, sit-ins, etc. in historical perspective.

—Victims last day

(Continued from page 1)

Charles Curbeam 24-year-old brother-in-law of the victim was shot in the nose and treated and released from Johns Hopkins Hospital. Patrons who were in the bar told police they heard the shots outside and saw three men running down an alley. No arrest had been made at AFRO presstime.

A Cherry Hill man was stabbed to death following a New Year's party in South Baltimore. Willie Thompson, of the 800 block Bethune Rd., was pronounced dead on the scene in the 200 block Seagull Ave., He had been stabbed in the chest and no arrest had been made at AFRO presstime. In 1978, there were 197 homicides compared to 245 homicides in 1979.

—No more Christmases

(Continued from page 1

Others who were admitted to the hospital and are in satisfactory condition are Barbara Moone, 2 months old; Terry Holmes, 7; Carrie Holmes, 20. Funeral services for the two children will be held at Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church on Park Heights Ave., 11:30 a.m. Jan. 5.

"Our main concern is to find a home. We need a home today. We have lost everything," said Mrs. Holmes.

Mrs. Holmes told the AFRO she tried to run to the third floor to help her children and grandchildren but the flames held her back. Two years ago, tragedy hit the Holmes family, when Mrs. Holmes husband, Theodore McDaniel Holmes fell off a scaffold while working and died.

Fire officials told the AFRO that relatives told them an iron had been used several hours before the fire. However, a spokesman for the Fire Department said this was not determined to be the iron was left on and caused the fire.

Captain Patrick Flynn strongly urged that "You should never leave children in the house alone. Be careful with using electrical appliances and don't use your bed for an ironing board."

Flynn stated the biggest cause of fire deaths today is smoking in bed. You should always know two ways out of your house in case of fire and don't ever return for your personal items. Flynn also suggested that every family have a fire detector in their homes. "Today the fire detectors are as cheap as $9.88," said Flynn.

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—'Lost' son

(Continued from page 1)

Families faced with a similar situation are urged to call the classification their relative or friend is being incarcerated.

Phone numbers of various institutions are listed as follows; Maryland Penitentiary-837-3135; Maryland House of Correction at Jessup-799-0100; Maryland Correctional Institution-733-2800; Maryland Correctional Training Center - 733-2800; Maryland Correctional Institution for Women-799-5560; Maryland Correctional Camp System-799-1363 and the City Jail-396-4215.

Call one of these numbers, and ask for classifications or records division. Be prepared to give the name, age, violation, and if possible the date the inmate was admitted to the institution in question.

—Morgan's fate

(Continued from page 1

The suggestion of a merger also comes at a time when a cloud of confusion looms over the Morgan campus where the faculty, displeased with President Andrew Billingsley, has taken a vote of no confidence.

Community leaders are split on the support of Billingsley and the school but the consensus is that the predominantly black institution originally established by the black Methodist Church must maintain its history and identity.

Thelma B. Cox, one of three black board members, stated that the possible merger and the controversy over Morgan's president "relates a great deal."

She said, "People are tired of the aura of mismanagement being shown by the confusion at Morgan. There's a need to settle down and get on with business."

Then Mrs. Cox who also works with the Baltimore city public schools, pointed out, "The institution is more important than anybody. That's the bottom line, Morgan must be enhanced, preserved and allowed to grow."

Oakley Saunders would only comment on the Billingsley controversy by saying that it was a "secondary issue."

He did state, "The question of Morgan and other higher education institutions is the issue of adequate governance and the ability to attract accountability." J. Harrison Ager, the remaining black member was absent from the meeting.

In addition to the merger, Knorr has also suggested that enrollment limitations be placed on each four-year college in the state beginning the fall of this year. This would require immediate reductions in the entering full-time freshman class of up to 15 percent.

Also each college would be designated to specialize in a certain program and attract students for that unique area.

Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings, D-40th in a letter to Patricia Harris, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, stated, "It is my understanding that such a merger of a predominantly black institution into a predominantly white one would be contrary to guidelines promulgated by HEW and recent court decisions which have directed that black institutions be given special attention by states for their survival and enhancement."

He then asked Mrs. Harris for an assessment of the "legitimacy of these proposals in bringing the state into compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

In 1974, HEW accepted from Maryland a desegregation plan for higher education that would bring the state in compliance with Title VI. However, the Office for Civil Rights of HEW found Maryland to be in violation of its own plan.

Census important to minorities

An accurate census count in 1980 is essential to the lifeblood of urban America, and to minority communities in particular, according to Rep. Robert Garcia, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Census and Population. "Billions of dollars in state and federal aid will be lost to urban and rural areas for public services — schools, health and hospital care, public transportation, police and fire protection and many other government - funded programs — unless suburban residents stand up and are counted," the Congressman said at a recent luncheon sponsored by the Committee on Minorities of the New York Chapter Public Relations Society of America, held at the Sperry and Hutchinson Co.

—Cross-burnings

(Continued from page 1)

The meeting was a result of the cross burning incident which took place Dec. 28 at Grace AME Church. Police investigating the cross burning reported to about 50 persons who attended that their findings showed it was not related to the Ku Klux Klan.

Lt. J. Schwartz, stated that the 15 foot charred cross found on the church lawn around 7:30 a.m. by the pastor, the Rev. Reginald Boston, was not soaked entirely and only burned on the upper portions.

He said this was not the usual way an organization such as the Klan operated.

However, Pennington and other residents were not satisfied with the police department's findings and a report has been made with the FBI.

Pennington called the absence of Capt. Robert Ruth "a slap in the face" and stated that it was necessary for him to be present at the meetings in order to get the kinds of answers to satisfy the community.

The general meeting of the Baltimore county NAACP scheduled Jan. 7 at Woodlawn Senior High will allow the county delegates to meet with area residents to develop a further course of action.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gall

STRATEGY MEETING — Rev. Reginald Boston, pastor of Grace AME Church, the site of a recent cross burning and James Pennington, Baltimore county NAACP president held meeting with residents of Catonsville to discuss racial problems in the community.

—Bell

(Continued from page 1)

He grew up on Baltimore's Eastside and is a Dunbar High graduate.

Pines, 57, has worked since 1975 in the law firm of Levin, Gann and Hankin, and has been active in a variety of professional and civic organizations, including the Urban League of Baltimore and the Baltimore Jewish Council.

Figinski, 41, holds degrees from Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland Law School and George Washington University Law School, has worked since 1973 for the Baltimore firm of Melnicove, Kaufman and Weiner, and was employed during the late '60s by former U.S. Sen. Joseph Tydings, D-Md.

English-born Ward, 42, a Maryland resident since 1963, has been employed since 1974 as an assistant federal public defender, representing indigents in federal courts at all levels.

He is also a former Maryland assistant attorney general, director of a narcotics strike force from 1971 to 1973 and a former assistant state's attorney in Baltimore.

Hughes was criticized for taking too long to fill the vacancies, a delay some said resulted in case backlogs and assignment problems on the court. (UPI)

Relax rules on migrant workers

State and federal officials have approved a plan designed to cut red tape in bringing migrant workers from Texas and Florida to Virginia to harvest crops.

The Virginia Employment Commission and the U.S. Department of Labor agreed to allow the commission to handle the paper work necessary for the migrants to work in the state. The Department of Labor had handled the work before.

Without the papers, migrant crew leaders face stiff fines if caught working their crews, officials said.

The VEC recruits 7,000 to 8,000 migrants each year from Florida and Texas to harvest apples, peaches, tobacco, tomatoes and vegetables in Virginia.

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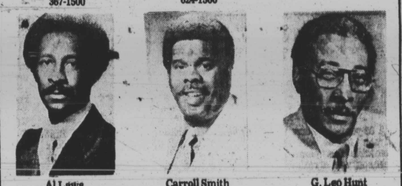
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"READING ENJOYMENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY"

Cherry Hill center sues city over heat

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

The South Baltimore Family Health Center, 3690 Giles Road in Cherry Hill, has filed a suit in District Court against the building's owner and Baltimore City to raise the facility's temperature and collect financial losses.

Arthur Murphy, administrative director, has complained about the faulty heating system, to no avail, to the owner and the health department since November 1978.

The temperature is consistently below 65 degrees and, on several occasions, the center has closed and patents have been sent home.

"It is impossible to treat patients because of the condition of the building. There is no insulation and the heating and cooling hasn't worked," Murphy said.

Originally, each room of the center had individual thermostats to regulate the electric forced air system, he said. But the owner had all controls in the central regulator closet locked at a certain temperature and the outside door to the closet locked. No one at the center has a key.

To compound that situation, none of the outside walls has insulation, Murphy said, and all the examining rooms have at least one exterior wall.

To document the chilly temperatures, an electronic sensor, called a Tempscribe, was installed in two examining rooms and the X-ray room to monitor the temperature within ¼ of a degree.

For the week of Dec. 1 through Dec. 7, 1979, the average temperature was 64.1 degrees. During office hours, the temperature reached 72 only once (Dec. 3 at 3 p.m.) and never averaged higher than 68.3 degrees.

Murphy said the ideal temperature for a health facility is between 72 and 75 degrees, an exemption to President Jimmy Carter's imposed thermostat setting of 68 degrees for public buildings.

For the five working days the center was forced to close, Murphy said they lostbetween $7,000 and $8,000.

"Every time we lose money, we have to jack up the rates. We may have to increase our rates by $2 just to make up this loss and there is no guarantee we will get those patients back," he said.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gall

PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY was held Dec. 20 for 19 police officers. The only two black officers who were promoted shown from left are Ronald B. Collins, who is now a lieutenant and assigned to central district and Gary E. Martin, who formerly worked at southwestern district and is now a sergeant assigned to eastern district.

Md. business good in '79 despite inflation

Maryland retailers say despite the energy crisis, high inflation and rising unemployment, sales in 1979 were better than they expected, but that it's hard to tell what 1980 will bring.

Edward J. McNeal, of the Maryland Retail Merchants Association said this week that economic uncertainties at the beginning of the Christmas season had made many retailers concerned about sales figures for 1979.

But he said, "most merchants had a successful year, they were pleased with the results and perhaps in many cases it was better than had been planned. I think it was a successful season."

Continued inflation, energy problems and unemployment may hurt sales in the coming year as consumers tighten their belts, McNeal said, but retailers remain "cautiously optimistic."

— Figures released by State Comptroller Louis Goldstein show sales tax revenue from department stores increased 1.4 percent in November compared to the same month in 1978.

Lymas, Dates among 8 named to Cable TV panel

Baltimore Mayor William D. Schaefer Wednesday nominated eight city residents to the newly created Cable Television Commission.

The mayor nominated Thomas Edgie Russell, vice-president and director of corporate development of The Arundel Corp., as chairman of the commission.

Schaefer also nominated Catherine Austin, director of policy development and unit analysis of the city civil service commission and television producer Jannette Dates.

Everett Goldberg, associate dean of the University of Maryland Law school, was nominated to the commission along with Shirley Doda, Lowell Whitehurst and Edwina Green.

Jerry Lymas, special assistant for U.S. Rep. Parren L. Mitchell, D-Md., was also named to serve on the panel.

The nominations are subject to approval by the City Council.

The commission was created to advise City Council and The Board of Estimates about development and regulation of the city's cable television franchise.

Councilman Dominic Depietro has already been named to the commission by City Council President Walter Orlinsky.

NAACP plans Jubilee Day

Over 1,500 Baltimoreans are expected to participate in the Jubilee Day celebration Sunday, Jan. 6 at the Masonic Temple, 1301 Eutaw Place at 3 p.m.

The event sponsored by the Baltimore NAACP, Prince Hall Masons, several churches and community groups will commemorate the 118th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation which was signed by Abraham Lincoln Jan. 1, 1863.

This is the first time the NAACP has sponsored Jubilee Day which was usually celebrated in churches across the city. It will feature Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the National NAACP as guest speaker.

Benjamin L. Hooks

Dr. Quincy Cooper, director of the Christian Center at Morgan State University will also be a speaker.

Dr. Hooks who was the first black member of the Federal Communications Commission, replaced Roy Wilkins in 1976 as NAACP Chief. He has called the Jubilee Day activity "one of the most important projects in the history of the NAACP."

Baltimore NAACP president Mrs. Enolia McMillan stated, "We are emphasizing family participation in the program.

"Our young people don't know enough about our heritage. And they don't have to be that young and not know."

The Rev. Vernon Dobson, pastor of Union Baptist Church and co-chairman of the planning committee for the event will read the Emancipation Proclamation.

Other members of the planning committee include Samuel Daniels and the Reverends Marion C. Bascom, Lonnie Oliver, Benjamin Foust, Chester Wickwire, Wendell Phillips, Alfred Vaughn, O. St. Clair Franklin, Ronald Braxton, Emmett Burns and Sidney Daniels.

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Ramsey new Fire Board

Attorney Norman Ramsey Wednesday was nominated by Mayor William Donald Schaefer to be president of the Baltimore Board of Fire Commissioners.

Ramsey, whose nomination must be approved by City Council, will replace Calhoun Bond, whose four-year term expired Dec. 31.

Ramsey, 57, is a partner in the law form of Semmes, Bowen and Semmes and was an assistant state attorney general and an assistant U.S. Attorney in Maryland.

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