Falling plaster among problems

Parents complain School 145 is a mess

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Students and teachers at Alexander Hamilton School 145 are caught in a "Catch 22" situation.

They can't get needed repairs done at the school because construction of a new school has been planned. But construction of the new school can't begin until the city or state appropriates more money. But neither seem ready to do that.

What remains is a 60-year-old building, badly in need of repairs for falling plaster, cracked walls, broken pipes and heating problems.

Bringing their concerns to public attention, students, teachers and parents staged a demonstration in front of the school at Poplar Grove Street and Lafayette Aveneue.

The story begins in 1975 when the plan for the new school was first proposed and then submitted to the state in 1976. The state which is the funding agency for all capital improvement projects, arrovod the designs for the school in 1977.

The budget for the new three-story, 54,000-square foot building was set at $2.8 million. When actual bidding came in August 1979, the lowest bid submitted was $3.2 million which was a $1.2 million increase over the original budget based on a 12 percent a year inflation factor.

The city then went to the state for additional funding but only received $400,000 and learned that it would have to put up as much as $600,000 as overage.

However, the city faced with an already existing crunch on its pocketbook, says it can't afford the increase and at the same time the state is singing the same song.

Meanwhile, the school administration and community have waited patiently for five years for a new building but are now taking the situation into their own hands.

T.C. Hamilton, principal, explained, "We haven't had the political clout that other areas have had. The political jurisdictions speaking out the loudest and the longest got what they needed. We didn't because we were too trusting."

Joseph Jones, chairman of the new school committee who helped plan this week's demonstration, says the next step may be to demonstrate in Annapolis. "We can't wait for anybody also to else to dothis for us, we've got to do it. And he added that the group would also take the issue to the Baord of Estimates.

The new facility is scheduled to be constructed behind the existing building. When asked it the existing school could be renovated, similar to the project at the Baltimore City College, Cecil Johnston, director of architectual services for the city schools stated that it was a "Possibility" but that plan had not come up yet.

However, the state says that renovations cannot exceeda certain percentage of the construction costs.

INCOMPLETE REPAIRS — Walls of the boys lavatory were torn apart in November to be repaired and have remained that way causing school administrators to keep the facility closed to students.

TAKING NOTES — Mary Brown and Louise Copeland, parent leaders at School 145 add to their list of problems, falling plaster and broken pipes in the cafeteria.

SCHOOL 145 — The picturesque exterior of the 60-year-old Alexander Hamilton Elementary at Poplar Grove Street and Lafayette Avenue hardly depicts the problems inside the building.

STRATEGY PLANNING — Principal T. C. Hamilton and Joseph Jones, chairman of the new school committee, discuss the next course of action to get a commitment for construction of a new school.

Terrence Johnson

Seeks overturn of conviction

Attorneys for a teen - ager convicted in the death of a Prince George's County policeman told an Appeals Court earlier this week the voluntary manslaughter conviction should be overturned because the trial judge erred in instructing the jury.

Attorney R. Kenneth Mundy argued before three judges of the Court of Special Appeals that Circuit Judge Jacob S. Levin erred by not informing the jury that Terrence Johnson could be convicted of the less serious crime of involuntary manslaughter.

Johnson, a 16 - year - old black from Bladensburg, was convicted in March 1979 of voluntary manslaughter and use of a handgun in commission of a felony in the death of officer Albert Claggett June 26, 1978.

The trial pitted the black community against the Prince George's county police department because of allegations of police brutality and abuse.

The teen - ager was acquitted of charges of murder in the deaths of Claggett and officer James B. Swart, who were both fatally shot in the Hyattsville police station while questioning Johnson in the burglary of a coin laundry.

Johnson was found innocent by reason of insanity in Swart's death, and sentenced to 25 years in Claggett's death.

Defense lawyers argued during the trial that Johnson shot Claggett because he feared for his life and then shot Swart in an attempt to escape from the police station.

Mundy said Levin instructed the jury in both voluntary and involuntary manslaughter in the Swart killing and should have done the same in the Claggett case.

But Assistant Attorney General Stephen Caplis argued that the evidence "would be inconsistent with involuntary manslaughter" and was sufficient to convict the teen - ager on the other charge.

The defense also argued that Circuit Judge Vincent J. Femia erred in denying Johnson's petition to be tried as a juveniel. Johnson was 15 at the time.

"The offense as alleged does not evidence any prior planning or preparation and at worst were spontaneous acts which one would associate with a response of immaturity," Munday argued in an appeals brief.

The shootings occurred after Johnson and his older brother, Melvin, were being questioned in the burglary of a laundry coin box.

The Appeals Court is expected to return its decision in the case within six weeks.

CANDY SALE — Oriole Elrod Hendricks (C) helped young members of Camp Fire's Metro Region kick off their annual Candy Sale at the Commercial Credit building downtown recently. Hendricks, who sold $50 worth of candy in three hours, is pictured here with Camp Fire's Metro Region Coordinator, Mary Lauter and three Camp Fire youths. The candy sale raises approximately $10,000.

THE LIVING CHURCH

Prayer breakfast initiates centennial celebration

GUESTS seen at the Saturday prayer breakfast sponsored by Grace United Presbyterian Church, shown from left are James Mebane, James D. Underhill, Mrs. Jeanette C. Underhill and Ms. Jeannie C. Brown.

AFRO photo by Mark Gall

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION — Participants on the program for the Prayer Breakfast sponsored by Grace United Presbyterian Church include (L to R) Rev. Reginald J. Daniels, Rev. C. Andre Kearns and Ms. Kathryn Frisby.

AFRO photos by Mark Gall

A prayer breakfast, which initiated the Centennial celebration of Grace United Presbyterian Church, Greenspring Avenue and Banister Road, was held at the Regency Terrace on Saturday, Jan. 12. The speaker for the occasion was the Rev. C. Andre Kearns, pastor of Trinity United Presbyterian Church. He took his text from the first chapter of Genesis and the first verse with the words, "In the beginning God." In his inspiring message, Rev. Kearns challenged Grace church relating to the inspiration of past history, the challenge of the present and and the hope of the future. Nearly 250 guests attended the breakfast with Mrs. Charlotte Mebane serving as chairperson of the Centennial celebration committee and Lonnie W. Greene, co-chairperson. In October 1880, 73 members withdrew from the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and under the leadership of the Rev. Charles Hedges, founded Grace Presbyterian Church. Services for the first year of the church's existence were held in a building known as Linden Hall located on the southwest corner of Hoffman Street and Linden Avenue. The following years, members purchased property formerly known as the Dolphin Street Presbyterian Church at Dolphin and Etting Street. Worship began in this edifice in May 1881. Grace Church has been on Banister Road since October 3, 1971. Th Rev. Dr. Robert T. Newbold Jr., who served as the fifth pastor of Grace and now associate state clerk of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S. A., will be the guest speaker on Sunday, Jam. 20, at the 11 a.m. service. While serving as pastor of Grace, Rev. Newbold established The Grace Church Council, The Christian Fellowship Circle, Usher

Christian ministry courses held at St. Mary's Seminary

The School of Theology of St. Mary's Seminary & University will offer an "Education for Christian Ministries" program January 28, 1980- May 8, 1980.

A program of preparation for and enrichment in Christian Ministry, is open to men and women of all denominations. It provides theological, spiritual and practical training in service to the church and community.

ECM also assists those striving to understand the meaning of lay ministry, by directing students toward effective ministry.

Students may enroll for occasional courses or as candidates for a certificate in pastoral ministries.

For the certificate, 30 credits are required in course work and field education. Those students working toward a certificate may concentrate on religious education or liturgical ministry.

Students will receive two undergraduate credits for each course. Courses being offered are "Ministry in the Church," "Spirituality for Christian Ministry," "Ethics in the Marketplace," and "Religious Education for the eighties: Theory and Practice."

In addition to the core curriculum of ECM, workshops, including "The Ministry of Collegiality," "The Ministry of Lector," "The Ministry of Cantor," and "Special Ministry of the Eucharist," will be held during February and March.

Eleanor Lewis, ph.D., member of the Historical and Systematic Theology faculty at St. Mary's, is the director of the program.

Dr. Lewis states, "The workshops are a response to the local churches' and community's requests for seminars which would provide theoretical and practical training for people involved in parish ministries."

As director of the program, Dr. Lewis selects the faculty, coordinates mass mailings and scheduling, and works with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore and area Protestant Churches.

She will also instruct "The Mystery of the Church" and "History of the Early Church to the Reformation" throughout the spring semester.

The classes and workshops will be held at St. Mary's in Roland Park. For more information, contact the School of Theology, St. Mary's Seminary & University, 5400 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, Md., 21210, (301) 323-3200, ext. 52.

HOW TO GET YOUR CHURCH NEWS IN THE AFRO

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Metro Church briefs

The United Methodist Women will observe their annual anniversary on Jan 20. The Rev. Edith Dorsey of First Baptist Church, Elkridge, Md., will be the speaker.

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The W. W. Hiram Grand Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and the Naomi Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star will present a benefit recital on Jan. 19, 4 p.m. at Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street.

Willis Skinnie Jefferson, will be honored on Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m. at the Church of God in Christ, 1349 North Ave. James Harris is chairman; Mrs. Sarah Parker, co - chairman; Cleveland Bell, co - chairman and Rev. Sister Ruth Dixon is pastor, Mrs. Corrine Saunders, assistant chairman.

Family and Friends night will be observed Sunday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Higbway Church of Christ, 3414 Hayward Ave., The Rev. Robert Evans is pastor and the Rev. Van Debnam will be the speaker.

Youth revival services will be held Jan. 21-24, 7:30 p.m. at Southern Baptist Church, 1701 Chester St. The Rev. Nathaniel Higgs is pastor.

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The Singing Disciples of Baltimore will be in concert on Jan. 20, 4 pm., at theRay of Hope Baptist Church, Harford Road and Parkside Drive. The Rev. Charles M.Franklin is pastor. The United Methodist Women of Ames Memorial United Methodist Church, will celebrate their anniversary on Jan. 20 at 11 a.m. Mrs. Viola Jackson will be the guest speaker.

Services will be held every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Summerfield United United Methodist Church, 700 Wildwood Parkway. The Senior Choir of St. Luke United Methodist Church will sponsor a soul food dinner on Feb. 1 and a state rally contest on Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m. at the church, Riggs Avenue and Gilmor St. The Rev. James H. Smith is pastor. A gospel competition show will be held March 8, 6 p.m. at Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street, sponsored by Modeling Agency Studio School Awards competition. If you are interested in competing in the gospel soloist competition call 866-5137.

Youth Day will be observed Jan. 20, 11 a.m. at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Preston and Gay Street. The' Rev. Clifford M. Johnson is pastor and Floyd Brice is chairman and Donald Robenson is the youth director.

GOSPEL BEST CONCERT — The Carroll Life Singers, a well known gospel group will be singing Sunday, Jan. 20, 3 p.m. at the gospel best concert at The Electric Eye, 6307 Reisterstown Rd. Other groups participating are the Armstrong Singers, and the Roland Johnson Ensemble.

Jerseyan named to key position

NEW YORK

Former NAACP Associate Director Kenyon C. Burke, an Episcopal layman, has been elected associate general secretary for church and society of the National Council of Churches.

Natives of Cleveland, Ohio, Burke and his wife Dorothy are residents of Maplewood, N.J. with their two children.

As head of this council's domestic social action arm, Burke will manage an annual budget of over $400,000 and a staff of over a dozen persons.

Citing an immediate objective of placing the division on a sound managerial base and providing it with leadership in public policy areas, Burke noted that the division has chosen issues of economic and social justice as it's priority for the next two years.

In his two years with the NAACP, Burke supervised national programs in education, housing, labor, voter education, economic development, veteran's affairs, health, communications, and religious affairs.

As author of a syndicated column for the National Newspaper Publishers Association, Burke often touches on such issues as health education, civil rights and unemployment in his articles headed "Community Affairs."

The Division of Church and Society is active on many of the same fronts with programs in child and family justice, economic and social justice, energy, international affairs, domestic hunger and poverty, religious and civil liberties, justice for women and View Name generation ministries.

"Sometimes I feel I've been preparing for this position all my life," said Burke.

Kenyon Burke

200th anniversary of Sunday Schools

The Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Auxiliary of the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland has prepared to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Sunday School. The goals for the year are Bible study, fellowship and evangelism outreach and the purpose is a back to Sunday School movement to increase attendance. The kickoff program will be held Sunday, Jan. 20, 3:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 525 Caroline St. The program will consist of a filmstrip showing the history of the Sunday School 1780-1980, a banner march with various churches presenting their Sunday School banner with they year they started. Music will be by the youth choir of Leadenhall Baptist and the Choralettes of Wayland Baptist Church. Coordinators are Mrs. Mae F. Moody, First Baptist Church; Miss Mary Davis, Perkins Square Baptist; Mrs. Bernice B. Lewis, Macedonia Baptist; Mrs. Jacqueline Brooks, president of the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Auxiliary to the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland.

Concert held at St. Katherine's

A benefit performance of Handel's Messiah Part 1 with orchestral accompaniment was conducted at the Church of St. Katherine of Alexandria, Pressman and Division Street on Jan. 13 by Hugh Carey.

St. Katherine's Choir, Dunbar High School Choir and friends sang for the benefit of the organ fund. Audrey McCallum was accompanist.

Soloist were Ms. Margaret Lindsay, soprano; Ms. Yvette Matthews, mezzo soprano; James Nathan Jones, tenor and Leroy Dorsey, bass

Musicians were Walter Lee, Oboel Eugene Leak, clairnet; James Gough, trombone; David Russell, trumpet and Melton Whitener, trombone. Ms. Ida Nicholas was chairman.

The same group will perform "Schubert Mass in April with the Chamber Orchestra St. Katherine's will also present in a benefit recital, Arthur Warner, baritone. He will be singing gospel and spiritual songs on Sunday, Jan. 20, 4 p.m. Mrs. Alice V. Nixon is chairman and the Rev. Peter W. D. Bramble is pastor.

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