AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD — Ms. Annie Rogers, (L) former chairperson of the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization, receives a Congressional plate to honor her work in the community from Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-17th-Md., at a recent open house at his Bloomingdale Road office. Shown with him is attorney Anthony Robinson (R) who served as master of ceremonies.

James Boyd is AFRO Carrier of the Month

James L. Boyd was named AFRO "Carrier of the Month" and Louis Ely was runner-up for the month of March.

Boyd has been an AFRO carrier for two years. He started as a carrier when he was 9-years-old.

He attends James Monroe Elementary School where he is a fifth grade student. His hobbies are basketball, football and baseball. He is a member of the Boys Club of America. Boyd plans to join the armed forces when he finishes school.

He attends Sweet Hope Freewill Baptist Church where he is a member of the Junior Usher Board.

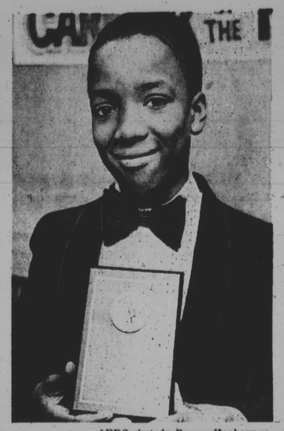
Boyd was presented a plaque by the Baltimore Circulation Manager, Arthur Murray at a ceremony held at the AFRO. Ely was given a certificte of merit by National Circulation Manager, Al Tyler.

The "Carrier of the Month's" mother, Mrs. Martha Smith, received an orchid corsage on behalf of the AFRO-AMERICAN Company in recognition of her support of her son as an AFRO carrier. Ms. Peggy L. McKnight, sister of Louis Ely, accepted the carnation corsage on behalf of her mother.

Boyd and Ely were greeted by company officers including Mrs. Mae E. Dyson, secretary and Ron Jackson, vice-president, circulation.

Others present at the celebration were: Larry D. Smith, Boyd's father; Kendalyn Smith, His sister; Mrs. Bettie Mae Moore, Boyd's grandmother; Mrs. Virginia Williams, his teacher and her son, Andre Williams: Ms. Rosa Burton, Boyd's counselor; Ms. Gwendolyn Suggs, his neighbor.

Also, Chanda Fields, Ely's niece; Marion Partee, AFRO business manager: Carol Alexander and Edward Jackson, distributors of the honorees; Mark Hughes, zone manager of the honorees; Robert Rea Sr., zone manager; Charles Baker, zone manager; Ms. Kathleen Friday, zone manager; Mrs. Grace Singletary and Arnetta M. Lottier, promotion-sales manager.



AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

AWARD WINNER — James Boyd, AFRO Carrier of the Month, holds the plaque he received at ceremonies held at the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers office.

3rd District voters meet candidates

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Residents of the 3rd Councilmanic District got a chance to hear candidates for the city Supreme Bench and several Congressional seats, as well as representatives of the two Democratic presidential contenders discuss the upcoming election.

Dr. Gwendolyn Cooke, a local school administrator, also presented a short lecture on the selection process for Democratic delegates to the party convention, and asked for endorsements of her bid for one of the spots.

Although John J. Jeffries, a union representative who spoke for presidential candidate Sen. Edward Kennedy, and Malcolm Dade, an official in the Carter administration, gave solid endorsements of their respective candidates, the real fireworks of the evening were reserved for the judicial candidates.

Both of the presidential representatives gave messages which were repetitive to anyone who has been following the campaign.

Jeffries spoke of Kennedy's traditional support of unions, and Dade, cognizant of his largely black audience, reiterated Carter's record of federal minority hiring.

But the question of whether race was a factor in the judicial election, although an old issue, still drew the most volatile comments from Judges Robert Bell and Joseph Pines, a representative for Judge M. Albert Figinski, and challengers Alonzo P. Hairston and William "Billy" Murphy.

When the question of whether judges should run for their seats was posed to the panel of judges and challengers, Murpby and Hairston predictably agreed that the election of judges should not be abolished.

Hairston stated that he was concerned about the "myth" of the sitting judges, and although he endorsed Robert Bell, he stated that only three of the current judges runing to retain their seats had any experience as judges.

(Bell served five years as District Court judge, while Elsbeth Bothe and Chief Judge J. Harold Grady have two and one half and 17 years experience on the Supreme Bench respectively.)

Both Figinski and Pines were appointed in January 1980 by Gov. Harry Hughes to fill Supreme Bench vacancies.

Murphy pointed out that, if Hughes had appointed another black, David Mitchell, to the bench at the same time, the five sitting judges probably could have gotten more support from the black community.

"Now they have the audacity to come into our community and ask for our votes," said Murphy.

Murphy described how, during the selection process for the latest group appointed to the Supreme Bench, he sent a letter of recommendation endorsing Judge M. Albert Figinski's nomination. But he told the audience that now things were different.

"I love Al, he's a good friend, but I can't support him because it's not in our (the black community's) interests."

He did add that he was endorsing Bell in the May 13 elections, and urged the crowd to "vote for Bell first, then me, then Hairston."

Although Bell found himself in a delicate position, since he has received the support of the two black candidates while running as a member of the sitting judges team, he refused to side-step the issue.

In the absence of Bothe and Grady, Bell offered a brief biography of each, then urged the audience to support them. But he also reminded the listeners that he was raised and still lives in the black community.

He said living there has given him a sensitivity for poor and black people, a sensitivity "one doesn't get from reading books."

Pines and Bell supported the planned consolidation of the city court system, while Hairston and Murphy were vehemently opposed to it. Both said that the planned centralization was pushed through by white politicians upset over the fact that three of the city court system's six clerks are black.

Pines approved the plan for its projected efficiency and cost-effectiveness, while Bell said the fact that the current clerks would retain their jobs influenced his approval of the measure.

Two candidates for congressional seats had their positions aired. Ann Lewis, a Congressional aide of Rep. Barbara Mikulski, D-3rd, spoke briefly, for the congresswoman, and State Sen. Robert Douglass, currently vying for Sen. Charles McC. Mathias' U.S. Senate seat, gave an enthusiastic campaign pitch.

CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT — Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-7th-Md., has endorsed the candidacy of William "Billy" Murphy Jr. (L) for a seat on the Supreme Bench. Murphy is a candidate in the May 13 primary election.

$ woes threaten Orchard St. Church

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

According to state Sen. Clarence Blount, who four years ago secured a $200,000 grant from the state for the refurbishment of Orchard Street Church, the problems of the citizen's group attempting to turn the church into a museum of black history stem from a lack of aggresive fundraising.

The loan was promised to the group with the condition that the Citizens For the Preservation of Orchard Street Church raise $75,000.

As of May 1, the organization had not reached that goal. Blount said that three extensions had been granted the group since then, but he doubts if another will be forthcoming.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer announced last week that he plans to assume control of the church and other private developers to bid unless the organization can come up with $75,000 by May 23, a goal the group is unlikely to reach.

"What we need is some clear-cut action," said Blount. "We've been going for four years with $200,000 just sitting there, waiting for people to use it, but the portion of the community that:s interested in the Orchard Street Church haven't gotten themselves together to have a fundraiser that would raise the needed funds."

Several of the group's fundraisers have been flops, according to its members. In September 1979, the organization stated that it had only $5,000. It said that $11,000 had been lost in fundraisers that did not pan out as expected.

But Blount feels that members should have sought support from a non-profit foundation such as the Ford Foundation, or an organization which could have donated a large portion of the required monies.

Blount expressed disgust that, after his efforts to secure the money from the Maryland Historic Trust, and his successful attempt to retain the $200,000, no action has been taken yet by the group.

"I had to rescue it, (the money) the last time. You cajole, you plead, then you see that the people haven't done anything."

But Marguerite Campbell, who has been active on the committee since its inception eight years ago, said that the reason the group has failed to acheive its goals is because "only a small group of people was doing anything."

She said that a meeting of that group, all of whom are members of the original committee, was held Thursday, May 1 to plan strategy to retain the historic building.

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ALONZO P. HAIRSTON
JUDGE-SUPREME BENCH OF BALTIMORE CITY

ALONZO P. HAIRSTON

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REPUBLICANS— LEVER 9E	LEVER 10E	LEVER 10G

PRIMARY ELECTIONS
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1980

Committee To Elect Alonzo P. Hairston, Judge Supreme Bench
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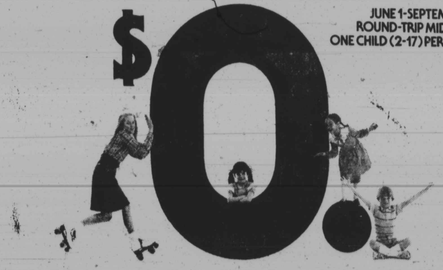

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Super Saver seats are limited, and at these prices, they'll go fast. So call your travel agent or Eastern Airlines soon.

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WE HAVE TO EARN OUR WINGS EVERY DAY

City to rehabilitate East side project

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore City is suffering from a dearth of available public housing, Officials from the Department of Housing and Community Development, HCD, claim there are only 1,600 open units each year, but they receive as many requests each month.

Yet some 150 units in East Baltimore's Somerset Court apartments will be eliminated after the project is rehabilitated this summer.

HCD officials say current tenants will be allowed to move back into the revamped apartments, unless they were relocated to senior citizen units or into Section 8 housing.

They also said they are hopeful the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide additional money to replace the 150 units which will be eliminated at Somerset Court.

But rumor has it that after the revitalization is complete, the spruced-up Somerset Court buildings will be made available to middle or upper class renters or medical students or doctors from nearby Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The future of the Somerset Court tenants was one topic discussed at a recent meeting of Johnston Square residents sponsored by St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center held at St. Francis Academy, 501 E. Chase St.

Other agenda items included the status of rehabilitation projects and long-awaited Urban Services Agency, USA, programs in the area.

HCD officials at the meeting explained that Somerset Court residents top the priority list for public housing. Ordinarily, the date a person applies is the most important factor taken into consideration, although other criteria, such as age, handicap or disability, would take precedence over number of years on the public housing waiting list.

However, residents who have been displaced by government action, as in the case of the Somerset Court tenants, are placed at the top of the list.

Of the 420 Somerset Court units, 120 families must be relocated before May 15, according to John McCauley, HCD deputy commissioner.

Since time is running out and inflation is chewing up the federal rehabilitation grant the longer it takes to begin construction, Somerset Court residents are offered transfer units wherever there is a vacancy.

McCauley stressed that while it is urgent that Somerset Court residents be moved as soon as possible, HCD will not force anyone to move where they do not want to live.

The $8 million grant for Somerset Court will be used to construct separate entrances and enlarge individual units, McCauley said.

Presently, tenants in 12 apartments share a common entrance and the buzzer and key security door does not deter intruders, he said.

"We would have preferred to keep all 420 units but the architect's designs did not allow for that," McCauley said. "We wanted to achieve better housing."

HCD officials had originally thought they could renovate Somerset Court, built in 1943 and located at Orleans Street and Central Avenue, in sections and permit some of the residents to remain. McCauley said the builders said that would be impossible.

Ralph Moore, with St. Ambrose, asked McCauley if Johnston Square residents will have first choice for rehabilitated houses in that area.

McCauley said Johnston Square people will be given first pick but the houses may be offered to other city residents who, because of an emergency such as a fire, would have a more desperate need for the houses.

Urban Services Agency programs for the neighborhood wewere also discussed. Moore said Johnston Square has been allocated $263,000 but has not yet received services.

He said he talked with Lenwood Ivey, director of Urban Services, and made four requests: distribute information about available services; establish a temporary office; have Urban Services personnel look at vacant houses as possible sites for an Urban Services facility, and have USA assistants work with the local Project Area Committee counselor.

Moore said no action has been taken on any of the requests and at the present, Johnston Square residents must go to Dunbar High School for USA programs.

Ivey told the AFRO that Johsnton Square is eligible for every service offered by Urban Services but the agency must find a facility.

"Poeple are concerned about what they feel is a lack of services because we don't have a visible site," he said.

Moore had complained at the meeting that USA personnel at Dunbar were not performing their duties in a proper or courteous manner.

Ivey disagreed, saying he has talked with his staff at Dunbar and is "satisfied with the services they provide."

AFRO photos by Mark Gail

AWARDS FOR VALOR — Firefighter Charles E. Lewis, of Engine Company 25, receives a Meritorious Conduct Award for rescuing a fellow firefighter, Charles Bracone, Engine Company 8, who had become engulfed in flames while fighting a dwelling fire March 26 in the 1100 block Stockton St. Lewis receives his award from Mayor William Donald Schaefer at the April 28 meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Man, 21, freed after guilty plea

A 21-year-old man pleaded guilty to second degree murder and walked out of a court a free man.

Kenneth Carmichael was allowed to plead guilty last week to the reduced charged because a key witness in the case was unable to testify. Carmichael admitted shooting a woman during an apartment burglary and robbery in 1978. An earlier trial ended in a hung jury.

Porsecutors said the witness was needed to corroborate testimony by Carmichael's accomplice.

He was given a suspended 20 - year sentence and placed on five years probation by Judge J. Harold Grady.

Teens charged in Sinai worker's death

Lawrence Johnson, 18, who is charged with the murder of a Sinai Hospital employee has entered an insanity plea and is being held in lieu of $500,000 bond. His co-defendant, Dwayne Mayers, is also charged with the murder and is being held in lieu of $500,000 bond. Mrs. Betty Toulson, 38, was found in Baltimore County March 28. She had been missing from home since Feb. 23, when she left her Edmondson Village home around 6:30 a.m. for work.

The mother of an 18 - year - old daughter never arrived at work and her car was found in the 3400 block of Harlem Ave. Police report the teenagers are also charged with rape, kidnapping, robbery with a deadly weapon and handgun violation. A trial date has not been set.

4,000 more crimes in city in 1979

The number of reported crimes committed in Baltimore rose by more than 4,000 from 1978 to 1979, the FBI said Wednesday.

The FBI's crime statistics showed 73,744 crimes were committed in Baltimore in 1979, compared to 69,463 in 1978.

The national average for crimes increased 8 percent from 1978 to 1979.

In Baltimore, murders rose from 197 in 1978 to 245 in 1979. Robberies rose from 8,097 to 8,482 and burglaries increased from 15,793 in 1978 to 16,915 last year.

Aggravated assaults totaled 6,232 in 1979, up from 5,811 in 1978, the FBI said.

"The 1979 increase (nationwide) clearly indicates that crime remains one of our nation's most serious problems," said FBI Director William H. Webster.

'Shorties' now illegal

It is no longer legal in Maryland to bottle liquor in quarter-pint containers, although one bottler will continue filling the "shorties" until an Appeals Court rules on whether the bottles can be sold.

U.S. District Judge Frank A. Kaufman allowed Overbrook Egg Nogg Co. of Baltimore, to continue to fill the quarter-pint bottles until the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., rules on Kaufman's earlier order to stop the bottling.

Kaufman ruled Feb. 29 that the bottle should no longer be filled with liquor and sold in the state because the "shorty" size of four ounces is not among the six metric sizes of liquor bottles approved by the federal government.

Overbrook appealed the ruling.

The bottler filed a lawsuit challenging the federal regulations, saying the loss of the "shorty" would mean a substantial financial loss. The firm said the federal rules illegally contradict state and local liquor laws.

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