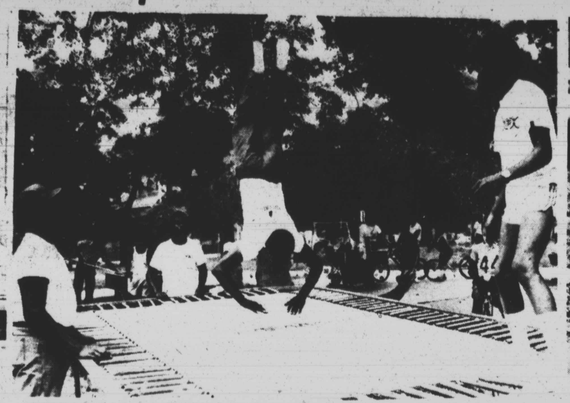
Operation Champ celebrates 14th anniversary

TWO POINTS — Basketball was one feature of the Operation Champ 14th annual Open House last weekend at Lafayette Square. Sponsored by the Urban Services Agency, Operation Champ provides mobile recreation for inner city youth.



UPSIDE DOWN — Anthony McKeiver bounced on a trampoline at Operation Champ Open House. Some 250 people attended the event which included athletics and live entertainment. Operation Champ, under the auspices of the Urban Services Agency, is directed by Vernon Hutchins and assisted by Ellis Young. Twilah Scarborough handled public relations for the event.

AFRO photos by Mark Gail

PING PONG — Edwin Phillips played table tennis at the Operation Champ open house last weekend at Lafayette Square.

Cherry Hill Family Connection — fun for all

ENJOYING THE FESTIVITIES — Jason Williams, Willie Crawford, Muriel Williams and Kay Williams (L to R) attended last weekend's Cherry Hill Family Connection. Food and entertainment were featured along with the elected officials who also attended.

FESTIVAL FOOD — Zina Morton and Margaret Kane enjoy french fries with ketchup at the Cherry Hill Family Connection.

HOLD STILL — Michael Coleman of the Baltimore Neighborhood Arts Circus paints a Spiderman face on a young Cherry Hill resident.

Higher drinking age will again be issue in General Assembly

ANNAPOLIS — State Sen. H. Erle Schafer says he will try again to persuade the General Assembly to raise the minimum drinking age from 18 to 19, but Delegate Joseph Owens thinks the proposal will probably fail.

Owens said most of the state's lawmakers would rather deal with the problem of teen-aged drinking by suspending the drivers' licenses of underage drinkers. He said the two approaches cannot coexist.

Owens is chairman of the powerful House Judiciary Committee, which for several years in a row has blocked bills to raise the drinking age.

This year, the General Assembly did pass a bill calling for the suspension of the drivers' licenses of under-18 drinkers, but Gov. Harry Hughes vetoed it, saying it had constitutional defects.

Schafer said he will submit his proposal again in 1981.

'Eighteen-year-old high school students are getting booze for their under 18-year-old friends," he said, and cited a long list of statistics he said prove the correlations between lower drinking ages and higher incidents of alcohol-related highway fatalities.

But Owens said of the two approaches: "I don't think they can go together."

He said if the drinking age is raised and the drivers' license bill is also passed, that 19-year-olds would then be unfairly subjected to a law that does not apply to other adults.

Schafer, meanwhile, made no effort to hide his displeasure with Owens' committee.

"Year after year, the House Judiciary committee has been the insurmountable obstacle to passage. It's incredible, but nonetheless true, that for several years, a handful of members have thumbed their noses at the people's demand for legislation to raise the drinking age," he said.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

ONE OF THE BEST — Ms. Evelina Rice was named one of "Baltimore's Best" at an award ceremony at the Inner Harbor this week. Mayor William Donald Schaefer presented the award. Ms. Rice was nominated by community residents for her efforts to improve the neighborhood and her work at Urban Services Center 17.

Schaefer OKs plan to revamp downtown area

An ordiance billed as the first step toward the toal revitalization of the city's downtown shopping area was signed into law by Mayor William Donals Schaefer.

The new ordiance amends the city's 1977 urban renewal plan by extending the boundaries of the retail district and setting standards for the physical appearance of area properties.

It also imposes penalties for violations of the standards, including condemnation of the property, and enables the city to require 29 properties in the area. Displaced merchants will be aided in their relocation to other buildings.

Four areas where renovations must be completed within two years are identifed in the ordinance. In other areas, merchants have four years to comply with the ordinance.

The revitalization program includes converting a 15-block stretch of Howard Street into a buses-only transit mall, extending Lexington Mall, renovating Lexington Market and constructiong an adjacent $3 millon parking garage.

Feds OK rent hike for Glen Burnie apartments

Federal officials have permitted the landlord of the Park Glen housing project in Glen Burnie to raise rents by 3 per cent and force residents to pay for their own utilities.

The landlord had asked for a 6 per cent rent hike, but the Department of Housing and Urban Development trimmed the request in half. Residents will pay anywhere from $6 to $8 more in rent each month, plus utilities.

Currently, residents at the federally-subsidized housing project pay $200 to $274 rent each month depending upon the size of their apartments.

The new rents, which take effect Sept. 1, have angered residents. Tenants Association President Sherri Staggers said, "It will cause tremendous harship on everyone here."

She said tenants are consulting with other Anne Arundel County tenants groups to determine what options they have for protesting the rent hike.

Color TV & Hi-Fi SERVICE CALLS
MON.-FRI. EVENINGS
$14.50
SHOP HOURS:
10 A.M.—7 P.M., Mon.-Fri.
10 A.M.-4 P.M. Sat.
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
VIDEO TV
3716 GREENMOUNT AVE.
467-8600
Master Charge & VISA Accepted

HOME DELIVERY!

Circulation Dept.
Afro-American
NEWSPAPERS

BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 1980

A special supplement

Baltimore Afro-American

BALTIMORE, MD. AUGUST 9, 1980

—That July 2nd Supreme Court decision—

A major victory for minority business!

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-Md. was elated at the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of Fullilove et al vs. Klutznick, secretary of Commerce, et al.

In a 6-3 decision in July the Supreme Court held that the Minority Business Enterprise provision of the Public Works Employment Act of 1977 was constitutional.

It was the Mitchell Amendment to the Act which required that at least 10 percent of federal funds granted for local public works projects must be used by the state or local grantee to procure services or supplies from businesses owned by minority group members, defined as United States citizens "who are Negroes, Spanish-speaking, Orientals, Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts."

Mitchell, speaking on the decision said, "This decision was of enormous significance for black economic development. I am, of course, elated that the court upheld the constitutionality of my amendment. Had we gotten an adverse decision, I am reasonably sure that there would have been a concerted or immediate attack against all other government affirmative action programs for minority economic development."

In one majority opinion, Chief Justice Warren Burger said the law does not violate the Constitution and Congress has power to authorize such spending.

"Congress, after due consideration perceived a pressing need to move forward with new approaches in a continuing effort to achieve the goal of equality of economic opportunity," Burger wrote.

"In effort, Congress has necessary latitude to try new techniques such as the limited use of racial and ethnic criteria to accomplish remedial objectives, especially so in programs where voluntary cooperation with remedial measures is induced by placing conditions on federal expenditures.

"That the program may press the outer limits of Congressional authority affords no basis for striking it down."

Burger, joined by Justices Byron White and Lewis Powell, said Congress may use racial and ethnic criteria as a valid means of accomplishing its constitutional objectives.

Justices Thurgood Marshall, William Brennan and Harry Blackmun agreed with the court's conclusion, relying on its 1978 opinion in the Allan Bakke "reverse discrimination" case.

But Justices Potter Stewart, William Rehnquist and John Paul Stevens disagreed, saying the decision is incorrect.

"In the exercise of its powers, Congress must obey the Constitution just as the legislatures of all the states must obey the Constitution in the exercise of their powers," Stewart wrote for himself and Rehnquist.

"If a law is unconstitutional, it is no less unconstitutional just because it is a product of the Congress of the United States."

And Rehnquist said the 1977 provision in this case is a denial of equal protection under the law — a constitutional guarantee.

In his majority opinion, Burger wrote that Congress enacted the program as a strictly remedial measure.

"Here we deal... not with the limited remedial powers of a federal court, for example, but with the broad remedial powers of Congress," the opinion said.

"It is fundamental that in no organ of government, state or federal, does there repose a more comprehensive remedial power than in Congress, expressly charged by the Constitution with competence and authority to enforce equal protection guarantees.

"Congress not only may induce voluntary action to assure compliance with existing federal statutory or constitutional anti-discrimination provisions, but also, where Congress has authority to declare certain conduct unlawful, it may, as here, authorize and induce state action to avoid such conduct."

Burger said Congress did not attempt to give select minority groups a preferred standing in the construction industry.

Instead, it "has embarked on a remedial program to place them on a more equitable footing with respect to public contracting opportunities," he said.

The majority holding was a victory for civil rights groups that said the congressional action was a remedy for historic discrimination in the construction industry.

This is the third time in as many years that the court has considered challenges to programs aiding blacks and other minorities.

Previous rulings addressed what universities may do to aid minorities in medical school admissions and how far private industry may go in setting up special job training programs to help minorities.

The ruling is the first time the high court has considered what voluntary efforts the government may take to assist blacks and other minority groups.

The set-aside provision was passed as an amendment to the 1977 Public Works Employment Act to boost unemployment in the economically depressed construction industry and stimulate the economy.

The legislation reserved 10 percent of the grants for firms that were 50 percent minority owned.

Contractors across the country mounted challenges to the provision and a number of courts upheld it, including the New York federal courts where the case originated.

Four associations of New York contractors said the law excluded them from contracts they could have won by competitive bidding and required them to subcontract work they could have done themselves.

They argued the set-aside was a racial quota, which violated the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection of the law and was illegal under the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which bars denial of federal program benefits on racial grounds.

Justice Marshall said:

"This decision was of enormous significance for black economic development."

Justice Thurgood Marshall

Mitchell upheld by high court on 10 percent minority set-aside

Mitchell's amendment vital...

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell

State minority business office purpose, goals

The principal objective of the Office of Minority Affairs is to assist the governor in making more accurate decisions in relating programs to the needs of minority communities and to assist in implementing such decisions.

Minority affairs are those events, issues, and activities which have a particularly favorable or uniquely damaging impact on communities of people who are black, Hispanic, native American, Oriental, and Pacific Islanders in the state of Maryland.

The word "minority" is a misnomer. The word has grown in popularity in recent years and is accepted to refer to situations which affect the classes of people named previously, when they are not (in fact) a minority.

Another consideration which should be noted is that the ills suffered by the affected classes which are called "minority" do not occur because those classes happen to be in the minority in our population.

Rather, the ills which the minorities suffer occur because of their identities as distinctly different people within our society, who are black, Hispanic, or native American.

The very identity itself is a disadvantage, regardless of the relative size of the population of "minority" group. The particular disadvantage of identity can only be overcome as we combat the more readily recognized disadvantages which we see in our public lives.

Minority communities have suffered exploitation and deprivation historically. Our institutions have not responded to adequately compensate and have continued the historical patterns without correction. Generally, our sensitivities to this situation were heightened during more than a decade of protest by the black community.

Government responded to the protest movement. In spite of many negative responses at the state and local levels, the federal government fashioned and financed some effective programs in response to the protest.

It is clear, however, that response to the basic situation underlying the protest has been inadequate. The crises in our minority communities continue.

Maryland can collect and direct its resources so as to achieve significant social progress in the minority communities of our state.

Douglas Sands
Executive Director, OMA

The Office of Minority Affairs will consolidate our efforts and bring greater benefits to our minority communities and to our governing body. The mission of the Office of Minority Affairs shall be to guide the administration in advancing the improvement of the minority community. The office will seek opportunities to advocate the needs of minorities and to meet those needs through state and private resources.

Given the relative scarcity of available resources and the extent of need within the minority communities, the OMA must assist the governor in establishing priorities and in expanding resources. In order to provide the governor with meaningful alternatives in meeting needs where resources are scarce, this office must establish within its missions, creative thinking and innovative techniques.

The OMA must develop a "sense of impact" which is synonymous with the perception of the minority communities in response to administrative programs and proposals. This sense of impact is essential to the legislative process and the development of the state budget. It is also essential in providing solutions which actually benefit those who are in need.

Such a sense of impact avoids expenditures on showcase programs which communities soon learn to disregard or distrust. Insofar as possible, the OMA must transmit this sense of impact throughout the administration.

There are some programs which provide good models for developing improvements within the minority communities. In some cases, these models exist outside the state of Maryland. The OMA must analyze and adapt those models to broader application in immediate situations.

Commitment to the concerns of minority communities has reached a new and higher level in this administration. The OMA must give this commitment greater exposure and greater results. The exposure must be immediate and visible.

The results must be immediate and continuous in terms of benefits to the minority communities and to the administration. This office must identify and promote those approaches which will have the greatest long range benefit and which can begin without delay.

The state government is laden with boards and commissions. Minorities serve on many of them. The OMA mission includes consultation with such persons to insure the maxiumum benefit of their services to the minority communities.

Included among the responsibilities of the OMA is the obligation to aid the governor in realizing the commitments made to the minority communities during the election campaign.

These commitments were reviewed by the transition team and a briefing manual was prepared which presented recommendations on the achievemments of each commitment. Most of the commitments are being met. Three remain t be implemented.

They are: Formal liaison and communication with the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and other pertinent organizations related to black church, 10 percent of all state contracts to be awarded to minorities and the expansion of the Department of Transportation Affirmative Action Program to all State agencies.

Within its mission, the OMA will promote the implementation of these remaining commitments which are not being met.

The administration has established economic development as a priority for the state. The OMA must establish methods for promoting the economic development of the minority communities in areas which are not being addressed.

(Continued on page 5)

City's Harborplace offers new challenges for entrepeneurs

The African Queen, one of the new black-owned food places in Harborplace, offers some exotic dishes to patrons of the new Inner Harbor eateries.

Amelia Tyler, a native of Liberia, is the manager and master chef of the African Queen. She is an expert in the art of Liberian food preparation.

The Liberian food uses a mixture of spices, fresh vegetables, a nd meats.

Liberia, formerly known as the "Grain Coast" is situated on the west coast of Africa between Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast. Liberia was founded by a group of freed slaves from the United States.

Among the groups of freed slaves were some from the state of Maryland. One of the nine counties in Liberia is named after this state and is called Maryland County.

Baltimore has a sister city in Liberia in Gbarnga, Bong County which is the country's seat of government.

Largely because of the historical ties between Liberia and the United States the owners of the African Queen felt it would be appropriate to introduce to Baltimore some of the ethnic foods from Liberia.

The African Queen is a totally owned subsidiary of Metro Services, Inc. which is a newly formed company founded by James Carter, president, Dwight Williams, executive vice - president and Robert Gregory Jr., vice - president and treasurer.

Mrs. Sheila Williams serves as manager of the African Queen.

In addition to the African Queen, the firm also has an office supply company, bail bonds company and is negotiating several real estate contracts.

The owners consider their newest venture, The African Queen, to be "a taste of things to come."

The operating hours of the African Queen are Monday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is located on the second level of the Light Street Pavilion.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

LIBERIA COMES TO BALTIMORE — Amelia Tyler, a native of Liberia, Africa smiles proudly as she prepares to serve one of her dishes which is served at the African Queen, one of the new minority-owned businesses in Harborplace.