Druid Hill YMCA welcomes old, new friends

(Continued from page 1)

The new Druid Hill Avenue Y features all new universal equipment. Men's and women's locker rooms and showers offer luxury accommodations to all members and professional staff members are on duty at all times to provide fitness counseling and instruction.

There is also a natural dance aerobics class and a universal weight training program designed to help each participant develop his or her individual program to include as introduction to circuit training.

Jogging classes are also being offered for those who want to get and keep fit. There are single parent family, husband and wife, adult, youth, senior citizen individual or senior citizen couple membership rates now being offered.

YMCA BUDDIES — Frank Lansey (L) shakes hands with John Hargrove Jr., at the Druid Hill Avenue YMCA reunion on Aug. 26. Lansey and Hargrove are former members of the YMCA and were seen at the grand reunion.

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

SPECIAL LADY — Mrs. Reba Smith, who has worked at the Druid Hill Avenue YMCA for more than 40 years is known as the special lady. She is shown at the reunion on Aug. 26, receiving a picture of the city from the executive director, Kareem A. Aziz.

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

FUTURE NBA STARS — Two teenagers who live in the area of the YMCA were seen playing basketball in the gym.

COMPLETELY RENOVATED — The Druid Hill Avenue YMCA at 1919 Druid Hill Ave., Was purchased by the city. About $1 million has been spent to renovate the building that is now being leased by the YMCA.

BUDDIES seen playing checkers at the YMCA reunion on Aug. 26 are attorney Charles P. Howard Jr., and John Clark Mayden.

Y YOUNGSTERS share a laugh with Kareem A. Aziz, executive director of the YMCA, after leaving the swimming pool. Shown (from L) are Nicole Bohaman, Chris Marvin, Darron Barnes, Thomas Dunaway, Donald Williams and Nicole Benton.

YOUTH SPORTS are very popular at the YMCA. Willie Monroe, program director, is shown with a group of boys playing basketball. Shown from left are Frank Davis, Juan Ford, Ron Owens, Chris Allen and Michael Holley.

Walbrook ROTC students take to the high seas

By Anthony Pressley

Imagine sailing for three weeks in the ocean on a navy ship nearly 600 feet long and 80 feet wide. A ship that can carry up to 500 troops and 30 tanks with the most modern equipment in its fleet. Sounds like fun?

Well, it was until the ship reached the Bermuda Triangle. "I was just learning how to steer the ship when all the compasses went crazy," stated Lester Bowser, 15.

"We were in the Bermuda Triangle. It was exciting to me. For some strange reason, I didn't get scared. The atmosphere and the water was so beautiful, I didn't even worry."

Twelve Walbrook Navy Junior ROTC (Recruiter Officer Training Corps) students were able to participate in the U.S. Naval Task Force exercise in the Caribbean Sea.

The cadets were welcomed on the USS Saginaw by Capt. Thomas P. McGuire and his crew in Little Creek, Va. The ship sailed from Virginia to the U.S. Naval station in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

"Reveille, reveille, all hands for reveille' was the wake up cry that came across the loud speaker each day at 6:30 a.m. The students got up, put on their uniforms and started their daily activities. With heavy duties to perform and a tight schedule to live by, the students learned all that is required on a ship.

Their duties included serving as lookout, painting, deck hands, and coxswain. They were also trained to perform as helmsmen, signalmen, electricians, engineers and navigators.

After their visit to Puerto Rico, they toured St. Thomas and the Virgin Islands. While sailing in the Caribbean Sea they participated in launching four missile drones.

Despite their busy schedule the students were able to bowl, swim, play football, shop, cookout, watch movies, tour the islands and play basketball aboard ship on the high seas.

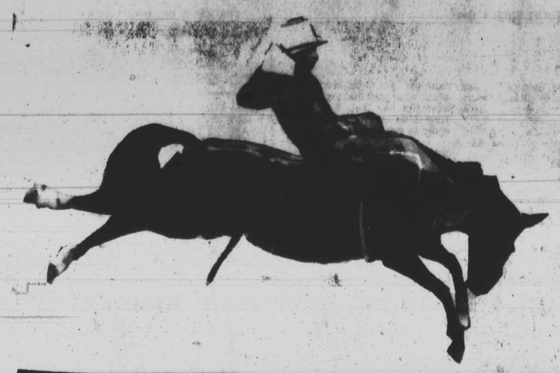
Cmdr. Edmund Turner, Walbrook's ROTC coordinator and Lloyd Bowser Sr. were the instructors on the trip.

The youths who participated were Ronald Alston, Maurice Bates, Michael Bess, Lester Bowser, Tony Crawford, Tyree Friend, Nate Johnson, Rodney Lawson, Reggie Lee, Raymond Matthews, Jimmy Moller and Zachery Miller.

The students will give a presentation of the cruise highlights to the school board at an upcoming meeting.

Photo by Lloyd Bowser Sr.

NAVY CADETS — Walbrook Senior High's Navy Junior ROTC students were able to participate in the U.S. Naval Task Force exercise on the USS Saginaw. They cruise from Virginia to Puerto Rico, San Juan, St. Thomas and the Virgin Islands. Shown are (L to R) Lester Bowser, Commander Turner, Walbrook's ROTC coordinator, and Ronald Alston.



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Teacher, sons charge cop brutality

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

A Baltimore City public school teacher and her two sons are charging police brutality and excessive force in the aftermath of an incident which occurred Labor Day in front of their home in the 1700 block of Ruxton Ave.

Mrs. Dolores Clarke, a special education teacher at Pimlico Junior High School, told the AFRO she and her sons, Kevin, 20, and Mark, 18, were coming home from a cookout at approximately 10 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1.

Kevin, who was driving a 1976 Thunderbird, parked his car on the block and Mrs. Clarke went into her house and telephoned a friend.

"The next thing I knew somebody came to my front door and said, 'Miss Dolores there's a policeman outside threatening to tow Kevin's car.' So I went outside and asked him why.

"So the policeman said, 'I'm going to tow this a——e's car away,'" Mrs. Clarke said.

"Then the cop stuck his finger in my face and told me he didn't want to hear any b———," she said.

Mrs. Clarke told her sons to calm down and went into her house to call the police because the policeman on the scene was "acting weird."

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AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

CHARGE EXCESSIVE FORCE — Members of the Clarke family — Kevin, Dolores, Mark (L to R) — charge city police used excessive force during an incident Labor Day in front of their home in the 1700 block Ruxton Ave.

Students: passing grade is now 70

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Nearly 130,000 Baltimore city school students returning to classes for the new fall term, which began Thursday, were hit with stricter passing guidelines, approved by school officials during the summer.

Board of School Commissioners approved a plan that would require students in both elementary and secondary grades to achieve a grade of at least 70 in order to pass. Previously the passing grade was 60.

According to Dr. Rebecca Carroll, deputy superintendent for instruction and curriculum management, school officials are tightening up on passing requirements to make them more uniform with guidelines for the proficiency tests which also require a 70 passing grade.

"We need to update our expectations of the students in the classroom with drills, classwork and homework. We can't expect them to make one grade in the classroom and then expect them to achieve a higher grade on the proficiency tests, said the superintendent.

Despite the stricter passing requirements, Dr. Carroll states that she does not expect an overwhelmingly large number of students to fail as a result of the changing the passing grade.

She pointed out that students will be treated individually who are not maintaining 70 and that teachers will participate in special training sessions to strengthening their teaching techniques.

Teachers throughtout the system will spend at least half a day on Wednesdays in training classes. Students in the schools will be dismissed at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays for at least two Wednesdays a month.

Dr. Carroll also added schools would be revising their scheduled by adding time to regular class periods and by shortening lunch periods.

Seven others acquitted

Had been on road to recovery

Patricia Taylor, AFRO employee, dies after tornado injuries

Patricia Ann Taylor, 29, paste-up artist at the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers for more than 10 years, died Wednesday at University Hospital as a result of injuries suffered June 29 when a tree fell on the car in which she was sitting after a tornado struck Druid Hill Park.

The daughter of Joseph and Gloria Taylor, she was a 1969 graduate of Douglass Senior High School. She was baptized in 1966 at the Greater New Hope Baptist Church by the Rev. Leonard E. Hicks and was a devoted and faithful member of the Women's Chorus there. She also served as sergeant-of-arms for the chorus.

She began her career at the AFRO shortly after completion of high school, beginning as a variatype operator, and, at the time of her death, was a journeyman paste-up artist.

Ms. Patricia Taylor

Her cowrkers knew her as one who took pride in her work and who went out of her way to prepare a special layout or design.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Sept. 6 at Greater New Hope Baptist Church, 2720 W. North Ave. at 11:30 a.m. The family will receive friends at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Cedarhill Cemetery.

In addition to her parents, survivors include a son, Joseph Taylor; two sisters, Mesdames Alana Robinson and Gloria Redd, her devoted fiance, Jerome Oliver and his son, Jerome Oliver Jr. a grandmother, Mrs. Lillian Jackson; two nieces, Carlita Redd and Nichole Robinson; a nephew, Dale Robinson, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Opponents say blacks forced from city

Housing organization report favors relocation

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

An area citizen's housing group, Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc., has recently released a report in favor of the Area-Wide Housing Opportunity Program, which has come under intense criticism in recent months from several grass-roots organizations.

The program, which is operated by the federal Housing and Urban Development department, is alleged by members of the Coalition to Save Urban Communities, (CoSUC), to be designed to displace large groups of inner-city residents in order to open up the abandoned areas to incoming white settlers.

But, according to the report, there has been only a minimal amount of black progression to outlying suburban areas since the program's inception in 1978.

Detractors of the program have repeatedly stated that blacks were being forced to move from their communities, but the findings of the Baltimore Neighborhoods report suggest a different tale.

"Only applicants on the city's Section 8 waiting list who stated a desire to move to another jurisdiction were considered for Regional certificates...."

Only 3.3 per cent of families on the Section 8 waiting lists have received certificates entitling them to participate in the AHOP program, according to the report. It states that the amount of residents granted city housing under the Section Eight program is 22 times greater than that of those city residents who have received housing outside Baltimore.

But opponents of the program point to the waiting lists for city Section 8 housing, and compare the list and its red tape with the relatively smooth process of receiving a subsidized apartment in the suburbs. They also question the fact that the AHOP program was not begun until 1978, after rising gas prices had convinced many white dwellers to consider moving back to the city.

Dickens Warfield, a publicist for Baltimore Neighborhoods, told the AFRO that this was not the intention of the program, and that efforts were being made to relocate displaced tenants within city limits.

"I understand that a number of AHOP certificates are being used to help displacees in the city. There are people who are displaced but don't want to move, (out of the city), and there are certificates available to help them."

Ms. Warfield added that both Section 8 and AHOP waiting lists were so long that there was almost no difference in the length of time a person might remain on the lists. She pointed out that Baltimore County had actually been forced to close its list, due to the large number of applicants.

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Local activist found guilty on Harborplace protest charge

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Bobby Cheeks of the Welfare Rights Organization was found guilty yesterday of inciting a crowd outside Harborplace by District Court Judge Aaron Baer.

Seven other defendants in the trial were found not guilty. The court proceedings were the second in a series which revolved around the arrest of demonstrators from several local activist groups in the city who had assembled at Harborplace in two separate demonstrations to voice their displeasure with the policies of Mayor Schaefer.

The seven were accused of Park Rule 46, haranguing a crowd; and Park Park Rule 14, failure to obey a lawful order by a police officer.

Cheeks was found guilty of failing to obey a police officer, and fined $50 plus court costs.

"This trial only proves that some people don't want us to exercise our freedom of speech. People have got to insist that they have a right to free speech. I appealed for a jury trial," he said, "but if I am found guilty before a

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AFRO churchwoman contest votes are mounting up

Mrs. Helen Talley, a member of Christian Community Church of God has taken over the lead in the AFRO churchwoman of the year contest.

Mrs. Talley edged past Mrs. Daisy Wallace who held the first place spot last week. Ms. Reynall Dubois, Hemingway Temple AME Church, now holds the second place spot.

There is still time to enter the AFRO churchwoman of the year contest. All you need is a 100 vote coupon to enter. The contest is open to all churches.

The nubmer of votes each woman has received will soon be published in the AFRO. You can vote for your favorite churchwoman by sending in the coupon. You may send in as many coupons as you wish.

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Upton Multi-Purpose Center dedication set

NEW CENTER — Kitty Brodie is pictured in front of the Upton Multi-Purpose Center which will be dedicated this Sunday.

The million dollar Upton Multi-Purpose Center will hold ribbon cutting ceremonies, Saturday, Sept. 6 at 2 p.m. in the newly refurbished Lillie May Jackson building at 1969 Druid Hill Ave.

The Upton Multi-Purpose Center is Phase II with the Phase I building located at Pennsylvania Avenue and Robert Streets for recreation and day cares.

Ms. Kitty Brodie, director says the center will house various community services including SAGA and Parole and Probation.

The Rev. William Calhoun of Trinity Baptist Church will give the Invocation; Ms. Lena Boone, chairperson for Upton Planning Committee, the historical background.

Speakers will be Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, attorney, and Kareen Aziz, executive director of the YMCA, Druid Hill Branch.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer will dedicate the building and Floyd Barnes Jr., president of Professional Engineering Associates Inc. will make presentations.

The event is open to the public and refreshments will be served.