FIRST BLACK FEMALE PARK RANGER

Black women on the move in Baltimore

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

This is the first part of a new series focusing on the advancements of black women in the work force.

Over the last decade women advanced in the work force as never before. They left traditional positions in the home to find their own identity and in some cases add to the family income as the economy continued to tighten.

However, many women were not stepping into the secretarial and clerical offic-type positions dominated by females in the past, but into non-traditional and laboring jobs once considered only "men's work."

Black women are making strong strides in the employment arena. They are capturing positions not held before by either black males or women of any race.

Examining some of these job in Charm City, you can easily see that "Black women are on the move in Baltimore."

One such female is Stephanee Wilson, a 25-year-old graduate of Edmondson High School, who knows what it's like to be the first black and one of only a few females on the job.

Clad in a uniform of dark green pants, tan shirt and tan hat, Stephanee gets to work outdoors in beautiful surroundings, the likes of which would attract anybody playing hookie from work on a sunny day.

Stephanee is a park ranger. She's assigned to Patapsco State Park and has been on the job since Aug. 13 when she became the only black female ranger of 108 park rangers in the entire state.

The petite ranger trainee who greets all the visitors to the park with a smile, first learned of the job during a college fair at the University of Baltimore where she was a student.

Lorenzo Trotter, a minority recruiter for the state park and recreation service, discussed job possibilities which apparently got Stephanee's attention.

Having worked with the Bureau of Recreation three years part-time and two years full-time while going to school, she felt qualified enough to take the state test for the park service in August 1979 and in less than a year she was contacted about a job.

THE NEW RECRUIT — Lorenzo Trotter, minority recruiter for the state park and recreation service, visits Stephanee Wilson, who is the first black female to work as a park ranger in the state.

"I really like the job," she said enthusiastically.

"I love working outdoors and I've always liked recreation."

Assigned to the day shift Ranger Wilson greets visitors to the park and directs them to the picnic or campsites and makes periodic checks on the camping areas.

Anyone caught not obeying the rules gets a reprimand from the new ranger, who goes about her job with an air of confidence.

"We get a lot of people from out of town," she points out. "Some come from New York, Pennsylvania and even as far as Texas."

Stephanee will spend one year in training and after three months will be eligible for the post of classified park ranger. In addition to her park assignments, she will attend the Ranger School at Patuxent Naval Air Station and the Park Police Training School held at the Maryland State Police Academy.

Trotter pointed out that finding black candidates for the job is difficult because it is not an area widely considered by blacks. "Traditionally, not a lot of black students are on forestry lists," he said.

"Schools are only beginning to accommodate and train black students in forestry.

We have to seek out people at the grass roots level. The problem is there is very little latitude for substituting job requirements."

But he said students who have taken several courses in recreation, park and forestry, biology or geography can be considered.

Next Friday's edition will feature black women in the police department.

AFRO Photos by Mark Gail

MAKING THE ROUNDS — Stephanee Wilson, ranger trainee, is shown stepping into her car as she prepares to make daily rounds through Patapsco State Park which include keeping an eye on campsites and checking picnic

Mass jobs rally planned Sept. 23

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

A mass rally for jobs will be held in Washington D.C. next Tuesday, Sep. 23 between noon and 5:00 p.m.

According to Ralph Moore of the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, one of the organizations sponsoring the rally, the effort will be aimed not only at demonstrating the needs of the unemployed; but will also attempt to realize tangible goals such as meeting with federal elected officials.

"We want to say to them that they can not afford to cut programs such as food stamps, CETA, unemployment benefits, etc. They can pay now, or pay later. There is a price that has to be paid."

He added that the long lines of people seeking jobs at the area Social Security and federal office complexes dramatized the willingness of people to work, and the lack of opportunity these people have.

Organizations sponsoring the rally include the New American Movement, OIC, Project PLASE, Chaplain's Office of Johns Hopkins University, Legal Aid Housing Law Center, NAACP, BCTA, the Rent Control Campaign, Archdiocesan Urban Commission, The Center for Displaced Homemakers, Maryland Food Committee, the Johnston Square Committee for Better Housing, NECO, Bethel AME church, COPO, The Johnston Square Development Corporation The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and the Baltimore Baptist Conference.

Free Transportation is available on the day of the rally.

For information contact 752-6228.

BALTIMORE CITY SUBAREA ADVISORY COUNCIL
of the
CENTRAL MARYLAND HEALTH SYSTEMS AGENCY

Is a group of concerned City residents working as VOLUNTEERS to improve the health care which is available to them and their families.

There are a number of vacant seats available. If you would like to volunteer or receive further information, please call Sheila Green, 752-3500.

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HOW TO HELP PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S LIFE

CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS IN CARS CAN LOWER THE RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY

Car crashes aren't pretty. Each year there small children are killed in automobile accidents than in drownings, fires or falls. And that's only part of the story. About 46,000 children under the age of five are injured in auto accidents every year. Experts estimate that the vast majority of these fatalities could have been prevented and most injuries reduced if Child Restraint Systems had been used. The tragedy is that less than 10% of all children in cars are properly restrained in child seats.

An unrestrained child is vulnerable in an auto accident. During its first few years, an infant is proportioned differently than an adult. That means small children are top heavy — usually until the age of five.

If children aren't restrained during an accident, or even a sudden stop, they may tend to pitch forward, headfirst. Even in a minor collision a small child can be thrown against the car's interior, and serious injuries can occur.

Holding a child in your arms is not a substitute for a Child Restraint System. Some people think that by holding a child in a car they are protecting him or her. But safety experts disagree. In an accident, a child in a parent's arms can be crushed between the car's interior and the unrestrained parent. Even if the parent is wearing a seat belt, in a 30 mph collision a 10-pound child can exert a 300-pound force against the parent's grip. Chances are that even a strong adult won't be able to hold on to a child in such a situation.

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Ours aren't the only systems available. The important thing is to have a restraint system for your child and to use it correctly.

Here's what to look for when you buy a Child Restraint System: 1) For a child restraint, the seat should have a label certifying that it meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard #213. 2) An infant restraint should indicate on the label or in the literature that it has been dynamically tested. 3) Make sure that the seat is appropriately designed for your child's size and development. 4) For convenience and safety, the seat should attach easily but securely to your car, hold your child snugly, and be the one you're willing to use correctly. 5) It's a big help if the seat is easy to clean.

At General Motors, we're very concerned about safety. And we believe that every child has the right to the protection afforded by properly designed child seats and infant carriers. That's why we support efforts to enact reasonable mandatory child restraint laws.

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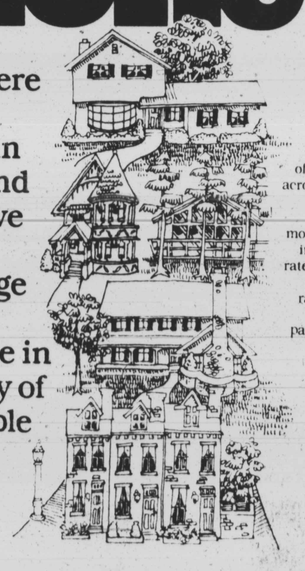

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COMMUNITY GRANT — Robert A. Pascal, Anne Arundel County executive, presents to Mattie Harris, president of the Severna Park Chamber of Commerce, $500 community promotions grant to be used for community benefit activities during the coming year.

Export company holds 2-day confab

All businessmen with a product to offer in the international market are invited to participate in an international trade conference to be held in Baltimore.

The conference, entitled, "International Trade; A Vehicle for Progress, Decade of the 80s," began Sept. 18 and will continue today, Friday. Trade Center located at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

The two-day event is being sponsored by the Alternative Export Management Company, a newly-incorporated firm dedicated to help businesses develop and participate in the international marketplace.

Wali Mutazammil, president and founder of the Alternative, said the purpose of the conference is to provide a setting for businesses and government officials involved in international trade to exchange ideas and information in relation to entering foreign markets.

The conference will also identify the role of an export management company as it relates to managing a businessman's product for overseas trade.

"The objective of the conference," Mutazammil says, "is to narrow the margin in international trade with the intent to help correct the U.S. trade deficit and strengthen the national economy."

Keynote speakers for the conference are Imam Khalil Abdel Alim, Council of Imams for the American Muslim Mission, and Ahmed Hussein Sakr, former director and United Nations representative of the Muslim World League. Imam Alim's topic will be "The Need for Trade," Dr. Sakr's topic will be "Things Unlawful in Trade."

State, local, and federal officials, as well as representatives from the public and private sector, will address topics such as government resources, legislation, financing exports, transportation and trade in the Middle East and Africa.

Representatives from various foreign embassies will also be on hand to address the business climate and trade opportunities in their countries.

Rite Aid charged in 2 suits

Attorney General Stephen H. Sachs and Harvey A. Epstein, commissioner of Labor and Industry, have announced that as a result of an investigation by the Division of Labor and Industry two law suits have been filed charging Rite Aid of Maryland, Inc. with unfair labor practices with respect to the use of polygraph and lie detector tests.

The suits allege that since 1978, Rite Aid "has engaged in a continuous course of unlawful conduct in dealin with its applicants for employment . . . and its employees" in violation of the Maryland Lie Detector Test Law.

That law prohibits employers from requiring applicants for employment and employees to submit to a polygraph or lie detector test as a condition of employment or continued employment.

The suits charge that Rite Aid has required both applicants for employment and employees to submit to polygraph or lie detector tests.

The suits allege that in undertaking its unlawful activity, Rite Aid has refused to hire persons who have refused to tack such a test and taken actions forcing persons who refused to take a polygraph examination to resign thei employmenh higher figures to the number of people taking vacations.

with Rite Aid.

Actions taken in that regard have consisted of transferring employees to inconvenient locations, reducing salaries by reducing the working hours of hourly employees, changing to inconvenient times the working hours of employees, and denying pay increases and promotions.

Filed in the Superior Court of Baltimore City, the suit seeks money damages on behalf of injured persons. The suit filed in the Circuit Court of Baltimore City seeks an injunction to restrain Rite Aid from continuing its unlawful conduct.

In that regard the Attorney General is seeking an injunction pending final determination of the case prohibiting Rite Aid from administering polygraph and lie detector tests to its employees and applicants for employment.

A hearing on the request for an injunction has been scheduled for Friday, Oct. 3, at 9:30 A.M. before the Joseph H. H. Kaplan.

Committee to study ordinances on KKK

Frederick County Commissioners have formed a committee to study local ordinances that could be used to control meetings by the Ku Klux Klan.

The commissioners refused to speculate on what kinds of measures could be taken.

But Lord Nickens, president of the county NAACP CHAPTER, said he would like to see a law enacted to prohibit the use of masks at public meetings. Several large cities have similar bans that have withstood court challenge, Nickens said.

The county commissioners revealed the existence of their panel at a meeting Sept. 16 after learning the Klan has scheduled an Oct. 18 rally in Braddock Heights.

Anthony Larricci, the Klan's Grand Dragon in Maryland, said two new Klan chapters have been formed in and around Frederick County recently, indicating the area is ripe for another recruitment drive.

The Klan held its first rally in Braddock Heights this summer.

No hiring, pay hikes for state agencies

Few new employees will be added to the state's workforce and those already holding positions may not get salary increases next year, if information provided to the director of a State Employees Union proves accurate.

Stephen H. Diamond, head of the Maryland Classified Employees Association, said he also was told by a top state government official that Gov. Harry Hughes has ordered a hiring freeze in all but emergency situations.

Diamond also said the source told him it had been decided there would be no pay raises for state employees next year unless the budget situation improves — and that massive cutbacks in programs would be necessary.

"This year we are not as rich as in the past, so we take it out on the people making $9,000 or $9,000 a year, the weak and the powerless," the union chief charged.

Gubernatorial aide Gene Oishi said cutbacks in programs are possible, but refused to confirm or deny a hiring freeze has been ordered.

Oishi said salary increases would be in jeopardy if attempts to cut back are unsuccessful.

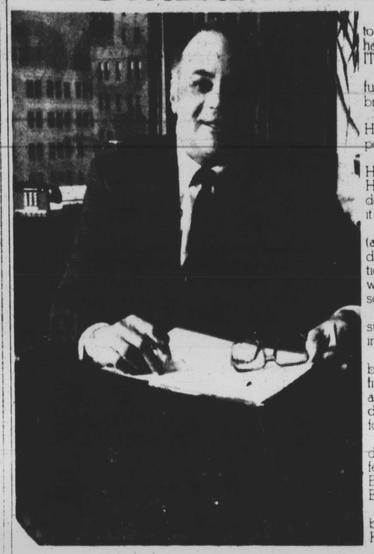
"If after you do all this there is not anything (money) left over, what else are you going to do?" he said. (UPI)

More driving in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS — Maryland drivers used more gasoline in July than they did a year ago, the first time in 15 months that gas consumption has increased, the State Comptroller's Office said Friday.

Marvin Bond, a spokesman for Comptroller Louis Goldstein, said 116 million gallons of gas were sold in Maryland in July, slightly less than 1 percent above the total for July, 1979.

Is there a place in American business for somebody like Howard White?



That's hardly a question today when Howard A. White has a senior vice presidency at ITT World Communications.

But in his earlier years, the future looked anything but bright.

A New Yorker by birth, Howard was the son of a postal clerk of modest means.

Graduating from the Bronx High School of Science, Howard took his bachelor's degree where he could afford it — at tuition-free City College.

Then he added a law degree (at St. John's) and a master's degree in public administration (at New York University) working by day, attending school at night.

Today, Howard White supervises a staff of 50, including ten other attorneys.

Recently, he was nominated by President Carter, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, as a member of the board of directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Mr. White has still another distinction worth noting. A few years ago, the Harlem Branch YMCA named him a Black Achiever.

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