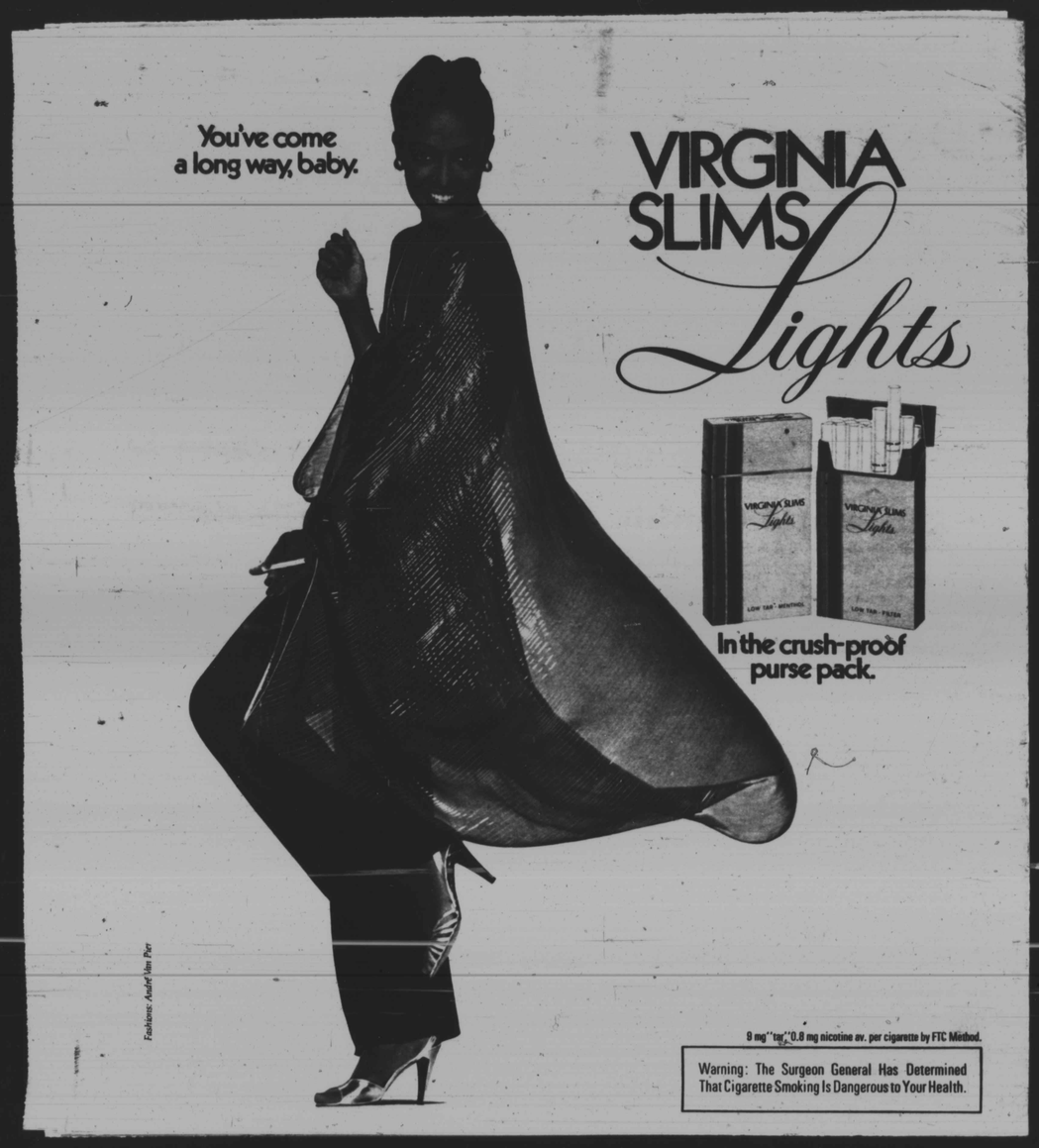

Do you remember...?

Nellie Buchanana

Essie Hughes

Mary West Miller

Douglass High School reunion Saturday!

(See story, Col. 1)

Northeasterners to convene this week-end

Story below

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 89TH YEAR

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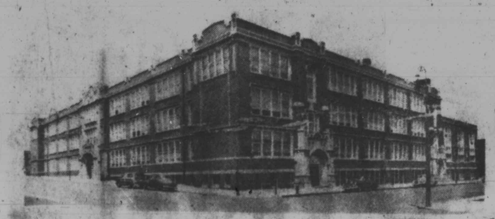
Police promotions controversy!



FORMER SCHOOL SITE — This 1925 photo depicts the early location of venerable Frederick Douglass High School, located at Carey, Calhoun and Baker Sts. in the heart of what still is the West Baltimore black community. It was built for the then - staggering sum of $1.5 million.

PRESENT HOME — Douglass High School moved with the community, as is shown in this recent photo. In 1954, the faculty and student body of Douglass was given this building, formerly occupied by Western High School. The Gwynns Falls area, where the school is located, had just begun to attract well-to-do black residents at the time of the move.

Douglass grads to bring nostalgia and history to city this week-end

By Ida Peters

Two beloved teachers, Miss Essie Hughes and Miss Nellie Buchanan, will receive special awards and Cab Calloway, Ms. Veronica Tyler, Retired General George Brooks and Ms. Mary West Miller are the honorees for the second annual Douglass High School Alumni Reunion, Saturday, May 23 from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Scholarship awards will go to Andre Lucas, president of the Student Council and Larry Keamer, president of the 1981 Senior Class.

Committee for the reunion attended by 4,000 persons last year includes:

Hanibal Mickens, president; Ben Mason, program; Hortense Davenport Cain and Barbara Davenport, hosts and hostesses; Bregg Blackwell, seating; Lota Howard, membership drive; Selma Rosier, secretary; Luella Gardner, political education;

Also, Patelle Harris, recording secretary; Virginia Lucas, parliamentarian; Alma Walker, first vice - president; Serena Mills, second vice - president; Twilah Mallory Scarborough, public relations;

Also, Milton Brown and Howard Contee, tickets; William Holland, treasurer; Dr. Virginia Brodie, outreach tickets; Patrick Scott, scholarships; Lois Harvey, outreach tickets and Phillip Johnson, transportation.

Douglass High School was founded in 1885 and was the only high school blacks could attend in Baltimore until the founding of Dunbar High School in East Baltimore in the 1930's.

The first Douglass building was on Holiday across from City Hall. The second site, on Saratoga Street near Charles. In 1901, the school was located on Pennsylvania Avenue at Dolphin Street across from Penn - Dol Pharmacy; near a whore house and down the street from the Royal Theatre and the Northwestern Police Station.

In 1925, a new $1.5 million dollar building was built at Carey, Calhoun and Baker Streets. In 1954, Douglass moved into the aging building of Western High School on Gwynns Falls Parkway while a new Western - Poly complex was being built.

Until 1960, various Douglass classes held individual class reunions but committees were formed to have all classes for the Frederick Douglass Centennial in 1985.

Outstanding class reunions have included that of the Class of 1907 who 40 years after graduation from Douglass made a presentation to James H.N. Waring, Principal 1902 - 1909, at graduation ceremonies of the Class of 1947.

In the citation and presentation of a bronze tablet the Class of 1907 cited Dr. Waring and many of his 35 scholarly teachers. They included Dr. Dwight W. O. Holmes and wife, Mrs. Holmes. Dr. Holmes later was Dean at Howard University and President of Morgan College.

Miss Jessie Fauset went on to become a famous novelist; and three members of the Waring faculty became principals of

(Continued on Page 30)

Pomerleau told to stop 'foot dragging' in ending discrimination

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Twenty-eight city policemen had their promotion ceremonies delayed Wednesday after Kenneth Johnson, a lawyer for the all-black Vanguard Justic Organization, filed a motion in federal court seeking an injunction against the elevations of the officers.

"Of course Pomerleau made an end run around the court," Johnson told reporters following the lengthy hearing, "I called the police legal unit yesterday, and they said that there would not be any promotions today. (Wednesday)."

But U.S. judge Frank Kaufman, after hearing testimony from Johnson and Benjamin Brown, city solicitor, decided not to grant an injunction but did give police commisioner Donald Pomerleau and Brown a severe tongue-lashing.

"I want an end to this foot-dragging that is taking place," he told those present, He also stated that no further promotions would be condoned pending a second hearing, scheduled for Tuesday, May 26.

The incident stemmed from a suit filed back in 1973 by Johnson on behalf of the Vanguard group seeking to block any promotions to sargeant within the department because, according to the officers, the tests were biased against blacks and women.

At the time the suit was filed, only four out of 354 sargeants on the force were black.

Last month, 77 city black and women city police officers were awarded a total of $900,000 in damages by Judge Kaufman as a result of a decision rendered in March of 1979.

Continued on page 2

Despite court ruling on financing

City schools must wait outcome of state's appeal

City school officials, celebrating this week's victory of the challenge against the state's education aid formula, may have to wait at least another year before they can adorn their smiles permanently.

Baltimore Circuit Judge David Ross this week ruled in favor of the suit filed by school officials in February 1979 that charged Maryland's formula for distributing state aid for public education was unconstitutional and discriminated against Baltimore and some of the rural counties.

The state is expected to appeal the decision and Elliott C. Lichtman, Washington-based lawyer who successfully argued the financing case, said the appeal could start as early as the fall.

"There's a fair chance that we can bypass the Court of Special Appeals and go straight to the Court of Appeals. That means the case could be argued as early as the fall or next spring," said Lichtman.

Even if the state decided against an appeal, school officials say it would take three to four years before the "real effects" of the ruling would be felt in the classroom.

If the ruling is upheld, it's back to the drawing board for the General Assembly, which must create a new formula that more equally and evenly distribute education funds to the state's subdivisions.

It could also require the state to pay certain jurisdictions, such as Baltimore, additional aid for education to make up for the money lost over the years, according to Lou Panos, press secretary for the governor.

"We recognize it could involve a substantial sum of state funds," he said. "The attorney general is examining the decision with a possible view toward appealing it."

The lawsuit was filed in February 1979 jointly by school boards from Baltimore city and Caroline, St. Mary's and Somerset counties, 49 students and Mayor William Donald Schaefer.

Continued on page 2

MBDA grant awardee says it will help existing businesses

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

According to representatives from the Commercial Credit Company, the subsidiary of Control Data Corporation which recently won a $230,000 grant from the federal government to aid minority businesses in the Baltimore metropolitan area, most of their attention over the next year will be on helping existing minority businesses than on helping new businesses actually get started.

William Nassif, vice president of the Commercial Credit Services Corporation, and Robert O. Bonnell, project coordinator, said that monies from the Minority Business Development Agency (MSDA) grant will be used to provide marketing, financial, counseling and accounting services to existing minority businesses, among other services.

The goal, said Bonnell, is to give existing businesses enough training and help so that assistance on the federal and state governments can be eventually eliminated.

And, he said, the goal to help exisiting businesses instead of focusing attention on starting new ones was in compliance with guidelines set from guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which awarded the grant and has done so for the past ten years.

The entire matter of the MBDA grant has stirred a mild controversy here in Baltimore since it was learned that the Council on Equal Business Opportunity (CEBO), which had been the implementor and recipient of the grant for the past ten years, had lost its bid this year to Commercial Credit.

Sam Daniels, expressing surprise and anger at the decision made by the federal government, said at that time that he doubted that a majority-owned company would be sensitive to the needs of the minority businessman in Baltimore.

Continued on page 2

Northeasterners plan convention here

"Hi Ho, Baltimore: Northeasterners- Baltimore's Best" is the theme for the 1981 convention May 22-23-24 at the Baltimore Hilton. Delegates will arrive in Baltimore from 11 chapters, Boston, Chicago, Columbus, Detroit, Indianapolis, New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

Mae Wright Peck is president of the Baltimore Chapter and chairman of the convention. Emma Bright is convention co-chairman.

Silver invitations with a racing theme has a Weighing In Time at 12 noon Friday. The welcome party on Friday will feature Maryland seafood and group dancing by local artists John Taylor.

Saturday will feature a trip to Pimlico Race Track, luncheon and the third race dedicated to the group. This will be followed by a bus tour of the Inner Harbor; shopping at Harborplace, final feature Saturday will be a dinner-dance and presentation of $1,000

(Continued on Page 18)

Swisher called 'racist' in Gampy's trial case

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Members of the Monumental City Bar Association this week filed an amicus curiae brief with the Maryland State Court of Appeals, asking that the trial of two black men charged with the bizarre slaying last March of two restauranteurs not be moved out of Baltimore City.

The brief was filed after State's Attorney William Swisher asked the high court to move the trial to a more neutral site, claiming that pre-trial publicity had damaged the opportunity of the men to receive a fair trial in the city.

That request was granted by Judge Paul Dorf, who ordered the trial moved to all-white Garrett County.

But Elijah Cummings, president of Monumental City, and Edward Smith, a member of the group and also an attorney in the city, have charged Swisher with racism and say that his insistence that the trial be moved was an act to insure that the men receive the death penalty.

They say, the only publicity that has surrounded the upcoming trial of the men has come from Swisher himself, who from the beginning has publicly said he would seek the death penalty for them.

"I find it interesting," said Cummings, "that the trial was not moved to Prince Georges County or Anne Arundel County, where there are blacks."

"Our position," he said, "is that the reason for the move was pure racism." He implied that Swisher, who is up for re-election next year, wanted to make sure the men received the death penalty, and that a jury in the city might not grant that punishment.

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