Black Republicans meet, map strategy

By James M. Abraham

Maryland's black Republicans unveiled ambitious plans for the future at a noon assembly at the Holiday Inn Tuesday.

The group, led by St. George Crosse, former candidate for city comptroller, and Irvin Henson, former candidate who ran in March for a 5th district congressional seat, hosted Lance Wilson, special assistant to HUD secretary Samuel Pierce.

"The numbers clearly show that the Reagan administration has not turned its back on those who need assistance," Wilson said.

Taking note of the several black businessmen in the area, Wilson said that 1,500 units of a 153,000 unit Section Eight housing program, backed by the Reagan administration, will be developed by minority businessmen.

But, there were hostile forces in the room, and Wilson was aware of it.

"There is a campaign of confusion being waged against budget cuts," he said, but added the Reagan tax package would halt "the death march of staggering deficits and crippling inflation."

"But what about the poor?" asked a man in the crowd.

The smooth, wavy-haired Wilson turned toward him and told the man again that many were uninformed about the exact nature of the Reagan budget.

But the man's plaint was lost in the rush of people, rushing to make contacts with top-ranking republican officials present.

And there were many. The state's only GOP representative, Marjorie Holt, spoke briefly, and said the "enterprise zones" may be in Baltimore's future, based on a tour of the city she had conducted earlier with Rep. Jack Kemp, D-NY, who had originated the economic plan.

Outside the room, at the beginning of the affair, realtor Otis Warren was enthusiastically telling a GOP figure "Ebony (magazine) is coming past my office this afternoon to do a story on me."

When the conversation finished, Warren had obtained a verbal commitment from the official, who was interested in finding some local office space for party affairs.

Also present was State Senator Robert Douglass, D-45, Republican Party state chairman, Allan Levy, James Crockett, a local realtor, and members of the Baltimore Republican community.

They included Leonard Blackshear, who gave a brief prospectous of the group's plans for the future.

Blackshear said the main concerns of the council would be family and economic development and promotion of the party.

Henson, president of the council, said several black GOP organizations were either being formed or already in existence in the Baltimore area.

They include the Frederick Douglass Republican Organization, of which Henson is the chairman; the 4th District Republican Organization, headed by Victor Clark; the Greater Baltimore Republican Council, organized by Leonard Blackshear; Citywide Republican Organization, which is chaired by Helen Reed Rowe; and Crosse's Booker T. Washington Club.

According to Levy, the GOP is looking for a 10 to 15 percent increase of black Republican registration. Clark, an experienced Republican, who has already bloodied his nose in two losing efforts, said his club will be seeking new voters, not former Democrats.

"We're looking for grassroots people who want to learn about the two-party system," he said. "The 4th is probably the hardest district in the city, (for the GOP), ... but we'll be fielding candidates in the next election."

In a symbolic gesture, Henson's 66-year-old mother, who along with many other blacks, became a Democrat during the days of the Great Depression, announced she was becoming a Republican after 40 years of voting the Democratic ticket.

Guardian Angels recruiting drive is on!

By Patricia Tatum
AFRO staff writer

Armed with signatures of more than 170 hopeful recruits, the Guardian Angels have begun the "rough" three-month training session that will make or break some Baltimoreans dreams of becoming an Angel.

Tony Lighty, 25, leader of the Angel's Philadelphia chapter, said last Friday during a visit to the AFRO offices about 140 men and women had signed to become Angels during the first two days of recruitment.

Of that 140, Lighty estimated only "50 or 60, at the most, will make it as Angels."

At the close of the recruitment drive, which began July 22 and ended July 22 at War Memorial Plaza, about 175 people had been recruited.

The Angels, a controversial anti-crime patrol, was founded two years ago in New York City. Since its founding, the Angels have grown to 22 chapters across the nation.

Baltimore is one of several cities scheduled to open an Angel chapter within the next few months.

Ike Jackson, 20, is a college student and a Philadelphia Angel. Here to train the first 50 Angels, who will comprise the Baltimore chapter, he said some of the recruits probably signed just to receive publicity, to impress their girlfriends or "for their ego."

Jackson said for those reasons, such recruits will not make it.

"We weed them out through our training. It's very rough," he said.

Sam Cole, 24, also is a member of the Philadelphia chapter and a middle school art teacher. Cole said 27 recruits participated in a training session Monday, a day marked by hot, humid weather. The recruits underwent drill formations and exercises, he said.

Tuesday's training session, at the plaza, was cancelled, Cole said.

"We couldn't make it because of the rain, but 17 people did show up (for training)," he said. Of those 17, two recruits decided to review Monday's lessons in the rain.

The two hardy recruits staged their own "little workout," Cole said. Cole and Jackson agreed the actions of the two recruits showed dedication, a good sign.

But, Jackson said recruits will have to show more dedication than the above because Tuesday "was just one day and they have to come through everyday."

Because the rain and heat have posed problems for the Angel's training sessions, Cole said his number one priority is to obtain an indoor training facility. City officials have been approached by the Angels about a donation of office space, but the Angels also said space from church and community groups would be equally appreciated.

Lighty, a businessman, left Baltimore to return to Philadelphia at the end of last weekend, but returned here Thursday to help with training. He said about one-third of the first 140 recruits were women.

Most of the recruits were from 16 to 25 years of age, but a 76-year-old gentleman also expressed interest about becoming an Angel. The older citizen impressed the Angels, especially Cole, by his alertness and apparently sound physical condition.

"He came trotting up after us. He wasn't breathing hard or anything," Cole marveled. "This man was alert, he was on the ball."

Age, apparently, is no obstacle to becoming an Angel. One of the Philadelphia Angels is 55, he said.

While the rigorous training will weed out non-serious recruits, the Baltimore Police Department also will have a role in the weeding process.

"They're going to take record checks to make sure none of the applicants have serious criminal records," Cole said.

A history of felony charges, child or drug abuse offenses will automatically disqualify recruits from Angel Membership. Recruits also must be 16 years of age or older and must be either a student or employed.

During the drive, recruits asked a lot of questions, Jackson said. Common questions were "What are you about?" and "What happens when a man pulls a gun out?"

Both Jackson and Cole said during their seven-month stint as Angels, they have never been drawn upon. But they said being an Angel is a potentially dangerous job. A portion of the training will explain the pros and cons of being an Angel.

Guardian Angels are knowledgeable in martial arts, Lighty said, but the emphasis of such training is placed on "basic combat" because that "is what you deal with in the streets." Familiarization of local laws and first aid also will be including in the training sessions.

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Joplin stamp in '82

Congressman William (Bill) Clay (D.-Mo.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, this week, announced that the U.S. Postal Service plans to issue a stamp in their Black Heritage Series to commemorate the life and contributions of Scott Joplin. The stamp is to be issued in 1983.

Congressman Clay acknowledged the joint efforts of his colleagues in Congress, the Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) and Rep. Romano Mazzoli (D-KY) in helping to make this stamp a reality.

Clay said "Scott Joplin was a musical genius, who like most Black artists throughout American history, has never received the recognition he deserves for his invaluable contributions to this Nation.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

7-24-81

FREE SPIRIT THEATRE' YOUTH PROJECT SCHEDULE

JULY 27th 1981 DRUID HILL PARK PAVILLION No. 9 time 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
JULY 28th. 1981 HARLEM PARK 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
JULY 29th. 1981 SCHOOL No. 4 30 S. GILMORE ST. 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
JULY 30th. MARYLAND STATE TRAINING SCHOOL 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
JULY 31st. 1981 GREENMOUNT CENTER GREENMOUNT & LANDVALE 11:00 - 1:30 p.m.
AUGUST 3RD 1981—NEW ERA DAY CARE CENTER 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
AUGUST 4th 1981 MONTROSS TRAINING SCHOOL 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
AUGUST 5th. 1981 CHARLES PLAZA 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
AUGUST 6th 1981 MT. ROYAL RECREATION CENTER 11:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
AUGUST 7th 1981 CHARLES PLAZA 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.

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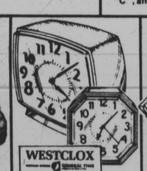

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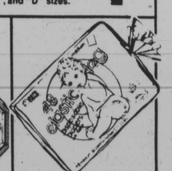

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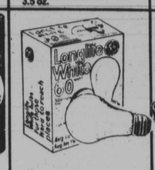

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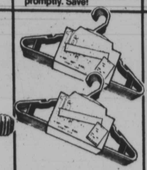

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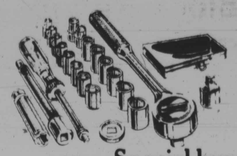

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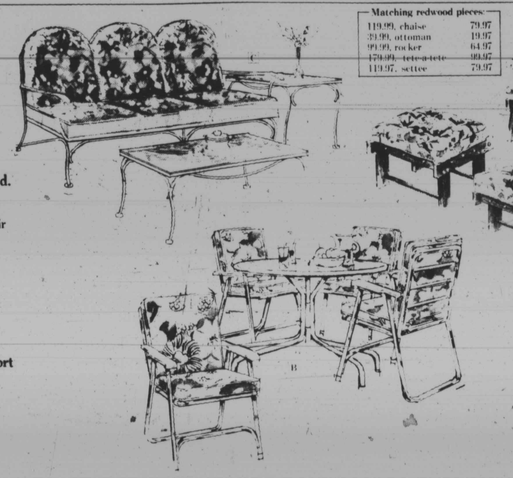

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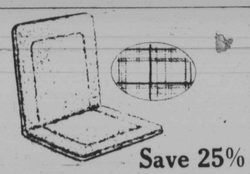

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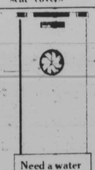

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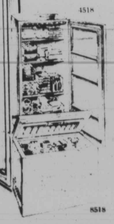

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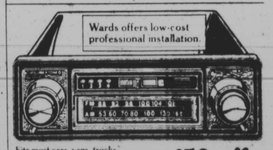

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