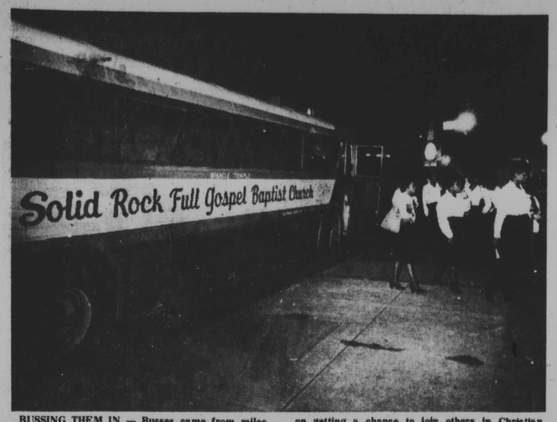
City's largest tent revival draws the faithful



BUSSING THEM IN — Busses came from miles around and discharged hundreds of passengers bent on getting a chance to join others in Christian fellowship under the revival tent.

(Continued from Page 1B)

Speaking of the guest speaker, Rev. Crump says "Evangelist Southerland is a man who stays on the field. He lives out of a suitcase. He is a fearless preacher and will tell it like it is."

Rev. Crump says, "Baltimore is at a spiritual low and we have had very few outstanding revivals. He says "The part of the gospel Billy Graham preaches is beautiful but he comes short of what we call the full gospel.

"The full gospel would include salvation, the Baptisim of the holy ghost and speaking in tongue. Billy Graham comes short of miracles and healing. He comes short of casting out demons and devils."

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

YOUNG AND OLD — Both young and old religious adherents gather nightly at a month-long revival at the corner of Reisterstown Road and Garrison Avenue.

WATCHFUL USHERS — Two ushers keep a careful eye on a parishioner who apparently is imbued with the mood of religious fervor evident at the revival.

PRAISE HIM — Two women sing the praises of the Lord as they wave their hands in time to the stirring music of a gospel band.

Redistricting draws 39th district ire

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

"Please save Charles Village, please save Bolton Hill..." pleaded the young man from the 39th Legislative district Wednesday night in the Board of Estimates hearing room.

In the back, two blacks sitting together snickered. "They're going down fighting," said one with a chortle.

The man from the 39th district was pleading his case before the Baltimore City delegation's subcommitee on reapportionment, which held its first meeting this week.

The subcommittee, which is chaired by Del. Larry Young, D- D-38, has the tough task of redividing the city along new district lines wh which will takeinto account the city's dwindling population.

As a result of a loss in population, the city will be losing two districts, which will reduce its total from 11 to nine.

The 39th and 47th districts are currently being targeted as the districts which will be cut, and, of the 12 speakers who testified Wednesday night, seven spoke on behalf of the central Baltimore district, which is represented by state Sen. Julian Lapides.

The three delegates from the district are James Campbell, Dr. Torrey brown and Anne Perkins, a member of the reapportionment subcommittee.

Del. John Douglass, D-45, spoke breifly on the Balck Caucus' plan for the preservation of the traditionally black districts and the creation of a new black district in northeast Baltimore, currently the province of the powerful Curran family machine.

Young told the audience that "no maps have been drawn, nothing has been finalized," but, to the worried residents of the 39th, his words fell on deaf ears.

One former resident urged the panel to consider dropping the 42 and 43 districts, which he said "were obviously "gerrymandered," instead of destroying the 39th.

He told the subcommitee that one of the constitutional requirements for redistricting was that the borders of all districts be "compact, or as short as possible.

Walter Dean, a member of the panel, countered by telling that man that "if we did that, we'd have nothing but circles and squares on the map..."

A spokesperson from the state's attorney's offcie was on hand to explainnn the constitutional and discretionary guidelines the the subcommitee will be using in its task.

Contiguity, compactness, the maintenance of minority representation, a respect for geographical boundaries, the integrity of political subdivisions and population equality are the six constitutional requiremts for redistricting.

Contiguity means that the district cannot be separated, it must be a whole entity; compactness means it should be as tightly shaped as possible; minority representation must not be diluted thorugh gerrymandering; the natural boundaries, such as rivers or lakes, must be taken into account, and political subdivisions, such as city and county boundaries, must not be violated.

Also, population must be evenly split among the districts.

The next meeting of the body is set for Aug. 31 at Poly-Western High School.

Rally set for hunger strike

Several local community groups are planning a series of demonstrations to call attention to the plight of seven men still on a hunger strike at the Maryland Penitentiary.

According to Anthony Robertson, head of the Prisoners' Rights Organization, said that a march and an all-night vigil will take place from 12 a.m. until e a.m. outside the prison on the Saturday the 23, and on the following Sunday a march will be held. Freinds and supporters of the hunger strikers will march from the Washington Monument down Madison Ave. to the Pen.

Organizations working with the PRO include the Maryland Chapter of the National Black Independent Party and the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization.

Gospel show at Civic Center

The Rev. James Cleveland and the Cleveland Singers, accompanied by the Maryland Mass Choir, will be singing Sunday, Sept. 6 at a gospel festival at the Civic Center.

Other well known gospel groups that will be singing will be the queen of gospel Albertina Walker and the Suburban Mass Choir, Keith Pringle and the Fellowship Choir, Benny Cummings and the Kings Temple Choir, the Rev. Lawrence Roberts and the Angelic Choir.

Also, Roland Sumkins, Tommy Roberts, The Singing Disciples, The Travelaires. Emcees for the show are Mary C. Pastor Naomi Durant, Pauline Wells Lewis, James Stephney, Al Stewart, Vashti McKenzie, Aurelia White, Cal Hackett and Abraham Cash. For ticket information call 566-1362.

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HERBERT COX
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Star pitcher fights drinking

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Former star Brooklyn Dodger pitcher Don Newcombe was in town to promote a subject a lot more serious that the national pastime.

Still vigorous and sleek twenty years after retiring from the game, the dapper spokeman was in town on behalf of the National Council on Alcoholism.

Newcombe delivered a series of lectures at various city sites through the sponsorship of the Mayor's Advisory Commitee on Criminal Justice, headed by Tommy Jackson.

"Alcoholism is a gradual process," he said, "and one which actually affects you or I more than the typical 'Skid Row' bum."

"Alcohol is a great big business, he stated, "but we assume that its not that bad because it has such widespread Legislators aren't fighting the problem...they claim that there's no problem. But 15 million Americans are alcoholics. If you imagine their affect on their familes, that's about 60 million people that are affected by alcohol abuse."

"I mean, 20 kids a day die in traffic accidents due to alcohol. What is it that makes alcohol so profitable that they, legislators) don't make any noise about it?"

Newcombe was not shy about discussing his own alcohol problem. He said that he decided to quit only when his wife threatened to leave him.

"I can't imagine—I don't want to imagine—where I would be right now if sge hadn't threatened to leave me."

Newcombe is not one of those "fire and brimstone" guys who wants to see every bar and still shut down. He candidly admitted that prohibition is not the answer.

He said that legilstaors can help solve the problem, but the main deterrent to alcohol abuse lies within each of us.

"There is a warning level in everybody's system that tells us when we're drinking too much. Take an analysis of your own system, not anyone else's, in order to be able to pay attention to the warnign signs. Damn what the others are doing, you may get in trouble because you didn't listen to your own body."

But the talk was not all about alcoholism. Several passersby stopped Newcombe to shake his hand as they recalled his glory years with the mighty then-Brooklyn Dodgers.

"I had a toll," he said, when asked how he coped with racism. "I had that baseball. They used to call me crazy, but they respected me."

He said that, whenever one of his teamates got hit with a pitch, he would retaliate by doing the same to the opposing team's batters.

"(Then-manager) Walter Alston had to take me out of one game," he recalled. "I threw at seven men."

Newcombe laughed as he told that story, then turned more solemn when asked if current ballplayers honor men like him and Jackie Robinson for breaking into the major leagues.

"A lot of them really don't know how it was. They say we did what we were supposed to do, but they don't pay homage to a guy like Jackie,(Robinson). They didn't live it, so they don't know what it was like."

Young softies to Richmond

The B-2 softball team will be journeying to Richimond, Va. today to participate in Class A softabll action on the regional level. If the tem wins it will be going to Tennessee to play in the national tournaments.

The team has amassed an awesome record this season of 56 wins andonly 11 losses, and is captained by St. Clair Smith and Albert Jopes.

The team placed second last Sunday in the state championshiPs, losing to the powerful Moran's team, which is the tonly team to beat the B-2's twice in one season.

What makes the team even more unique is that they sponsor themselves

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See SHOWTIME section

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New World Patriotism Parade Aug. 22 See page 4

Will new downtown plan k.o. black businesses?

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Carl Montgomery can remember when things were different downtown.

Standing in his posh and elegant hat shop located on W. Saratoga St., Montgomery quietly recalled days when customers sassed about in hats and gloves, and salesladies "still wore pearls."

That was more than 12 years ago. Today, downtown Baltimore has the look of a ravished war zone, at least in places. Stores are unkempt, streets are filthy, noises blare from dirty storefronts, and smeared windows display cluttered ads geared to make people buy..anything.

Revitalization efforts in the retail district have begun. The Murdock Development Company in Los Angeles is due to begin renovating the bleeding Howard-Lexington corridor within a few months. Combined with the birth of the Inner Harbor a few blocks down, things are destined to change.

Questions arise, however, on how revitalization is going to help or hurt both black businesses and black consumers. There is a mood, apparently carried by many, that the downtown will be converted into a place for the elite, the well-to-do, pushing blacks and poor people to the outskirts.

Closely watching what happened in the Inner Harbor, and what may happen in the area adjacent to the now-infamous Harborplace, blacks are grumbling that revitalization may be good aesthetically—but who in the world will be able to afford to partake in the beauty?

Montgomery, a former hairstylist for the Hecht Company who owns a beauty parlor on Saratoga St. as well as the millinery shop, recognizes the fears, but does not agree that they are valid.

"Blacks should get a spot here now," he says, matter-of-factly.

Referring to the coming of the Murdock redevelopment plans, Montgomery says that logic dictates that upgrading one area of the retail district will have a dominoes-effect on the rest of the downtown-central area. but, he says, that should not be an exclusionary factor to black businessmen—not yet.

"I'm sure that when Howard St. is fixed up, and rents are applied, my rent will go up too," he said. "just like requirements and regulations will get stiffer."

"But if blacks get in now, they'll be able to handle what happens later.

Continued on page 2

Tough prison policies gaining support again

The city of Baltimore is prepared to accept 750 new prison beds, according to Tommie Jackson head of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Criminal Justice

The move is in line with the hard-line policies of state corrections head Thomas Schmidt, who this week called for the building of 1000 new prison beds.

In testimony before the Joint Legislative Committee on Prisons, chaired by State Sen. Victor Crawford, D-Mont- Co., Jackson said that "no one wants a prison in their own backyards," but that "we will work with the state to find acceptable sites within the city."

Two locations which Jackson mention were the Latrobe Site, in the Johnston Square community, and a Baltimore Gas and Electric Company plant on Madison Ave. and Greenmount Ave.

Obviously, Baltimore will be the site of a new prison, and the only decision left to make is where it will be built.

The mood of the General Assembly is that inmates should be housed near their communities, and currently more than half of all state prisoners are from Baltimore.

Continued on page 2

THE LAST DIP - well, close to it, maybe. Baltimore's youth are enjoying warm weather and summer activities just a while longer, with school reopening in just a couple of weeks.

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

Roy Wilkins in hospital

Roy Wilkins, the civil rights leader who headed the NAACP for more than 30 years, was reported in serious condition Wednesday with an undisclosed ailment, officials at New York University Medical Center said.

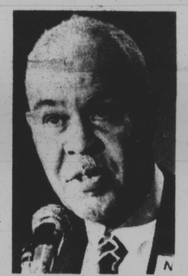
Wilkins, who is 79 and has been in failing health for the past 10 years, entered in the hospital in Manhattan on Tuesday.

Hospital officials refused to disclose the nature of his illness, but said he was in serious condition.

It was because of his weakening health that Wilkins told the NAACP in 1970 that he was preparing to step down as its president, but it was not until 1976, 21 years after assuming the group's leadership, that he relinquished the position.

He was often critical of the government's policies, but he was himself criticized by radical blacks such as the Black Panthers and the Black Muslims who considered him too conservative.

During his tenure as president of the NAACP, congress passed the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, 1964 and 1965.



ROY WILKINS

Are nursing homes in jeopardy?

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Tighter criteria for nursing home eligibility could affect as much as 80 percent of the current Medicaid - supported nursing home population, a local administrator fears.

Lorraine Raffel, administrator and president of the Seton Hill Manor Nursing Home in downtown Baltimore, said that as the result of stifter guidelines, almost 80 percent of Medicaid patients in her faciility could be forced to move to another facility, or be sent home.

Patients, she said, who are able to take care of themselves, would be the ones most seriously affected by the change in eligibility requirements, which are due to take effect Oct. 1.

Only those patients requiring medical care above the services of room and board, will be retained, she said.

Despite Raffel's fears, a representative from the Medical Assistance Compliance Administration says no Medicaid patients now in nursing homes will be put out, nor will Medicaid funding by the state be cut off for those in need as long as the nursing home shows it is looking for another facility for patients who do not meet the eligibility requirements.

Continued on page 2

Black man donates fish collection to new aquarium

see page 4

AFRO Clean Block inspection tour all day Sunday

Md. Caucus maps plan to increase black voter power

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Members of Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus want the amount of black representation in Annapolis increased by almost 100 percent, and they feel that with a little luck and a lot of community involvement, their goal is possible.

According to Del. John Douglass, D-45, head of the Caucus Redistricting Committee, a growth in black populations in several key areas of the state may ensure the election of more black representatives.

The caucus has pinpointed the Prince Georges Co. area; the Eastern Shore, and Montgomery, Howard, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties as possible sectors where gains can be made.

In Prince Georges Co., there are currently two black delegates and one senator. Douglass feels that a third black delegate can be elected from the region, and that the black populations in the 27th, 28th and 22nd Districts may be able to send 4 additional blacks to Annapolis.

That all depends on how the region is redistricted, however, and Douglass says that community involvement is essential. The Caucus has sent out a mailing to all state NAACP chapters and other black community associations urging their support and testimony at various state hearings on the issue of reapportionment.

From District 17 in Montgomery Co., there is a chance that at least one black may be elected, and a result is expected in Anne Arundel Co. where the black population is about one third.

The black population in the lower region of the Eastern Shore has grown to approximately 36 percent, and the Caucus is also eyeing that area.

"Hopefully, we will be able to make a dent," said Douglass.

Near Baltimore City, the gain of an additonal black from the 12th District and Howard County is envisioned by the Caucus.

But all of these plans hinge on the way the state redivides that various districts. In the past, it has been possible to deny blacks a chance to elect their own candidates, even if blacks in a given region possess numerical superiority.

One means of doing this is known as gerrymandering.

Almost 200 years ago, a New England governor created a district which snaked and curved its way around certain sections of his state in order to give him a clear superiority.

An opponent claimed that the oddly - shaped district resembled a salamander, and since that time the politician, Elbridge Gerry, has given his name to the process known as gerrymandering.

But the Caucus says that it is prepared to challenge any attempts to gerrymander the black vote districts.

The Monumental Bar Association, an organization of black lawyers in Baltimore, has been asked to organize a legal defense commitee in the event that any of the new district lines are challeneged by the caucus.

But Douglass says that the bottom line is community involvement. "We can help get the districts, but it's up to the people to come up with and support viable candidates."

This week's Ms. AFRO

MRS. ETHEL M. WILSON, this week's choice, is celebrating along with the AFRO and will be featured in the AFRO's Special 90th Year Edition, an historic, never-before edition in full color coming soon. You're going to love it. If you've got a lot to tell us, let us have your story and photo — if you're 90 years old. Write about "the good ole days" when times were better and things were different. Tell us about your family. Get with us now. WRITE, Elizabeth M. Oliver, Editor, AFRO 90th Year Edition, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21202. Or call, 728-5200.

AFRO's 90th congratulations keep coming

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The above letter is from Robert R. Loane, a citizen of Prince Georges County, Md.

Mrs. Mary Virginia Nelson of Oxnard, Calif. writes, "I am a longtime reader of the AFRO and I want to be sure you reserve a Special AFRO 90th Edition for me and send it to me."

(We will see that orders for the AFRO 90th Edition is sent to subscribers. Let us know if you want it reserved.)

This Mailgram comes from Mr. and Mrs. Earl DeWitt Williams who are vacationing in Freeport.

"Congratulations on your fine paper on its 90th anniversary.

"It has endured the test of time and has done a great service for Baltimore, Washington and the nation during 90 wonderful years." - Juanita and Earl D. Williams.

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