REPORT CARD: News and highlights from our schools as fall term begins

Schools stress continued emphasis on basics

As 122,000 students return to classes this year, Baltimore City Public School officials stress that once again heavy emphasis will be placed on the basics of reading, writing and mathematics.

And another key focus will be the wide range of course offerings to meet the needs and abilities of each youngster attending the education department's 185 schools and 12 special centers.

In education as in life, some things change and some remain the same. The 1981 - 1982 school year, education officials point out, will see a number of changes as well as traditional approaches to learning.

One of these changes will involve the growth of computer programs as parents and students hear more and more about computer literacy and the technology of the future in today's classrooms.

It is anticipated that Mastery Learning will become a welcome teachers' tool, with instruction provided in smaller units children must learn before moving on. Teachers will use non - graded tests to determine student strengths and weaknesses while pacing lessons so that each youngster understands what is taught.

But, the systemwide goal of "Educational Excellence: Maximum Learning for Each Pupil" remains the key aim, linked with seven common - sense objectives ranging from improving measurable achievement levels in reading, writing and mathematics to continuing implementation of the desegregation plan.

Other objectives include improving the climate, attendance and discipline in schools, bettering the understanding of the system's management philosophy among staff, gearing programs to meet each student's ability level, and providing accountability and evaluation procedures for all persons concerned with schools. Career Education programs will also continue to play an important part in learning.

Newest of the new will be the striking facility completed this summer to house some 1,400 Forest Park students who formerly attended classes in the half - century old structure it replaces.

Douglass students will temporarily use the Houston - Woods - building while their high school undergoes a major renovation.

School officials will also be busy this year completing plans for the much - looked - forward - to Westside Skill Center, set to open next fall for 2,000 students.

CABLES, one of the largest instruction and career experience programs on a high school level ever attempted, began last year at Northwestern and gave hundreds of youngsters the opportunity to work at non - paid jobs that closely paralleled classroom activities.

Also at Northwestern is the highly successful CAST program, now in its third year, which brings students out of the school and into neighborhoods where they are able to make visible contributions to the Northwestern community.

The concept has won a number of community service awards and greatly improved relations between the student population and area residents. CAST expanded last year to include Forest Park students working in their community.

A great deal of attention in the recent past has been given the City's gifted and talented students, and now most schools have enrichment activities to meet advance students' needs.

Harford Heights Elementary School boasts a citywide center for bright and creative youngsters, while Roland Park and Hamilton - Junior Highs feature programs to meet the needs of students who thrive on the challenge of advanced academic work.

School officials also note with pride the unique offerings provided by citywide high schools such as Eastern (business), City College (humanities and social science), Dunbar (health careers), Carver and Mergenthaler (vocational education), Schools for the Arts (dance, drama, music and visual arts), Western (advanced academic) and Polytechnic (mathematics and engineering).

An area under close scrutiny, school officials report, will be speech, and it is hoped that each teacher will this year concentrate on students' oral communication by providing extra opportunity for classroom reports and other exercises to improve youngsters' ability to articulate.

An intense drive to improve community participation and involvement in the schools is also underway, with school officials urging parents and concerned community residents to make their feelings known to principals and regional superintendents on matters involving the education of Baltimore's children.

School officials are also reminding parents and concerned community residents that the organization of the system, formerly divided into six regions, has been cut back to four regions.

Some schools may have changed regions and parents are being asked to learn which regions their community schools are in, as well as various services regions provide in support of the instructional program. This information is available at all schools.

NEW TECHNOLOGY — Youngsters from Thomas Johnson Elementary School listen to audio tapes and work in an assignment book

Starting business becomes popular student activity

It's become a sad reality recently that fewer and fewer students are finding jobs during the summer and school year. But where there's a dark cloud, there may also be a silver lining because youngsters, in many instances, aren't crying the blues and giving up.

They're finding alternatives, and one of the best of these is starting a business by marketing skills people need and will pay gladly to have teens provide for them.

In Baltimore City, the school system's Vocational Education Division joined forces with the Mayor's Office of Human Development this summer to hold what may well be the first of many workshops introducing to students what they need to know to begin a business.

The seventy students who paid $3.00 each to attend the summer session learned from Larry Smith, an executive with Commercial Credit Corporation, that "there will be no more free lunches." By that Smith was suggesting that previously youngsters had jobs for the asking, and in many instances no work was required and the jobs amounted to little more than handouts.

But, he added, in this new era where young people will have to "do it themselves," the courage and initiative it will take could be a blessing in disguise.

Students will certainly appreciate the results a great deal more, because the degree of difficulty will be that much greater.

Smith warned youngsters that although small businesses are the backbone of the nation and provide countless employment opportunities, many fail. He added on a positive note that his own business, now a Fortune 500 concern, began as a small business.

As the students soon learned, however, there's more to business than simply selling a product or a service. Certain legalities and other aspects of running a business, including the complexities of bookkeeping, methods of organization, and dealing with Internal Revenue were discussed by attorney Patricia Aluisi.

Steve Eisner of the advertising firm of the same name told youngsters about the importance of "getting the word out," and added using one's imagination, it may be possible to develop job concept not previously considered.

Preparing food for delivery to homes as a private dinner party catering service was one idea Eisner had in mind.

More traditional suggestions ranged from child care to car and house cleaning. Landscaping and lawn mowing were also mentioned, and in smaller workshops pet care and "house watching" during the vacation season were also considered, along with snow ball stands, basement cleaning, and organizing garage sales.

House painting and various repair projects were also mentioned as high paying "demand" jobs in any community.

School system to hold Saturday programs for gifted students

Students from grades 4 - 8 in the Baltimore City Public Schools gifted in the areas of art and music will have the opportunity beginning in October to enroll in special Saturday classes scheduled to run through the school year.

The classes will be held in three - hour sessions at two sites, with youngsters from the northern part of the City attending classes at Baltimore City College, 3220 The Alameda, while students enrolled at the southern location will attend Southern High School, 1100 Covington Street.

School officials explain that the Saturday programs are intended "to provider advanced experience to further artistic growth and development." Class content in the area of art will include drawing and painting, ceramics, and printing and textiles. In music, students will be exposed to Suzuki, instrumental music, keyboard and chorus.

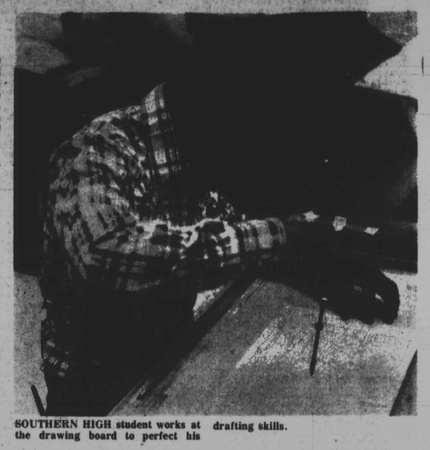
Sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon on the following days: Oct: 10, 24, 31; Nov.: 7, 14, 21; Dec.: 5, 12; Jan.: 9, 23, 30; Feb.: 6, 20, 27; March: 6, 20, 27; April: 3, 17, 24; May: 1, 8.

School officials explain that all students from grades 4 - 8 are eligible to apply, only a limited number will be accepted, and requirements for acceptance include "a high degree of self - motivation, desire to continue with twenty - two sessions, and a commitment by the parent to support the student."

Additionally, to be accepted in the art program, the student must present a portfolio of completed works and be recommended by the art teacher. In the music program, the student's acceptance is based on a pre - audition and a music teacher's recommendation.

Principals will work closely with art and music teachers in identifying students, with the final selection the responsibility of supervisory staffs. Transportation to the school site must be provided by the parent.

For additional information, contact the Art Office at 396 - 1539 or 1540, or call the Music Office at 396 - 1541 or 1542.



SOUTHERN HIGH student works at drafting skills. the drawing board to perfect his

School system set uniform grading, marking policy

A policy for marking and grading secondary level Baltimore City Public School students, spelling out specific expectations while providing "a more comprehensive picture of student achievement in the grading process," was recently completed by a systemwide committee of educators and community representatives and approved by the Board of School Commissioners.

The 16 - member committee, headed by Dr. Thomas Foster, BCPS Deputy Superintendent, Bureau of Educational Support Services, stressed the need to develop a "systemwide policy" based on the importance of grades as "the primary measure of the educational progress of students."

The new policy is designed so that students, parents, educators and the community "know precisely how grades may be earned and what they mean."

It is expected the grading policy will help students enter into the learning process with clear goals, understand the extent to which they have achieved, and know what is expected of them over a given interval of time.

Students will also benefit by being able to develop more skills and more opportunities for achievement through the determination of quarter, semester and final grades based on items taken into consideration on a systemwide basis when grades are determined.

Additionally, grades will become more meaningful because they will "reflect upon agreed scope, quality and quality expected of student performance. Consequently, the components of instruction become visible and equitable."

These components. committee representatives explained, include tests, quizzes, notebooks, homework, reports, projects and performance, classwork and participation, and drills.

The new policy will have a number of advantages when quarter, semester and final grades are determined.

Angel takes three the hard way

By Patricia Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

Three teen-agers escaped from a downtown loan company after they beat a member of the Guardian Angels with a piece of steel during a fight that erupted inside the store earlier this week.

Adrian Parmely, 21, of the 1700 block of St. Paul St., was taken to Mercy Hospital by police where he was treated for cuts and four broken ribs Sept. 29, police spokesman Mike Bass told the AFRO.

Parmely, a member of the Baltimore Guardian Angels, an anti-crime patrol founded in New York City two years ago, received his injuries after a fight erupted between him and the teen-agers at Provident Loan & Jewelry Co., Inc., 213 E. Baltimore St.

Bass said Parmely entered the store at about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday to buy a Maryland State Lottery ticket. Inside, Parmely told the police he saw three men who looked suspicious.

Parmely was resting his "sore" ribs at home Wednesday afternoon. He told the AFRO his "street-wise" ability alerted him that something "was going on" inside the store.

He said he saw one of the teen-agers trying to distract the store manager. A second teenager was attempting to lure a young woman out of the lottery booth she worked behind.

Parmely said he saw the third teen step behind a counter containing rings and watches. It was then Parmely said he confronted the trio and told them they were under arrest.

"I tried to apprehend them. In the process of apprehending them and keeping them for the police, we got into a fight," he said.

During the melee, one of the store's counters was broken. A steel leg that supported the counter also was broken. One of the teen-agers used the leg to beat Parmely across the chest, police Bass said.

Four other people were inside the store during the fight, Parmely said. Neither the two store employees nor the two customers came to help him, he said.

The trio escaped from the store with Parmely in pursuit. He told the police he last saw the teen-agers running north on Guilford.

No arrests had been made in the case by AFRO presstime.

Rat Squad to appear in schools

The Rat Squad, a popular and creative approach to rat eradication that entertains children while involving them in neighborhood and community clean - up efforts, will appear in schools throughout the 1981 - 1982 school year, with three appearances set for October.

Program officials note that performances are planned Oct. 15, 9:30 a.m., at Highlandtown Elementary, 3223 East Pratt St.; Oct. 14, 1:00 p.m., at Johnston Square Elementary, 1100 Valley St.; and Oct. 19, 1:00 p.m., at Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elemenatary, 507 W. Preston St.

The Rat Squad is a cooperative effort of the Baltimore Theatre Project and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Program officials explain that the unique educational tool stresses motivation and responsibility for students, offers a presentation approximately 45 minutes in length, and features professional actors incorporating song, dance and participatory events in the production.

For additional information contact Katharine Yanson of the Baltimore Theatre Project at 539 - 3091.

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SADAT: black woman's son!

Slain Egyptian leader's roots were in Sudan

See story column 2

Police seize 5th Phillips murder suspect, 14, in school

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

District Court Judge James Bundy set bail at 850,000 Wednesday for Gregory Brittingham, 14, the youngest one of five teenagers who are charged as adults with the Sept. 21 murder of Dr. George Franklin Phillips Jr.

Three Douglass High students and one Carver High student who all live within six blocks of the murder scene appeared before Judge Bundy Oct. 5. Charged with homicide, attempted armed robbery and handgun violations are Kevin P. Smith, 17, of the 1900 block of Wheeler Ave; Donald Braxton, 16, 1500 block Payson St;

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Baltimore Afro-American
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White House threatens to sue school boards

Cities which neglect black students are targeted

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Although no formal announcement has been made, the AFRO has learned that the Justice Department intends to sue school boards which are providing "inferior public education" to black and Hispanic students.

John Wilson, public information officer for the Justice Department, refused to say when such suits would begin, but did acknowledge that "plans are underway."

According to Wilson, suits would by filed by the federal government on the basis of complaints received from groups and - or individuals.

There has been no confirmation on when the first of such suits would be filed, but Justice Department spokesmen said the plan was viewed as an alternative to court-ordered busing.

Baltimore City school officials, surprised by the news, had little comment to make.

But Enolia P. McMillian, president of the Baltimore NAACP, expressed skepticism that the plan would work.

"You can never tell what will happen in the courts." McMillan said. "Just because a case comes to court does not mean it will have proper redress."

Citing the failure of the Constitution to to have a firm policy on the role of the federal government in providing public education, McMillan said she was afraid the federal courts might say it (education) was none of their business.

"The provision of quality education is basically a state issue," she said, a key point in an administration which has made a constant effort to give power back to the states and take some of it away from the federal government.

Asked if the NAACP would be likely to complain to the federal government about the quality of education here, McMillan said the civil rights organization would have to have more facts.

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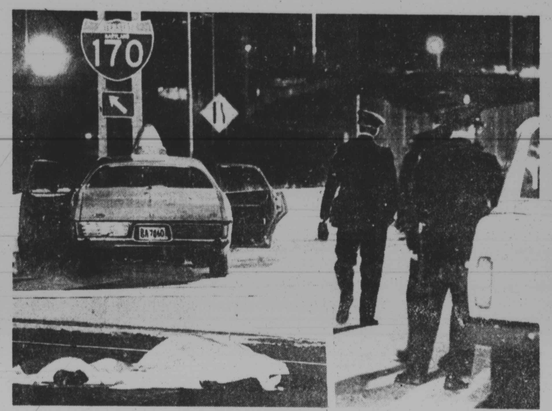


AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

WHEN WILL IT END? Is the question many Baltimore cab drivers are asking as another cabbie was shot to death during an apparent hold - up attempt Oct. 7. The body of Leroy Hopkins (see insert) was found several feet from the Royal Cab he was driving in the 700 block of West Franklin St. (See story below)

'Bey Bey' surrenders

Donald "Beybey" Thomas

By Patricia Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

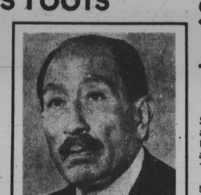
The man wanted in connection with the murders of an Arbutus couple and the rape of their 24-year-old tenant walked into the Baltimore City Police Central District station and surrendered earlier this week.

In a separate case, a city police spokesman said no warrants have been issued or arrests made in the Oct. 2 murder of a former Maryland state trooper turned bar owner.

Donald "Bey Bey" Thomas, 23, no fixed address, is charged with two counts of first degree murder and one count of rape. He is at the Baltimore County Jail after a county District Court judge ruled Thomas be held for trial without bail following a hearing Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Continued on page 2

Sadat's roots



President Anwar el-Sadat

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

They say that those who live by the sword die by the sword, but how can one explain the death of a warrior who knew when to ask for peace?

Anwar Sadat, born of a black mother in the racially divided Sudan, grew up with a singular desire to liberate Egypt, his father's nation, from the rule of Great Britain.

The British had come to Egypt during the nineteenth century, supposedly to establish a "protectorate", but wound up staying until Sadat's mentor, Gamal Nasser, expelled them in the late Fifties.

Sadat, like Mao of China, chose as his allies those who made war on his enemies, which caused him to back the Germans during World War II.

He was sent to jail for that escapade, but escaped. After the war, he joined the Revolution Council of Nasser, where he served quietly until the death of the charismatic leader.

When Sadat came to power, many anticipated a weak rule, as few knew the fiber of the man. At first he did go along with the rest of the Arab world, and watched as his nation suffered a brutal defeat at the hands of Israel during the "Six-day war" of 1967.

Sadat vowed revenge and in 1973, Egypt launched a massive assault against the Jewish nation. Egyptian troops managed to win back half of their territory seized by Israel during the 1967 war.

But by 1977, Sadat knew he had to choose a new course. He journed to Israel to attempt to forge a peace, the first ever between a Middle East Arab nation and Israel.

He was vilified for his efforts, and became a "prophet without honor" in the Arab world, but the guns did stop, and the two nations still are tentatively reaching a state of peaceful co-existence.

In the islamic world, Sadat may never be accorded the honors the Western world bestowed upon him but he will always be remembered as the warrior who knew when to heed the Biblical admonition to "beat your swords into plowshares and your spears into pruning hooks."

Sen. Aris Allen appointed to high federal health post

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — State Sen. Aris T. Allen Wednesday accepted a $50,000 - a - year post in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, saying he is "tailor - made" for the job.

"I believe they were looking for the best qualified person, and I think I was that person," said Allen, 70, a prominent Republican.

"I met that qualification by being in (medical) practice for 36 years, having a social and civic background and also having legislative experience.

"I think I am tailor - made for the position."

A spokesman for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management confirmed that Allen had been chosen to head the Health Standards and Quality Bureau of the Health Care Administration.

Allen is a longtime Annapolis physician.

Allen supported President Reagan early in the 1980 election and served as secretary for the GOP Convention in Detroit.

In the new post, Allen said he will work to improve health care in the United States, partly by seeking to limit federal government involvement in the area. He will have offices in Washington and the Baltimore Social Security Complex.

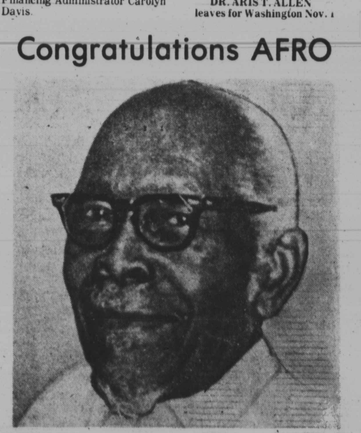
"I will be in charge of implementing a program that provides the highest quality at the most cost - efficient level," Allen said.

"We want to have the least amount of government intervention that is needed to ensure the quality of health care."

Allen said he will begin work Nov. 1 under Health Care Financing Administrator Carolyn Davis.

DR. ARIS T. ALLEN leaves for Washington Nov. 1

Congratulations AFRO



WILLIAM KING was born May 12, 1882, 10 years before the AFRO and therefore he is in his 99th year, going on 100. His congratulations to the AFRO upon its 90th year of publication are accompanied by a brilliant smile and we wish him many happy returns. The AFRO's 90th Year Edition coming soon will make you smile as it brightens your life with a look back into the past 90 years in photos and story and takes you merrily on into the future with Baltimore. Let us say you can read the difference in the newspaper which has always been on your side and still is. If you want to take part, write AFRO 90th Year Edition, Elizabeth M. Oliver, editor, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21202.

49 percent are 'minorities'

Are blacks substantial part of new Hyatt employment?

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Out of the approximately 586 new jobs created by the construction of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 49 percent have been given to minorities, the AFRO has learned.

But Donna Murphy, director of personnel for the 500-room facility, was not able to give a breakdown on how many of those jobs involve supervisory or managerial positions.

"Out of the 938 jobs, 86 percent have been given to inner city residents," Murphy said, "and 49 percent have been given to minorities."

Until Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) reports are completed however, she said, there is no way of knowing how many "minority" positions have been filled by blacks, and which blacks hold which positions.

"I don't expect to have that report completed for at least a couple of weeks," she said.

The Hyatt opened this week amid fanfare and celebrations by city officials, who had eagerly awaited its completion since plans first surfaced in 1977.

The new hotel, financed by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, is expected to boost the city's convention population by providing additional boarding facilities.

The 14-story building was hailed as a means of providing more jobs for the city's unemployed, one of Mayor Schaefer's most repeated objectives in the renovation efforts going on in the city.

Early reports were somewhat confusing, saying that 160 CETA employees had been hired at the hotel. CETA has been declared defunct by the Reagan administration.

(Continued on Page 8)

Cabbie slain in West Baltimore

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

The Wednesday night homicide of Leroy Hopkins, a Royal Cab driver could have far reaching effects on the entire taxi business, drivers say.

Cab drivers told the AFRO they are now skeptical about the passengers they pick up and refuse to go in certain areas of the city because they are afraid.

Hopkins, 50, of the 2200 block of Cecil Ave., had been a cab driver for 20 years and had been employed by the Royal Cab company for 10 years, when he was shot in the forehead around 7 p.m. by a man believed to be a passenger.

Police said Hopkins managed to get out of his cab and was found lying face down 300 feet away. The cab door was open and the engine was still running. According to police, Hopkins had $1.00 in his pocket.

(Continued on Page 2)