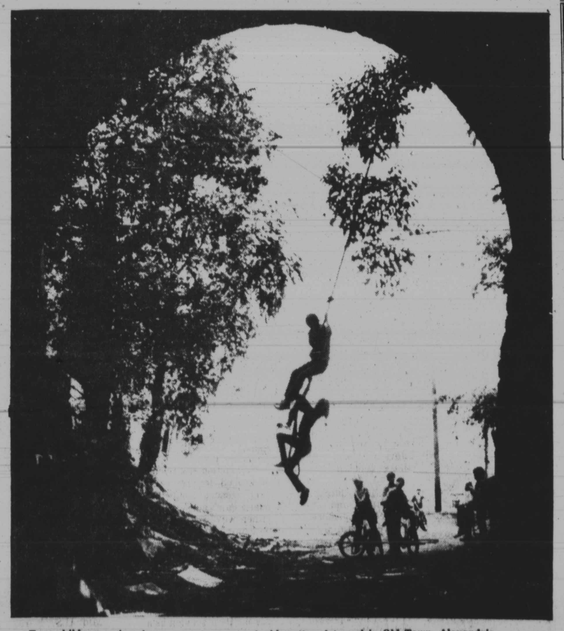
in the Spotlight

Mini skirts and shorts worn with shawls and wide hats are theme of Paris designer Kimijima who presented ready-to-wear fashion collection for 1982 spring-summer.

In small two-bedroom apartment in Richmond, Luci Baines Johnson campaigns for brother-in-law Chuck Robb, Democratic gubernatorial candidate in Virginia.

Unrelenting rains pelted Gainesville, TX sending already swollen creeks surging out of their banks. These residents used a dinghy to get around in high water.

The cost of mailing first class letter will jump from 18 to 20 cents Nov. 1. This is "C" stamp, worth 20 cents.



Two children swing from rope in front of old railroad tunnel in Old Town, Alexandria.

AFRO PHOTO FEATURE

Former baseball greats, slugging centerfielders (L-R): Mickey Mantle, N.Y. Yankees; Duke Snider, Brooklyn Dodgers and Willie Mays, N.Y. Giants got together for taping of sports program in New York.

People in the news

Poellnitz is veep

Fred Poellnitz

Fred D. Poellnitz Jr., a Harvard University graduate, has been named vice president for finance at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn.

Poellnitz goes to Meharry from South Kline Corporation in Philadelphia where he is manager of financial reporting.

Poellnitz received a BS degree in electrical engineering with concentration in computer scienfe from the University of Pittsburgh in 1966 and was awarded the MBA degree with concentration in finance and accounting from Harvard in 1972.

Prior to his position at Smith Kline, Poellnitz was director of accounting for Sorbus, Inc., a subsidiary of Management Assistance, Inc.; senior consultant for Touche Ross & Company, an accounting, tax and management consultant organization; and project engineer for the Bendix Corporation where he designed and supervised one of the in-flight computers used to track the Apollo moon missions.

Poellnitz and his wife, Stephanie, have a son.

O'Bryant's calling

Henri O'Bryant

Henri O'Bryant Jr. of Los Angeles, the nation's leading choir robe manufacturer has returned to Abbeville, La. place of his birth, to launch a nationwide thrust for black business development.

Moved by what he believes to be a spiritual calling, O'Bryant plans to introduce his pattern for black economic growth from the roof top of a small church his father built in 1890.

O'Bryant will sell his economic development program through a "BIZCO" (Business Disco). Using recordings by James Brown, Walter Hawkins, The Impressions and others, O'Bryant seeks to attract young people 17 through 21 years of age to business ventures.

Such James Brown recordings as "I Don't Want Nobody To Give Me Nothing," and "Open The Door, I'll Get It Myself," will be high on the list for inspiring young people to do something for themselves, O'Bryant points out.

Group predicts welfare cuts may result in riots

ATLANTA — The head of the Southern Regional Council has said urban riots by poor people losing welfare benefits may cost "many, many times more" than Americans save in President Reagan's tax cuts.

The council, a non-profit research corporation, released a study of the impact of federal budget cuts in southern states, saying up to 60 percent of family welfare recipients will lose all or part of their benefits due to tightened eligibility requirements.

The SRC termed the Reagan plan "a dedicated, official effort, often vengeful and devoid of thoughtful analysis, to remove any form of government aid to the poor."

SRC Director Steve Suitts told a news conference he doubts there will be any welfare programs left, except social security, by the time Reagan's term ends in 1984.

He said the president's pledge to eliminate this year's $65 billion deficit and continue tax cuts without cutting military spending leaves no money left over for the aid to families with dependent children, Comprehensive Employment Training Act, Medicaid and other social programs.

Suitts said hard economic times have historically "brought social strife among various racial groups" and that "we will not have domestic tranquility in the South" if the poor lose all hope.

"Cuts in AFDC are clearly the most offensive," he said. "While we are taking money away from people who are already dirt poor, we're paying taxpayers dollars to buy the new china for the White House."

Although Mrs. Reagan's dinnerware was provided by private gifts, Suitts said the donors would write the cost off their taxes.

He said Reagan was deceiving the public by adding to the Pentagon budget while cutting back on domestic social spending. He said welfare accounts for only 15 percent of the federal budget, but that it can be more important than defense.

"What we've never realized is that these programs are as much needed for national defense, for domestic tranquility, as any military program," said Suitts.

"I don't want to be a prophet of doom, but we will pay many, many times more for these tax cuts," he said.

Suitts said the south has one-third of the nations's poor, and one-half of its black poor. He said Reagan's plan "will make the poor poorer and reduce the incentive for the poor to work."

NOTABLES HONORED — Chief A. Y. Eke, Nigerian ambassador to the United States, was the honored guest of Tom Shropshire, senior vice president and treasurer of Miller Brewing Company, at a reception in the Miller suite during the 11th annual Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, DC. Shropshire spent four years as chairman and managing director of Philip Morris, Nigeria. After the reception, Shropshire hosted his guests at the caucus' Awards Banquet. Left to right: Shropshire, Ambassador Eke, Mrs. Shropshire and Nigerian businessman T. K. Audifferen.

When a visit to granny ended in jail

CHARLESTON, WVA (UPI) — William Thomas Pugh of Pittsburgh, a black man who travelled to racially tense White Sulphur Springs almost two decades ago to visit his grandmother, wound up as the key figure in a rape case that his lawyer feels would provide material for a paperback writer.

Pugh, almost victimized by a crazed lynch mob, drew a life sentence without mercy, meaning parole was impossible, in the alleged rape of a white woman.

The sentence came 41 days after his arrest.

His case was successfully appealed last week to the West Virginia Supreme Court by attorney Paul S. Detch of Lewisburg. The court agreed 4-0 to hear the appeal.

"The facts of this case," Detch wrote in his appeal petition on behalf of Pugh, "could be made to read like a pulp novel."

The appeal petition said:

"Like most rural southern communities, White Sulphur Springs in 1964 retained the semblance of a caste system that separated black and white, which was enforced by tradition and occasionally violence."

Pugh, whom Detch said was about 21 at the time, had arrived in White Sulphur Springs, in March 1964 only a month after the local high school had been closed in a racial episode.

Pugh was charged on March 25 with raping a white woman who ran a taxi stand. She was robbed and taken several blocks and forcibly raped, testimony revealed, by a black man.

The petition conceded Pugh aided in the armed robbery, but he said a man named Jerry Watson was responsible for the rape. Watson was of similar build and features.

Arrested, he was questioned by police, whom, he said, coerced a statement. He had no contact with his family nor was a lawyer appointed for him.

Police got calls at the jail that the citizens were irate and would march on the facility and lynch the man. They took the reports seriously.

The last lynching in Greenbrier County has been of two black males in 1935 when a White Sulphur Springs policeman had been shot. The townspeople stormed the jail, dragged out the two blacks and hanged them on a hill near Lewisburg. They then fired bullets into the bodies.

Pugh was given a hearing without a lawyer, then taken to a police cruiser and put on the floor, where he was told to stay while he was whisked out of town. He was taken to Hinton, then to Beckley, where he was finally locked up.

Police, fearful the Beckley jail would be stormed, had doctored the prison records to show Pugh had been transferred to Bluefield.

Pugh said he did not recall seeing his court-appointed attorney until the day he entered his guilty plea and the judge immediately imposed a life without chance of parole sentence May 5, 1964, 41 days after his arrest.

The lower court reviewed Pugh's sentence last February and it was modified to life with mercy, making him eligible for parole 10 years after he was sent to the West Virginia Penitentiary.

Marshall Bass

Methodists fund 38 programs

WASHINGTON — The funding committee of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race has approved 38 programs to receive a total of $361,200 from the Minority Group Self Determination fund.

Sixteen of the programs originate in the black community and will receive $129,200.

But the largest amount going to any one program will be $38,500 for the Native American International Caucus' operating budget.

Programs receiving funding from the Commission are:

— Asian - American: Korean Methodist Community Service Center, Dallas, Texas, $9,000; Korean Community School Youth program, Christ UMC, Honolulu, Hawaii, $7,000; Asian Community Evangelical Outreach - Social Network, Columbus, Ohio, $12,000; Vocational Counseling and Training Program, Garden Grove, Calif., $13,000; Korean Family Services, Wahiawa, Hawaii, $7,000.

— Black: senior citizen apartment complex, Indianapolis, Ind., $15,000; youth outreach program, Bethel Springs, Tenn., $2,000; St. Paul multi - service project, Jamaica, N.Y., $10,000; ethnic local church development, Brookhaven, Miss., $7,000; Center for Living Education, Asbury, UMC, Annapolis, Md., $10,000; parish outreach worker, Scott Memorial UMC, Detroit, Mich., $10,000; Salley Chapel Community Center, Orangeburg, S.C., $5,000; St. Stephen's Bi - Cultural Youth - Young Adult Program, Bronx, N.Y., $7,000; Theressa Hoover UMC Multi - Purpose Center, Little Rock, Ark., $15,000; Sheltering Ministries Project (Neighborhood Care Coalition), Chicago, Ill., $13,000; Shreveport Metropolitan Ministries, Shreveport, La., $6,000.

Also, Frederick Douglass Institute, St. Louis, Mo., $8,000; Mobile Community Organization, Mobile, Ala., $10,000; North Tulsa Community Organizing Project, Tulsa, Okla., $5,200; Northeastern Jurisdictional BMCR annual meeting administrative expenses, Philadelphia, Pa., $3,000; leadership development for black conference leadership, BMCR Southeastern Jurisdiction, Sumter, S.C., $3,000.

— Hispanic: Rosewood Multi - Purpose Community Center, Los Angeles, Calif., $4,500; Latin American Information and Referral Center, Pasadena, Calif., $12,000; Sheridan Center (Lakeview Community Service), Chicago, Ill., $16,000; Filipino Senior Citizens Center, Oakland, Calif., $8,000; housing assistance and resource project, New York, N.Y. $12,000; Liceo Sylvan, El Paso, Texas, $10,000; housing assistance program, East Chicago, Ind., $12,000.

— Native American: strengthening Native American youth programs in the UMC, Pembroke, N.C., $4,500; health promotion workshops, Reno, Nev., $2,500; United National Indian tribal youth - support, Oklahoma City, Okla., $8,000; New Wings Project, Stevens Point, Wis., $15,000; Honor project, Los Angeles, Calif., $13,000; International District housing improvement preservation program, Seattle, Wash., $5,000; manpower employment and training program, Native American Resource Center, Inc., Superior, Wis., $10,000; Nooksack Indian Cultural Activities Outreach, Everson, Wash., $13,000.

$150,000 donation to UNCF

HOUSTON — A $150,000 donation has been given to the United Negro College Fund by the R. J. Reynolds Industries.

"The United Negro College Fund represents a primary instrument for ensuring that black colleges in this country continue to survive and produce quality graduates," said Marshall Bass, RJR corporate director of personnel development.

Bass described the contributions as a milestone in RJR's 36-year relationship with the Fund.

"We believe that our contributions to the United Negro College Fund are an investment in the future," Bass said.

Input sought for black aviators show

OAKLAND, CA — The National Minority Military Museum Foundation is cooperating with the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in the development of a planned exhibit on black aviators.

Charles Blatcher III, chief executive officer, said the Foundation has been invited to participate in the collection of photographs and memorabilia to be used in the exhibit which opens next year.

"We also wish to contact black aviators who may be available for interviews," Blatcher said.

GETTING IT TOGETHER — Three of the main figures involved in the historic physical fitness caravan go over some points in the program launched by the President's Council On Physical Fitness. At left is L. R. Frank P. Bolden, director of the President's Council who has devoted his life to youth athletics and physical education as coach, teacher and principal. Lacey O'Neal (R) is the spokesperson for the national Youth Fitness and Sports Forums. She was named outstanding female athlete in 1972. Standing is Richard G. Keelor director of program development.

Fitness forum kicks off at Howard

WASHINGTON — A Physical Fitness caravan under the umbrella of The President's Council On Physical Fitness and Sports, has been kicked off at Howard University.

Sponsored by Post Cereals, the series will be presented at school and college locations in 22 major cities. It is designed to address many of the problems contributing to the declining level of fitness among the nation's youth.

A must for physical education teachers, recreation specialists, and all others working with youngsters, the forum will be conducted by teams of expert clinicians from the President's Council using the latest techniques designed for youth fitness, sports and recreation.

The underlying purpose of the fitness caravan is to develop a greater awareness of the value and importance of youth fitness.

C. Carson Conrad, executive director of the President's Council emphasized the need to motivate and inform those working in all areas of youth recreation, noting that "inactivity and obesity are becoming more of a problem among the young in America."

Through this 22-city forum, the President's Council also hopes to generate greater understanding and support of its fitness goals from community leaders.

Sickle cell center gets WIGS donation

WASHINGTON — The Women in Government, Inc., (WIGS) has made a $1,500 continuing donation to the Howard University Center for Sickle Cell Disease.

The Howard University Center for Sickle Cell Disease provides care for more than 500 children and adults with Sickle Cell Disease. The center is involved in a comprehensive program involving research, education, patient care, testing, screening and counseling.

The Center is particularly interested in the development of new and better ways to provide comprehensive care for persons with Sickle Cell Anemia.

WIGS was organized in 1955 by Mrs. Virginia Berry in Cleveland, Ohio for women employed by the state, local, county and federal governments. Members of the chapters participate as volunteers in local hospitals and make financial contributions to organizations such as the Center for Sickle Cell Disease. The current national president is Julia W. DeLoach.

45 days in jail for Miss Bradley

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Mayor Tom Bradley's youngest daughter has been sentenced to 45 days in jail for violating her probation on a 1980 shoplifting conviction.

Phyllis Bradley, 35, whose father is the leading Democratic candidate for the 1982 California gubernatorial election, was sentenced for violating probation by using the hallucinogenic drug PCP.

Municipal Court Judge Michael Sauer sentenced Miss Bradley after a probation officer reported that a recent urine test disclosed traces of the drug in her body.

It was the second time PCP was found in her urine since she was placed on three years' probation in June 1980, for shoplifting three blouses from a downtown department store.

The mayor has one other daughter, Lorraine, 37.

Diggs seeks funeral director's licence

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Former Michigan Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr., who remains on federal parole following a conviction for payroll kickbacks, is seeking an apprentice funeral director's license in Maryland, the Washington Post has reported.

Diggs, sentenced on 29 counts of mail fraud and making false statements, wants to open a funeral home in Prince George's County, a suburb of Washington, DC.

The Maryland Funeral Board has delayed action on Diggs' month-old application because of questions about whether his criminal record violates state requirements that applicants have "good moral character," said board secretary George Gonce.

"Conviction of a felony is ground for refusal," said Gonce, "but the board can choose to go either way. We have to determine whether he in fact represents a threat to the consumers he will serve."

Diggs until recently was living in a half-way house for convicts on parole. He is serving as a consultant to the Congressional Black Caucus.

Diggs was a licensed funeral director and embalmer in Michigan and worked for his father's funeral home, House of Diggs, before and during his 12 years in Congress.

"Obviously, there's no connection between that particular record (the wire fraud conviction) and my practice of the profession," Diggs said.

Diggs aaded that he thought denial of a license to practice would be a case of double jeopardy.

Maryland and Michigan do not automatically accept each other's licenses. Diggs must serve a year's apprenticeship under his sponsor, Doretha Hector, a funeral director and embalmer at the Elizabeth Phillips Funeral Home in Baltimore.

Diggs siad he will continue working for the Congressional Black Caucus, a job he took after his 10 months at a federal prison camp in Montgomery, Ala. His parole expires July 23, 1983, said U.S. Parole agent William Halprin.

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