BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS REVIEW

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Page 24-November, 198

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MRS. SANTA. Mrs. Santa lists needy cases. P. 18.
- LOTTERY P. 20.
- FRIDAY PLUS. Weekend entertainment guide.
- AFRO LOOKS AT HOLIDAY MALL DECORATION. Malls get into Christmas spirit. P. 17.

Morgan basketball merits probe

(See column 1)

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The Afro-American

BALTIMORE, MD. DECEMBER 1, 1984 40 CENTS

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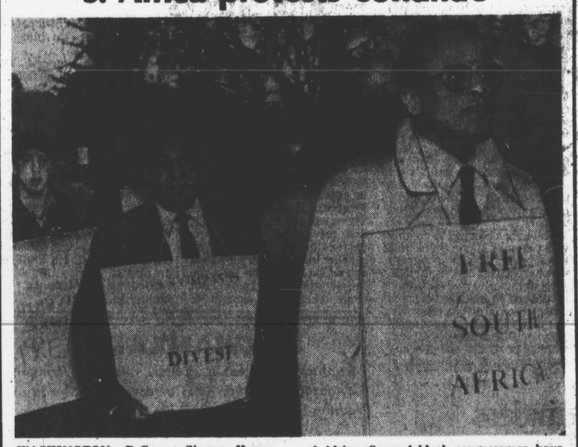

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Singer Harry Belafonte (R) leads a picket line outside the South African Embassy. Black American leaders are staging protests across the United States against the white minority government of Africa. Several black congressmen have been arrested for civil disobedience at the embassy, with more scheduled to take part over the next few weeks.

Board okays Cable-TV

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Staff Writer

The Board of Estimates Thursday gave unanimous approval to a cable franchise ordinance that includes provisions for no less than a 25 percent minority investment capability and authorizes United Cable Television Corporation of Denver to begin constructing a $75-$80 million system for the city nine months after the agreement's final ratification.

The franchise agreement, described in an abridged version of the ordinance document as a "single non-exclusive franchise granted for (the) entire City of Baltimore," would give United Cable sole rights to the 79-channel cable television system for a 20-year-period, subject to the supervision of the city.

At the completion of the 20-year-period, the city would hold the option of renewing or terminating the franchise agreement.

United has promised to build the entire system on a four-year timetable with five percent due to be completed during the first year, 35 percent in two years, and 70 percent by the end of the third year. Failure to comply with those terms could result in a termination of the cable franchise agreement.

Matter goes before council on Monday

While the board's actions yesterday may have moved city residents a step closer in efforts to have a state-of-the-art cable system, and subscribers could begin receiving their individual cable transmissions by the fall of next year, the ordinance still must be approved by the full City Council, which as yet, has not seen the document.

The president of the council group, Clarence Du Burns, who helped engineer the agreement for the city, indicated Thursday that he would personally introduce the agreement document to the legislative body during this week's regular Monday night council hearing.

Meanwhile, Mayor Schaefer, who presided over the Board of Estimates presiding, again declared that he would like to see the cable television matter fully resolved and intact by Christmas.

Cautioning the council in advance, but at the same time insisting that his statements did not amount to an actual threat, the mayor said, "If it does not pass this time, we won't have cable in the City of Baltimore for a very long time."

He also used the occasion to reflect on last year's turbulent negotiations between the council and Caltec Cablevision of Baltimore and Cox Cablevision of Atlanta saying, "We had a very unusual experience when we sent this ordinance to the council the last time. I hope this won't happen again."

However, said Burns, "I don't know if we'll be able to do it by Christmas as the mayor has asked. It has to follow official procedures."

Once the council receives the franchise agreement, Burns indicated a Committee of the Whole, with Burns presiding, would then review it and make recommendations following at least two or more public hearings.

Burns further stated that he would request that United Cable technicians appear at the first public hearing to provide the council with specific data information.

Continued on page 2

Basketball scandal hits Morgan State

By Sam Lacy

The problems which have beset Morgan State University athletics in recent years were further compounded over the weekend when a newcomer to the basketball team was exposed as an itinerant athlete with a history of scandal.

As if a winless football season wasn't devastating enough, the once Golden Bears' athletic program received another severe blow in the discovery that Larry Hubbard, the starting center on the basketball team, still claimed "freshman" status after playing five years at various other colleges.

Immediately the onus of accepting and playing an ineligible student was dropped on Morgan basketball officials, notably Tom Dean who serves as athletic director and team coach.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association already has begun a cursory examination of the incident, and there is little doubt that it will develop into a full scale investigation.

And well it should.

The impression at this desk is that whatever punishment is imposed at the end of the probe, if any, will be deserved.

The AFRO has explored every conceivable avenue in an effort to find a way to explain the presence of young Hubbard on the Bears' varsity roster. None can be found.

Even before it was determined last week that Hubbard was among the nine players dismissed by New Mexico University along with the coach for transcript rigging and other academic violations in 1979, Morgan officials had reason to question the young man's eligibility.

He had no high school diploma, despite the fact he had shown up at New Mexico, with credits from a Florida junior college he had never attended.

Moreover, he was 25 years of age, deemed much older than the normal college freshman.

If these unusual aspects were not sufficient to attract the attention of the Morgan athletic office, there are other factors which would strongly suggest carelessness—to say the least—on the part of the team coaches.

The athletic director and the head coach, in this instance Tom Dean who serves in both capacities, are provided with computer printouts listing the names of all roster players qualified by the registrar's office.

If a student-athlete has not enrolled in the school, is delinquent in his or her financial obligations, or is below par academically, the name will not appear on the printout.

Hubbard's name did not appear on the registrar's computer, although he was attending some classes. His presence in the classroom is no assurance that the student is enrolled. No harm is done except to himself, since no grade will be forthcoming at the

Continued on page 2

Community demands action in Provident Hospital dispute

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

Irate community citizens, local politicians and employees of Provident Hospital alike banned together this week in the discussion of one central issue: the survival of Provident Hospital. The continuing internal dispute has spilled over dramatically into the city's spotlight, prompting heated dialogues from many factions.

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell led a community discussion when he hosted a Monday evening open forum on the issue.

"Provident Hospital is a black institution which must be protected and undergirded by our community. Though many Black citizens were excluded from involvement in the creation of the new Provident Hospital, all of us are determined to save this black institution," asserted the seven term congressman.

At the heart of the Provident issue is whether or not the Office of the Vice President of Medical Affairs should be abolished or placed under the authority of the president of the hospital as are all other vice presidents of the hospital. Dr. Oakley Saunders currently holds that position.

Mitchell is in strong support of Dr. Saunders. "There hasn't been a time when anyone in this community has called upon Oakley and he didn't respond," said the congressman.

Allegations have been made by some of the physicians who are boycotting the hospital. Such a boycott marks the first time in this country that physicians have boycotted a hospital because of differences with a hospital administration," said Mitchell.

There are 257 physicians on staff at Provident, only 44 of them are supporting the boycott.

Councilman Kwiesi Mfume says he has met constantly with different groups concerned about Provident and he intends on drafting legislation in the council that would call on all sides in the dispute to come together in some creative way to work the problem out.

"We are concerned about the board and the doctors...but our main concern is the patients," added Mfume.

In an effort to assure that quality patient care is being maintained at Provident Dr. Oakley Saunders held a Wednesday afternoon press conference. Dr. Saunders refused to answer any questions dealing with the dispute focusing solely instead on the issue of patient care, the hospital's chiefs of staff were in attendance although some were apparently in support of the boycott.

State Senator Nathan Irby said he and the black caucus tried last year in the General Assembly to get the state to absorb Provident's debt. He says with what's happening now at Provident, "it makes it extremely difficult to ask for more help."

In a Thursday afternoon conversation with the AFRO, Del. Howard 'Pete' Rawlings says he will be introducing a bill during the beginning days of the 1985 legislative session that would make it illegal in the state for a doctor to boycott any hospital by refusing to admit patients, for the purpose of reducing the occupancy rate. The penalty for such actions says Rawlings would be $5,000.

Del. Rawlings, who also sits on the board of directors for the University of Maryland Medical System said there was absolutely no truth to rumors that the system was attempting to take over Provident Hospital.

Accused Douglass students not 'gun-toting, bad guys'

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Mystery remains as to why two 16 year-old Douglass High School students could be involved in shooting a Milford Mill High School student and taking his jacket.

School records indicate neither can be classed as "gun-toting, bad boys." One is a college prep student. Both are well-dressed and seem to have been well-reared.

According to Mrs. Jean Owens, the Douglass High School principal, "Both young men are very mannerly and very well groomed, not seemingly in need of clothing and well cared for by their parents, one by a grandmother and the other by a single parent mother who works at night."

As to why they are reported to have been at Milford Mill High School Nov. 26, some distance away in Baltimore County during Douglass High class time, Mrs. Owens still indicates mystery except that she heard one of the young men "had a girlfriend out there."

The two Douglass High students charged with shooting Sean D. Richardson, age 16, in the cheek when he refused to give them his jacket are:

Brian Rainey, born Feb. 16, 1968, who resides with his mother in the 2100 block Druid Hill Ave.

Steven Gabriel, born April 14, 1968, who resides with his grandmother in the 2200 block Etting St.

Baltimore County Police Department Spokesman E. Jay Miller's records show both were refused bail reduction at a Wednesday hearing and they remain in the Baltimore County Detention Center under $50,000 bail each.

Each is charged with gun possession, assault with intent to murder and robbery.

Continued on page 2

Soul Shacks up for auction

By Tea Montier
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimoreans may soon be missing two established late night eateries in West Baltimore and Lexington Market. The Soul Shack of Monroe Street closed its doors Tuesday evening in preparation for an upcoming sale.

Equipment and fixtures of the Soul Shack will be sold at public auction Monday afternoon.

According to Kenny Bryant, part owner of the popular food stop for over 15 years, unpaid money in back taxes was the reason for the business closing. "We owed over $100,000 in back taxes from over a five-year period...So I agreed with the IRS to let them seize my assets instead of declaring bankruptcy."

That strategy says Bryant will allow him the opportunity to get rid of his old debt while exploring the possibility of entering new business ventures in the restaurant area. In fact Bryant doesn't view his business closing as a failure, but more of a temporary setback or changeover.

"We are not going out of business even though we are up for sale," explained a confident Bryant, "...We are business people and we just have to do things differently."

For over 15 years the Soul Shack on Monroe Street had established itself as an outstanding black culinary institution. The sweet potato squares at the Shack had no rivals in the city. Patrons

Continued on page 2

Two women versus city hall

Minnie Harrison

By Eugene Owens

Minnie and Liz are fighting City Hall.

Both Minnie Harrison, 66, and Elizabeth Cheatham, 58, are being evicted by the city from two stalls in Hollins Market where for more than a decade they've sold collard greens, turnips, and other vegetables every Saturday.

Rent is not the issue. They've kept their rents paid. But they have not obeyed a rule the city recently decided to start enforcing that says anytime a market is open, all the merchants in that market must be open as well.

The women say since the city threatened them with eviction, they've begun opening Thursday and Friday as well as Saturday, but the city says that's not good enough.

"I said if I lived to retire, I'd have this to come to," said Miss Harrison, who retired last May after 25 years as a school janitor, "and they want me to be open five days!".

"They're going to throw Miss Harrison and I out completely and not going to give us anything," said Mrs. Cheatham, who works full-time for a local food distributor.

Since receiving their termination notices from the city, the two women have contacted members of the City Council, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell's office, and the media, hoping to hang onto their stalls. So far, the city still intends to put them out.

In November 1972 when she first rented her produce stand, Miss Harrison said she told the renting agent she would open only on Saturdays. "He said it didn't matter with him whether I ever opened as long as he got the city's money," she said.

But late last year, authority over the city markets (with the exception of Lexington Market which has its own authority) was transferred from the office of Comptroller Hyman Pressman to Mayor William Donald Schaefer's office.

Baltimore Harbour Master Art Tittel, who ran the six markets under Pressman, said he worked to attract black merchants to the markets. He said he helped both

Continued on page 2

Elizabeth Cheatham

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