—Two women

Continued from page 1

Miss Harrison and Mrs. Cheatham with their stalls.

"What you have to take into consideration is people," Tittel said, "that's what I did."

He describes the mayor's approach as a "different management style."

Indeed, the mayor's new city markets director, Richard Davis, has a different view: "We have told people these are the rules of the market. If you will not comply with the rules . . we'll rent to somebody who will.

Davis says the city has spent a lot of money renovating the markets and wants them fully open. He says vendors who don't open hurt those who do because shoppers lacking a variety in a market might go elsewhere. And he says its city law that merchants must be open when the markets are open.

He's already evicted one man from Hollins Market, a Greek-American potato chip vendor, John Papaeracleous, whose son opened only on Saturdays.

"We'd like to fight this," said Papaercleous, who maintains another stall in Lexington Market, "but we don't have much money to go to the courts."

"Look here, they don't open every day even in Lexington Market," he said, pointing to two stalls near his that were closed Monday during the noon hour.

In addition to Miss Harrison and Mrs. Cheatham, numerous merchants in Hollins Market have not been opening each of the five days the market is open.

That includes Marion and Dorothy Holbrook, both 74, whose family has maintained a produce stand in Hollins Market since the Civil War. They're open only on Fridays and Saturdays.

Since the two black women began their fight with the city, now the Holbrooks and several other white merchants have been given termination notices.

Asked why Harrison and Cheatham were among the first singled out, Markets Directors Davis said, "An immediate need exists for that space."

Davis said he was "unaware" of another black family, the Mathews who stay open only four days a week. Maggie Mathews, 77, says she and her family have had a produce stall at Hollins for 45 years.

"We couldn't open every day," she said, "We have to plant in the summertime. We got a garden. We need some time to work it."

She says although she hasn't gotten a termination notice yet, she's expecting one.

"Some of these people don't sell enough stuff (to be open every day,) she said, "They have to have a job."

"They can't compare it (Hollins) with Lexington Market. Lexington Market is all downtown with stores and everything to draw people," said Mrs. Matthews.

The president of the Hollins Market Association, bakery vendor Donald Cohen, said, "Nobody wants Minnie and Liz out, people don't want people out of the market," But he said he believes Hollips Markets business would pick up if everyone opened every day.

"We don't care to come in here five days a week, but its the rules and regulations," Cohen said.

Unlike most other city markets which are located near thriving commercial areas, Hollins Market is in a depressed part of the city on a back street, it basically attracts neighborhood people who know it is there.

Since Minnie Harrison has been opening three days a week, she spends most of her time watching soap operas on a small television set in her stall.

At the end of the day last Friday, she opened her cash register and pulled out the day's take.

"I don't even think I made three dollars today," she said, "but it doesn't worry me."

She paused and looked up.

"I'm not crazy," said Miss Harrison, "It's just something I enjoy."

She said she was born and reared in the vegetable-growing region around Rocky Mount, NC. before she migrated north to Baltimore in 1938. She saw a chance to get into the vegetable business 12 years ago and took it. She is alone and the market has become a big part of her life. She says she essentially makes enough to buy produce and pay her $85 a month stall rent.

She said of herself and Mrs. Cheatham, "We just enjoy talking to the people."

"I didn't know she (Cheatham) felt the same way," said Miss Harrison, "but she feels the same way I feel, she said "If we was for the money Miss Harrison, we'd have starved to death long ago."

Miss Harrison laughed.

"Now you see," she continued, "You could rent a store front, but you see, you stand in danger of getting killed running a store. But when you're surrounded by people like this, its not dangerous. Nobody's going to come in here and try to rob me or try to kill me."

Markets Director Davis says after Hollins Market has been renovated he would consider renting to people like Miss Harrison and Mrs. Cheatham on a ten dollar per day basis, but he will guarantee them nothing.

If the city moves ahead with its termination plans, it will evict two of the four blacks in Hollins Market. And should the Matthews family get a termination notice as they fear, then three of four will be evicted from a market where most of the shoppers are black.

Miss Harrison and Mrs. Cheatham say they see their eviction as a racist move by the city.

But Davis said, "I absolutely reject the idea that we are handling anyone differently on the basis of race, absolutely, positively and finally."

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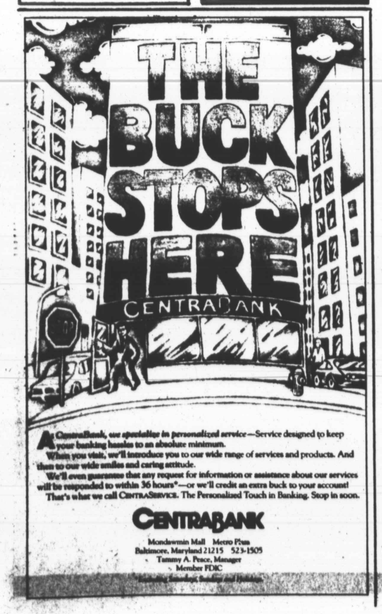

—Board okays

Continued from page 1

Should the body be unable to act on the ordinance before the close of the 1984 session, he said that he would call as many special sessions as necessary until the cable matter has been finalized.

United and a special mayoral cable negotiation task force appointed in June were able to reach final agreement on several controversial points following weeks of tense closed-door meetings.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of those negotiations, the portion dealing with minority participation, was ironed out in the waning days of the negotiations.

Whereas, United had originally agreed to allow only 18-20 percent of minority stock offerings, yesterday's document unveiled provisions for the local minority community to own at least 25 percent of the cable franchise system.

That minority ownership will be carefully supervised and delegated by Universal Telecom, Inc., a minority-owned and operated cable firm recently established in the city, and whose principal investors represent members of the local black community.

They include, Universal's president, Dr. H. Garland Chissell, former chief-of-staff at Provident Hospital; Clarence L. Elder, a former member of Cox Cable PortVision of Baltimore; and the director of the Fine Arts Center; and Assistant Professor of Art at Morgan State University, Oliver Patrick Scott.

Said Dr. Chissell, "The company is just in the organizational stages. Universal must raise the money to purchase the stock."

Asked if he felt the United Cable minority provisions were the best offers the black community could expect to receive he said enthusiastically, "Absolutely".

The minority firm will raise about one million dollars in order to purchase the stock from United Cable and will be responsible for locating enough minority investors to buy up the available 25 percent stock offering. Universal Telecom will also oversee minority-input at the construction and management levels as well.

Additional features of the minority participation phase of the franchise agreement call for United to "use its best effort" to create a work force that includes minority representation "at all levels" and consistent with local population figures, and guarantees that the Denver-based corporation and its local subsidiary will oversee the hiring practices of all contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and vendors.

United has pledged to comply with the city's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program which requires that from 15-25 percent minority representation be utilized in management and construction on all city contracts. The firm will also fund and sponsor various recruitment and training programs and give city residents first preference in hiring.

—Accused Douglass

Continued from page 1

The victim, young Richardson, underwent hospital treatment and dental work and was released to go home the day of the shooting.

Mrs. Owens said Steven Gabriel came to Douglass High from George Wingate High School in New York and was registered at Douglass Aug. 20, 1984.

Describing him as a bright youngster, she revealed his 1983 test records from New York show he was reading above the 12th grade level and functioning in mathematics above the 11th grade level. He is enrolled at Douglass as a college prep student.

She said his attendance records at Douglass are good and his teachers describe him as having excellent manners.

Mrs. Owens said school records show young Gabriel left school on the morning of the shooting at about 11:30 a.m., the end of the third period, claiming he did not feel well.

She said his leaving was without permission, "He had no Early Dismissal Pass and no permission from home as is customary for students to have to leave school."

Mrs. Owens said Gabriel returned Tuesday morning (the day after the shooting) and reported to his homeroom. When police officers came for the young student, Mrs. Owens said she went to the Home Room and returned to her office with him. It was there that police took Gabriel into custody.

The second Douglass High student, Brian Rainey, came to Douglass Oct. 16, 1984 from a school in Shreveport, LA. He had been enrolled at Kelson Elementary School in Baltimore seven years ago and was later in 1977 transferred to Father Charles Hall Catholic School.

As of Aug. 28, 1984 Rainey was in the 10th Grade at Huntington High School in Shreveport but when he arrived at Douglass it was thought better to place him in the 9th grade.

The young man who was said to have a girl friend at Milford Mill High, the principal insists is very mannerly and well groomed.

As to his work at Douglass Mrs. Owens said, "He was not achiev-

Continued on page 15

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—Basketball scandal

Continued from page 1

end of the semester when the registrar's office finally records it.

No academic record can be attained if a student is not legitimately enrolled.

The printout reaches the athletic office shortly after orientation. It is revised and computerized prior to the opening of a varsity season.

According to informed sources, Hubbard's name was on neither list.

That being the case, it is difficult to explain why the basketball team would launch its season without questioning either the student or the registrar, or both.

This is especially important at a time when young men, facing an uncertain future, see professional sports (attained through college exposure) as their answer.

They are likely to do anything to obtain that goal.

In the judgment here, the blame rests with the athletic department alone. It is generally known that the registrar at every institution works in close cooperation with team coaches.

—Soul Shacks

Continued from page 1

could be seen constantly travelling in and out of the Shack doors at all hours of the night on weekends. The Shack stayed crowded.

The Lexington Market location of the Soul Shack marked a bold expansion effort for Bryant and Glendora Cox, his partner. But the Shack never really caught on in popularity like its uptown location. But Kenny tried. There were luncheon specials, and private parties and excellent entertainment. The market location had an added attraction that the Monroe Street didn't. It had a bar. But even that wasn't enough to draw the kind of crowd needed to make the business a booming success.

"When we opened the Lexington Market restaurant it was not complete. We went from a small to a large business...and it wasn't the most desirable location," said Bryant. "I'm still a businessman...all of this is a risk. I thought I could overcome. ...And now I do see light at the end of the tunnel."

Bryant closed down the Lexington Market location (renamed Bryant's) nine months ago for renovation. It never reopened. He had just completed a $200,000 remodeling effort on the facility in August.

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Mayor Schaefer seeking more funds for asbestos cleanup

By Mariam Marquez

Mayor William Schaefer wants state and federal funds to augment the $3 million earmarked for books and supplies the city is diverting to tackle potential asbestos problems in two - thirds of the city's schools.

At least 129 of the city's 193 schools have been found to have a potential asbestos problem, school superintendent Alice Pinderhughes said Wednesday in a joint City Hall news conference with the mayor.

"Curtailment of books, materials and supplies for other non - instructional areas will be judiciously applied to ensure that the quality of education is not endangered," Pinderhughes said.

Schaefer said the $3 million will be targeted for schools with the most severe asbestos problems, adding that complete removal of the potentially dangerous mineral could run as high as $50 million and take six to 10 years. He called on the state and federal government to help the city with funding.

"We're now saddled with remedying this problem," Schaefer said. "It's easy for the EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) to say, 'You've got to remove it very quickly,' but the tough part comes when you have to decide where to get the money from."

"This is a very, very severe problem. There just isn't any money in the city budget for this," he added. "I'm not placing any blame . . . It is not something (the city) did knowingly. These buildings are very old, and we've already spent over $1 million since 1980 to study this."

Asbestos, when released in particle form into the air, has been linked to lump cancer and other diseases, said city health commissioner Susan Guarnier.

"It is only when asbestos is friable — when the mineral forms dust and can be breathable — that it can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and cancers of the esopyagus, stomach, colon and rectum," Guarnieri said.

But Schaefer stressed that the current situation is not life threatening, and that the city already was removing exposed asbestos from several schools. The mayor said the city is working on a list of top - priority schools to be released in 30 days.

"Rumors said the city sent letters Tuesday to parents of children in the 129 affected schools, on action required by the EPA.

Curtis Lantz, the school system's assistant superintendent of physical plant, said closing a school building that had exposed asbestos "is certainly one of the responsibilities we face," but he said he expects most work can be done without such action.

The state filed a $500 million lawsuit two months ago, seeking compensatory damages from at least 47 asbestos manufacturing and distributing firms, and Schaefer said the city also is planning similar action.

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Minority contractors praise Pressman for bidding process

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

Deemed as the only high level city official seriously committed to the required competitive bidding process, City Comptroller Hyman Pressman was presented an award of recognition Monday morning by the Maryland Minority Contractor's Association (MMCA).

Commenting that Pressman had a loyalty to "little people," Arnold Jolivet, president of the MMCA, said it was the "little people" who had commissioned the presentation of the award.

Draped in a gray flannel suit in his City Hall office, Pressman announced his appreciation of the recognition and indicated that biding by a competitive bidding process has always been in the best interest of the taxpayers.

"There just should be no favoritism," he said. "I will not change my position on this matter. I believe the process should be in everything. I have even recently tried to have it implemented in consultant work."

The award of recognition comes shortly after a city audit found that none of the recently awarded Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants to the local Neighborhood Progress Administration (NPA) had either included or attempted to include minority firms in the bidding process.

Proper procedures require formal and extensive advertising for contracts over $5000. These procedures had not been followed.

The report, released November 20, read that "bids were informally solicited from a small number of contracters. There was no public opening or announcement and no evidence of legal review."

Jolivet said that there was nothing new about this process adopted by most city agencies, suggesting that it only proved that minority firms were overwhelmingly discriminated against and nothing was being done about it, even though the City Charter requires that there be a competitive bidding process.

"The only way to combat the awards after they have been given is through legal action," said Jolivet. "Right now, we have two suits in court. There is no way we know about the projects under consideration until we find out some firm has been awarded. That's because there is no advertising or attention brought to minority operations."

"We feel that the only official on the high level of city government who has been adamant in his position all along has been Hyman Pressman. He has steadfastly stuck to the provisions of the City Charter."

Within the report, city auditor Allan Reynolds indicated that no practical way could be seen to revoke what had already been done, referring to HUD's financial awards to the NPA.

"We recommend that, for the future, no contracting for other than support of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) funded programs be delegated to HABC," concluded the report.

"In this regard, we note that while HABC procedures are acceptable to HUD, they are not in compliance with city procedures and Board of Estimates policy in several material respects."

The auditor urged that the NPA began immediately taking steps to remedy violations.

Chic Hanlon Park condos now open

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore's black urban professionals now have another opportunity to become homeowners thanks to R. Dan Ritchie, developer of the Hanlon Park Condominiums.

Ritchie, a real estate developer, is excited about his latest project, as is Jerry Whitlock, president of John Hanson Savings and Loan, one of the project's financiers, and a resident of the Ashburton community.

For years, the complex, which has once been rental units, stood empty. Residents of the community complained that in its later years, the building was an "eyesore," and a "blight to the community."

Ritchie, who formerly worked for the East Baltimore Corporation, under Clarence "Du" Burns, had originally tried to become an Ashburton resident by way of buying a home.

"I live in Prince Georges County and I was looking for something closer. One day, about four years ago, I found myself driving in this neighborhood and I saw a house that I was interested it. I called the owners and made them an offer," says Ritchie.

As it turned out, there were eventually three homes in which Ritchie was interested, but he ended up with none of them. It seems that the owners of the home that he was originally interested in were unable to sell due to personal problems. His investigation of the real estate climate of the neighborhood led him to the complex on the corner of Liberty Heights Avenue and Hilton Street.

Said Ritchie, "I found that the building had 300 building code violations and was a subject of a bankruptcy proceeding. It also had seven or eight liens against it."

Ritchie's interest grew, and with help from friends like Jerry Whitlock, and the Ashburton Neighborhood Association he admits, "I could not have done it." Plans were immediately made for the building's renovation.

The complex was converted into 53 condominium units, either one-or two-bedroom. Each home comes with its own washer and dryer, central air conditioning and is between 1000 and 1100 square feet of space.

The total gross sales price is $50,610, but with a UDAG grant of $12,110, new homeowners can look forward to a mortgage of $37,500. There is a down payment of $1,000 and Ritchie's company pays for most of the closing costs. "There are a few things which the owner must pay for." One of the fees is a $30 condo fee; used for such things as physical maintenance of the property.

"Nothing was done on a second rate basis," says Ritchie. "We used the best—each unit has Whirlpool appliances, we've given this our best."

The complex has two commercial tenants, Ritchie's corporation and "My Dream" beauty salon, with Alice Woods, proprietor.

Neighborhood residents are excited about their new neighbor. Says Carolyn Boston, a member of the Ashburton Association, "The neighborhoods around here have been pretty fed up with this kind of decay. This is an asset for the neighborhood."

Margaret Williams, deputy commissioner of the Neighborhood Progress Administration, said, "This is exactly the kind of project that we like to see."

John E. Saunders, treasurer of the Liberty-Garrison Shopping Center Corp., and an Ashburton resident since 1959, said, "This place has been an eyesore for the last 10 years and we've supported Dan's efforts to get it going."

With 16 of the 53 units left to be sold, Ritchie is optimistic regarding future urban real estate ventures: "We've just scratched the surface. There are opportunities beyond the harbor."

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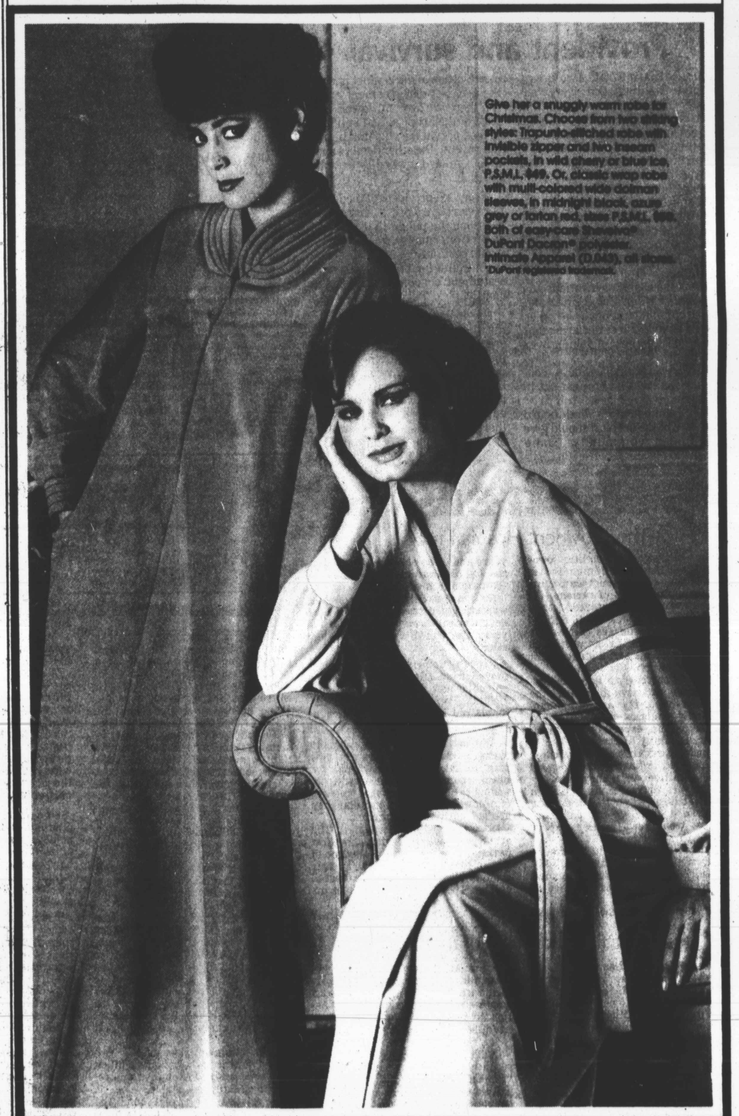

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