—Unsung heroes

Continued from page 1

Samuels immediately ran down the hall to the apartment, where thick, choking smoke and flames had already engulfed one of the rooms.

Two small boys, aged two and four ran from the apartment and stood outside in the hallway — their mother was not with them. Conflicting stories suggested the mother was away shopping or perhaps visiting with neighbors.

But from inside the room, Carter and Samuels could hear the screams of another child still trapped in the apartment. The two entered the apartment, but the black smoke was impossible to see through and the crackle of the fire was all around.

Sensing they would never be able to get to the child until they could penetrate the fire, Carter and Samuels decided to get a fire extinguisher in order to attempt putting the fire out, but once inside with their jackets across their faces, they realized that this plan would fail.

The screams of the child kept coming, so the two guards ran outside and prepared to enter the blazing apartment through the window. Samuels hoisted Carter some eight to ten feet off the ground. Carter broke the window and slashed his knee open, the fresh oxygen from the outside air flared the fire even higher. When the fire department arrived, Carter and Samuels were instructed to resume their security duties. They too were unsuccessful and the child perished in the blaze.

When Carter was taken to the hospital, he says he finally saw the mother. One week prior to the fire, security had responded to a stabbing incident that occurred in this same apartment and ironically, according to sources, this fire represented the second fire in less than two years at the same residence, both caused by children playing with matches.

Presently the Housing Authority and Security America are preparing to honor the two officers and Norvin Jones, branch manager for Security America said, "We are proud to honor these two men.

Both officers were shocked and upset after the incident because they felt they could have done more. One can only wonder how long the other two children would have remained conscious."

—Penn-North learns

Continued from page 1

and can be hazardous to the community," she acknowledged.

There are currently about 5,000 vacant houses in Baltimore and 85 percent of them are privately owned, the NPA official told a small audience of property owners at the meeting, which took place at the Enoch-Pratt Library on W. North Ave.

She added that before the legislation, the city's hands were tied with doing a lot of work on the vacant houses because so many of them are privately-owned.

The program has particular significance to the PNI members because most of them either own businesses or their homes in the Pennsylvania Ave.-North Ave. area.

The area has several vacant houses that are considered "eye sores" in the community, which many of the business owners say prevent people from patronizing their businesses.

This area is bounded by Fulton Ave. on the North and West, McCulloh St. on the East, and North Ave. and Cumberland St. on the South.

"This (the program) could be improvement for bringing people into your stores," said Ms. Dailey.

She acknowledged that the program has received $4.4 million in funding thus far for the first fiscal year, the bulk of this coming from the city's repayment of an Inner Harbor Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG).

According to the NPA official, the program has as its first-year goal the demolition of 325 vacant houses, the stabilization of 335 vacant houses and the renovation of 30 vacant houses.

She explained that stabilization of the houses basically means to "protect them from further deterioration from the elements."

Asked why such a small amount of houses are slated for rehabilitation, she commented, "Rehabilitation is too expensive to do a large number. We can make much more of an impact by stabilizing the vacant houses."

Ms. Dailey said the program has received a lot of support from community residents throughout the city. She noted that presently, 41 neighborhood volunteers are "keeping watch" on the stabilized vacant houses to report any vandalism of them while also reporting any new vacant houses on the block.

She added that about 50 houses have been demolished and 57 stabilized since the program began.

—Al Stewart indicted

Continued from Page 1

who happened to work there.

One count of the criminal information alleges that Stewart took money from Choice Manna Ministries, the Refuge Church of Christ Inc., Ms. Paula Corbin, Christian Women's Fellowship of the Apostolic Dimension Inc., Wabash Medical Center, PA., Rev. Edith Wilson, Carroll J. Johnson and the Morgan State University.

"I know nothing about the situation or the charges," said Rev. Wilson, "only that I wrote him a check."

Because of the serious nature of the allegations against Stewart, the university is presently reviewing his contract to determine what actions should be taken with regard to his employment.

"There was no way that any officials could have known about the situation prior to being appraised by the Attorney General's office that Stewart was under investigation," said Fred Douglass, spokesman for the school.

At AFRO presstime, Stewart is being held at the Baltimore City Jail in lieu of $10,000 bail. His arraignment trial is scheduled for January 8, 1987.

At this time, the exact amount of money involved in the theft can not be released into public record before it is admitted as evidence in court, but according to Spizler, the amount is substantially more than the $300 benchmark amount that represents the difference between a misdemeanor and a felony. Spizler only said the amount was in the thousands.

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—City NAACP

Continued from page 1

creased its membership to over 8,000 in the past few years, "That's a two-fold increase," Buntin said. "We're a very energetic chapter."

Buntin said the staff should be in the buildings by January — in time to start mapping plans for the Baltimore chapter's 75th anniversary celebration.

—Haysbert

Continued from page 1

money won't be a problem if I run on the GOP ticket," said Haysbert who fears that Embry might benefit from a divided black vote.

During the 1984 president campaign there were a number of blacks who formed a crossover movement to woo blacks away from the Democratic Party in Baltimore and Haysbert's name was listed as one who was a member of the group.

However he will not formally become a Republican until he changes his resignation on Christmas Eve.

Haysbert also said that some disgruntled GOP politicians in the city viewed his possible run for mayor as an effort that would drain campaign monies away from their candidacies.

—Politics '87

Continued from page 1

Mrs. Welch said she will be able to devote more time to the process after the council breaks for Christmas. The City Council meets for the last time this year, Monday, Dec. 15.

In the meantime, Mrs. Welch said she is busy planning two major holiday functions for the district's children and senior citizens.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, 1986 at St. Edward Rectory Hall, 901 Poplar Grove St., Mrs. Welch said she and community workers and volunteers will entertain about 200 children with a party and lunch with Santa Claus.

It will be from 12 noon until 2 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the Knights of Peter Claver Auxiliary Court No. 62.

The children can expect good food, games and entertainment, and gifts.

The very next day, at the same hall, but from 1:30 until 5 p.m., Mrs. Welch said she and a core group of local organizations in the area will host a holiday affair for the district's senior citizens.

"We don't turn anybody away," Mrs. Welch said adding there might be enough gifts for all but there certainly will be plenty of food.

She said all the food, decorations and gifts for both parties are donated from community people and none came from "big business."

Anyone who cares to help out or make a donation should contact the St. Edward Rectory.

* * *

Even though Kewisi Mfume's face has become rather scarce around City Hall with his recent election to the Congress of the United States, Mfume has left a son to carry on at City Hall.

Kevin Gray, 17, said he has been a clerk for the City Council since September. Young Gray said he works after school and does filing, answers telephones and attends the council meetings.

"I enjoy it," he said modestly.

Roger Nissly, an administrative assistant in the Office of the President told the AFRO clerks receive a small salary of $2,000 a year and do whatever the council person who appointed them wants.

"Basically they help out the council person in the community," he said.

The clerks' ages vary, Nissly said. "Some are young people who want to get a taste of political life, but the ages do vary."

FHA interest rate drops to eight year low

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Samuel R. Pierce, Jr., announced recently that average interest rates on FHA fixed-rate 30 year mortgages have dropped to 9 percent, the lowest rate at which FHA mortgages have been available since the Spring of 1978.

"The drop in interest rates and the continuing economic recovery in this nation, are the result of policies which this administration has implemented. It is now possible for more Americans to achieve the dream of homeownership, since they can qualify for a mortgage at such a low fixed rate."

Secretary Pierce, as HUD's top official, oversees the FHA (Federal Housing Administration), and has long predicted that interest rates on home mortgages would continue to fall, even as some industry analysts predicted otherwise.

The FHA, created in 1934 to stimulate homeownership opportunities for moderate - income, first - time home buyers, offered an interest rate of as high as 17½% in its Section 203 (b) program in the Fall of 1981. The FHA rate is no longer set by HUD, having been deregulated in November of 1983, but follows the current market rate.

New Rec meet format begins

The combined effort of the Department of Recreation and the Ed Waters Track Club is scheduled to be introduced as a new track and field developmental program on Sunday.

The program kicks off at 11 a.m. at 5th Regiment Armory with competitions featuring boys and girls ranging in age from seven years to 18.

Seven meets are on the indoor calendar — three in this month, three in January and a championship final March 1.

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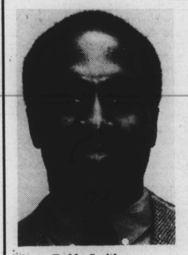
People in the News

Physician Assistants award

Dorothy M. Singletary

Dorothy M. Singletary, physician assistant-in-charge at Bon Secours Hospital, was named 1986 Physician Assistant of the Year. She chairs the MAPA's Minority Affairs Committee, and is co-chair of the Professional Practices and Relations Committee.

Ms. Singletary has worked in the department of surgery since 1983, and earned her B.S. degree at Harlem Hospital Center. She is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.



Teddy Smith

TSU Man of the Year

Towson State University recently honored Teddy M. Smith as its Outstanding Man of the Year. Smith majors in philosophy, speech and mass communications and is a member of the university's philosophy forum.

Active in student affairs, he is also a member of the forensic union, library committee and the student government association.

Md. income tax reform recommendations

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 was signed into law by the President on October 22, 1986. It represents the most extensive revision to the Federal Income Tax in the last 50 years.

The impact on Federal income taxpayers is estimated to be approximately $240 billion over a five year period, which includes a shifting of tax burden from individuals to corporations amounting to $120 billion.

The tax base was broadened by eliminating or reducing deductions and tax shelters. This was offset by increasing the Federal exemption allowance and standard deduction and decreasing Federal tax rates.

Since the Maryland Income Tax Law adopts the Federal adjusted gross income base for individuals and the Federal Taxible income base for corporations, certain changes in the Federal Tax Law will automatically flow to the Maryland income tax return.

The Maryland law adopts the Federal base broadening provisions, but not the increase in the standard deduction and exemption allowance or the decrease in tax rates.

Therefore, the result is an increase in Maryland income tax revenue.

Because of the extensive impact which the tax reform legislation was expected to have on Maryland revenue, the Comptroller appointed a Task Force to assist in analyzing the Federal Law changes, to review the impact figures and to make recommendations for the use of any windfall which might develop.

The Task Force represented a wide variety of interests including the State Legislative and executive branches, county government, municipal government, business, labor and the accounting and legal professions.

As Maryland's chief fiscal officer, the Comptroller has an obligation to make recommendations for the fiscally responsible use of the revenue increase anticipated from the Federal tax changes.

The short term recommendations offered would reduce state individual and corporation income tax revenues and estimated tax payments by approximately $157.3 million.

1. To provide immediate tax relief to Marylanders, an across-the-board tax credit should be granted to all individuals income taxpayers.

This credit should be 5 percent of State tax liability on 1987 individual income tax returns and would provide $106.4 million in relief.

2. The tax credit would apply to the State tax liability only. Local tax collections would not be reduced by the credit.

3. The tax credit would apply to tax year 1987 only. This would give the State the necessary time to gain experience with the actual effects of the Tax Reform Act on both state and local government revenues and to adopt a more permanent long term policy for tax relief.

Long Term

1. Increase the current $800 personal exemption.

2. Make the standard deduction a flat amount and increase it. The current exemption is 13 percent adjusted gross income to a maximum of $1,500 for an individual and $3,000 for a married couple.

3. Reinstate the extra exemption for taxpayers 65 and over.

4. Reinstate the extra exemption for blind taxpayers.

5. Reinstate the exemption for dependent taxpayers who are claimed on someone else's return.

These recommendations would have the effect of making Maryland's income tax more progressive without significant decoupling from advantageous provisions of Federal Law.

AARP MEMBERS — One of the best kept secrets in town is the fact that there exists, a black chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, which has 23 million members nationwide. The Baltimore chapter holds meetings the third Wednesday of each month at the Lafayette Square Multi - Service Center. Officers of the Baltimore Chapter #3602, left to right: William Spencer, president; Mrs. Audrey Crawford, secretary; Agnes H. Gibson, chairperson publicity; Arnold Moore, Chairman Leg. Com., and Robert Crawford, membership committee.

Holiday shopping special precautions

As more shoppers than ever before take to the streets this Christmas season, pedestrians are being warned to be more cautious than ever in protecting themselves and their valuables.

Noting that crime statistics usually rise during the holiday season, the Dictograph Security Information Bureau of Florham Park, N.J., is offering these safety tips to shoppers and other pedestrians:

• Walk confidently: Know where you are going. If you don't, enter a store and ask for directions.

• Think about appearance: Expensive suits and flashy dresses might draw unwanted attention. Long, confining skirts, clogs, platform shoes, tight pants, easy-to-grab capes, long necklaces and scarves offer little freedom of movement and make you an easy victim.

• Be extra alert around stores and banks: They are favorite hangouts for muggers.

• Walk with someone: There's safety in numbers. Walking alone in lonely areas invites attack. Even a leashed dog, whether large or small, can be a deterrent to most muggers.

• Protect your valuables: Grip your purse or briefcase close to your body. Don't set them down anywhere. Don't use a purse with a shoulder strap because, if it is snatched, you might easily be thrown to the ground and injured.

• Carry your wallet in a safe, inside pocket. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Don't flash money. Keep a list of your credit cards and other important papers at home.

• Avoid dark streets and entryways: Well-lit areas are the safest places.

• Avoid shortcuts: Don't cut through parks and alleys, particularly at night. They sometimes breed trouble.

• Don't accept rides: It's always better to walk than ride in a car with a stranger.

• On buses: Hold onto your packages and sit in the front near the driver. If you need directions, ask the driver, not other passengers.

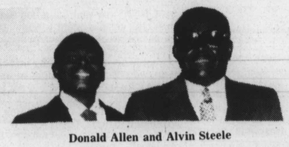
• If you believe you are being followed: If your pursuer is on foot, cross the street, vary your pace and change directions. If he persists, go to a lighted store and call the police.

• On subways or trains: Wait near the ticket booth until you are ready to board. Don't enter an empty car; look for one with several people in it.

• If you are pursued by someone in a car, turn around and walk in the opposite direction. Go up a one-way street. If he persists, jot down the license number and call the police.

• Do not be afraid to look back. It will let your pursuer know that you cannot be taken by surprise.

• When you return home: Ask your driver to wait until you are inside. Do not enter an elevator alone with a stranger. Have your key ready and watch for intruders who might be hiding behind bushes or in a hallway.



Donald Allen and Alvin Steele

Harlem Park grad is Lionel Richie guest

Donald Allen, a graduate of Harlem Park Middle School, was recently a guest of Lionel Richie, the singer, in Washington, D.C. Horace Holmes is school principal.

Mr. Allen, now a freshman at Douglass, is a participant in the Cities In Schools (CIS) in Baltimore, of which Alvin Steele is coordinator.

Earlier this year Mr. Richie launched an incentive program, "The Lionel Richie Super Student Contest," where students were eligible for tickets to his concert based on their passes and tour jackets if they maintained perfect attendance, showed grade improvement and avoided behavior problems with school and juvenile authorities.

This contest will run in approximately 400 schools, involving a half million students.

Mr. Richie stressed the importance of staying in school and finishing one's education. He emphasized this point by announcing his $50,000 contribution to a college fund for at-risk youth participating in the CIS programs.

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