—Kurt Schmoke

Continued from Page 1

vehemently denies that he has ever been what is scornfully termed a nerd by youths today.

What he is, is a mystery, in Baltimore politics and unless Mayor Clarence DuBurns and possibly, former school board head Robert Embry can solve the riddle of Kurt Schmoke's popularity he will be the next mayor of Baltimore City.

When Slate's Attorney Schmoke came to the AFRO for an interview recently, the reaction to him by workers and visitors was enthusiastic to say the least.

"I feel that my candidacy can bring together the city, inspire young people and keep the momentum of the city going forward," Schmoke said quietly. "This election is about the future of this city."

Seated comfortably in a straight chair reminiscent of the ones used to hold courtroom witnesses both friendly and hostile, Schmoke spoke with surprising ease and little hesitation about the upcoming election and what a Schmoke Administration would be concentrating on.

The first question he responded to was about experience. Both of his prospective Democratic opponents have served longer in city government than Schmoke has. He would not concede the edge in experience to his opponents, however.

"When the voters go into the booths to vote and they consider me, they will see a wealth of diverse experiences. My service in the State's Attorney's office may not match their's year for year, but I have been exposed to various levels of government.

"I worked on President Jimmy Carter's domestic policy staff under Stuart Eisenstat. In private law practice I was a bond lawyer, so I am familiar with that aspect of funding city government. I have also been a lobbyist for major corporations on both the state and federal legislative levels.

"I am very familiar with the problems of young people and working mothers. I started a day care center when I was a student in New Haven that is still in operation. My experience is very broad," said Schmoke.

Another of the more persistent questions that travel in political circles is, "Can low-key Kurt Schmoke be tough enough to govern this city or will he let it get away from him?" Another question that is raised constantly is whether Kurt Schmoke is "black" enough?

When confronted with the two questions concerning courage and race loyalty, the State's Attorney smiled. "As far as the question of courage goes, the job of chief prosecutor of this city is not for the fainthearted.

"In this job I make life and death decisions every day. I can speak to people on the streets, in the boardrooms and in the smoke-filled rooms of politics. I am low key in style, but I am intensely competitive and aggressive. I doubt that I could be intimidated," Schmoke said insistently.

"Concerning the issue of blackness, I have had people say to me, Kurt you don't articulate a black agenda. Some people have said that is their chief criticism of me.

"My personal style is not to articulate a black agenda, but to address issues that cut across racial and class lines. Crime affects everyone. Education and jobs affect all the people.

"I intend to discuss issues in a race neutral fashion, but you have to look at my record. When I took office, there were four black attorneys among all the prosecutors. Since I have been here, I have hired 40 black attorneys.

"There are presently 24 blacks out of 130. Working for this office provides black attorneys with the credential to more fully participate in the political and economic life of this city," Schmoke said with a touch of pride.

Schmoke also pointed out that among the non-lawyers on staff at the State's Attorney's office, he has added about 20, raising the total number from 30 in 1982 to 50 in 1987, out of a total of 90.

"There are many issues that I have worked on that disproportionately affect the black community, such as victimization by criminals. In this office I started the domestic violence unit, the sexual abuse unit, the child abuse unit and the narcotics unit.

"Nothing plagues the black community more than narcotics. I have done things to address those problems. My commitment is shown by the results I get, not by rhetoric," Schmoke said emphatically.

Schmoke attributes his race neutral approach in politics to attending integrated schools for most of his life at a time when integration was the predominate goal of black America.

Still Kurt Schmoke's lack of race conscious rhetoric makes him unique. Most black politicians in Baltimore, with a few notable exceptions, such as John Douglass, make speeches that echo the pulpit and the tent revival, full of allusions to religion and the moral correctness of their particular position at the moment.

Schmoke speaks quietly, concentrating on the issues. Yet, there is a casualness and a sincerity in a speech by Kurt Schmoke that is in marked contrast to his educational credentials.

Perhaps it is his apparently effortless confidence and ability to make people feel that he cares that accounts for the fact that he has over a thousand volunteers ready for work for his election this early in the campaign without the promise of being paid for their efforts.

His supporters are intensely loyal, a strong contrast to the low-key style of the candidate who inspires the intense feelings. When Kurt Schmoke's mid-term celebration took place at the Fifth Regiment Armory in 1984 over 3,000 people showed up.

He ran unopposed in 1986 for reelection. There are many political observers who say that Kurt Schmoke can not be defeated in the mayoral race of 1987 — he can only lose it through some colossal blunder.

(To be continued)

In Part II, Kurt Schmoke's plan for his administration will be discussed.

—4th District

Continued from page 1

said he also worked for the Amsterdam News in New York and worked in the Chicago Defender's New York office. He also was on the staff of the Pittsburgh Courier.

Paige said he studied economics at the City College of New York before he turned to journalism.

He said his journalism experience and his community service background will serve him well on the council, a position for which he said he is pleased and grateful.

As a councilman, Paige will make a about $23,000 a year. As the chief inspector for the liquor board, Paige made $18,443.00 a year, according to a liquor board spokesman.

Working in his West Baltimore community, Paige said he was one of the organizers and the first president of the Sandtown - Winchester Improvement Association. He also was a two-term chairman of the Western District Police - Community Council.

Paige was a community organizer for the Model Cities Program and later was a public information officer for the program. He said he published a magazine for it also.

Paige said he is interested in addressing the crime and the jobs problems in the district because "there is a crime problem . . . and economic development and jobs go together because economic development produces jobs."

He said he hopes to lure businesses into the community and there must be a strong effort made to insure the community is a safe place.

"I'll take a hard stance on crime," Paige said.

Mrs. Welch said she wants to schedule a thorough tour of the district for the new councilmen in the very near future. Paige said he also wants to divide the district into quarters and have a series of meetings with the public "to touch base with all the people to get their input and expressions of concern."

Politically, Paige is a member of the Citizens Democratic Action Organization which is headed by Del. Larry Young, D.-39th.

He was elected in September to his fourth term on the State Central Committee for the 39th Legislative District.

Several years ago, he ran unsuccessful for the House of Delegates.

• • •

Dr. Hill is less of a well - known entity in political circles, at least. Several attempts by the AFRO to interview Dr. Hill were unsuccessful, with him pleading a busy schedule.

He practices medicine at an office in the 900 block of West North Avenue. He is reported to have been involved in several campaigns in the past but takes a low key role.

Dr. Hill served a two-year term as president of Bon Secours Hospital medical staff.

He and Paige were the top finalists recommended to Mrs. Welch by her nine - member advisory committee. Her approach is a departure from standard council procedure for filling vacancies, sometimes called "councilmanic courtesy."

The procedure allows for a departing council person to name his or her successor.

During an interview with Sen. Michael B. Mitchell last November, he told the AFRO, coiuncilmanic courtesy is sometimes a myth and cited several relatively recent examples where councilmen's suggestions have been ignored.

If the courtesy process had prevailed in this instance, Mitchell's choice of labor union representative John Jefferies, 57, would be in office and so would Mfume's choice of Sheila-Dixon-Smith, a 32-year-old trade representative for the state.

—Father Fisher

Continued from Page 1

blessing.

"Of course we're happy that he's been appointed to the position in Los Angeles, but it's also Baltimore's loss," Rev. Ricard told the AFRO in a telephone interview.

"We wish him well and there is no doubt he will do an outstanding job in his new capacity."

Rev. Fisher, 41, will be officially installed Monday, Feb. 23, 1987 at 7 p.m. Pacific Standard Time at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles.

A native of Pascagoula, MS, Father Fisher began his journey to the priesthood at the Josephite seminary in Newburgh, NY.

After his ordination in 1973, he was assigned to the Church of the Incarnation in Washington, where he became vocational director for the Josephites.

In 1975, Father Fisher was transferred to St. Veronica's in Cherry Hill. In 1982, he was named pastor of St. Francis Xavier.

St. Francis Xavier was founded as a parish in 1793 by free blacks and former slaves from Haiti who settled in Baltimore.

While he was pastor of this historic church in East Baltimore, Father Fisher became involved in many social issues.

He joined a local fair-housing organization in a highly-publicized law suit against the Worthington Valley Swim Club in 1985. The suit was filed after the club refused to rent facilities to St. Francis parishioners for the annual church picnic.

Calling it a "moral crusade," Father Fisher enlisted the help of Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc., a city-based fair-housing organization, and filed a $1.7 million suit against the club. The suit was settled out of court.

Father Peter E. Hogan, S.S.J. and archivist for the Josephites, said St. Francis is the "mother church in Baltimore and that a successor to Father Fisher would be a very important decision.

In naming Father Fisher auxiliary bishop, Pope John Paul II adds Los Angeles to the list of American cities with black bishops. Along with Baltimore, the other cities are Washington, New York, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis, New Orleans, Detroit, Newark, N.J.; Biloxi, MS.

—Politics '87

Continued from Page 1

file.

Mayor Clarence H. "Du" Burns has a committee working on his behalf as does 4th District Councilwoman Agnes Welch and Comptroller Hyman Pressman.

"The Citizens for Baltimore Committee' represents former school board chairman Robert C. Embry, Jr. and community activist Mary Benns is a petition candidate whose name will be placed on the ballot in November.

At a Tuesday's city council meeting, Ms. Benns told the AFRO she is running for city council in the 2nd district.

The list of persons who said they will run is far longer than those who have filed. They still have plenty of time. The deadline is more than four months away, but running for office is not free.

A spokeswoman for the Board of Election Supervisors told the AFRO the filing fees vary. Those seeking to run for mayor, comptroller or city council president must pay a fee of $150. City Council seat fee is $50 for each candidate.

Some declared candidates, though unfiled, are busy raising funds now. Money is one reason why Hyman Pressman said he would not mount a mayoral campaign this year.

City State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke is in the middle of a series of fundraisers to fuel his campaign war chest. A few months ago, Parks Sausage chief, Raymond Haysbert announced he would run for mayor as a Republican and made a big splash in area newspapers.

Victor Clark, a member of Baltimore's small Republican community, is being mentioned as a possible mayoral candidate.

Fellow Republican Larry Gray, a Maryland State Lottery official, said he may be interested in the comptroller's seat.

City councilman Joseph DiBlasi is said to have "higher aspirations" politically and may be planning a run as either city council president or comptroller.

Also announced but unfiled are Urban Services staffer, Irvin Conway and former educator and president of the Bethel A.M.E. Food Cooperative, Sheila Dixon-Smith who both have their sights on the 4th district council race.

In the 5th district, Community College of Baltimore instructor and former state delegate Walter Dean's name has been mentioned as possible city council candidate and he said he may run. But Dean also said he was more inclined to support another's candidacy than his own.

Vera Hall, of Morgan State University, said she plans to run for council in the same district. Waxter announced recently he does not plan to seek re-election for his 5th district council seat and that has touched off a flurry of activity.

In the 6th district, some of the names being mentioned for city council are community activist Daki Napata, who recently told the AFRO he will run but is still meeting and discussing issues with the district's black leadership.

Rodney Orange, one of the talk show hosts of WEAA-FM's "Two Way Talk" program, also is said to be interested in a run for council in the 6th district.

"Many more names will be heard in the coming months in connection with political office. But the dust will not settle and most of the campaigning will not be in earnest until after June 30.

—Her purse snatched

Continued from Page 1

incident did not happen, we are looking at the distinct possibility that it did and we are following the normal case of investigation," he said.

APtis told police that she had thought of having a cashier's check issued for the $32,000, but said she had never handled such a large sum of money before and was not thinking.

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People in the news

Mrs. Carrie Doram receives heart award

Mrs. Carrie Doram

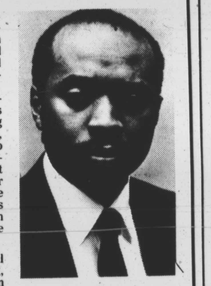
Mrs. Carrie Doram, a pharmacy technician, is the Baltimore VA Medical Center's 1986 recipient of the VA Administrator's Hands and Heart Award. This prestigious award is presented annually to one employee, at each of VA's 172 Medical Centers, who consistently displays professional expertise in the performance of his/her duties and whose sustained, compassionate patient care is exceptional.

Mrs. Doram began her career at the Medical center as a nursing assistant and feels that experience gave her a real understanding of the special needs of veteran patients. "I tell new employees," she says, "that no matter how busy we are, we need to always take time to listen." Carrie says it's her nature to be cheerful. "I don't think on unpleasant situations," she says. "Once I've done everything that can be done, I go on to the next thing."

A Baltimore resident, Mrs. Doram has been employed at the VAMC for 21 years. As a pharmacy technician, she fills prescriptions and dispenses prosthetic sensory supplies to the patients.

Mrs. Doram was honored by the Medical center patients and staff at a special reception on February 10.

Joshua Givens named Revlon vice prexy



Josh Givens

The Professional Products Division of Revlon announced today that Joshua Givens has been appointed Vice President and Director of Marketing, Retail Ethnic Markets for the Professional Products Division.

"Josh Givens is a top-flight professional who brings tremendous advertising, sales and marketing experience, business acumen, common sense and creativity to his new position," the announcement said. "During his years at Revlon, Josh has made a major contribution to the growth of the retail business for our various product lines, including Revlon Realistic Relaxer and the Creme of Nature shampoo line."

In his new position, Givens will be responsible for marketing, advertising and sales promotion strategies, sales forecasting and new product development for the Retail Ethnic Markets unit at Revlon.

The 33-year-old Givens joined Revlon's Professional Products Group in 1981 as Retail Marketing Manager in Ethnic Markets and was promoted in 1984 to Director of Marketing, a title he will retain. Prior to joining Revlon, Givens worked in account management in the advertising agency business as well as in radio and magazine sales.

Givens is a 1975 graduate of Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) with a B.S. in speech. In 1977, he earned a master's degree in journalism, with a major in advertising, also from Northwestern. He is listed in "Who's Who Among Black Americans."

A native of Norfolk, VA, Givens now resides in Hackensack, NJ.

Brig. Gen. Hines was Martin King speaker

Brig. Gen. Charles A. Hines was the special guest speaker at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Service held at the U.S. Army Publications Center in Middle River on Jan. 16. Pictured with Gen. Hines is Mae Williams, Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator for the center.

Great Blacks in Wax Ball

Great Blacks in Wax Museum is having its Second Annual Black History Masquerade Ball on Feb. 21 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. at The Palladium (2900 Liberty Heights Ave.). It is featuring live entertainment, hot buffet, open bar and will present prizes for the best black history costume. Donation is $30 per person, and all proceeds will go to the G.B.W. Building fund, will help it to build a new museum in its new home on 1601 E. North Ave. (formerly Fire House Station No. 19). Celebrate Black History Month by attending this annual affair. Come dressed as a black historical personality or just come as you are for the fun. For your tickets, call 837-6562.

Caucus supports windfall plan

By Quincey Johnson

ANNAPOLIS, MD. (UPI) — Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus has come out in support of Gov. William Schaefer's spending plan to use the bulk of the $179.6 million the state expects to get from federal income tax reform to help the needy.

Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings, D-Baltimore, said the caucus believes the Schaefer administration wishes to make "significant" contributions to helping the poor.

"The change in federal tax reform leaves the state with a unique opportunity to help the disadvantaged of Maryland," Rawling said in a news conference. He called Schaefer programs to help the low income homeless and mentally ill "innovative."

But the support of Schaefer's plan to give two-thirds of the expected revenue to on-going state programs does not come without reservations from some black lawmakers who want to see more money going to help the impoverished.

Del. Clarence Davis, D-Baltimore, said the governor should attempt to give more money to colleges other than the University of Maryland College Park.

He said he is dismayed thate there was no money for enhancement of historically black colleges.

"Looking at the governor's overall package, it is hard not to support it," Davis said.

Del. Nathaniel Exum, D-Prince George's agreed saying the Schaefer proposal best fit the agenda of the caucus.

"We didn't want to go on a collision course with the administration," Exum said, noting that other proposals would give the disadvantaged much less.

The caucus has presented the administration with two amendments. One would give tax relief to families headed by a single parent, the other would exempt the poor from paying local taxes.

Of the $179.6 million the state expects to get in fiscal 1988, Schaefer plans to use $34.9 million [illegible] and health programs, $49.3 million for social services and health programs, $49.3 million for increases in education funding and special programs and $33 million to cover losses from the savings and loan crisis.

The rest of the windfall - about $62.4 million — would be returned to low-and middle-income taxpayers as tax credits.

Schaefer's plan has met with stiff opposition from key lawmakers.

Sen. Laurence Levitan, D-Montgomery and chairman of the Budget and Taxation Committee, has said his panel will probably vote to return most of the money to taxpayers, by increasing the personal exemption and other methods.

Youngsters can be helped to write better

COLUMBIA, Md. — Black children may be able to increase their chances of acquiring and maintaining good basic writing skills at an early age if the stories of their families' members — both adults and youngsters — are used as instructional foundations, a black book publisher has concluded.

"I am convinced that if you ask black children to tell about their families — maybe a parent, a favorite grandmother, aunt, uncle, cousin or other relative or even a neighbor — someone with whom they are very familiar and view positively — they should be able to transfer these impressions to solid basic narrative. Such narrative can serve as the foundation for progressively stronger and better writing in the future," Paul F. Evans, the publisher of six books, said.

"But of course it is important to remember that there always have been many black children who did master basic writing skills early on and went on to become outstanding writers and journalists," Mr. Evans added.

"Almost all black children come from a family, whether it is the 'traditional' family or not. Why not ask them to write about what they know best: themselves or a family member — whether a child or an adult — about whom the child has an experience he desires to share with others?

"This has a beneficial effect. It teaches and reinforces that the child is 'somebody,' that he comes from something that is good, and that this good holds meaningful promise for the future. If this foundation is laid early, more and more youngsters should be able to bring a positive frame of reference to all of their school work, no matter what the course," said Mr. Evans. "A special program should be developed for this purpose."

Mr. Evans, 38, is Associate Managing Editor at the Baltimore Afro-American and president and publisher of C. H. Fairfax Company, which he founded in 1979.

Titles released by the company have included, **The Education of Black Children and Youths: Strategies for Excellence by Dr. Samuel L. Banks; I Am Somebody, I Am Me: A Black Child's Credo by Vivian E. Washington; The Griots' Cookbook by Mary Carter Smith, Elmira Washington, and Alice McGill; Consider God's Servant, Marion by Dorothy B. Bascom; and Heart to Heart by Mary Carter Smith.**

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