—Young

(Continued from Page 1

"This is a decision I made easily," Young said. "I am capable and prepared and need no on the job training," he continued.

Young told the audience of about 100 that he was the first black legislator in the state to chair a House Standing Committee.

He also said he submitted to Governor William Donald Schaefer a report on black and minority health after working 18 months on the Governor's committee to address that issue.

"I will be, if selected, the major spokesman for our district," he continued. "I will fight injustice and walk picket lines."

"There is a job to be done as state senator and I will do the job."

During the beginning of his term as Senator Young said he wanted to curb the drug problem in the area, visit all 65 neighborhoods and there were other activities Young wanted to accomplish. He said his priority tasks would be to alleviate unemployment, stop crime and control the drug epidemic.

"The state Senator of this district will have no tolerance with people dealing drugs," he said.

"I believe Larry is over qualified for the position," Delegate Ruth Kirk, D-39 said. "All we want to do is move forward and go on with the election."

After it was announced that Young would replace Mitchell as Senator for the district, Mable Payne, Young's mother said, "I knew he would be a Senator one day."

Young's appointment must be confirmed by Gov. Schaefer.

The committee is expected to meet soon to nominate a replacement for Young's House of Delegates seat.

—Funeral

(Continued from page 1)

Everytime I saw her with her friends, La-Tonya was always the first to smile and say, 'Hi, Miss Debbie.' "

La-Tonya was a very energetic girl who was active in various school and church activities friends said. The fifth grader's ultimate goal was to become a great dancer.

But, she, of course, will never be a dancer. Her goal was tragically cut short when she was attacked as she walked to her home in the 700 block of Druid Park Lake Drive from the Enoch Pratt Free Library on Pennsylvania Avenue last week.

La-Tonya's body was found in the 700 block of Newington Avenue on Feb. 2, a day after the attack.

The Medical Examiner's office said that she had died from multiple stab wounds and strangulation.

Police still don't have any clues or evidence in the case. But the AFRO has offered $500 and Metro Crime Stoppers and the Fraternal Order of Police have offered a combined $2,000 for information leading to the arrest of La-Tonya's killer.

"When I heard she was killed, I cried, said U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski. "La-Tonya sounded like she was a go-getter, that is why I cried. I also felt anger against the killer and all the things in this society that kills little girls and boys."

Betty Moe, a friend of the family, said La-Tonya's death will make parents over-protective with their children.

But, Rev. Eugene Belcher, pastor of the First Emmanuel Baptist Church who eulogized La-Tonya, said La-Tonya's senseless murder had a purpose.

"La-Tonya didn't die for nothing," Belcher said. "We are now with Christ; we can go through any tragedy. With this hope, we can tell the murderers and those who are doing crime that we are not afraid . . . and justice will prevail."

Belcher said family and friends should remember La-Tonya for her positive accomplishments in her brief life, not the way she was murdered.

Nine-year-old Holly Cruw, La-Tonya's best friend, said she will take the reverend's advice.

"I was always with her (La-Tonya)," Cruw said. "We did everything together; we had a lot of fun, too. I'm going to always remember the fun things we use to do."

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Lobbyists scrutinized

Hughes seeks to set example

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Senator Julian Lapides D-44 walked out of his office with a female lobbyist one day this week.

He shook her hand, said goodbye and they smiled at one another. The smile was about all Lapides ever takes from a lobbyist.

Lapides sees nothing wrong with talking with lobbyists in his office but he refuses to allow them to treat him to dinner, buy him a drink or contribute money to his election campaign.

But many legislators are treated to dinners and given large sums of money to enhance their campaign funds, according to Ricki Wadsworth, Executive Director of Common Cause, a legislative interest group.

"When lobbyists start wining and dining legislators and become major contributors to one's election campaign, one's objecivity is lost," Lapides said.

"By contributing I think they can influence your vote," the Senator continued.

Legialators are elected to represent their constituents but

Del. Ralph M. Hughes

many are instead, working for the lobbyists who pay them to vote their way on certain bills, asserted Lapides.

Lapides said he does not talk to most lobbyists and he also rarely attends receptions given by them.

The Baltimore State senator said most of his campaign money comes from family and friends. The rest comes from his constituents who believe in what he does, he remarked.

He prefers the lobbyists who meet with him in his office to talk with him.

"I don't like the ones who move down here (Annapolis) for 90 days and buy meals and drinks for legislators."

"Many of them are so fawning. I wish most legislators could see through it. But legislative egos are so fragile that they love the constant stroking that lobbyists provide them,"

Delegate Ralph Hughes D-40 also has adopted the policy of not accepting money or favors from lobbyists.

"In the past lobbyists have offered me money before the session started that I've returned to them."

Hughes said he attends receptions sponsored by the City of Baltimore when the entire Black Caucus of Baltimore delegation is invited but will not attend a dinner with a lobbyist by himself.

Lobbyists can help legislators raise money for campaigns but Hughes said their money can persuade legislators to vote the way the lobbyists want them to vote.

"Sometomes issues are close and you want to make sure of yourself that you are making the decision because of the facts. You don't know if you are making a subconscious decision because of favors given," he said.

Hughes said he adopted the policy of not accepting money from lobbyists because as a political science student he was always dissappointed with the influence special interest groups had on legislation.

According to an analysis of PAC contributions to candidates for state offices in 1986, Senator Laurence Levitan D.-Montgomery County received $38,840, the highest amount of PAC funding to a Senator and Gerald Winegrad D.-Anne Arundel County received nothing from PACS.

Of the five Black Senators, Nathan Irby D.-45 received $6,520, the highest amount of PAC funding while Senator Michael B. Mitchell D.-39 received $3,760, the lowest amount of PAC funds to a black Senator.

Lapides received $212 in PAC funding in 1986.

In the House of Delegates, Martha S. Klima R.-Baltimore County, received $21,038, the highest amount of PAC funding and both Ralph Hughes, D.-40, a black delegate and Gilbert Glenn D.-Montgomery County received no money for PACs.

Delegate Larry Young D.-39 received $14,667, the highest amount of PAC funding for a black delegate.

Hughes does not accept money from lobbyists or PACs because he wants to set an example for other black legislators.

"Many of the bills that pass throught this legislation can make people millionaires. The lobbyists work for these people and they do not mind spending money on the legislators," Hughes commented.

Under state law lobbyists can not spend more than $25 per day on meals or drinks for legislators, nor can they contribute more than $1,000 to an individual legislator's campaign funds for primary or general elections.

Lobbyist must file a disclosure report, outlining the value of gifts they give to lobbyists, which amount to $25 or more in a calendar day. But they only have to report the gift if the value of the gifts reaches $75 or more within a reporting period of six months.

In addition, lobbyists are not required to report the gifts if they are less than $25. The lesser gifts are also not counted towards the $75 mark.

Many lobbyists circumvent the state law law by contributing campaign funds under the name of a Political Action Committee, said lapides, Wadsworth and Hughes.

Many lobbyists work for Political Action Committees and give gifts or campaign contributions using the name of their PAC as the donator.

There is a limit to the amount of money an individual citizen, lobbyist or organization may contribute to a candidate but PACs may give unlimited sums of money to state legislators.

"It's a bad system for legislators because it is increasingly clear that if a PAC doesn't like the way a legislator votes, they can put their money together to find someone to run against them," Wadsworth explained.

"That scares legislators into giving in," she asserted. "You have to be brave not to accept the money because you could have unlimited funds working against you."

"It's like a poker game in that the players with the most money have the ability to drive the ante higher and knock the little players out of the game," she continued.

PACs have been a part of the political process in Maryland since 1976, when the state General Assembly adopted legislation making it legal for PACs to contribute an unlimited amount of funds to state or local candidates.

There are 23 states which have set limits on the amount PACs may contribute to legislators, according to Wadsworth. Five of those states adopted the law in 1986, she added.

In 1986 the top PAC contributors were the Realtors PAC of Maryland and the Maryland Business for Responsive Government who contributed $196,362 and $114,025 to the 1986 state political races, respectively.

PAC Contributions to candidates elected to state office in Maryland in 1986 totaled almost $1.3 million.

—Mike

(Continued from page 1)

The investigation, which was began last November by the Economics Crime Unit, revealed that the child nor his father, Barry Bethea, were notified of the insurance policies.

When Mr. Bethea learned of the insurance policies, he called City State's Attorney Stuart O. Sims.

Mitchell reportedly turned in copies of the phony documents in to two life insurance companies and was paid the benefits.

"It's regrettable that these events had to occur and regrettable that they occurred when they occurred," sims said. "But these are only allegations."

Mitchell's family and employees have not been linked to the scheme, Simms said.

"In my own judgment there is no case or matter that will subtract from the eminent contributions that Mitchell or his family have made in the state of Maryland," Simms said, almost apologetically.

Mitchell, whose senatorial seat will be replaced soon, is scheduled to be arraigned on March 10.

—Curfew

(Continued from page 1)

said police are more knowledgeable of students who violate school curfew.

Third District councilmen Joseph T. Landers and Martin E. Curran, First District councilman John A. Schaefer and Council President Mary Pat Clarke co-sponsored the bill.

A heavier penalty and fine would be applied upon merchants and store owners who violate the law, Cunningham said.

Police

(Continued from page 1)

ed her funeral at the First Emmanuel Baptist Church, little La-Tonya was buried at the Arbutus Memorial Park.

Currently, minors can be fined $15 to $100 and be imprisoned for no longer than 10 days. Store owners who violate the law can be fined $25 to $300 and face a maximum of no more than 15 days in jail.

During the Council's meeting, the legislators dedicated a moment of silence in memory of La-Tonya Wallace, whose brutal death has shaken the city.

More than 400 people attended the 11-year-old's funeral Tuesday evening at the First Emmanuel Baptist Church on Park Avenue.

Wallace, of the 700 block of Druid Park Lake Drive, was found dead in a Reservoir Hill alley. She died from multiple stabbings and strangulation, police said.

Police still have no clues or motive in the homicide.

Council President Clarke said she visited Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School, where Wallace attended, last week. She said she was asked by the children, "When will all of the killings end and we can be safe?"

The fifth grader and cheerleader was buried Wednesday at the Arbutus Memorial Park.

—Love

Continued from page 1

Wilbur retired on a Friday and the two left for Florida that Saturday.

Wilbur had never seen oranges hanging on trees before he went to Florida. To him it was a beautiful sight.

Louana saw the colorful feathers of a peacock for the first time.

"Oh it was the most beautiful thing," she said.

The Wright couple said their grandchildren are more like their children. They were elated to find out that their grandchildren were giving them a day of celebration at St. Marks Church on their anniversary.

"I rejoice because it was my oldest grandchildren who gave us this," Louana said. "We didn't put a penny in it."

"They wanted everybody to know that great day," Mable Dailey, their daughter said.

When asked what has kept them together for so many years, Wilbur said it was the "mercy of the Lord."

"We're both church people and the Lord was with us all the way for 60 years," said Louana.

Their advice to young couples is to "sit down and talk it out" when they started to argue.

"So many couple divorce these days because they marry for convenience," Louana said.

"If you marry for love you'll try to live together no matter what happens," she continued.

She also said young couples should attend church together every Sunday.

The Wrights have three children: Mable Dailey, 54, James Wright, 57, and Audrey Dailey, 51. They also have 24 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren.

NAACP BRANCH PROGRAM

The Maryland State Penitentiary NAACP Branch will hold a program in celebration of Black History Month at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 27. In late January, the group held a successful Jubilee Day Program. Dr. Calvin Burnett, the Rev. Benjamin Foust and Delegate Clarence Davis were featured speakers. John McDonald is president of the newly organized MSP Branch.

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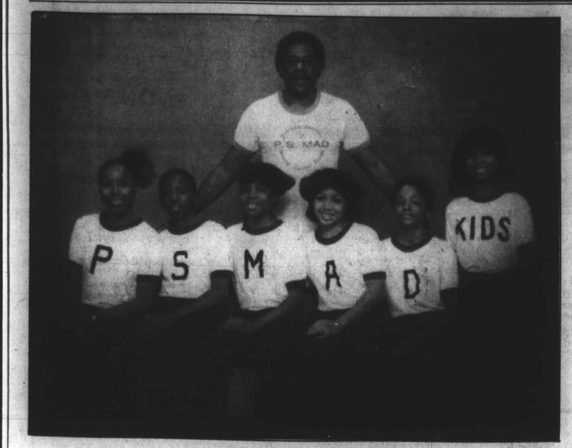

The PSMAD group gets ready for action.

Teen group fights drugs

By Don Collins
AFRO Staff Writer

Nathaniel Rice has experienced what he calls" the pitfalls" of life while living in the inner city of Baltimore.

Growing up in the 60's, Rice was a father at 16, dropped out of school, and frequently smoked marijuana.

"When you are exposed to the negative forces of life, like I was, you get involved with them," Rice said.

Today, Rice is dissuading youngsters from falling into the same trap he was caught in.

"My personal feeling is that someone who has experienced drug-use can help others better than those who haven't."

Through music, sketches and lectures, Rice and six children ranging from ages 10 to 13 inform youngsters about the ills of drugs and teenage pregnancy and the importance of staying in school.

Collectively, they are known as Parent and Students Against Drugs, or P S MAD.

Rice writes the skits and songs. Raymond Barton assists Rice in arranging the music.

"PS MAD's philosophy is for the generations to come," Rice said. In the last 20 years, there has been a 25 percent decrease in the number of persons smoking cigarettes because of the warning labels placed on the boxes. This program (PS MAD) can have the same effect. If PS MAD can deter children of today from abusing drugs, we will have healthy and responsible adults tomorrow."

Melessa Fisher, 12-year-old member of the group, is happy to be a part of the anti-drug group.

"I feel great about being in the group," Melissa said." I think I'm getting a message to the youth in the songs. If it gets through, people might stop taking drugs and stay in school."

Along with Fisher, the other cast members are, Bernell Bridges Otis Rich, both 13-years-old; Latonya Livers, 10 years-old; Yorel Pruitt, 12-years old; and Tracey Horne, 11-years-old.

"These kids are professional," Rice said. "They really enjoy performing and it shows."

Janice Rich, mother of Otis, maintained that the program is a success. "I feel good about the program," Rich said." I think it is getting to the kids."

An insurance man for American Income Life, Rice started the program in 1986. And it hasn't taken long for the program to be a hit locally.

The group has appeared on Evening Magazine, Maryland Public Television and have performed at both the State and City Fairs.

PS MAD performs at least two shows a month. And the youngsters shower the group with plaudits.

"Kids can hold other kids attention better than adults can," Rice said

Rice said PS MAD also touches adults.

"I have parents come up to me with tears in their eyes because they sense the importance of what we are trying to do," Rice said.

Rice is hoping he and the kids can get their message across in another medium, records. The troup has recorded two songs, "It's O.K. To Be Free Of Dope" and "It's Me Drug Free," both on the B-More record label.

"Can you imagine somebody giving an eight or nine year-older drugs?" Rice said. Drugs can ruin the potential Bryant Gumbel's and Kurt Schmoke's.

If you cut off the tentacles of drugs, you cut off the other problems of teenage pregnancy and high school drop-out."

Rice admitted that the program has also been a boon to him.

"The program has made me a better person," Rice said. "Once you wake up, all you want to do is start giving to others."

Some looking

(Continued from page 1)

Maya Acte' Boston, 23, is Miss Baltimore's Best, and a professional model and songstress. She has a B.A. degree in media from Loyola College and would ultimately like to achieve a successful career in the music industry and produce unknown talent. In her spare time. Mava likes to dance and play the saxophone. She seeks a mate who is warm, loving, honest, and taller than she is.

Randall Craig, 27, is a corporate attorney for Fugett & Hitchcock, specializing in mergers and acquisitions.

He is also a talented artust who enjoys horseback riding when he has the time. He would like to pursue more specialized areas of business law in the future.

Randy prides himself on being an articulate and effective communicator. His future mate will be "an old-fashioned girl with a strong sense of business." He hates "Wanna be's."

Robyn Russell, 28, is a graduate student at the Columbia University School of Architecture and Planning. She studied architecture at Howard University and graduated from the University of Baltimore.

Robyn enjoys caligraphy, cooking and dancing. She seeś herself eventually owning and operating a non-profit business specializing in developing low income housing.

Her winning smile and compassionate nature should make it easy for her to meet the men she is attracted to . . . men who are ambitious, open-minded and children-orientedd. Robyn dislikes unmotivated, non-committal men.

E. Bernard Justis, 26, is an attorney working in commercial litigation for Semmes, Bowen & Semmes.

He has a B.A. degree in Psychology from the University of Rochester and he attended the University of Maryland School of Law. Bernard feels he is understanding, objective and an "honest communicator."

Lawrence Bell

Lynne Jackson

He enjoys dining, dancing, sports and music. Bernard appreciates women who are feminine, independent and family-oriented. He dislikes passive, non-social women.

Lynne Jackson, 24, is a sales coordinator for Parks Sausage. She completed her undergraduate studies at the College of Notre Dame and is pursuing a master's degree in Education Administration and Supervision.

She is in the military and will soon be going on active duty as a second lieutenant in the Ordinance Branch of the Army. Lynn is a health enthusiast who enjoys eating good foods and exercising to keep fit.

Lynn is attracted to men who are confident, good-natured, disciplined and in shape. She hates "tired" men, meaning those who are inconsistent, immature and afraid of commitment. Lynn's best assets are her candor and energy.

Marty King, 24, is an accountant with his family's firm, King, Miller & King. He received his B.S. degree in accounting from the University of Maryland at College Park and wishes to become a CPA.

Marty sees a bright future for himself, one of financial stability, self-employment and successful business ventures.

He feels his best qualities are his dynamic personality and his easy-going nature. He is attracted to independent, goal-oriented women, and he is not interested in overly possessive, demanding women.

April Battle, 22, is a systems analyst for Westinghouse, and she is also the vice-president of Pat Battle & Associates consulting firm.

She is currently enrolled in the Information Technology graduate program at Johns Hopkins University.

She wishes to pursue a career in the field of corporate law. April is a patron of the arts. She also enjoys traveling and "living life to the fullest."

The men who catch April's eye are those who are grounded, cultured and well-educated. She has no interest in men who are insecure, inarticulate or uneducated.

City gives grants for homeless shelters

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

Home is where the heart is.

But for homeless shelters in Baltimore which serve as temporary homes for the homeless, finances often overburden the heart.

On Feb. 9 at the Watterson Career Center, located at Greenmount Avenue and 22nd Street, Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke awarded over $460,000 to 21 Baltimore shelters, to help curtail their financial burdens.

St. George Crosse, area manager for the Federal Housing and Urban Development Administration, joined Schmoke in the presentations.

The money, provided by federal and city governments, will be used for food, job counseling and operating costs.

Schmoke, 38, praised the federal government for contributing $391,000 to the shelters, under the Housing Act of 1987.

"Before we received these grants we were about 100 bids short from being able to meet emergency nightly needs . . . now we can find shelter for more than a thousand people a night," the mayor said.

"It's the bare bones, but we are able to provide a roof and a cot. Nothing else," he said.

The Fellowship of Lights, the House of Ruth, the Salvation Army, the Antioch Shelter, the Quarter Way Houses and the Midtown Churches among others received funding. The Springhill Apartments were awarded $107,000.

Rev. Crosse was optimistic about the funding for the shelters and hopes it will continue.

"It's just the beginning. Although we can't solve the problem with a one-time grant, we hope to (develop) something continuous," he said.

"This is great," said Larry Greene, director of Allyson House. His shelter received a $2,500 grant for operation expenses.

The mayor said he hopes the Housing Law will be an impetus for a permanent low-income housing development for low-income people.

He viewed the funding as a partnership between the community, non-profit organizations and federal and local governments.

"This was a blessing," said Antioch Shelter director, Pastor Joyce Galloway.

"Every bit in the pot helps." Antioch, a seven-year-old institution that houses 65 families, was awarded a $10,000 grant for operation costs.

AIDS center rejected

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

The Maryland Health Resources Planning Commission rejected on Tuesday Lutheran Health Care Corporation's four-month-old bid to open an AIDS treatment center in Ashburton.

"I'm happy, very happy," said Sarah F. Robins, an Ashburton resident who opposed the center. "The people didn't want it here."

Community opposition helped the state agency to refuse Lutheran's request to renovate the old Lutheran Hospital building into Maryland's first comprehensive Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome-care unit outside of a hospital setting.

In Lutheran's plan, 50 beds would have been allocated for AIDS patients and forty-seven beds would have been reserved for nursing home patients.

Health officials have been concerned that the increasing number of people contracting AIDS in the state will outweigh available settings for hospital and medical supervision.

Since 1981, 556 Marylanders have died from the incurable disease and 923 state residents have contracted AIDS.

Nationally, 28,683 Americans have died from AIDS, which weakens the human's immune system, the Health Education Resource Organization reported.

Residents in Ashburton were concerned that the sewage leaving from the AIDS facility would enter their basements and possibly contaminate them.

But physicians in Baltimore and at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga. claimed the AIDS virus could not be transmitted in sewage waste.

Edward M. Osborne, of the 700 block of Ashburton Street, said he was worried that the elementary and junior high school students near the facility would be tainted from the center's sewage.

"You would have an epidemic in Maryland," he said.

Annapolis Roundup

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

A person who bites another person would be required to have a sample of his bodily specimen tested if a Senate bill introduced by Sen. Edward Kasemeyer D-14 is passed.

The victim would also have to apply to a District Court for an order compelling the biter to submit to the test.

The Senate Finance Committee will hear this bill on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

— —

Del. Pete Rawlings D-40 introduced a bill which would require the Mass Transit Administration to allow Baltimore City students who have authorized identification cards to travel at no cost to and from their public schools.

The bill was heard yesterday by the House Ways and Means Committee.

— —

Del. Samuel I. Rosenberg D-42 introduced a bill creating a loan forgiveness program in the Maryland State Scholarship Board to encourage graduates with scholarship debts to accept lower-paying public interest or public sector jobs.

Individuals who take such jobs would pay a certain percentage of their income to end their financial aid obligations.

The legislation is modeled after existing programs at 13 law schools in the country, including Harvard and Columbia, but would not be limited to attorneys.

Maryland would be the first state to enact such a program.

To be eligible for the proposed loan forgiveness program a student must have received a degree within the last three years, be a resident of Maryland and be working in the public interest field. The loan must have been received from the college or university attended, or from an eligible lender under the guaranteed loan program.

— —

The Maryland School for Science and Mathematics bill which calls for the creation of a state school for gifted students in the math and science areas, will be discussed in committee next week.

The bill by President Mike Miller, Jr. D-27 calls for specifying the appointment of a Board of Trustees, the Board's powers and duties, the employment of a director and other staff for the school.

The bill which will be heard by the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on Feb. 19 will also exempt the school's education, administrative and professional employees from the Merit System Law.

— —

The minimum benefit for specified group health insurance contracts for outpatient visits to alcoholism treatment facilities will increase from $1,000 to $3,000 for any calendar year or benefit period if a Senate bill is passed.

The bill, which was introduced by Senators Lewis Riley R-Somerset and Edward Kasemeyer D-14, will be heard by the Senate Finance Committee today.

Del. James McClellan, D-Frederick and Washington Counties introduced a bill which would authorize the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide comprehensive dental care for indigent individuals.

The House Environmental Matters Committee will hear the bill on Feb. 16.

— —

If a person is 19, for the human immunodeficiency virus, a form of AIDS, or its antibody, they must consent to the testing and fill out a consent form, if a House bill proposed by Delegate Virginia Thomas D-Howard and Prince George's Counties is passed.

The bill also calls for maintenance of records, authorization of disclosures and confidentiality of test results. The Environmental Matters Committee will hear Thomas' bill on Feb. 17.

Mary Upsher funeralized at Trinity

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Upsher, 62, of Whittier Ave. in northwest Baltimore, died on January 31, at Deaton Nursing Medical Center.

Funeral services were held Feb. 4 at Trinity AME Church where she was a life-time member and served for years on the church's Stewardess Board, Missionary Society, Daughters of Allen, the Laymen's Bowling Club and the Trinity AME Bowling League.

A Baltimorean, Mrs. Upsher was the daughter of the late Frank and Irene Jackson. She was educated in the Baltimore City Public Schools and was a graduate of Douglass High.

For many years, she was employed at Hutzler's Department Store on Howard St. When she retired in 1985, she was employed by a downtown bank.

She was a charter member of the Trinity AME Bowling League and enjoyed the sport so much that even after illness prevented her from participating she joined the Friday evening gatherings and served as treasurer.

She was a charter member of Camp Mohawk Mothers, the YMCA camp group, now known as the Camp King's Landing Service Club which founded and co-sponsors the annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Dianna I. Jones and Miss Clarice Upsher; two sisters, Mrs. Audrey Giddins and Mrs. Dorothy Rich and a granddaughter, Sabra D. Spears.

SCHOOL NEWS

Morgan presents New York play

The Cultural Arts Series at Morgan State University will present the world premiere of ZORA and LANGSTON by Laurence Holder on Thursday evening, Feb. 18 at 8:00 p.m. in the Little Theatre, Murphy Fine Arts Center Morgan State University.

The public is invited to attend free of charge.

ZORA and LANGSTON is a comedic love drama based on the relationship between Zora Neal Hurston and Langston Hughes.

Holder's work has been performed by such actresses and actors as Phylicia Rashad, Denzel Washington and Mary Alice. His plays have generated critical acclaim from publications such as the NEW YORK TIMES, ESSENCE MAGAZINE, ENCORE MAGAZINE and THE AMSTERDAM NEWS.

The play is directed by New York Director Bette Howard, original music both thematic and incidental by Dianaruthe Wharton, whose works are included in the International Broadway Hit "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf" and the Premiere Album of "Sweet Honey in The Rock," will be featured.

Cast of New York professional actors and actresses will perform the play. Samuel Foster will play Langston Hughes and Willie Ann Gissendanner will play Zora Neal Hurston.

A workshop on Zora and Langston will be conducted for area High School and college students in The Little Theatre at Morgan at 11 a.m. Feb. 18.

The tour operates under the auspices in The Little Theatre at Morgan at 11 a.m. Feb. 18.

The tour operates under the auspices of O'seki Production Ltd. for the A.E.L.O. Music Group.