7-Eleven

(Continued from Page 1A)

majority of 7-Eleven franchises" in the area, said Kathleen Callahan-Guion, Capitol Division Manager.

The proposal that they gave us was not worth the paper it was written on," said James (J. R.) Ransom, spokesman for the Capitol Alliance, a newly formed organization of the Baltimore, Washington, Virginia and Minority Franchise Owners Associations.

"Their offer was garbage and it does not address our concerns," Ransom said. "It was much worse than we expected."

After hearing a reading of the highlights of the report the franchisees left the meeting room and held a closed door session in a nearby hotel room they had reserved after opting not to meet in a conference room offered by Southland.

"The Alliance members then returned to the Southland offices for further discussion. Once back at the meeting it was asked of the franchisees by the Alliance if they were helped or happy with the report in any way, shape or form and the response was a unanimous no," Ransom said.

"I guess I'm a little disappointed that we weren't able to have a dialogue on the issues of the report," Callahan-Guion said. "They gave us a response and a reaction before they even read the report.

Ransom says that the Alliance first left the room at approximately 4 p.m. and asked for a copy of the report to study while they met. "They wouldn't give us one," Ransom said. Ransom said, that the group found out later than Southland had given a copy of the report to a reporter at 1:30 p.m.

"They never really said, 'can you go get the report,'" Callahan Guion said. We left and when we got back with the report they had gone."

When the Alliance returned they challenged S. Richmond Dole, Executive Vice-President, Stores Group, the ranking representative of the Dallas, Texas based Corporation to meet with them for further discussion on the "Urban Stores" issue. Dole said he would contact the franchise representative by today with a time for a next meeting.

But Ransom feels the time for closed door meetings may be passed. "Our first step was to show them that we are in unity and we did," Ransom said. "We are going to have meetings all this weekend to decide when to make our next move. We already know what it is we just have to decide when to put it into action.

When asked about the next step Ransom said: "We are going to declare war on Southland. We are going to be enlisting the help of black community and other organizations to get the message out to the public that Southland is not the good neighbor they intend to be."

"I left a corporate job that I was with for 21 years, hoping to sell a few 'Slurpees' and a few 'Big Gulps' and live happily ever after," Ransom said.

"But I've never been involved in so much turmoil in my life and it's all because of that Texas Greed," he said.

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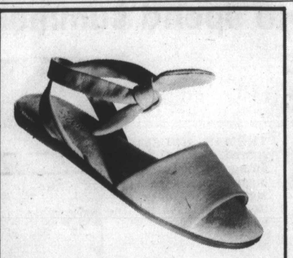

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Competition draws cream of the crop

Gospel greats flock to city

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

The last of four free concerts in the semi-final round of the sixth Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Competition in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. is scheduled in Washington, D.C. at the Metropolitan AME Church this evening.

Inter-city competition in Baltimore was held at the New Shiloh Baptist Church, 823 W. Lanvale St., on Monday and then Tuesday at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1501 E. Oliver St. A total of 33 area choirs, ensembles and soloists represented the gospel artists of Baltimore.

The winners for both Baltimore and Washington will be selected by Monday, June 20.

Four winners will be chosen from both areas filling the four categories: choir, ensemble, male soloist, and female soloist.

The final competition is scheduled for Sunday, July 10 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

The chief judge will be Archie L. Buffkins, Ph.D, producer and director of Cultural Diversity Affairs with the Kennedy Center. Other panelists will be well-known gospel artists from Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Kentucky Fried Chicken will award a total of $12,000 to finalists' churches: $2,000 dollars each to grand-prize winners' churches, and $1,000 each to churches of runners-up. Each finalists will receive a trophy.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

GOD IS GOOD — Sylvia Hardison, of St. Francis Xavier Church, lifts the Songs of Zion at the Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Series.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

LIFTING HOLY HANDS — Wynona Harley of the Greater Lighthouse Church lifts her hands to the Lord as she lifts her voice in praise.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH — The Melodies of Truth of Sharon S.D.A. Church bring the gospel in song.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

LIFT HIM UP — It's all about lifting up the name of Jesus. Free Spirit of Baltimore of St. Paul United Methodist Church does a good job of it.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

MEN PRAISE GOD — The men in The Sounds of Praise, of Berea Temple S.D.A. Church, show that it's allright for men to open up their heart, lift up their voice and give praises to the Lord.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

PERSONAL REFLECTION — Rhondalla Ellina Nicholson, of Pentecostal Holiness Church, projects feeling and conviction as she opens her mouth to sing about the goodness of the Lord.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

IT'S ALLRIGHT — Free Spirit of Baltimore, of St. Paul United Methodist Church, sings with expression, because they know it's allright to praise the Lord.

AFRO photo by Paul A. Greene

BLESS THE LORD — The Adlner Bagley Crawley Youth and Young Adult Choir of St. Paul Baptist Church show young people praising the Lord while you are young is cool.