## COMMUNITY LIVING

# HUD official calls for open housing law

By St. George Crosse
Special to the AFRO

Recently, Mayor Kurt Schmoke and a majority of the Baltimore City Council passed legislation to amend the anti-discrimination ordinances of Baltimore City. The ordinance, as amended, creates various civil rights for homosexuals and lesbians. Regardless of the need or value of the "Gay Rights Bill," there is still work for the Mayor and Baltimore City Council to do in the area of discrimination.

Hampden, a community unto itself, has brought to the forefront the need for an anti-discrimination housing law in Baltimore City. During the past 18 months, on at least two occasions, minority race members have attempted to locate in the Hampden community.

Due to vestiges of racism, discrimination, bigotry, and other warped beliefs, there are still those within the Baltimore community at large who do not accept open housing as the law. However, Baltimore City is not alone. In many other major cities across America, racial, ethnic and religious intolerance is the norm.

During this year, 1988, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is commemorating the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the National Fair Housing Law, commonly known as Title VIII, Civil Rights Act of 1968 as amended.

Title VIII makes it illegal to discriminate in housing on the basis of sex, color, race, creed or religion.

The federal law is used throughout America to promote open and fair housing. It is used to remove and eliminate existing barriers that prevent people from living in a community of choice.

Inevitably, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other federal agencies were called into action because the locality lacked legal authority to do anything.

Many big cities, like Baltimore, have local fair housing laws. The local statutes are meaningful and become a useful tool to encourage, as well as promote, fair housing.

In local jurisdictions, with fair housing ordinance, incidents of discrimination ususally decrease. Moreover, real estate professionals and the community in general become more cognizant of the consequences of discrimination.

In May 1988, the Mayor and Baltimore City Council took a quantum leap (whether) it was the right step or not), in passing a "Gay Rights Bill." It is now time to further amend the Baltimore City Code and make housing discrimination a part of the law.

In my opinion, the present law governing discrimination is incomplete.

What difference will it make if a person earns a million dollars and remains shut out of the community of choice?

It is known that a fair housing provision will meet some opposition. But it is never too late to do the "right-thing." If Baltimore is to be best and serve as the "All American City," then the time is now, and it is right, to enact a fair housing law.

Of course, the old adage, "A man's home is his castle," may have some merit. But a person should be free to live in a "castle," wherever located, as long as the price of the castle is paid. The price to be paid should not be taunting, police guards, and barbed windows to prevent hurled rocks and pellets.

Another generation should not have to grow up in Baltimore City without a fair housing law. Not another decade should pass without the enactment of a fair housing law.

The Baltimore City Council should not convene and go into another session without a commitment to introduce and pass a fair housing law.

My hope is that the citizens of Baltimore City will rally together and work to pass a genuine civil rights measure to benefit all people.

The recent Hampden horror is a nightmare. Every family or individual should be free to rent or buy — just live — in the community of choice. If Baltimore City is truly to become a city of neighborhoods, then its leaders should pass a fair housing law.

## LIGHT FOR ALL

LIGHT TIME—Mary R. Parrish and George B. Ford of West Baltimore show their gratitude to Mayor Schmoke after street lights were installed in their community near Appleton and Lanvale Streets. Residents of the area had protested earlier about the dark streets of their community.


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*1988 Sportside Pickup pictured above

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ROP-88-4036


# Fire commissioners seek infirmary changes

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

A Baltimore City Fire Board Commissioner, upset by the horror stories firefighters tell about not receiving prompt medical treatment, has asked for reforms in the department's infirmary.

Commissioner Richard Jamison, after listening to three firefighters testify on June 14 at a fire board meeting downtown, discuss the maltreatment they suffered at the infirmary, said the fire department "needs to make some changes in our procedures and the way we treat our people."

Apparently, the infirmary headed by Edward O. Hunt, has had problems with personnel "goldbricking" or pretending to be ill and getting a doctor's permission in order to be placed on medical leave.

But Jamison contends, "People are perceived as goldbrickers without being examined, evaluated or touched."

During the two hour meeting, veteran firefighter Edward J. McCarthy complained to the board that neither Dr. Hunt nor a paramedic had examined his side after allegedly injuring himself while on duty recently.

"Dr. Hunt failed to examine me. I could have had a busted appendix," McCarthy said.

"No one examined me until I told (a paramedic) to tell Hunt to get in his car and come and examine me" added McCarthy.

But the doctor said he did examine McCarthy and after taking his temperature and blood pressure, determined McCarthy had tenderness of the abdominal muscle. McCarthy was placed on limited duty.

"The problem is whether or not an injury is related to the job," the doctor said. "He came into the infirmary and was evaluated by a paramedic... The evalulation by the paramedic was excellent. There was no sign of injury."

"If we have a system that is not in effect providing the kind of medical care we should, then we're going to change the system," Jamison said.

"We're trying to see if there are problems and if we can correct them," David L. Glenn, the board president said.

Many of the firefighters complained about industrial medicine versus personal medicine.

Arnold Reynolds, member of fire department, said, "I would always seek my personal physicians no matter what."

Jamison compared the kind of treatment offered to paramedics at the infirmary like an "airplane mechanic sending an airplane out without testing the engine and knowing this engine has had engine troubles."

After the meeting, Hunt, who has been with the medical office for 14 years, said, "The statements made by the board were made to attempt to find answers. But the statements made by individuals were made on the basis of perception of their treatment."

The doctor said he does not believe there is a problem.

"If there was problem, a significant number of people would have come. This is only three individuals out of 2,000," said Hunt.

"This is an isolated case," Hunt said.

### Retirment transfer deadline extended

There is an extension of the election period for those wishing to transfer from the civil service retirement system to the federal employees retirement system. Transfers are being accepted through June 30.

This opportunity is available to federal employees who missed the December 31, deadline due to the unavailability of information or other circumstances beyond their control.

Choosing the right retirement plan is an extremely important decision for all workers. Congressman Mfume encourages all federal employees who wish to take advantage of this extension period to contact their respective personnel offices as soon as possible.



## ARTS AND LEISURE

# Bearden, artists on display

By Carrington Bonner
AFRO Correspondent

Amid the emptiness of the old Annapolis High School, the Maryland Hall of Creative Arts has set up shop.

This great idea of using classrooms for art studios, opera training, Ballet Theatre of Annapolis, Photo studios and workshops is currently highlighted by the Cardinal Gallery's powerful art show, PIECES OF A PICTURE: Work by American and South African Black Artists.

Ten artists are represented in this colorful retrospective including the late great Romare Bearden whose three colorful lithographs dominate one side of the Gallery. His "Open Door" which gives off mysterious quality of life, is the most interesting.

Florita Greene and Johnnie Rowel are Annapolis natives whose works span universal themes of blackness.

Both are represented by pencil drawings from provocative pictures. Greene's Miles Davis' portrait taken from Davis' award-winning TUTU album, captures the sharp features and piercing eyes of the legendary Jazz composer/musician.

Rowel's drawings are described by curator Mary Hildreth as "seeking out the roots" of his people, something that sorely needs to be done in black Annapolis.

On the right side of the gallery South Africa's Hargreaves Ntukwame's circular motions hit you far away as well as close up.

The untitled paintings are dominated with red tones surrounded by dark colored backgrounds.

E. Mandla Sibanda shows us the pulse of the youth in South Africa. The paintings describes in detail the courage of the children.

One is reminded through the crayon/pastel creations of children running, fists raised, to their death or toward freedom. Fire is everywhere in his paintings.

Lungile Phambo's "A Stitch in Time" and "A Painstaking Journey" reflects the contrast of tribal versus modern times. There is a definite "Dali Effect" in his work. Daniel Phaladi's sculptures give a testament to honor and remember the dead.

John Nelson, a Suitland, Maryland artist shows us the intensity in "The Sharecropper" on the faces pondering their fate.

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.. Call 301-263-5544 for information.

BEARDEN PRIZE — "Quilting Time," by Romare Bearden, is one of the paintings on display at the art show.

# Midtown Tennis Club looking to get city folks into rackets

By Fred Lindsey
AFRO Sports Writer

"They only need to show an interest," is the way Carroll Scroggins, president of Mid-Town Tennis Club assessed what he sees as the requirement for interested persons to join the tennis club.

Neatly tucked away at North and Denison, in Leakin Park, the Mid-Town Tennis Club is bidding to become more visible to its community and the City at large.

Currently in the midst of an in-house tournament, the ultimate hope is to become more serviceable and to give each member an enjoyable activity.

"We are one of about five black tennis clubs in the City," Scroggins said, "and our aim is to attract new members with a sense of purpose. We must think of others as well as our community."

Established eleven years ago, the mostly adult tennis club had as many as a hundred members. In recent years, Mid-Town has dwindled to a "hard core" of 28, but the outlook for an increased membership looks very bright.

"We just got three new members," Scroggins said enthusiastically "and the prospects for more members looks good. Over the years, many of our past participants were what I consider tennis buffs and they simply lost interest in the game. We hope to reverse that trend and give players a reason for being here. If you are committed to playing or helping kids play tennis, then, Mid-Town is the place for you."

Complete with tennis pro, Jim Bland, a Dunbar product, who has played professionally for several years, Mid-Town has set its sights on wht it wants for the future.

"We'll have a better handle on our membership by September," Scroggins said, "to get a feeling of where we are. We want the club to grow."

"We want to expand the youth program," continued Scroggins, "and we think we can do that without any problems. We are going to provide continuous lessons for all beginners. We will have a fundraiser at the Regatta and we hope to buy land so that we can play on our own tennis court, but most importantly, we want the City to know about the Mid-Town Tennis Club."

As with many tennis clubs, Mid-Town plays year round and it offers many other attraction to its membership.

"In the Winter, we play at the Green Spring Racket Club and we are generally there until the first of May," Scroggins said. "In fact, we used to give tennis parties there, but stopped four years ago. However, as a closely-knit organization, we participate in many tennis activities. Every year, we visit the U.S. Open in New York and the Washington Star Tournament in Washington, D.C., but the thrust of all our efforts is to have young and old come play tennis with us."

### Hospital Seeks Junior Volunteers

The Union Memorial Hospital is looking for junior volunteers age fourteen and older for its summer program. The program starts in June when summer vacation beings and runs through the end of August.

Junior volunteers work one day per week in areas such as physical therapy, recovery, the canteen, pediatrics, social work, community relations, the clinics, medical records, the gift cart and other departments. Contact Elaine Piccoli in Volunteer Services at 554-2507.

### Life enrichment program seeks volunteers

Volunteers are being sought by the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education Life Enrichment program to visit nursing home residents. The purpose of the program is to improve the quality of life for residents by encouraging community involvement.

Following completion of a two hour training course, volunteers will be matched with residents who have similar interests. Volunters will be asked to read, write letters, participate in recreational activities and take residents on trips, when feasible. A training session is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st at 7 p.m. Call 396-1762.


Check Our Church Directory
In The Late City Edition

SHARON BAPTIST CHURCH
Stricker and Presstman Streets
Baltimore, Md. 21217
61st Annual Men's Day
Theme: Christian Men United To Face A Challenging World
Sunday, June 26, 1988
11:00 A.M.

Speaker:
DR. RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY
The West Hunter Street Baptist Church
Atlanta, Ga.
Dr. DARRELL M. GRAY, General Chairman
TRUSTEE NATHANIEL W. REDD, Co-Chairman
DR. ALFRED C. D. VAUGHN, Pastor

Saturday Morning: June 25, 1988
DYNAMIC PRAYER BREAKFAST
CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH
5204 Liberty Heights Ave.
Men's Day '88 Committee
presents
HARLOW FULLWOOD
Businessman & Civic Leader
On: "BOOTSTRAP STRATEGY: GOD PLUS EFFORT"
Trio: "Mincey, McFadden, & Smith"
Dr. Matthew L. Jones, Pastor — No Admission
JUNE 26:
MEN'S DAY SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Rev. AFLOYD BUTLER
Calvary Baptist Church, Chicago
June 26: 4:00 P.M.
Rev. Richard Dickens
of New Metropolitan Baptist Church
Concord is at 5204 Liberty Hghts. Ave.

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Patterson Park
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