# Local airports show increase in number of travelers

The number of travelers using the area's three airports has nearly doubled in five years, with most of the growth coming at Baltimore-Washington International and Dulles International airports, a regional survey revealed.

The Council of Governments survey states the total annual air passengers arriving and departing from BWI, Dulles and national airports has risen 88 percent from 18.8 million in 1982 to 35.4 million in 1987.

"The increase as not only a large change in volume, but a change in how we use the region's three airports", said COG official Jon Williams, who helped coordinate the survey of 19,000 area travelers.

For example, BWI, in Linthicum, Md., and Dulles, in Chantilly, Va., had a 31 percent combined share of regional air travel in 1982, but as of last year that share had grown to 56 percent.

The most important reason cited by air travelers for choosing one airport over another was access.

In the 1982 study, about 49 percent chose an airport because it was either closer or easier to reach. In 1987, four out of five passengers surveyed said favorable accessibility was their chief reason for using an airport.

Previous studies had shown quality of air service from the airport to be a more important criterion.

National still is the first choice of most area travelers. About 45 percent of the region's originating passengers preferred National, compared to 21 for Dulles and 22 for BWI. Twelve percent had no preference.

One of the most surprising revelations of the survey, Williams said, was that National Airport has a higher percentage of passengers reaching the facility by rail than any other airport in the United States.

The percentage of area travelers using Metrorail to get to National in Arlington has increased from 9 percent to 15 percent since 1982.

Williams said that as "far and away" a higher percentage that Chicago's O'Hare International, which follows with 6.5 percent of passengers using rail for airport access.

Richard Lockwood, a Virginia Department of Transportation official, said he believes the growth of the region's airports reflects the Washington area's economic growth. He added that regional transportation official must continually plan for future growth.

"It just suggests a need for good coordination of the ground transportation to serve the three airports', Lockwood said.

The number of travelers who said they use cars to reach National Airport has decreased significantly since 1982, when 59 percent drove to the facility. The most recent survey shows now only 43 percent arrive by car.

"I'm just delighter to hear the findings," said Beverly Silverberg, spokswoman for Metro."

THE DISTRICT'S FINEST — Phelps Career Development Center students (from left) Maurice O'Neal and Sydney Moore, both of Washington, D.C., under the instruction of Edward Torrence,competed, in the national finals of the 1988 Plymouth AAA TroubleShooting Contest in Washington, D.C. Representing the District of Columbia, the Phelps automotive technology students compete against two-member teams from all states and the District of Columbia in written and hands-on competitions that test the students' knowledge of automotive technology. National Trouble Shooting contestants are vying for scholarships, money and other awards and prizes.

REWARD — Ed Comb, IBM external programs manager (left and Brendan Dawson, IBM regional manager (right) discuss pitching techniques with Daniel Harris, a student at Garnet-Patterson Junior High, and his mother Cynthia Harris as the Baltimore Orioles' bird listens in the background. Daniel was the lucky student chosen to throw out the first ceremonial pitch at Saturday's Baltimore Orioles' game against the Boston Red Sox. IBM teamed up with the Orioles to treat 1,000 seveth graders from the D.C. public schools to the Orioles' game. The students were recognized for their positive academic attitudes and community leadership. Before the game the students attended a kick-off breakfast at the University of the District Columbia. By the end of the baseball season, IBM, Major League Baseball, and school districts across the United States, will have rewarded a total of 28,000 students.

## Pack Your Bags
### Conference Update

**Editor's note: As a regular service to the community, this Conference Update column will list upcoming events of interest. Unless so noted all conferences take place in Washington, D.C.**

**Organizations or businesses wishing to have their conference listed should write to the AFRO-AMERICAN — PACK YOUR BAGS, 2002 11th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.**

* * * *

*American Federation Of State, County And Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO*

The convention will hear a number of speakers from the political arena and experts on "jobs and family" issues. Scheduled to address the AFSCME convention are: Michael Dukakis, Jesse Jackson, Sen. Edward Kennedy, Congressman George Miller, Marion Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund, United Farm Workers' President Cesar Chavez and Congressman Barney Frank of Mass.

**June 20-24**
**Los Angeles, California**
**For more information, call (202) 429-1000.**

* * * *

*United States Catholic Conference*

The Catholic bishops will hold their spring meeting soon. Items on the agenda are the report of the Bishops' Committee on Deterrence, the report of the Assessment Committee for the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America and Catholic Communications Campaign, and a discussion of the draft of the pastoral on women's concerns.

**June 24-27**
**John's University**
**Collegeville, Minnesota**
**For more information call (202) 659-6700**

* * * *

*The National Association Of Minority Contractors*

The National Association of Minority Contractors Board of Director and the Contractors Association of Boston, Inc. will have two major contractors; David Perini, president of the Perini Corporation and Norman Leventhall, chairman of the Beacon Companies will be joining John B. Cruz, president of the Cruz Construction Company as co-chairperson of the conference.

**June 22-25**
**Boston, Massachusetts**
**For more information, call (617) 427-6222.**

* * * *

*Push Inc.*

Highlighting the three-day educational extravaganza will be the Democratic presidential contender, Reverend Jesse Jackson, founder of Operation PUSH, delivering a major "State of the Nation" address.

They will feature a panel of educators, students, parents and clergy. Rainbow Coalition Workshop will also be featured.

**June 26-29**
**Rosemont, Illinois**
**For more information, call (3120 373-3366.**

* * * *

*National Naval Officers Association*

The conference theme is "Education, Leadership and Professionalism: A Realization of the Dream."

**July 6-10**
**Atlanta, Georgia**
**For more information, call (404) 347-2101.**

# Consumer warning issued in credit card scam

Have you received an out-of-state post card or phone call informing of a fabulous prize you have been selected to receive?

If so, Maryland's Commissioner of Consumer Credit warns, you may become victimized by a cruel credit card scam underway in many states, including Maryland.

According to Consumer Credit Commissioner Alan T. Fell, the pitchman's spiel usually begins with an innocuous question or two. For example, "Do you usually take a summer vacation?" or "Do you believe in good nutrition for yourself and your family?" What often follows are attempts to verify your address or to get the correct spelling of your name, or the mentioning of a "claim number."

You are now ready for that crucial question - "Do you have a major credit card?" If you say "yes", the next question most likely will be, "What is your account number?" If you give this number, over the telephone, to a complete stranger, you may find yourself receiving merchandise you do not want, a promise of some unneeded service, a discount certificate for a vacation deal you will never use, or a charge for something you never received.

In all cases, your credit card bill will contain charges you did not expect.

In some variations of the "post card" scheme, the Maryland resident may even have to make a long distance phone call at his/her own expense to receive the pitchman's spiel. In one case coming to the attention of both state and federal authorities, the customer's "prize" was a "geniune fur coat."

It turned out to be a rabbit pelt, not a fur. Despite complaints, the charge on your credit card bill may stand.

In recent months, the Maryland Commissioner of Consumer Credit has received consumer complaints about credit card charges for vitamins, junk jewelry, discounts on tax services, vacation discounts, and other items of questionable value. Some of the complaining consumers had received merchandise and not returned it, believing they had to pay the inflated price to avoid legal consequences.

In most cases, the office of Consumer Credit has had the charges removed from the consumer's account. But while the disputed items remained on the bills, consumers did not have full use of the cards' credit limit.

You can avoid becoming a credit card victim by following a few simple rules:

• Only give your credit card number to a person you are sure will use it as you intend it to be used (for example, when you are calling a reputable mail order firm to place an order, or phoning a charity to make a donation).

• Never give your credit card number to anyone who has called you on the phone without your request.

• Be certain you fully understand what your card number is going to be used for, the amount that will be charged, and what you will receive, before giving out your card number.

• If you think an offer sounds "too good to be true," it usually is.


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## COMMUNITY LIVING

# Blacks in Wax coming back

By Catrice Greer
AFRO Correspondent

The Great Blacks in Wax the only one of its kind in Maryland, was once a storefront propriety on Saratoga Street. Now the museum claims a new residence.

Through the cooperation of the city, a former fire station at 1601 E. North Avenue is under renovation and will serve as a new home for the museum.

In addition to a location change, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum is also constructing new strategies that will increase their public appeal.

The Great Blacks in Wax Museum plans to promote four major programs that will serve to educate and entertain the public.

Student enrichment programs that offer internships and organized student events will be held to further educate students about Black History.

Through the support of school systems, more than 2,500 students have participated in the student enrichment program.

In conjunction with the Office of Promotion and Tourism, there will be organized group tours for local groups and nationwide organized groups.

Through this program transportation will be provided for groups touring the main historic points of Baltimore.

During holidays such as, Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, unveilings of new wax figures will be a focal event at the museum.

"We are appleaing to groups who want to underwrite the cost of wax figures," said Tulani Salahu-Din.

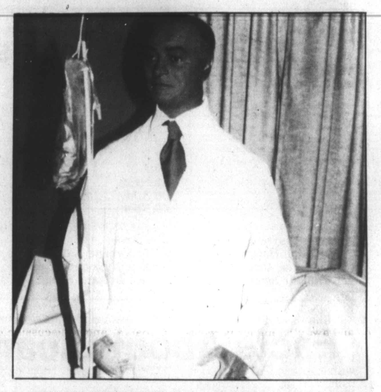
Corporations and organizations are encouraged to sponsor the cost of wax figures. Specifically, organizations such as AME Church sponsored the construction of a wax figure of the founder of their church, Bishop Richard Allen.

Currently, Great Blacks in Wax Museum has aquired seventy new wax figures for unveiling including Marcus Garvey, Carter B. Woodson, James Baldwin, Mary Elizabeth Lang, Ida B. Wells, Langston Hughes, and Martin Delaney.

The purpose of the great Black Museum is to signify the contributions blacks have given to civilization.

The tentative date for the Great Blacks in Wax Museum grand opening is September 2, 1988 at the North Avenue location.

SCOUT—Jim Beckworth, who blazed a trail to the West through the Sierra Nevadas.



MEDICAL PIONEER — Dr. Charles Drew, the black man who developed plasma as a source for blood transfusions.

SCIENCE LEADER — Dr. George Washington Carver, scientific genius from Tuskegee Institute.

# Foster parents honored at banquet

By Catrice Greer
AFRO Correspondent

June 17, 1988 marked the First Annual Recognition Banquet for Foster parents at La Fontaine Rouge located at 3514 Belair Road.

This affair was sponsored by the Justice Resources Inc. and Juvenile Services Agency.

The banquet was an appreciation function to award foster parents for opening their homes and extending love to foster children in need of a stable and loving family environment.

In addition, the banquet also served as an effective way to recruit additional foster parents.

Those who attended were a mixture of first-year foster parents and foster parents who have been welcoming foster children into their homes for a maximum of seventeen years.

Awards were presented in recogniton of foster parents and their services. The accreditation of these awards stemmed from the foster parents' involvement with training sessions, being a foster parent who has extended a sizable number of years of service to foster child care or simply being a foster parent.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Senator Larry Young. Eddie Harrison, president of the Justice Resources Inc.; Ben Jones, Deputy Director of Juvenile Service agency; Minnie Saunders, foster parent and Dawn Grisson, former foster child were also speakers highlighting the evening.

MEMORANDUM FOR CARING — President of the Justice Resources, Inc., Eddie Harrison displays one of the many awards presented to the foster parents at the appreciation banquet. (L to R) Eddie Harrison, President, Justice Resources Inc.; Minnie Saunders, foster parent; Ben Jones, Deputy Director — Juvenile Services Agency.

UNITY PREVAILS — (L to R) Foster parent, Audrey Monroe; program Director, Edith Smith; President of the Justice Resources Inc., Eddie Harrison and Statewide coordinator of foster programs, Andrea Savage.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Larry Young addresses the congregation of foster parents at the banquet. (L to R) Chuck Wilkenson, administrator of special programs, JSA; Pat Hanigan, Resource Consultant-Juvenile Services Agency; Dawn Grisson — former foster child; Minnie Saunders, foster parent; Larry Young, State Senator; Rev. James Wooten; Edith Smith, Program coordinator, Justice Resources Inc.; Eddie Harrison, President, Justice Resources Inc.

# City water safe to drink

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

A popular joke among foreigners before entering other countries is "Do not drink the water."

When those foreigners come here, Baltimore has a message: "Drink our water."

Recently, Baltimore under the direction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, conducted led tests in the city's water supply and found only 0.005 parts per million of lead, said James L. Kapplin, public information officer for the Department of Public Works.

The level in the city is 10 times lower than the EPA's standard, 0.050 parts per million, the public information officer said.

The public works department has issued public notices in the AFRO and the *Baltimore Sun* newspapers, from June through August, to notify the public of the presence of lead in the water.

EPA has required American water suppliers to issue similiar notices across the nation, as an amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986.

Lead, found in paint and pottery also, can cause brain, kidneys and nervous system damanges. Lead is particularly harmful to children and pregnant women.

Kapplin said there is no need for Baltimoreans to worry about getting lead from public water.

"Baltimore's water has always been very low in lead," he said. "The amount has been insignificant."

However, Kapplin said, "Lead is a problem, but lead in water is not."

If lead is in the water, it comes from people's homes, Kapplin said.

George Balog, director of public works, said in a prepared statement, that the major source of lead poisoning in water comes from home plumbing, in which lead pipes react to tap water.

"To minimize exposure, we advice our customers to flush the cold water faucet before using. Allow the water to run until it gets as cold as it will get before each use . . . two to three minutes," said Balog.

For any information on lead testing contact the Water Quality Section of the Bureau of Water and Waste Water at 396-LEAD.

JERMAINE GARDNER, with his mother, Jacqui Kess-Gardner, is delighted with the rebuilt 1911 Stieff grand piano donated to him by the Baltimore Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild. Guild members include, left to right, Frederick Bath, Frederic Hickman, David Hughes, Preston Hutt, William Motsko, John Farrell, Christie Cornetta, and Michael Vecchione.

# Piano presented to prodigy

By Deborah Quinerly
AFRO Correspondent

Jeremaine Gardner and his family have a lot to cheer about.

Not only has he overcome his visual impairment with exceptional musical talent, at five-years old he has already played with Stevie Wonder and appeared on several television programs across the country.

But recently, Jermaine received what assuredly is one of the most beautiful gifts of all—a rebuilt 1911 Steiff grand piano from the Baltimore Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild.

Along with David Hughes, the project chairman and 16 other Guild members, 700 hours were spent on the piano rebuilding, beginning in September. The work was divided among the members in eight different teams, each team doing a different aspect of the piano's rebuilding process, according to the teams particular expertise.

The basic purpose of the Piano Technicians Guild, a professional organization, is the tuning, rebuilding and repairing of pianos.

Christie Cornetta, a Guild member and spokesperson for the group, said Jermaine has been brought to their attention by a member. In their quest for help members of the Baltimore community and to make Baltimoreans aware of the group's existence, the idea of presenting Jermaine with a piano was suggested and unanimously accepted by the group, and the rebuilding project was started.

But the first obstacle the Guild tackled was locating an acceptable piano.

A Stieff piano was chosen because the Steiff Piano Company has its roots in Baltimore and is a leading manufacturer of pianos, renowned for their high quality.

Also, the company was once located at Lanvale and Lafayette, and the Guild wanted to maintain a Baltimore connection.

On the appointed presentation day, amid a small crowd of media personnel and Guild members, Jermaine sat before the magnificent grand piano and delighted his audience by testing its keys with the First Movement of Haydn's Piano Concerto in C Major.

The sweet timbre that only a Steiff can emit quickly filled the living room of the Northeast Baltimore home.

And we all realized the true reason for our being there — to watch the wide grins of a proud father and brother, the tears of job of a mother, and the epitome of happiness on the face of a five-year old, who just happens to be blind.