—if you ask me

(Continued from Page B2)

a sister, Sadie Wyche of Suffolk, Va.

Follow up: A week back in this space we announced that Rev. Michael Curry would preach his first sermon as pastor of St. James Episcopal Church on Sunday.

He did. His topic, "Keep Your Eye On the Prize," (life must have a purpose; we are here for a purpose, we must seek direction and keep your eye on the prize). The delivery of the 35-year-old new minister reminds this writer of a young Martin Luther King, Jr., when we first heard the civil rights minister speak here in Baltimore in the early sixties.

Smile news

In the Nov. 28th issue, this column featured a smile salute to 16-year-old Stacy Hicks, a Carver High junior who was a Living Ad at the J.U.G.S. Charity Ball. In the article, Miss Hicks stated she had hopes of attending S.C. State College, in Orangeburg.

This week, Dr. Curtis N. Adams, president of the Baltimore Alumni of S.C. State, advises the organization will help Miss Hicks' dream come through. A $1,000 scholarship is available for four years.

All Miss Hicks has to do now is finish Carver High and apply now for the scholarship. Write this column, we'll supply details.

Special smile orchids to Dr. Adams and members of the S.C. State Alumni.

Special smile orchids to Dr. Adams and members of the S.C. State Alumni.

Editors's note: Did someone's smile make your day? Share the good news and let us salute them. Please write, Smiles, If You Ask Me. Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201, and smile, please.

Hub, Inc. Christmas Party

The Eighth Annual Hub, Inc. Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Forum, 4210 Primrose Avenue in Baltimore. Proceeds from the Christmas party will go to Transitional Housing for Women and Children. Call the Hub, Inc. office at (301) 669-1888.

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EVERYONE WINS Get a gift certificate worth $2.00 off any record or cassette at participating Musicland or Sam Goody stores just by visiting the Colt 45 display.

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"Entry forms available at Baltimore/Washington area retailers"

BUSINESS PULSE

■ Career Corner C3
■ Sports C4

Cheryl King, planning manager light rail project

Riding the rails to success

By Charles H. Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

They used to call them hobos. They were the ever wandering traveler in search of... First this town, then that town, hither and thither cross country.

They weren't destitute. They were resolute. Determined to see the world and to find a portion of it they could best call their own. Their favored mode of transportation? Rail. Boxcar, if you please.

They call her Cheryl King, urban planner, planning manager for the Maryland Transit Authority's Central Light Rail Line.

She has criss-crossed the U.S.A. First this town, then that town, hither and thither cross country. By foot? Rail, light rail, if you please.

"I love the train," King said from the seventh floor offices of the former Commercial Credit building.

From here King, her planning staff of eight, an engineering staff of 20 and two or three coordinators, oversee the design, routing, approval and construction process of implementing the 25 mile system.

A system that will by 1991, make it possible to sit down, travel from BWI Airport to Shawan Road in Cockeysville and not once have to concern yourself with beltway bottlenecks, downtown disruptions or I-83 interchanges.

King, an employee of PBMK, Inc., consultants to the MTA on the light rail project, came to Baltimore by way of Houston. Up until 1987 a Senior Planner with Parsons Brinkerhoff (half of a joint venture formed specifically for this project), King was presented with an opportunity for advancement and railriding.

"When they offered me this job I was in the Austin, Texas office. To get this job I had to compete, but I had more light rail experience and more transit experience."

"I've moved around a lot," King said. "Being a minority in this industry if you want to move ahead you almost have to do it. They'll give you the opportunities but you have to make a sacrifice to get them."

Cheryl King examining the plans for the light rail system.

"To take the job I had to move to Baltimore. There is a risk involved. Suppose you don't like the job, suppose you don't like the city."

Baltimore? No chance. Since the construction of the subway system, the constant changes in the bus network and the increased emphasis on the Baltimore-D.C. commuter rail system, Baltimore is to train riders what Aspen is to skiers.

"You have to be into trains and I'm into trains," King said. "I live downtown so I take the Metro to Owings Mills to shop. There is a station at Rodgers Avenue, so I take the train to my beauty salon, Dett Set. I love Dett Set."

King considers subway training an unwritten part of her job description. Building systems is one thing, but it is the strap hanging that separates the pros from the participants.

"Wherever I work I try to ride public transportation at least two to three times a week," King said. "It's good to let the public know that you use the service that you advocate. It's almost like truth in advertising."

Originally from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, King travelled to Iowa to attend Cornell College where she received her degree in Sociology and then on to Columbus, Ohio to receive her Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning.

From there it's been MTA all the way.

"I've ridden buses in San Diego, buses in Los Angeles, Buses in Houston..."

Planning positions in Austin, Houston, Dallas, San Diego, Los Angeles, Kentucky and Indiana all share space on her resume and if she bore a sticker on her suitcase for every town she has traveled through she would look like a..., well a hobo.

As a member of the American Planning Association, the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, Outstanding Young Women of 1987 and the recipient of the Ohio State University School of Architecture and Planning's Outstanding Scholarship Award, King is qualified to not only ride the rails but to assist in building them.

After roughly 25 meetings with community groups to address concerns of railway ruckus in Ruxton or fears of parking problem in Pumphrey and literally bussing committees to Philadelphia to view similar light rail systems, King has developed an appreciation for the city and its way of handling station location and land acquisition.

Wherever possible the state has attempted to use existing rail lines such as the Conrail in Baltimore and the B&A Railway to the south of the city.

King says this is an effort to curtail land acquisition which could wind up being one of the big ticket items of the projected $290 million, 27 mile, 36 stop system.

"I'm impressed. Even your state agency people make themselves available. Its not like you have to uncover them. That's another thing that is to Baltimore's credit and is making this thing go so smoothly," King said.

On the wall in King's office hangs a plaque dominated by a huge rail spike. A commemorative to "a consultant extraordinaire with thanks and appreciation" by the San Diego Trolley Committee.

The spike was found in the tire of an outbound express bus on Route 90 in San Diego.

Life always says it best.

BMA honors William C. March

The Baltimore Marketing Association honored William March, president of March Funeral Homes, board chairman of Harbor Bank of Baltimore at their 20th Annual Business Awards dinner held December 2.

Ackneil M. Muldrow, II said that the Baltimore Marketing Association was honoring March as "one of Baltimore's most outstanding citizens." The March Funeral Homes have served the greater Baltimore community with sensitivity, fairness and professionalism unparalled.

March accepted the award with pride, thanking his wife, Roberta for her loyalty, love, determination over 30 years. He introduced his loyal staff and his children, now associated in the business, Cynthia, Erich, Annette and Victor.

Keynote speaker was Henry E. Parker, vice-president of Atlanta - Sosnoff Capital Corporation. From 1975-1986, he was treasurer for the State of Connecticut.

Keynote speaker Henry E. Parker discussing the achievements of March Funeral Homes with the honoree and founder, William C. March.

Henry B. Tate, Ben Alston and Dwayne A. Brown, guests at Baltimore Marketing cocktail party in honor of March family.

The 1988 Black Business Hall of Fame Inductee Was Captain George W. Brown, owner of steamships and Brown's Grove, the only black amusement park on the East Coast.

He was one of the founders of Booker T. Washington's Negro Business League in Baltimore and was honored for his business acumen and achievements.

The Baltimore Marketing Association presented 1988 scholarships to Winchell Ziegler, Gertrude Dailey, April Robinson, Yvonne Reynolds and Timothy Chaplin.

Business Briefs

Custom phone service now citywide

In the early hours of December 4, C&P "threw the switch" on a new $8.9 million DMS 100 digital electronic telephone switching system. At the same time, company technicians "retired" the last electromechanical switching system serving Baltimore city."

When that happened, all the features of the most modern communications system became available to those customers, the last in Baltimore city to obtain electronic switching.

The switching system which was placed in service this past weekend serves approximately 30,000 customers in Baltimore whose phone numbers begin with 225, 383, 396, 462, 523, 669 and 728.

Other switching systems which were modernized in Baltimore during 1988 include Wolfe and Frankford. Those switches serve 52,000 customers whose telephone numbers begin with 325, 327, 342, 483, 485, 488, 675, 732 and 866.

"With the recent changes in switching offices, optional services are now available to all customers in Baltimore city," explained Carl Smith. For example, CENTREX service is available for large and small business use, enabling customers to receive from C&P the types of business service normally associated with PX.

Other services, known as Custom Calling Features, include:

— Call Waiting,
— Call Forwarding,
— Three-Way Calling,
— Speed Dialing.

Customers may subscribe to any of these services by contacting their C&P Business Office.

UB Minority Business Conference

The Baltimore Area Minority Business Development Center and the University of Baltimore, Robert G. Merrick School of Business, are presenting a Minority Business Entrepreneurs' Conference Tuesday, December 13, 1988, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the University's School of Law Building, 1420 North Charles Street, Baltimore.

The cost of the conference is partially subsidized by the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency to make it affordable to minority businesses.

In return for the investment of a single day, the Minority Business Entrepreneurs' Conference will give participants practical tools they can use to expand their business beyond its present market position.

The conference features a hands-on-approach to presenting the essentials in market expansion, procurement, and business development.

Larry Young holds special event at the Palladium

State Sen. Larry Young (D-39th), plans to hold a special event at the Palladium, 2900 Liberty Hgts. Ave., Tuesday, December 13 at 7 p.m.

The monthly town hall meeting will feature a discussion titled "Automobile Insurance Rates — Why Baltimore City's Rates Are Higher." The guests panelist for the discussion will be Leo Doyle, National Association of Independent Insurers, Hugh Williams, Maryland State Insurance Office.

With Maryland having the tenth highest automobile insurance premiums; consequently, the panel discussion will focus on this topic.

Pack Your Bags
Conference Update

EDITOR'S NOTE: As a regular service to the community, Pack Your Bags 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.

MBA Student Association Conference

Over 200 black MBA Conference and 300 business persons from around the world are expected to attend the First Annual International Black MBA Student Association Conference Dec. 27-31. The conference will be held at the Anderson Graduate School of Management hosted by the University of California at Los Angeles Black Graduate Students in Management.

The theme is "Academic Excellence: Believe You Can Make the Difference." Workshops, seminars, a job fair, top entertainment, and a banquet are among the slated events.

For further information, contact R. Daniel Armstrong (213) 825-9460.

Explore the Role of Higher Education

More than 1,000 leaders from all sectors of higher education will discuss the role of colleges and universities in American society and the world at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education, Jan. 18-21, 1989 in San Diego, Cal. The theme is "Education for the Common Good."

Contact David Merkowitz or Nancy Grund at (202) 939-9365 for further information.