Park Heights Academy receives $5,000 gift

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Reporter

The Prudential Life Insurance Company's Foundation recently presented a gift of $5,000 to the Park Heights Street Academy at a ceremony held in the Academy's auditorium.

F. Louis Marshall, of the Prudential Life Insurance Company said he presented the check to the school as an impetus for the student body and faculty to continue their high scholastic achievement record.

Jointly accepting were former President of the Academy's Parent and Guardian Association, Claude "Eddie" Hitchcock, Denise Chilson; board member, Barbara Wiggins, Stanley Newsome; and Headmaster and host of the presentation; Denavo Robinson, jointly accepted the check on behalf of the Academy.

In return for this endowment the Prudential Foundation stipulates the Academy must continue to show positive development and submit its annual report. The foundation will review the S.A.T. scores of P.H.S.A. students as well as the uses and results of the monies given to the school.

This information will become the basis for determining whether this $5,000, will be a one time grant, or a gift that the Park Heights Street Academy can look forward to each year. The decision concerning how the money will be spent will be left entirely up to the school.

Marshall spoke to the students at the conclusion of the presentation ceremony offering them a few words of encouragement and explaining his company's expectations.

Marshall spoke both as a member of the business community and as a concerned citizen working to boost the pool of educational resources at the Park Heights Street Academy's disposal.

F. Louis Marshall is a General Agency Manager at the Prudential Life Insurance Company, responsible for supervising more than 25 of his company's Baltimore area life insurance agents. He is also familiar with the requirements applicants must have to qualify for the millions of dollars set aside by the foundation for distribution to those causes that the Foundation deems worthy.

The marriage between Park Heights Street Academy's need and the Prudential Foundation's readiness and ability to help resulted in Prudential awarding $5,000 to the school for the first time. Marshall wanted the students to be aware of the responsibility they all shared in seeing that the school would be put in a position to perhaps even more financial aid.

"I'll make a commitment to do all there is in my power to see to it that the Park Heights Street Academy has whatever resources we can provide to furnish a quality education for its students.

An American dream come true

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

Albert Corbin wants to live the American dream. He wants a decent, clean and safe home-a place where he can rest his tired body after work.

For the last three years since he moved into the George B. Murphy Homes, he has helped keep the high-rise clean and livable for its occupants.

Corbin and 54 other public housing tenants were awarded Harry B. Weiss Citizenship Awards and certificates for their contributions to public housing developments earlier this week in City Hall.

The Baltimore City Housing Authority security division worker received a certificate of honorable mention for his efforts.

"This means a great deal to me and it means a great deal to the people who have helped make living conditions a lot better in Murphy Homes," said Corbin, 71, after the ceremony.

Corbin, coordinator for Murphy Homes special projects, said the conditions in the development has improved since 1985 when he first moved to the public housing dwelling.

Drug dealers, teen pregnancy and school drop-outs were high and community participation was low then, said Corbin.

"People are now becoming aware of their needs and willing to sacrifice some of their time to make a difference," said Corbin.

Twelve public housing tenants received the Weiss award for their hard work, including work on clean-up committees and running errands for house-bound seniors.

"I must have done something right," said Iola Lomax, 73, of the Broadway House. The Harry B. Weiss award recipient said she worked as a desk and floor monitor in the Broadway building.

St. George I.B. Crosse, of Housing and Urban Development, and Robert W. Hearns, executive director of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, handed out the Weiss citizenship awards and honorable mention certificates Dec. 19.

This year marks the 23rd year tenants have been awarded the Weiss award. The award is named after Harry B. Weiss, a former Baltimore housing management director.

More than 1,200 public housing tenants have received the award and special certificates since 1965.

"This is an award the residents can take pride in," said Bernie Adams, public information assistant for the Housing Authority, which spear-headed the ceremony.

This year, public housing received $12 million, 27 percent more than last year, to help improve conditions in the public homes said Crosse.

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Tragedy strikes in Scotland—258 die in aircrash

Photo-REUTER

Village buildings burn ater a Pan American 747 jumbo jet crashed into Lockerbie, Scotland Dec. 21. The flight originated in Frankfurt, West Germany and stopped at Heathrow before continuing to JFK airport in New York. Witnesses report no survivors amongst the 258 passengers.

Photo—UPI

Funteller Thomas talks with reporters at Detroit Metropolitan Airport late Wednesday while awaiting word from Pan Am oficials whether her 17-year-old son Arva was aboard Pan Am flight 103, which crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland. Arva Thomas was returning to his home in Detroit from visiting his brother, who is stationed with the U.S. military in West Germany.

Photo—UPI

Eugene (r) and Lelia Coleman wait for news about their 21-year-old daughter Lawanna Thomas at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Thomas, stationed in Frankfurt, West Germany, apparently missed an earlier flight from Frankfurt to Detroit and the Colemans are waiting to hear if she ended up on ill-fated Pan Am flight 103 which crashed in Scotland Wednesday.

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

At AFRO press time, investigators recovered two flight recorders from the Pan American jumbo jet flying to New York which exploded above Locherbie, Scotland Wednesday evening. Killed in the crash were its 258 passengers and at least 15 people on the ground, according to officials who were on the scene.

The 19-year-old Boeing 747 blew apart without warning and plunged "like liquid fire" into row of houses in the one-main-street town with churches, shops and the town hall.

Wreckage was scattered for 10 miles in all directions and small bits of debris covered several streets.

"I saw the plane come down," said motorist John Glasgow. It hit the road and exploded into a fireball. I saw it bring houses down. The road seemed to be on fire. It seemed like a scene from hell."

Authorities took the flight recorders to a Royal Air Force research facility outside London, hoping to discover the cause of the crash, which is the worst air disaster in Britain's history.

A long, deep crater now sits where houses once stood.

Towson grad assumes new City Hall post

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

For most people, Halloween is best remembered for outlandish costumes, parties and fattening candies. For Jeri Jones Halloween 1988 will always rest in her mind as the day she made a new start.

The 1985 Towson University graduate began her job as the special projects director and press liaison for Council President Mary Pat Clarke's office on the ghoulish day. She remembers spending most of the day watching everyone in action.

"There was no real chance for orientation," Jones said of the fast-paced working atmosphere.

Betty Deacon, Clarke's chief of staff for three months, said she created the position to help make the office flow smoother.

Before Deacon came aboard, the chief of staff position and three other positions were vacant in Clarke's office, although funds were available.

"It became apparent to me after observing the office, we needed a person to handle special events...and act as a centralized person," said the chief of staff.

Jones, 27, is responsible for coordinating events with the press and handling special events for Clarke and the other Baltimore City Council people.

She coordinated Clarke's first Christmas party on Dec. 15 and arranged the room dedication ceremony to former councilmen Norman Reeves and J. Joseph Curran, Sr.

(AFRO Photo by Paul Greene)

CITY HALL NEWEST staffer is Jeri Jones who recently became director of special projects and press relations for City Council President Mary Pat Clarke's office.

"It was wonderful," Clarke said Tuesday of the Christmas party. "People say it was the prettiest Christmas party they have seen in City Hall."

Jones said more than 1500 people attended the party.

Arranging political-related events is a new undertaking for Jones who majored in mass communications at Towson. Before this job, she spent nine months filling temporary secretarial and clerical jobs.

Jones also was a project assistant for Maryland Public Television and a production assistant for Howard County Cable 15.

Deacon said she realized Jones was "fresh out of school," but said she felt Jones could do a good job.

"I really felt Jeri could grow and evolve with this position and it has proven true," said Deacon.

"We have thrown anything and everything at her and she has survived," added Deacon.

Jones said a City Hall friend told her about the position. Originally, Jones had applied to do constituent work.

Jones said she likes her new job however, and welcomes the opportunity she has been given to develop her own style. She is the first to hold this position so she does not have to copy another's style.

"It's a great place to learn and I'm gaining a lot of experience," Jones said.

Although the young professional has found a new job, Jones still lives at home with her parents in West Baltimore.

Her father, James Jones, is an art professor at Morgan State University and her mother, Mary J. Jones, serves on the Maryland Committee for Children. Her 25-year-old brother, Jade, is a Towson exchange student studying Asian studies and geography in China.

Since Jones has been thrown in to the political area, does she have any political ambitions?

"I wouldn't want to be a politician," Jones said.

"In order to be a politician you have to be dedicated to people and to the cause. I think that 's what Mary Pat Clarke is," said Jones.

Jones said it does not mean she is not dedicated to people and the cause, because she does not aspire to be a politican.

As for her future the Halloween job-getter would like to continue to travel and add to her places-visited list. Jones has already been to Europe, Mexico and Canada.

She plans to visit her brother in the Orient in the spring.

"I'll do the best I can to make my mark," Jones said.

Korean League joins holiday spirit

AFRO photo by Paul Greene

ALL SMILES — Members of the Korean Business League gathered earlier this week at police headquarters to present hundreds of baskets and scholarships to Baltimore families and students. Pictured are KBL president, Jin Ho Kung, presenting a scholarship to young Tiffany Royster. Watching is Mrs. Frances Draper who represented the AFRO at the ceremony.