—Slate announced

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(D-42) gave her support of the Democratic candidates for the 39th ticket and made a rousing speech supporting the pro-choice movement.

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke's address was the highlight of a question and answer session with community residents in which he expressed his position on several contemporary issues.

On the decriminalization of drugs, Schmoke said, "I am not advocating that drugs be sold indiscriminately over the counter in drug stores, but that drugs be decriminalized and drug abusers receive treatment rather than be looked at as criminals.

"The large sums of money needed to build prisons can be used to educate our youth and treat abusers. It should be looked at as a health rather than a law enforcement issue.

"To those who say build more prisons for drug abusers I say, in whose neighborhood will the first prison be built?

"This problem has been visited on the next generation. Baltimore has 30 babies in its hospitals who have full blown cases of AIDS. The (drug abusing) parents of these children had no alternatives.

"We invaded Panama to get one man and 24 U.S. Citizens died and over 200 were wounded. In the process we destroyed the economy of an entire country. The "War on Drugs" is clearly not working.

Senator Young followed Mayor Schmoke's address with the presentation of awards to 39 of the 39th district's most outstanding community activists.

Some of those awarded include: States Attorney; Stuart Simms, School Superintendent; Dr. Richard Hunter, Mr. Charles Wells, proprietor of Wells Printers; Mrs. Mary Robinson, Rev. Sidney Daniels, Deputy Sheriff; Karen Hollaman, Mr. Walter Jones, Mr. Marvin Cheatham and Mr. Dale Madison.

—Cherry Hill going

(Continued from Page A-1)

Melvin Stukes, President of the Cherry Hill Improvement Association and a unsuccessful 6th district candidate in the 1987 elections, said, "Many of the residents of this district are apathetic about voting but those who know the political scene realize the power that the Stonewall Democratic Organization has in the 6th."

"They know how to play political tricks. In the 6th they realized the power and respect the Murphy name generated and took an unknown White boy with the same name and put his name on the slate hoping to confuse voters and thus win votes for the all-White power base," said Stukes.

Councilwoman Jacqueline McLean, who was recently quoted as saying that "it is unlikely that any public fighting will occur over the vacancy because all the fighting will go on behind closed doors."

McLean explained her statement by saying, "I am not a member of the 6th district delegation and I would have to respect their decision to select a candidate of their choice."

"The process is carried out by the City Council taking a vote on the name suggested by those in power — Stonewall — who suggestion will be honored. I have never seen a suggestion made by a districts political organization refused."

—Panama Blacks

(Continued from Page A-1)

hometown in the interior. It was a place Americans would refer to as the country or the sticks.

"Around 1951 we graduated from the University and both received fellowships to study abroad. Noriega went to Peru to pursue Military Science studies and I went to Argentina to study Physics."

After studying in Peru Duncan returned home to a country whose racism was divided more along the lines of class than color. Duncan said, "Upper class Panamanian society is almost the exclusive domain of Whites. Blacks are found only in small numbers among the professional class of Panamanians."

Duncan said, "Panama is racially divided more by tradition than any type of institutional racism. The Blacks there are basically from two groups.

"One is descended from slaves captured in Africa who refused to become slaves and fled the Spanish galleons taking them to an uncertain future in a foreign land. They made homes in the hills of Panama and came down periodically without warning to militarily strike the Spanish guerrilla style," said Duncan.

Duncan said, "They succeeded in running the Spanish out of the country but they are still on the lowest end of the Panamanian social scale. The other group of Blacks are descendants of West Indian workers who came to build the Panama Canal.

"They stayed in the country. They are better educated and speak English so they were accorded a modicum of respectability by those in power."

"The racial division of classes began to disappear somewhat with the election of Noriega. He gave responsibility to many darker skinned Panamanians. They held high positions in government and the military," said Duncan.

"In Panama the upper class is derisively known as the rabino blancos (White tails)," said Duncan, "and the lower class as the rabino negros (Black tails). The names tell you how the population is divided."

Since his surrender to U.S. officials, Noriega has become the newest fascination of the news media, but Mr. Stewart says, the media has yet to broadcast on American television the other side of Panama.

"If you really feel that the dancing in the street was the feeling of the people, let the international press into the Black community," Mr. Stewart said. "There was no freedom of the press in Panama."

"We need to hear from the Black community. No White areas were bombed. Some 80 percent of the detained political prisoners are Black."

Speaking before an audience of reporters at the National Press Club in opposition to the U.S. invasion of Panama Dec. 20 and the "kidnapping" of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, Mr. Stewart said there were two mass burial graves with over 400 bodies; that some 200 to 500 persons have disappeared, that there are over 1200 dead and that some legitimately elected Black legislators have been arrested.

The press conference, which was sponsored by the National Rainbow Coalition, the Council for Hemispheric Affairs and the Caribbean Action Lobby — highlighted the widespread discontent over the invasion by many Latin American countries who have charged that the U.S. has "misinformed its citizens about what really happened.

"You didn't see ill dressed or dark skinned people dancing in the street," said Jack O'Dell, international affairs director for the Coalition. He also questioned the recent elections in Panama "because the U.S. has spent $10 million to change the vote," adding that the Noriega regime had just gotten to the point to include Blacks in high positions.

Esmeralda Brown, of the Women's Workshop in American also condemned the invasion and said many labor leaders were arrested. Her objections were echoed by Larry Birns, director, Council of Hemispheric Affairs, who said "there was no justification for the invasion.

"The U.S. had misused its power because of arrogance," Mr. Birns said.

But Coalition coordinator Tony Stamps used harsher terms calling the invasion "genocide." "The taking of Gen. Noriega was kidnapping," he said; "his rights were less free because of the U.S. actions."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson didn't attend the press conference, but in a published editorial said "in moral terms the invasion of Panama was a 'stunning defeat'."

"The body count was awful. Twenty-three Americans soldiers and two civilian American dependents lost their lives in the fighting 330 American military personnel were wounded. Meanwhile, 297 Panamanian soldiers were killed. Also dead are hundreds of Panamanian civilians, the very people we're supposedly going to save," Mr. Jackson said.

The United States has had an interest in the Republic of Panama ever since President Theodore Roosevelt first established a federally sponsored project to build a canal in 1904.

The canal, which has since been run by the U.S. is scheduled to be returned to the country in 1999.

The canal gained political attention when then Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan made it an issue. And while the U.S. maintained a relationship with Gen. Noreiga, President Reagan sent 1300 troops to the island, after Gen. Noreiga was indicted on drug trafficking charges in February 1988.

Although condemned by many Black leaders, the Bush Administration invasion has been supported by others been supported by others. Bill Gray said "...the President had no choice but to exercise the military option .... Hopefully this military action will keep him (Gen. Noriega) out and let the elected officials assume their rightful places in a democratic society."

Frances Murphy and Hamil Harris
AFRO Staff Writers

—Supt. Hunter

(Continued from Page A-1)

Sylvester Cos, Asst. State Attorney's office: "I think Dr. Hunter has done a good job shaking up the school system.

Carlton Epps, MTA/student: "Considering he has a monumental task ahead of him and the short amount of time he has been here, I'm undecided. His reorganization was a good step. I'm glad to see that the Mayor is following up on the situation."

William Johnson, Clergyman: "I feel there is more he could do. We still have overcrowding, curriculum changes. The Mayor has become so involved it looks like Hunter's leadership isn't sufficient."

Unfortunately it seems that the Mayor is superseding his actions. Hunter has done a good job dealing with school violence, I hope he stays after his contract has ended. I would like to see him stay to carry out his program in the future."

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PEOPLE

Anita Poulson

Mental Health Director

Anita Poulson, M.S.W., has been named Director of Children's Mental Health and Special Projects Bureau for Baltimore City Health Department.

Ms. Poulson is responsible for the allocation of $2.5 million in grants to children's mental health providers in Baltimore City.

In her new role she will enhance the continuity and delivery of mental health services to children in the city.

John B. Slaughter, II

Named Board President

John B. Slaughter, II, managing principal and branch manager of The Chapman Company, has been named president-elect of the American Lung Association of Maryland (ALAM) board of directors.

A volunteer with the Association since 1987, Slaughter also serves as representative director to the board from ALAM's Baltimore City Regional Council.

The goal of the American Lung Association of Maryland, the Christmas Seal People, is the promotion of lung health and the prevention, care, and control of all lung diseases including asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer and tuberculosis and some of their related causes including smoking, air pollution, and occupational lung hazards.

Dr. Harold Davis

Employee Health And Wellness

Dr. Harold M. Davis has been named vice president in charge of Prudential's Employee Health and Wellness Program.

In this position, Davis will oversee Prudential's employee clinical services, employee wellness programs and staff assistance and counselling services at corporate and satellite facilities.

Davis joined The Prudential in 1987 as a vice president, Employee Health Services.

Shirley Adams is over $1,234,000 richer after winning the Giant Cash Countdown Gala January 9th. Ms. Adams received the largest lump sum payment in the history of the Maryland Lottery. Pictured with her are Louis Goldstein, State Comptroller, and William F. Rockford, Director of the Lottery.

A Birthday Celebration

Baltimore Chapter, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Centennial-Caroline St., U.M.C. will sponsor a Birthday Celebration in Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Friday, Jan. 19 at Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church, 1029 East Monument St., featuring Dr. C. T. Vivian, great civil rights leader and director of Anti-Klan Network in Atlanta, GA

Breakfast will begin at 9 a.m. Candlelight Vigil and Rally at 7 p.m., same location. Other sponsors include Giant Foods, Inc., AFSCME, AFL-CIO and Associated Black Charities. For more information, call 276-3079 or 542-3895.

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