IF YOU ASK ME

By Bettye Moss

Smile Orchids

Smile orchids of the week to the Associated Black Charities, the non - profit United Way affiliate which addresses the health and human service needs of Blacks.

The third annual charities salute held recently at Martin's West was a stellar event.

This year's honorees — U.S. Congressman Kwesi Mfume and Governor William Donald Schaefer.

Del Howard P. Rawlings and William L. Adams made the presentations and delighted the 700 diners with stories of the honorees' achievements.

* * *

Cuff note: Mr. Adams' reminiscences were so long, the governor laughingly said, "Willie, I thought you were never going to give me my award..." The audience roared.

Mayor Kurt Schmoke welcomed the audience in his usual gracious way, acknowledging the leadership of the two honorees.

Congressman Mfume called Governor Schaefer "my friend," and said the two of them are now adversaries, having developed a special motivation for each other to help make life better for people in the city and state.

Mutual admiration continued when Schaefer's turn came, too. He asserted he was "so pleased" with "the number of people here tonight —it is so important that the Black community Associated Black Charities . . . the government can't do it alone . . . we need organizations like yours."

He praised "Kurt's efforts to teach people to read . . . it is no question in my mind that education is needed . . . and then he added he uses Mayor Schmoke as a role model.

More Orchids

More orchids to the honorees and program participants. The evening's formal event opened with a moment of silent prayer in memory of State Senator Verda F. Welcome.

The honorees attested to her long civil rights battles. Mfume called her his godmother "who put herself on the line by endorsing me . . ." and accepted his award "in the name of a great lady, Verda F. Welcome. . . ."

* * *

More orchids — there were special presentations by the Charities' board chair, Dwight S. Taylor to former chair, Osborne A. Payne and to Allen Quille, long board member. Genial WJZ-TV co-anchor Al Sanders presided.

Board member, Rev. Sidney Daniels, Emmanuel Christian Community Church, offered prayer in his usual gracious manner.

* * *

Smile orchids to Donna Jones Stanley — the Charities executive secretary; and to Marie C. Henderson, who coordinated the fantastic evening . . . which also included a lively raffle of jewels, furs, trips and gifts, all to benefit the association.

Faces in crowd

We shared a table with these pleasant good neighbors at the Black Charities salute dinner — Denaubo M. Robinson; he's head master of Park Heights Street Academy, which has 40 students enrolled this year; and his wife, Janis, who is director of operations for the Greenspring Mental Health Service in Columbia. (They have 5-year-old daughter named Devire.) Also, Ms. Denise Young Chappell, vice president - Infotel Systems Inc., a minority - owned telecommunications firm in Columbia; and Bob Scott, president of Scott - Wellington, Rye; minority - owned construction firm (residential and commercial).

More smiling faces: Ms. **Linda Young fassett**, executive director of Echo House, the W. Fayette St. multi-service center, and **Ms. Bernice Hunley**, Echo House board chair who reminds us that Echo's annual Mother's Day fashion show this year is set for Martin's West (May 13), with **Willa Bland** Coordinating.

Murray and Jeannette Arnold he's driver of an 18-wheeler; and she recently retired AT and T employee who volunteers at Black Charities. They have three grown children—Derick and Michelle, of Los Angeles, and Marlon, Baltimore.

Rep. Kweisi Mfume shares a moment with Del. Howard Rawlings during the ceremonies.

Mr. William Adams and Gov. Schaefer laugh together at the podium.

Boyfriends

Delightful and relaxing Sunday afternoon events was the spring dinner - dance hosted by members of the Baltimore Friends — Husbands and Escorts of members of the Baltimore chapter of Girlfriends.

Event was at LaFontaine Bleu. Club president, Paul Chester, did a thoughtful thing — paused to introduce the wives and female friends of members and to say thank you to them for their support. Lionel Jiggets provided music.

Other club members are: Leon Bridges, David Driver, Charles Lynch, Howard Marshall, Fred Medders, Doward Patterson, Elmer Patterson, Robert Rae, Wellington Ross, Donald Tynes and Harrison Vessells.

Among guests at the Elmer Pattersons — Vander E. Harris. He's the new director of physical plant at Morgan State University and a certified plant engineer, too.

He comes to Baltimore from Nashville, Tenn. Wife, Janie, an attorney, and a Girlfriend, will join him here soon, with their two children, Vander Jr., 24, and Jason, 17.

Also guests at same table — Mr. and Mrs. Cullen McKissick (Valarie) house guests of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Shervington.

Remember

Thinking - of - you cards to the family of Mrs. Wilhelmina Cunningham Allen. She died Sunday at Stella Maris Hospice, where she had lived for several years and was known for her good disposition. She was 95. Memorial services were held at the hospice on Wednesday.

Mrs. Allen was the widow of the Rev. Dr. M. C. Allen, long time pastor of Leadenhall Baptist Church and one time president of Virginia Union Seminary. He died in 1966.

Survivors: Daughter, Mrs. Wilhelmina Garner; granddaughters, Wilhelma Garner, Baltimore; and Patricia Morris, Ft. Sil, Okla., grandchildren, Jennifer and Jeffrey Allen. Philadelphia' great grands, Victor, Patrick and Krista Morris, and grandson-in-law, Lt. Col. Robert Morris, of Ft. Sill.

Grafton Smith

Remember the family of Grafton Smith, Sr., who died on Wednesday (April 18), after a short illness. He was 64.

Funeral services were held Monday evening at New St. John Baptist Church where he was chairman of the deacon board.

Family and friends packed the W. Franklin St. church for the services. The pastor, Rev. Eugene S. McKinney, praised him as an outstanding father and husband and dedicated member who taught adult classes and Sunday School. He won a plaque for outstanding service presented this past January.

A native of Northumberland County, Va., Mr. Smith settled in Baltimore as a youngster. He was an Army veteran, served 20 years before his discharge as a sergeant. He was employed by a contracting firm and after retirement pursued a career of landcaping.

He was well known in the Morgan Park area, where he regularly cut grass, planted and designed hedges and made real beauty spots.

Dr. Richard I. McKinney (no relation), the first to recognize Mr. Smith's talents some 15 years ago and hired him. Other neighbors followed.

Dr. McKinney, and his wife, Dr. Lena McKinney were present at the rites. Of Mr. Smith, he said, "He had a number of excellent qualities. He was honest in all his dealings and possessed the characteristics of truthfulness and integrity we all admired. He set a fine example for his sons to follow."

Survivors: Mr. Smith is survived by his wife of four years, the former Mary Virginia Darby; six sons, Sterling, Gamaliel, Tyrone, Tony, Mark and Donie Smith; four daughters, Mary, Alicia, Linda and Denita Smith, all of Baltimore; a brother, Millard Smith, Farnham, Virginia.

Mary Hurt

Remember, please the family of Mr. Mary Butler Hurt. She was the beloved physical education teacher who taught for 28 years at Dunbar High School. She was 66 when she died on Friday.

There was standing room only in Douglas Memorial Community Church on Tuesday morning. There, her fellow members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority conducted special rites. Mrs. Hurt was a former president of the Baltimore City Alpha Zeta Chapter.

Former national president, Dr. Deborah Patridge Wolfe came from Princeton, N.J. to participate in the service.

A Baltimorean, Mrs. Hurt was a Douglass High and Morgan U. grad. Survivors: her husband of 39 years, John J. Hurt; three sisters, Daisy B. Turner, Lovey G. Pasco, Lois V. Matthews; and three brothers, Stillman O. Butler, Elbert B. Butler and Landon D. Butler, all of Baltimore.

Sam Blackwell

And please remember the family of **Samuel T. Blackwell**, the N. Bentalou St. good neighbor, who died Thursay after a long illness. He was 77.

Mr. Blackwell was a retired contractor who had been partially disabled for the past ten years as a result of injuries suffered in an auto accident.

He was a member of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Funeral arrangements were incomplete at presstime.

Survivors: His wife of 36 years, the former **Pauline Caulk**, longtime AFRO circulation department exec; two sisters, Mamie Williams, Baltimore; **Cora Johnson**, N.Y,, and three brothers, **Wallace and Allen Blackwell**, both of Baltimore, and **Luther Blackwell**, Petersburg, Va.

Beware of fraud

Baltimore County Police has warned citizens about a band of individuals using home improvement frauds or other deceptions to gain entry into homes or apartments for the purpose of stealing money and jewelry.

In all cases — six in recent weeks — victims are older people and the suspects work in groups of two or three men or women.

Alternate suspects in some cases have been a woman with several small children.

Using varied ruses, one of the suspects gains access to the house and distracts the victims with conversation, drawing them to another room in the house, such as the kitchen, while the other goes through the house looking for money, jewelry or property.

Deceptions used to gain entry in recent and past cases have been: requests to write a note to a neighbor, selling crafts or handmade goods, door-to-door sales representative, driveway coating and repair;

In need of a drink of water for sick companion, telephone or other utility employee, or miscellaneous home repairs.

The suspects have been described as White females, with dark or olive complexion, 20 to 50 years old, 5' to 5'4'', thin to heavy build; the men are dark complected White males, 20 to 30 years old, 5'7'', 170 pounds, with dark hair.

"Say No" To Racial Terrorists!

All Of Us Are Under Siege

Within the past several months, the NAACP has been the target of vicious and cowardly attacks by racial terrorists. The rope of the lyncher has been replaced with deadly bombs sent through the mails. Unless, as a united people, we say no to these racial terrorists, none of us is safe.

Already, they have committed these terrible acts.

- **July 19, 1989** — Shortly after midnight, three to four shots are fired into several lighted offices at NAACP Headquarters in Baltimore.
- **August 21, 1989** — When a package is opened at the NAACP's Regional Office in Atlanta, a tear gas bomb explodes. Several aged persons and small children are treated for severe respiratory reactions.
- **December 16, 1989** — Judge Robert Vance of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals is killed when he opens a package containing a pipe bomb. The court has handled a number of civil rights cases.
- **December 18, 1989** — Robert Robinson, a Savannah attorney, who has handled a number of NAACP cases, is killed — literally blown apart — when he opens a package sent to his home.
- **December 19, 1989** — A similar bomb is sent to the home of the president of the Jacksonville, Florida NAACP. Suspicious, she calls police, thereby avoiding what would have been certain death had she opened the package.
- **December 28, 1989** — A terrorist organization claims responsibility for the bombings and threatens further violence against the federal judiciary and the NAACP.
- **January 1, 1990** — Eight demonstrators from white supremacist groups appear at NAACP headquarters shouting approval of the murders of Mr. Robinson and Federal Judge Robert Vance.
- Ongoing threats are being made against the NAACP and its officials. The headquarters is now under 24-hour police protection.

While these attacks have been directed against the NAACP, they are in fact aimed at the very heart of America. If the nation's oldest, largest and most effective civil rights organization can be frightened and intimidated by violence — which it will not — the terrorists will strike out at other institutions, other people. None of us, Black, White, Jew or Gentile, can take our safety for granted.

You can say no to terrorism by joining the NAACP today. You can send a powerful message that African Americans will stand firm against the merchants of hate and purveyors of violence, and the struggle for full freedom, equality and justice will go on.

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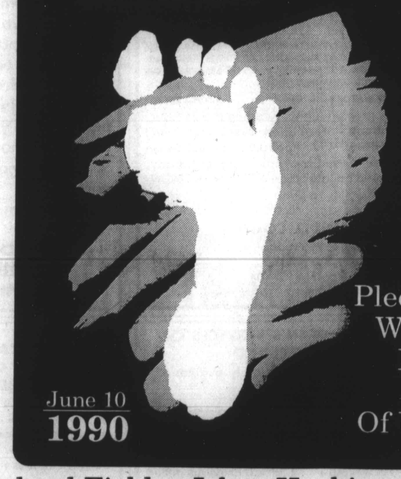

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