SPORTS SHORTS

By Will Marshall

Semi-Pro Baseball

The Maryland Semi-Pro Baseball League began play Sunday, May 6, however it is not too late for those who feel they have what it takes to sign up with one of the local teams.

Locations of the teams range from Baltimore City, to Rising Sun, Maryland. The team which draws the most players from the city neighborhoods is the Liberty Knights.

The Knights play their home games at Catonsville Community College, and have home games scheduled for Saturday, May 12, Sunday, May 13 and Sunday, May 20.

For information on the league games and how to join one of the teams call Kenny Jerkins at 254-1683, or Wayne Schmidt at 661-3751.

Sponsors needed

The Office of Physical Education and Athletics (PEA) is currently seeking sponsors for the events in the "Baltimore City Public Schools' Girls' Track and Field Championships."

The championships will be held on Saturday, May 19, at the Poly/Western High School Track, and according to Don Williams, Curriculum Specialist of the PEA, "It is imperative that individuals or organizations wishing to be a sponsor this year respond very quickly.

This is also an opportunity for the community to let these student-athletes know we care about their efforts to participate in positive activities. Awards can be for individual events (1st, 2nd, & 3rd), relay event (individual awards) or a traveling trophy (relay events only).

For more information on sponsoring an event, or attendance call 396-8569.

Halfcourt Basketball

The "Nehi Halfcourt Basketball Three-on-Three Tournament," will be held in Baltimore, for the first time, on Saturday, June 23.

Halfcourt Basketball Inc. was founded by Rick Barry, NBA Hall of Famer, 11 years ago. It has subsequently staged over 300 tournaments from Alaska to New York City, and given tens of thousands of youths around the U.S. the opportunity to play tournament basketball.

The tournament will be held at the Oliver Recreation Center, Leon Howard, Sr., Director, and is open to up to 64 teams of young people between the age of 10-17 years of age. The winners of the Baltimore games will play against the Washington D.C., champions at a time to be announced at a later date.

Registration starts immediately on a first-come, first-served basis, and teams will consist of three starters and a substitute. Entry forms can be obtained from the Department of Recreation or for additional information call Leon Howard, Sr., at 396-4243.

City-Wide Track & Field

The Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks' Track & Field Development Program invites the community to come and watch the Baltimore City-Wide Track & Field Team Qualifying Meet, Saturday, May 26.

The event will be held at Johns Hopkins University Athletic Field, Charles & 34th Streets, and the first race begins at 10am.

The registration is open to boys and girls between the age of 7-18 years old, and there is a $2.00 registration fee per athlete.

For additional information call 396-2936 or 396-2937.

53rd Annual Lacrosse Banquet

The annual "C. Markland Kelly Banquet," honoring outstanding Maryland Scholastic Association (M.S.A.) lacrosse players, will be held Wednesday, 16 May, at Martin's Eudowood, at 6:15pm.

The "Kelly Lacrosse Award" is given annually to the best lacrosse player in the M.S.A.. Companion awards are also given to the best players in each division, which are selected by the referees and officials of the Southern Lacrosse Officials Association.

The "Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr., Memorial Foundation" was established to honor the memory of Ens. Kelly and other M.S.A. players lost in World War II. This year will be the 53rd year the award has been given.

For more information call Jane Bagby at 323-4906.

Unsung Heroes 1990 award winners

By Will Marshall
AFRO Staff Writer

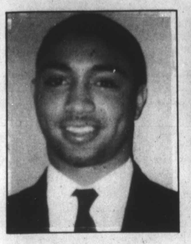
This was the 50th anniversary for the McCormick & Company Unsung Heroes Award Ceremony. One which gave tribute to David Finch, a senior from Carver Vo-Tech, and Jenean Plumley a senior from Chesapeake, as the top unsung heroes for 1990.

The award concept was begun by Dr. William Jacobs, while he was the head of Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. According to C.P. "Buzz" McCormick Jr., "In college Dr.Jacobs was a blocking back in the old single wing formation. In that position, he took all the hard knocks but got little acclaim."

Mr. McCormick continued saying, "Once he (Dr. Jacobs) became head of the college he started an award to recognize the best blocking back at his school, and in their conference."

That concept of the award was adapted by C.P. McCormick Sr. in 1940, as a way to give recognition to football players at all positions, not just the blocking backs.

In keeping with this 50 year tradition of giving honor to superior student-athletes who demonstrate exemplary leadership qualities, exercise sound judgment and possess true humility, David Finch was selected as the outstanding Unsung Football Hero for 1990.



David A. Finch
Unsung Hero for 1990

JeNean Plumley

David, who played the position of outside linebacker at Carver Vo-Tech High School in Baltimore, became the 24th recipient of the Charles Perry McCormick Scholarship Award, established in 1969. That scholarship now has a four year value of $12,000.

Ronald Frierson, Offensive Coordinator for Carver's football team said, "During all my years of coaching, I can safely say I have never mentored an athlete with more tenacity and quiet dignity."

"Not once has he complained of too much work, or been unwilling to work closely with weaker and smaller players who were not ready for game situations."

Frierson concluded, "He is a sensitive, caring person who always places the good of others above his own. David radiates beams of positive thinking, team togetherness and optimism. He has been a model of (excellence), not only for the school athletes but for the student body in general.

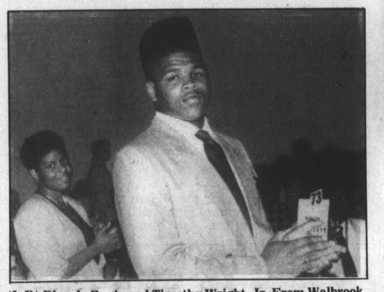
In 1987, girls basketball players were added to the list of candidates to be honored, and one of them was chosen as the female Unsung Hero. The fourth recipient of this award is Jenean Plumley, a center for the Chesapeake High School basketball team.

She will graduate first in her glass of 200 with a 4.0 grade point average.

This year there were 103 candidates who represented 68 Baltimore City and County public, private, parochial, and independent schools.

Not only was this a record number of schools participating, but the total number of people in attendance was a record setting 750.

Among the many special guests invited was James Nugent, a Southern High School graduate, and the first recipient of the Unsung Heroes Award in 1940.



(L-R) Rhonda Ragin and Timothy Wright, Jr. From Walbrook High School.

Athletic Director Art Milburn proudly sits next to Unsung Hero candidate Kevin C. Void.

Coppin State honors its athletes

By Will Marshall
AFRO Staff Writer

Coppin State College paid tribute to its student-athletes Saturday, May 5, during the "Eagles Athletic Awards Dinner."

This was a time for students, faculty and staff, family and friends of these outstanding young men and women to say thank you for all you've done to represent us in a positive way.

The guest speaker was introduced by Phil Booth, a graduating senior and captain of the basketball team. The Coppin basketball team was the first team from Baltimore to be selected for the NCAA Championship Tournament.

The keynote address was presented by Doug Williams.

William's shocked America with a record breaking Superbowl victory in 1988, dispelling the belief by some coaches and owners, that a Black Quarterback could not handle the pressures involved at this level of competition.

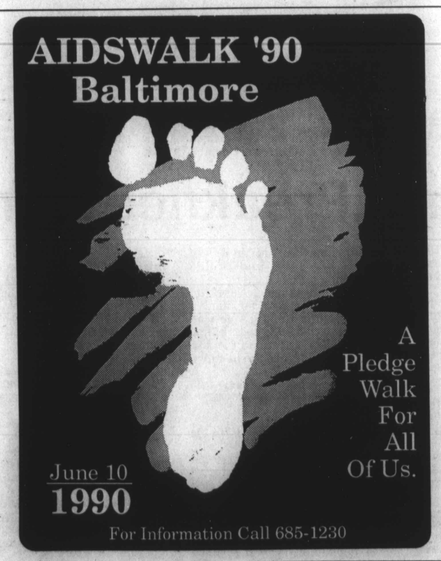
"Thanks to Doug Williams, he made it possible to have a Randall Cunningham, or Don McPherson," said a member of the Coppin Athletic Department.

Coppin State College participates in baseball, wrestling, women's volleyball, and men's and women's basketball, track and tennis.

Coppin's MEAC Championship Basketball team relaxes after being honored by those in attendance.

Women's basketball teammates talk over accomplishments of last season.

Doug Williams talks with Coppin State College President C. Burnett.



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SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

Milford Mill High

Helping students make a difference

By Joy M. Tyler
AFRO Staff Reporter

Nestled away in the Milford community of Baltimore County, Milford Mill high school has taken on daily challenges of students working hard to learn and cope with issues outside the classroom.

With an enrollment under 1,000, Milford is one of the smaller schools that is able to directly focus on its students to ensure that individual growth is attained.

Milford incorporates specialized programs for various areas of training for a large portion of its students. One such program is its multicultural center which focuses on teaching students the history and facets of other cultures, and how it impacts on society.

This program is especially important because the school has a 84 percent minority population, and they are given the opportunity to teach younger students about the many successful endeavors of their ancestors and present leaders.

It is also stressed that no particular ethnic group or Anglo-Saxon sect has a monopoly over others.

Perhaps the most personal of subjects tapped into at Milford is that of teen-age parenthood and the tremendous responsibilities that come with it.

The Parenting Program is the newest addition to the school curriculum, and depending on the student, the most vital.

. . . no particular ethnic group or Ango-Saxon sect has a monopoly over others."

Teen-age parents participate in the program, who need guidance with childcare while continuing studies.

A team of faculty and supporting staff help these young mothers cope with the trials facing them as parents and areas in child development.

This team made up of the principal, nurse, guidance counselor Healthcare and job searching is provided for students. Presently those who are participating are already parents, and need not only traditional education, but extra courses that concentrate solely on their special needs.

One of the more unique projects the school offers is called the Mentoring program in which faculty members serve as mentors for male students in grades 9-10.

Once a month, mentors meet with their students and discuss topics on self-esteem, decision making, friendships, personal accomplishments, and problems.

The program also utilizes some students from the senior class to serve as peer mentors. Mentoring has proven to be very successful in the school setting, and keeps students interested in school and fostering of a sense of family.

Mainstream students are provided an outlet to stay productive. Milford has a time-out/counseling room students can go to when pressure overrides willingness to work.

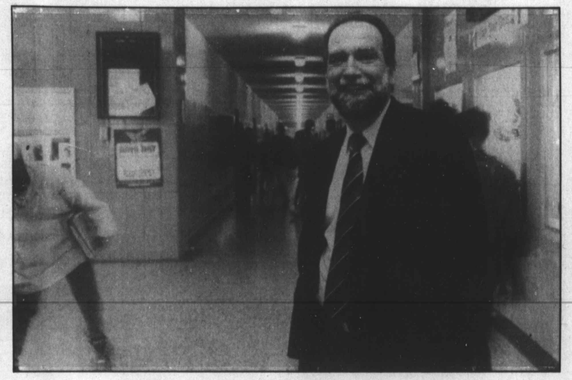
The time out room provides students with an outlet to discuss personal and academic problems with trained counselors, or they can sit and cool off.

Over one half of the student body has utilized this service over the past year, and student suspensions and expulsions have dropped dramatically since its implementation.

Not to be overshadowed, Milford traditional programs have fared well, and students compete at a local and national level in areas of Language, in which junior Clinton Nichols won a Gold Medal for Latin, placing him in the top five percent nationally for his efforts.

Nichols is not the only shining example of Milford excellence, the high school sports teams are highly competitive, and it holds county and state championships in football, volleyball, basketball, track, and wrestling.

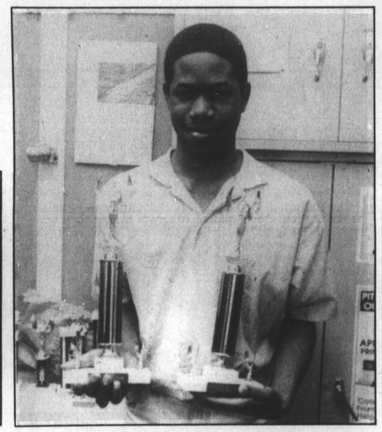
Milford Mill, a high school that has it all wrapped up, in the books and on the move.



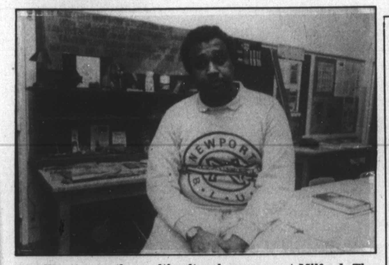
Principal Morris Hoffman of Milford Mill High School.

Never let it be said the woman's place is in the home, as these students, more than half the class is male, takes part in the home-ec cooking course.

Counselor Gail French is the school's time-out coordinator who helps students deal with school and personal problems that affect their learning.

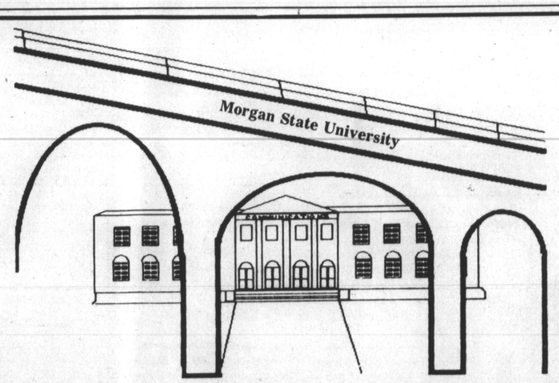


Junior Clinton Nichols, one of the shining examples of success. His performance in writing and Latin has put him in the country's top percentile in academic competition.



Mr. Wyatt runs the multi-cultural program at Milford. The course offers a diverse menu of ethnic culture and uses hands-on teaching to dismiss stereotypes.

Principal Hoffman stops to chat with Bilal Coombs, '92. Hoffman is serving as his mentor in the school program.



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