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NEWSBYTES

SATIN AND SILKS, mink and diamonds adorned those who took part in recent inaugural celebrations. The city was an endless round of revelry and as always the AFRO was there to capture those special moments on film. So for balls, parades and other elaborate affairs see.....**Page A2.**

METRO PROFILE .....**Section B**

TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW: Patience, quiet persistence and presence have characterized the people who directed Baltimore's Department of Social Services. As its new interim director, Shirley Marcus adds her own special quality to the list of three women directors who have gone before her. Story on.....**Page B1.**

FROM GEORGE TO GEORGE: Kids Talk takes a light look at President George Bush as the new leader of the nation and the President George Washington who took the same oath of office exactly two centuries ago. For a comparative look at their personal preferences and habits see.....**Page B7.**

BUSINESS PULSE .....**Section C**

GETTING THEIR SLICE of the $28 billion dollar wedding industry and hearing the cash register bells are some of the joys of June these entrepreneurs delight in. Story on.....**Page C1.**

THE LIVING CHURCH ...**Section D**

THE CHANGING FACE of Baltimore church ministries has just been increased with the addition of Rev. Micheal B. Curry, pastor of St. James' Episcopal Church. The Church Page Story on.....**Page D1**

FRIDAY PLUS: "Ain't No Sunshine" when you "Lean On Me," but "Keep On Using Me Until You Use Me Up" anyway or so said Bill Withers over the course of his recording career. Featured in this week's Friday Plus.

SOUTHLAND CORP. RECLAIMING FRANCHISES:

Garrison Blvd. 7-11 is latest to be taken over

By Delfield S. Yoes
AFRO Staff Writer

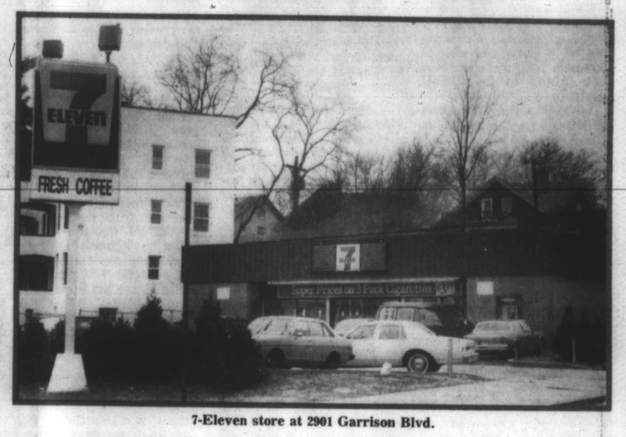
A string of controversial takeovers of local 7-Eleven franchises by their parent company, the Southland Corporation, continued Wednesday when the store at 2901 Garrison Boulevard was taken over by Southland.

Cookie Britt, the former owner, was forced to hand over ownership of her store to the Southland Corporation for several reasons. The most prominent reason, she alleged, was her crusade to effect reforms to improve the conditions under which independent 7-Eleven owners operate.

Britt was instrumental in soliciting the aid of Rev. Jesse Jackson and Operation P.U.S.H. in 1983, to help force the Southland Corporation to address the grievances of independent store owners.

In Baltimore, the most prominent grievance of the independent owners is the 72-hour closing policy.

This policy basically states that once the decision is made to close a store, the takeover of the store occurs within 72 hours, (3 days).



7-Eleven store at 2901 Garrison Blvd.

"There should be no reason why a large corporation can just take someone's livelihood. All they have to do is say that you're in breach of your contract and they can get you out in three days," said Britt.

Since May 1988, three stores in West Baltimore alone have been taken over; the store on Gwynns Falls Parkway, a North Avenue store, and now

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Grand jury studying child support agency

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Correspondent

The besieged child support system, which has recently been the subject of intense public scrutiny on a national level, has been placed under investigation locally by the Baltimore City Grand Jury.

In a statement released Wednesday morning, addressing the newly appointed Grand Jury, Judge Kenneth L. Johnson, who will serve as the Grand Jury Judge for the January term, delivered a stinging indictment of the child support sytem in Baltimore.

"Please let me identify a very serious problem of grave concern.

"The child support system in effect in Baltimore City is not working effectively to ensure that children entitled to financial support from their non-custodial parent receive payments promptly and regularly.

The lack of child support from non-custodial parents has been a major problem in the African-American community for many years; mothers and their children have traditionally bore the burden of an inadequate child support system.

Judge Johnson discussed the far reaching social implications of this dilemma.

"Custodial parents all too often are required to seek assistance from the Baltimore City Department of Social Services because the

(Continued on Page A2)

Episcopal diocese names:

Bishop Harris

(From Staff and Wire Reports)

Thirteen years after the Episcopal Church voted to allow female priests in its church, the Rev. Barbara C. Harris was named Wednesday as the first female bishop in the 2,000 year-old apostolic tradition.

Rev. Harris, 58, ordained a priest in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1980, becomes the first woman bishop elected by the 2.5 million-member American church.

The former public relations executive and head of the Episcopal Church Publishing Co. said she would not use her ordination as a vehicle to encourage the ordination of additional women.

Rev. Barbara C. Harris

(Continued on Page A2)

Officials livid over:

Morgan's rejection for business school

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

An oversight by business and economic planners to not consider planting a "world-class" business school at Morgan State University, calling the historically black institution a school for "remediation" has left the school empty-handed and a Baltimore official incensed.

"I'm just livid," said Vera P. Hall, of the Baltimore City Council, Fifth District. She is the state relations director for Morgan State University.

"You might as well call a spade a spade," Hall said outside an educational committee in Annapolis Tuesday. "That's a big bunch of garbage."

Hall was referring to Decatur Miller's (chairman of the Greater Baltimore Committee's Public Policy Committee) reply to a black committee member's question asking why a top ranking business school, similar to the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton, could not be established at Morgan to help Baltimore's economy.

Miller's reply: "Morgan's business school is not accredited."

Miller said Morgan has to first work to gain accreditation. "Let's not bite off more than that."

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Supreme Court slaps down minority set asides legislation

Local reaction

By Charles H. Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Blacks who thought they had survived the Reagan era unscathed were awakened by the "sledge hammer effect" of the recent Supreme Court decision declaring Richmond, Virginia's Minority setaside programs unconstitutional.

The decision sent shock waves throughout the black business community and has led to an uncertain existence for area quota programs, as well as the businesses they benefit.

"I can't think of any decision that could have had a greater impact on minority entrepreneurs," said Anthony Armstrong, former aide to Mayor Clarence Du Burns and member of a minority contracting firm.

"Very frankly I am surprised with the decision given the number of past challenges (to quota programs)," Armstrong added. "I thought the court was satisfied."

While the court may not be entirely satisfied it is sharply divided over the Richmond decision reached by a 6-3 vote.

In a dissenting opinion, authored by Justice Thurgood Marshall and including minority opinions by Justices Brennan and Blackmun, Justice Marshall, the sole black on the Supreme bench regarded the decision as "...a deliberate step backwards in

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'Don't Panic' — PJ

"There is no need for panic. The Supreme Court ruling concerning minority business set asides does not hold that such set asides are unconstitutional. All that the court has done is to tighten the guidelines for such local and state program."

This is the opinion of former congressman Parren J. Mitchell, who is now chairman of the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and education Fund, Inc (MBELDEF)

The Supreme Court ruled on Monday, Jan. 23 by a 6-3 decision that the Richmond, Va. program which set aside 30 percent of its construction contract for minorities was in violation of the constitution and a form of reverse discrimination.

Congressman Mitchell said that "The court did not touch the federal government set-aside programs, they remain in full force and effect."

"In addition," Mitchell said, "the court has stated that set asides are permissible as a last resort against discrimination in the market place."

Mitchell also explained that "It is important to note that all nine justices have stated clearly that this decision in no way precludes a state or local government from taking action to rectify the effects of identified discrimination within its jurisdiction."

"This court decision poses

(Continued on Page A2)

Richmond analysis

By Hazel Trice Edney
AFRO Staff Writer

The "kinder and gentler nation" envisioned by President George Bush has yet to come to fruition for Richmond's black contractors.

When the U. S. Supreme Court ruled the 30 percent minority set aside plan unconstitutional on Monday, some felt a cold wind blow under the blankets of justice.

The plan, adopted in 1983, had required 30 percent of all city construction contracts to go to minority firms. But a lower court had ruled the law unconstitutional in 1987 after a white firm filed a law suit charging reverse discrimination.

The U.S. Supreme Court voted 6 to 3 to uphold that ruling affecting anti-discrimination plans nationwide.

"This is a major blow for communities that have tried to make the profit fair for awarding contracts to people who have traditionally been excluded," said City Manager Robert C. Bobb.

City Councilman Chuck Richardson, who authored the paper said he is "disheartened that the highest law in the land could not recognize the merits of justice so firmly couched in the 30 percent legislation."

Before the utilization plan was enacted, less than one percent of the city's construction business was going to

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