IF YOU ASK ME

By Bettye Moss

Smile orchids

Smile-of-the-week orchids to these very pleasant good neighbors we met this week:

Ms. Gloria S. Wilson, an attorney who works in the office of Md. Court of Appeals **Judge Harry A. Cole** (who also keeps a cheery Smile). Attorney Wilson is a Morgan and U. of Baltimore Law School grad. and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Mrs. Sherrie Byrd, the contemporary gospel artist, who is a member of Greater Remnant Church of God In Christ, pastored by **Bishop David Spann**. Cuff note: Mrs. Byrd's husband **Michael**, the city police crime stopper, is the church's musical director.

Ms. Betty Crawford, receptionist at the South Baltimore Health Clinic in Cherry Hill, where she has been employed 11 years. She belongs to First Baptist Church.

David Skinner, the Housing Authority civil engineer who grew up in St. James Episcopal Church. He and his wife, Linda, have 3-year-old, **Danielle**, expect no. 2 child in July.

Did someone's smile make your day? Let us salute them. Write, Smiles, If You Ask Me, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md., 21202, and smile, please.

DICKEY HILL pupils, Latoya Merraro and Natenta Butler, at school's black history program.

PRESIDED—Twelve-year-old Bridget Sye, a sixth grader, presided at Dickey Hill black history assembly.

School bells

It's a thrill to watch and listen to elementary school children when they do well. It was so on last Thursday afternoon at Dickey Hill Elementary School No. 201.

Occasion was a black history program in which pupils from all grades participated. Theme of the program: — "The Afro-American in Economic, Political and Social Development, At Home and Abroad."

There were songs, poems and quotes from black Americans by pupils dressed in appropriate attire of their subjects. There were national figures like **Rosa Parks** and **Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall**, and localites like NAACP pioneer, the late **Dr. Lillie M. Jackson.**, and first black policewoman, the late **Sgt. Violet Hill Whyte.**

They presented a group song—"If you're happy, and you know it, clap your hands, your feet, nod your head . . . If you're happy and you know it, and you really want to show it," a spirited song with clapping of hands, stomping of feet at appropriate time. There was also a school song, "O Dickey Hill, dear Dickey Hill . . ."

Made you proud to watch the youngsters, as they performed — and to note that the pupils for the most part were sympathetic when a classmate hesitated in his presentation.

Twelve-year-old Bridget Sye introduced program participants Sixth grade classmate, **Theodore Williams**, gave the welcome in the school auditorium.

Be Kind

When there was an unecessary snicker when a pupil faltered in his reading **Principal Joan Stevenson** quickly reminded the children, "at Dickey Hill we've learned to be kind to one another . . ." Bravo!

Cuff notes — Girls no longer outnumber boys in elementary school, at least not in the primary chorus at Dickey Hill where they're half and half. Fourteen boys and 12 girls were in the fourth grade group which sang "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands."

If Dickey Hill pupils are typical of Baltimore public schools, the country is safe. The pupils were attentive and performed well, and acted kindly to each other. Teachers were pleasant and relaxed as they guided their charges through the program. Attractive bulletin boards decorated halls throughout the spacious school.

Typical of pupils met who posed for our camera second graders, Latoya Merraro, age 7, and Natenta Butler, age 8.

Present at the Black History program were parents and friends. Among them members of the Philomathian Club who have adopted Dickey Hill School-agreed to volunteer time and supply items on School's wish list,

Dickey Hill Elementary is located at 5025 Dickey Hill Rd., off the 5500 block of Forest Park Ave. not far from Kerman Children's Hospital in northwest Baltimore. School population totals 350, one third of whom are bussed in.

About people

People doing thoughtful things for others: — Co-workers and tenants of Rosemont Tower, the Poplar Grove St. housing project, honored **Mrs. Jeannette B. Leath** when she retired recently.

They saluted her for 18 years service with the Baltimore Housing Authority the last two years at Rosemont and Hollins, where she was an assitant manager.

The appreciation tribute praised her "willingness to participate and give of yourself in our endeavors to make our community a better place to live" . . . and added, "your kindness and smile will be sorely missed."

Retirement party chairs were **Mrs. Omelia Roberts**, Sunshine Club; **Bernard Snead**, Beautification Club; and **Mrs. Florence Richardson**, Golden Agers.

James T. Dorsey, will be feted at testimonial dinner this Sunday, (March 5) at Martin's West.

Events marks his dedicated service to the Baltimore community and as deputy grand master of Prince Hall Masons.

Members of the Hampton Pals, a group of female grads from the famed Hampton Institute in Hampton, Va., gathered in our city a week back for their 35th annual reunion.

Oldest person present, 95-year-oldMrs. **Zella Washington**, 1913 grad. Youngest grad, **Mrs. Frances McDaniel**, class of 1948.

Others there: Mesdames **Thelma Rice, Melissa Perdue, Mae Parrott, Idella Washington, Barbara Bennett, Marry A. Johnson, Mamie Williams, Vera Taylor, Catherine Adams, Catherine Royston., Ivora Gibson, Lois J. Carter, Patricia Pope, Aresa Richardson and Erma Meacham.**

Sick List: Prayers, please for **Roland Wheatley**, the good neighbor whom many remember as the kindly Hauswald Bakery exec for many years. Wife **Mildred**, reports he is in deep coma at Sinai Hospital, where he had been on life support system for past three weeks.

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South Africa OKs' neighborhood mix

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The minority white government Wednesday enacted a law that allows blacks and whites to live in specially designated multiracial neighborhoods for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Approved over the objections of minority members of Parliament and human rights activists who say it does not go far enough, the law has been hailed by the government as a key social and economic reform measure introduced in recent years that "changes the status quo in all spheres of life."

Its enactment coincided with an appeal by ruling National Party leader Frederick de Klerk for "real negotiations" with leaders of the black majority to ensure a "peaceful and prosperous future" for the racially divided country.

"We must start talking earnestly with one another now to find out how we can reconcile the expectations of your followers and mine," de Klerk said at a party meeting in the town of Nigel southeast of Johannesburg.

"I want to tell all leaders who strive for peaceful solutions tonight: the time for the Great Indaba (meeting) has arrived," he said, reiterating a commitment to Parliament

CARLETONVILLE, S. Africa — Sign in the park is a grim reminder of the strict segregation policies.

Sullivan confirmed as HHS Secretary

The Senate overwhelmingly confirmed Louis Sullivan as health secretary and James Watkins as energy secretary, bringing President Bush's Cabinet near completion.

In back-to-back ballots, senators voted 98-1 for Sullivan, a physician who is the only black chosen for the cabinet, and 99-0 for Watkins, a retired admiral who led President Reagan's AIDS commission.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., cast the lone vote against Sullivan, charging that the leader of Atlanta's Morehouse College medical school had ducked questions about "important" issues such as fetal research and AIDS confidentiality. The absent senator was Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.

Among those nominated for the 14 formal Cabinet posts, only John Tower, the defense secretary-designate mired in a major partisan fight for confirmation, and Ed Derwinski, selected as the first secretary of the new Veterans Affairs Department, still awaited Senate action Wednesday.

William Bennett, the president's choice for the new high-level position of National Drug Control Policy director, was applauded by the Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday in the first of two expected confirmation hearings.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, meanwhile, continued its hearings on Derwinski, the former Illinois congressman and State Department official who also appeared to have clear sailing to confirmation.

Senators from the full political range, from Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., to Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, heaped praise Wednesday on Sullivan, the political newcomer who sparked the only real Cabinet controversy other than Tower.

Sullivan, a friend of first lady Barbara Bush, had upset anti-abortion forces after he was selected by offering conflicting statements about his view on the federal government's role and the Supreme Court's ruling on the issue.

He silenced abortion foe at his confirmation hearing by reiterating for the record that he agrees with Bush that the procedure should be permitted only in cases of rape or incest or if the life of the mother is endangered. He also said he favored repeal of the 1973 court decision legalizing abortion.

Dr. Louis Sullivan and Sen. Lloyd Bentsen

Sawyer loses in Chicago primary

CHICAGO — Richard M. Daley — the first white politician to unseat a presiding black mayor in a major U.S. city — faced a new political challenge Wednesday: staving off an assault by long-term political foe Edward R. Vrdolyak.

Daley Tuesday captured the Democratic mayoral nomination by defeating acting Mayor Eugene Sawyer and won the right to run in the April 4 general election to fulfill the remainder of the term of the late Harold Washington, the city's first black mayor, who died in 1987.

With 96 percent of the precincts counted, Daley, son of the late, legendary Mayor Richard J. "Boss" Daley and currently state's attorney, won 473,045 votes or 56 percent to Sawyer's 363,460 votes or 43 percent.

Some 92 percent of Daley's support came from white voters while 97 percent of Sawyer's support came from black voters.

The result sets up a three-way matchup in the general election with Daley facing black Alderman Timothy Evans, who is running as an independent, and the winner of the Republican primary.

Vrdolyak, the one-time chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party, mounted a last-minute, write-in drive on the Republican ticket in what some were calling the politics of vengeance.

-Unofficial totals from 2,559 of the city's 2,911 precincts indicated Vrdolyak — nicknamed "Fast Eddie" for slick maneuvering during his days as elderman — had 11,113 votes to 10,240 officially taillied votes from 2,796 precincts for Herbert Sohn, the party's endorsed candidate.

Eugene Sawyer

An official canvass was scheduled for Thursday to determine the winner.

Vrdolyak and Daley have been at political odds for years. In 1981, Vrdolyak, with the backing of then-Mayor Jane Byrne, wrested the chairmanship of the Cook County Democratic Party from George Dunne, who had Daley's support.

In 1983, Daley mounted a Democratic primary mayoral bid against Byrne and Washington, which resulted in Washington's election as the city's first black chief executive following a racially divisive campaign.

Political observers predicted a race involving Daley, Vrdolyak and Evans could result in Evans' election as mayor, with Daley and Vrdolyak splitting the white vote.

An independent has not been elected mayor in Chicago in this century and no one other than the winner of the Democratic primary has occupied the office for more than five decades.

DADDY SHARES THE SPOTLIGHT — with family members as Sidney Poitier escorts wife Joanna Simkus and daughters Sidney and Anika to the American Museum of the Moving Image's salute to Poitier. Over 900 celebrities attended the event including Bill Cosby, Jennifer Holliday, Suzanne De Passe and Barbara Walters.

LOUISIANA REP. SHERMAN COPELIN, center, calls an ad hoc strategy meeting with fellow black caucus members the Louisiana House of Representatives, to discuss the newly passed Louisiana bill insuring minority set-asides in state contract bidding.

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