IF YOU ASK ME

By Bettye Moss

Smile orchids

Smile orchids to these good neighbors we observed this week:

Francis Green and his wife, **Joan**, a very pleasant couple. He's the retired State Health Department employee who teaches at Hopkins University. She's the education coordinator at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital. Both sing on the choir at Heritage United Church of Christ where Mr. Green is deacon and church clerk.

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Smile orchids to these sisters with engaging smiles — **Mrs. Andrea Oladye**, the Springdale Construction Co. project manager; and **Miss Debra Searles**, the Transworld Airlines documentation agent. Both ladies belong to Mt. Pisgah AME Church.

Mrs. Oladye's hubby, **Olu**, is a CEBO employee.

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And, orchids to **Roger L. Lyons**. He's the president and ceo of the Baltimore Urban League, who has been at his post just a year. (Remember, he succeeded **Ben Whitten** who retired).

The new Urban League chief has a disarming manner and keeps an audience in the palm of his hand when he speaks. It was so on Saturday evening when he addressed the Philomathian Club.

Lovely to look at and also to know, his wife, **Connie**, the Harford Heights Learning Center teacher.

Cuff note: The Lyonses have two children, **Tiffany**, 13, and **Roger Jr.**, 17, both enrolled in city public schools.

More orchids

Plenty of sunshine in the voice of **Harold G. Gordon**. He's the State and Mental Hygiene department administrator. He's also one of the 20 persons who served on the Prince Hall Masons' committee which gave that grand salute to **James T. Dorsey** on Sunday evening.

Sunshine also in the voice of committee chair, **Marion W. Barkley**.

Orchids to him and to **Samuel T. Daniels**, grand master of Prince Hall Masons who presided with grace at the salute to Dorsey.

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Mailbag: Jerome Williams, Annapolis: "I have been an AFRO reader for over 30 years. Has it been that long since I've been reading your column? Anyhow, I enjoy the column and I like the Smile Orchids.

"Please send some orchids for me to **Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Collins**. She is my neighbor and church member and a lady who is thoughtful, always has a smile no matter how dreary the day. Thank you."

Thanks to reader Williams. Yes, this If You Ask Me column is in its 45th year.

Did someone's smile make your day? Let this column write about it. Send your nomination to Smiles, If You Ask Me, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21202, and smile, please.

Roland D. Wheatley

Mr. Wheatley

Roland D. Wheatley was eulogized on Wednesday morning, (March 5), at Our Lady of Lourdes Church where he was an active member for over 30 years.

Mr. Wheatley died March 3 in Sinai Hospital. He suffered a massive heart attack after undergoing abdominal surgery last month and was on a life support system at the time of his death. He was 76.

Mr. Wheatley was the first black salesman and supervisor with Hauswald Bakery where he was employed for 26 years, retiring in 1976. He was a familiar figure at AFRO cooking schools and at AFRO clean block closings where through him his firm donated prizes and served as advisors.

The family tribute remembers him as a person who "spent his entire life helping, caring for and loving his family," and "his dedication and devotion was evident to all who knew him."

"Generous"

He was also remembered as one who was "generous to his community and who gave of his time and talents to the betterment of his fellowman."

He was a sports lover who coached baseball and enjoyed bowling and horseracing.

A Baltimorean, Roland was the son of the late **Lillie Johnson Wheatley** and **Raymond C. Wheatley** of Baltimore. He attended the city's public schools, was a 1929 graduate of Douglass High. He held membership in the Frontiers Club, the Friday Nighters, the Day Timers and Pals Bowling Leagues and was a charter member of the Baltimore Marketing Association.

Survivors: His wife of 53 years, **Mildred Clark Wheatley**; son, **Roland C. Wheatley**, Baltimore; daughters, **Joyce Obey**, Baltimore and **Jacqueline Green**, San Francisco;

Also, three sisters, **Mrs. Elizabeth Dais**, Baltimore; **Mrs. Emily Morales**, Sacramento, Calif. and **Mrs. Estella Dooley**, San Francisco.

Three grandchildren, **Kimberley Hill, JaiElyn Obey** and **Paul Wheatley**, and great-granddaughter, **Amanda Obey**, also survive.

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Thinking-of-you cards to **Mrs. Alice R. Matthews** and family. She's the long-time Eastern Star leader and Glen Burnie good neighbor. She was in Nashville last week for the funeral of her brother, **Dr. George N. Redd**, the pioneer Fisk University dean.

Also there from Baltimore area, Mrs. Matthews' daughters, **Mrs. Betty Shelton** and **Mrs. Anne Warner**. Dr. Redd is also survived by his wife of 49 years, **Mrs. Ruth D. Redd** and a sister, **Mrs. Mary Hairston**, also of Baltimore.

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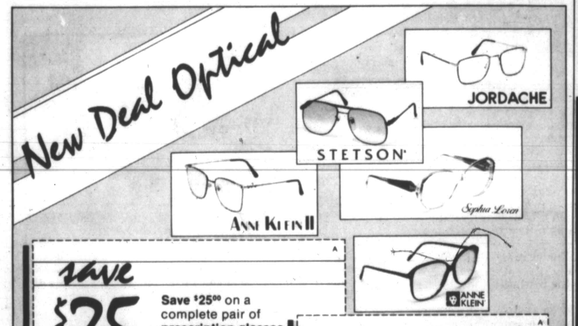

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12 Noon

SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

School #133

DUNBAR—Middle School on the move

By Delfield S. Yoes III
AFRO Staff Writer

After 27 years in the Baltimore City School System, Frances Jolley has finally come full circle.

During the last nine years, she was the vice-principal of Western High School, one of the more prestigious high schools in the city.

At the beginning of this school year, Jolley, closing in on her projected retirement, found herself as principal of Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School, a school with all the typical and not so typical problems of a school located in an economically depressed area. Why? Because she planned it that way.

In essence, Jolley was searching for a challenge and Dunbar Middle has provided that challenge and then some.

"In a school like this, you get greater stimulation and greater rewards because of the bridges you build. It, (Dunbar), was like a runaway train. The challenge was to stop the train and get it on the right track," said Jolley.

In just seven short months, Frances Jolley has utilized her volatile energy and enthusiasm to do just that. She slips off her stylish high heels and slips on her running shoes, when she conducts her frequent hall patrols.

She stops loitering students, sternly inquiring about where they belong, then she physically encourages them by hugging and touching. She tells them, "Give me, give yourself better than this."

The first priority for the principal, was to set, by example, high expectations for her staff and her students.

"This school is suffering from low expectations and low self esteem. Even some of the teachers don't feel to good about themselves," stated Jolley.

For example, in discussions with certain teachers concerning academic goals for students, Jolley encountered comments like, "Oh, they can't do things like that."

In the beginning of the school year, Jolley asked each student she came in contact with to tell her something good about themselves. The answer all to often was, "I don't know."

Still, Jolley is clearly undaunted by the magnitude of the dilemna. She along with her staff and a few tenacious parents, are attacking the problems head on.

Aniece Vinson and Ruth Westbrook are the school's guidance counselors and they manage a work load that is better suited for a staff of five. Between the two of them, they have implemented a myriad of programs to aid in promoting a more positive and progressive atmosphere at Dunbar Middle.

They solicited the assistance of the business community, including radio stations and other establishments, to honor 200 outstanding students and/or students with perfect attendance. The kids received albums, t-shirts and other awards for their excellence.

The two counselors work closely with, "Talent Search," of Coppin State College. Talent Search representatives come in each week to talk about self esteem and achievement.

Vinson and Westbrook also work with the WBAL Clothing Grant program, in obtaining clothing, eyeglasses and food for students who need these items. They are planning activities to heighten the awareness of students on problems like AIDS and drug abuse.

Outstanding faculty members like 8th grade teacher, Katharine Harris and 6th and 8th grade science teacher, Andrea Jackson provide the nucleus for desired academic excellence.

And then there is Diane Carmen. Carmen is a Special Education teacher at school 133. Everyday she engages her kids in a rousing, military like recitation, proclaiming, "I believe in me... I am somebody, I am me."

A significant number of Carmen's students have been mainstreamed into the regular curriculum and are doing well. In many schools, Special Ed. students account for major discipline problems, at 133, they are among the most well behaved students.

Jacqueline Spriggs and Isaac Neal, head up the PTA at Dunbar Middle. Neal is also an evening custodian at the school. They have established a newsletter, which Spriggs puts together, in an effort to try and reach more parents.

"We want to help the parents understand their responsibilities as parents," stated Neal. "We want to challenge our students, change the attitudes and the atmosphere," he continued.

" It's important that the children realize that we were killed and lynched just for trying to learn, so they can't waste their opportunity," Neal said. The PTA has organized several activities and fundraisers to raise money and to establish fellowship between teachers and faculty.

The list of those who contribute to the resurgance at school 133 is long. There are the assistant principals, Joseph Taylor and Rosemund Smith. Taylor works with the "Adopt a Student," program and Smith works with the "Teen Decision Making," program.

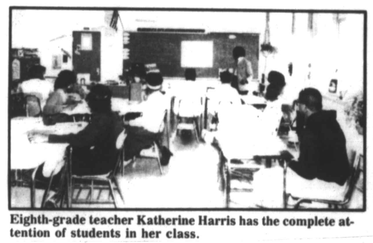
There is also William Allen, who works with a program called "Project Raise." However, everyone at the AFRO spoke with praises the efforts of Frances Jolley and the substantial impact she has made on Dunbar Middle School already.

Beyond her flawless aesthetic image, Frances Jolley, who is also a Baptist Preacher, is a woman who possesses prodigious confidence and faith. Her personal power is the force behind the slogan she created, "Dunbar, a middle school on the move."

"From cafeteria workers to custodians, every adult in this building has to be the proper role model, they have to present the proper work ethic," said Jolley.

"We don't have a lot of outside support, but we do have a vision and that vision is to turn out true scholars and to make this a model inner city school." Jolley hesitates for a moment, "The job is a joy, I've never been happier."

PTA members Issac Neal and Jacqueline Spriggs work with pupils as a part of their education process.



Eighth-grade teacher Katherine Harris has the complete attention of students in her class.

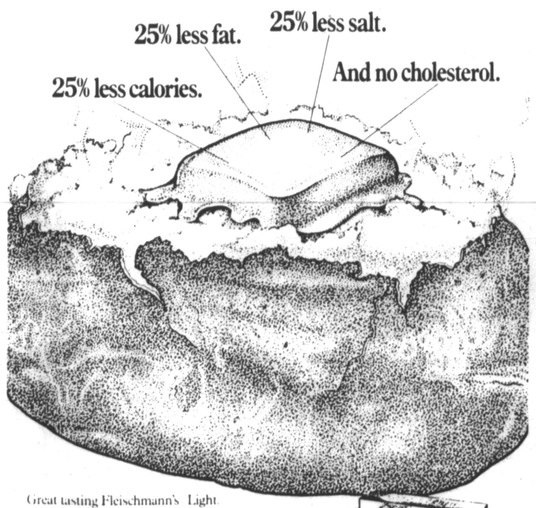
Photos by P.A. Greene

Frances Jolley, principal of Dunbar Middle School.

Jolley confronts student in hall without a pass.

Special education teacher Diane Carmen helps students deal with and appreciate animals.

Eating lighter never tasted so good.



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