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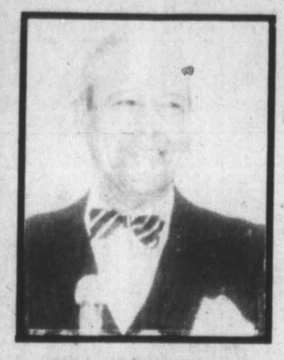
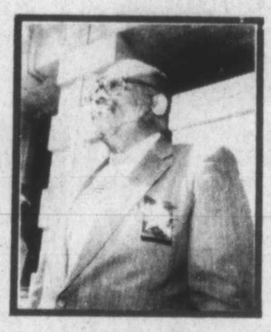
NEWSBYTES



WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING? You would be too if 400 close friends came to town ... and stayed at the Marriott Hotel. Samuel T. Daniels had the joy of hosting 400 past and present leaders of the Prince Hall Masons at a four day long conference in Baltimore and if you want to know if he enjoyed it, see story below.

METRO PROFILE .....Section B



THE LONG ARM of the law belongs to newly appointed 6'3" Baltimore City Sheriff John Anderson. The veteran law officer brings a new image to the top slot of the Sheriff's Department. Some will be disappointed, but not many will tell Big John about it. Story on... **Page B1.**

BUSINESS *PULSE* .....Section C

WHAT'S IN A NAME: For a West Baltimore physician it is a dream come true and a disaster long past, but not forgotten. The name is Victoria and now thanks to her father's determination it will live on. Story on..... **Page C1.**

DAG BLAST IT: The AFRO's Find The Blast Contest will have you pulling your hair, but what's a few lost hairs for a chance at playoff tickets. Contest on..... **Page C4.**

THE NUMBERS ARE IN: The AFRO Church subscription drive is nearing an end. To find out where your local church stands see **Page D1.**

FRIDAY PLUS .....Insertion

'No Matter What...':

Community vows to back Wade

By Fred Lindsey

Amid wild rumors, conjectures and speculation regarding Bob Wade's future as head basketball coach at the University of Maryland, the "official" decision may have been made in private, but it has not been announced publicly.

According to the president of Maryland William Kirwan and the athletic director Lew Perkins, the investigations (internal and the NCAA) are continuing and Wade's fate won't be known until inquiries are completed.

Although Kirwan made it known that Wade could be terminated before any investigative findings, if he deems it necessary, he would wait for the reports.

". . . The University of Maryland's internal review is ongoing, as well as the NCAA preliminary investigation," Perkins said when asked to comment on the Wade situation, "and it would be inappropriate for me to respond to either matter or to any specific question about men's basketball. . ."

This week both the Washington, D.C. and the Baltimore press indicated that Wade is gone and the only thing left is for him to do is to negotiate the "buyout" of the two remaining years of his contract. Reports also indicate that Kirwan would

(Continued on Page A8)

Bennie Benjamin dead at 82

Claude A. (Bennie) Benjamin, the dean of black songwriters, died May 2 in New York City at the age of 82.

He is noted for his songs written during and after World War II, which included his first big hit, "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire." Among his other standards are "When Lights Go On Again All Over the World," "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jet My Love."

Born in Christiansted St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, he came to New York in the late 20's, where he became the black king of "Pin Pan Alley." His next door neighbor was Paul Robeson.

Services will be held next week at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church in New York City. Details have not been completed.

In lieu of flowers it is requested that remembrances be sent to the University of Virgin Islands, Saint Thomas Campus.

Bennie and his wife, Martha, who passed in 1983, had no children. Surviving are nieces and nephews.

Literacy program gets boost

THE CITY THAT READS — First Lady Barbara Bush chats with Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke about the city's literacy program.

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

First Lady Barbara Bush was in town this week visiting the Learning Bank, a non-profit, adult literacy program sponsored by COIL (Communities Organized to Improve Life, Inc.) and Baltimore Reads, Inc. to offer her personal support of Mayor Kurt Schmoke's efforts to make Baltimore the "City that Reads".

Baltimore Reads, Inc., a private non-profit organization, is chaired by Reg Murphy, publisher of the *Baltimore Sun* and Frances Draper, president of the *AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS*, is vice-chair.

Mrs. Bush's visit focused national attention on the program which teaches adults reading comprehension and mathematical concepts which often enable them, for the first time, to perform everyday tasks for which they must have reading skills.

Mrs. Bush toured the facilities escorted by Learning Bank program director, Sister Judith Schnelz. Program instructors assisted several beginning readers whose lessons were printed on computer terminal screens.

"Our use of computer instruction is what makes our system so successful and unique," said instructor, Zerita Skates, a retired city teacher and experienced reading specialist.

"Class size at the center is kept to a maximum of 25 pupils, allowing each student to get instruction which is tailored to their specific needs," said Skates.

The Center now serves over 400 adult learners each year, a significant increase over the

(Continued on Page A8)

Health care workers:

Unions battle for control

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

A local black union leader said the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) will win 2-1 in the contest to gain control of the 75,000-member health care workers union in this month's mail-in referendum.

Bill Artis, assistant to the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees' president Henry Nicholas, said Wednesday he predicts AFSCME will defeat the Ser-

(Continued on Page A2)

Bill Artis

Robert Moore

Stokes introduces bill to aid elderly

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

The lack of air conditioning in 14 city nursing homes has sparked a city councilman to introduce a bill mandating senior centers be equipped with cooling systems to protect the healths of elderly residents during hot weather.

"This bill would have a tremendous impact on the quality of life in nursing homes during the summer months," said the bill's spon-

(Continued on Page A2)

Carl Stokes

Masons in town

By Charles H. Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

The world's largest black fraternal organization gathered at the BWI Marriott Hotel on May 3, as the Maryland Jurisdiction of the Prince Hall Masonic Order convened the 70th Conference of Grand Masters.

The conference drew together approximately 400 current and past state leaders of the over 450,000 member international organization con-

(Continued from Page A3)

MARYLAND GRAND MASTER, Samuel T. Daniels, welcomes Booker T. Alexander, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern District.

Guardian Angels meet with city officials

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

This week's meeting between the Guardian Angels, city councilmembers and Police Department representatives mark the beginning of efforts to bring an end to the impasse of two weeks ago. At that time Mayor Schmoke, city councilmembers and the police department could not reach an agreement on whether or not to officially welcome the Guardian Angels to Baltimore.

The last word concerning the acceptance or denial of the Guardian Angels will come from the Mayor of Baltimore. At the moment, Mayor Schmoke has adapted a wait and see attitude. His primary consideration is the safety of those who are physically involved in making citizen's arrest.

Police Department spokesman, Dennis Hill, said that "a welcome invitation

(Continued on Page A2)

All black jury finds Oliver North guilty

WASHINGTON — Oliver North, the former White House aide once praised by President Ronald Reagan as "a true American hero," was convicted Thursday of three felony crimes arising from the Iran-Contra scandal. He was found innocent of nine other counts.

North was convicted of aiding and abetting the obstruction of Congress in November, 1986 by making false statements and destroying official documents that

(Continued on Page A2)

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