Enjoying the festivities at the bill signing were (L to R) Jo Ann Bradley, Calvin Burnett, Coppin president; Belva Scott, Stanley Gordon and Sonia Stockton.

(Photos by Ricardo Gray)

Also present were (L to R) Del. Ulysses Currie, Joan Davenport, Samuel Myers, Stuart O. Simms, Robert W. Hearn, Louis Goldstein and Del. Howard Rawlings.

Engrossed in bill signing, as member of the Gen. Assembly and others look on are (L to R) Louis Goldstein, Joseph Curran, Lt. Gov. Steinberg, Pres. Miller and Speaker Mitchell.

Commemoration of African American Middle Passage

The Maryland Legislative Black Caucus hosted a signing ceremony and reception for House Joint Resolution No. 12 — "Commemoration of African American Middle Passage and Slavery" Sunday, June 11.

Festivities were held at the Coppin Center, Coppin State College. Lieutenant Governor Melvin Steinberg, Attorney General J. Joseph Curran and Comptroller Louis Goldstein were among those participating in the signing ceremony.

House Joint Resolution No. 12 (HJR 12) issues a request to President George Bush and the U.S. Congress to create a national monument commemorating African American Middle Passage and Slavery.

This monument would also recognize the contributions of slaves and their descendants to the economic development of the United States.

Delegate Howard P. Rawlings was the primary sponsor of this resolution, which he drafted in conjunction with Dr. Samuel Banks, Supervisor of the Office of Social Studies for the Baltimore City Public Schools; Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Jr., Director of the Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Maryland, College Park, and Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Professor of History at Morgan State University.

"I believe this to be the first resolution of its kind in the nation, where a state assembly will call upon President George Bush and Congress to establish a national monument in commemoration of African American Middle Passage and Slavery," said Delegate Rawlings.

The passage of HJR 12 was one of the top priorities of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus during the 1989 Session of the General Assembly.

The resolution reads in part:

WHEREAS, Millions of Africans were forcibly removed from Africa between the 15th and 19th centuries, under unparalleled suffering and death, as a means of economic enhancement and amelioration of the lives of Europeans and Americans; and

WHEREAS, The middle passage represented an underappreciated chapter in America's history whereby African slaves were transported by European and American slave traders into the Americas; and

WHEREAS, 20% of the Africans enslaves perished either as a result of the trek from: the place of captivity to the slave ships, or as a result of the hardships sustained during the middle passage across the Atlantic Ocean, or as a result of sufferings endured as slaves; and

WHEREAS, Slave labor enabled and provided the foundation for the commercial and industrial revolutions in Western societies, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, The devastating impact of the loss of life and destruction of family bonds and cultural heritage due to the slave trade pales in comparison to the many contributions that slaves and their descendants made to the economic development of the British colonies and subsequently to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans the descendants of slaves, in spite of segregation and discrimination since the complete abolition of slavery by the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865, have made substantial contributions to the nation; and

WHEREAS, No monument or memorial exists in our nation to honor and commemorate the unusual and towering example of the forebears of African-Americans who endured, despite the staggering loss of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State of Maryland request the President and the Congress of the United States to take the necessary actions to create a national commission to propose an appropriate commemorative monument in recognition of African American Middle Passage and Slavery and of the contributions African American slaves who survived made to the economic development of America.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Disney Comes to Baltimore

Saturday, June 17, is the grand opening celebration of The Disney Store at The Gallery Harborplace. On hand to kick off the celebration will be special guests, Mickey and Minnie. Join these celebrities, and other guests in The Disney Store from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 972-3355.

Community Association Meeting

The Broadway-East Community Association meets on Thursday, June 22 at 6 p.m. Meeting will take place at 1873 N. Gay St., Urban Services Neighborhood Center 5. Topics to be discussed are the Urban Renewal Project and the Collington Square Plan. People from this section of East Baltimore are urged to attend. Call 396-9153 or 732-7588.

Baltimore Anti-Apartheid Coalition

The Baltimore Anti-Apartheid Coalition, 2318 Callow Ave. will present forum on South Africa and the southern African region. Representatives from the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) and the African National Congress (ANC) will address the upcoming Namibia elections and the current events of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

This event will be held at the Christ United Methodist Church, Chase and Washington Sts., Monday, June 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 462-4933 or 728-4821.

YWCA Open House

The YWCA of the Greater Baltimore Area announces the opening of its new Springhill Infant and Toddler Center which offers day care for children between two months and two years old. An open house will be held Wednesday, June 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at 2501 Springhill Ave. All are welcome to attend. Call 466-3005.

Good Samaritan Hospital

Good Samaritan Hospital, 5601 Loch Raven Blvd. is offering a free babysitting workshop for kids, 12 years of age and older on Wednesday, June 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hospital Auditorium. Make babysitting your claim to fame this summer. Call 532-3838.

Baltimore Museum of Industry

Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Highway, will sponsor Picnic on the Pier, July 4. Bring a picnic supper, blanket and kids for a festive 4th. Gates open at 6 p.m. Fireworks at 9 p.m. Space is limited, call 727-4808.

Black Women Gathering

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene AIDS Administration's Outreach to Ethnic Populations Division will be co-sponsoring an important Women's Health Care Festival at Sojourner Douglass College, June 24. Over 200 black women are expected at this event at 500 North Caroline St., which will focus primarily on AIDS and HIV infection, as well as other health risks for black women in the 80's.

The day-long event, entitled, "Black Women Gathering," from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. will also celebrate black women's achievements, relationships and ability to survive throughout history. Speakers include gifted poet Nikki Giovanni and best selling novelist Toni Morrison. For more information, call 467-3970.

Forest Park Little League

Forest Park Little League, 3212 Elgin Ave., will hold its annual Crab Feast, Sunday, June 18 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. Call 448-1663 or 664-9429.

Festival

19th Annual Edmondson Community Festival will be held at the refurbished Edmondson Village Shopping Center, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, call 566-8405 or 945-7387.

Health Talk

"Obesity: Its Complication and Treatment," is the subject of a free health talk sponsored at Liberty Medical Center. The talk will be held Tuesday, June 20 at 7 p.m. in Room G-10 of the hospital's West Building at 2600 Liberty Heights Ave. Call 383-4461.

Woodstock Job Corps Center

The Woodstock Job Corps Center equips high school graduates and drop-outs with solid job training to prepare them for the workforce. Through the free program, youths can take college courses, earn their G.E.D., or learn one of many occupational trades. Some of the available training programs include business-clerical, health occupations, construction, retail and culinary arts. Call 576-1123.

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Project LEAP: a part of the city that reads

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, endorsed a joint AFL-CIO /Maryland State Department of Education, literacy program that will take Baltimore one step further towards the goal of becoming "The City That Reads."

Baltimore AFL-CIO President Ernie Grecco said, "We are happy to be in partnership with Baltimore City, over 10,000 City employees are AFL-CIO members."

The the Labor Education Achievement Program (Project Leap) will afford an opportunity for city employees to gain one hour of work release time for every class attended during working hours.

Project Leap is funded by a U.S. Department of Education Workplace Literacy Grant. The Community College of Baltimore will provide both the administrative coordination and the teaching staff for the adult education classes.

The project's class offerings will be divided into two categories; GED classes to help those near completion of high school gain a high school diploma, and Pre-GED classes for improving the reading and writing skills of those who want to enter a GED class but lack the necessary skills.

Greg Butler first heard about the existence of Project Leap through Bruce Allen, Educational Coordinator and Chief Shop Steward of Local 44. Allen traveled to area Union shops recruiting prospective students for Project Leap.

Butler, a school food service worker and 3 year member of Local 44, said, "I am a product of the good that Project Leap can do. I am here to inspire others who need to earn their high school diploma."

Project Leap's first classes were held in the Transit Worker's union hall on 25th Street. The project has now expanded to other union halls. Each class averages 15-20 students.

Now that the program includes time off for city workers, classes will be held in many city offices, offering city workers easier access from job to class without leaving the building in some cases.

International Page

South Africa extends state-of-emergency rule

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — South Africa reimposed tough limits on the activities of 32 anti-apartheid organizations and an estimated 500 individuals Friday as a state of emergency entered its fourth year.

President Pieter W. Botha's decision to extend the emergency with no changes for another 12 months drew swift condemnation from critics of the minority white government, but endorsements from a number of senior Cabinet officials, including his heir apparent, Frederik de Klerk.

South Africa's largest trade federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, warned Botha's decision to extend the emergency was a "recipe for conflict."

Japan, one of South Africa's largest trading partners, "strongly requested" Botha to reconsider his decision and reiterated demands for the release of jailed-for-life black nationalist Nelson Mandela and negotiations with "a wide range of black leaders."

A statement released by Japan's cultural representative in Johannesburg said the extension ran contrary to expectations created by Botha's government when it accepted a Namibian independence plan.

The 73-year-old Botha, who steps down after parliamentary elections in September, announced the extension at midnight, saying incidents of political unrest remained "unacceptably high" and blaming the continued emergency on "terrorist organizations."

The regulations — a carbon copy of last year's — empower police to enter and search premises, seize property and arrest persons without warrant. Those arrested may be held incommunicado for 30 days.

Reporting of incidents of political unrest is forbidden without permission from the authorities and any person in the service of the state acting "in good faith" is exempt from criminal proceedings.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Lt. Peet Bothma said restrictions on 32 anti-apartheid organizations and about 500 individuals were reimposed in moves that virtually prevent them from engaging in any anti-apartheid activity.

Bothma said less than 150 activists remain in detention without charge — a figure down sharply from estimates of 5,000 during 1988. A widely publicized hunger-strike among an estimated 800 detainees earlier this year forced the government to release most of them and serve them with restriction orders.

Police Deputy Commissioner Gen. van der Merwe said advance knowledge of revolutionary plans to disrupt September's elections was a key justification for extending the emergency. The elections for parliament exclude the country's 28 million strong black majority.

De Klerk, who is expected to succeed Botha, expressed his full support for the extension. Claiming positive results from the previous state of emergency, de Klerk said "a certain degree of stability had been achieved."

A spokesman for the right-wing Conservative Party supporting the extension said "it is the wiser course at this stage.

Zach de Beer, co-leader of the recently formed Democratic Party, condemned the extension as a "tragedy for civilized government" but expressed no surprise.

JOHANNESBURG, S. Africa — Murphy Monroe (L) leader of the United Democratic (UDF) anti-apartheid coalition, shares a public platform with Harvey Tyson, editor of South Africa's biggest daily newspaper to protest against three years of emergency rule.

Sudan and Ethiopia set September talks

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Sudanese government and rebel negotiators Monday agreed to hold a long-postponed conference in September, giving themselves three months to settle their differences and reach a permanent cease-fire in the six-year-old civil war.

The agreement was announced at a joint news conference after two days talks in the Ethiopian capital, the first such negotiations since the black, Christian-led Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) mounted its uprising against the Arabic-speaking Moslem government in Khartoum in 1983.

An informal cease-fire in the civil war that has led to hundreds of thousands of deaths was scheduled to expire Wednesday, but both sides said they hoped it would be extended.

The parties met to discuss implementation of a tentative peace pact reached in November between the SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), a junior partner in the governing coalition of Prime Minister Sadig al Mahdi.

The agreement called for the freezing of Islamic law, or sharia, the cancelation of defense pacts with Egypt and Libya, the lifting of a state of emergency and a cease-fire.

Those steps were to be followed by a constitutional conference in December to settle the future of Sharia and increased autonomy for southern Sudan, but the conference was postponed amid squabbling within the government coalition and disagreement over how the provisions would be implemented.

The negotiators agreed to hold the constitutional conference Sept. 18.

"The fixing of a date for the constitutional conference was very important . . . . This was number one," said Sudanese Foreign Minister Sidahmed al Hussein, head of the government delegation.

"There are parties in Sudan who are interested to blow up the peace progress (but) now we have fixed this date and we're sure . . . that the permanent cease-fire will take place and the constitutional conference will take place," he said.

The SPLA insisted at the talks that the sharia laws, with their floggings and amputations, must be formally frozen by an act of Parliament while the government argued they are already inactive and that no punishments have been carried out since it endorsed the DUP-SPLA agreement in March this year.

Both issues were left to be resolved at a subsequent meeting in Addis Ababa on July 4, at which time the sides will also discuss the implementation of the cease-fire and the lifting of the state of emergency.

The parties also agreed in their weekend talks on steps for abrogating the defense pact with Egypt but remained divided on the Libyan pact, with the rebels calling for its cancellation by both countries while the government said it was only a private agreement between defense ministers and had already expired.

"As you can see from our discussions, there are still some differences of interpretation," said commander Lam Akol, head of the SPLA delegation. "We are convinced now that the other side will go home and convince themselves that these are the correct procedures."

The civil war has caused massive disruptions of food cultivation and distribution in southern Sudan, leading to an estimated quarter-million starvation deaths in the region last year.

WINDHOEK, Namibia — Supporters of the South West Peoples Organization (SWAPO) sing and wave placards as the first Namibian political exiles return home.

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CONTINENTAL INTERNATIONAL

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