—HUD scandals

(Continued from Page A1)

run into trouble, however, over a deal with a Texas developer, Leonard Briscoe, over a $7 million 1983 grant or a Fort Worth housing project in which Wilson rammed through approval over the objections of some HUD officials.

His reward was a 15 percent share of a $24 million apartment complex in Florida. It's these actions which the committee is interested in, but Wilson has used maneuvers to delay coming before the committee and has refused to say why he needs a delay.

Wilson did play the part of the exorcist in fending off a rising tide of dissatisfaction among minority employees at HUD, including blacks, Hispanics, women and the Jewish caucus.

In one stormy meeting with the disgruntled factions, he asserted that the Secretary who was black was deeply aggrieved about charges of discrimination and he cited his long association with civil rights causes.

But Pierce was blandly indifferent to the campaign of systematic weeding out of blacks from senior level positions, of demotions, low performance ratings and other methods re-coloring the agency to pale white at the top.

In one ignominious example, a GS12 black was demoted to a GS 5 and sent to quarters in the sub-basement of the department where he fiddled away his time at secretarial duties while still collecting his GS 12 salary.

Meanwhile, the Secretary was well aware of efforts by two black celebrities to obtain grants from HUD. Jazz musician Lionel Hampton and former Massachussets Senator Edward Brooke joined Mr. Pierce in taking an active role in routing their request through proper channels. Senator Brooke was listed as a consultant for Section 8 (low income public housing) He received $183,000 from clients seeking favors.

Mr. Hampton got an award of $20 million for rent subsidies on a project in Newark, N.J. A later deal for a project in Atlanta, Ga. fell through when the site selected was found to be a historic Civil War plot designated as a monument to Confederate soldiers.

Mr. Pierce wrote letters to "Dear Lionel" and "Dear Ed" assuring them of his interested, and he further sent memos in support of the requests to offices at the regional districts involved.

—G-O-L-D

(Continued from Page A1)

purchased through the sale of drugs.

Baltimore's forfeiture squad is composed of four officers, led by Sergeant Nicholas Palmeri. The less flashy vehicles seized by the squad are used as a primary source mode of transportation during undercover drug raids.

Sergeant Palmeri says, "It is important to remember that although a suspected drug dealer might be found innocent of criminal charges relating to drugs, we can seize their material goods."

Sergeant Palmeri says, "We have seized more automobiles than anything else. We average about 100 seizures per month. Out of that number 10 percent will remain in the custody of the squad.

Sergeant Palmeri remembers the seizure of convicted drug dealer Will Franklin's assets as the squad's largest seizure.

The Franklin seizure included Odell's nightclub on North Avenue and several automobiles among the long list of property belonging to Franklin. Property belonging to Tommy Lee Canty, a convicted heroin and cocaine salesman netted the squad four houses.

Sergeant Palmeri said, "When we seize an article its value is appraised. It is important to remember that it is the property that is going on trial as opposed to hearings where a person is on trial for his or her actions."

Sergeant Palmeri said, "I think that we are part of the solution" (the drug problem).

How to borrow $5,000 and more for 1% less.

It's that time of the year again. Time to save on all the things money can buy! Because First National is having a Loan Sale. And it's going on right now!

During our Loan Sale, we're offering you a special ½% **discount on all fixed-rate installment loans of $5,000 or more.** That can add up to substantial savings on almost any large purchase: a special vacation . . . furniture . . . new car . . . or boat. And, when you sign up to repay your loan using our convenient Pre-Authorized Transfer service from a First National checking or savings account, you'll receive an additional ½% discount.

To find out how easy—and fast—it can be to borrow $5,000 for 1% less, visit any First National Bank of Maryland office to apply. Or, call toll free:

1-800-842-BANK
Monday-Friday: 8 AM-8 PM; Saturday: 10 AM-3 PM

and request loan information by phone. But, don't put it off. First National's Loan Sale ends soon.

Exceeding the Expected.

First National Bank of Maryland

Member FDIC/Federal Reserve System • Equal Opportunity Lender

The special installment loan rate discount applies only to new loans of $5,000 or more. Applications must be received by August 31, 1989. This discount cannot be combined with any other loan discount or rebate or applied toward the refinancing of an existing loan. The discount does not apply to Government Student Loans, purchase money mortgages or loans secured by CDs or savings accounts.

—Will it survive?

(Continued from Page A1)

"Changing the festival's name to one that would display a greater evidence of our role in Diaspora and more input into those businessmen chosen to help phase in the transfer of festival sponsorship to the community are other areas where we would like to see some change."

Napata said "We have had several meetings with AFRAM officials. Urban Services Director, Lloyd Mitchner was understanding and tried to work with us in bringing about a positive change in the way AFRAM is run."

Lloyd Mitchner said, "We had a very positive and open meeting with Napata and his group. I think that they were surprised that we could get so many of their grievances aired and do something to correct the areas where others thought we were lacking and not living up to our obligations.

"One of the misconceptions of the public is that we garner great sums of money from the festival. The truth is that we do not raise enough of the capital needed to successfully run the festival without the support of Baltimore City", said Mitchner.

Another false conception was dispelled by Richard Lewis, Vendor coordinator for Urban Services. Lewis said, "People often criticize what they think are exhorbitant fees for the rental of booths at AFRAM.

Lewis said, "The truth is that we can not fill the demand for booths. Year after year the same vendors vie for space at the festival. They make money and come back each year in anticipation of increasing their revenue."

"We have been charging the same price for booths throughout the last three years. The cost runs between $200 to $400 for non-food vendors and between $500 to $700 dollars for vendors who sell food at the fair. We also provide electrical outlets free of charge to vendors who purchase space", said Lewis.

Napata said "Although the majority of our concern were addressed one of the greatest demands made by our group was an early meeting with Mayor Schmoke to discuss the administration of AFRAM. This meeting has never taken place."

Mayor Schmoke has presented the community with a long term plan that phases out the city's heavy financial sponsorship over a period of several years.

Mayor Schmoke said" The AFRAM festival is the largest ethnic celebrations of its kind on the entire East Coast. Quite a great deal of money goes into the preparation of the festival, which makes it an expensive project for the city.

Mayor Schmoke suggested that critics of the festival think about the vast sums of money needed for overtime for the city's public employees, funding of the AFRAM scholarship program, the parade and the luncheon as well as running the entire festival over a period of an entire weekend.

"No other festival has so many components as AFRAM. We could organize a cheaper festival but it would be lacking in the many extras that AFRAM is known for."

Mayor Schmoke said, "I heard businessman Wesley Johnson, owner of the Five Mile House speak at a businessman's luncheon. He has a lot of positive ideas about how AFRAM can be improved. I asked him to chair a steering committee composed of a cross section of people who represent both the public and private sector as well as for profit and non-profit organizations."

Rev. Napata and his group are satisfied with the majority of the proposals and changes made for the future of the AFRAM festival. Napata said" The most pressing concern I have is that a meeting between the Mayor and my group take place to iron out our differences and present our proposal for structuring a new AFRAM.

The AFRAM souvenir book distributed at the opening luncheon carried "The AFRAM story complete", a history of the festival authored by Norman Ross, chairman of the 1989 AFRAM steering committee and Director of the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program, the festival's producer and promoter.

Ross concluded the history of the festival on this ominous note: There have been some unfortunate misunderstandings about AFRAM which may contribute to its demise in the not too distant future.

"AFRAM has become a tradition in this city and is looked upon with great expectations, annually.

"The city of Baltimore should not allow it to die. Hopefully it will continue."

Ross need not worry; the festival although restructured will continue to be a viable part of Baltimore's black cultural heritage.

—U.S. joins search

(Continued from Page A1)

House officer representing Speaker Thomas Foley, left Eglin Air Force Base in Florida on an Air Force transport plane for Ethiopia early Thursday morning to await search results in Addis Ababa.

A massive C-141 Starlifter had arrived in the Ethiopian capital late Wednesday with medical - evacuation specialists aboard. It was standing by in Addis Ababa, where another Starlifter carrying spare parts for the C-130s was expected, said Haley. Officials in Washington said four Air Force helicopters also would be sent.

The C-130 crews on their way to Addis Ababa listened for a transmission from an emergency locator device the missing Twin Otter was known to carry, but failed to pick up a signal, said Haley. The crews were to rest until dawn Friday and then rejoin the search.

Ethiopian authorities put four air force helicopters into the air Thursday, bringing to about 15 the number of Ethiopian craft involved in the operation, Haley said. Rain delayed the beginning of the search for several hours past dawn but it reached full strength as skies began clearing, Haley said.

Ethiopian aircraft crossed the border to fly over rebel-held portions of Sudan in Wednesday's search, and were likely to do so again Thursday, said Haley. He was unsure what clearance may have been obtained from the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which maintains an office in Addis Ababa.

Alma Newsom, Leland's press secretary in Washington, said Wednesday the failure to find wreckage in the mountainous highlands during the first two days of the search was "very good news."

She said the aircraft had enough food and water to last the group at least through next weekend if they made a forced landing.

—D.C. deb wants $$

(Continued from Page A1)

on charges by Cambridge, MA. police that he raped the co-ed, forcing her to perform various sex acts on videotapes during their nine-month courtship.

But the co-ed, says Watkins, later demanded $82,000 from him and "threatened to go to the police about us if she didn't get the money."

The details of the case, meanwhile, appear to be that much more confusing. According to a confidential April 12 memo authored by Harvard law professor Marc Laurenstein and mailed to the WASHINGTON AFRO, Watkins is portrayed as a sexual deviant who used physical force to seduce the co-ed; based on her testimony, and the testimony of other witnesses.

The tapes also included, according to both Watkins and the co-ed, the nude appearance by the son of one of the District's leading Pentecostal ministers — himself a student in Harvard's School of Divinity.

It has also spurned other charges that the amateur porn videos were the mainstay of the Society of Black Professional Entrepreneurs (SBPE), a campus organization founded by Watkins.

"This girl was my girlfriend and everyone seems to forget this. These tapes were something we both wanted to do," he told the AFRO.

He said he lost a lofty $1,583 a week job at a major law firm when news of the scandal broke. Harvard, he said, also forwarded the sordid details of the scandal to more than 1000 of the nation's leading law firms.

"That clerkship was supposed to launch my career," Watkins said. "But they just out and out called and told me not to report to work.

"Suddenly, I have become the bully, the rapist, because I won't give this girl the money, and she is the helpless victim.

"That's bull, that's extortion and Harvard University is allowing her to do this to me."

For Watkins, the dog days of summer in Bedford Stuyvesant have been made all the more bleak with his lack of employment and a possible rape conviction. He's lost 50 pounds, he says and a second Harvard hearing is scheduled on or about his 25th birthday Aug. 24. "What a birthday present," he sighs.

A Dec. 11 visit to Watkins' Cambridge apartment, for example, is described as follows in the memo:

"She walked to the door to put on her shoes. Kevin got undressed. They struggled. She said 'don't do this to me'. She said she was going out with someone else. She said 'no, no', Kevin said, 'I don't care.' She said, 'don't make me do this'. He said 'I don't care about your feelings anymore; you're an enemy.'"

He forced her to do oral sex. She said, 'why don't you just kill me and get it over with?' Watkins replied, 'Well, I want to do these things first.' She felt overpowered, all of her strength drained. She said she didn't want to have sex. Then they had oral sex both ways and he turned her around and forced himself into her."

The memo also records the co-ed's testimony that she (a) had sex with Watkins on their first date against her will (a fact that he vehemently disputes) ; (b) used pornographic videos as a prelude to sex; (c) forced her to have sex with him and his cousin during two visits to New York and (d) suggested she have sex with multiple partners, including intimate relations with other women.

The SBPE tapes came about, according to the memo, as a "security measure" to distill allegiance in the group's members. The memo stated that Watkins' first such tape included nude footage of another black co-ed at St. John's University, Watkins' undergraduate alma mater.

The second set of tapings, said the memo, featured Watkins and the co-ed in explicit sexual acts and later included the divinity student from the District in the buff. At one point on the tape, the co-ed is shown performing fellatio on Watkins before gidcilly saying "Live, it's candid camera, wheeeeeeeee!"

When the co-ed later threatened to show the tape to law school officials, the memo stated, Watkins reportedly said, "Go ahead, you're nothing. Look at you grinning. The dean would realize you're just a nymphomaniac."

Watkins said both the co-ed and the divinity student eventually stole the videotape; keys and SPBE monies from his apartment when he refused to give them the tape last December.

He said she first offered him money for the tape, but later demanded "$82,000 in exchange for not going to university and police officials.

Following her admission of the demand, Watkins says, Harvard officials and the Middlesex County District Attorney L. Scott Harshbarger allegedly suggested that he "persuade his mother and other family members to sell their homes" in order to pay the co-ed.

Tom Samlouk, an assistant in Harshbarger's office and his press aide described Watkins statements as "an attempt by the defendant to lobby on his own account."

"He is facing some very serious allegations, two counts of rape and one count of assault and battery," said Samlouk , adding that Watkins could face a grand jury probe if probable cause is determined during a scheduled Aug. 21 hearing.

"We will reserve all comment, and present our case in the courtroom — its appropriate forum — and not in the media "Samlouk said.

Harvard spokesperson Marjorie Heffron said the university would have "no comment because it is against our policy to comment when administrative boards are operative," and said officials "had no statements to make or any knowledge of" an alleged court complaint filed by Watkins.

Ms. Heffron also said Harvard officials declined comment on allegations made by Watkins which charged they were aiding the co-ed in extortion; had worded internal memos to portray him as a bully and had threatened him not to go public with the allegations.

Watkins adds that although the tapes were made during the early fall of 1988, no formal complaint was filed by the coed with Harvard officials until Jan. 12 of this year, and according to the memo, the two continued to have sex in the interim.

Watkins also alleges that the tapes were not the co-ed's first experience with nudity. He said she showed him several nude photographs from a modeling portfolio.

"Some will view her as being imminently more believable than I because she comes from a wealthy background," Watkins said of the co-ed "Some view her a being incapable of lying about rape because they feel women can't lie about such serious issues."

Attempts by the AFRO to reach the co-ed at her upper N.W. home were not successful and the co-ed's attorney, failed to return phone calls to her Boston office number (617) 338-0070.

The co-ed's father, a successful surgeon and family physician was away from his S.E. office a receptionist said

In retrospect, Watkins now says "nude videotaping, even with your girlfriend is imprudent," and claims he erred in judgment in becoming involved with the coed. "I really did like her a lot, and I looked out for her," he said.

"But I told her from the beginning that I had a fiancee that I was not going to leave for her. That's really why she's mad."

Scenes from 1989 AFRAM Festival

Top notch entertainment — The smooth and sultry sounds of Natalie Cole.

(Above) AFRO Staffers Lynda Sharp, Elvera Kirk, and Antoinette Chambers distribute papers, and balloons at the AFRO booth.

The African dance group Kan Kourin gave AFRAM watchers an explosive taste of native dancing.

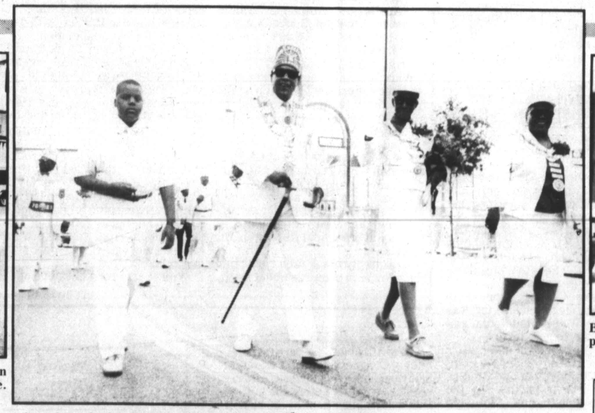
AFRO Photos by Ricardo Gray

(Right) Local top 40 trio "Mascara" is a family affair, as the sisters perform the latest hits.

The Honorable Mayor Kurt Schmoke hams it up with Channel 11's Rod Daniels during a brief rapping duet while daughter Katherine, and City Council President Mary Pat Clarke join in on the fun.

The Elks parade through downtown Baltimore

Elk participants carry Maryland delegation into the spotlight during Tuesday's parade.



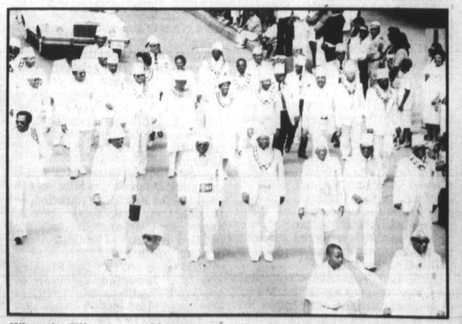
Grand Exalted Ruler Donald P. Wilson, and Grand Daughter Ruler Jean C. W. Smith take to the streets for the Elks' parade in downtown Baltimore.

Beauty and talent winners wave with a smile in parade motorcade.

AFRO Photos by Paul A. Greene

Elk flag carriers display their colors.

High Steppin' marcher Charles Stewart leads the Jerusalem Temple No. 4 Shriners in the line of march.



When the Elks go marching in . . . local and national officials show their numbers.