Banks gets Commission job; board approves book list

The controversy over the directorship of the Commission on the Revision of the Social Studies is finally ended.

The Board of School Commissioners voted last night 6-1 (Thursday) in its meeting at Dunbar High School to approve the recommendation of Acting Superintendent of Schools, Sterling S. Keyes that Samuel L. Banks be named to permanently head the commission.

Mr. Banks, now acting director, receives a salary of $21,318. In his new position as permanent chairman of the commission he will receive the same salary.

The naming of Mr. Banks as the permanent head was the subject of last-minute political maneuvering by Stephen Sachs, representing the Public School Administrators and Supervisors Association.

Mr. Sachs asked the board not to name Banks but to name school Social Studies Supervisor, Edward L. Biller; who has had no connection with the commission, as the permanent head.

Sachs contented that Banks was being appointed to the position solely os the basis of race. Bilier, he said, was better qualified than Banks for the job. He contented further that the board was using criterion other than merit in appointing Banks to the position he has held since the commission was appointed by the board in April, 1970.

* * *

Board Members Kalman "Buzzy" Hettleman and Larry S. Gibson sharply disagreed with Sachs.

The AFRO learned that former superintendent, Thomas D. Sheldon, is alleged to have sent a letter recently to the board and the school system saying that Biller should be named to the position which Banks now has.

Mr. Hettleman noted that "Dr. Sheldon was ill-advised" when he sought not to have Banks reappointed. Commissioner Gibson said, "There is no question in my mind that Mr. Banks is better qualified for the position. The only reason we have this action before us now is because there is an increase in salary involved."

Gibson said that Sachs had intimated that race was the deciding factor in the board's decision. Commissioner Cyril O. Byron, who is black, said that the board had a prerogative to name one of the top five candidates to the position being sought.

He asked acting superintendent Keyes whether this was true or not. Mr. Keyes replied "This is correct."

Newly named white, conservative member, Robert J. Thieblot, noted that he would vote for Mr. Banks only because it was necessary to bring a certain amount of harmony to the board and that he did not want to slight Mr. Biller.

Mr. Biller has a bachelor of arts and a master of arts. Mr. Banks is a doctoral candidate at George Washington University.

Mr. Banks told the AFRO that one of the primary reasons for the establishment of his commission was the failure of the regular social studies division (which Biller now heads) to adequately revamp the curriculum in the schools in step with the changes in the country.

In other matters, the board overturned an attempt by Mrs. Maree Farring and Robert Thieblot (who openly seem to be voting the conservative line) to block the recommendations of a special English committee within the schools to approve book lists for secondary students.

Quoting from a book called "Rules for Communism" Mrs. Farring said she couldn't vote for Mr. Banks or the textbooks because the books were "filthy, indecent, and could be bought down on Baltimore St." In the case of Mr. Banks she felt that naming him had discouraged other staff members. She alleged resignations in the system were as high as 100 per month.

The books submitted by the special English committee, headed by the school's supervisor of English, and recommended by Dr. Vernon S. Vavrina, associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction included:

"Soul on Ice" by Eldridge Cleaver; "Blues for Mr. Charlie" by James Baldwin; and "Black Boy" by Richard Wright.

The attempt to block the inclusion of the books was defeated 5-2 with Mrs. Farring and Thieblot voting in favor of the motion.

In other matters the board voted to add other high school graduation requirements to those already listed in school board regulations.

Board President Robert Karwacki appointed a special committee to look into the possibility of resuming board contact with the community by staging public sessions with each school's parent representative to keep them informed on the special problems and areas which the school staff is working.

This came on suggestions by Commissioners Hettleman and Gibson that closer contact be maintained with the community.

They noted that Saturday morning sessions might be convenient for the members and the parent representatives.

* * *

In the audience hearings session of the meeting, board members heard teachers say that a stricter code of conduct was needed in the schools after the attack on Mrs. Karen S. Foreman, 22, of the Lombard Junior High School on December 18 by a student.

Mrs. Foreman, along with other teachers from the school, appeared to tell the board that teachers should refuse to teach when students are allowed back into the classroom after physically abusing a teacher.

The Superintendent said the student mentioned by Mrs. Foremna had undergone therapy with a doctor of mental health and would be transferred to another school.

Mrs. Foreman and the teachers (Mrs. Barbara Anderson and Paul Smith) said that the child should not be returned.

However, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services, Dr. Robert C. Lloyd said in his professional opinion that the student should be permitted to enter the classroom. He noted that the school system has been in contact with Juvenile Court Judge Robert Hammerman on the matter.

Mr. Smith told the board that he sees them in the schools walking through the corridors, but they don't have to handle verbal, physical and mental abuse from the students. To this remark came applause from the large audience of about 300.

Also speaking on the matter of school discipline was Mrs. Patricia Roberts, field representative for the Baltimore Teachers Union.

Members of the board present not mentioned above included Stephen McNierney and James M. Griffin. Absent was Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy Moss who was out of the country.

The next scheduled meeting of the board is March 4, at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Barclay Elementary School, 29th and Barclay.

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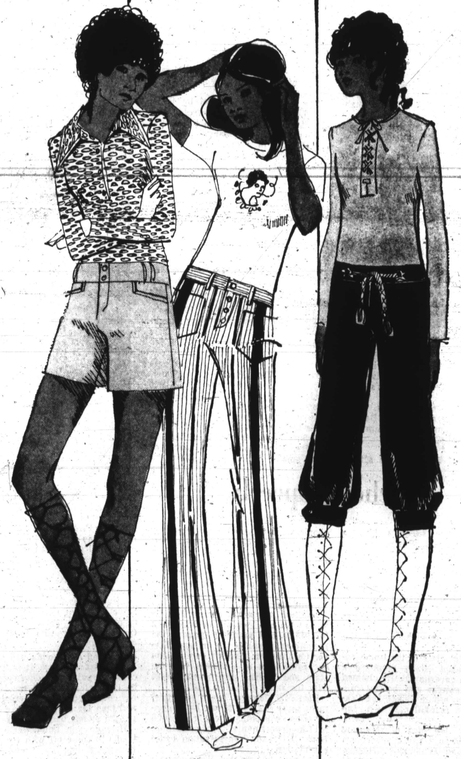

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Top: long sleeved, bubble of nylon, rayon, Lycra® spandex. A stone gas, $14 Pants: Vibrate to the beat of velveteen Hot Pants: A scorcher, $11

Top: snug cotton knit, $5 Pants: 4-pockets to put photos and bubblegum in; fly front. Flashy cotton cord stripes for the "color me cuddly" look, $13

Top: long-sleeved lace 'n' knit in funky cotton, $9 Pants: denim knicker-jean with star grommet rope; it's a Montana meets England kind of style, $13

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Gadabouting in Baltimore

Maryland League to explore aims, power of lib women

with Lula Mackay

The Maryland League of Women's Clubs, scheduling its 28th Annual One-Day Conference for March 27th, will explore the power of the liberated woman, officials said, this week.

The conference will follow the usual format, with registration beginning at the Coffee Hour at 8:30; a morning session for club reports and election of officers at 9 a.m.; workshops and institutions for youth at 11 a.m.

The luncheon, which is set for 1:30 p.m. caps the day's program. Mrs. Calvin Burnett, assistant director of Nursing at Provident Hospital, will be luncheon speaker. Tab for the whole (registration, morning coffee, luncheon, tax and gratuities) will be $7.50. Deadline for registration is March 12, with the registrations being taken by Mrs. Marion J. Jackson, who, with Miss Sandra Enst, are chairmen of the conference. The League is headed by Mrs. Emma D. Dudley.

* * *

The Student Government Association of Morgan State College held an appreciation dinner for Dr. Thomas Fraser, who serves as interim president of the college from September to February of this year.

Dr. Fraser is professor of science education and director of the College Science Improvement Program.

Jerry Lymas, vice president of SGA, who presided at the "psychedelic and administrative" affair, held in the Memorial Refectory, made all of the introductions in rhythms.

Said he of Dr. Fraser:
A busy man with an open door
Who kept his feet flat on the floor
He enjoyed it all, but when he would speak
His first words were "Hurry on, King Cheek"
And of Dr. King V. Cheek, Morgan's new president, he said:
When Howard University a president did seek
One thing was sure, he could not be meek
Word went out in that state and others
About two giants who happened to be brothers
James went to Howard when the board did speak
And Morgan turned to the other Cheek

Mr. Lymas followed the motif in introducing Miss Beryl Williams, this year's "Miss Morgan"; Judge Robert Watts of the Morgan Board, Dr. G. James Fleming and Edward Smith, Student Government Association president.

Dr. Fraser, speaking of his "heart warming and treasurer experience" urged the group to continue to apply methods of intelligence to problems of concern to college students.

Music was by the Morgan Singers under the direction of Nathan Carter. The Rev. Howard Cornish, director of Morgan Christian Center, gave the invocation and benediction.

Head table guests also included Dr. and Mrs. Cheek, Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Stephanie Fraser Martin, the Frasers' daughter; Dr. and Mrs. George Fraser Williams, the honoree's nephew and niece.

* * *

The Baltimore Continentals are busy, busy, busy — and not minding it a bit. In addition to their cash contributions to children-serving organizations, they have set up a schedule of monthly activities which involves them personally with underprivileged children.

Last month, for instance, they provided, prepared and served a full-course turkey dinner for kids of the Institute for Children. They took a bus to the Institute, delivered the youngsters to the Harvey Johnson Center of Union Baptist Church, had an evening of feasting and fun and returned them, gifts in hand and happy, to the grounds.

A Valentine party for youngsters at the Winterode School at Crownsville was the February activity. There were party fare, records and dancing for the more than fifty pupils at the school.

Continuing their association with these youngsters, many of whom now identify with their Continental "friends" because of this regular contact, the group will take a movie to the Institute for Children next month and host a theatre party.

Lil Branch is chirman of the Charities Committee; Miss Chamberlain is club president.

Plans are underway for the club's spring fund-raising activity — a Chambrunch — set for May 16th. Margaret Beaman is chairman.

* * *

The Hampton Pals had their annual February meeting on Monday at the Pimlico Club. "Twas a warm and intimate get-together, as could be expected, since this group of graduates of Hampton Institute has been organized for 35 years.

During the long cocktail hour, members who had visited their Alma Mater recently brought the others up to date on what is going on, on that campus.

Luncheon followed, and this was followed by a business session at which Vernice Wynn presided. Come April, the Pals will increase their number by six, the first additions in 14 years. Catherine Adams, Melissa Perdue and Patty Page compose the membership committee. Two of the current members, Inez Kent, who was out of the city, and E. Estelle Thomas, who has moved back to Hampton, were absent. But on hand were Patty Page, Melissa Perdue, Kitty Royston, Mae Parrot, Ivora Gibson, Zella Washington, Gwendolyn Roper, L. Lois Carter, Vernice Wynn, Thelma Rice, Phyllis Tilley, Marion Gregory of Philadelphia, Eliza Scriggs, a visiting Hamptonian from Philadelphia, and Catherine Adams.

Sunday, February 28, The Sunday Experience will feature Gwyneth Howard in a program of readings entitled "Wherever She Was — There Was Eden," highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of woman as exemplified in the writing

(Continued on Page 8)

MISS HATTIE R. M. SMITH will serve as chairman for the luncheon and fashion show to be given by the Jewels of the National Trust Fund on March 7, 1 p.m., at Holiday Inn, Downtown. Reservations may be made by calling 669-9587.

MR. AND MRS. PHILLIP MASON, right, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, recently, were guests of honor at a reception, Sunday, given by her son by a former marriage, Samuel L. Miller.

Remarriage, reception mark Masons' silver anniversary

A double celebration marked the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Mason of 2828 Riggs Avenue, last week.

On Valentine Day the couple re-pledged vows at their home in a re-marriage ceremony performed by the Rev. Walter Hildebrand, minister of Bethtel AME Church.

Joining the couple at this time were:

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Hildebrand, Miss Hildebrand, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. M. Arthur Campof, Mesdames Mary Clark, Mable Mackley, Grace Conway, Nannie Duckett, Elizabeth Cornish;

Mesdames Beafrice Faulkner, Edith Lightfoot, Sadie Marshall, Bessie Harris, Mearland Brown, Martha Loyal, Reba Matthews;

And Messrs. and Mesdames Louis Grant, Jr., M. Gray, E. Stokes and E. Bailey.

One Sunday afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Mason's son, Samuel L. Miller, feted the celebrans at a dinner reception in Forest Manor.

On this occasion Mrs. Mason wore an A-line dinner gown of soft green, trimmed at the neckline and edge of the long slip sleeves with silver and sequins. Her corsage was a white orchid. Seated at the head table were Mr. and Mrs. James H. Jones and Mrs. Estella Beatly, who were attendants at the Mason wedding; also Messrs. and Mesdames Lorman Bell and George Young; and Louis Grant.

Assistign hostesses included Mrs. Geneva Bell, Newill Sheridon, Hazel Gray, Esther Conway and Bertil Addison.

Out-of-town guests in-

(Continued on Page 8)

MR. AND MRS. CALVIN TAYLOR were married in Baltimore, Saturday. Mrs. Taylor is the former Miss Audrey Howard.

Miss Howard wed

Miss Audrey Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Greenbury Howard, and Calvin Carroll Taylor were married in a lovely home ceremony at 1415 N. Linwood Avenue, Saturday.

The bride, given in marriage by her brother-in-law, Calvin Harris, wore an ensemble in silver and carried a bouquet of orchids. The Rev. Mrs. Sallie Matthews performed the ceremony.

Miss Howard was attended by her sister, Mrs. Calvin Harris, while Antoine Taylor was his brother's best man. Bridesmaids were the bridegroom's sister, Miss Jacqueline Taylor; and Miss June Epps.

A reception for 300 guests followed at St. Martin de Paul's Hall, where Mr. Taylor's brother, Adrian Taylor, Baltimore recording artist and soul singer, entertained. In the star-studded audience were baseball star, Willie Richardson and Dianne and the Ravenettes.

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