City teachers job rights periled by lack of union

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Writer

Some 4,000 teachers in the Baltimore City School system could be in various degrees of job trouble after June 30 if they do not get a union to bargain for a new contract.

Without bargaining agents, teachers who leave the schools for the 1976-77 year would be at the mercy of the Board of School Commissioners who would set policy for teachers until the next bargaining session in 1978.

Hopefully, this may not happen. Sources close to the school board have said the board would honor the present contract in spirit until a new one can be hashed out.

* * *

The present plight of city teachers, rudderless, leaderless, goes back to the 1974 teachers strike when an estimated 5,000 teachers walked off their jobs.

The strike had been called to obtain higher pay for the teachers and more fringe benefits, something Mayor Schaefer had said that he could not deliver.

Today, there has been another request for higher wages and an extension of fringe benefits to include a dental plan with premiums paid by the city.

* * *

But, the present budget proposal of 299.9 million has no provisions for a teacher's raise and the possibility of it being included in the supplementa. ry budget request is dim because of the present education department deficit of $10 million.

Also, there have been no salary provisions for lay-offs last summer that left 250 teachers without jobs.

Mark Joseph, president of the school board, said the board would like to see the teachers receive the 8½ per cent pay hike suggested by the Public School Teachers Association (PSTA). But he feels the possibility is bleak.

"The board has high hopes for a healthy raise for teachers," said Joseph. "However, the city has to approve the raise."

Joseph further explained that if the Mayor and City Council approve the raise, city taxes will have to go up.

"I don't think they (the city) want to do that," he said.

He added he felt the vast majority of teachers take pride in their work and would not let the pupils suffer "because of a certain set of circumstances."

Russell E. Stewart, who heads the Public School Teachers Association and who also suggested the present contract be extended until 1978, said anything the Board does to lend aid to the teachers will serve as "a psychological peace effort for the teachers when they leave school in June."

* * *

Whether the teachers will get any type of pay raise will be determined only if they can get a bargaining agent to do their negotiating.

Right now the only group fighting for that position is the Alliance for Organizations Negotiating for Educators (A-ONE).

* * *

A-ONE popped into the news in late November, 1976 when it requested to become the Teachers' sole bargaining agent.

Its sole purpose, according to A-ONE officials is to provide a single voice to represent city teachers on matters related to negotiation and contract enforcement and to serve as an umbrella organization for other unions in order to encourage cooperation and avoid organizational conflicts.

Barbara Golaski, chairperson for A-ONE, who began organization efforts in May, 1975 said "we're ready to serve as the agent."

Yet, despite its good intentions, accusations were made that A-ONE was an offshot of the decertified PSTA.

(The PSTA was de-certified last summer for its role in defying a court order during the 1974 teacher's strike.

The de-certification was made reluctantly by the city school board on request of the Moryland State Board of Education).

The allegations came from the United Teachers Guild (UTG) and the Baltimore Teacher's Union certified last summer for (BTU), which was also decertified east summer for its role in the '74 strike.

* * *

Because of the allegations, Dr. John L. Crew, superintendent of schools, requested that a full letter of intention from A-ONE accompanied by the bylaws to be submitted to him.

Joseph asked Richard Schifter, president of the state school board, late last year that his board determine whether A-ONE is qualified to be the bargaining agent.

A spokesman for Schifter stated the board responded in January that it would be willing to hear the case provided that all interested parties (A-ONE, PSTA, BTU and UTG) waive their rights to be heard before the city school board.

However, Ms. Golaski, said it will not waive its right to be heard before the school board.

Joseph said he does not know why A-ONE does not want to waive its rights to go before his board.

He explained that they can get a quicker decision on the state level and pointed out the possibility that the organization may have to appeal to the state board for a decision on its certification.

Stewart said he is in favor of A-ONE becoming an umbrella organization for the teachers but pointed out his first concern was for members of the PSTA.

He added that the school board's willingness to resolve the present situation shows "maturity and responsibility on their part which is good for the city and the children and which in turn is good for the teacher."

* * *

In the meantime, many veteran teachers and new ones as well, find themselves on shaky ground and without the full protection of their interests that had been so when they were a collective.

Some community groups back health services plan

Two area community corporations have voiced their support for a proposal to decentralize the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Spokesmen for the Greater Homewood Community Corp. and the Park Heights Community Corp. stated Thursday that they are willing to back the recommendation, made by Dr. Neil Solomon, secretary of the health department, earlier this week, provided it brought health services to community residents.

"It makes more sense to have more programs accessible to the persons in the community," stated Morris Iles, director of the Park Heights Community Corp.

"If there is direct contact with the community, bureaucrats are more responsive to the needs of the community and have more flexability with the different needs that go into the community," he said.

* * *

The proposal was made by Dr. Solomon before a Governor's task force to realign the state government Annapolis.

There he recommended that his department drastically cut the scope of its responsibilities by turning over some of the major programs to other agencies and private business.

"I want to make health programs more accessible to people and more sensitive to the needs of the people," he said in a recent interview.

"Some of these programs are better run by people who are interested in the welfare of community residents," he added.

* * *

In his report Solomon recommended that:

— The Juveniile Services Administration be made into a separate cabinet level agency.

— The amount of Medicaid money paid to intermediate and skilled care nursing homes be increased.

— The requirements for skilled-care homes be strengthened in order to encourage the growth of more intermediate-care facilites.

— The Division of Emergency Medical Services to be transferred from the health department to the University of Maryland, combining it with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medicine which is the shock trauma unit of University of Maryland Hospital.

Peter Engebretson, director of the Greater Homewood Community Corp., has stated the idea of streamlining the health department sounds good to him but only on the surface.

"I have some question as to how accessible these programs would be to the community," he said. "It is something I would have to dig into to see if the plan will work."

Engebretson pointed out that if the plan went into effect he would like his organization to serve in more of an advisory capacity.

He said the group would be directly involved with the programs dictating the community's wishes to those running the programs.

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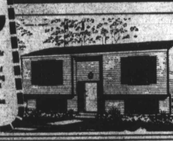

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The Black Experience in song, narrative and costume

The Miles W. Connor Alumni Chapter of the Virginia Union University will host the institution's concert choir in a benefit performance on March 14, 8 p.m. at the Woodlawn Senior High School.

According to the program the concert depicts "The Black Experience in Song, Narrative and Costume." It is directed by Dr. Odell Hobbs, with accompanists Francine Jackson, Frederick Bowers and Russell Wilson.

The Association, according to Harlow Fullwood Jr., a Va. Union graduate and recruiting officer for the Baltimore Police Department, will cite some three clergyman and a physician at the concert. They are: the Rev. Baxter L. Matthews, pastor emeritus, Union Baptist Church; the Rev. Arthur J. Payne, pastor emeritus, Enon Baptist, and the Rev. Ward D. Yerby, pastor emeritus, Perkins Square Baptist, and Dr. George McDonald, physician.

DESIGNS OF SPRING feature dresses of all kinds for the sophisticated woman. At left, Halston's peach Ultrasuede and silk dress gives provides a daytime look that carries into the early evening; Anne Klein's bone jacket and skirt, pictured in center, is perfect for cool and breezy spring weather, and at right, designer Geoffrey Beene shows his two-piece red knit dress piped in white for unmistakable couture look in fashion.

(AFRO staff photos by Benjamin M. Phillips)

Speaking of women

(A look at what black women are doing nationally)

Mildred Forehand named community commissioner

Mildred Forehand

Mildred Forehand was recently appointed a commissioner to the Baltimore City Community Relations Commission. Mrs. Forehand says that it is one of the few appointments she welcomes.

"I do not hesitate to serve because I will become a better person through service."

Mrs. Forehand is chairperson of the English department at Walbrook High School. She has worked in the education field for 17 years.

She is the recipient of the Mt. Holly Citizens Citation given by the Mt. Holly Civic Association. The citation is for service to the community.

In addition, she is a member of the board of the National Council of Teachers of English Department Chairpersons.

She is married to Lloyd Forehand. She has four children, Gina, Lorrisa, Dorita and Donnell. Mrs. Forehand attends Forest Park Presbyterian Church.

Rae Ross, dancer studies with Ailey

Rae Ross

Rae C. Ross, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Ross of Columbia and a 1976 graduate of Adelphi University (Garden City, Long Island) has received a full scholarship to study with the world renowned Ailey Dance Theater in New York City.

Ailey has represented the U.S. on tour throughout the world.

Miss Ross is a former member of the Multi Media Dance Theater Columbia, Orvill Johnson Dance Company, Baltimore Base, and a student at Peabody Institue.

While attending Adelphi, she studied under many famous dance artists: Martha Graham, Catherine Dunham, Arthur Mitchell, and Eleo Pomaro.

In 1975 she attended a summer session in Ballet at Skidmore College, Syracuse, N.Y.

She specialized in Modern and jazz dance, and has acquired the Martha Graham technique.

Her teaching experience includes; Baltimore Urban Services Cultural Arts Departments, demonstration classes for Eva Anderson, New York, master classes for T.V. personality Maria Broom . . .

She has performed in several productions including "Save the Children".

Each year she travels from New York to choreograph the production number for Miss U.S. Teen Maryland Pageant, and Miss Prince George County pageant. Her latest choreograph work entitled "Before You've Gone" and "Oppressed," shown in New York.

In addition to studing at the Ailey dance studio, she is a part time dance instructor for a cultural arts center in the Bronx.

Fashion and Spring a fling with fantasy

After so many seasons of tailored classics, Spring '77 is a welcome change of pace and gender. The woman of this season is throwing off her "safe," secure look and letting loose with free, soft shapes, bright clear colors and a new affirmation of femininity.

She may go all-out for tropical or peasant fantasies. Or she may stick with the cleanest cuts in pristine white.

Either way, she'll do it, with a soft touch. . .like a crisp linen blazer over a full,flowered skirt . . . a white handkerchief - linen sundress a floral strapless evening dress, obi sashed to define the waist . . . or a big romantic blouse with full sleeves, ruffles, tucks or a drawstring neck.

The spring woman has a passion for fabrics. She can't get enough of the "fresh" look of crisp cottons, pique, taffeta, linens. She'll go to extremes with the luxurious fluid silks and the utilitarian chic of "dishcloth" fabrics.

Most of all, she loves the dress. For day, for evening. Because she enjoys feeling like a woman again and nothing says it better than the body-beautiful evening slinks, the loose soft day dresses, the slim feminine shoes, scarf-wrapped hips, real jewelry and maybe even a flower in her hair!

Spring Shapes

The common denominator of all the loose, full looks this season is the defined waist, drawing the crisper fabrics close to the body.

The obi sash, the scarf-wrapped waist, and the knotted belt are a few ways and means. The look is almost casual and offhand. Anything too calculated or "up-tight" is way out.

It's anti button and zipper . . . more like cloths wrapped around the body; drawstrings and laces softening waists, necklines and sleeves.

Spring fantasies carry on the fall look of luxury and self-indulgence. Opulent fabrics, multiple prints, an abundance of jewelry, appliques, braid, ruffles, frou frou.

Handkerchief hems, tiered dresses, full skirts. . . sometimes double skirts, and layering persist, in contrast to the "pile it on" look, there's Ma. Clean in neat tailored suits, hard-playing sportswear, and easy, uncluttered dresses. The "little" dress is back in a big way.

Short lengths are just flirtations at the moment. We don't see a lasting romance for the new short "baggy" look or a return of the mini (something Paris is pushing). Maybe a better bet is the new Feminine Bermuda short look.

LITTLE DRESS

The success of those printed knit dresses started it all. And the image of a woman who is glamorous, very feminine AND a smashing success didn't hurt.

There's the full, soft dress, cinched-in at the waist. Lots of these get excitement from fantasy or romantic treatments, mixtures of prints, floral prints, two part blouson effects.

Sundresses will blossom everywhere come warmer weather. The daytime strapless dress, often covers up with a jacket or pullover to match. The camisole dress, peasant-embroidered cotton, crisp tailored linens give the right fresh cool look . . . just bare enough.

Uncluttered body-dresses in clingy knits are variations on the tee dress and the wrap dress. Elegant silky fabrics, ladylike prints, floral patterns, and obi-sashed waists also mark this poised and polished look.

GOD gave everyone talent Sharon, too

By Benjamin M. Phillips
AFRO Staff Writer

Art is an important facet of our culture. People have a tendency to put a high monetary value on certain art works. Throughout the history of this country and the world, high emphasis has been placed on particular works of art.

Every year individuals spend millions of dollars to collect pieces of art which are considered brilliant. The high value Americans place on art can be seen in the fact that children are given art classes at an early age.

Recently, there has been an awareness of black art forms. Blacks and whites are just coming to appreciate black art works, past and present.

Before the advent of portrait photography, the only way a person could get his portrait done was by an artist.

The basic difference between the two is that in one a person's face is captured on film while the other requires the artist's talent to put on paper what he sees.

One person who has this particular talent is Sharon Evans, 25, who has only been into drawing portraits for three years. "I knew I could draw when I was younger, but I drew only when I felt like it."

Miss Evans was in college when she drew her first portrait. After she was graduated from University of Maryland College Park and began teaching, Miss Evans enrolled in a couple of night art courses.

The first course was supposed to be an oil painting course, but Miss Evans said she was allowed to do charcoal drawings because of her interest in portraits. The other course was a basic drawing course.

"It wasn't until I took a fashion illustration course that I realized I wanted to do portraits, exclusively."

Sharon Evans doesn't have philosophical sophistication about her art work, but she produces. Recently, she did a portrait of Mrs. Vivian Johnson Cook, founder of Epsilon Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

When it was unveiled at the Founder's Day luncheon, it drew awes because it captured Mrs.

Continued on Page 18

SHARON EVANS, portrait artist, doesn't use a lot of words to explain her work — the explanation is in the product. She is gaining reputation for capturing subjects in their true light.

(AFRO staff photo by Benjamin Phillips III)

The work above her is one of two abstract paintings she has done. The portrait to her right side is one of her favorites, a man called "Spider."