Concord members raise money

Nearly $10,000 was raised by members of Concord Baptist Church, 5204 Liberty Heights Ave., last Sunday when they observed Concord Day.

Deacon Charles Chambers and Mrs. Nezzie Clark were chairpersons. Rev. Matthew R. Silver is pastor.

Rev. Gus Roman of Canaan Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa., was the speaker.

Music was by the combined adult choirs of Concord Baptist Church with James Royster as director, Mrs. Doris Brewster, organist and Mrs. Theophra Silver.

FRONTIERSMAN OF THE YEAR — Franklin C. Fulton received the Frontiersman of the Year Award. He is shown with his wife, Muriel. The award was presented by Henry Holland, Second District director of the Frontiers International at the club's recent Annual Awards Banquet.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION — Attorney A. Dwight Pettit (L) received the Frontiers Club Distinguished Service Citation from Hugh Bobbitt, Amoco Oil Company Urban Affairs representative at the club's annual Awards Banquet at the Downtown Holiday Inn last Saturday. Pettit was awarded the citation for his service to the community.

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Frontiers Club holds banquet

The Baltimore Club of Frontiers International held its Annual Awards Banquet at the downtown Holiday Inn last Saturday.

Elton Jolly, national executive director, OIC of America, was the principal speaker and organization's Distinguished Service Citation.

This award was also presented to A. Dwight Petit, local attorney-at-law, in recognition of his outstanding community service as a humanitarian and statesman.

A special internal citation was made to Franklin C. Fulton as Frontiersman of the Year. The Rev. Harold L. Dobson, executive director, OIC of Baltimore; Johnnie E. Jowers, executive director, the Salvation Army Boys' Clubs of Baltimore, and Donald Atkinson, acting director, Maryland State Division of Parole and Probation, were recipients of Frontiers Meritorious Community Service Awards.

The more than 150 persons in attendance included representatives of the city's legal and medical profession as well as business and organized labor.

All proceeds of the affair are earmarked for the Frontiers Medical Research (Vitiligo) Foundation.

Robert L. Johnson, recently elected to the executive board of Frontiers International, served as program chairman with Mrs. Brenda Washington as toastmistress. Attorney David E. Sloan is president of the Baltimore club.

DSS closed on holidays

All central offices and social service centers of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services will be closed the following days:

Nov. 11, Veterans Day;

Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 25, Christmas.

Emergencies can be handled through the Department's Extended Hours Service at 235-5500.

This service is regularly in operation when the Department's offices are closed, including evenings and weekends. It puts the public in touch with a trained social worker by telephone. Referrals to regular agency services are made as soon as possible the following day.

For further information about the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, and its programs, call Information and Referral, 234-2222.

AFRO reader wins Colts tickets

When advised by telephone that her grandson, Ronald E. Jones, was the winner of two Colts football tickets in this week's AFRO-Colts contest, Mrs. Flora Harris replied, "I'm so, so glad Ronald won, 'cause he just loves football and plays defensive tackle for CCB."

Ronald, age 20, a physical education major at the Community College of Baltimore, picked New England to whip the Colts 21 to 14. His spread was 15 points which was good enough to beat out Vernon Fuller of Glenwood Avenue who guessed Patriots, 20, Colts, 17, for a 17 point spread.

Ronald said he hated to bet against the Colts, but he knew that New England would be fired up and the Colts just weren't in it. He is picking Baltimore to whip Pittsburgh Sunday because they have something to prove to the sell-out crowd.

The contest continues with the next fans' target being the NFL game between the Colts and the Steelers.

The entry coming closest to predicting the official result of the October 30 battle will be awarded two tickets to the Washington - Baltimore game Monday night, November 7, at Memorial Stadium.

Official entry blank and rules will be found elsewhere in this paper, but AFRO readers are warned that entrees must be received not later than October 29.

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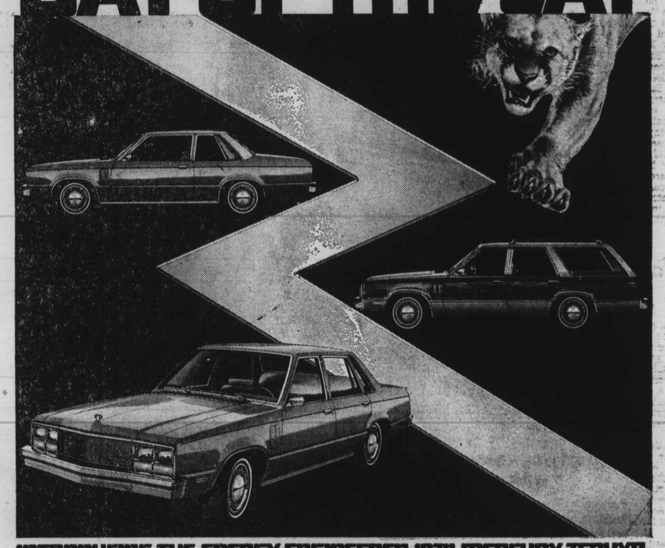

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Understanding Baltimore's Block Grants

BLOCK GRANT. What is it?

Simply put, it is a chunk of money given to certain cities and counties for use in upgrading their poor housing and dying neighborhoods.

The AFRO called the local federal office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which gives the grant, seeking a basic A-B-C explanation. The department of Community Planning and Development provided the information.

Block Grants were provided for by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The term Block tied all old — then existing — urban programs together.

Thus, the Model Cities, Urban Renewal, and Open Space programs were merged to create one great big BLOCK — from which eligible cities gets GRANTS. Block Grants' must be used for specific purposes:

— to erase slums;

— to help low income people who want to buy or fix up their homes and

— to help cities pay for urgent projects which are determined by the mayor.

HUD says a program cannot be given money unless it meets one or all of these requirements.

Baltimore City falls into the "Entitlement category." It is called a Metropolitan City, eligible because it has a population of 50,000 or more people.

Another Block Grant category is the Urban County, which must have at least 200,000 people.

In the three years of the Block Grant program, Baltimore has received $32,749 million (1975), $30,895 million (1976) and $29,042 million (1977).

The city must submit its application for 1978 money to HUD by December 25. It will be approved or disapproved by March 1978.

Baltimore's Grant has stayed consistent because of something called a Hold Harmless amount of money. This is money that Congress decided to give to cities based on the funds (for the other urban programs) they received five years before the 1974 Act. So, if Baltimore was getting $100,000 for its Model Cities program up til 1969, that was added to later Grants.

Without the Hold Harmless money, Baltimore's share would have dipped to about $18 million by now.

Another point on Grants: After all the "Entitlement" areas get their money, if there's any money left, HUD has what is called a Metro or Non-Metro Discretionary Blance, we call it spending change. Cities that don't qualify for as "Entitlement" areas can apply for this left over.

Now, under the new Housing and Community Development Act of 1977, Baltimore can apply for its money under a new 'formula.'

This one doesn't emphasize poverty (low income) as much. It concentrates on:

— the age of a city's housing, and

— growth lag, or the rate at which folks have been leaving the city and not coming back (commonly called white-flight).

Baltimore qualifies under this new formula — to the tune of an (anticipated) $29 million.

Regardless of which formula used, there are still some Block Grant guidelines a city must follow.

For example, there must be community imput into the projects identified for funding. Part of that public access are two required public hearings, which must be publicized in advanced Baltimore has had its two, the second of which was held two weeks ago.

In each urban renewal community — Baltimore has 16 — there are Project Area Committees — out of which comes Community Corporations. The Corps draw up a list of neighborhood project priorities. Construction of the projects must be budgeted for money a community gets from the city.

For example, the Park Heights community, Baltimore's largest rebuilding area, is scheduled to get $2.9 million when next year's Block Grant comes through.

The Park Heights Community Corporation's building and rebuilding and social programs must come in under that amount.

Notes:

Baltimore has applied for something called an Urgent Needs request from HUD. Because it had to pay off $18 million in federal loans, the city apparently needs money to complete urban projects started under some of the other urban renewal programs (Model Cities, Open Space — etc.)

Using Urgent Needs money, Baltimore can pay off all the old projects, according to Housing and Community Development (HCD) commissioner Jay Brodie.

Also, the city has $5.5 million in land it can and will sell. When it is sold, the law says the developer who buys it must rebuild only for "specific purposes", which must be approved by HUD.

AFRO Survival Info

'Return from Death' in November Ebony

Some say it's "peaceful, beautiful, calm" and regret coming back.

There's an old Negro spiritual which goes, "I have crossed the separation line; I have left this world behind."

Not quite, says a 40-year-old man who was run over by the same car twice, and critically injured. He says he "rose" out of his injured body and could see himself below on the street "all black and bloody. It didn't look like me." He says he got scared when he went through a dark tunnel, but was no longer afraid when he reached the other side where "there were angels all around." He then began "traveling through a beam of light. But something stopped me and said I had to go back. I said, 'Why me, Lord?' He said, 'Your work won't be done on earth.' I felt a great disappointment."

While most people still discount the ancient belief that people can indeed "return from the dead," there is now a growing interest among medical professionals in the documentation of experiences of those who have "died," if only for a few minutes, but who have "come back" to tell what they saw, felt and heard.

Dr. Michael B. Sabom, a cardiologist who teaches at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and Sarah Kreutziger, a psychiatric social worker and instructor at the school, tell November "Ebony" that they were themselves quite skeptical of such stories before they began their own research; but now the two are convinced that there is more than just "wild imagination" to the tales of persons who have "died" or come close to dying.

All of those interviewed also describe their experiences as "peaceful, happy, restful," and none says it was frightening. Many say they regret or "felt a great disappointment" at having to "return to life."

A 32-year-old woman who was unconscious from a kidney failure says she is no longer frightened by death "because it seems like I know what's going to happen when it does. I know there are people there."

Workshop at MSU

The Maryland Association of Equal Opportunity Personnel will sponsor a 2½ day workshop at Morgan State University November 1, 2 and 3. The theme of the workshop will be "Equal Opportunity Mandates-Recent Interpretations and Future Implications."

The keynote speaker will be Mr. Clarence Mitchell Jr., Esquire, director of the Washington Bureau of the N.A.A.C.P.

For further information call Ms. Gwendolyn Gonsouland at 383-3287 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:40 p.m.

Recital at St. Katherine

The Lois Wright Memorial Concert Series of St. Katherine Church, Pressman and Division Streets, will present Arthur Warner in a recital Sunday.

Mrs. Lois Wright was an active longtime member of St. Katherine's Church and a well known music teacher in the Baltimore public schools.

Rev. Peter Bramble is pastor of St. Katherine.

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COMMUNITY-YOUTH ORCHESTRA—Stephanie Tretick (L), Baltimore Symphony violinist and instructor at Essex Community College, works with Kathryn Williams (R), a senior at Western High School at a rehearsal session of the newly - formed Community Youth Orchestra at Essex Community College. The group is preparing for its first public performance, November 1, at 8 p.m. on the campus, Rossville Boulevard. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free.

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