Special—Black politics '78

Eastside, Westside, all around the town

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Writer

This is an election year.

All 188 legislators in the Maryland General Assembly are running for re-election. Included in that 188 are 19 black legislators who have decided they would like to keep their seats.

There are also their challengers.

Although it is too early in the political season to tell all who will challenge the incumbent politicians, there are those who have either challenged them already or are seriously considering the possibility.

Here's how the race in the black political arena shapes as the 1978 General Assembly draws to a close:

25th Legislative District

Over in Prince George's County, Sen. Tommie Broadwater, Dels. Decatur W. Trotter and Nathaniel Exum are running for re-election.

To date there is no opposition against them. Broadwater is expected to keep Trotter, Exum and Del. Francis J. Santangelo as his slate for this year.

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Minister speaks out—Part II
see page 23

Baltimore Afro-American

WE ARE IN OUR 86th YEAR

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Bar group, black caucus protest judge's list
see page 3

The 53rd murder this year

In cold blood on Springdale

Inmates' eyewitness views of jailyard fatal shooting

Many Baltimoreans are refusing to forget Robert Thomas, who was killed in front of the Maryland Penitentiary on March 29. Since his death there have been several meetings and investigations.

Even more striking are statements from the seven inmates, transported from the city jail with Thomas, that detail their opinions of the shooting.

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Clean Block campaign now on

(More Clean Block inside)

All sharing in the job of making Baltimore a cleaner city was discussed at the planning meeting held Friday, April 14 opening the AFRO's 44th Annual Clean Block Campaign.

The meeting held in the AFRO editorial offices at noon was designed to bring together city and state agencies, neighborhood leaders and representatives from the business community in a program to beautify neighborhoods throughout Baltimore City.

Last year 10,000 youngsters and adults enrolled in the AFRO's Clean Block Program in a volunteer program to rid their surroundings of litter and filth.

Last year AFRO judges toured 100 miles city - wide to cover the 500 blocks registered.

Enroll your block today by calling the AFRO Clean Block Office, 628 N. Eutaw St. or 728-8205. We need your help. We need your assistance. We need your interest.

Aretha does it again

HITCHED — Movie star Glynn Turman and singer Aretha Franklin leave the church smiling after their wedding ceremony. The marriage is Ms. Franklin's third marriage, Turman's second.

Mystery body brings murder count higher

As late as Thursday evening homicide detectives had not identified the body of a man found just before dawn in the 3600 block Springdale Ave.

The victim, between 21 and 25 years of age, had been shot in the head and mouth and was found sprawled on the sidewalk. Police preliminary reports show that neighbors heard shots between 11:30 p.m. and midnight but the body was not discovered until close to 5 a.m.

Sgt. Richard Catagnia's reports disclose the fact that a handgun was found later wrapped in a blue jacket and hidden in the bushes around the corner on Grantley Avenue.

Reports show further that the man was shot in the front of a house at the top of the 3600 block Springdale and "evidently fell right there."

No arrests had been made as of presstime.

Police have not as yet located the person responsible for the death Wednesday morning of a deaf mute, 23, in the 1200 block S. Charles St.

This week's murders add up to a total of 53 for the four months of 1978. Homicide Lt. Charles Kearney said the figure is higher than the 44 killings registered on the books for the same period in 1977.

However, he states, "We can never document any one reason and say this is the why for the murders.

"It's hard to pinpoint any one murder because we never really know the reason or the motive. The person who commits a murder rarely says any more than he has to and who knows what was on his mind when he did it."

Some murders remain unsolved forever.

Others are solved one, two or five years later.

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Bay College sinking fast

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Writer

Bay College's future is now in very serious doubt.

The AFRO has learned that the small, two-year, predominantly black school may close its doors possibly within the next 60 days.

There is also talk that the school is negotiating with Morgan State University to have the school absorb most of the Bay College students, the programs, the building and possibly its financial woes into its own university system.

Reports that the school may not see the start of the 1978-79 school year began circulating early Wednesday after the Bay College board of trustees met in closed session late Tuesday evening.

Although specific details of what the board met about are not known, the AFRO learned from reports that an agreement was reached to ask Morgan to absorb several portions of the college and that an undetermined number of committees be established to find various ways to break up the school before June 30.

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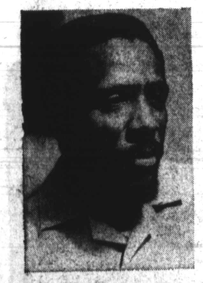

ACTOR, ACTIVIST — Dick Gregory will speak at Towson State University Sunday, April 16, 8 p.m. in the Towson Center. For more information, call 321-2244.

Morgan State may drop black food contractor

By Fred Hines
AFRO Staff Writer

Gourmet Services, a black-owned food service company that operates Morgan State University's cafeteria, received notice this month that its contract may be cut short.

Despite the fact that the food service company has one year left in its three-year contract with the university, the letter from Morgan announcing that the contract would be terminated came as a surprise to Nathaniel Goldston, president of Gourmet.

When reached by telephone in his Atlanta office, Goldston told the AFRO what he felt prompted the university to open the contract for bidding.

"The federal minimum wage caused us to ask for a five percent increase," Goldston said. "His (Dr. Andrew Billingsley, MSU president) response was that they would go out to bid to make sure that our price is fair."

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Closing 'not true'

That inner city fire house rumor

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

"It's not true," said Fire Department Chief Thomas E. Burke.

Don't become alarmed if you have heard the Fire Department engine company closest to your home will be closing.

Some local news mediums have reported that Engine Company No. 25 at McCulloh and Gold Sts. and Engine Company No. 7 at Druid Hill Avenue and Eutaw Street will be closed.

As of April 13, the only engine company that has been closed is Engine Company No. 9 at Harford Avenue and Oliver Street.

Burke told the AFRO, "Engine Company No. 9 was closed because of city budget problems."

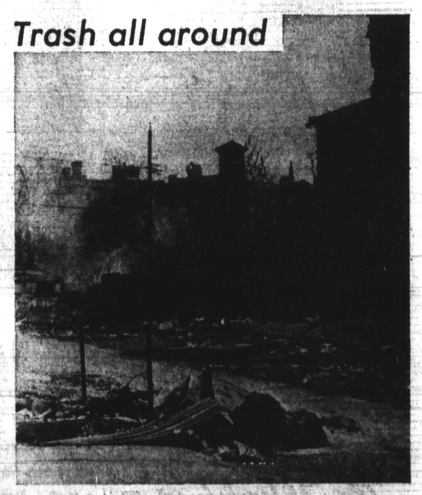
The 19 firemen who worked from Harford Avenue and Oliver Street have been transferred to fill vacancies in other companies in the city.

When Chief Burke was asked about other companies closing, he stated, "We don't know until we see what happens with the budget.

"We have 140 vacancies in the department and had to call men back from the other fire stations to fill them and cut down on overtime,

(Continued on Page 2)

Trash all around



IT'S PILING UP — With the coming of warm weather the winter trash becomes more and more evident as shown here in this AFRO photo.

Rouse company takes over again

Mondawmin mall gets new owners

A predominantly white Boston firm has become the new owner of the Mondawmin Mall Shopping Center.

The Rouse Co., which has been commissioned by the city to build a marketplace in Baltimore's Inner harbor, Thursday assumed the management of the financially troubled shopping mall.

A company official said in the announcement April 13, that the company signed an agreement with the Mondawmin Corp., the mall's owner, to buy 50 percent of the ownership of the mall for the token sum of $100.

The Mondawmin Corp., has had total control of the mall.

At presstime he could not be reached for comment.

The agreement renewed Rouse's involvement at Mondawmin, which the company planned and developed in 1956.

Rouse established a subsidiary, the Gwynns Falls Management Corp., to aid the mall which opened with much publicity but now has a 27 percent vacancy rate.

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