Md. board chairman claims

Calling white women a minority will undermine black contractors

Robert L. Clay, chairman of the board of the Maryland Minority Contractors Association sent a letter this week to Gov. Harry Hughest protesting a state law that classifies white women as members of a minority group.

In the letter Clay said that this rule undermines the intent of legislation that gives racial minorities share of all state contracts and procurements.

"The law ... was passed in order to give blacks (and other racial minorities) a chance which has been denied to them in the past," the letter reads. "Unfortunately, the program is not operating that way."

Clay said that about 75 to 80 percent of state contracts which are set aside for minorities are going to companies headed by white women. Of the nearly 1,400 minority procurements reported by the State Department of General Services, 1,107 have been let to firms headed by white females, he said.

"This situation creates the easiest 'fronting' arrangement available anywhere in the nation," the letter said. "What it will do is allow majority companies to transfer stock ownership to white females, which undermines the state's intent to improve conditions of minority communities through increasing minority business...

"This is an outrageous misuse of the law," he added. "the amount of participation by black firms is very near where it was before the program began," the letter said.

Clay maintains that before the 10 percent set-aside law went into effect, minority communities received less than one-half of 1 percent of state business.

He acknowledged the need to correct injustices to white women but he also pointed out that there is a different kind of discrimination against minorities.

"Racial minorities not only suffer individually but their whole communities suffer as well," the letter said.

Clay cited inadequate health care, educational opportunities, housing and a 50 percent unemployment rate among black youth.

Allocating 10 percent to racial minority businesses would help alleviate these problems, Clay said. "If improving the quality of life in minority communities is the intent of the law, classifying white women as minorities will not accomplish that goal," he said.

(AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz)

REVIEWING CHARGES — Willie Adams, far right, along with Michael Robertson of George Russell's law firm, reviewing gambling charges filed against Adams. They are shown here at the sergeant's desk at Eastern district police station.

Black gays march down Avenue

WASHINGTON

By James S. Tinney

Black lesbians and gay men demonstrated a new sense of political activism last weekend as they convened for the first time in a national conference held at Howard University and the adjacent Harambee House hotel.

Although the white media covered the predominantly white March on Washington leading to the Mall downtown, it neglected to portray black participation in that march, and completely omitted any mention of three other black events: the first National Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference, an all-black march down Georgia Ave. for gay rights, and a day of meetings with representatives of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The weekend of black events was organized by the National Coalition of Black Gays, led by co-directors Delores Berry and Billy S. Jones, who reside in the District. (The leading white organization of gays in D.C., the Gay Activist Alliance, also announced that it will have a black as its new president—Melvin Boozer, a Dunbar High School former salutatorian who now teaches at the University of Maryland, College Park.

The Coalition of Black Gays has a city-wide chapter in D.C. (in addition to other cities), and has recently formed a campus chapter at Howard.

"Howard has been slower than other schools in organizing politically-activist gay groups on campus. For years, all the other universities in the area have had gay caucuses or student 'unions,'" said one student.

However, a social group of black gays has had a post-office box on campus for a couple of years. It is led by a non-faculty Howard employee.

During the conference, which brought more than 500 blacks from 39 states to campus, Douglass Hall was the location for forums covering "Racism and Sexism in the Third World," "Role of the Homosexual in the Black Family," "Black Gays in the Prison System," "Lesbian - Gay Politics and People of Color: Reform or Revolution," "People of Mixed Blood," "Racism in the Lesbian - Gay Community," and "The Mental Health Industry as An Agent of OPPRESSION."

Altogether, more than 100 forums were presented, either in Douglass Hall or at Harambee House.

"This conference was the highlights of my entire life," said one student. "It is like a spiritual experience. For the first time I was able to discover that I was not alone — that there were lots of other blacks who had the same fears and sense of oppression for being black and gay."

Highlights of the conference, which also included Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, American Indians, and Asian - Americans, were a Traveling Gay History Show, separate caucuses for black lesbians and gay men, a delegation of gay socialists from Mexico City, and reading of a telegram from a representative of the Sandinistas.

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Man gets 70 years for rape

A amn already on parole for armed robbery was sentenced to 70 years in prison this week for kidnapping and raping two teen-aged girls and wounding a policeman.

Criminal Court Judge Elspeth Bothe imposed the sentence Tuesday on James A. Johnson, 24, of Baltimore, who was on parole from an armed robbery conviction at the time of the crimes last April.

Assistant State's Attorney Lawrence Rosenberg said Johnson forced a high school sophomore and a 19-year-old woman into his van at gunpoint. He then drove them to Anne Arundel County and raped them, Rosenberg said.

He was stopped by a policeman as he drove back into the city because the tail light on his van was broken. Johnson shot and wounded the officer, Michael Dunn.

Rosenberg said Johnson was arrested at a police barricade about one mile away.

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Leakin Park victim worked with youth

See column 4 this page

Baltimore's black unemployment rising

See column one this page

Win a photo date with the Jacksons

See Showtime inside

Baltimore Afro-American
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88th Year No. 22
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How to survive this winter!

MISS MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY—Pamela Ferguson, Baltimore graduate of Western high school is a 20-year junior psychology major and ROTC student.

Murphy proposes political club for blacks under 40

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Local attorney and former television personality, William "Billy" Murphy, called for a new order in Baltimore black politics this week at a meeting of the Fourth District Democratic Organization, the city's oldest black political organization.

"I propose we organize a club for young blacks 40 and under. Why?" he said, "so that we don't inherit anyone's battles. So that we don't inherit anyone's petty differences or past misunderstandings."

He called for a city-wide group of young blacks, with a "code of conduct which will enable us to keep our differences behind closed doors."

"I want perpetual, full-time voter registration," he stated, a "and people who won't let petty issues take precedence over major issues."

Speaking to those who had reservations about investing such an organization with city-wide support, he said, "There is so much power to be had, there won't be enough to spread around. Everybody will get a piece."

He lauded the efforts of what he termed "our elder statesmen," stating that people such as Delegate Troy Brailey and Senator Verda Welcome were black political pioneers, and envisioned a role for them in his projected organization as "senior advisors."

Although the organization endorsed rent control after a lively debate, promised to support Republican city comptroller candidate St. George I. B. Crosse, and heard a presentation by Ms. Addie J. Key, from the board of Election Supervisors; Murphy's speech was the high point of the evening.

Introduced by Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings, as "one of the potential black candidates for mayor," Murphy demurred from agreeing with the statement, but when he introduced his plan he called it a way by which blacks could "capture the city," in the eighties.

(Continued on page 2)

85 degrees Tuesday... then 'The Hawk' blew in

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

SUNNY AND WARM — Two unidentified women enjoying lunch outdoors at St. Paul and Fayette Streets Tuesday afternoon.

Where to get $ for fuel, food

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Indian Summer is gone, and for the next few months, so are warm sunny days.

The Hawk is over Baltimore, dispensing cold winds and freezing temperatures.

Winter is difficult for just about everyone. But for the poor, the enemployed and the elderly who lack adequate food, clothing or heat, it can be devastating.

The outlook for winter 1979 - 80 is grim. Even if the weather is mild, it is predicted that home heating oil will cost $1 per gallon by the first of the year, if not sooner.

Baltimore fuel oil customers will find themselves paying almost twice as much money for their winter heating supply.

Edward McComas, president of McComas Fuel Oil Company, said "last year, our oil cost 51 cents per gallon, but this year it has jumped to 81 cents a gallon."

"Our oil was about 49 dollars per 100 gallons last year," said Inez Adams, of J. J. Adams Fuel Oil Company, "and this year it will cost 81 dollars for the same amount."

Both dealers, as well as several others, blamed the rise in prices on foreign producers of oil. According to Adams, "most customers haven't been complaining, rather, they just have been accepting the increased prices.

One dealer interviewed stated that he doesn't see any end to the spiralling costs, and added, "get a fireplace."

City governmental and private helping agencies have relief programs either in the works or in the tentative stage, depending on the status of their funding.

The Urban Services Agency

(Continued on page 2)

DELEGATE BRAILEY CHARGES

BWI airport reception excluded black workers

A recent reception and buffet held at the Baltimore - Washington International Airport, BWI, to dedicate the completion of its renovation turned into an unpleasant evening for some of the black guests.

Delegates Troy Brailey, D-40th, and State Senator Verda Welcome, D-40th, both were disturbed by what they describe as a lack of blacks serving in any capacity during the entire reception and buffet dinner.

Brailey sent a letter of protest to Karl R. Sattler, administrator of the airport, and Sattler replied that Brailey's complaint was unfounded. But the delegate and senator insist that the airport reception was notable for its racial exclusion.

"I didn't see any blacks serving in any capacity during the entire reception and buffet dinner," Brailey told the AFRO.

"In the reception area, there were no hostesses. And behind every bar, there was nothing but whites."

Sen. Welcome criticized not only the lack of blacks serving but also said no blacks were head table guests.

(Continued on page 2)

MSU tightens security after campus slaying

Security has been tightened around Morgan State University's McKeldin Center as a result of the stabbing death of a 19 - year - old visitor Oct. 6.

The number of times the area is patrolled between 3 and 11 p.m. and 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. has been increased, according to Brenda Ferguson, a spokeswoman with the school's public relations department.

Charles Carroll, an employee at Hutzler's warehouse, was found stabbed four times on the fourth floor landing of the center outside a disco named Reflections.

The president of the Student Government Association, SGA, said some of the students are "uptight" about the incident. Dormitory residents contacted by the AFRO also expressed nervousness about the stabbing and what they called lax security.

Sherman Moore, SGA president, said he is upset because the University's administration has not officially commented about the circumstances surrounding the incident.

"We are trying to get the students together to ask why no statement has been made," Moore said.

He said he is "not trying to shoot any holes in Morgan. People have to understand that Morgan is a microcosm of the city. Some things that manifest themselves in the city spill over into Morgan."

A Morgan football player said although he feels safe, security at MSU is "kind of lax."

"They don't have to hire more patrolmen, they just have to check ID's better," said Vaughn Dennis, a junior resident of Baldwin Hall and a football safety.

Although Dennis is usually at away games on weekends, he said many non - students attend social functions on campus.

Ms. Ferguson said campus police have always checked identification and also periodically check cars which do not have MSU stickers.

(Continued on Page 3)

Set your clock back

Well, it's that time of year again, daylight savings time, and most of us are usually confused whether we set our clocks an hour ahead or an hour back.

At 2 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, set your clocks ONE hour BACK. Be prepared to turn your lights on earlier because the days will get shorter as it gets darker earlier.

Leakin Park victim was youth worker

Lester Williams, the most recent execution - style murder victim found in Leakin Park, worked with youth in the city's Manpower program, the AFRO learned yesterday, Oct. 22.

Williams, 27, had worked for the Mayor's Office of Manpower Resources since 1978. He was work - sight supervisor at the Poppleton Street office at the time of his death.

A Leakin Park jogger found his body lying in a storm drain on the west side of Franklintown Road about 7:30 a.m., Oct. 17.

Williams had been shot twice in the head, once in the chest and once in the leg. Police ruled out robbery as a motive because his wallet was found in his pocket. Also found was a piece of paper with a list of jewelry prices and the name 'Bobby' written on it.

Police believe Williams was killed before his body was dumped in the park.

Relatives of the victim told the AFRO he was an Edmondson High School graduate. "We thought he had gone to visit his girlfriend," the night he disappeared, a family spokesman said.

Williams was fully dressed when the body was found, except for a missing shoe that was found near drops of blood on Franklintown Road.

According to police the last body found in Leakin Park was also found by a jogger in August.

Funeral services were held for Williams on Sunday at City Temple Baptist Church. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George (Mary) Williams; a sister, Mrs. Rose Campbell; a brother, Calvin Williams, and a son, Jamal Williams.

City ranks 2nd in black joblessness

The unemployment rate for Baltimore area blacks rose to 15.6 percent in 1978, compared to 4 percent for whites, Federal officials said Thursday.

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said the unemployment rate for metropolitan blacks rose from 14 percent in 1977 to 15.6 percent last year, while the local rate for whites dropped from 5.8 percent in 1977 to 4.0 percent in 1978.

The overall unemployment rate

(Continued on page 2)

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

BURNED OUT — Firemen were unable to save the house that sat on 4003 Reisterstown Road Wednesday morning. The owner told the AFRO the tenants would be relocated. The fire department said at AFRO presstime that the blaze started in a kitchen from apparently accidental causes.

AFRO photo by Mark Gail

TOTAL LOSS — Ms. Jacqueline Dale being questioned by a city fireman as a two - alarm blaze is put out at her home on Reisterstown Road. Ms. Dale and another tenant suffered a total loss of their possessions.

Baltimore hosts black economic summit

By Portia Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

The World Trade Center will set the stage Monday, Oct. 29 for a meeting that will prove to be important to every person in the black community. The topic is economic development.

Nearly 200 people from the business sector across the country will converge on the new downtown building at the Inner Harbor for a day - long conference that is aimed at developing strategies to increase black economic development.

The Economic Summit which begins at 8:30 a.m. is expected to draw such noted businessmen as John H. Johnson, owner of Johnson Publications that produces Ebony Magazine, Earl Graves, publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine and Jesse Hill, president of Atlanta Life Insurance Company in Atlanta, Ga.

More than 10 speakers will address such topics as energy, international trade, health care, venture capital and re - acquisition of land.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer will host a luncheon at the Convention Center for those attending the summit.

This summit is a follow - up to one held in 1972 at Morgan State University which was spearheaded by Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-Md. At that meeting, seven - year goals were developed including increasing the number of black owned banks which in 1972 totaled 23. By 1979 that number was increased to 46.

According to Jerry Lymus, coordinator of special projects for Mitchell, over 1,000 requests were received from those interested in attending the summit but only 100 people could be accommodated.

He added that in 1980, a follow - up meeting is scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C. and more than 1,500 people are expected to participate.