CHEERING THRONG of over 2,000 persons filled the Woodlawn Senior High School auditorium to standing room only. Photo by Glasco Ryales shows the Soft Tones captivating the audience as they walked the aisles following their song session. Guests cars filled all parking lots around the school's vast campus as Baltimore County police directed traffic for over an hour prior to the 5 p.m. event and after the five-hour event.

VUU Baltimore alumni chapter draws record crowd at fete

2,000 guests attend concert, talent hunt and awards extravaganza

ENGRAVED PLAQUES, the highest significant of achievement went to (L to R) chapter president Harlow Fullwood, the Rev. Wendell H. Phillips, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates; Dr. Rebecca Oliver, Col. William (Box) Harris, retired assistant to five Maryland governors; Mrs. Sallye B. Carter, teacher, Alumna of the Year; the Rev. Vernon Dobson, pastor, Union Baptist Church and Miss Virginia Union University, Miss Corliss Bailey, a senior from New York.

Photos by Glasco Ryales

The Miles W. Connor Baltimore Alumni Chapter of Virginia Union University, long known as the strongest of the 150-year-old and prestigious Richmond, Va. institution is long noted for accomplishment each year.

However, the March 9 event surpassed everything. In fact the more than 2,000 persons from all walks of life who crowded the Woodlawn Senior High School auditorium for the four-part extravanza set a record in Baltimore.

Featured were a Talent Hunt with students from 10 local high schools; the awarding of the university's highest honor to six Baltimore citizens; the concert by the university's celebrated choir; citations to some 30 other persons and highlights of unusual entertainment.

Cooperating were sponsors, Advance Federal and Loan Asso., Equitable Trust Bank, Loyola Federal Savings and Loan Asso., Maryland National Bank and Greater Baltimore McDonald's Co-op.

Also, many of the

(Continued on page 27)

SPECIAL CITATIONS went to the Rev. Charles Middleton, Walter Shepherd, Floyd Stukes and Mesdames Mary McCrary, Regina V. Smith, Sandra Smith, Catherin Dorsey, Annie Mae Jenkins.

THE SOFT TONES who sang their No. 1 hit "Let It Be" took the crowd by storm and were given a certificate of appreciation by president Fullwood for support of the scholarship effort.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR, Harlow Fullwood, is cited by Mrs. Polly Dougherty, executive accountant for McBonalds.

FIRST LADIES who received sustained applause and special gifts were (L to R) Miss Corliss Bailey of New York, the reigning VUU queen, a senior and Mrs. Harlow (Elnora) Fullwood, wife of the Baltimore chapter president.

EDUCATORS PRESENT included (L to R) Mrs. Thedda Wilson, Central Region superintendent and Mrs. Bettye Shell Graves, teacher, Mordecai Gist Elementary School.

The Winners

Talent Hunt winners:

FIRST PRIZE — Harold Summey Jr., McDonald, violinist- $500 scholarship to VUU; $100 cash and trophy from Maryland National Bank.

SECOND PRIZE — Sonya Wooten, Walbrook senior singer-"My Man's Gone, from Porgy and Bess; $75 and trophy from Equitable Trust.

THIRD PRIZE —

(Continued on page 27)

MORE HONOREES were (L to R) Lennie Moore, the retired all-pro half back and member of the National Football Hall of Fame, one of the all time greats who contributed $1,500 for the Miles W. Connor scholarship fund to attract Baltimore student to VUU; Mrs. Doroth Polk, city teacher, moderator for the awards ceremonies; Osborne A. Payne, president of Broadway Payne Enterprises, four McDonalds franchises and Timothy Watts, program director of Radio V-103 FM, the Talent Hunt host.

TALENT HUNT CONTESTANTS — (standing L to R) Sonya Wooten, Western; Gabrielle Bunn, Walbrook; Kevin Ware, Northwestern; Melanie C. Daniels, Woodlawn; Shirley Carrington, Milford Mill; (seated L to R) Marvin Leach, Edmondson; Doreene McKinzie, Dunbar; Paul E. Smith, chapter member and head basketball coach, McDonough School; Harold Summey, McDonald.

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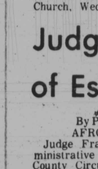
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Probe ordered in Cornell Estes case

16-year-old served 15 months for murder he did not commit

See column one

5,200 workers moving into new SSA building

See page 32

Baltimore Afro-American
WE ARE NOW IN OUR 88TH YEAR

Inside Teacher Recruitment Supplement

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Social Security drug raid nets 18

LOCAL AND FEDERAL drug enforcement agents are shown at an early morning raid at Woodlawn Social Security headquarters March 18, when 18 federal employees were arrested and charged with trafficking in drugs during working hours. AFRO photographer Mark Gail was on the scene. Third photo shows one of two women arrested.

1st step in crackdown at Woodlawn

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Seventeen Social Security employees were arrested March 18 on their jobs as the first part of a federal government attempt to clean up the narcotics traffic and other illegal activities at the Woodlawn office and other branches of the Social Security Administration.

Most of the 17 arrested were charged with selling drugs including marijuana, LSD, hashish, qualudes and cocaine.

Earl Richardson, of the 5500 block Gwynn Oak Ave., who according to federal prosecutors was the source of drugs used at the Social Security Administration had not been arrested at AFRO presstime

A spokesman fortheSocial Security Administration told the AFRO, "We asked for the investigation." Assistant U. S. Attorney Glenn Cook who is handling the case stated, "Other employees have been observed in drug transactions who were not indicted." Cook said the investigation was not finished

Twenty nine purchases of drugs were made by the city police and federal protective services under cover personnel. Those named in the indictments were Henry Addison, 29, 4900 block Carmine Ave., Ms. Deborah Branch, 29, of Wheeler Avenue; Cornelius Brown, 24, 1300 block Milton Ave.; Jeffrey Chaney, 25, of Gwynn Lake Drive.

Also, Oscar Crainie, 37, 4900 block Challendon Road; Larry Duncan, 29, 3600 block Dolfield Ave.; Keith Ford, 27, 1300 block Chapel St.; Raleigh Gillyard, 28, of Brookvillage Court.

Also, James Graham, 26, 2000 block Kennedy Ave; Gerard Holder, 36, 1100 block Cedar Cliff Drive; Charles Howard, 29, 600 block Dukeland St; Michael D. Johnson, 35, 4200 block St. Georges Ave.

Others indicted were Robert Johnson, 32, 1300 block Woodington Road; Joseph Jones, 24, 2400 block St. Stephens Court; Ms. Barbara Kappes, 3400 block Kings Ridge Road; Ms. Elizabeth Lawson, 28, 300 block East 23rd St; Howard Zimmerman, 26, 3500 block Langerehr Road and Earl Richardson, 5500 block Gwynn Oak Ave.

(Continued on page 2)

Housing forum zeroes in on high rents, bad conditions, removal of black families

By Ann Sagi
AFRO Staff Writer

Some 100 West Baltimore residents told city officials decent housing is practically nonexistent, what housing is available is too expensive, unfit to habitate or both, and they do not want to relocate to an outlying county to find affordable places in which to live.

The residents voiced their opinions and concerns, at times angrily, at a forum sponsored by 4th District Councilman Michael Mitchell held at Bethel AME Church, Wednesday, March 19.

Mitchell was joined by spokesmen from the Department of Housing and Community Development, HCD, a housing inspector and two other Councilmen, Kwesi Mfume, also of the 4th District, and Thomas Waxter, 5th District.

Mitchell told the crowd that in addition to inadequate housing and high rent, he is also concerned with HCD's "passport" program which offers Section 8 families the opportunity to relocate in Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard or Anne Arundel counties.

"City officials are attempting to displace black folks. This city can afford to send out 20,000 postcards to announce this program, a program which will dilute our power.

"This city is going to be a better

Councilman Michael Mitchell

place in the eighties because there will be more white folks," Mitchell said sarcastically

He cited the findings of "A Viable City: Baltimore in the '80s," a study conducted by the school of social work and community planning at the University of Maryland, Baltimore which said the white population of the city will increase this decade coupled with decreased black population.

The Section 8 "passport" program was the brainchild of the Regional Planning Council, Mitchell said, and City Council was never involved in the decision to implement the plan.

Members of the audience also denounced the "passport" program.

"Who wants to live in the county? The opportunity to live in the county is no opportunity at all," said Rosalind Howard, of the Baltimore City Tenant-Association.

"But chances of obtaining Section 8 housing in the city without waiting for at least two or three years are slim to none an HCD spokesman told the residents.

"Am I supposed to go home and live with you for two or three years?" Ms. Lula McRae asked the spokesman.

"By the time you find Section 8 housing for me, I'll be 65 and ready to move into a senior citizen's home," said Ms. Linda

(Continued on Page 2)

Judge orders probe of Estes imprisonment

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

Judge Frank E. Cicone, administrative judge of Baltimore County Circuit Court stated on Thursday that a special prosecutor has been appointed to investigate a murder case in which a 16-year-old served 15 months in prison for a crime he did not commit.

Cornell Estes had been incarcerated since December 1978 and was released March 14, when police reported two men who are now in jail for another murder are also prime suspects in the Ms. Donna Turner murder.

A 13-year-old friend of Estes confessed to the murder and robbery of Ms. Turner and then testified against Estes. Ms. Turner was a Social Security employee who was stabbed once in the chest.

After Estes was released from prison, his attorney, R. Clark Kinsley asked the court to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the case.

Judge Cicone stated, "We in this country and county have a great system of justice through which we are constantly searching for the truth.

"I as circuit administrative judge as well as my colleagues on the bench are concerned over the questions which have been asked following the trial of the Estes case. While our system is not perfect, we strive to make it as near perfect as possible."

The two men who are prime suspects in Ms. Turner's murder are Lawrence Johnson, 18 and Dwayne Mayers, 20, who are charged with the Feb. 28, murder of Mrs. Betty Toulson, a Sinai Hospital employee, who was found dead in Baltimore County.

According to police, Johnson and Mayers are also charged with kidnapping and robbing Mrs. Toulson. Mrs. Sandra O'Connor, Baltimore County state's attorney said that her office will seek murder indictments March 24 against the two suspects in the slaying of Ms. Turner.

The two men were also charged March 17 with the murder of Mrs. Esther Rosenblatt, 78, who was strangled in her home on Jan. 10, 1979 in Baltimore County.

Cornelius Behan, chief of the Baltimore County Police Department and Mrs. O'Connor indicated they are in accord with and welcome the action that Judge Cicone is taking.

D.C. voting rights amendments OK'd by Md. Senate, House

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS - It finally happened.

That long awaited moment when supporters of the resolution calling for the ratification of a constitutional amendment giving Washington, D.C. full voting rights could sit back and say "mission accomplished."

The Maryland House of Delegates by a razor thin margin played its stamp of approval Wednesday on the resolution which was introduced by Sen. Clarence Mitchell, D-38th passed in the Senate last month.

This now makes Maryland the eighth state to ratify the constitutional amendment drawing to a close a year-long battle by supporters to get the measure passed. Last year the resolution failed on three occasions in the House by a single vote.

"I feel cautious optimism about the amendment's further ratification.

"This is the first time we've had this kind of effort by a broad coalition of forces. We had business, labor, civil rights and legal groups working with us," Walter Fauntroy, D.C.'s nonvoting representative told the AFRO just moments after the vote.

After a lot of bargaining, vote trading, near arm twisting and some prayers by members of the Black Caucus to get the measure passed, the resolution received a 71-67 victory. The measure just made the 71-vote majority needed to pass.

(Continued on Page 2)

Birmingham's black mayor says we can do it too!

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

"Tonight you are here to honor your political leaders who have sacrificed to enhance political achievement.

"But you must keep up the struggle so you can achieve in Baltimore what has been achieved in Birmingham."

These were the words of Richard Arrington, the first black mayor of Birmingham, Ala. who was the guest speaker at the awards banquet given March 16 by the Fourth District Democratic Organization.

The first annual Black Leadership Awards banquet honored seven political leaders for their achievement and contribution in the community and in office over the last decade.

Mayor Arrington who won the election in November, 1979 following two terms as a city councilman told the audience that he won his election with only $19,000 and beat six other candidates including two blacks.

"We didn't have a lot of money but what we did have was strong hearts and people who believed in us," he said.

(Continued on page 3)

Richard Arrington