—Port Welcome

Continued from page 1

right on the boat. Nobody said anything to them. Earl asked the captain, why the white people weren't searched," Tankard said.

The man replied to Rich the "guards were late in coming," and there was no one to search the people.

Tankard said during these Sunday mornings he never saw one white person searched. But when it came time for the Finos' group to board the Port Welcome, they were met by guards armed with bullhorns.

The guards told Tankard's group that alcoholic beverages were not allowed on board the ship and if they had "any cans and bottles, you can't carry them" on board.

None of the club members or their spouses were physically searched, but they were asked to open their bags for an examination by the guards, he said. And this is what angered Tankard and other club members.

"Why do it to us and don't do it to white people? That's the only thing we objected to," he said.

Richard Simon, Baltimore Harbor Cruises manager, admitted his company has received several complaints in the past from white and black groups about the treatment they have received from the guards. He also said the firm has been investigated by the Mayor's office and others in response to those complaints.

Many of the company's problems stem from the previous ownership of the Port Welcome. Simon said the State of Maryland operated the boat, which is stocked with a bar, before his company leased the Port Welcome in January of 1981.

When the State Liquor Board issued the company its liquor license the company was informed no alcoholic beverages were allowed on the boat and they would be subject to spot checks to see that the law was being enforced.

Simon said apparently the state did not enforce that law when it operated the Port Welcome. The problem arises with repeat customers who have been allowed to board the ship without being searched in the past, now try to board and resent having their bags checked.

"Why it wasn't (enforced) I don't know. Maybe they (the state) weren't worried about their liquor license because the state issued the state a license," Simon said.

The company's literature, contracts and tickets list clearly the alcohol ban as well as the provision no cans or bottles be brought on the Port Welcome, he said. The "dilemma" has eased in the past couple of months as more people become better acquainted with the company's policies, Simon said.

Race is not a factor in the company's policies, he said.

"We don't treat anybody any differently," Simon said.

Complaints that certain groups are searched and others are not, could stem from the fact that some groups who charter the Port Welcome, both black and white, make arrangements for an open bar.

Under that arrangement, the company does not search the groups because it assumes since they will be able to drink as much liquor or beverages as they desire on board, the groups will not bother to bring their own beverages.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

INNER HARBOR VISITORS stroll past the liner, Port Welcome, which is the subject of controversy as black groups complain whites and blacks are not treated equally when they board the liner.

—Literacy campaign

Continued from page 1

The goal, he said is to increase the reading levels of all who participate.

Contrary to what was expected, there is no reluctance by students to ask for help in reading, McKay said. No matter their ages, even if they are elderly, they want to read.

Wally Amos said he was not surprised.

"People are invalids if they can't read," he said, explaining how he came to be involved in the Baltimore program. "When I got here last year and learning about the problem, I wanted to do as much as I could to help."

Mayor Schaefer, also present at the cermonies at Pratt Library, said his concern was tied in to the relationship of illiteracy to unemployment.

"When the figure was first quoted to me (on illiteracy here), it was much greater than 200,000," he said.

"I had no idea the problem was so great, but I realized that lots of people probably didn't have jobs because they couldn't read job applications."

With that in mind, the mayor appointed the Commission to tackle the problem, and said he is more than pleased by the work being done.

McKay said the Commission will look into the current teaching methods being used in public schools in reading classes; those methods, subjected to scrutiny and possible change, may help solve the problem, or at least lessen it, for future students.

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—City contracts

Continued from page 1

Brown stated, "The persons who did this were different from those who heard it before. They are not interpreting the requirements and the set of facts accurately."

The prior week, Brown, City Council Vice President Walter Orlinsky and Public Works Director Francis Kuchta voted for Johnston.

While Brown stated that last week's decison would "wind up wrecking the program in the future," he said that he was satisfied with the progress of the program, which was stalled in the Board of Estimates for several months before it was approved and put in the City Charter.

"I'm satisfied that it's going in the right direction. The percentage of participation has increased since it began," said Brown.

Both Hyman Pressman and Walter Orlinsky could not be reached for comment.

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—Passing grades

Continued from page 1

As a means of investigating and solving the problem, Daneker said similar situations in other cities would be examined, including solutions reached.

The 90 percent passing requirement asked by Orlinsky was not unreasonable, Daneker said, and added the requirement would be sought on a city-wide basis.

Just last week, Daneker said standards for the evaluations of high school coaches were released by the Board, which put the burden of stressing academic excellence of athletes on the backs of coaches.

Failure to do so would result in an unsatisfactory rating, Daneker said,, with eventual dismissal if the problem were not alleviated, evidenced by higher student grade point averages.

Coaches here and in other cities have borne the brunt of severe criticism in recent times, accused of using unethical recruiting practices for the sake of championship titles, to the exclusion of academic performance.

In many instances, it has been charged, coaches have been responsible for students being passed on to the next grade despite ununsatisfactory academic work, so that team membership could be maintained.

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Political Periscope

Redistricting reprise: Tough process far from over

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

The public outcries have been stilled, at least temporarily, and the controversial issue of redistricting has been shelved until the upcoming legislative session.

The House of Delegates Baltimore delegation decided to steal a march on other city legislators by developing a plan of their own, but that plan caused so much controversy that there is scant chance it will be accepted without major changes.

The group of delegates, led by Del. Larry Young, D-38, were attempting to take advantage of Governor Harry Hughes' avowed policy of staying as far as possible from the reapportionment battle.

Hughes commissioned a group of politicians and civic leaders to devise a plan for state redistricting, and the committee in turn announced they would allow each political subdivision to formulate their own plan.

The decision of the committee regarding the Baltimore delegation's map should be released early next month, and judging from public testimony to this point, should provoke a whole new round of debate.

During the series of hearings held by Young's committee the most common issues raised concerning redistricting were race and community solidarity.

Residents from the 39th District led the wave of community advocates who testified at the hearings, as that entire district was slated to be carved up by the committee.

Dels. John Douglass and Howard "Pete" Rawlings developed a map on behalf of the Legislative Black Caucus which would create a new black district in the eastside, but that plan was soundly defeated.

The two hinted they may challenge the plan accepted by the committee if there is no provision made for majority black representation.

Both the move to shatter the 39th, (and the 47th District) and the current flap surrounding majority black representation are by-products of the city's decrease in population.

Currently the city contains almost 750,000 people, which means, instead of the eleven legislative districts held by the city previously, the new lines must be drawn to reflect nine districts.

Each district is required by law to contain approximately 89,000 residents.

During several heated committee sessions, Douglass and Rawlings announced they may seek legal action if blacks were not granted a majority of the city's Annapolis representation.

Douglass' speech to the Governor's Commission three weeks ago, when the group convened in Baltimore, probably sounded the most ominous note for the future of the redistricting plan.

"If this plan is finally adopted," said Douglass of the map submitted to the Governor's Commission, "we'll be in court in April, and we'll have a court order in June setting forth new boundaries that none of us will have the opportunity to vote on,"

Reservoir Hill on the move

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Despite the firing of Executive Director Ken Morgan a month ago, Harry Kastatiras, president of the board of the Reservoir Hill Community Association, says that the group is moving forward.

Members of the RHCA have fired two directors, Judith Mason and Ken Morgan, in the last eight months, and have recently hired a new person, Ed Daniels, to fill that slot.

Daniels has been active in the Liberty Road corridor of Baltimore County.

But the recent moves by the search commitee of RHCA has left some commitee members mystified as to their reasons.

"All of them seemed to be for Mr. Morgan when we went through the list of applciants," said Christopher Thomas, a member of the committee, "then they turned around and fired him."

Morgan, a former administrator at the University of Maryland College Park, served in his post barely three months before losing his position. He had been originally backed by several board members, but apparently incurred their wrath soon after taking over.

"The man just did not follow executive committee directions," said Karastatiris.

Morgan was unavailable for comment at AFRO press time.

Kastatiras said the RHCA was actively involved in several new projects, including a food bank and a new housing information and advocacy program.

The group also will be sponsoring a community bazaar, scheduled for Oct. 3. For further information on the bazaar, interested parties are urged to call 669-0077.

Caucus events on WHMM

Howard University's WHMM - TV (Channel 32) will air a one - hour program Sept. 28 at 8 p.m., highlighting the events of the Congressional Black Caucus' 11th annual Legislative Weekend.

The Legislative Weekend, scheduled for Sept. 25 - 26, will feature workshops and hearings, a concert, prayer breakfast, fashion show and awards dinner.

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