Eastern Star holds 85th annual session

The 85th annual session of Myra Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliation was held this week at the Hunt Valley Inn.

More than 600 delegates from Pennsylvania, Washington, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina attended the three day convention.

In November, 1933 at the annual session of Myra Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, with Sister Mary J. Henry, Grand Worthy Matron and Brother J. Maurice Butler, Grand Worthy Patron, a recommendation was presented by the Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Mary J. Henry, that a past Grand Matron's and Past Grand Patron's Council be organized.

This recommendation was adopted and shortly after this annual session, the Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons were called together by the Grand Matron.

At the meeting, the officers were elected and Sister Annie L. Martin, P.G.M., became its president, with P.G.M. Sister Nellie J. Paul, its secretary.

Other members of the council at that time were P.G.M. Annie C. Smith, Alice R. Dansbury, Mamie L. Pinder, Sara E. Travers, P.G.P., Alfred Nixon, Patrick M. Turner, Hugh W. Simmons. Other Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons joining as they pass out of office.

Installation for the new administration was held Tuesday night. The new officers are Grand Associate Matron Virginia B. Vauls; Grand Associate Patron William I. Foreman; Rudolph Leonard New Grand Patron;

Also, Elaine K. Campbell, Grand Conductress; Frances W. Parker, new Grand Associate Conductress. Lila O. DeShields, Grand Assistant Recorder; Alice T. Minor Grand Recorder; Marjorie A. Joiner, Grand Treasurer; Josephine DeLeon, Grand Financial Secretary. The new grand trustees are Emma Smith, Elizabeth Stevenson and Rosa L. Minor.

ACTIVE LOCAL MEMBERS of Myra Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star who participated in the 85th annual session held Nov. 15-17, shown from left, are Margaret Dyer, past grand matron; Virginia B. Vauls, Grand Worthy Matron and William I. Foreman, Grand Worthy Patron.

620 DELEGATES attended the three day annual session of the Myra Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Olive Ann Evans, former grand worthy matron, is shown greeting the guests.

SHARPSTOWN, MARYLAND members who attended the three-day convention of the Eastern Stars Prince Hall Affiliation shown in the lobby of Hunt Valley Inn from left are Helen West, past matron; Agnes Lee Brown, past matron and grand chairman and Henry R. West, past patron.

GRAND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE members seen at the annual session of Myra Grand Chapter shown from left are Mary Green, co-chairperson; Lillian McKethan, Margaret J. Watkins, first assistant and Mary D. Sims, grand chairman.

GRAND HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE members shown from left are Sadie Murray, Lillie W. Gray, Mildred D. Ross, Betty Hills, Julia Chestnut, Joyce Wallace. Back row shows William B. Kidd, chairman; Howard L. Hills, George S. Marrow Jr., Richard Cunningham and Rudolph L. Leonard Sr.

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewyez

Chinquapin students selected

Twenty four students from Chinquapin Middle School have been selected to participate in the 1982 talent search by the office of talent identification and development (OTID) at the Johns Hopkins University.

Students must be in the seventh grade and must have scored at least at the 97th percentile or better on national norms of a standarized aptitude or achievement test battery.

The students selected are Jeniffer Alban, Lisa Au, Sherri Biegeleisen, Lamont Davis, Jamal Devance, Sergio Gladden, Michael Randolph Johnson, Tige Johnson, Albert Lai, Leggie Moore, Regina Robinson, Corinthea Sergance, Cynthia Seymore, Mark Stone, Eugene Taylor, Bronwen Wickkiser, Herbert Williams and Linwood Green.

Women charge bias at prison

Women inmates are accusing state prison officials of refusing them access to rehabilitative programs at Patuxent Institution solely because they are women.

The charge was made in a suit filed in U.S. District Court in Baltimore by the prison assistance project on behalf of six inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup, the state's only prison for women.

The prisoners, who requested the lawsuit be considered as a class action on behalf of the prison's 287 female inmates, said Tuesday their exclusion from the programs is a denial of their rights to equal protection under the law.

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HELPS MRS. SANTA — Mrs. Olive Ann Evans, Grand Worthy Matron (R) and Michael W. Marshall, Grand Worthy Patron, present Mrs. Ida Peters, AFRO Mrs. Santa, with check for $200 to help needy families.

AFRO photo by Vanessa Johnson

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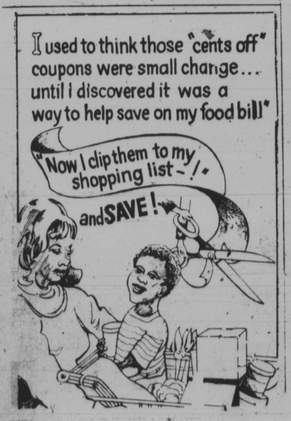

Thanksgiving weekend-what to do, where to go

On Friday, Nov. 27, Baltimore's waterfront will be transformed into a winter wonderland as some of the City's finest attractions welcome Santa Claus to his Harborplace Workshop. A dazzling parade on water and on land, will greet the "jolly ol' man" between 10 a.m. and noon at the gaily decorated Inner Harbor.

Kicking-off the parade will be the port fireboat. Following will be Mrs. Claus with treats for all aboard the Convention-Civic Center flagship; also parading with Santa will be a water taxi with special holiday ambassadors including the Oriole Bird, the Crazy Colt, and many other costumed characters representing Baltimore attractions.

Baltimore's new Showboat will join the parade filling the harbor with holiday harmonies. Lastly, but certainly not least, "Old Saint Nick" will ride aboard Baltimore's bedecked yacht, "Nymph".

On his journey, Santa will greet the U.S.S. Torsk, the Lightship Chesapeake, the "Top of the World", The Port Welcome and the Baltimore Patriot. The U.S.F. Constellation will salute Mr. Claus with musket and cannon fire as he passes. Next, the Harbor Sound Bell will chime its special greeting.

After leaving his departure point of Pier 7, Mr. Claus will

(Continued on Page 2)

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Wanted! 10,000 auxiliary police

4th District Dems join war on crime

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

Crime in the black community was the topic of discussion.

The Fourth District Democratic Organization of Baltimore City, Inc. sponsored a meeting of civic leaders and city residents to exchange views Monday night at the Odd Fellows Hall in Madison Park. The meeting featured Deputy Commissioner Bishop Robinson of the Baltimore City Police Department, Howard Lyles, a Warden at the Maryland House of Corrections, and Kenneth Johnson, a civil rights attorney associated with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Comments from the audience and the panel revealed an increasing fear of and impatience with crime and violence, and an increasing militancy.

Some dissatisfaction with what was seen as an over concern by black politicians with the rights of the accused was expressed in many questions from the audience. Recounting a recent incident in which it was discovered that a man arrested for a violent crime was at the time out on bail from a charge of a previous violent crime, the Rev. St. George Crosse asked the panel "Who is to speak for the victims of crime?"

Until recently policies which threatened the rights of the accused have been viewed suspiciously by much of the black community, largely because a disproportionate number of arrests involve blacks. But that view is being eroded as many in the black community see violent crime as a larger threat than is racial bias in the application of the law.

"We did not want to be associated with the law and order folks," said Kenneth Johnson, referring to the desire of black politicians to dissociate themselves from politicians unconcerned with the rights of the accused. "But we can pursue law and order without infringing on the rights of suspects," he continued.

Several proposals were offered by members of the audience, some more coherent and realistic than others.

The Rev. Willie Ray was par-

(Continued on Page 2)

AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

THE COMMUNITY SPEAKS OUT — Beverley Douglass, a concerned resident, suggested that adults should not hesitate to reprimand unruly kids. She spoke at a meeting of the 4th District Democratic Organization held on Monday night to discuss the continuing fight against crime in the black community.

Citizen volunteers sought to help curb street crime

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

After meeting with members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, concerned community leaders and citizens, the Police Department is now accepting applications from citizens to work with the volunteer auxiliary force to help fight and prevent crimes in their neighborhoods.

Citizens who have met with Police Commissioner Frank J. Battagalia have offered their expertise, time and assistance to the Police Department.

Police officials say hundreds of volunteers are needed. A really effective auxiliary force would total 10,000.

The unarmed, volunteer auxiliary force is expected to start its work within the next three months.

Dennis Hill, a spokesman for the Police Department, told the AFRO, "The idea came from the community and we know it will work."

It has not been determined how the auxiliary will be financed.

The commissioner believes with the volunteer auxiliary, crime can be reduced by full involvement by the community and a commitment from individuals to become active in efforts to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

(Continued on Page 2)

Blacks 'hold what they have' in new re-districting plan

Most of the reaction of local black elected officials to the new reapportionment plan announced by the Advisory Commission on Legislative Rapportionment appeared to be guardedly optimistic.

The Commission announced the plan Monday as it recommended new Congressional district lines for Maryland reflecting the past decade's population shift from Baltimore to suburban and formerly rural areas.

Also on Monday, the Commission recommended a state legislative district reapportionment plan for Baltimore that recognizes the city's racial mix while preserving an "L" shaped central city district for State Sen. Julian Lapides.

Both plans will be discussed at a Dec. 1 hearing in Annapolis, where the public has an opportunity to air its views.

While most of the black legislators contacted by the AFRO had reservations about the plans, most voiced their approval.

"I feel the plan is as fair a plan as it stands," Del. Troy Brailey said. "With the new 50 percent black district in the Northeast and the four other black districts intact, I'd say we're holding what we have while the whites lose."

In drawing the plan for Baltimore, the five-member commission had to find a way to divide what had been 11 state legislative districts into nine.

The Commission did so by drawing four districts within predominantly black sections of the city, four within predominantly white areas, and one district — the area where Lapides lives — with an essentially even black-white ratio.

Sen. Robert Douglass, who represents East Baltimore, said his primary concern was for the 45th district.

"I'm not completely happy with what we got, but everybody else had to give up something, so I guess we do, too," he said.

Sen. Verda Welcome's district also underwent changes, but not enough to make her feel badly, she said. The Lapides 'L" the, racially equalized district, is what she, Delegate John Douglass and other members of the Black Caucus presented in their plan to the Commission.

Ms. Welcome said with the creation of the 50-50 district, blacks now have the opportunity to elect a black representative, "if blacks get out and vote."

City Councilman Kwiesi Mfume also said black representation could come out of Lapides' 50-50 district.

"It's hard for black people in Baltimore to oppose the plan. All they can do is acquiesce and not participate. There is a possibility of picking up a fifth district with some black representation, but only if people go out and vote," he said.

The Congressional redistricting plan reflects a population loss in Baltimore, with 7th District Rep. Parren Mitchell's mostly black center city district being expanded westward into Baltimore County, where more whites live.

(Continued on Page 2)

Koger, Conaway in court fight over 'Good News'

Earl Koger retired insurance executive and former publisher of the fiery community tabloid "Good News" and Del. Frank Conaway and David Sloan, attorney, who purchased the newspaper from him are battling it out in court.

Conaway and Sloan have won the first round of litigation.

Earl Koger, lately associated with another tabloid "Watch Dog", has been ordered to halt printing, publishing, disbursing or disseminating any publication.

The temporary restraining order won by the present publishers of "Good News", Sloan, Conaway and others was handed down Nov. 17 by Judge H. H. Kaplan in Superior Court.

(Continued on Page 2)

Proctor stirs Morgan Founders Day audience

In a moving speech commemorating Morgan State University's founding on Nov. 23 that brought students, faculty and guests to their feet in a standing ovation, Dr. Samuel E. Proctor, minister of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York and Martin Luther King Professor of Education at Rutgers University, reminded the audience, among other things, that "the mind is a terrible thing to waste."

Recounting the hardships of black folk in this country in trying to gain access to education, Dr. Proctor said, "A slave master could break your arm and not go to jail, he could break your leg and not have a penalty, he would put a hole in your ears and in your nose, and brand you on the back; he could do all things, inhuman things to you, and all he had to do was to say you tried to escape, that's all.

"But if he was caught trying to teach you how to read and write, he could go to jail. No penalty for maiming your body, no penalty for starving you, no penalty for raping your mother, your sister, or your daughter.

"But my soul, if he taught you how to read and write, he would go to jail. The consummate sin, the crime unpardonable was to cultivate the mind of a slave."

The detriment done to black people because of the unavailability of education to

(Continued on Page 2)

Wilson Pk. decision two weeks away

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

It will be at least two more weeks before the mayor makes a decision on the controversial Wilson Park housing project, according to a spokesman.

Pat Casey, a mayor's aide, stated Mayor William Donald Schaefer, who held a veto hearing Nov. 23 on the project, "will probably not decide" for at least two weeks.

Residents of the Wilson Park community, who requested the veto hearing after the City Council voted to approve the mutual housing project, are hopeful the bill will be vetoed.

"I think it's very significant that he (mayor) conducted the hearing. It's very unsual for that to happen," said George Russell, attorney for the Wilson Park Improvement Association that is fighting the proposed project.

During the two-hour hearing, the mayor heard testimony both pro and con on the mutual housing project, slated to be built on a 10-acre tract of land at Cold Spring Lane and The Alameda.

"I feel we got a fair hearing," said Charles McDaniels, a Wilson Park resident who opposes the project. "I'm hopeful the mayor will veto this. If he does, it's still not over."

If the mayor vetoes the bill, which gave permission to Neighborhood Housing Services to build the 152 housing units, it must still go back to City Council and the council could override the mayor's veto.

What next? McDaniels suggested that the group might consider court action.

"It's a very costly thing to pursue but it's not a money thing...it's the principle. Court is the next step and it's a strong possibility."

Under the mutual housing concept, residents pay a membership fee and can become a part of the housing management. Although they would not own the unit, the resident would have the opportunity to pass it on to a family member.

1st black catering facility due in 1982

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore may soon be getting its first black-owned catering facity.

The project, headed by Sen. Robert Douglass, D-45th who owns the Baltimore Electronics Company, is scheduled to be built at Central and Ashland Avenues.

Douglass submitted a request for a $1.4 million industrial industrial revenue bond, which was approved by the City Council several months ago in a package of bond bills.

"We're waiting on the final design to be approved by the Housing and Community Development's design advisory panel," said Douglass. "Once that's approved, we can begin selling the bonds."

The 31,000 square - foot catering facility, equipped to hold 900 people, will in include floral, tuxedo and gown, and jewelry shops. A restaurant and private club will be featured.

Douglass expects construction to begin next spring and says the project should be complete in eight months or just before Thanksgiving.

Stevie Wonder, Dorothy Height here for black legislators meet

At a news conference in Washington, DC Wednesday, Maryland State Senator Clarence Mitchell III announced the formulation of a "watch dog agenda" and addressed critical problems facing blacks in urban and rural areas in the United States.

Stevie Wonder

Mitchell, also president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, was joined at the conference by U.S. Congressman Walter Fauntroy, (D-DC), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and Maryland State Delegate Larry Young.

"In light of recent governmental changes in federal funding in the states it is important that black Americans be aware of the role state legislators will serve in the coming years," Mitchell declared.

He said the "watch dog agenda" was formed to oversee federal funds and programs targeted under President Ronald Reagan for state administration.

"The watchdog agenda will be formulated at NBCSL's fifth annual conference," he said, that will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Baltimore, Dec. 1 through 5.

NBCSL Conference Chairman, Larry Young, in announcing this

(Continued on Page 28)

Dorothy Height