Legislators rap Big Brothers, Sisters program as biased

A United Way agency, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland, is under attack by Delegates Howard "Pete" Rawlings, (D-40th) and Wendell H. Phillips (D-41st).

Rawlings and Phillips have levied several charges at the agency, ranging from unfair personnel practices to unresponsiveness to the black community. They also have called for the cessation of funding to that United Way affiliate.

In a recent letter to Alan Cooper, United Way executive director, Rawlings and Phillips wrote that constituents had come to them for help in resolving several problems with the Big Brothers agency.

They said some of the problems concerned the resignation of long-term employees, who apparently resigned because of alleged unfair practices and harassment; the firing of part-time employees; preferential treatment given to men employees, clients and volunteers and reorganization of the agency in which white men assumed total control of the management of and supervisory positions.

Rawlings and Phillips said they also were concerned about allegations that the agency is not responsive agency is not responsive to the needs of black youngsters.

They said according to their information, there are more than 1,000 black youths on a waiting list at the agency and these youths comprise more than 70 percent of those not being serviced by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland.

"Given these disturbing statistics, it would seem that an agency located in Baltimore City and committed to affirmatively and equitably addressing the service needs of the entire community has grossly failed with regards to the needs of the black community and Baltimore city," the delegates letter to Cooper said.

"We are left with no other alternative but to request that the United Way initiate cessation of funding to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland, Inc. until their management structure reflects affirmative action policies of the United Way and that an acceptable proposal is developed to address the problem of black youngsters who are desirious of finding big brothers and big sisters," the letter said.

In response to the delegates' allegations, Walter J. Pasciak, executive director of the Big Brother Big Sister Program told the AFRO their side of the story.

In a letter addressed to Cooper, Wednesday, July 1, Pasciak itemized the allegations and proceeded to refute the charges which he said probably stemmed from a personnel action in 1981.

"Two employees exhibited behavior which forced me to terminate one and place the other on probation without loss of pay or status," he said in the letter.

"I sense that one or both of these actions may have led to the complaint placed with the two delegates," Pasciak said.

Admitting some long-term employees had resigned, Pasciak denied that they had been harassed or the victims of unfair practices.

Concerning the firing of part-time employees, the letter said the agency's board of directors had revised the staffing of the agency and called for the reduction of the staff from 21 to 10.

However, full-time positions were increased by three and three former part-time workers applied for and were hired in the full-time slots, the letter said.

The charges of preferential treatment of male employees, clients and volunteers was denied by the director of the United Way affiliate.

The delegates also charged the agency with reorganizing the management team to benefit white males who hold the top decision-making positions.

Pasciak said the team consists of three positions, two of which are occupied by white males; the other, by a black female. He said experience was the factor in filling the positions. All had been with the program for 10 years or longer, he said.

The new position of resource developer, created in the reorganization, was given to a white male because of his successful planning and implementation of a fund-raiser called "Bowl for Pete's Sake," the letter said.

As to the charge of being unresponsive to the community, Pasciak said, "We may never meet the total need in the community for our service but we meet the affirmative action guidelines in clientele, staff and the board of directors."

The agency admitted 70 percent of the youngsters on the waiting list are black but said the problem lies in the successful recruitment of a sufficient number of big brothers and sisters to eliminate the long list.

It is not a lack of commitment to "affirmatively and equitably" address the service needs of the black community," Pasciak said in the letter which extended an open invitation to the delegates to discuss their concerns.

Del. Rawlings told the AFRO a public meeting is planned Wednesday, July 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage United Church of Christ to discuss the issues on the big brother big sister program.

BEATING THE HEAT — Inga Pratt, Linda Owens and Ingrid Pratt paid a cooling visit to the Druid Hill Park pool last week.

AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

Last Phillips' slaying suspect goes to trial

Eric Brown, 14-year-old Greenspring Junior High School student who allegedly provided the gun used in the Sept. 21, 1981 murder of Dr. George Franklin Phillips, will be tried as an adult.

Gregory Brittingham, 15, of the 1600 block Bentalou St., who testified against four codefendants in the case who were charged with murder, will be tried as a juvenile.

Brown and Brittingham were the state's key witnesses and the city prosecutors agreed their cases would be heard in Juvenile Court in exchange for their testimony for the state.

However, Criminal Court Judge Elbeth Bother ruled on July 7 that Brittingham should be tried for the cime as a juvenile and Brown should be tried as an adult because of his alleged participation in the killing.

The six teenagers arrested in the murder of Dr. Phillips were charged as adults. Two of the teens were sentenced to life imprisonment plus 15 years after being convicted of felony murder, attempted armed robbery and use of a handgun.

One of the teenagers pleaded guilty to attempted armed robbery and a handgun charge and was sentenced to 23 years. The other teenager was acquitted of the charges.

Dr. Phillips of the 1500 block Bentalou St., Was shot and killed as he was about to get into his car and drive to Provident Hospital.

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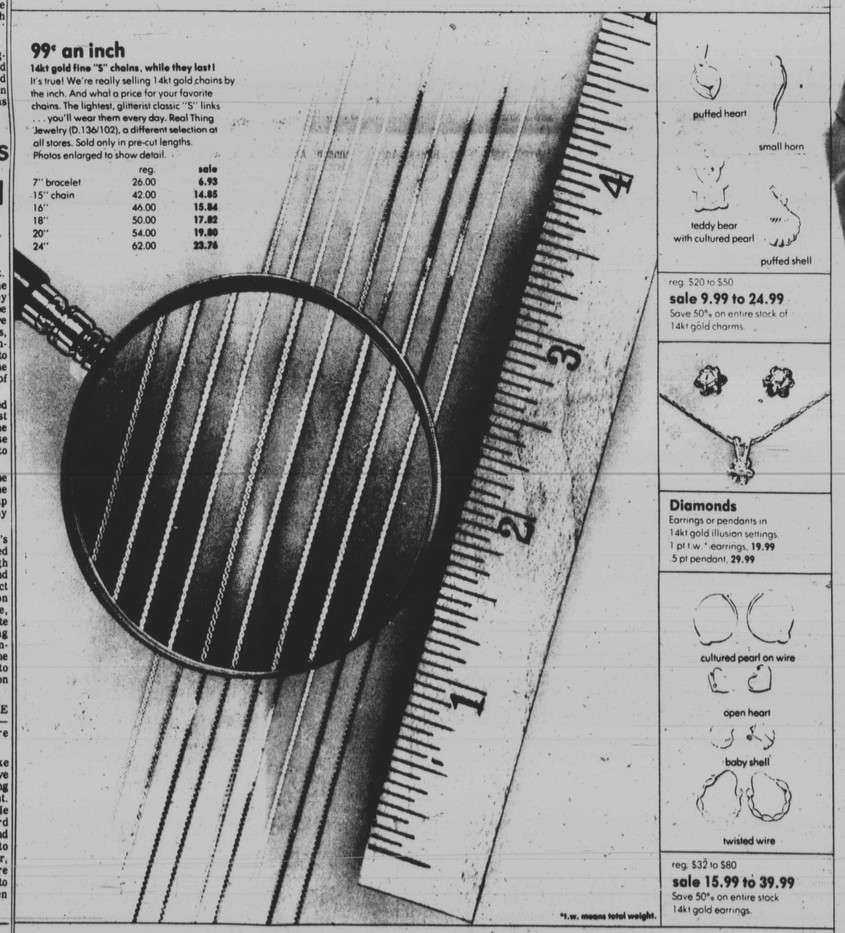

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HECHT'S

Prison prexy Davis quits, blasts penal system, unimapathy

Prison guard union president Ed Davis, the man who frequently launched public attacks on Maryland's prison system, is resigning — effective July 31. He has been president of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) local 1678, representing state prison guards, for the past five years.

At a time when prisons need more guards (overcrowding has decreased the inmate-guard ratio), and safeguards are being fired or penalized for prison breaks — Davis is turning away. In a state with surplus funding, he questions how Gov. Harry Hughes can say Maryland does not have the money to hire enough guards.

But the state's attitude towards the needs of the penal system has not been the only hurdle.

In an AFRO exclusive, Davis revealed he had done an investigation and uncovered evidence the state had "manipulated scores on the merit system examination to deny to a group of primarily black candidates — promotional opportunities within the state."

The AFSCME union hierarchy "simply refused to support" him in pursuing the issue, he said. As a result, Davis retained "private counsel out my own out-of-pocket expenses."

"If discrimination in promotional practices hinders my efforts in vertical mobility...it seems to me to be covered under the (union membership) membership) agreement," continued the out going union president.

When guards become AFSCME members, they agree the union will be the sole representative regarding wages, hours, and conditions of employment in order to promote and protect the economic welfare of members.

The case was settled out of court last December — "on the proverbial court house steps," according to Davis.

From that point on, the union executive told the AFRO, his relationship with the union hierarchy deteriorated.

Because AFSCME's union dues are deducted by the state through payroll deductions, and the union has no contract or binding arbitration with the state, theoretically, the state could stop collecting dues from union membership — denying the union vital funds to operate and pursue union interests.

In order for AFSCME to obtain a contract — the state legislature must approve it.

So, as the smoke clears, Davis will leave with one year remaining on his term as president. Who will fill the slot? He says he has heard nothing about that, and apparently according to union assistant director, William Bolander, there is some uncertainty as to just what will happen next.

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Flair Studio presents Graduation-Fashion Show

AFRO Photos by Roman Hankewycz

FLAIR MODELING AGENCY GRADUATES who got their certificates of graduation during some combination dinner - fashion show - graduation held Friday, July 2 at Martin's West are (first row, l to r): Eric Miles, Merylin Faure, Olivia Gibbs, Kendra Cooper, Dale Brown, Kelli Tillette, Mary Langston, Zina McKee and Shannon Maddox; (second row, l to r): Angela Johnson, Rosalind Walters, Tara Wofford, Monica Graves, Beverly Cook; (third row, l to r): Karen Dalin, Tonja Adams, Tamara Locust, Patricia Montgomery, Shally C. Curham; (fourth row, l to r): Pamela Robinson, Rebecca Morgan, Donnetta Gingles, Mildred Neblett, Carolyn James, and Novice Muldrow.

FLAIR'S ANNAPOLIS GRADUATES are (first row, l to r): Jomika B. Jenkins, Tracy R. Sesker, Kim E. Pore and Sherri M. Covington; (second row, l to r): Carla D. Isaacs, Angela S. Green, Terri Dunscomb, Anissa Pernell and Stacey Gaskins; (third row, l to r): Rhonda T. Coates, Cindy Pounds, Tanya L. Bean, Verna J. Bean and Donna A. Green; (fourth row, l to r): Tershel D. Johnson, Shunda D. Franklin, Sherry A. Butler, Tina B. Maynard and Tyra Dunscomb.

LITTLE GRADS FROM ANNAPOLIS are (first row, L to R): Makisha T. Foote, Tamiria L. Williams, Tyrea X. Peoples and Yolanda M. Estep; (second row, L to R): Gwendolyn L. Washington, Deanna M. Franklin and Shenell Y. Coates.

Martin's West was the scene of Flair Studio's annual fashion show and graduation, held July 2, 8 p.m. until 12 midnight.

Parents and friends gathered to dine and enjoy 54 students parade in fashions for summer, from casual nautical to sensuous evening.

Both chapters of Flair Studio, Baltimore and Annapolis, MD., were presented certificates in self - improvement and modeling.

Students ended the evening in white gowns and formal suits for the males as they proudly received their certificates.

Honoree and presenter of certificates was model and businesswoman, Ernestine Ward, a Baltimore city recreational department employee. Instructors, Andrea Bland and Gwen Kellam, collaborated to produce a dynamic show in which students were allowed to display their talents.

Student speakers for the affair were Dale Brown, Cassandra Banks, Angela Johnson, Anissa Pernell, Mary Langston, and Marilyn Diaz.

Bouquet presentation was performed by Shannon Maddox and Tonja Adams.

Moderator and director of Flair Studio, Willia Bland outlined each student's profile which consisted of interests, hobbies, life - time goals, and most influential experiences which had left the greatest impression.

A single long stemmed white carnation was carried during the graduation by each graduate as she went to the tip of the runway and gracefully curtseyed in front of a hand clapping audience.

Teenage students graduating will be featured this fall in an all-teenage and children fashion show showcasing what's to be seen this fall and winter.

During the interlude, Flair professional models, including Dorothy Francis, Quianna Cooke, Candace Easterling, modeled high fashion designs by designers Lenny York and Sandra Wilkens, who also modeled.

Baltimore adult graduates were, Dale Brown, Cassandra Banks, Sadie Cobb, Thelma Conway, Beverly Cook, Marilyn Diaz, Sally Durham, Olivia Gibbs, Donnetta Gingles, Carolyn James, Brenda Laney, Pat Montgomery, Rebecca Morgan, Novice Muldrow, Mildred Neblett, Dora Quinley, Dixie Wilkins, and Brenda Kirkpatrick.

Teen students included, Tonja Adams, Rochelle Carroll, Deridra Davis, Kim Diamond, Karen Dulin, Lori Goodman, Monica Graves, Cynthia Hollie, Wanda Jefferson, Angela Johnson, Elana Johnson, Mary Langston, Tamara Langston, Shannon Maddox, Zina McKee, Dawana Merritt, Eric Miles, Garland Roberts, Pamela Robinson, Rosalind Walters, Stephanie Wells, Romaine Williams and Tara Wofford.

"Little Miss" graduates were Kendra Cooper, Chrisey Johnson, Isha Moses, Nicole Simmons, Kelli Tillett and Michelle Wedderburn.

Annapolis students were assisted with certificates by director of the Stanton Community Center, Joseph Simms.

They were Tanya Bean, Verna Bean, Rhonda Coates, Sherri Covington, Tyra Dunscomb, Stacy Gaskins, Angela Green, Jomika Jenkins, Tershell Johnson, Tina Maynard, Cindy Pounds, Sherry Butler, Terri Dunscomb, Shunda Franklin, Donna Green, Carla Isaacs, Anissa Pernell, Kim Pore, Tracy Sesker, Shenell Coates, Yolanda Estep, Makisha Foote, Deanna Franklin, Nyhuya Johnson, Tyrea Peoples, Alecia Ragland, Gwen Washington, and Tamiria Williams.

Crip's Florist of Poplar Grove St. provided the flowers while music was provided by Charles "Woody" Woodford.

Walbrook High School ROTC Cadets escorted each graduate to the stage to receive their certificates.

INFANT BAPTIZED — Atty. and Mrs. H. Russell Frisby Jr. pose with their son H. Russell Frisby III following his June 27 christening at Grace United Presbyterian Church. (SEE STORY ON PAGE 14)

How to get your social news in the AFRO!

Hosting a party, a banquet, anniversary, family reunion or christening celebration? Having a fraternity, sorority or club function? Call the AFRO Women's Editor at 728-8200 (Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays) 10 days before your social event or send in your news (printed or typewritten). Mail to Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, c/o Pattie Hodges, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore Md. (21201) (Please give name and phone number of a contact person when mailing information).

PARTYLINE

Proctors celebrate 40th anniversary

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Women's Editor

One of the most enjoyable social events of the summer season was the June 28 surprise fortieth wedding anniversary celebration hosted for Dr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Proctor by their son and daughter - in - law Atty. William and Mrs. Proctor (Sheila) at the younger Proctor's lovely Radecke Ave. home.

The day was gorgeously sunny and many of the honorees' friends and relatives assembled on the lawn for an afternoon of continuous pleasantries.

The honorees and their guests enjoyed a delectable repast catered by Margaret Bass of the Arch Social Club.

Ruby Glover, popular local songstress, along with Tim Shepherd, guest vocalist, sang songs appropriate for the occasion (and dedicated to the Proctors) accompanied by Bob Butta on the piano, Donald Bailey on the bass violin and Vance James on drums, from 1 until 5 p.m.

Dr. and Mrs. Proctor were truly flabbergasted. No one had leaked the secret and they went to the affair thinking they were going to a small gathering for hostess Sheila's family.

Dr. Proctor stated: "I've never been so surprised in my life." Mrs. Proctor said: "When I walked into the yard, saw the crowd of people and realized that the affair was for us, I felt lightheaded."

The honorees received many lovely gifts in the ruby motif (stone for the 40th year) from a ruby dinner bell to wine decanters, as well as money and many cards of good wishes.

(Continued on Page 14)

RETIRING BASILEUS FETED — An informal reception was recently held at the home of Mrs. Patelle G. Harris in honor of Mrs. Alice S. Lee, outgoing basileus of Alpha Alpha Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. From left are Mesdames Vivien Gardner, newly - elected basileus, Alice S. Lee and Patelle Harris.