Vanguard Justice Society installs new officers

CONGRATULATIONS — Wendell M. France, newly elected president of the Vanguard Justice Society, receives well wishes at the society's

AFRO photos by Roman Hankewycz

swearing in ceremonies by Supreme Bench Judges William H. Murphy Jr., left and Robert Bell.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS — At ceremonies recently at Saint Bernadine's Church, the officers shown are sworn into office. They are left to right Tyrone Francis, Leonard Hamm, Teresa Cunningham, Wendell M. France, Carolyn Raley, Wayne R. Wilson and Arnold A. Adams Sr.

The Vanguard Justice Society, a group composed of black Baltimore city police officers, recently installed its new officers and board members during an evening ceremony at Saint Bernadine's Church, 3812 Edmondson Ave.

The Vanguards, who are members of the National Black Police Association, were welcomed on July 14, to the event by outgoing president Eugene Tanzymore.

The officers, their family and friends heard remarks made by Supreme Bench Judge Robert Bell. Another Supreme Bench Judge also was in attendance. He was William H. Murphy Jr., who presided over the swearing in of the officers and board members.

The newly elected president of the Vanguard Justice Society is Sgt. Wendell France. As president, France said he hopes to involve the Vanguards more actively in the community.

"In these hard economic times, an organization such as the Vanguard is what the community needs," he said, adding he wants his organization to work with other groups to promote awareness of the importance of communication between the public and the police.

Founded in October, 1971, the Vanguard is a non-profit group. Its purpose is to address the issues experienced by minorities in the criminal justice system.

Four-hundred black police officers from Baltimore, both men and women, are members of the Vanguard.

Other officers elected during the June 30 elections are Leonard Hamm, first vice president; Wayne R. Wilson, second vice president; Teresa Cunningham, secretary; James C. Shields Jr., recording secretary; Tyrone Francis, treasurer; Carolyn Raley, financial secretary and Arnold A. Adams Sr., sergeant at arms.

The Vanguard's board of trustees are Barry Powell, chairman; Johnny Fisher, Herman Jones, Robert Smith and George Smith.

TAKING OATH OF OFFICE — With raised hand, Supreme Bench Judge William H. Murphy Jr. swears in the Vanguard Justice Society's Board of Trustees. They are from left to right, Herman Jones, George Smith, Barry Powell, Robert Smith and Johnny Fisher.

THE PRESIDENT VISITS — William J. Keneddy III, president of North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co. (Center), visits the Baltimore office of North Carolina Mutual to give its employees a "pep" talk and also to present Herman Bright, (left), an award for Salesman of the Week. Also pictured is the Baltimore office's district manager, D.T. Massey, right.

MTA begins taxi service

as the wheels turn

By Penny Brady

Monday, July 19, began another step in aiding the disabled. The Mass Transit Administration now offers taxi service to supplement the mobility service.

According to Diane Ratcliffe, MTA transportation coordinator for the handicapped, the use of cabs will provide additional trips and will service the backlog of requests for service.

This is a pilot program based on a one-year contract between MTA and the Sun Cab Co. The cabs will not be used by wheelchair clients. Ms. Ratcliffe said more than 50 percent of the clients can walk.

The cost factor saves the MTA from buying more vans. The cab operators will be reimbursed the difference in the 60 cent bus fare and the meter fare. Currently, the lift-van costs $17 per client per one-way trip, wherein the cab will be about $8 per one-way trip.

The taxi and Mobility service will continue to operate from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday within the Baltimore Beltway. MTA will not be extending services at this time.

These services are available to people who are registered with the MTA and have been certified by a physician as being disabled. Those persons who are employed by sheltered workshops will continue to ride free.

Those who qualify should call 837-1351 or TTY 539-3497 at least two days in advance for service.

The MTA also will test 40 lift-equipped buses in regular route service. These new buses will arrive in late fall.

It is hoped that after a period of inspecting the lifts and instructing wheelchair users and bus drivers in their operation, the year-long program will begin in early 1983.

The Lift-Equipped Test Overview Committee, composed of five MTA representatives and five representatives of the handicapped community, will assist in the selection of lift-equipped routes and the development of driver training, marketing and public orientation programs.

The Maryland Ride Sharing Office offers a TTY service for hearing-impaired persons who are in the Baltimore dialing area at 859-POOL. For hearing-impaired persons living outside the Baltimore metropolitan area the toll free Maryland number is 1-800-493-7757.

Both ride sharing TTY numbers are answered from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Ms. Ratcliffe hopes by the fall, the first-quarterly newsletter will be distributed. The newsletter will be geared to the elderly and the handicapped and will contain information on new programs and other educational items.

This column will keep you posted on new developments with the MTA and the handicapped.

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City's $200 houses are 'poor investments'

"A very poor investment," is how the Rev. St. George Crosse described the $200 homes being sold by the city.

Rev. Crosse, president of the Society for Advancement of Families, was one of the more than 1,000 citizens attending a meeting July 28, at the War Memorial Building.

Citizens from all walks of life were anxious to learn more about the abandoned homes. The program is a housing and community development project geared to simplify the sale of surplus vacant city-owned property.

Rev. Crosse told the AFRO, "It is a very poor and risky investment and a rip off of the citizens by the housing department."

As pastor of St. Matthews United Methodist Church on East 23rd St., and an active community worker, Rev. Crosse said several of his church members were interested in purchasing homes.

"All of the houses offered by the city are in depressed neighborhoods and areas with high crime. If someone purchases a home and repairs the house, they can end up with a house worth $50,000 to $60,0000 in a neighborhood surrounded by homes worth $5,000 to $6,000. The only way the house would be worth anything if all the other houses were rehabilitated," he said after attending the meeting.

The minister told the AFRO, "There are a lot of young people who are hungry for home ownership which is the American dream."

After receiving more than 2,000 calls from citizens interested in the one time offer, Richard Davis, the project's information officer said the department decided to have an informational meeting.

After purchase and settlement, rehabbing must occur within 60 days and must be completed within two years.

Davis said additional expenses including settlement costs, taxes and a cleared title must be paid. The city is not necessarily going to offer public financing, according to Davis.

Houses will be sold to eligible buyers on a first come, first served basis. People or companies with housing court convictions within the last two years will not be eligible to purchase property under this program.

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Remember Sept. 14th!

3 women inmates die soon after release

Curious prison officials compiled death list

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

On Jan. 29, 1982 Linda Burch was released from the Women's Detention Center. Six months later, she was found dead in the 2300 block of Hamiltowne Circle behind a toolshed in Baltimore County.

Ms. Burch was one of five women released from the detention center who later was found dead. The frequency of deaths among recently released inmates caused some of the center's employees to wonder, if there was a pattern to these deaths.

An employee at the center, who asked not to be identified told the AFRO some of the employees

(Continued on Page 2)

Lavern Duffy

200,000 voters to be lured to polls

About 10 church, civic, civil rights leaders and political candidates attended a morning rally at the Prince Hall Grand Lodge to kickoff an ambitious campaign to lure the city's more than 200,000 black registered voters to the polls for the Sept. 14 primary elections

The crowd in attendance was the result of more than 600 pieces of literature mailed and telephone calls made to urge the city's black leaders to come to the rally, Sam Daniels, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F & A.M., said.

Daniels said the Prince Hall Masons are committeed to bring 100,000 voters to the primary elections and he hoped those at the rally would have the balance of black voters sign pledge sheets promising their vote on Sept. 14.

While the turnout was less than what was hoped for, representatives from the NAACP, the Baltimore Urban League, the Council for Equal Business Opportunity, the Baltimore City Police Department, the YMCA, fraternities, churches and community and neighborhood organizations attended the rally which began at 8:30 a.m.

Candidates seeking office also appeared to lend their support. They were 40th legislative district candidates Sen. Verda Welcome and Christene Moore, a House of Delegates hopeful, Kurt Schomoke, seeking the state's attorney's office and Supreme Bench candidate Georgia Goslee

Daniels, in addressing the crowd, conceded the efforts to have 90 percent of the city's black voters go to the polls is a "most ambitious" undertaking.

"It is hoped that only from this meeting we will agree that we will move forward from this point on ....to reach 90 percent of the 200,000 plus voters to vote on Sept. 14, because if indeed they come out, the right candidates will be elected," he said.

William Lunsford, head of a political action committees as well as being Goslee's campaign manager, made a special presentation outlining how many blacks live in the city, according to 1980 Census figures, and how many are registered voters, the targets of the Prince Hall Masons' drive.

Pledge sheets were distributed and those in attendance were urged to take them.

Among the morning's speakers was John H. Murphy III, chairman of the Board of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers. Earlier in the meeting, Daniels had asked the city's two major black newspapers support the drive.

Murphy put the AFRO solidly behind the effort. He said because the AFRO covers city, state and national elections, it has been distressed in the past to see some of the city's predominately black precincts come in with only 10 to 15 percent of the vote.

"The issue in front of us is important to all of us," he said. "Our cause now is a cause to show power. Without black power, you have no resources ... we have to show the City of Baltimore and the city's power structure that blacks can vote."

Outlined at the rally was the plan for action which includes the pledge project, follow-up activity, a telephone follow-up, and a planning and implementing voter mobilization Sundays.

(AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz)

RALLY — William Lunsford explains black voting trends to a group of religious and civic leaders at a rally Thursday morning. For more political news, see page 28.

East Baltimore Medical Plan still open despite its problems

The 3,000 patients in peril of losing medical care at the East Baltimore Medical Plan may still be bailed out by the federal government.

Those 3,000 patients, considered the "working poor", ineligible for medicaid and unable to purchase medical insurance were receiving medical care through the federal public health assistance program. However, as of Oct. 1, the federal cut off of $600,000 to EBMP would mean these people would be without affordable medical treatment.

EBMP administrator, Roberta Gill told the AFRO right now they are servicing only 800 of the 3,000 clients once served in the program, but hastened to add the plan still serves a total patient population of 17,000. Contrary to some rumors, Ms. Gill assured the AFRO the plan will remain open to service its other clients.

(Continued on Page 2)

Minority Contractors label contract award 'a deception and a subterfuge'

Calling the winning contract bid for the $37 million Key Bridge harbor tunnel project "a deception and a subterfuge," the Maryland Minority Contractors Association filed a motion for reconsideration of the Board of Estimates' decision awarding the contract to a Pennsylvania firm.

The Board of Estimates is scheduled to meet Thursday, Aug. 4, to reconsider the contract's award to the S.J. Groves & Sons Co. for construction of the east approach to the new tunnel.

The tunnel eventually will link the north and south arms of Interstate-95, allowing the highway to pass through the southern edge of the city unbroken.

Two concerns caused the MMCA request for a reconsideration of the contract award, Arnold Jolivet, association president told the AFRO.

About two-thirds of a $2.9 million contract gained by one subcontractor, Y&M Steel Contractors, represents the cost of steel, according to the MMCA.

An MMCA spokesperson said the steel costs had been transferred from the prime contractor and included in the subcontract to increase its total and to inflate its compliance with minority set aside regulations.

Jolivet likened the contract maneuver to a team trumpeting the signing of a minor league ballplayer to a $1 million contract while neglecting to publicize the player must provide $975,000 worth of baseballs.

The MCCA is an advocacy group, which seeks to increase minority contractor access to government-funded contracts.

Although state law requires 15 percent of the tunnel project to be awarded to minority firms, apparently it does not prevent a prime contractor from including large material costs in subcontractor's contract descriptions.

"The objection of the MMCA to the contract award was the

(Continued on Page 2)

Leon's Pig Pen Chain owner mum on bankruptcy

Earlier this week, the AFRO reported the name of the owner of Leon's Pig Pen as Leon Spinks. The sole proprietor of now bankrupt Leon's Pig Pen, Inc., is Leon B. Speights.

The barbecue rib and chicken king filed in U. S. District Bankruptcy Court for a total liquidation of his Pig Pen assets Monday, July 26.

Speights had originally filed for bankruptcy last November. Court records dated Dec. 23, 1981, show his total property assets at the time as $58,657 and his debts well over a quarter of a million dollars at $227,163.

All five stores and their contents will be sold in public auction within a year, according to his attorney Howard Rubenstein.

Leon's Pig Pens have been an institution in the black community since 1973.

Leon's Pig Pen locations are: 5143 Park Heights Ave., 2051 Pennsylvania Ave., 2900 Edmonson Ave., 3824 Liberty Heights Ave., and 437 E. North Ave.

AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

AN APPLE FOR HIS TEACHER—Elzee Gladden, the incoming principal at Dunbar H.S., joined by alumni association members Loretta Watty, Mary Johnson and Irene Canady, present a golden apple to Lottie Chase, a 95 year - old retired Dunbar teacher who taught them all during her career. The assembly was meant to symbolize the association's intention to rally around the school in these troubled times.

Poet Alumni visit the past...and the future

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

"She would tell us she would keep us in until the stars came out," Elzee Gladden, said, causing a smile to creep across the face of a diminutive woman who sat in a wheel chair.

Gladden, the incoming principal at Dunbar High School in East Baltimore, joined with four members of Dunbar's alumni association in visiting Lottie Chase, a former Dunbar teacher who had been an instructor and an inspiration for them all.

Chase retired in 1954 after about 50 years in the classroom.

Meeting at the Keswick nursing home in Roland Park, where the 96 year-old woman resides, the once and always Poets refreshed themselves with punch and cookies as they swapped yarns and memories.

(Continued on Page 2)

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