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Council gets new redistricting plans

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

Opponents to the mayor's redistricting plan, after weeks of grousing, finally put their money where their mouth was at City Hall Tuesday evening.

A second, and apparently final redistricting hearing brought two alternatives to the mayor's plan before the City Council's Judiciary Committee.

Proponents of the latest redistricting proposals said the new plans would offer city residents an avenue to greater black representation in Council.

Although the alternative plans for the most part honor the basic outline of the present councilmanic map, as does the mayor's Jan. 26 submission, proponents of the latest proposals said the mayormayor's plan would likely perpetuate a white majority in City Council and would deny Baltimore's black residents fair representation.

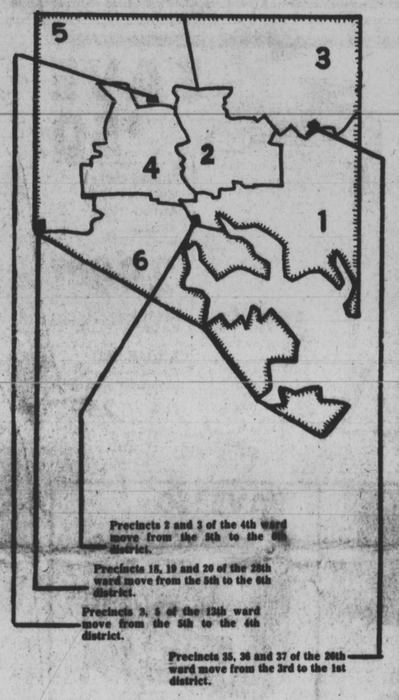
While the city is 55 percent black, only seven of the 19-member Council are black. Many councilmen and city residents have charged that the councilmanic boundaries are drawn in a manner which dilutes black voting strength.

The plans submitted Tuesday were designed as a partial solution to the representational disparity, supporters of the new plans said.

William Lunsford, a Baltimore political analyst authored the alternative "Green Plan," one of the two plans submitted. The Green Plan won broadest support from among the mayor's opponents, including that of the NAACP.

Lunsford said redistricting was necessitated principally by a drop in Baltimore's white population and a shift in the city's black

(Continued on page 10)



Precincts 2 and 3 of the 4th ward move from the 5th to the 6th district.

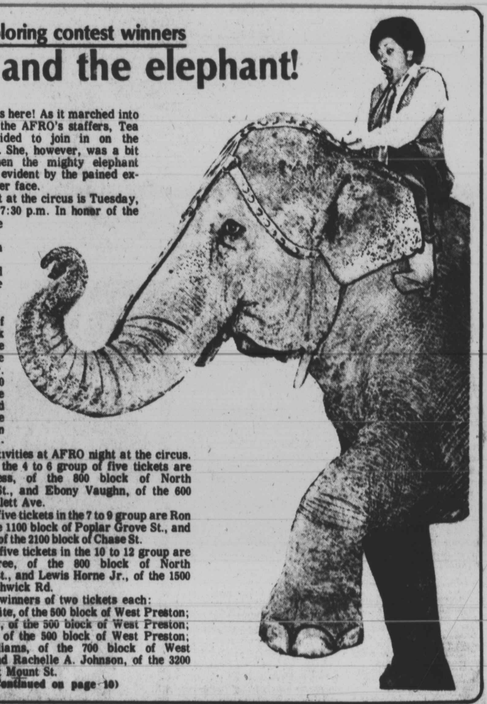
Precincts 18, 19 and 20 of the 28th ward move from the 5th to the 6th district.

Precincts 2, 5 of the 12th ward move from the 5th to the 4th district.

Precincts 35, 36 and 37 of the 26th ward move from the 3rd to the 1st district.

AFRO coloring contest winners

Tea and the elephant!



The circus is here! As it marched into town, one of the AFRO's staffers, Tea Montier, decided to join in on the elephant ride. She, however, was a bit surprised when the mighty elephant lurched as is evident by the pained expression on her face.

AFRO night at the circus is Tuesday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. In honor of the occassion, the AFRO sponsored a coloring contest and here are the winners:

Dana Williams, of the 200 block of East Lake Ave., was the top winner. He gets 10 tickets to the circus and will be made up as a clown and participate in activities at AFRO night at the circus.

Winners in the 4 to 6 group of five tickets are Jason Dupress, of the 600 block of North Washington St., and Ebony Vaughn, of the 600 block of Bartlett Ave.

Winners of five tickets in the 7 to 9 group are Ron Payton, of the 1100 block of Poplar Grove St., and Ella R. Kyle, of the 2100 block of Chase St.

Winners of five tickets in the 10 to 12 group are Rachel Dupree, of the 600 block of North Washington St., and Lewis Horne Jr., of the 1500 block of Northwick Rd.

Runner-up winners of two tickets each:

Rhonda White, of the 500 block of West Preston; Janet Walker, of the 500 block of West Preston; Tony Brown, of the 500 block of West Preston; Richard Williams, of the 700 block of West Mulberry; and Rachelle A. Johnson, of the 3200 block of West Mount St.

(Continued on page 10)

Black Caucus members voice disapproval

Drunken driving bill passes in state Senate

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Persistence in the Senate Wednesday led to the revival of a year - old bill that would allow police to confiscate vehicles driven by motorists previously convicted of drunk driving.

Passed by a 32-14 vote, the measure would also allow the State, in some cases, to sell a car driven by a motorist following a second drunken driving conviction.

Sen. Troy Brailey, (D-45), who voted against the bill, said some of his Senate colleagues were over-reacting to the measure.

"This bill does not seem to be getting to the real problem. Taking away someone's car seems like they're doing it backwards. We need some legislation where we can send the offenders to jail, and perhaps let them go home on weekends," he said.

Describing his stance as a gut reaction, Brailey said he is examining the other side of the

(Continued on page 10)

Newest production Co. now in existence

While economists are painting pessimistic pictures discouraging the small capital intensive business, there are young optimistic entrepreneurs who are only half listening.

DeWayne Wickham was only half listening when he created Vanita Enterprises, Inc. The firm debuted this week as the newest black - owned business in Baltimore and by its president's estimate, "the largest black production company in the state."

The company, which will initially produce three black - oriented programs for WBAL - TV (Channel 11) has taken up residence in the Control Data complex at the Park Circle enterprise zone.

For the past seven years, Wickham, who started the company, has been the free-lance host - producer of "Black Horizons. Ordinarily, a starting business such as his must go heavy on capital input with purchases of expensive camera systems and other support video equipment.

But, under a unique three - year arrangement with WBAL, Vanita Enterprises will produce three of the station's regular programs — "Black Horizons," "Gospel Variations" and hour - long specials under the Public Policy Forum series. The TV station will throw in its studios, production crews and promotion, eliminating the need for heavy capitalization.

Vanita has its own staff and salaries to pay, however, to a producer, two associate producers and an advertising sales manager. Money for those salaries will come from advertisers that the new company must solicit itself. Several have already signed.

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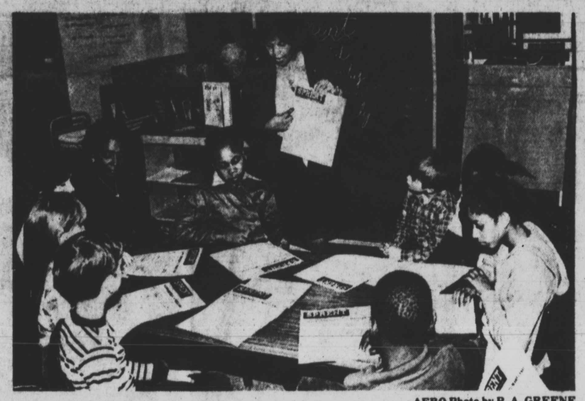

AFRO Photo by P. A. GREENE

SPRENT — The newest classroom aid, SPRENT, published by the Baltimore AFRO is carefully being studied by students at Federal Hill Elementary School No. 45. Pictured are Therese Kroth, James Wagner, William Schreiner, Sandy Morgan, Lechel Ferrell, Richard Little, Terrence Evans, Rosalind Keaton, Pamela Crites and the student's teacher, Rio Thompson. Also pictured is Ms. Laura Austin, standing of the AFRO.

Special classroom aid unveiled at School No. 45

SPRENT, a dynamic, bright little newspaper for city pupils and community people, with graphics so bold they almost grab you from the page, was introduced this week by the AFRO-AMERICAN.

The paper's title is an acronym for Successful Progress by Reading Educationally Noted Tasks.

The concept was conceived and developed by Ms. Laura Ann Austin, the AFRO-AMERICAN educational consultant, who was a teacher in the state public school system for 10 years. She began as SPRENT editor in January.

SPRENT's purpose is to bridge a gap between parents, school administrators and students by having them participate in SPRENT activities.

They range from current events, academic subjects such as English, language and reading skills, science, social studies, vocabulary-building skills and shortly, arithmetic.

The paper's introduction is part of an intensified community thrust by the AFRO.

In the future, the mini-newspaper will open a new cultural world for youngsters and adults by offering a broad range of enrichment activities.

For example, articles will cite school accomplishments and later expand to reach a variety of reading levels.

SPRENT's introduction will cover a six-week pilot phase that begins next Tuesday, March 22. This new publication will be included with Tuesday's AFRO for SPRENT subscribers during the six-week period.

Parents and PTA groups may sponsor the delivery of SPRENT to their favorite classroom should call Mrs. Austin at the AFRO no later than 10 a.m. Monday, March 21.

VANITA PRODUCTIONS — DeWayne Wickham, left, is pictured with VANITA Productions staff members, Terry Scott, Angela Gibson, Larry Jennings and Michelle Thompson.

Task force tussles over classroom size bill

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

A verbal tug-of-war developed among members of a task force studying overcrowding in the city's public school classrooms during a Wednesday afternoon meeting at City Hall.

Controversy centered around a proposal that would seek fixed class-size maximums. The proposal drew the support of several teachers, students and councilpersons present.

But school officials on the panel denounced the fixed maximums as administratively unwieldy and fiscally unrealistic.

Fixed class-size maximums are called for in City Council bill 1464, sponsored by councilpersons Mary Pat Clarke and Edwin Johnson (2nd district) and Kweisi Mfume (4th district). Clarke and Mfume were present at the hearing.

The bill currently is with the Budget and Finance committee and is not expected to be reported out for several weeks. The bill's supporters plan to lobby for support until then.

Dr. Lewis Richardson, a deputy superintendent with the Education department's office of fiscal and business management said an attempt to impose fixed ratios on a classroom-by-classroom basis would prove unworkable.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE

Westside man killed on his steps
See page 3

Museum traces AME church history
See page 17

Profile: Dave Watt, Fair Practices officer smiles a lot
See page 24

MAR