Drug abuse called city's 'greatest crippler'

Calling drug abuse the community's single greatest crippler, a coalition of efforts to combat drugs through better coordination of already-available area resources has resulted in City Council bill 1484.

The bill, passed a week ago by Council currently awaits the mayor's signature.

Sponsored by councilpersons Kweisi Mfume (4th district) and Mary Pat Clarke (2nd district), the bill would create a mayor-appointed panel of health, social services, police, school, drug addiction and other officials from a variety of related agencies.

The panel would work to structure better coordination between various city and state agencies already involved in drug and alcohol abuse and abuse-related crime.

It also would evaluate the administration and funding of anti-drug programs, and would report annually to the mayor, City Council, and the state's drug abuse administration.

Mfume said drugs are a "crippler" in the community, hindering education and economic development and fostering crime and other social disfunctions.

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The Westside councilman said the institution of a coordinating body to synchronize agency efforts is "long overdue" for a major city like Baltimore.

"It is probably the greatest crippler in the community, second to nothing. It is a crippler because it grabs and holds the minds of people who could otherwise be productive," Mfume said. "As it relates to education it probably has an immeasurable effect."

Appointees to the panel's unpaid positions would sit for three years, except for two thirds of the panel, which would sit for shorter periods during the plan's three-year introductory phase.

HUB commences 'Buy In, Buy Us'

Portia E. Badham

Today, Friday marks the beginning of "Buy In, Buy Us Week," a week set aside by the HUB Organization, Inc. to generate support for the city's black businesses and organizations.

The week will continue through Sunday, April 10 and focus on several aspects of the black business community.

HUB, a non-profit 200-member organization, believes that economic growth is closely tied to reinvestment of city cash flow into institutions, people and business.

April 1 is set aside as "Supermarket Day," "Fast Foods and Restaurant Day" is April 2 and Monday, April 4 is Tax Clinics Day." Members of the National Association of Black Accoutants (NABA) will assist in the tax clinics.

Career A Health Fair will be held Wednesday, April 6 at the Mondawmin Mall and include free health screenings from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Career workshops will be conducted by members of HUB in theBaltimore City Public Schools on Thursday, April 7.

Friday, April 8 is "Happy Hour and Discount Day" to highlight support for black-owned taverns, lounges and liquor stores.

A self-assessment skills seminar will be conducted on Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Coppin State College. Many people starting new businesses and many ongoing businesses are looking for the hardware and software tools that are critical for success.

During the seminar the hardware aspect will include access to information and contact with representatives of agencies that have funds available for small business entrepreneurs. The criteria for submitting applications will also be explained. The software training will teach skills to better manage your time and resources.

Panelists will include: Wesley Queen, president of Harbor Bank of Maryland; Judith Waranch and Garland McPherson, Maryland Industry Development Financing; Ackneil Muldrow, executive director, Development Credit Financing Authority; Larry Smith, Baltimore Economic Development Corporation; and Woodrow McCutcheon, Control Data Corporation.

The week will conclude April 10 with an awards banquet from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Downtown Baltimore Hilton. This year's honorees are Mary Conaway, recently elected Register of Wills; Glenn Doughty, Shake and Bake Family Recreation Center; Rudolph Gustus, president of G&M Oil Company; and Cookie Britt, new franchise owner of the Garrison-Edgewood 7-11 Store.

George Trower-Subira, author of the book, "Black Folks Guide to Making Big Money in America," is the banquet speaker.

Civic Center measure denounced

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

A bond issue calling for $2.5 million worth of renovation for the Baltimore Civic Center met with some resistance in Annapolis this from Senator Troy Brailey, (D-Baltimore), who feels the complex is undeserving.

Inspite of the Senator's opposition, House bill 547 passed the House Thursday and is now considered routine in the Senate.

Brailey feels the civic center has been overly concerned with economics and less concerned with the welfare of Baltimore's citizen's.

The first of his two-fold complaint reaches back to early March during the time of a fund raiser for the Baltimore Fuel Fund, which took place at the civic center.

Councilwoman Victorine Adams (D-4th), who organized the benefit basketball games between several private and public schools, told the AFRO the event raised $25,000.

The proceeds from the activity were destined for the pool of funds allocated to help needy individuals in the city meet demanding costs of fuel consumption.

Mrs. Adams said $15,000 of the total $25,000 went towards the rental of the facility and for additional expenses thereof.

The Senator feels that the bulk of the money that was paid to the civic center could have remained a part of the total contributions to the fuel fund.

"Everyone else involved donated thei services at the event because it was a benefit, so why couldn't the civic center let them use the building at no cost?" Senator Brailey asked.

The executive director of the civic center, Janet L. Hoffman, informed Sen. Brailey in a written correspondence dated March 29, that the city "budgets an annual subsidy of $947,000 for the civic center."

She also explained that "there are 164 events per year at the civic center and in order to cover its budget and keep the subsidy down to $947,000, the civic center must charge an average of $9,774 per event."

Ms. Hoffman further indicated that the fuel fund was charged a "lower than normal rate $7,665, and that she knew of no complaints from the organizers of the event."

The other issue Sen Brailey questioned in reference to the civic center is rental fees for the city high school commencement exercises.

According to Dr. Anne Emory, public relations director for the Baltimore City Public Schools, high schools citywide will no longer have commencement at the civic center.

Dr. Emory indicated that recent cuts in the city budget will no longer allow the schools the flexibility to pay the required $2500 plus rental fee.

Familiar with the city schools' enrollments, Ms. Emory said she has noticed a dwindling in class sizes recently and feels many of the schools can accommodate their graduates on their particular campuses.

Sen Brailey said he feels tax payers should not havve to pay for the renovation of a facilty that is not more responsive to the public in financial matters.

In defense of the civic center's services, Ms. Hoffman also indicated in her letter to the Senator that the "schools have been charged a preferential rate of $2,400 to $2,600 per commencement, a rate very much below cost."

Sen. Brailey believes a more equitable system of finance can still be arranged with the city but he feels the renovation of the facility will not be beneficial to the economically disadvantaged citizen.

Cable firm names Bonnie Butler aide

Ms. Bonnie Butler

Caltec Cablevision, the local company that won the two-bidder cable television toss up in February, has begun filling their 25 percent minority element required by the city.

A spokesman for the organization said all of the names of the new arrivals can not be released as yet because some of them are concurrently bound by other jobs in the city.

Bonnie Butler, a native Baltimorean, and the former manager of the national advertising department for the Baltimore AFRO-American Newspaper, joined Caltec last week as their advertising sales manager.

In addition to her ten years of service at the AFRO, Ms. Butler was national account executive for the Baltimore Sun papers.

Her responsibilities at Caltec will include the recruiting, training and supervision of a large staff of account execs.

Ms. Butler described her new position as "exciting." She said she feels cable television is the way of the future and that Caltec will offer a lot of choices to the community through its various channels and programming.

She also described working in the industry as a "challenge because it is a new field and things are changing all the time."

The 34-year-old old advertiser obtained a B.A. in political science from Morgan State College and has attended several training Programs in her field.

She is a member of the Advertising Association of Baltimore, the voluntary Council on Equal Opportunity, the Arena Players and COPE 83.

In reflecting upon her experience in advertising, Ms. Butler said she feels fortunate to have trained under Ken Wilson, vice president for advertising at the AFRO, and added that he helped to prepare her for many of the challenges she now faces at Caltec.

Her advice to other minorities interested in breaking into cable t.v. is "to prepare yourself." Ms. Butler feels anyone who is qualified in the area should definitely pursue the field, "for only with adequate training and preparation can one expect positive results."

State providing tax aid Fri., Sat., Mon.

"About one out of every three state taxpayers have yet to file their Maryland income tax returns, and if you're among those still working on their state taxes, a weekend of free help is available this weekend," Maryland Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein announced.

All 14 offices ot the Maryland Income Tax Divison will remain open on Friday, while most other state offices will be closed in observance of Good Friday. The hours of free tax help are 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

In addition, all of the state tax offices will stay open on Saturday, April 2 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Finally, telephone assistance only will be available on Monday evening, April 4, from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

The comptroller reminded taxpayers that it is very easy to make a mistake when one is a hurry to complete their his or her return. "Be sure to double-check your calculations, report all the information that is required, and attach all W-2 statements and any other forms that are required to take advantage of the tax breaks such as the deduction for child care expenses.

"These extra hours of free tax assistance this weekend are for your convenience," he added. "So do yourself and your return a favor by calling or visiting any of our offices and our courteous state tax exerts will be glad to answer any questions, provide the necessary forms, or even complete your state return free of charge—as long as you bring along a completed copy of your federal return and all W-2 statements. We are here to help you," the comptroller concluded.

New jobless get health 'Hotline'

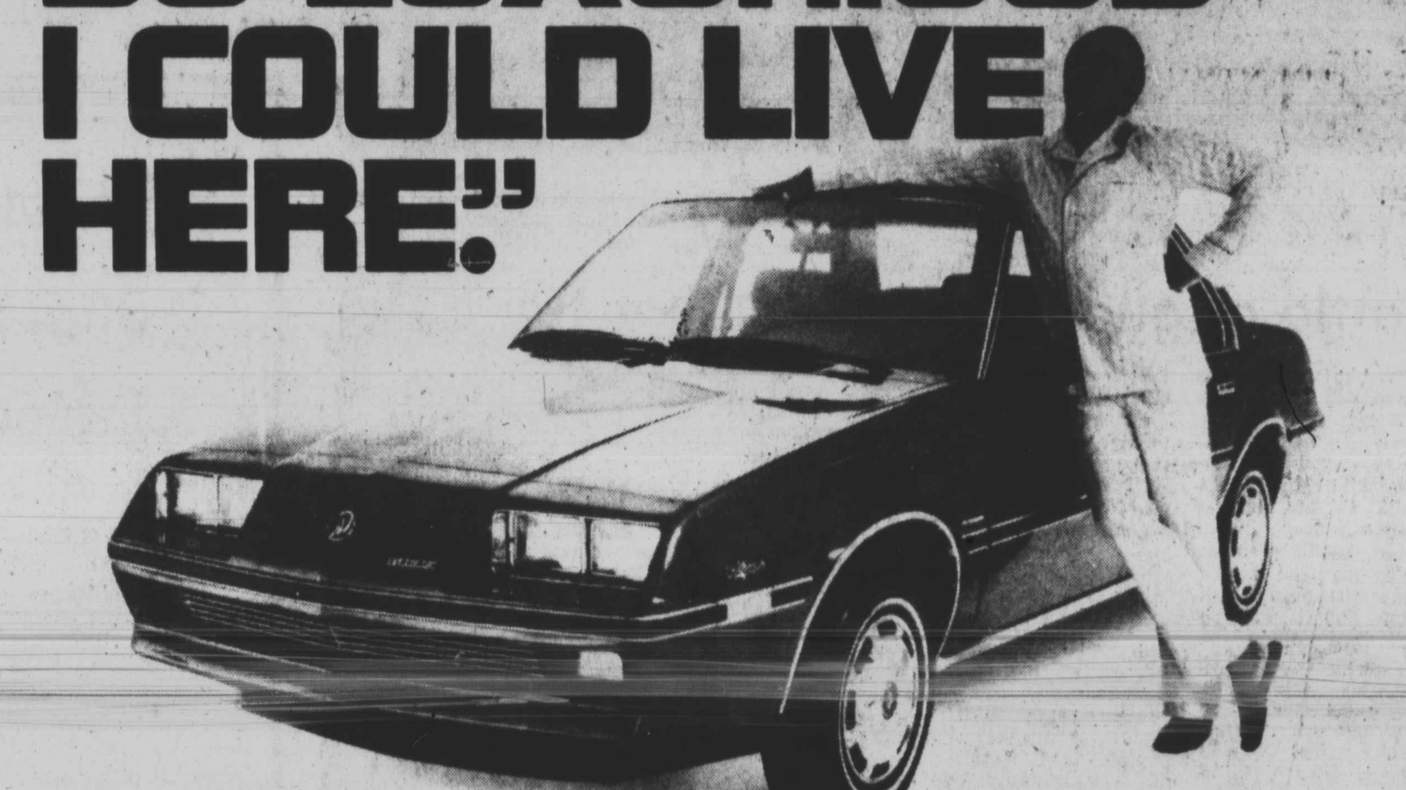
Mayor William Donald Schaefer has recently announced a "first" for the newly unemployed, a Hotline for health care information and referrals. The Hotline 396-HELP is operational Monday, through Friday from 10 a.m. to two p.m. The city Health Department organized the Hotline to help the newly unemployed with accurate and specific information about medical services in the city based on individual's particular case. According to Dr. John B. DeHoff, commissioner of health, many newly unemployed persons have never used or do not know about the free and low-cost services offered throughout the city.

Because it's impossible to advertise each service, the Hotline is the most direct way of helping people make decisions on health care.

Staff 396-HELP will provide information on new or alternative sources of health care, depending on the caller's financial situation.

Health department staff manning the Hotline will use a directory of health care services that the department compiled. The directory is categorized by primary and sick care, preventive care, mental health, nutrition, stress, substance abuse, health services for over 60, and supplemental information.

"SO LUXURIOUS I COULD LIVE HERE."



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BUICK

Wouldn't you really rather have a Buick?

If you ask me

By Bettye Moss

Hats off!

A great big nod to two 14-year-old ninth graders who showed great talent and maturity at the 39th annual Maryland League of Women's Clubs' luncheon on Saturday.

They are, Roxanne Brooks, a Walbrook High student, and Stephanie Watkins, who is in the Western High E program (which means she finishes in 3 years).

The youngsters thrilled the adult audience with their professional offering of excerpts from Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream."

Hats off to them and to their parents and teachers.

— —

Cuff note: Both girls belong to the Kopelles, the youth group sponsored by Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority. Miss Brooks is national parliamentarian.

So, hats off, also to Lambda sorors for identifying youthful talent and providing an opportunity for exposure.

Please let this column know when you see or hear of others who achieve. In this section, we seek to prove that people will take time to praise others when they do well.

More talent

The day-long conference of Md. League of Women's Clubs at the Forum was treated to another demonstration of youthful talent during one of the morning workshops.

Five and six-year-old kindergarten and first graders from the New Era Primary School drew sustained applause.

Their poetry recitations — (how well they used three and four syllable words!), showed that early childhood education schools are doing some marvelous things, (same is true of early childhood classes in Baltimore city public schools).

New Era Primary is a private school, open to anyone. It is located at 4516 Manordene Rd. in Edmondson Village, behind the new Skills Center.

The children who thrilled the club conference were: kindergarteners Lynette Rogers, Ayana McCoy, Bernard Coates and Shawn Richmond.

First graders were, Keian Posey, Jamal Johnson, Rashand Frazier and Kuanna Holt.

Cuff note: New Era Primary School executive director is Mrs. Deborah Carter.

The icing

The icing on the cake at the Md. League of Women's Clubs conference was the informative luncheon address by Georgia Goslee.

She's the articulate and attractive 36-year-old lawyer who narrowly lost the judgeship race in the November elections.

She minced no words in telling the attentive ladies about racism, political shenanigans, male discrimination against women, (the whole bit).

The audience hung on her every word.

Excerpt: "It is not easy to be black and female anywhere. We still find ourselves subject to racial discrimination but worse is sexism — when they say you can't do it because you're female, and even worse when it is practiced by black males..."

Another excerpt: "Some in the upper power struggle perceived me to be a rebel...there were some illegal things to keep me from winning. "I have tremendous resilience...I'll never give up...but after that I don't know if I'll ever run again...16 hours, seven days a week was a most tremendous undertaking..."

On crime

On other matters, she discussed her deep concern about juvenile crime, ("most disturbing and alarming problem").

She suggested one solution, "is to get youngsters before they become hardened criminals...help them develop self esteem and think they're somebody...we can't have bad juveniles without bad parents..."

And this: "There should be a basic legislative course in elementary schools. Just as youngsters learn to brush their teeth, they need to know their legal rights. There is nothing we do in this country that doesn't involve something legal...it is important, not only for scholastic knowledge, but for protection of rights..."

3 tips

Attorney Goslee gave these three tips for success:

(1) Develop thought process. Nothing on earth can be done without it. If you think you're good, you are.

(2) Faith in own ability. If you have it, you can achieve it.

3. Hard Work. It guarantees you can do anything.

Personal notes: Goslee confided she is a native of Salisbury on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

She is proud that she has revisited her hometown and received the keys to the city.

She credits her mother's support and faith for her belief in herself. A bride at 16, and mother at 17, Attorney Goslee says she is divorced and the mother of two sons, both in college.

The Maryland League Conference attracted representatives from 38 of their 57 member clubs. Some 150 persons attended the sessions which began with an 8 a.m. business meeting.

Theme was "Stabilizers-Responsive Women Assuming Responsibilities." The workshop on health featured experts, including Deputy City Health Commissioner Alvin Watson.

Mrs. Gloria H. Luster is League president. She is the city Department of Finance specialist.

This upcoming year, her goal is to restore the League's annual meeting to its prominent role in community affairs.

Its program is excellent and the League provides a good base for networking.

Clubs-clubs-clubs—take note: It is not enough to pay your dues and stay away — get out to the quarterly and annual meetings and become involved — this is the Luster message.

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Cuff note: Mrs. Ruby Gill, long League officer, was absent on Saturday. She accompanied her hubby to Dr. Robert C. Gill to New Orleans to receive an award.

About people

Thinking-of-you cards to the Rev. Spencer G. Dobson, veteran Baptist clergyman and father of the Dobson ministersons, (Vernon and Harold). He's confined to Kernan Hospital.

And to Union Memorial for Dr. Regina Goff Henry, the retired Morgan U. professor.

Melvin Callaman, the businessman, had heart surgery at Hopkins, is home and doing well.

Also recuperating at home after hospital stays are Henry Allmond, the state employee, and Mrs. Jesola Jones, the Northern High vice principal.

Glad-you're-better hellos to Mrs. Edward Williams, (Liz). She's beem confined for a month at her Catonsville home-pneumonia.

Baltimore native, Ruth Cummings Mason, the Chicago realtor, was here for the Friday (March 25) funeral of her brother, Aaron G. Cummings, 65.

He was the retired S. Baltimore Hospital morgue assistant. Other survivors, all of Baltimore, his wife, Mrs. Mary V. Cummings, Carver High staffer; stepson, Joseph Simms; two grandchildren, and a brother, Richard H. Cummings.

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Dr. W. O. Bryson Jr., was re-elected for a four-year term on the board of directors of N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Co., during the annual last week in Durham. He is president of Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association here in Baltimore.

Remember?

The obituary notices did not mention it, but Dr. Calvin B. T. Lee, the educator who died recently in N.J., was one time chairman of the Community College Board of Trustees.

At the time, he was president of UMBC (University of Md., Baltimore County). He headed CCB board at a time when minority black members lost their fight to elevate a black member to the board presidency. Remember?

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W. Gordon MacGregor, 77, the retired Baltimore YMCA General Executive, was eulogized March 30 at Grace Methodist Church on Charles St.

He was the top Y director during the turbulent 60's when black youngsters were not welcome at the downtown Y.

It was during his reign that the Y imported its first black member of the corporate staff-A. Paul Moss-from Springfield, Ohio.

Thanks to Mac's move, things began to change, and he lived to see all branches of the Y integrated, including combination of the summer camps for white and black, under the direction of his chief associate, Moss. Remember?

Still time to apply for Md. energy aid

Maryland residents will have until April 29th to apply for assistance through the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), according to Ruth Massinga, state secretary of human resources. The deadline for applications has been extended from March 31 to April 29, Ms. Massinga said, to allow eligible households who have not received any fuel assistance to apply for an initial grant and to enable eligible households faced with utility cutoffs notices to apply for an emergency grant up to $200.

Stephen Minnich, MEAP director, aid that under the program, low-income families receive one-time grants to aid in payment of high fuel bills. The amount of the grant is determined by income, family size, place of residence and type of fuel used. After the initial grant, additional assistance may be available in the event of an emergency.

Minnich projects that the extension will allow the program to accept applications from an additional 16,000 Maryland households who otherwise would not have not applied.

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Low-income families who believe they might be eligible for either an initial grant or an emergency grant should contact their local administering agency.

Since the program began this season, MEAP offices throughout the state have ved over 70,000 regular applications and have over 70,000 have made an additional 3,000 emergency payments.

Blue chip-in nets $122,119 from feds

Mayor William Schaefer stated Wednesdav the city has received a $122,119 grant from the federal government as part of the Blue Chip-In youth summer jobs program.

The grant, from the U. S. Department of Interior, helped finance the construction of a concession stand at the Oliver recreation center that will employ neighborhood youths.

The concession stand will operate year-round and the goal of the project is to make the stands show a profit within a year, Schaefer said.

The profits from the business will be reinvested in recreation programs at four recreation centers. The grant will also provide additional income for the centers.

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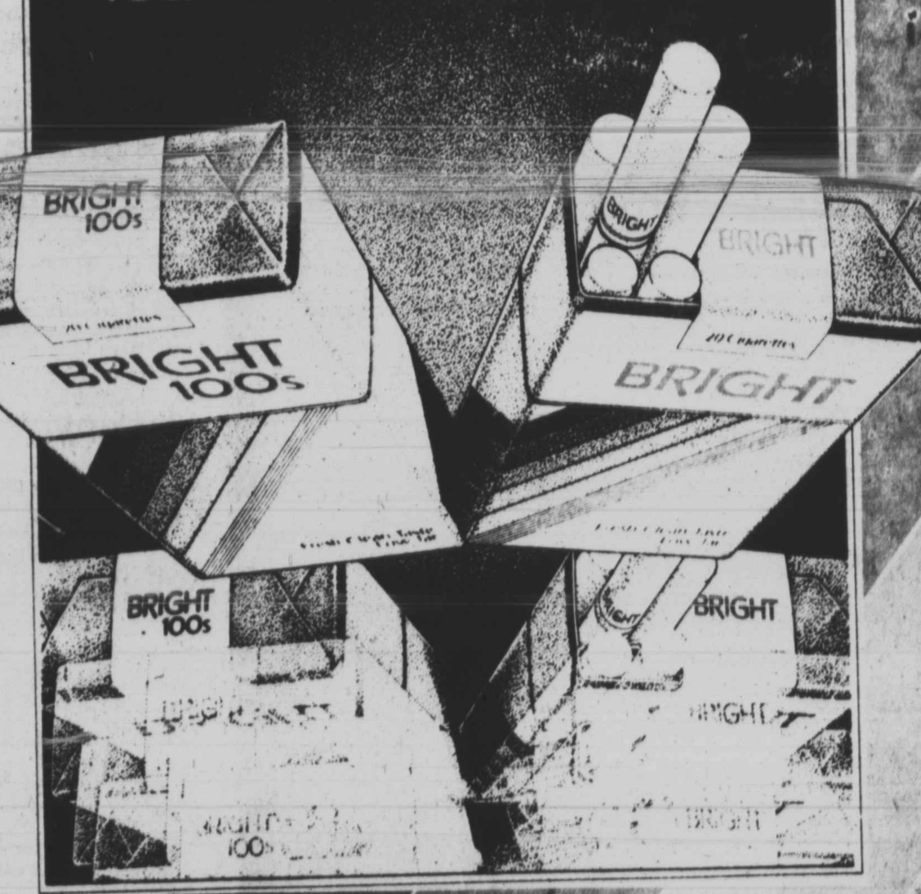

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