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Miscellany/Kid Stuff

The Baltimore Zoo celebrates spring by sponsoring a **Family Fair.** From April 1 to April 4, the area in front of the Main Gate of the Zoo will be alive with excitement. Rides, games, Easter Egg Hunt, the Easter Bunny and Miss Piggy' will all be on hand from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Admission is $1.50 for adults, $1 for senior citizens and $.50 for children.

Artists interested in submitting work to the juried exhibition at **ARTSCAPE.** Baltimore's three day outdoor art extravaganza, may send name, address and a 20 cent stamp to: Ms. Marylou Sigler; c/o Juried Exhibition. The Baltimore Arts Festival, Inc., 21 S. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201. All entries must be received by Saturday, April 9.

Join the Easter Bunny for a one and a half hour ride on the new **M.V. Port Baltimore** with jellybeans and music. There will be a drawing for free stuffed **Easter Bunnies.** Adults admission is $3.50 and children under 12 are $2.75. This boat ride will be held on Sunday, April 3 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM and 3:00 PM and 4:30 PM.

The Ringling Brothers/Barnum and Bailey Circus will begin a two week run at the Starplex/D.C. Armory on March 29. See the pageantry, the dynamics, the excitement in this legendary extravaganza. For ticket information, call 544-6897.

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(Class fee = $2)
Wednesdays: 6:15 PM—7:15 PM
(Class fee = $1)

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House banking bill causes uproar

Happiness is having friends who care

By Eddie King

A lot can happen in six days as a jobless father of five found out.

Leroy Blackledge is a happy man. He has a new job and a paid-up mortgage.

Now, after paying the mortgage payment with the help of friends, private citizens, and the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Mr. Blackledge comes home from his new job at White and Turner Construction, tired, but overjoyed.

"I feel great. So many people care. People ought to know Baltimore is best," he said very joyfully.

Mr. Blackledge said he thanks God for all his contributors. Willard Heckerman, president of White and Turner Construction, assured Mr. Blackledge he'd pay the balance of whatever was not raised from the drive toward the $5000 needed.

At the end of the drive sponsored by Mrs. Catherine Bias and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorors, Mr. Blackledge was given $3013. Mr. Heckerman kept his promise and donated $1000.

Mrs. Bias, who Blackledge deemed as a tremendous lady, had been responsible for so much help from the courteous citizens of Baltimore when she was moved to action after a blitz media coverage on WBAL on Friday, April 1.

"Through it all the family, neighbors, and friends were very cooperative and supportive. My two older sons, 16 and 15, tried to get work to help, but my biggest thing was to make sure they went to school and got a good education," Mr. Blackledge said.

According to Mr. Blackledge, pledges are still coming in.

The Blackledge case is one among many that have been caused by the constipated economy, an economy that has

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(Photo by P. A. Greene)

RELIGIOUS LEADERS — The Rev. Marion Bascom (right), president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, is shown with the Rev. Sidney Daniels at its monthly meeting at Douglas Memorial Community Church on Thursday. The ministers sent telegrams to delegates who voted in favor of the banking deregulation bill.

Ministers send hot telegram to delegates

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Staff Writer

At the Thursday monthly meeting of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance at Douglas Memorial Community Church, where the Rev. Marion Bascom is pastor and president of the Alliance, the religious leaders in the community voted to send a telegram to the legislative delegates who voted in favor of the banking deregulation bill.

The telegram states, "The ministerial community is shocked and displeased at your decision to side with the banking interest against the welfare of poor people of our community.

"This is a serious breach of faith, and an abandonment of responsibility. We, the religious leaders of Baltimore, have already gone on record opposing bank deregulation and you are aware of this position.

"Those who elected you are

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Caucus differs over impact on community

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

The House of Delegates Wednesday passed Senate Bill 591 which calls for the deregulation of Maryland banks and other lending institutions.

The bill was passed by a vote of 72-63. Black members voting in favor of the bill included Nathaniel Exum, Christine Jones, Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Curt Anderson, Clarence Davis, John Douglass, Hattie Harrison, and Richard Dixon.

Those opposed to the passage of the bill were Sylvania Woods, Jerry Perry, Albert Wynn, Elijah Cummings, Ruth Kirk, Larry Young, Mary B. Adams, Ralph Hughes, Margaret Murphy, Nathaniel Oaks, and Rev. Wendell Phillips.

All five black members of the Senate were opposed to the Bill's passage. The measure's scope includes banks, credit card companies, credit unions, retail stores, savings and loan institutions and commercial loan companies, and would affect everything from interest rates to balloon payments, loans, credit card fees and accounts, repossessions, and lines of credit extended with real estate as collateral.

Sen. Clarence Blount, one of the members vehemently opposed to the passage of the bill, said "Banks have not been very kind to blacks. The main reason for the regulation in the first place was to provide protection for consumers. The deregulation will ultimately result in profits to the bank."

One of his other concerns was the fact that banks have not been fair in providing minority loans, housing mortgage loans or credit in general to blacks.

"Some black legislators do not feel compelled to do banks any favors unless they are guaranteed that the banks will do better on those issues," he said.

He said he felt the Senate version of the bill was dastardly and unconsionable for any black to vote for and that there was not enough good in it to vote for it."

Contrary to the belief of many who feel the bill will bring some of the banks, who have fled to other state back to the city, Sen. Blount said they will not return nor will any new banks be formed.

Blount said that the market is not a big market and there is not a lot of room for banks. He also said, "Black legislators cannot be monolithic on all issues and there will be times when there won't be unanimous support for an issue.

House supporters are convinced that the bill will curve the loss of jobs that was created when four state banks shipped their credit card business to Delaware. They also believe economic development will be beefed up if competing banks in Maryland can improve the business climate.

After the vote passed in the House, Sen. Troy Brailey wrote a memo to all the members of the Black Caucus advising them of the many pitfalls of the deregulation bill.

He broke the bill down and explained exactly how it would negatively affect blacks and basically take the lid off of everything they can charge.

He mentioned that when the bill was first introduced it was slated as a deregulation bill for banks but then all of a sudden all the other lending institutions jumped on the bandwagon.

If a person has a car loan at 15 percent interest, the new bill would allow lending institutions to increase that rate to 24 percent with only 15 days notice.

Brailey was very concerned over the fact that the bill would also be retroactive, meaning loan recipients would have to pay 24 percent over the total cost of the loan. A balloon balance on the bill means the institutions can charge an extra 24 percent interest.

At the end of a pay period, the balloon feature would mean that the institution by the due date can add all of the back rate put together and require the recipient to pay the total amount all at once.

"I think it's the worse bill for blacks and poor people that has passed through the legislature in my 17 years hege," Sen. Brailey said.

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Letter to delegate prior to the vote

April 7, 1983

Dear Delegate Rawlings:

I am confirming, per your request of yesterday, our understandings that were achieved in discussions with you and several black legislators from Baltimore City and Prince George's County.

I want to assure you of my commitment, and that of the House Leadership, to address during the next session, any abuses to the Maryland consumer that occur as the result of the implementation of Senate Bill 591. To assist in identifying problems that Maryland citizens may have due to the state banking and credit deregulation, a statewide, toll free, and publicized consumer hot line will be made available to monitor complaints.

I would also appreciate assistance from black legislators in identifying for me any abuses or

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Broadwater talks about Grand Jury indictment

In an interview with the AFRO on April 7, State Sen. Tommie Broadwater responded to his April 5 indictment in which he was charged with food stamps fraud and conspiracy. His daughter, Jacqueline Broadwater was also charged with one count of conspiracy.

Broadwater, D-Prince George's and three others were arrested last month after allegedly purchasing food stamps from an undercover agent for use in a reputed trafficking scheme. Prosecutors claimed the operation was based in a phony funeral home.

Sen. Broadwater is scheduled to be arraigned on food stamp fraud and conspiracy charges April 15 in U. S. District Court. U. S. Attorney Frederick Motz said Wednesday.

Sen. Broadwater responded to some of the issues made public in the investigation of the case. He stated that he was known co-defendant William Dudley for 20 years. However, he does not know Jack Quigley Sr. or his son Clinton who were also charged in the case.

He said that after two searches, federal investigators found nothing in his home, office or store, The Chapel Oaks Farmers Market in Capitol Heights.

He said that when the police searched his son's bedroom, they found two B-B guns, a rifle and a pistol. Broadwater said they are all "perfectly legal" since his son is 22-years-old.

Broadwater claims that the police planted a film canister that contains a small amount of what they described as a "substance like marijuana" in his son's room. "It couldn't belong to his sons," Broadwater said, "because he doesn't drink or smoke marijuana."

$7,000 in cash was found in the bedroom of Jacqueline Broadwater, the senator's daughter. He said she has been saving the money to buy a car.

The police also found $1,000 in cash in a dresser in Broadwater's bedroom.

Broadwater said that both sums of money were returned to his daughter and himself. He was not present when his son claimed his property. He is not sure whether

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Caltec contract signing deferred

The Board of Estimates deferred Wednesday the franchise agreement with Caltec Cablevision of Baltimore City that was originally scheduled for approval during this week's regular meeting.

According to Richard A. Lidinsky, clerk to the board, Caltec's contract was not in final terms and the board felt it should be further reviewed by Steven Zemansky (head of the mayor's cable television commission), and the city's law department in concert with Caltec.

Mr. Lidinsky indicated that it had not yet been determined when the contract would reappear before the board.

In Zemansky's estimation of the board's decision the body needed more time to digest and study the voluminous document to make sure it was right.

According to Assistant City Solicitor for the city, Jay Kaplan, Caltec is expected to produce the initially decided upon amount $27,125,000 60 days after City Council passes the ordinance.

If the contract has been approved Wednesday by the Board of Estimates, it would have then moved on to the City Council for their scheduled session next Monday.

The contract will now be delayed from reaching city council until the city has digested every page.

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Buy-in, Buy us in final week

By Portia E. Badham

The "Buy In, Buy Us Week," sponsored by the HUB Organization, Inc. to draw support for local black-owned businesses and organizations, will conclude this weekend with a business skills seminar and awards banquet.

The Self-Assessment Skills Seminar will be held Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Coppin State College and include discussions, business communication, and acquiring tools for success in business.

Five financial representatives will be on hand to discuss the funding that is available for persons interested in starting new businesses or expanding existing ones.

Among the workshops speakers are Jacqueline Brown, Adlerian psychotherapist, and Dr. Norman Ringgold, founder of Positive Self Profiles, Inc.

The awards banquet will take place from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, April 10 at the Downtown Baltimore Hilton. Honorees include Mary Conaway, recently elected Register of Wills; Cookie Britt, franchise owner of the Garrison-Edgewood 7-11 Store; Glenn Doughty, Shake and Bake Family Recreation Center and Rudolph Gustus, president of G&M Oil Company.

The Buy In, Buy Us Week" was first sponsored by the HUB Organization in 1981 to call attention to the need for supporting black businesses and organizations in the city.

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Court action gives new hope to Rev. Ceaser

The Rev. Grailan K. Ceaser, the 32-year-old former pastor of Mt. Olive Freewil Baptist Church, Fremont Ave. and Saratoga St., has been given a ray of hope to return to his pastorate after action by a city Circuit Court judge this week.

According to Rev. Ceaser, who since he was dismissed from the Mt. Olive ministry during a contested March 4 vote of church members claims to have started a new church, court action vindicated what he has been trying to say all along.

His attorney, Patrick A. U. Opara, said that Judge Marshall Levin has ruled that three arbitrators are to be selected, and that acting as soon as possible, they investigate the March 4 election and verify the qualifications of the 200-odd members who voted to dismiss their pastor.

Once the three have throughly investigated the matter, they are to report their findings directly to the court. More importantly, say Ceaser and Opara, is that the court ruled "discrepancies" occurred during the crucial, specially-called meeting.

Further, they suggest, if the arbitrators find just cause and "that the March 4 election was

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