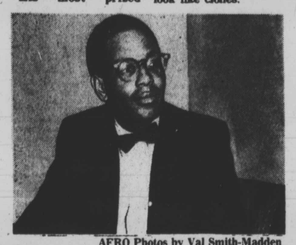
Willie Smith visits Baltimore

By Val Smith Madden

His demeanor is quiet and after talking with him, it's as if you've been friends for a lifetime. He is, unaffected by his success. One senses that his work is important to him; it defines him and he embodies it.

His most prized possession is his individuality and his ability to express it — quite an ambiquity for a man who confesses unashamedly, "I want to have individual clothes, have a huge company, dress the masses, but I don't want everyone to look like clones."



AFRO Photos by Val Smith-Madden

WILLI SMITH, internationally renowned fashion designer, in a relaxed pose during his recent visit to Baltimore.

Internationally renowned fashion designer, Willie Smith recently visited Baltimore as the first step in his desire to "dress the common folk" in promoting his new line, WilliWear.

Smith, a fixture in the fashion business for more than a decade, offers us a new line with a dash of wit, and a sense of casual elegance.

Says Smith, "These clothes are for the man who has seen and and worn almost everything, and knows exactly what he wants."

Starting with basic colors, khaki, white, cinnamon and gray, be adds melon, pale blue, lemon, and pink. WilliWear Men can best be described as classic prep, but with a flair. "I hate Preppy. Everyone wants to be real safe. It's not expressing yourself or getting into clothes."

He has always approached women's fashions with a sense of whimsy, and his spring line features such offerings as the "Kite Dress," the "About-Face Dress," a garment that can be worn two ways and has a slanted knee-baring hemline, as well as an array of pastels colors.

He says he hates the "Dress for Success" principle that governs womens clothes today. "It's based on the mens principle of dressing and has nothing to do with what you're doing."

He is quite excited about his new line and change of course that fashion appears to be taking. "I think it's going to a very individual place.

After coming from conservative designing, we will now express ourselves through clothes, once again. The whole designer thing is played out."



A TASTE OF WILLI is pictured on these models, who are decked out in a sampling of the Willi Smith designs for both men and women.

—Court action

Continued from page 1

unfairly conducted, the judge will declare the election null and void, negate all decisions made by the trustees, and order a new election."

Meanwhile, as far as the other side, the present trustees and clergy are concerned, efforts to reach their attorney, Robert Carson, of Smith, Sommerville and Case, a prominent downtown establishment law firm, were futile.

As the AFRO went to press, repeated calls to reach Mr. Carson were unsuccessful because of his absence from the city through the weekend, employees at his law office stated.

J. D. Howard, the local photographer, and Mt. Olive on-again-off-again-on-again trustee, who has figured so prominently in the Ceaser scenario, has proven to be elusive and silent at this latest turn of events. Highly visible in the parade of circumstances recently, Mr. Howard did not return a promised call to the AFRO on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

This latest court action, the bearing of which was precipitated by a request from Mr. Opara, could be the highpoint of an unusual church drama laced with allegations of murder threats, theft of church funds, and double-dealing.

And, it does not bode well for the present Mt. Olive leadership, because it supplied Rev. Ceaser with an opportunity supported by the whole weight of civil law, apart from church custom, to return to the pulpit so long headed by his late father, Bishop Leo K. Ceaser.

Bishop Ceaser died late last year, and the church has been in an uproar ever since — more particularly over whether the son, Grailan, was actually co-pastor or not.

Said the younger Ceaser to the AFRO Thursday, "we tried to convince the judge the whole thing (the dismissal) was illegal. The judge said there were irregularities in the new election. When they elected new trustees on March 4 and when they voted to remove me."

"The judge said," he continued, "that one side was to select a minister, and the other side was to select a minister, then those two were to select a third minister. These three then would investigate the election and the trustees' actions."

In a telephone interview, Mr. Opara said he asked the judge to reconsider his original ruling, handed down late last month, and the judge agreed.

Rev. Ceaser claimed to have some 150 current Mt. Olive members present to lend moral support to his Tuesday morning court pleas. "People in my corner," he called them.

The AFRO was informed that there was an area of Maryland with which Judge Levin may have been unfamiliar that caused him to render his original ruling upholding the March 4 dismissal.

Knowledgeable sources suggested that Maryland law says if there is a contested church election, arbitrators should be brought in.

"I know many ministers whom I could select. We will be guided by the Lord. We want to do this as quickly as possible," Rev. Ceaser concluded. — Paul Evans.

—Ministers

Continued from page 1

incensed and dismayed by your banking deregulation vote and urge you to disavow your actions as it will have grave and catastrophic consequences on those you have pledged to serve."

The telegram was signed by the Inter-denominational Ministerial Alliance, Rev. Marion Bascom, president; Baltimore Baptist Clergy in Action, Rev. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, president; Baltimore Ministers Conference, Rev. William Johnson, president; United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland, Rev. Lorenzo Graves, president; Black United Methodist Preachers, Rev. Charles Johnson, president; AME Ministers Conference, Rev. W. K. Wood, president; Fellowship of the Brethern, Rev. Walter Thomas, president.

— —

At the Thursday meeting, Rev. Bascom said, "They (Delegates) ought to be exposed for what they have done to this community. Our position must always be poor people are paying high enough interest now. Any of those people who voted in favor, can't say they don't know. They knew better."

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Additional comments included Del. Larry Young: "I thought the legislation had more minuses than it had pluses. I felt uncomfortable with the retail component. They would not accept some suggestions I made to help the consumer in that area, so I voted against it."

U.S. Congressman Parren J. Mitchell said, "I bitterly oppose deregulation because almost inevitably consumers end up paying more for goods and services where deregulation takes place. I am convinced that the deregulation of the banking in the state of Maryland will have a negative costly impact on consumers."

—House banking

Continued from page 1

Comments from other legislators included:

Del. Clarence Davis: "Deregulation is here and what we need is some control. These are millde-class complaints. Poor people don't have credit cards."

Del. Hattie Harrison: "I voted for it because of assurances from the banking community to discuss concerns about mortgage foreclosures and employment opportunities for blacks in banks. These discussions will take place after the legislative session."

Del. Elijah Cummings: "This is the most harmful piece of legislation for poor and middle class blacks that has been introduced this session.

Del. Nathaniel Oaks: "We brought nothing home to our constituents in our districts. No commitments, no jobs, no programs, no projects. I am very disappointed in the caucus because the caucus had not met as a group to discuss the issue before the vote and this was very difficult for new members like myself."

—Caltec

Continued from page 1

Lester Greene, the force behind Community Communications, Inc. and general manager for Caltec, told the AFRO he had no comment. He did however suggest that "everything should be resolved next week."

According to the contract Construction of the entire cable operation is expected to be completed within four years of the effective date of the franchise.

Within the first year Caltec is required to provide services to ten percent of the city, 32 percent in the second year, and 70 percent in the third year.

The agreement between Caltec and the city also mentions that the company will offer approximately 116 channels for its residential network; a parental control device and an institutional network.

The city expects Caltec to maintain a complaint office and a system for prompt repairs.

Minority participants in the franchise are required by the city to possess at least 25 percent of the voting shares and Caltec will pay the city five percent of its gross revenues as an annual franchise fee.

Thus far approved by the law department, the deferral of the franchise by the board has temproarily delayed its appearance before the city council.

Thomas Tinsley

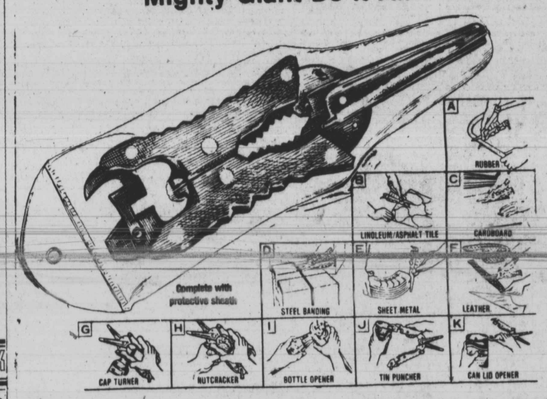
Last rites for Mr. Thomas W. Tinsley were Thursday, March 31 at March Funeral Home.

Mr. Tinsley died Saturday, March 26 at the John Deaton Medical Center after a long illness. He was 55.

He was born in Richmond, Virginia and moved to Baltimore in 1943. Mr. Tinsley was educated in the D.C. public school system.

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Slot machines may be legal again

By John W. Freece

Slot machines would be legal again in Maryland under legislation passed by the General Assembly this week—but they would have to be very old slot machines.

The House of Delegates enacted a Senate-passed bill that would legalize the possession of antique slot machines, but the bill would not change Maryland's prohibition on slot machine gambling.

The bill, approved 100-15, now goes to Gov. Harry Hughes.

Under the bill's provisions, an antique slot machine is defined as "any machine manufactured at least 25 years before the date on which the machine is seized."

Delegate John Gary (R., Anne Arundel) asked, "What safeguards are there that antique slot machines won't be back into use?"

Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Owens (D., Montgomery), replied, "Well, it's against the law, and I think that's safeguard enough."

When asked what people will do with an antique slot machine if they are not permitted to gamble with it," Owens answered, "Look at it."

Owens downplayed the concerns of those who said the legislation would make it easier for illegal slot machine gambling to resume in Maryland, saying parts for the old machines are no longer available.

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BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

Friday Plus, April 8, 1983

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