Hugh Carey, Jr. and new CCB Choir

By Arthur J. Johnson

Every Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and noon, 130 beautiful voices come together in the Forum Auditorium of the Community College of Baltimore's Inner Harbor Campus to form the sound of **Citizens Celebrating Baltimore**, a choir of Baltimore residents who "love to sing, have an appreciation of Baltimore," says the choir's energetic director, Hugh Carey, Jr., who has led the group of "musical ambassadors of goodwill" since its formation in April.

This past Saturday morning, as the choir of blacks, whites and people of all ages from teenagers to senior citizens applied its beautiful harmonies to "Evergreen: Love Theme From A Star Is Born", Carey was so moved by their sound that he suddenly yelled, "Allright!!" and stopped the music as the song built to its climax and the choir members swayed in their seats. After starting over and completing the song, the choir tackled the up tempo tune "What A Fool Believes", proving they are just as adept and convincing with pop rock as they are with love songs.

"Citizens Celebrating Baltimore was put together after Mayor Schaefer attended the Nashville World's Fair last year," explained Director Carey after the rehearsal. "He had seen a group like this at the Fair representing Nashville and when he came back he mentioned how wonderful he thought it was."

Charles Tilden, President of the Community College of Baltimore, then wrote a proposal and presented it to the Mayor. "Tilden has a real belief in people and believes that everything you do has to be people oriented," says Carey.

Sponsored by Tilden and the Mayor, auditions were held last March. "Prospective choir members did not have to sight read or bring a prepared piece of music. They could sing a hymn or even My Country Tis of Thee.' We wanted the group available to every citizen of Baltimore who wanted to work for quality."

Since then rehearsals have been held twice weekly, Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 10 to noon with the singers receiving a stipend from the college and the City.

"We have a group of deaf singers who sign and a director of the deaf. Also there is a choreographer because we dance while we sing all our congs," adds Carey.

The choir's full time staff includes Carey, an associate director, production coordinator, two accompanists, a clerical assistant, a volunteer coordinator, two accompanists, a clerical assistant, a volunteer coordinator, instrumental coordinator, press liaison and band.

"Our daytime band is made up of Community College of Baltimore students and our evening group is made up of professional musicians and degreed instrumentalists — bass, lead guitar, percussion, trumpet and trombone," says Carey.

With a repertoire that includes patriotic, pop, and show songs such as "Up Where You Belong", "Out Here One My Own," "Elvira" and "Endless Love," the Citizens Celebrating Baltimore choir gave its premiere performance at this year's Community College Commencement, and followed with performances for the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the City's July Celebration at the Inner Harbor, and also a lawn concert at the college.

During the month of August they have been performing "Cinderella" every day for youngsters around the city. "We have 51 singers who are available during the day and we rehearse from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. we've performed for summer camps in Clifton Park and Druid Hill Park and for kids brought by bus to the Inner Harbor Campus. We have even been approached about doing "Cinderella" in the Catoctin Mountains," Carey of the comic production performed in colorful costumes and a live band in which children from the audience are invited to participate and to wear colorful hats and crowns.

Carey, former head of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School's music department and graduate of Morgan State University and Boston University, is the full time director of Citizens Celebrating Baltimore and says directing the choir is "something I wanted to do all my life. It can be very difficult and time-consuming — I work all day and two nights a week — but I like people. I had to leave Dunbar's choir which toured the East Coast and Europe, but this gives me exposure to all types of people, some of the best singers I've ever heard, and to think, they're grassroots people as well as Peabody students vocal majors from the Jewish Community Center, and Howard University Students."

The busy choir performed just this past week for the Boy Scouts of America at the Blue Crest North, the Cherry Hill Festival citizens?

"This will blossom. We've even had overtures from outside of the city that I'm hoping we'll be able to honor and we're going to do 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' in addition to our regular Christmas show all over the city.

"It's very good to see the kind of rapport that these residents of Baltimore have with each other and with the people for whom they perform. It is very evident that this kind of thing is very effective in bringing together people from all walks of life and I'm happy to be part of that."

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Phone Strike Continues

By Johanne Brown
AFRO Staff Writer

Formal talks between the national president of the Com- (CWA) and the chief negotiator for American Telephone & Telegraph continue in Washington, D.C. with no apparent concessions at hand. According to Eleanor Street, president of the area CWA, Local 2110, the workers have sent in a mediator and company affiliates have yet to agree with that move.

"You need the consent of both sides in order for the mediator to do anything," said the union president who represents service operators, and clerical and technical employees of the Chesapeak and Potomac Telelphone Company.

Only emergency services are under consideration

Striking began nationwide last Sunday once it became obvious the workers concerns over job security and wages were not satisfactorily addressed.

Street said C&P presented the workers with a contract just 12 hours before the contract deadline but that the document did not mention the groups demands.

It did however offer wage increases for upper level management and a one tenth of one percent increase adjustment in the cost of living which was later changed to 7.5 percent.

The workers according to Street felt the Company was not being fair because they gave the group so little time to review the extensive contract and because they ignored the issues at hand.

Frank Just, a public relations spokesman for C&P, told the AFRO the Company has 15,500 total employees; 11,400 are non managment and 4,000 are management.

He said it is difficult to determine how many workers are out on strike but he did indicate that a number of non-management people had reported to work this week.

Street on the other stated that 98 percent of the workers walked off Sunday, and as of yesterday the

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THE STRIKES CONTINUE—Members of the Pratt and Light Streets office of the C&P Telephone Company continue into their fifth day of strike activity. Pictured in the front of the line are employees Nancy Jackson and Viola Richardson.

Black bypassed again area contractors say

Angry members of the Maryland Minority Contractors Association will picket the old Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Office Building at Charles and Baltimore Sts. Monday morning, August 15, as a reaction to, and protest against, what they see as "systematic minority exclusion" from lucrative, private local contracting bids in downtown's booming development projects. The picketing will begin at 9:30.

Half an hour later, at 10 o'clock, the association will hold a news conference, only yards away at the Hilton Hotel, around the corner at 101 W. Fayette St., near Hopkins Plaza. Spokespersons for the group will announce "release of association plans to file legal suits and to stage mass protests marches against continuing raical discrimination against black businesses in Baltimore's downtown projects."

Speaking with the AFRO Thursday evening, the association's president, Arnold M. Jolivet, offered the following background information about the circumstances that have prompted such action now:

"In May of this year, the United States Commission on Civil Rights in its special report entitled, 'Greater Baltimore Commitment' found that Baltimore's downtown development has been accomplished by large out-of-town white developers and contractors at the exclusion of local Baltimore-based black and other minority contractors.

"Well, in spite of the commission's report, this exclusionary practice against local black contractors continues in downtown Baltimore.

"For example, the Chessie System, along with the Oliver T. Carr and Omni Construction Companies are redeveloping the old B & O Building at Charles and Baltimore Sts., at a cost of $12 million.

"Only one black contractor was given work on this large construction job, although several submitted competitive prices and were highly qualified.

"Other black contractors were not allowed to submit bids. This kind of arbitrary and unlawful exclusion of black contractors must stop now."

Mr. Jolivet also complained that shortly after he informed the electronic media of plans to stage the Monday protests, he received a telephone call from a "well-known television news reporter suggesting our planned protest march was 'unwise and untimely' and was intended solely to influence the upcoming city mayoral election."

Below is Mr. Jolivet's response to this allegation:

"I think that I should indicate why we have scheduled our protest march at this time, since there are those who already question its timeliness. A strong and viable minority business community is in the public interest and is essential to improve the

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The B&O Building at Charles and Baltimore Sts.

Baltimore gets set for March on Washington

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Staff Writer

If the Baltimore Coalition has its way, a caravan of 10,000 Baltimoreans will depart from city-wide locations and converge on Washington for the 20th Anniversary March.

A National Coalition and various organized groups around the country hope to duplicate the historic rendezvous that brought 250,000 supporters and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to the Lincoln Memorial.

There on the steps of the monument, on August 28, 1963, Dr. King delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech before blacks, whites, Hispanics, women and other ethnic groups stirring the emotions of millions of people.

On August 27, still another gathering of people will convene. The Saturday march for Jobs, Peace and Freedom will assemble for an 11:30 a.m. walk along Constitution and Independence Avenues, under the theme of "We Still Have A Dream."

Later they also will join together at the Lincoln Memorial.

The pulse of the Baltimore Coalition is a small group of officers and 35 volunteers, all representing a variety of social, political, religious, labor, peace, organizations.

Coordinator Ken Morgan says the

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AFRO to publish special edition on historic march, Friday August 26.

Voter Registration

Modest increase expected by August 15th deadline

Baltimore City has about 794,382 residents that are being exposed to pre-election voter registration/mobilization drives designed to get the maximum number of voters to turn out for the primary elections in September.

In order to better understand why voter registration is an important weapon in any election, the population in Baltimore is broken down by districts. These are figures as supplied by the proposed 1983 Councilmanic Redistricting Plan:

POPULATION BY DISTRICT

TOTAL	White	Black	Indian	Asian	Spanish	Other
794,382	345,113	431,117	2,108	4,949	7,641	3,454
DISTRICT						
1	86,822	41,210	1,154	858	1,721	732
2	42,012	86,954	228	1,150	1,451	582
3	89,968	39,896	126	1,125	1,447	714
4	2,040	127,745	133	255	875	382
5	49,473	80,301	162	578	1,089	549
6	74,798	55,011	305	854	1,058	395

Source: Proposed 1983 Councilmanic Redistricting Plan

These figures reflect the total population, but according to figures provided by election officials, there were 378,783 registered voters in Baltimore as of August 2, 1983.

A projected number of registered voters can be estimated at an increase of 12,000 new voters who will be on the rolls by August 15, 1983. This increase breaks down to about 2,000 more voters per district.

Voter registration drives have had a direct bearing on the projected number of new registered voters in the primary election. The figures from the Board of Supervisors of Elections below gives a clear picture of the present status of the registered voters in the city.

REGISTRATION

Districts	Democrats	Republicans	Others	Total
1st	54,000	4,250	2,419	60,669
2nd	53,900	6,000	3,858	63,758
3rd	56,300	8,700	3,978	68,978
4th	54,800	5,100	2,429	62,329
5th	57,600	5,700	3,306	66,606
6th	47,200	4,600	2,643	54,443

Efforts by organizations such as the NAACP, the Urban League, BUILD, and WEBB, indicate that their efforts have been successful in bringing about a clear increase in the number of new registered voters in Baltimore.

Many political hopefuls have started their own voter registration drive to increase the number of voters by training their campaign workers in the fine art of registering people to vote.

With all this concentrated effort to register voters, there is small wonder tht problems arise. Problems with citizens who are already registered to vote filling out voter registration forms, which account for abut 3,000, duplicate forms, and another 7,000 forms received were changes of address.

The number of registration forms received by the Board of Elections totaled 16,000. Deduct those forms that could not be processed because of those purged from the rolls, death, and re-location; the number of new registered voters for the month of July was only 6,000.

Sam Sawyer, a supervisor at the Board of Elections for Baltimore City, commented that "there are a number of checks and balances to insure that those who register to vote are in fact of legal voting age, and residents of Baltimore City."

He said that "the Voters' Bill of Rights was adopted by the board this year to insure that each citizen of the city has the right to vote and how their rights work for them."

Certain measures are provided in the Voters Bill of Rights, such as: time to vote; where each polling

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NAACP sets September 1-6 as Black Economic Awareness week

By James Abraham

The Baltimore branch of the NAACP is preparing to embark on a novel economic initiative designed to alert the city to the power of the black dollar. According to Dr. Emmett Burns, regional director of the NAACP, the purpose of the initiative is to express concern on the part of the community with Federal policy, unemployment, and the bleak economic picture.

The move is also expected to demonstrate the capacity of the black community for effective mobilization, an important ingredient in this year's municipal elections.

The unique protest will be facilitated through the use of special currency, in this case the Susan B. Anthony dollar and two-dollar bills. Both forms of currency are comparatively rare, and there in lies their value for the project.

The currency, which will be made available at local banks, will serve to earnmark the black consumer dollar. Each time a black customer — or a fair minded member of the general community uses the money, it will serve notice that the buyer is participating in the initiative.

It will also demonstrate the economic presence of the black consumer as a force to be reckoned with by area merchants and businessmen.

Eight area banks, including Suburban Trust, Mercantile, Equitable Trust, Maryland National, Harbor State, Advance Federal, Union Trust, and Provident have been asked to stockpile the special currency, and members of the community are asked to convert their money during the days preceding the project.

The dates for the initiative are September 1 through the 6th.

At the NAACP's national convention, held in New Orleans last month, delegates from across the nation took part in a test run of the idea. The response was favorable, and compared well with an earlier implementation of the plan in Greenville, S.C. nearly two years ago.

The plan was conceived by NAACP

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POLITICS '83

Murphy's West coast swing

Mayoral hopeful William H. Murphy, Jr. returned Thursday from a west coast campaign fundraising swing that netted the former judge about $10,000.

Murphy, who appeared at an affair organized by friends in Los Angeles, was greeted by Mayor Tom Bradley, and by business and community leaders.

Murphy campaign staff aides said the Los Angeles mayor invited Murphy to return for a second fundraising engagement which will probably be scheduled for early September.

Aides said that the candidate had to postpone engagements which had been scheduled in Oakland, San Francisco and Seattle.

Campbell opens headquarters

If sixth district council hopeful Marguerite Campbell is accused of being full of gas during the campaign she may respond with an unblinking "Regular or No-Lead?"

Campbell, an 11-year community relations specialist with the city before she retired, opened her campaign headquarters at Hilton and Baltimore streets Thursday. Scheduled to be present at the opening's location, the site of a converted filling station, were Mayor William Schaefer and Clarence Du Burns, as well as others.

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