NAACP takes first step of headquarters move to Baltimore

NAACP officials inched a step closer to moving the group's national operations to Baltimore this week when the city Board of Estimates gave its approval to a $111,000 grant aid package to help finance the renovation of a new site for the presitigious civil rights organization northwest of the city.

The Board of Estimates approved the $111,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) during its weekly meeting on Wednesday.

That aid plus a $1 million state grant, coupled with $1.4 million in NAACP funds amount to a total finance package of about $2.6 million.

The money will assist the renovation of a new home for the 76 - year - old civil rights group in the Seton Industrial Park in Northwest Baltimore.

Several hours following the Board's action the national president of the NAACP, Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan, expressed relief that the long arduous process of trying to negotiate a move was slowly winding down.

"It may be a little slower than we had expected but we're still hoping to reach the August target date for moving. We were expecting that the grant would be approved," Mrs. McMillan said.

Even city officials appeared relieved that the negotiations have been completed and at least one official commented late in the day on Wednesday that the arrival of the NAACP will be great for the city as a whole.

Said Deputy Finance Director Harold R. Tall, "The NAACP has chosen Baltimore as the best place to operate from and indicated that it is congenial to its efforts.

"It shows that they think Baltimore is a great place," he said.

Tall also indicated that the prospects of 35 new jobs being created initially and several others later and the fact that vacant city property will be utilized, made the move that's much more advantagious to the city.

The official $111,000 grant request to help renovate the three acre site and 50,000 square foot building at Seton Park into suitable office space for the national NAACP headquarters came in the form of a letter dated May 7.

The letter submitted to the Board was drafted by the head of the Baltimore Economic Development Corporation (BEDCO) Bernard L. Berkowitz.

BEDCO officials and NAACP officials have recently been working behind closed doors for months arranging a finance package to help facilitate the move from New York to Baltimore.

The $111,000 in community development grant funds will come from the federal government and the $1 million state grant will be provided by the Maryland Industrial and Commercial Redevelopment Fund.

The fund is part of a special industrial and commercial revitalization program established in Maryland a few years ago, to renovate existing structures throughout the state.

In order to be eligible to receive grant funds from that program, municipalities, including Baltimore, must provide at least 10 percent in matching funds.

The funds approved by the Board on Wednesday represent the required matching funds to be allocated by the city to secure that state grant.

Wednesday's Board action capped off several months of speculation as to whether the civil rights group would abandon its long time New York residence.

The NAACP has been plagued in recent years by escalating rent costs. It has occupied space inside a cramped and dilapidated six-story building in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y. since the end of 1982.

According to Mrs. McMillan the lease on that property is due to expire at the end of August.

Renovation on its new home, formerly the old Marian Retreat house at 4805 Mount Hope in the northwest section of Baltimore City is due to be completed sometime in August, she said.

It will also mark the first time in the history of the nationally recognized civil rights organization that it will own commercial property space.

Memorial Day is a time to honor the nation's war dead

This is the time when mothers and daughters and fathers and sons visit area cemeteries to honor the millions of fallen heroes who have given their lives for the cause of American Democracy.

Memorial Day or Decoration Day as it was formerly known has been observed by the American public for years dating back to the time of the Civil War.

Since that time, sojourns to grave sites to lay flowers and flags alongside the remains of the war dead have become a national ritual.

On Memorial day the men and women who served in the nation's wars, including the Civil War, Spanish-American War, Korean and Vietnamese wars, as well as World War I & II, all hold a place of high honor in the minds of people every where.

Just how this annual tradition called Memorial Day first began is a matter for some dispute, although Waterloo, New York has generally been credited with organizing the first successful holiday observance.

Waterloo was so honored in 1967 with a presidential proclamation from the late Lyndon B. Johnsons officially recognizing it as "the birthplace of Memorial Day."

That same year on May 30th, residents of the small community established the Waterloo Memorial Museum thus setting the tone for the celebration date.

A year later on June 28, 1968, President Johnson changed the traditional observance date from May 30th to increase the number of three-day weekends.

It is now celebrated on the last Monday in the month of May.

Observance ceremonies are expected to occur throughout the city and state with various area veterans organizations — Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) — each expected to hold special memorial events.

Two of the area's major veterans cemeteries are also scheduled to hold memorial Day observances on the traditional celebration date of Thursday, May 30th.

Baltimore National Cemetery
5501 Frederick Avenue
954-9626
Sponsoree by the Baltimore District of The American Legion at 11:30 A.M.
Garrison-Forest Cemetery
11501 Garrison Forest road
363-6090
Sponsored by the Northern Central District of The American Legion at 2:00 P.M.

Memorial Day also marks the official beginning of the summer festivities.

AKA announces its new director

The nation's oldest Greek - lettered organization for black women has tapped a certified public accountant as its new chief staff officer. Barbara A. McKinzie was named executive director of Alpha Kappa Alpha at the board of director's spring meeting in Chicago.

A native of Ada, OK, McKinzie was most recently employed as an audit manager at Deloitte, Haskins and Sells in Chicago. She also served Alpha Kappa Alpha as financial advisor in a voluntary capacity.

Commenting on the appointment, Faye B. Bryant, national president, said, "Barbara will be an invaluable asset as we continue our move towards excellence in all aspects of sorority operations."

McKinzie is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

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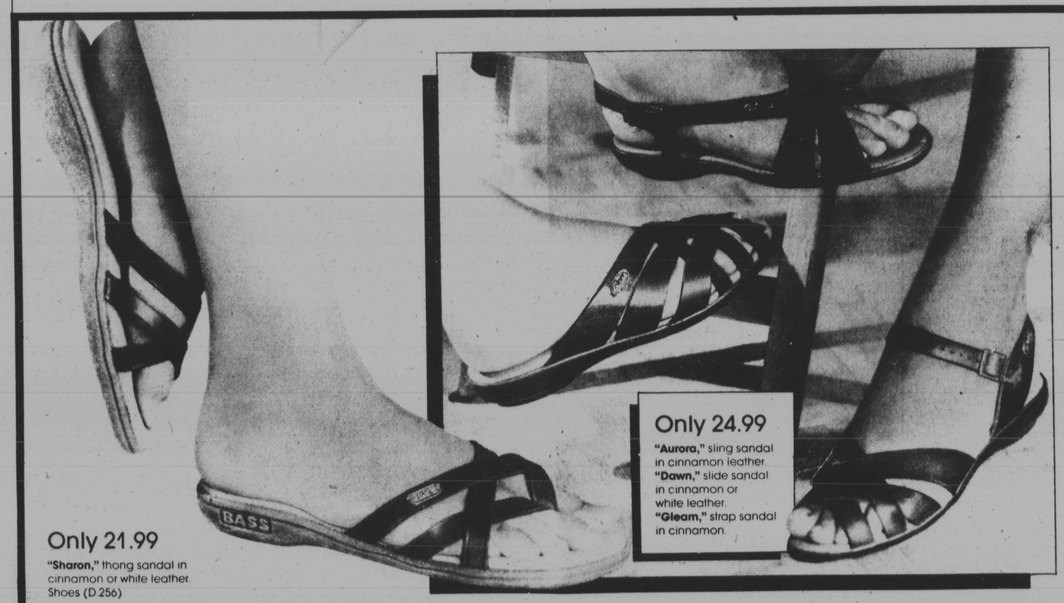

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PRE-MEMORIAL DAY SALE
ALL STORES OPEN EARLY 9 A.M. SATURDAY

HECHT'S

OUR WORLD

Morgan's Graduate Education Student Association holds Awards Banquet

DURING THE THIRD ANNUAL AWARDS AND INDUCTIONS BANQUET of Morgan's Graduate Education Student Association (GESA) which was held in McKeldin Center Ballroom on May 6, Dr. Harriett Trader was inducted into the organization's Education Hall of Fame. Also pictured is Dr. Frederick T. Anderson, Jr., GESA Advisor.

The members of Morgan State University's Graduate Education Student Association (GESA) held their Third Annual Inductions and Awards Banquet on May 6, in McKeldin Center Ballroom, attracting a bountiful assembly of nearly 500 attendees.

During the stellar evening of conviviality and scintillating conversation, several Morgan graduates and supporters were honored for their contributions to the University and personal achievements.

Col. William "Box" Harris was posthumously inducted into the organization's "Politico Civic Hall of Fame."

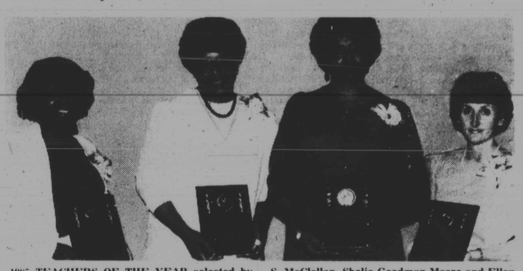
Additionally, the late Rev. Howard Cornish, Morgan State University (MSU) Chaplin for many years, and Dr. Harriett Trader, Vice President for Academic Affairs, two individuals who have made myriad contributions to Morgan over the years, were inducted into the "Education Hall of Fame." Other 1985 honorees included Miss Annable L. Hawkins, who was cited for excellence as a teacher; Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan, Dr. Otis Froe and Dr. Benjamin Quarles, who were cited for their outstanding contributions to Morgan as "other than Morgan graduates."

GESA members also honored four members of the educational community who were named as the "Teacher of the Year" in various

(Continued on page 10)

GESA MEMBERS HONORED Mrs. Enolia McMillan, Dr. Benjamin Quarles, Ms. Anabel L. Hawkins and Dr. Otis Froe for their outstanding civic contributions and scholarship.

AMONG THE ATTENDEES were (front L-R) Edmonia Yates, Mrs. Evelyn Burrell, Mr. William Burrell, (Rear) Mrs. Annie Lee Bryant and Mr. Kenneth Lee Bratcher.



1985 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR selected by GESA include (L-R) Angelette Bazemore, Pamela S. McClellan, Shelia Goodman Moore and Ellen DeSantis.

Dr. Harriett Trader (left) receives a plaque symbolizing her induction to GESA's Education Hall of Fame from Dr. N. Alan Sheppard while Dr. Clara Adams looks on and Ms. Bessie Hampton reads an outline of Dr. Trader's many accomplishments.

Mrs. Lucretia Coates (center) was the recipient of the Dr. J. Hayward Harrison Leadership. Accompanying her are her husband and daughter.

STEFAN C. JONES, GESA PRESIDENT, greets Mr. Francis Gates, the newly elected chairman of Morgan State University's Board of Regents.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the 1985 GESA Inductions and Awards Banquet include (Rear, L-R) Edmonia Yates, Longy Anyanwu, Thelma W. Taylor, Stefan C. Jones, E. Lee Lassiter, and Bessie R. Hampton. (Seated L-R) Geraldine L. Hooper, Sharon Attaway, Geneva B. Bowser & Vernice Williams.

Pattie Hodges
OUR WORLD EDITOR

PARTYLINE

D.P.W.G.S. MARDI GRAS

Colorful, festive and fun-filled are but a few adjectives that aptly describe the recent Mardi Gras held by the Druid Park West Child Study Group at the Forum.

D.P.W.C.S. members and guests were adorned in costumes which ranged from all African prince and princess to a ballroom queen.

Beautiful hostesses Carline Holland and D'Andra Pratt all decked in balloons from head to toe established the tone for the affair and greeted each guest with beaded necklaces and decorative combs to compliment their attire.

The entertainment was par excellent, featuring Dennis Fisher on the organ and his featured vocalist. The dance master, John Taylor, sparked the guests and motivated the spirit of the event with numerous dances which got everyone involved in the New Orleans Strut, Calypso and ballroom dancing. You couldn't tell anyone that they were not on Bourbon St.

Coupled with great music, dynamite dancing and delicious food, guests had an opportunity to flirt with Lady Luck on the Games of Chance and the 50-50 Raffles. The winner of the raffle was Beatrice Hines.

Merriment, great fun and frolic were indeed the order of the evening.

The Druid Park West Child Study Group is a civic organization devoted to promoting quality family life. Aside from this major focus the organization also participates and contributes to numerous civic and community organizations. The proceeds from this year's event will go to the Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital.

Continued on page 12

(AFRO Photo by P. A. Greene)
GEORGE E. McCOY gets a buss from his wife, Margaret, during the recent birthday hosted at their home in honor of his 78th birthday.

M A Y