ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

UPON RETIRING FROM THE AFRO

I am retiring from the AFRO around the first of May.

Were it not that a dream suddenly came true the other day and thus opened a new avenue, I would stay with the AFRO a little longer.

As a journalist of over 40 years, my parting words will come in three sections hopefully to inspire others to embrace the Black Press and become reporters.

As a reporter, you have a front seat and you see unfolding before your very eyes, not only our own world but the entire world. News is, for us as well as any other race, whatever happens to human beings from birth to death.

However, in my PART I, I wish to emphasize the fact that the Black Press is PAGE ONE for the greatest drama, the most wonderous history and the highest interest possible.

In PART I, I emphasize PEOPLE and will show the aspiring reporter the fantastic parade of persons you meet while following the news for the Black Press.

PART II involves the field of journalism — a wide view — as embraced by the Black Press; a view perhaps no one could ascertain except through such 40 years that I have spent with the AFRO.

My career at the AFRO extends from Oct. 21, 1941 through World War II, through the Civil Rights era, through the years of Martin Luther King and afterwards, and ends now in the 1980's, "a new world a-coming."

PART III will deal with what elements are necessary for the Black Press to survive in these days of dying interest not only as far as Black readers are concerned but also in waning interest of newspapers in general.

In over 40 years on the scene, live and constantly reporting the news, I have discovered some secrets on how we can grow.

PART I
IN PRAISE OF THE BLACK PRESS AND MY PEOPLE

We as black people have the most wonderful history of any race on earth. Were it not for the Black Press, that history would dwindle and gradually fade away.

The black newspaper writes the history every day, every hour, and then goes back and reviews it to make a continuous, everlasting story.

It recalls the Garden of Eden beginning of mankind as it came in our Africa. It brings the news on down through the ages, adding all the events of the Christian era and other religions as well and then records the part we have played on the stage as events unfold through the years.

While other newspapers write us out of history, we keep our history on the surface winding in and out like a rainbow ribbon, great men of religion, in sports, in the military, in literature, in government, in education, science, in every field of endeavor.

My scene has been mainly in Maryland. However it was through the AFRO I have been around the world on all major events.

I start today with our earliest history in the United States with **FREDERICK DOUGLASS, HARRIETT TUBMAN** and those legendary historians of the slavery period on the Eastern Shore.

This highlight came when I, Henry Phillips and I did a special AFRO edition on that place which never shall be forgotten in American history.

He went to St. Michaels where Douglass was an unruly slave. The Big House still stands.

We followed Douglass' rise to become diplomat and recorded the facts of his life until he returned to the Big House one day "and his old master bowed to him and let him enter the front door."

Over on the Cordtown Rd. in Cambridge, we visited the beginnings of Harriett Tubman's Underground Railroad, photographed the old barn where she first hid slaves and the graveyard where her relatives are buried near an ancient church.

That walk on that hallowed ground is a highlight every black reporter should take.

Going on briefly, you can see from my experience through people, how a reporter sees history unfolding.

DR. W. E. B. DUBOIS was our greatest of heroes. Every February when, in his later years, he held a birthday party at his last residence in America, at No. 8 Grace Court in Brooklyn, I spent the weekend with him and recorded his wisdom for a series of AFRO stories.

In view of space and time, I will record the names of other great persons as they marched across the AFRO pages, alive, glowing and weaving our Black history into America's contributions to the world.

QUESTION — Where else could a reporter gain such experiences? On the staff of a white newspaper, you would never come so close to real history.

MARTIN LUTHER KING — I personally followed his career from Montgomery and up until his funeral in Atlanta.

Dr. Carl Murphy said when the now famous Bus Boycott began, "Let's go down there and see what this little man is doing. It has never been done before in American history nor world history."

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS SUCH AS **E. D. NIXON,** who raised money and asked King to take leadership, plus those Civil Rights lawyers who faced whites in court, argued for the brave heroes who were arrested and obtained their release from jail.

GEORGE WALLACE stood in the schoolhouse door and we were there for the AFRO.

THE LITTLE ROCK NINE, when the National Guard took them in to school each morning, we were there with over 500 reporters from around the world, watching the school integration battle unfold.

METHODIST CHURCH INTEGRATION at the Denver Conference in 1960, we were there along with reporters from all over the world, watching, writing about the breakdown of prejudice in that prestigious, wealthy church.

JOE LOUIS — we visited him and his new wife in Los Angeles in 1960. She was a wealthy attorney and we enjoyed looking through his scrap book, photos and clippings covering his career.

THURGOOD MARSHALL, before he became the first black Supreme Court justice, we spent a weekend in New York with him and his present wife when they were first married. We reviewed his career as a civil rights lawyer as he went through his early years in Baltimore.

MOHAMED ALI — Cassius Clay came to Baltimore and stayed for several days at the 516 Wilson Street Mosque when Minister Kerim was there.

We spent a day with this man Ali who is still the world's most popular human being, as he ate beans, pies and enjoyed his meals at the dining room at 516. Everyone ate there in those days.

ANDREW YOUNG, now mayor of Atlanta, was one of the Civil Rights leaders who spoke in Baltimore and we were there for the AFRO, hearing his plans for further war against prejudice.

JUDGE ARMOND SCOTT, one of the first Federal jurists ever appointed, we did an entire page on his illustrious career.

BISHOP D. WARD NICHOLS, one of the famous AME Council of Bishops who ranked high among world religious leaders.

Bishop Nichols led the group down to Tallahassee, Fla. when Martin Luther King and his fighters were in jail. We were on the scene in the courtroom when Bishop Nichols paid bail for every one of them, over $50,000.

MARION ANDERSON, when she sang at Lincoln Monument in Washington after refusal by the DAR. And, again when she appeared at Constitution Hall, after the barriers broke, the AFRO was there, in full dress.

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY — The AFRO under Bettye Moss, City Editor, was first of any Baltimore newspaper to go on the street announcing his assassination.

WE WERE THERE when Kennedy gave a freedom party at the White House for 1,200 citizens across the land.

WE WERE THERE at the funeral when kings and queens of all the lands of Africa and the rest of the world came to pay homage.

HAILE SELASSIE, the emperor of Ethiopia was in the lead as the world's leaders marched behind the casket. We interviewed him later.

ANWAR SEDAT whose mother was a pure Nubian and was one of us, was the guest of Congressman Parren J. Mitchell in Washington and we presented him with an AFRO award.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S family was, after his death, a guest at the Senator Troy Brailey banquet and we met with them for an AFRO story.

THE ROBB CHILDREN and some guests were stranded a weekend after a party at the Keifer Mitchell residence and later we again met Linda and her Governor of Virginia husband.

ROLAND HAYES, the greatest of celebrated black singers was at Fisk University when I was there. Later we interviewed him for the AFRO after one of his finest triumphs.

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT brought a brown bag filled with her diet and ate in Wilson's Restaurant at North and Pennsylvania Avenues to help break down segregated eating places. She also visited the AFRO for a special story and photos.

BISHOP MONROE SAUNDERS invited us to be present when he put down a $1 million check for the purchase of the historic old Ready School on Rte. 40. His church now has an accredited school there and a congregation of over 2,000.

BISHOP SHOWELL's story on his Eastside housing development was recorded by us.

ANNA MAE HUNTER's first Home for the Blind on Eutaw Place was one of our best stories. The brave blind woman was aided by Warren Shaw the leading realtor of that day who helped her get the 30-room house.

DR. BEN WHITTEN AND CORTEZ PURYEAR opened the first job training school at Pennsylvania Avenue and Fulton for the jobless and we recorded the story.

DR. LILLIE MAE JACKSON and Dr. Carl Murphy revitalized the NAACP in 1935 and on through the following years caused Baltimore to become the largest and most active chapter in the world.

DR. BENJAMIN MAYS, an orator from Atlanta, was a frequent freedom speaker in Baltimore churches and a grand subject for many stories.

COMMISSIONER BISHOP L. ROBINSON, Baltimore's first and one of the outstanding commissioners in the USA — we wrote a story of his family some years ago, the Robinsons, who were pillars of old Whatcoat Methodist Church.

FRANCES ROBINSON GERMAN, who is still a member of the church, now Union Memorial Methodist, and her brother George Robinson, who was one of the founders of the city's longest and still active.

THE GALILEAN FISHERMEN, one of America's oldest organizations still in existence, we have written that story many times.

COL. JAMES A. WATKINS, the former leader of the Baltimore City Police STOP Squad, one of the greats in city history — we followed his career until retirement.

DR. MARTIN JENKINS, Morgan College president during its finest years, was a subject of many of our features as he and Dr. Murphy made the campus bloom.

DR. EMERSON R. JULIAN, the city councilman and his illustrious brothers, Dr. James S. Julian and Dr. Percy Julian, the famed scientist, were subjects of many of our stories.

DR. SAMUEL L. BANKS, head of Baltimore schools' Social Studies Department, a nationally noted educator, has been featured often.

DR. ROLAND PATTERSON, the late school superintendent who during his lifetime was one of America's greatest educators, was often an AFRO feature.

WORLD WAR II heroes, in fact the entire role of the black soldier is recorded in THIS IS OUR WAR which the AFRO published during the time I was Librarian here and we met, interviewed and wrote about Charlie Hall, the Tuskegee 99th Pursuit pilot who shot down the first German plane.

THE FIRST PILOT TRAINING at Tuskegee and the 99th Pursuit Squadron of WWII was recorded in volumes by us.

P.S. — GEORGE ROBINSON tells me that his club, the Arch Social Club is heading toward it's 100th birthday.

BALTIMORE'S OTHER GREATS include those I knew in their day, Yolande DuBois, daughter of Dr. DuBois, whose wedding to poet Contee Cullen was the most elegant even by today's standards. The two famed personalities went to Europe for the honeymoon. The AFRO carried full story with photos.

Yolande later taught dramatics at Baltimore's Dunbar High.

Baltimore's elegant banquets are legend and especially those we covered every year of the Eastern Stars, the Heroines of Jerico and the Masons fine events.

WILLARD W. ALLEN, the Masons' grand master, was possibly the most grand and aristocrat gentleman ever seen in our town. The Masonic affairs of his day were certainly done with pomp and ceremony. We covered them all. His funeral was one of the largest in recent times.

FRANCES TURNER WHITE was one of the First Families of Virginia (FFV) who brought all the Southern elegance to Baltimore. Her story was one of my highlights.

Frances used to be quite critical of black society and wanted no publicity. She said those who were invited to her plush parties knew all about it. Those who did not know, did not need to know.

Her uncle and my great uncle, John J. Oliver, are on the front row of the photo you see in all history books of the Grand Jury that brought down the indictment against Jefferson Davis.

GREAT FAMILIES OF BALTIMORE and descendants of Virginians include the Scranage-Bumbry Clan which we have recorded in many AFRO stories. Included in the large group are Rachel Pryor DeFord, her mother, Lucy Bumbry Thomas, Dr. Cel DeFord, the Harvard Ph.D.; Sylvia Cooper, Baltimore's first woman court commissioner and the Orioles one-time star, Al Bumbry.

Their reunion this coming July will also see Richard Pryor, the TV and movie mega star; Grace Bumbry, the Metropolitan singer, the toast of all Europe and numerous descendants of Col. Nelson France Pryor who is buried next to President Kennedy in Arlington Cemetery, plus the Nelson France Pryor II family, residents of Baltimore.

If you recall, the AFRO's 90th Edition featured Mrs. Annie Scranage who was born Aug. 13, 1892, the same day as the AFRO was founded. Her family still owns acres and acres in Dalgren, Va.

And then we wrote of Dr. Turkeytine, the Indian herb doctor, whose medicines were delivered by him to Presidents Woodrow Wilson and President Roosevelt at the White House.

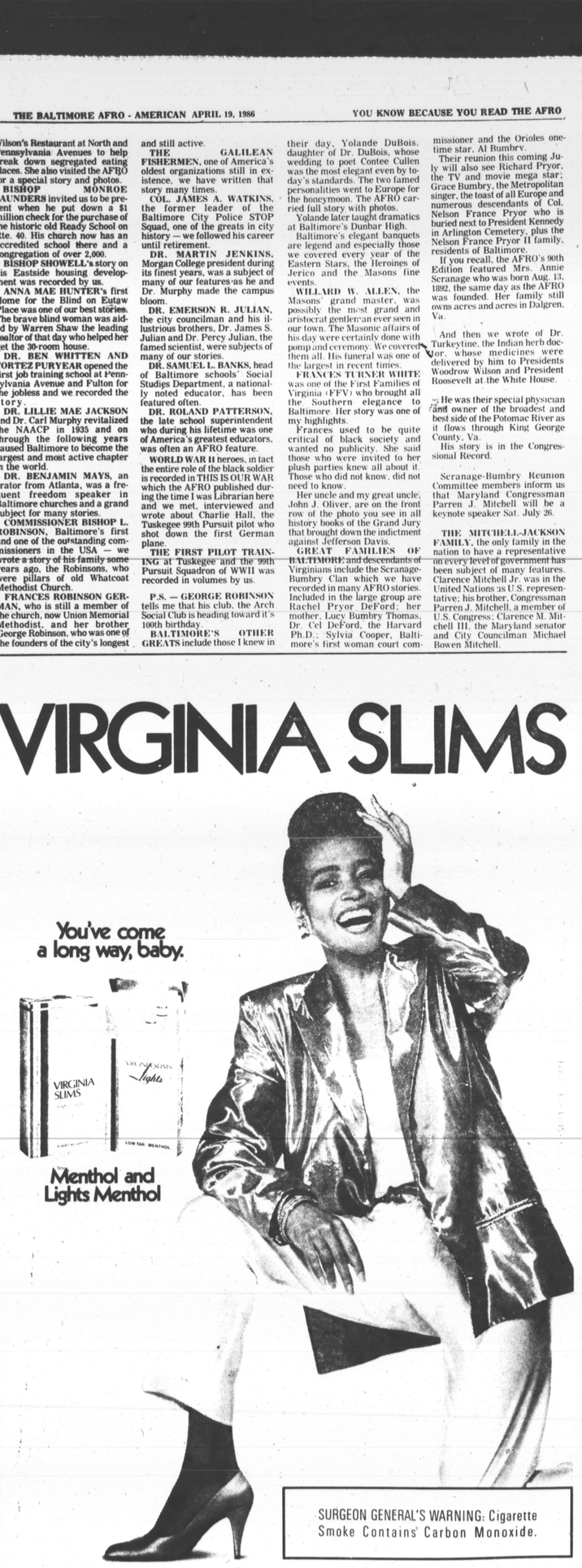
He was their special physician and owner of the broadest and best side of the Potomac River as it flows through King George County, Va.

His story is in the Congressional Record.

Scranage-Bumbry Reunion Committee members inform us that Maryland Congressman Parren J. Mitchell will be a keynote speaker Sat. July 26.

THE MITCHELL-JACKSON FAMILY, the only family in the nation to have a representative on every level of government has been subject of many features. Clarence Mitchell Jr. was in the United Nations as U.S. representative; his brother, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, a member of U.S. Congress; Clarence M. Mitchell III, the Maryland senator and City Councilman Michael Bowen Mitchell.

VIRGINIA SLIMS



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.

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Menthol: 14 mg "tar," 0.9 mg nicotine—Lights Menthol: 8 mg "tar," 0.6 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Feb. '85

OUR WORLD

Pattie Hodges

OUR WORLD EDITOR

PARTYLINE

LAMBDA KAPPA MU FOUNDERS' DAY

The members of Iota Chapter Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority Inc. celebrated their annual Founder's Day on Saturday, March 15. The Founder's Day celebration was held at La Fontaine Bleu, 3107 Erdman Ave.

The theme for the Sorority's Luncheon was "A Salute to the Talents of Youth." The Adults of Tomorrow.

Mrs. Dorothy C. Smith presided. Mrs. Ovella Queen, Northeastern Regional Director extended the greetings. The invocation was offered by Miss E. Monterey Williams. Mrs. Betty Wooden presided over the program which featured talented youth in the Baltimore area.

Program participants were: The Trinity A.M.E. Church Youth Choir, Miss Deytra Griffin, Directress, selection "Bourree" by. Jayfuss Tucker Doswell; piano selection "Maple Leaf Rag," William A. Young; Tap dance "From This Moment On" Darolyn Milburn; Marimba Selection "Bandenburg Concerto #2" Kuljit Rehncy; Solo "Home" by LeKesha Anderson; Flute selection "Mozart Concerto #2 Allegro" Ronda Butler and Choral selections from "The Bobians", Mrs. Deores Cassells, Directress."

The basileus of the Chapter Mrs. Marguerite Wilkins presented awards to the following honorees: Norman Ross, Miss Deytra Griffin, and Mrs. Delores Cassells.

Remarks were given by Mrs. Lorraine Merrick, National Grand Basileus, and Mrs. Audrey Coleman, Past National Grand Basileus. The benediction was given by Mrs. Veta Greig.

Founder's Day Committee members were: Mrs. Dorothy C. Smith, chairperson; Miss E. Monterey Williams, co-chairperson; Mrs. Elaine Alexander, Mrs. Gladys Baird, Mrs. Olivia Bates, Mrs. Vivian Bennett, Mrs. Elizabeth Day, Mrs. Catherine DeFord, Mrs. Imogene Douglass, Mrs. Hazel Gause, Mrs. Sheila Jessups, Mrs. Lillian Jones, Mrs. Josephine Maxwell, Mrs. Barbara Nelson, Mrs. Arabella Ross, Mrs. Ovella Queen, Mrs. Laura Smith, Mrs. Joyce Sturgis, Mrs. Lenora Terrell, Mrs. Shirley Watkins, Mrs. Marguerite Wilkins and Mrs. Betty Wooden.

Hostesses were Rosalee Burkes, Elizabeth Day, Hazel Gause, Kathleen Newsome, Camilla Parrott, Arabella Ross, Shirley Tiller and Catherine DeFord, chairperson.

Officers are: Mrs. Marguerite Wilkins, basileus, Mrs: Elaine Alexander, first anti-basileus; Mrs. Lenora Terrell, second anti-basileus; Mrs. Vivian Bennett, financial grammateus; Mrs. Catherine DeFord, recording grammateus; Miss Ruth Cooper, corresponding grammateus; Miss Joyce Sturgis, tamiochus; Mrs. Dorothy C. Smith, parliamentarian; Mrs. Sandra Wilmer, epistoleus, and Mrs. Gloria Banker, youth coordinator.

COLLEAGUES, STUDENTS, FRIENDS OF DR. JOHN F. RICHARDSON

It is with pleasure, the Psychological Society and Psi Chi invites you to enjoy a dinner honoring Dr. Richardson for his 35 years of dedicated service to Morgan State University and the Psychology Department.

Come join us on Tuesday, April 22, 1986 at 5:30 p.m. in the McKeldin Ballroom on the campus of Morgan State University located at Coldspring Lane and Hillen Road. This golden opportunity would not be complete without your presence.

The cost of the dinner is $12.00 per person. A cash bar will be available. We will be looking forward to seeing you.

For further information please contact: Philip R. Freeman, Public Relations and Communications, 363-4863 or Lacey Brown, Banquet Coordinator, 444-3496.

LOCAL TAU GAMMA DELTA SORORS SHINE AT REGIONAL CONF.

The Omicron Chapter of St. Albans, NY was host to the 29th Eastern Regional Conference in Uniondale, NY April 4 and 5.

The conference was held at the Marriott Hotel. Mrs. Anne E. Pearson was the Chairperson. The theme for the conference was "Stable Priorities in a Portable Society."

The Eastern Region is made up of the following chapters: Eta, New York City, NY; XI, Washington, DC; Omicron, St. Albans, NY; Pi, Baltimore, MD; Tau, Philadelphia, PA; Psi, Jersey City, NJ; Eta Omega, Newark, NJ; Lambda Omega, Bayonne, NJ; Mu Omega, Trenton, NJ and Omicron Omega, Silver Spring, MD.

Sorors attending from Pi Chapter were the Isabelle Williams, basileus; Theresa Lewis, first anti-basileus; Ruthann Miller, second anti-basileus; Shirley Plater, grammateus, Loretta Daniel, National Tauette Advisor; Lois Rosedom, a member of the Supreme Directorate; Ruth Saulsbury, National Chaplain; Ida Milbourne and Clustie Ford.

Betty Davis, basileus of Omicron, extended a hearty welcome on Friday evening. The evening session was basically made up of Chapter reports, announcements and the minutes, after which there was a social hour.

During the Saturday morning session there were committee reports, election of the Nominating Committee and responses from chapter basilei. During the afternoon session Loretta Daniel, Pi Chapter, and Gladys Owens, XI Chapter, were in charge of the Auxiliary Group Symposium, summary of the committees. Lois Rosedom, Pi Chapter, installed the officers.

Clustie Ford, Pi Chapter, was elected Assistant Eastern Regional Director.

The Awards Banquet was held at 7 p.m. Maria Williams, Lambda Omega, and National Organizer, presided. Shirley McQuaig presided over the presentations of the Charity Award. James Gibson was the recipient. The money will be given to the Springfield Riffle and Riflette Youth Organization.

Addie Cummings, Omicron Chapter, presented the Scholarship to Miss Kimberly A. Bullock, senior at the Dominican Commercial High School, Queens County, NY; Kimberly plans to attend Hampton University, Hampton, VA.

Theresa Lewis, Pi Chapter, was selected the 'Sorors of the Year.' She will compete with the Southern, Central and Western Region at Boule in Los Angeles, CA. Theresa received a plaque and certificate. Ruthann Miller, Pi Chapter, gave musical selections. She too, was presented a certificate.

Pii Chapter won first place for their scrapbook. Thanks go to Barbara Alford, chairperson, and her committee for the beautiful and interesting book.

The acknowledgement of regional officers and remarks were given by Mrs. Anne E. Pearson, conference chairperson. Ruth E. Saulsbury the National Chaplain, gave the benediction.

The conference was quite productive, well planned and attended by large numbers by sorors from the various chapters.

VSU CHOIR CONCERT

Melodious and harmonious sounds of music filled the sanctuary of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (3050 Liberty Heights Ave. at Wabash) on Sunday, April 6 as the Virginia State University Concert Choir lifted their voices in song.

The audience of approximately 300 sat enthralled while these young talented adults poured fourth in beautiful renditions from Franz Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Harry T. Burleigh and Hal Johnson.

Especially moving were the arrangements of Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, Song of Triumph, Kum Ba Yah and If They Asked you Why He Came.

Immediately following the concert light refreshments were served in the lower auditorium where friends had a chance to meet and greet.

The choir was very capably directed by Mrs. Johnnella Edmonds with Mr. Buckner Gamby as accompanist.

The occasion was presented as a Scholarship Benefit for local youths by the Baltimore-Metro Chapter of the Virginia State University Alumni Association.

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Tri State Elks present 23rd Cotillion

WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION these debutantes wait for their moment of taking the bow into society during the 23rd annual cotillion of the Tri-State Association of Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia's Improved, Benevolent, Protective Order of Elks of the World held at the Omni Hotel, Baltimore, Saturday, March 22. (From left) Sharon Cromwell, Gena Gunn (background) and Kimberly Hall chat with another deb.

CHECKING LAST MINUTE DETAILS are (L to R) Lacretia Cox, Tearney Galloway and Sharon Robinson as Angela Wilson (background) gives a sister deb an assist with the make-up.

Twenty three lovely young ladies made their formal bow to society at the 23rd Annual Debutante Cotillion sponsored by the Tri-State Association of Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Improved, Benevolent, Protective order of Elks of the World at the Omni Hotel Saturday, March 22.

Following the sit-down dinner for guests, the Cotillion unfolded. There was a Prelude by the orchestra and Emcee Josephine Ridgley began the evening, which was chaired by William Braxton and Mrs. Effie Coleman.

Tri State presidents William Fountain and Alfredia Fountain were introduced.

Sponsors of the debs were recognized and parents were escorted in. Remarks of welcome by the state presidents were

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DEB KENDRA WEEMS get a touch of curl from Sharon.

DEB TAMALA REAGAN receives a fluff of her gown from Chaperone Julia Carroll.

ESCORT HOWARD MCLAIN (R) checks out fellow-escort Clarence M. Charles.

1986 APR