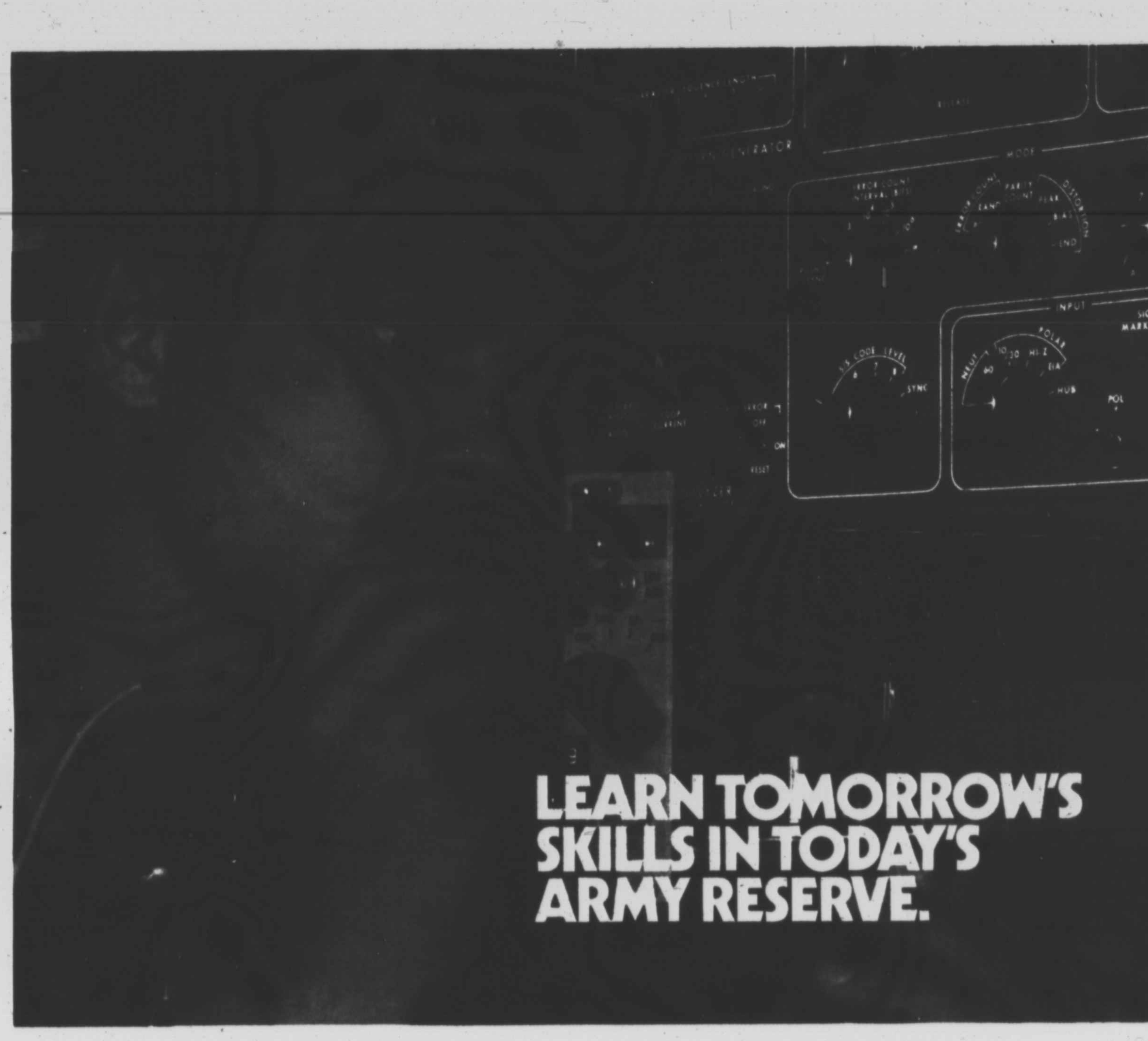

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New Baltimore AFRO

- END OF AN ERA — A historic look at AFRO printing presses through the years. Page 15.
- FRIDAY PLUS features the winner of the "I'd Love To Meet New Edition" contest and pictures of the concert
- LOTTERY — Page 17.

Watterson Skills Center is still open

(See column 1)

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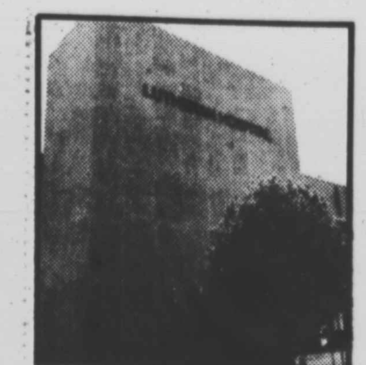
Baltimore Afro-American

94TH YEAR NO. 76 BALTIMORE, MD. MAY 3, 1986 50 CENTS

Lutheran-Provident merger near


Lutheran Hospital

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Sources say that Provident Hospital and Lutheran Hospital are hard at work to meet the May 31 deadline on the merger which is specified by the law laid down by the Legislature at the end of the 1986 Maryland General Assembly.

In fact, AFRO sources said Friday that the final document merging the two hospitals is almost ready to be signed.

Counting today, Friday, May 2, there are only 29 days left.

However, Lutheran authorities told the AFRO that the May 31 countdown affects Provident and "not Lutheran."

To quote the Maryland law, it states that by May 31 Provident Hospital shall negotiate a contract for merger, consolidation or acquisition with another hospital;

And that the 1986 funds for a loan of $2½ million are contingent upon submission to the governor and the Budget Committee an executed agreement and plan for merger with and consolidation with or acquisition with another hospital.

According to Emerson Goodwin, director of Marketing and Public Relations for Lutheran Hospital, "We are working on it. We are continuing to explore avenues for an affiliation."

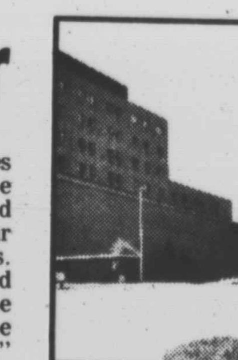
Asked when negotiations would be completed, Goodwin said, "It would be just speculation on my part as to how long it will take. It is not decided jet.

"We are keeping an open mind where we can extend our abilities to offer quality care to the residents of West Baltimore and where we can take care of our loyal employees and physicians.

"There are very complicated issues involved. We know the state will not lend Provident the money unless there is a merger."

When reached by the AFRO Wednesday, the clerk of the Federal Bankruptcy Court said there are no papers in the Provident Hospital file to show any merger proceedings.

The AFRO was told that the last entry of March 26 states that a date of Aug. 18 is set for a hearing in Federal Court on a motion to pay administrative claims or (for Provident) to convert to Chapter 7.



Provident Hospital

The clerk referred the AFRO to Attorney George Russell who is the administrator designated by the state for Provident Hospital in its long months of financial troubles.

The AFRO reached Russell and explained the question of the completion of the merger "with

Continued on page 2

UNPACKING — Public Relations spokesperson Felicia Kessel and her administrative assistant, Vicki Coupling, unpack in their new offices. Mrs. Kessel moved here from New York.

NAACP moves into town

By LaMONT X CURRY
AFRO Staff Writer

As bright colors return to the area with the advent of spring and the promise of summer, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is budding afresh here and begins operating May 5.

Open House festivities will be held in conjunction with the agency's National Convention here July 3, but the actual opening ceremonies are scheduled for October, according to the officials.

The new facility sits atop a 3-acre grassy stretch of scenic beauty in the developing Seton Industrial Park in the Northwest section of the city.

It is a 55,000 square foot five story red brick building which cost an estimated $2.6 million, $1.1 million of which come from city, state and federal funds.

"This is a beautiful building, a good job was done on the renovations and it will facilitate all of our needs," said spokesperson Mrs. Felicia Kessel.

Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, the executive director of the organization was there also.

"Well, how do you like it?" he asked proudly, as he and his aides navigated through stacked boxes and workers.

The facility is expected to provide nearly two dozen sleeping rooms for visiting conferees, and will provide space for consolidating archives of historical documents.

"We've always been in New

Continued on page 2

Chick Webb Center may get long-needed facelift

By Racine S. Winborne

The Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center, named to honor the late legendary drummer and swing band leader, William Henry "Chick" Webb who was born here and died in 1939, desperately needs a facelift.

Since opening in East Baltimore around 1949 and except for the addition of a second floor basketball court, a swimming pool and a small weight lifting room, all added around 1952, the sprawling facility at 623 N. Eden St. has been left to deteriorate.

But things could improve drastically in the coming months because of a plan to rehabilitate the community recreation center and expand its existing activities, according to Chris Delaporte, director of the city's Department of Recreation and Parks.

On Wednesday the Board of Estimates okayed the release of funds to allow the agency to hire a local consultant, at a cost of $400,000, to prepare "interior speculations" outlining proposed changes and improvements.

Tentative plans call for the addition of two new sports activities, gymnastics and wrestling, and the upgrading of two ex-

Continued on page 2

Chick Webb Center

WEBB now on 24 hrs.

By Racine S. Winborne

"Thank God it finally happened, 31 years, 25 days and 13 hours to the day after we signed on the air on April 5, 1955 at 6 a.m. On Wednesday, April 30, we signed on at 7:45 p.m. as Baltimore's only black-owned and black-programmed 24-hour station in the state of Maryland," an elated Dorothy Brunson, owner of WEBB Radio Station, shouted during a telephone interview on Thursday.

At last the battle has finally been won with Brunson coming out on top. Her station will no longer be forced to shut down at sunset but will continue to broadcast around the clock.

The big breakthrough actually came back in September, on the

Continued on page 2

Watterson Skills Center still open despite order

By LaMONT X CURRY
AFRO Staff Writer

The Watterson Skills Center in West Baltimore has not closed, despite the stop operating order it received from the state.

The center has appealed the order and has requested a hearing to determine if issues cited in the order warrant the private schools' closing.

The Hearing has not yet been scheduled, according to authorities.

The Maryland Board of Higher Education (SBHE) order ends a two-year investigation into the vocational training center that enrolls 1,000 low-income students a year.

According to information the AFRO received, the investigation

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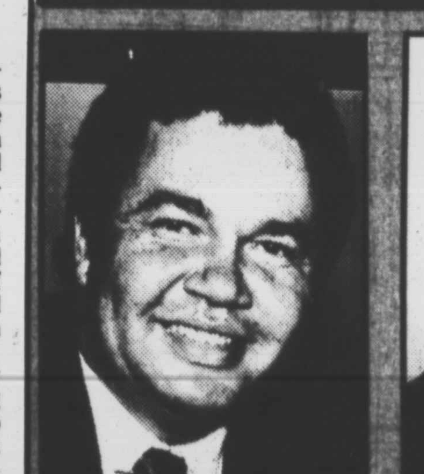
POLITICS '86


Dwight Pettit

Shirley Pulliam

By Racine S. Winborne
AFRO Political Writer

The official headquarters of Seventh District Congressional Candidate A. Dwight Pettit at 2516 N. Charles St. opened this week.

At yet another candidate's "gala grand opening" ceremony on Thursday, Pettit and members of his official campaign team christened the building.

Pettit is still laboring to overcome a name recognition factor which thus far has stalled an otherwise fledging and well organizing campaign.

* * *

"THE NURSE FOR YOUR POLITICAL FUTURE"—Shirley A. Pulliam made it legit at The Forum on Wednesday, announcing that she will run for the House of Delegates in her very own 42nd Legislative District where she has resided for the last 20 years.

The Lutheran Hospital nurse was born in Kingston, Jamaica, WI and attended nursing school in Yorkshire, England and the Baltimore City Hospital School of Nursing.

She plans to run on a campaign platform focusing on health care issues and the skyrocketing cost of medical care.

* * *

THE "WEBB" TOUCH—Ms. Pulliam has managed to get one of the busiest women in town, WEBB Radio Station executive Dorothy Brunson, to serve as campaign treasurer.

WILL THERE BE A GREAT DEBATE?—Gubernatorial candidate Steve Sachs is asking Mayor Schaefer that very question and this week took his case to the public to add some extra pressure.

During a Tuesday press conference at his Russell Street campaign headquarters, Sachs tried to force the debate issue and presented a list of some 30 different dates which had been sub-

Continued on page 2

Falsely accused as shoplifter, city woman awarded $163,000

By Brion M. Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

Ms. Joanne Arnold, a 27 year old city woman was awarded $163,000 by Judge Martin Greenfeld in Circuit Court last Friday, according to her attorney Robert Cohen.

The ruling came in Ms. Arnold's favor as she charged the Lerner Shops store of Mondawmin Mall with malicious prosecution in a case where she was charged with shoplifting twice and both times police and store personnel were unable to provide evidence.

According to her attorney, Ms. Arnold's ruling came as compensation for the physical pain, mental anguish, grief and embarrassment she suffered during her arrest in Mondawmin Mall on November 3, 1982.

Cohen said that Ms. Arnold's arrest was ordered by the store manager Dave Singer, after he reportedly saw Ms. Arnold conceal a winter hat valued at $13.99.

Police were called to the crowded mall and Ms. Arnold was apprehended and led handcuffed to a waiting paddy wagon.

Ms. Arnold was released on bail and when she appeared in court weeks later no one ap-

Continued on page 2

Mr. Fro says

Everybody Hit

Last week Mr. Fro, Foxy Mama and Doubleheader hit a total of 7 winners in the D.C. and Md. Lotteries.

Foxy Mama had 2 hits in Maryland and 1 in D.C.

Mr. Fro hit straight in D.C. with 643 and had 2 hits in Maryland.

Mr. Doubleheader hit 776 in D.C. Check page 17 for this week's lottery in your New AFRO.

Flint Hunt trial is postponed until June

By Brion M. Tyson
AFRO Staff Writer

Judge Edward Angeletti Monday postponed the murder trial of Flint Gregory Hunt until June 9, pending the outcome of examinations by the defense psychiatrist and psychopharmacologist, the AFRO has learned.

Lawyers for the accused say that the findings of those tests may have a direct impact upon the outcome of the case.

Gregory Jennifer, attorney, told the AFRO that Hunt will be examined by a psychiatrist on May 6 to determine if he is "criminally responsible" for the crime he allegedly committed Nov. 18, 1985.

Continued on page 6

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MAY 1986