—Constant Care

Continued from page 1

personalities. My stepping aside will allow the corporation to run on its own and to gain the broader base of support that Constant Care will need to continue as a strong black institution."

Gregory Williams, Constant Care's acting executive director, appears well qualified to succeed Dr. Webb. As head of Constant Care's Fiscal Department for over ten years and, more recently, Executive Vice President for Operations, Williams has a thorough knowledge of Constant Care's inside operations.

A former accountant with Ernest and Whitney, he also spent four years in West Africa as an auditor for the Peace Department's International Development Program.

He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and later this year, will receive an M.B.A. from the University of Baltimore.

The Board believes he is well able to effect a smooth internal transition, and that his greatest challenge will be to obtain support from key community leaders and from government officials.

Williams' first action was to request an extension of time from the Insurance Commissioner in which to pursue arrangements with other health care corporations that will resolve the statutory impairment while preserving Constant Care's independence and progress towards its goals for patient care.

Dr. Webb became Constant Care's executive director in 1971. During his tenure Constant Care was transformed from a small clinic in an old school building, into a multi-site operation with several lines of business and national recognition for excellence.

Mrs. Cecelia Tilghman, chairman of Constant Care's Board of Directors, accepted Dr. Webb's resignation with regret and thanks "for 16 years of concentrated, dedicated service."

She reaffirmed the commitment of the Board of Directors to the Constant Care mission, the integrity for the organization, pledging 100 percent support to Williams in his new role.

—Textbook shortages

Continued from page 1

"In the school budget, I think the priorities are misplaced," she said.

Bob Tom Johnson, director of the Mississippi Textbook Procurement Commission, said funding has been a problem and only $7.83 for textbooks per child has been allocated for this school year, an amount similar to 10 years ago.

"You can see right off how difficult it is to buy a book for $7.83 in fiscal year 1986-87 compared to 10 years ago," said Johnson. "A six-grade reading book in 1976-77 was about $4. That same book today is $11.45. Twelfth-grade literature book was $5.87. Today it's $17.48.

Johnson said most teachers try to supplement textbooks with updated material. Pointing to the history book about Nixon, he added. "If a teacher does not supplement outdated textbooks with current material, you can see what affect that will have."

Johnson said the state legislature is working on a $12 million education budget "that would put us somewhere between $25.50 to $26 per child" for textbooks. "Things are looking better," he added.

In Baltimore, Moses Newson said, "I didn't realize the extent of the problem until I went to the school to complain about my daughter who was taking biology but was never given a book to take home to study."

Newson's complaints last year landed him on the Mayor's Task Force on Textbooks and Supplies. Early this year, Baltimore officials said $300,000 would be spent to halt the critical textbook shortage and that procedures would begin whereby the end of three years, all Baltimore City school students would have updated textbooks for class and home usage.

—Red Cross

Continued from page 1

substance, after the test is completed would indicate a positive testing, which means the HTLV3 may be present. Only one out of every 1,000 tests prove positive, according to Mrs. Hunt, an education coordinator.

Intense donor screening is done to discourage at-risk blood substance, which is reflected only by the small proportion of those that test positive, one out of 1,000 tests, she continued.

According to Michelle Hunt, all donors or prospective donors are required to fill out a medical history application. They are also compelled to read and adhere to rules that state any man who has had even just one sexual relationship with another man, should not donate blood.

Because donors are strictly volunteers and are not paid, Mrs. Hunt said, information gathered is usually factual. "They (donors) have nothing to gain," she stated. "And it's not fun to donate blood."

In questionnaires, donors must also state whether they had been in contact with persons who displayed AIDS-like symptoms, such as fever of unknown origin, swollen glands, dramatic weight loss and white spots in the mouth.

Red Cross nurses are also said to scrutinize donors for track marks and broken veins and other "undesirable" visual signs.

But a positive testing doesn't necessarily mean the donor has AIDS or the AIDS virus. According to Mrs. Hunt, "Human antibody has the tendency to cross react with different substance." If any antibody is present that are not specifically HTLV3, they may react in the test, she also said.

And the extreme sensitivity of the test itself is also a factor. An offset of the incubation temperature, timing, as well as the personal technique applied by the technologist could also influence the results of the test.

In cases of positive testings, the blood bag of that particular donor is automatically pulled and quarantined for safety reasons, Mrs. Hunt said. The test is thereafter duplicated and if tested positive a second time, the serum will be sent out to a larger lab in Illinois for confirmation testing called Western Blot.

Dr. Deborah Douglas, from the Red Cross, said such tests can take as much as eleven weeks. The particular donor, owner of the possibly infected serum, is not notified until the Blot has been confirmed.

Dr. Douglas said also that 90 percent of Western Blot tests, set out by her agency is not confirmed and are "essentially false positive." Therefore, she told the AFRO, the donor is not notified, even of the possibility that he may further infect others contacted, until they are certain of HTLV3 infection.

In addition to HTLV3 testing, Red Cross lab technologists also test for hepatitis and generalized presence of antibodies.

—Schaefer interview

Continued from page 1

a desire to meet the goal." Schaefer said he never had a problem with City Solicitor Ben Brown trying to meet the goals, or Mayor "Du" Burns trying to meet goals. "If the goal was not met, then there was a thorough investigation and Ben was convinced that it could not be done," he said.

But with a project the size of the stadium, the governor is confident that there will be more than enough work to go around. "With this project, you have got a commitment from the governor and from Herbert Belgrad to meet the goal."

Even as critics chide Schaefer's economic development priorities, charging him with disregard for the poor, he defends such accusations vehemently. "This is not rhetoric — you must give a person the dignity of a job — just an opportunity to make some money with the dignity of a home and family."

Schaefer's major thrusts during the 1987 session were nearly a complete success. The gasoline tax increase of a nickel won easy approval. He compromised on his liability bill which was aimed at preventing medical malpractice victims from winning awards from juries for costs already paid by the insurance companies. Instead, the final law will allow judges to make the deductions and give the victims a chance to appeal the decision.

The governor's plan to reorganize the health department and his plans for a new housing and environmental departments were disapproved.

"I now see the legislature in a different light than I did as mayor of the city or even when I came down as liaison for Tommy D'Alesandro, Jr. 20 years ago. I see the legislature as people who work hard, who are very intelligent, very concerned, but who have taken a lot of the prerogatives of the governor away," he said.

Rev. Willie Ray arrested for disobeying police

By Ron Hamlett
AFRO Staff Writer

Rev. Willie Ray, a local community activist was arrested early Tuesday morning in the 1000 block of Druid Hill Ave. and later released from Central District, after he failed to obey the orders of a police officr.

Ray, 38, who lives in the 500 block of N. Paca St. was held overnight before Court Commissioner Allen Ackerman released the minister on his own recognizance at 10:15 a.m.

Police said Ray was arrested when he prevented paramedics from entering an ambulance that had been called to the scene to transport an elderly woman in her sixties to the hospital.

But Ray tells a different version — He said he dialed 911 after he had watched a woman struggling down the street barely able to work. He watched from a window until the police arrived. But he said, "the police just stood over the woman talking, they offered her no assistance."

Ray said he became worried and ran down to assist the woman himself. By this time the ambulance had arried and the paramedics were no more helpful than the police officers.

When Ray assisted the woman into the ambulance, the police officers told him to get away; said Ray, "when I didn't they arrested me."

He further said this situation resulted from a rebellious attitude among white officers because of recent promotions of blacks in the force.

—NAACP

Continued from page 1

has proven that it can deal with business and low-income communities and find it profitable."

"Advance Federal has been making loans in the minority community where other banks do not," stated Ken Montague, president of Baltimore Neighborhoods (BNI), Inc. BNI is a non-profit agency that monitors fair housing in the metropolitan area.

Presently, the NAACP is negotiating with North Carolina National Bank (NCNB). NCNB intends to move to Maryland and merge with Centrabank, a local bank. The NAACP will monitor to insure that NCNB will lend to moderate and lower-income individuals of the black community, officials said.

Maryland's largest bank, Maryland National ranks No. 57 in the MARI survey, while another black-owned bank, Harbor Federal Savings and Loan, ranks No. 17.

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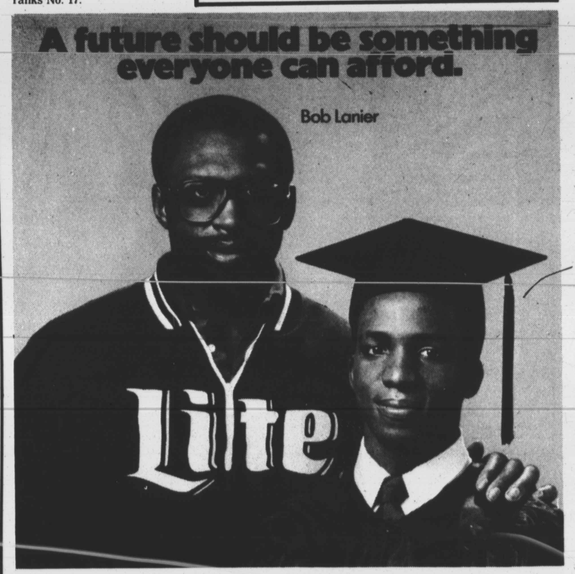
A future should be something everyone can afford.

Bob Lanier



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Tax department bias suit settled

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — A federal lawsuit accusing the director of the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation of discriminating against black employees, has been settled out of court.

The suit, filed two years ago by four blacks who work for the department, charged Gene Burner with practicing racial discrimination in hiring, job assignments and promotions.

"When this suit was filed there was only a handful of assessors who were black in the state," said Carl Snowden, an Annapolis city councilman and civil rights consultant. "Now the department has increased the number of black assessors."

The settlement, reached recently, requires that all supervisory employees participate in human relations training and that the state continue its outreach program to recruit more blacks into the department. The state must also pay $2,330 towards the fees and expenses of the plaintiffs' attorney, Alan Legum.

"There are no winners and losers," Snowden said. "This settlement makes everyone a winner."

The settlement also requires that all announcements of job opportunities within the Baltimore City Assessment office, as well as announcements of all training opportunities available to employees, be posted in a central location available to all employees.

One of the plaintiffs, Charles Noel, Jr., will be transfered to a more desirable post in the department's Baltimore office as part of the settlement.

During the two-year battle over the suit, the four black plaintiffs formed a group called the Association of Black Assessors to monitor the progress of the lawsuit and to raise funds. The organization will continue to exist even though the suit has been settled.

Snowden's firm has been involved in several lawsuits against the state including the Department of Natural Resources. Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Human Resources.

Snowden currently has a federal lawsuit pending against Salisbury, alleging that the city is in violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Board asks highway officials for report on state's 4,500 bridges

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — The Board of Public Works, concerned over the recent collapse of a bridge in New York State, has asked Maryland highway officials to issue a report on the condition of the state's 4,5000 bridges.

John Agro, State Highway Administration deputy administrator, told the board Wednesday the state's bridges are inspected routinely under federal regulations to prevent a disaster similar to Sunday's New York State Thruway collapse.

"Wherever a problem is detected, we go in and make corrections," Agro said.

But state Comptroller Louis Goldstein, one of three members of the public works board, said the inspections may not be frequent enough and asked the highway agency to prepare an update.

On Sunday, a 330-foot section of a four-lane bridge 40 miles west of Albany collapsed into rushing

Continued on page 11

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