Mothers honored by fashion group

The Dynamite Superstars is a group of just that — **Dynamite Superstars. Dynamite** as far as being dedicated to their community. **Super** because they are all very personable women, and **Stars** because they each shine and give a light of inspiration to young and old alike. They are: Betty Brown, Corene Brown, Sally Brown, treasurer; Alberta Campbell, Janyce Marth, Annie McCoy, president; and Daisy Millner.

This year The Superstars held their 13th annual Mother's Day Dinner and Fashion Show Extravaganza, Sunday, May 8 - 3 p.m. at the Baltimore Rowing and Resource Center, 3301 Waterview Ave.

The very sociable club served their guests a delicious buffet dinner of roast beef, chicken, string beans, tossed salad and macaroni salad, all prepared by the president of the Club, Mrs. Annie McCoy.

Mrs. A. Lois DeLaine, was the fashion show commentator as several models, clad in all the latest fashions in men's, women's and children's wear, tread the runway with style.

The Dynamite Superstars continued their tradition of honoring outstanding Mothers. This year there were 19 honorees: Mesdames Shirley Banks, Etta Brodie, Bernice M. Brooks, Mamie Davis, Inez Fallin, Edith Fauntleroy, Leslie Fuller, Marion Curry, Sarah Majors, Gladys Olivia Mintz, Dorothy Palmer, Irene Matthews, Mildred Robinson, Lillie Mae Spears, Barbara Washington, Ida S. Williams, Mary Ward, Elizabeth Wimbush and Mistiski Thornton.

From among these lovely women, Mrs. Lillie Mae Spears was crowned "Mother Of The Year" for 1988.

Each mother was given a corsage, a certificate and a trophy, after a resume on each lady was read to the audience by Sally Brown.

The Dynamite Superstars are greatly honored to have made so many people, happy on Mother's Day.

This group has given money and awards to selected students of the Cherry Hill community where five of the club members reside. Their goal is to continue to be supportive to their community and city, making as many of their people as happy as possible.



THE DYNAMITE SUPERSTARS are (from L): Sally Brown, Janyce Maith, Alberta Campbell, Corene Brown and Betty Brown. Not pictured is Annie McCoy, president.



Mother Mary Ward



Mother Mildred Robinson



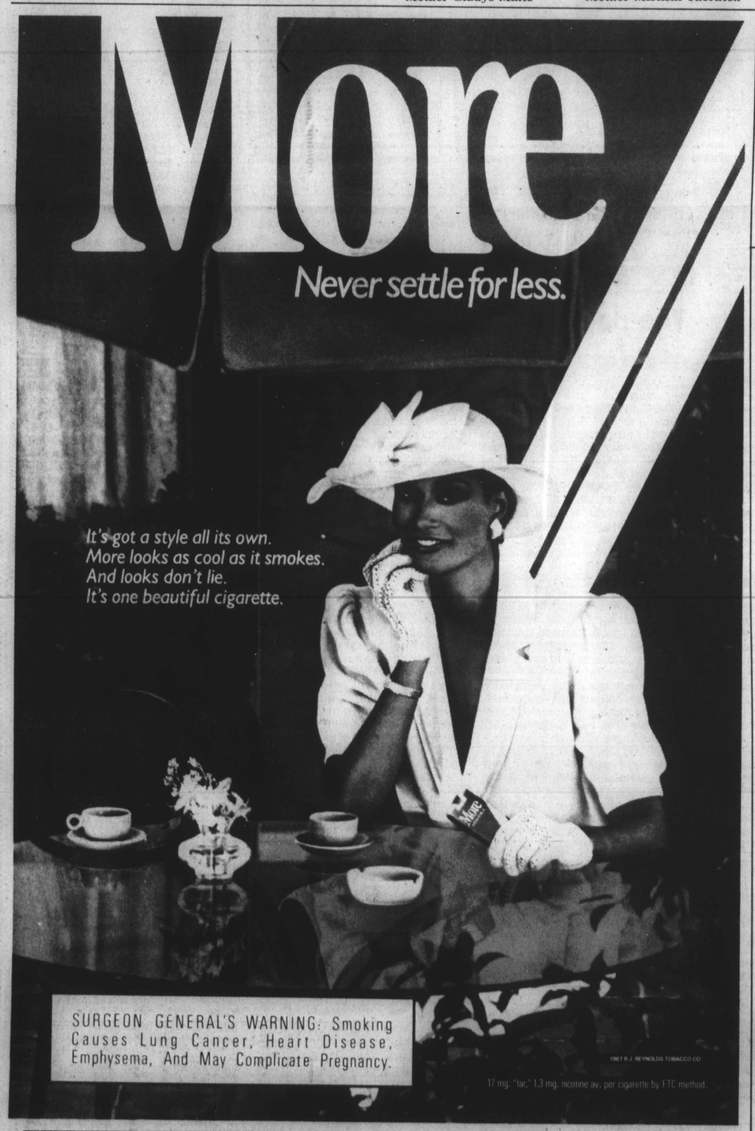
Mother Gladys Mintz



Mother Mistiski Thornton



CROWNED 'MOTHER OF THE YEAR' by the Dynamite Superstars during their 13th annual Mother's Day dinner and fashion show was Mrs. Lillie May Spears, (above) regal in a pose with her trophy.



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Meldon S. Hollis, Jr.

2 HOT ISSUES

THE MAYOR

and the school board prexy disagree over priorities . . .



Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke

Speaking to more than 400 guests of the Dubois Circle (a prominent club of professional Baltimore women), Meldon S. Hollis, Jr., president of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, recently said that if his tenure is a short one, it will not be because he does not have strong opinions about what is best for the school children of Baltimore. "People may not like my opinions," Hollis said, "but at least no one will say that I don't have opinions."

"It is not my job to serve the politicians, teachers, principals or any special interest group, before the children of Baltimore City," Hollis added.

Hollis went on to share his vision for the school system and to emphasize his list of educational priorities, which he admitted were not exactly the same as the mayor's.

The mayor wants to reduce class sizes as a first priority in coping with school problems. The president of the school board, however, wants to make the restoration of art and music in elementary schools a higher priority. Both Mayor Schmoke and Hollis claim a spirit of cooperation as the key to working out their differences.

When contacted by the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, Hollis said that he has submitted to the mayor a list of five priorities for next year's school program. This list ranks a reduction in class sizes for first graders at the bottom.

"There isn't a problem," Hollis said, about the differing educational objectives. "We're starting to move in the right direction. . . ."

The mayor appointed Hollis as school board president in December.

A reduction in first grade class sizes could cost the city $1 million, Hollis said. The classes would drop from 28 students to 25 he said.

Hollis is asking the city for $5 million to $6 million dollars to fund his initiatives.

Returning art and music to elementary schools topped Hollis's list. He also wants $2 million for vocational education, $1 million for teacher development and another $1 million for instructional materials, such as chalk, workbooks and pencils.

Buzzy Hettleman, the mayor's education spokesman, said the mayor is committed to improving the school system and will work with Hollis.

However the mayor's primary objective is to find $1.5 million to fund class size reduction, Hettleman said. Then, the mayor will try to fund restoring art and music.

The mayor also supports vocational education, but wants to develop it more," as we go down the road," Hettleman said.

Hettleman continued, "the mayor is concerned with the need to find more funds for vocational education. . . . but he doesn't have a fixed schedule."

"The mayor understands more could be done and knows this doesn't begin to meet all the massive needs and disparities between city schools and surrounding counties, but it's a start," said Hettleman.

Hettleman said other city agencies have suffered big cuts so that the city can find funds for education.

"The mayor has added more local funds to the school's budget than in any (department) in the city's history," Hettleman said.

. . . and the City Council debate firehouse closings.

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

Angry Baltimore City Council members, upset by the mayor's decision to definitely close three firehouses in their districts, plan to introduce legislation at Monday's Council meeting to block the closings.

Sheila Dixon-Smith, Fourth District Councilwoman, said the bill says, "No firehouse in the Fourth District can close without consent from the community."

Residents near the McCulloh Street firehouse plan to rally May 24 to protest the closings at 7 p.m., said Richard "Skip" Barbee, president of the Democratic Action Organizational Congress for Equality. That station also serves as a voting place, and residents will have to find a new site.

The AFRO asks key questions:

An interview with Capt. Patrick Flynn of the Baltimore City Fire Department about the fire station closings.

AFRO: Which fire stations will close?
Flynn: Engine Companies 12, located at 399 E. Fort Ave.; 25, located at 2140 McCulloh St. and 37, located at 1202 Ridgely St. Engine Co. 11, located at 5714 Eastern Ave., would lose an engine, but its aerial tower would remain.

AFRO: How soon?
Flynn: As soon as possible. Maybe in one to two weeks, depending on how soon the logistics can be complemented.

AFRO: Why?
Flynn: To save city money. The Finance Department recommended a $2.4 million cut in the Fire Department's 1989 fiscal budget, which goes into effect July 1. Each station will save the city about $500,000.

AFRO: How much equipment will be lost from the closed stations and what happens to them?
Flynn: Four engines will be lost and each will go on reserve, to be used to replace bad equipment.

AFRO: What happens to the station's manpower?
Flynn: Workers will be placed throughout the system to fill vacancies, as they arise. There are 25 vacancies now. They will replace retired fire fighters, for example. No one will be fired.

AFRO: Will the city be able to continue to provide services to its communities, in spite of the closings?
Flynn: The mayor and the fire department believe the public will receive the same kind of protection.

AFRO: How close in proximity are other stations to the stations to be closed?
Flynn: There are at least two other stations in proximity to the firehouses to be closed. For example, there is a firehouse 2,000 feet away from Engine 25 and Aerial Tower 111 is located on McMechen Street not far from the McCulloh Street firehouse.

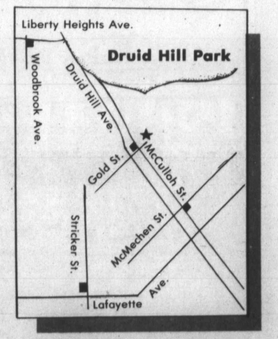
AFRO: How were these stations chosen to close?
Flynn: The fire department conducted an impact study to ascertain how each community would be affected, based upon manpower and adjacent fire house nearby.

AFRO: Is there an alternative to the closing?
Flynn: The mayor and the fire chief do not believe so.

AFRO: How important were these stations to their communities?
Flynn: Engine 11, activated in 1962, responded to 533 fire calls and 307 medical assistant calls in 1987. Engine 12, built in 1875, responded to 549 fire and 249 medical assistant calls in 1987. Engine 25 responded to 2,759 calls, 1,893 fire and 866 medical assistants calls, last year. It was built in 1903. Engine 37 received 645 fire and 150 medical assistant calls in 1987. Each company averaged 1,144 fire calls and 462 medical assistant calls. The stations averaged 1,606 total calls in 1987.

AFRO: What's the anticipated response time for the surrounding stations?
Flynn: The same as before, because they are so close. The fire department doesn't foresee any extended response time.

Fire Station To Close	Nearby Fire Stations	
Engine 25 2140 McCulloh Street	Engine Unit 8 1503 Lafayette Ave.	Engine Unit 13 405 McMechen St.
	Engine Unit 52 3525 Woodbrook Ave.	
Engine 12 399 E. Fort Avenue	Engine Unit 2 800 Light St.	Engine Unit 26 140 W. West St.
	Engine Unit 17 1426E. Fort Ave.	Truck Unit 6 1227 S. Hanover St.
Engine 37 1202 Ridgely Street	Engine Unit 23 15 S. Eutaw St.	Engine Unit 38 15 S. Eutaw St.
	Engine Unit 55 1229 Bush St.	Engine Unit 26 140 W. West St.



■ = Fire stations nearest to Engine 25
★ = Engine 25 (2140 McCulloh)