COMMUNITY LIVING

Gay rights bill advances

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

The Baltimore City Council voted Monday in favor of a controversial bill, defeated twice before, that would protect homosexuals from discrimination.

The 12-6 vote now sends Council Bill 187, which amends the Community Relations Commission's law against discrmination, based upon race, creed or religion to include "sexual orientation." to the Council for a final review and approval.

If the Council approves the legislation, the mayor will sign it into law, and it would be illegal for employers for example to discriminate against homosexuals in Baltimore City.

Unlike the bill's two previous introductions, the mayor and the council president supported it this time.

Council President Mary Pat Clarke said the amendment does not change the law but only clarifies it.

"I can't deny their is discrimination (against homosexuals), because there is. It's a fact," said Councilman Joseph T. Landers, Third District, who supports the bill. "What we are trying to do is to right an injustice."

Landers, concerned about sending the right message to Baltimoreans, said, "Sometimes it takes a small minority to point out to the majority that what is happening (does not benefit all)."

The entire First and Sixth Districts voted against the bill. Councilman Nicholas C. D'Adamo, Jr., First District was absent.

Martin "Mike," E. Curran, Third District, opposed the bill because homosexuals lead a lifestyle that most of his constituents do not support.

After reviewing hundreds of letters favoring the bill, Curran said he still did not favor it. Monday was the third time he voted on the bill.

Another opponent, Joseph T. DiBlasi, Sixth District, said he voted no, because "our district wanted us to vote no."

DiBlasi, said it was "reasonable" to say his constituents did not feel homosexuals were discriminated against.

But Andre Powell, a member of the Baltimore Justice Campaign, a gay rights group lobbying for the bill's passage, said "I think it was a disgrace that the Sixth and First Districts voted against the bill. There certainly are lesbians and gays living in the Sixth and First Districts.

The bill would also protect gays and lesbians from discrimination in education, health and welfare services.

Religious organizations and employers with 15 employees or less would be exempt from the bill's regulations, when it becomes law.

Agnes Welch, Fourth District, who voted yes to the bill, said, "I'm not voting for sexual orientation, but against discrimination."

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—If You Ask Me

Continued from Page 3C

during 118th commencement at Hampton Institute on Sunday, May 15.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson was speaker.

Baltimoreans receiving bachelor degrees included, Cynara Burke, Ethel Coleman, Donna Owens, Jeffrey A. Russell, Karen M. Thompson, Darren Bagley, Deidre Crosby, Anthony Lindsay;

Also, Sonya Moody, Glynis Neal, Lamont Sheffield, Loretta Smith, Michele Turner, Mark Winston, Stacey Ayers, Yvette Haskins, Claudette Humbert, Sharon Savage, Tracy Spruill, Andrea Waker.

Grads from Columbia, Md., were: Janet and Maria Bland. Nicole Gilliam, Deidre Baity, John Baker and Norman Wilderson Jr. Wilderson, Jr.

More people doing thoughtful things: Members of Alpha Wives - the auxiliary to the Baltimore Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity took time out on Monday to relax and assess the year's activities.

They gathered at the Randallstown home of Mrs. Yvonne Fletcher, for dinner, which was co-hosted by Mrs. Marlene Corley, president, Dr. Sue Jones presided.

Members report they are particularly proud that their benefits during the year enabled contributions to a number of charities including NAACP, AFRO's Mrs Santa, Urban Leabue, and the fraternity's scholarship fund.

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'Y' holds rape awareness classes

The YMCA of Greater Baltimore, Inc. located at 128 W. Franklin Street recently conducted a three-day Rape Awareness Program.

Baltimore Wing Chun Kung Fu master John Clayton, served as the instructor for the rape prevention program.

With the widespread occurence of date rape, the need for rape prevention programs has increased significantly, according to YMCA officials. About 71% of potential rapists have planned their attacks in advance.

The premise of the program was to direct women how to safely react when faced with the prospect of rape.

Clayton stressed the importance of control and confidence in the streets. He also recommends using verbal persuasion when communicating with a rapist.

This same advise is offered in rape prevention pamphlets.

Clayton also instructs women in the use of physical protection as a last resort if verbal persuasion fails to dissuade the rapist.

Specifically, Clayton teaches women pressure points where the contact of a blow or a kick would consequently disable and paralyze an attacker.

By the average women, these pressure point techniques can be applied where the rapist is exceptionally vulnerable.

The techniques are not difficult to learn nor do they demand exceptional strength or precision, Clayton said.

There is no guarantee that every woman who completes Claytons program will never be attacked.

But he said the confidence gained by women who take his class will in itself serve as a deterrent.

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Mt. Pisgah celebrates Saturday School

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

Mt. Pisgah Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 1043 N. Fulton Ave. celebrated the first anniversary of its Saturday School with an art exhibit last Saturday.

The event was held at the Sandtown Winchester Building, 13 N. Calhoun St. at the Saturday's School's prospective new site. Community adults and children were at the art exhibit which held on display the art work of three local artists.

The work of Artist Doris E. Hughes was featured.

To her credit hung 11 large paintings which portrayed city life.

Hughes said she tries to capture the spirit of the neighborhood while at the same time not emphasizing on the negative.

"I try to portray images in a positive way," she said.

Hughes has been painting since age 7 but is a Veterinarian by profession.

Other art work on display was done by Bill Jessup, a retired commercial artist and film teacher at Walbrook High School.


CULTURE EXPOSED — Grayson Williams, III observes an expressive piece of art work at the art exhibit.

Some of his work seen by viewers was an album jacket he designed as well as brochures and signs.

Jessup said he started his work as an artist at age four and he attributes his motivation to his father who was an architect.

The third set of art work on display was done by Emma Carey Smith, of Washington, D.C.

She contributed oils and acrylics.

Mt. Pisgah's Saturday School to date has served some 75 children and adults.

The Saturday School is supplementary enrichment program for persons of all ages. Classes offered are in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, reasoning, and consumer economics.

Currently held the third Saturday each month, classes are divided according to age levels and are staffed by trained volunteers.

The Saturday school meets from 8:30 a.m. until noon and the staff provides breakfast and lunch to the participants.

Deborah Smith, director of Christian Education at Mt. Pisgah said the school will convene in a new building because it outgrew the space previously used at the church.

"We would like to expand services to two to three Saturdays per month," she said.

The Saturday School was the vision of Martha Bell who is the director. Rev. Christeen Stimpson is the pastor.

The school's anniversary will be further celebrated at a special worship service on Sunday, May 22.

Metropolitan celebrates Men's Day

The Methodist Men of Metropolitan United Methodist Church, located at Lanvale Street and Carrollton Avenue observed their 11th Annual Men's Day on Sunday, May 15.

The theme was "Brothers in Service to Others."

Rev. Herman D. Ford of Fountain Baptist Church in Baltimore was the keynote speaker. He gave a stimulating sermon on how to work in the name of the Lord. His message was developed around the following tenents: We must have motives that are pure; We must be willing to stand alone; We must be in perfect peace with God; We must remember from whence we came.

Music was provided by the Metropolitan Men's Chorus under the direction of Mack Statham.

The culminating activity for the Men's Day celebration was a grand concert by the Baltimore Chapel Choir and the Metropolitan Choir under the direction of Morris Queen and David Moore. Statham played the piano and Edward Myers was at the organ.

The program featured excerpts from the Hymn of Praise by Mendolssohn, the Seven Last Words by Dubois, Requiem by Brahms, and the Messiah by Handel.

Soloists were Denise Weems, Gwendolyn Days, Jacqueline Owings, and Clarence Harris.

Setting the pace for Men's Day was the annual Recognition Dinner held on Friday, May 13. Statham was named the Outstanding Man of the Year based on his devoted service to the group and the church community.

Dr. Irvin C. Lockman, minister of Metropolitan United Methodist Church stated that in one sense the day was culmination of a long journey filled with good works and high endeavors; in another sense, it represents a launching pad toward even greater ventures of services.

President of this outstanding group of Methodist Men is Mr. James Owings. Co-chairmen of the Men's Day program were William Rawlings, John Rawlings and Howard Rawlings.


Lori Anne Qualls

Lori Qualls to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur L. Qualls have announced the engagement of their daughter, Lori Anne Qualls, to Christopher Allen Benton, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Benton, and Mrs. Lennie Wilkinson of Cincinnati, OH.

The wedding will take place on May 28.

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