Station battles prejudice

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

Two white policemen patrol a suburban area and see two black men parked on the side of the street.

One of the officers says, "Two black guys in a Toyota. That's unusual isn't it?"

"Yes," the other officer said. "Let's check it out."

They approach the car and asked the two men why they were in the area and also asked for identification.

The driver showed the officer identification but wanted to know what the problem was.

The officer said he was "just checking," and the driver said, "Yeah, just checking."

This was one of four vignettes shown to members of the "Check Your Attitude" audience in April.

The program "Check Your Attitude" was aired on WBAL-TV and examined the ethnic relations in Maryland.

WBAL-TV news anchorman, Vince Gibbens said the show dealt with overt prejudice and was very successful.

It went so well in fact the station will air the program again on May 28 at 1 p.m.

To combat prejudice in Baltimore, WBAL-TV has embarked on a 12 month anti-predudice/cultural awareness project along with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The project will also highlight cultural beauty, enthnic heritage, racial differences and religious diversity, according to Edie House, WBAL-TV Public Affairs Director.

Malcom Potter, General Manager of the station said he has received letters from people who are angry that the station is starting "A World of Difference."

"I've received letters from people who aren't afraid to sign their names and give their addresses," said Potter.

One letter stated, "I don't know why you're doing this. The world would be a better place if there were no black and Jewish broadcasters."

"These people are not going to watch our programs," said Potter. "And it's a shame because they are the ones who need it."

The project will focus on media and educational programs. The station will air specially produced prime-time shows, news stories, documentaries and public service announcements to enlighten its audience.

"Every generation must be reminded of the danger of racism," she continued.

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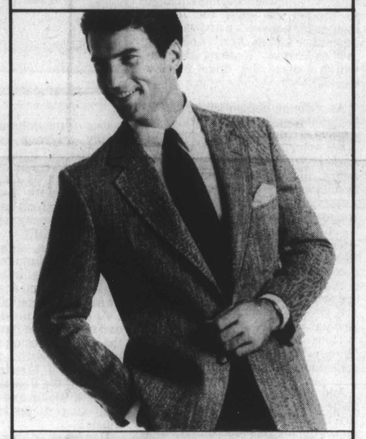

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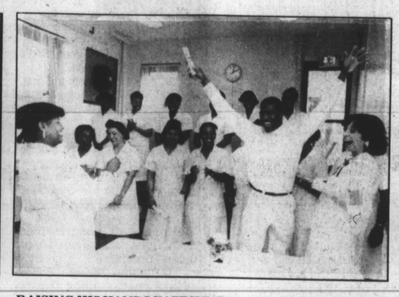
HONORARY DEGREE—Lowery Stokes Sims receives an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Fred Lazarus, president, Maryland Institute of Art. Sims, is Associate Curator of Twentieth Century Art, specializing in African American Art (post World War II).



RAISING HIS HANDS IN TRIUMPH — James Scales, the only male graduate of the program shares a happy moment with fellow female graduates at Inns of Evergreen South.

PROUD PARENTS—Daniel Henson and wife, Dale Henson congratulate their daughter, Dana on graduating from Lincoln University.

JOYOUS MOMENT—Two friends, Lowery Stokes Sims and Dr. Leslie King Hammond celebrate Sims' moment of glory.

Graduation spotlight shines on city seniors

Foreign Language instructor, Linda Lymas, awards graduates of Tomorrow's Best Teacher Program; Jewel Owen and Rowena Mejia at Southwestern High School.

NURSING GRADUATES AWARDED—Instructor Jocelyn Harris gives nursing certificates to graduates of the Inns Evergreen Geriatric Nursing Program, Pauline Parker and Lucille Ball.

GRADUATION—Rochelle Stevens, a Morgan State University graduate is surrounded by family and friends. Pictured left to right is Tracey Berrman, track star at Morgan; Katherine Holloway (sister); Mrs. Stevens (mother); Rochelle Stevens (graduate); Jean Jones (aunt); Wendy Vereen, Morgan track star. Rochelle, the graduate is also a track star and an olympic contender. More photos of city graduates and celebrants are on page 1B.

ONWARD WE GO—Graduates share a pleasant moment as they listen to speakers during the hot and sunny graduation ceremony at Morgan State University.

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