BRIDGE IN D.C.

By Herb Quarles

Local Tournament Results

Y-BRIDGETTES - City Teams of Four (10-19-88) 1. Elizabeth Burgess, Mary Chappell, Helen Bethel, Margaret Wilson, 2. Grace Gist, Thelma Whitehead, Marie West, Bertha Williams, 3. Clementine Brown, Helena Givens, Willa Carter, Bernice Dickinson, 4/5. Rubye Hayward, Ella Moore, Helen McMurray, Surburba Smith, 4/5. Irene Thomas, Herbert Quarles, Evelyn Hall, Sallie Lipscomb, 6/7. Carrolena Key, Emma Brooks, Walter and Shirlee Craig, 6/7. Albert Fryar, Ximinia Banks, Beatrice Freeman, Kathleen Jenkins.

OVERTRICKS - Open Pairs C Regional (10-18-88) 1. H. Leroy and Elaine McClenton, 2. Clara Sargeant-Harris Foster, 3/4. Thelma Whitehead-Marie Smith, 3/4. Venda Jennings-Nanno Lee.

VIP - City Open Pairs (10-16-88) 1. James Barnette-Evelyn Hall, 2. Mary Clapp-Barbara Campbell.

Tournament Calendar

HILLTOP - Open Pairs C Regional (10-28-88) 11 a.m. Banneker Community Center, 2500 Georgia Ave., NW. Call 460-8647 for further information.

EASTERN - Open Pairs C Regional (11-2-88) 5:30 p.m. Capitol View Library, Central Ave. and 50th St., SE. Call 396-7261 for further information.

BARRONITES - Open Pairs C Regional (11-3-88) 6:30 p.m. Banneker Community Center Call 598-5945 for further information.

DUBRIDGETTES - Grade B Swiss Teams (11-5-88) 11 a.m. Banneker Community Center. Call 829-5869 for further information.

VIP - Open Pairs C Regional (11-6-88) 2 p.m. Rosemary Hills Recreation Center, Silver Spring, MD. Call 588-5586 for further information.

Y-BRIDGETTES - Open Pairs C Regional (11-9-88) 10:30 a.m. Northeastern Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 22nd and Varnum Streets, NE. Call 529-9943 for further information.

A BRIDGE TIP

The Stayman Convention

The Stayman Convention is an asking bid that is used when partner has opened the bidding with one no trump (16 -18 high card points). It is an artificial bid used by responder to ask opener if his hand contains a four card major (spades/hearts).

After examining his hand, the no trump opener will either bid a four card major, or he will deny having one by bidding 2 diamonds. In each case, the bid is artificial and does not imply cards in either suit (clubs/diamonds).

Partner has opened the bidding with the following hand? W-K8543, H-QJ52, D-A96, C-74.

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Photo by C.R. Tuckson

ROBIN MCCLAMB, the 1988 Howard University Homecoming Queen, is a senior in the School of Fine Arts from Osciolla, Georgia.

Magnanimous Michael!

Five lucky youth who are members of the DC Youth Ensemble were greeted by world renown entertainer, Michael Jackson, when he was in DC for his concert dates of Oct. 13, 17, 18, and 19 at the Capital Centre. The youngsters are Gerald Norde (age 12), Nefertari White (age 15), Rolita White (age 15), and Catherine and Eric Foster (age 7 and 5).

These youth were accompanied to the meeting with Mr. Jackson by Carol Foster, Founder and Artistic Director of DCYE. The meeting with Mr. Jackson was facilitated by Bob Jones, vice president, Communications, Michael Jackson Productions, Los Angeles, California, after his office received letters from Gerald Norde and Mrs. Foster.

Gerald wrote a letter saying, "Mr. Jackson, I can't describe 'The Way You Make Me Feel' when I hear you sing and dance. It would be a 'Thriller' if you would come visit our studio while you are in DC."

Mrs. Foster sent a follow-up letter asking Mr. Jackson to bring national attention to the arts as a positive way to help youth find solutions to the problems and challenges of today. Her most recent production, "Save the Children," a dance, music and drama montage explores the effects of war, street violence, racial tension, teenage pregnancy, suicide and drugs on today's youth.

Mr. Jackson agreed to meet with Mrs. Foster and five of her students at the Capital Centre prior to the start of his performance. During the meeting, the Ensemble presented Mr. Jackson with a "Save the Children" poster for his sensitivity and contributions to children. Mrs. Foster commissioned local film artist, W.G. Allen to create the poster which was specially treated to glow in the dark.

Grave matters worsen at Maryland cemetery

Plots switched, says family

By Olive Vassell
AFRO Staff Writer

WASHINGTON

A District family is suing the Maryland National Memorial Park for more than $200,000, claiming that cemetery officials committed "fraud and deceit" by deliberately switching the burial site of a family member.

According to the suit, filed with the Prince George's County Court on Sept. 8, when family head James E. Diggs died in May 1987, he was not buried in a plot purchased eight years before by the family, but in one that was "down the hill" from the original plot and "underwater."

The family got a court order to "disinter" the body, which they later buried in another cemetery.

Portia-Serena Richmond, one of the Diggs children, said the family had had a long history of problems with Maryland National. According to the suit, the family initially purchased one lot of land on Oct. 12, 1978 which was then substituted by cemetery officials for another lot without the family's prior permission.

On April 15, 1979 the family chose and paid for a new lot, but later found that the lot had again been substituted without their knowledge. Mr. Diggs had been buried in the new lot.

"The whole thing made my mother a nervous wreck," Richmond told the AFRO. "She was worried sick about being buried underwater like my father."

The family "suffered undue expense" and "great mental stress and strain and emotional turmoil at a very precarious period in their lives," the suit noted.

The suit marks the latest in a line of controversy for the Park, which is currently embroiled in allegations of racism against its black employees and clients.

One former employee, Annette Branche, has accused the organization of mistreatment. She said she was physically attacked by Maryland National officials during a dispute, and suffered a heart attack "because of the stress there."

The Philadelphia native also said the cemetery owed her more than $100,000 in back commission on sales, but has refused to pay.

Branche's case has been taken up by the local branch of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The attorney for Maryland Memorial National Park, Walter E. Washington did not return three AFRO phone calls.

AWARD WINNING JOURNALIST and one-time ABC News anchor Max Robinson will deliver the keynote address at Howard University's 17th Annual Communications Conference black tie dinner Oct. 29. The conference ends Oct. 30 and will feature top names in the media along with a Job Fair.

Volunteer.
American Heart Association

CORRECTION

The wife and children of the late Lawrence C. Taylor want it known that they are not responsible for the articles which have appeared over the past few weeks.

Mrs. Laverne Taylor wants everyone to know that she was the legal wife of the late Lawrence C. Taylor, and she and her children have no connection with any other claimants of Mr. Taylor.

Although there have been other articles concerning Taylor's family responsibilities, this is the Taylor family. It is hoped that this will put the matter at rest.

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Mixing music for the masses

Bennett heads WHUR programming after 20 years in radio

By Olive Vassell
AFRO Staff Writer

WASHINGTON

He was known as "The Burner", and was the hottest DJ in town for many years.

Throughout the 1960's and 70's, he kept most of Washington "jammin" to the sound of his daily program — making it one of the most popular in the city.

But today, Bobby Bennett is poised in a small office of Howard University's C.B. Powell Building where he serves as Program Manager for the University's radio station, WHUR-FM in the nation's eighth largest broadcast market.

Now clad in pin-striped suits instead of the love beads and dashikis of by-gone days, he believes that the "Gods of the Airwaves" have indeed been kind since his debut on radio 20 years ago (his anniversary will be feted in an all-star benefit in December).

"Very few blacks have been allowed to grow old on the air," he said.

"I miss being on the air sometimes, but I figure I'm doing something now that I can do for the rest of my life."

Today, those priorities include meeting the challenge of making his station "constantly competitive and informative."

The battle is not an easy one.

Over the years, Bennett has seen radio change dramatically in the District. "Black radio has traditionally been an integral part of the community. Now, white-orientated radio is going over into the area of black music."

The extent of the shift is revealed in the ratings. WHUR has ranked fourth or fifth in the metropolitan area's Arbitron sweeps the last year, trailing stations like WMZQ, WGAY, WWDC-FM and WKYS, and has assumed the top spot only once (in 1985) since the University purchased the frequency from the Post Newsweek Company in 1971.

But Bennett is convinced that WHUR's intense community involvement is the key to the station's success.

"Other stations just play music," but community involvement " enhances what we're about," Bennett said.

"We are continuing a tradition. The city needs a home-based station that is involved with it."

And WHUR has "put its money where its mouth is." Undertakings like Project Harvest, a drive to raise money and food for the city's needy is now in its 12th year. The station was also the recipient of a recent award for its part in promoting "The Special Olympics" in the District.

Bennett's current focus on the success of WHUR, however, contrasts sharply with his early ambitions in radio. Then, he was more concerned with making enough money to support his young wife and himself from the $65-a-week salary of his job on a jazz program at Pittsburgh's WAMO.

"I used to do a jazz show from nine to midnight," said the 40-year-old Bennett. "I was motivated early on."

That motivation kept him going through the rough times and pushed him to refine his skills in a local communication school — The George Hyde School of Communications in his native city.

George Hyde, Jr., son of the school's founder, remembers Bennett from those days at the school and WAMO.

"He brought an honorable representation to the music. He understood it," Hyde said. "He was in touch with the elements."

Bennett's talents could not be hidden. In the late 60's he was spotted by WOL, beginning an association that would last many years. The union brought the station a wide public following.

WDJY's Jerry Phillips worked with Bennett at WOL during that time.

"WOL was bumping when Bobby was there," said Phillips. "He's a man I respect very much. He has made a great contribution to radio in Washington."

"I have tremendous respect for him," said WOL-AM's current owner Cathy Hughes. "He is a very positive force."

Bennett himself is enthusiastic about the years he spent at the station. "The association was "very lucrative," he said. But more importantly, as the station's youngest ever broadcaster — he was 20 — he was embraced in a family which included DJ Nighthawk (Bob Terry), who mysteriously disappeared 17 years ago.

It's a loss that Bennett feels to this day.

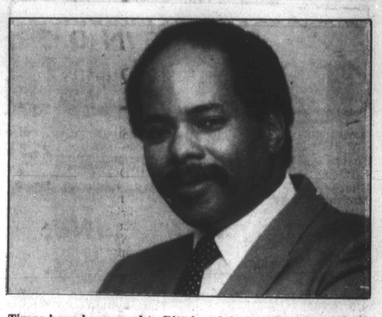
"Bob was one of the first people to take me under his wing," he said. "Even now something will happen and I'll think of him. I still miss him."

Support from friends and family kept Bennett together when in 1980, he suddenly found himself out of work, after WOL changed hands. "It was a tremendous blow. I loved the city and wanted to stay here, but I couldn't find work for six months."

But ever resourceful, Bennett went into record promotions and marketing, while waiting to get back into radio.

His break came with a position at WTOP, where he hosted a talk show, "and as always," he said, "much of my success can be contributed to a happy homelife."

"Your partner has to grow with you," he said of his wife Connie, who is also the mother of his 19-year-old son Eric.



Times have been good to Pittsburgh-born Bobby Bennett — but not without adversity. "It was a tremendous blow when I was out of work for six months," he said. But he soon solved the problem by developing his own company.

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