

W.C.I.W. News

Baltimore Masjid wins 'Muhammad Ali Day'

By Sakim Mawakkil

The last time Muhammad Ali was in the Baltimore area he was busy earning millions of dollars battling a heavyweight opponent. He will be there again on July 22, but this time he'll be honoring people who were waging a battle against ignorance.

Masjid Muhammad No. 6 in Baltimore won a "Muhammad Ali Day" by selling the highest number of subscriptions to *Bilalian News*. The contest, sponsored by Herbert Muhammad Enterprises, ended Jan. 31, 1977.

The contest was open to everyone, and its purpose was outlined in the advertisement announcing it.

It read, in part: "The Honorable W.D. Muhammad and the World Community of Islam in the West membership are concerned with *Bilalian News* reaching out into the community and developing those minds which are so necessary to reform the ills of society."

According to Emam Michael Abdul Rashid of the Baltimore Masjid, "we held a World Community of Islam fashion demonstration, and sold subscriptions as part of the ticket price." He said more than one-half of the subscriptions were sold in that manner.

"We added nearly 2,500 subscriptions," Emam Rashid noted.

Rashid, typical of Emams in the W.C.I.W. is a multi-talented individual. In fact, it was one of those talents that probably helped his Masjid win the contest.

Holder of a M.B.A. (Master of Business Administration) from Harvard, the 30-year-old Emam arrived in Baltimore about a year and a half ago after serving as head of the Masjid in Jacksonville, Fla., for 3 years.

"With the help of Allah, we managed to buy a new Masjid and several businesses in Jacksonville. My background in business undoubtedly helped," he said.

Emam Rashid's business knowledge, combined with the expertise of others in the Baltimore

area, has given Masjid No. 6 one of the best Business Development Departments in the country.

Rashid said he is attempting to provide a way to better unify and coordinate the efforts of the Baltimore Masjid with those in neighboring Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

"I make frequent trips to Philadelphia, and I must admit, Masjid No. 12 there is really doing a beautiful job. Especially in the area of educating their community on the negative influence of racially defined concepts of the Divine," he remarked.

"First the believers in the Philadelphia Masjid are thoroughly educated on what Emam W.D. Muhammad is trying to do. Then they are taught on what is the best way to approach the church leadership to discuss the problem," Rashid explained.

"Then they bring what they've encountered to another Masjid strategy session, and they plan the next move. It's really a very organized thing, and they're getting good results."

He said the Masajid in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. (a mere 30 miles apart) are combining their efforts on the New Patriotism Day celebrations.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., Rashid is married (wife's name is Jamilah) with one, 3-year-old son (Wallace).

"On the 23 of July, following Muhammad Ali Day," he added, "we will have a Trade Fair Bazaar and the top-rated talents of Joe Tex (Yusef Hazziez) and Eddie Kendricks as entertainment."

The youthful Emam singled out many members of Masjid No. 6, who he felt were noteworthy in their approach to selling subscriptions.

"Brothers Bilal Omar, Salahudin Rahman and Hasan Rashid, did fabulous jobs. And one sister, Tahita Matin, also worked out, she sold the third highest number of subscriptions," he said.

Chester, Pa. Emam gives local graduation address

CHESTER, Pa. — Approximately 500 students, parents, school administrators and guests listened attentively as Emam Othman Fareed opened Chester High School's Baccalaureate Program for the graduating class of 1977.

Emam Fareed's delivery of the invocation, at the school's new facilities marked the first time an Emam has ever participated in these ceremonies in this area.

The community-oriented Chester High School Parent-Teacher Organization, sought greater and more diverse community involvement in Baccalaureate, and

Graduation exercises.

With that sentiment in mind, the PTO not only moved the graduation exercises out of the outlying area and back to Chester, but they allowed the students to develop their own list of invited speakers which they honored without hesitation.

The young Emam, who was the students' choice for speaker, spoke about human development or the graduation from one stage to the next throughout one's entire life.

This theme was picked up by keynote speaker for the day, Rev. Charles Booth, and carried through to the end of the ceremonies.



EMAM MICHAEL ABDUL RASHID, of Masjid Muhammad No. 6 in Baltimore, (Photo by W.A. Muhammad)

Andrew Young speaks at MSU commencement: Four W.C.I.W. Muslims graduate

By Rashidah Jaami' Muhammad
(Special to *Bilalian News*)

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Ambassador Andrew Young told the 1977 graduating class at Michigan State University that they face the challenge of world development.

Young set a somewhat Biblical tone by stating: "This country has come through wars and rumors of wars and we are yet engaged in an arms race which involves \$360 billion a year worldwide."

He went on religiously, saying, it is not communism that is responsible for the rising aspirations seen around the world today.

"Those rising aspirations are due to American technology spreading the gospel of the good life. It was American missionary education that trained most of the leaders in the world today who are now demanding freedom and liberation."

Young recalled an experience, he had some years ago, in Latin America, where he saw small cold hungry children huddled together in front of a Sears & Roebuck window looking at television movies of an American middle-class family.

"I could see in their heads the wheels going around, that said 'Why can't we live this way?'"

Young said, "The world looks to us (United States) for leadership in the

problems of world development. We face these problems with more talent, more experience, more wealth, and more natural resources and technology at our command than ever before in the history of mankind."

Among the more than 3,100 graduates were four Muslims of the World Community of Islam in the West (W.C.I.W.). Student Emam Eric Ramadan Sabree received a bachelors degree in building construction. Sabree, who has been a member of the W.C.I.W. for more than three years, is married and has one son. He has accepted position with a firm based in the Chicago area.

Sameerah Latifa Shareef received a degree in medical technology. She plans to attend Medical school at MSU. She has been a member of W.C.I.W. for two years. She is presently studying to become an instructor for Masjid Muhammad No. 16. Ms. Shareef is also married and has one son.

Abdul Khaaliq and Aaliyah Akram (husband and wife) received degrees in civil engineering and political science, respectively. They have been members of the W.C.I.W. for seven years. The Akrams will be residing in Chicago, where he has accepted a position with a nearby steel corporation.