Pimlico graduation makes good news

By Bryan D. Holt

The auditorium was filled to the rim as the 1974 Class of the Pimlico Junior High School held its annual closing exercises on Friday, June 21. Because of the class size of approximately 618 students, it was necessary to have two separate programs. The AFRO attended the second.

After many selections by the Pimlico Band, under the direction of Frank Chenay, the graduates entered by the two center aisles. The class was colorful as well as fashionable. Skirts varied from micro-mini to maxi length; colors from navy blue to a bright purple plaid. The young men were handsome in their suits and tuxedos of an equally great variation.

Mrs. Beulah F. Maxwell, ninth grade house principal and Mrs. Anne Collins, chrprsn. of the Class Advisory Committee presided over the well-planned and precisely executed program.

Following the Salute to the Flag, the class sang "This Is My Country" under the direction of Mrs. Sara Dorsey. They were accompanied by Mrs. Barbara Kelley on the piano.

Greetings were given the audience by Miss Rosland Smith of class 9-02.

"With the fine help of leaders, we have come to the end with a smile. The past three years which we have spent here at Pimlico have been spent doing things our way. It is for this reason we have chosen "My Way" for our class song."

Each other of the songs chosen by the class had a very special meaning and this was brought out in Rostland's address.

"This is our country and we're going to lift every voice and sing because we are proud. We care for each other and for this reason we have chosen to proclaim that he ain't heavy . . . he's my brother."

The speaker for the occasion was none other than well-known civic leader and scholar, Dr. (Mrs.) Frances L. Murphy.

Dr. Murphy is a member of the illustrious Murphy family of Baltimore and quite an accomplished woman in her own right. She was formerly the Chairman of the Board at the AFRO and was recently named one of the four outstanding women in America. She was also listed in Ebony magazine's "100 Most Influential Black Americans."

Dr. Murphy addressed the students, "This is my first visit to a junior high school in many years. I've ridden down Northern Pkwy. many times and I want to say to the parents, teachers and students that Pimlico has changed for the better."

"Three years ago when you entered there were many students with you who didn't make it. The important thing to remember is that you made it.

"Be proud that you have had nine years of education but, I need not say nine years is not enough. These years will mean very little if you are not graduating from senior high school in 1977.

"It's not going to be easy. To go on you're going to have to pay less attention to your friends and acquaintances. I can remember thirty years ago, friends saying, "Don't be a chicken — no one will know," or the one that lovers use so often, "Prove you care."

"You must use common sense and say a definite 'NO'. There will even come a time when you will have to say 'HELL NO'. Admit that you are not as big as you think you are and ask mom and dad for help.

"The person who has the most to lose is usually the one who gets caught . . . think about Watergate." At that point there was a thunderous applause.

She continued, "A fifteen-year-old girl who has to take care of a baby misses a lot of fun and she can never go back." Again, thunderous applause.

Dr. Murphy concluded, "I recently read a book by Sam Ervin entitled "You're On the Air." When a group of young people recently approached me for advice on becoming broadcasters, I gave them Mr. Ervin's advice: 'You don't have to be young or old or even educated. You need the desire to succeed.'

"Don't be one of those who charges off to glory. Say to yourself, 'I'm going to make it. I'll be here in 1977 graduating from high school.'

"We need you. You are beautiful people. Good luck."

Class president, Denise Taylor presented the school a new public address system as the class gift. She told the audience, I have grown to love and to cherish Pimlico. We have accomplished plenty and as we go on to senior high school, I am sure that we will take along all the things that Pimlico has taught us."

The certificates were presented by Craig Spilman, Assistant to the Executive Superintendent. The class roll was called by Miss Cynthia Higgins and Andrew Giles of the Class Advisory Committee.

The 618 member class had an honor roll of 61 students. Though the honor roll was female-dominated, the male chauvanist side of this writer is pleased to report that the top two ranking students were male!

The Number 1 man is Raynard Kington of class 9-01. Raynard graduated with a 95 average. He received a $25.00 check from the PTSA of Pimlico. Raynard will be attending the Baltimore Polytechnic High School in the "A" Course.

The second ranking student was Ross Salawitch.

In his closing remarks, Principal Samuel R. Billups Jr., congratulated the students and gave recognition to the parents, class sponsors, counselors and faculty.

He read the last paragraph of a letter which he received from one of the graduates. He would not disclose the young lady's name but remarked, "This made all the efforts of this past year worthwhile."

The passage read: "I will close this letter with sorrow and pride; pride to say that I was a student at Pimlico Junior High School and sorrow to say that I am leaving."

NEGRO COLLEGE GRANT — Howard E. Marshall, manager of Employee Relations for the McCormick Division, has presented $1,000 contribution to Jack S. Griswold, United Negro College Fund, Inc. chairman. Looking on with pleasure are John C. Doub, McCormick Division vice-president and Leon Davis, area director of UNICF, Inc.

BEL-PARK TOWER, first Northwest Baltimore public housing apartment building for elderly and disabled persons, was officially opened last Thursday. It is located at 3800 West Belvedere Ave.

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Southwestern grads at Civic Center

School held commencement ceremonies June 9 at the Civic Center and with that, 290 students went out into the world.

The top five students of the class are Barbra Lynn Thompson, Sharon Deniese Smith, Susan Wells Gray, Teresa Lynn Freburger and Barbra Billups.

The president of the class was Miss Charlotte Davis; vice-president, Miss Lynette Bennett and secretary, Miss Deborah Shipman. The treasurer was Miss Diana Stevenson.

In all, there were 67 awards and scholarships presented, including five Maryland State Senatorial Scholarships and seven scholarships from the "It's Academic" program.

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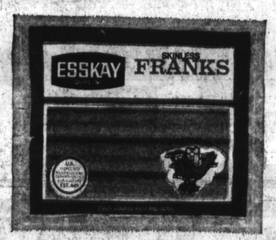

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