# —Patterson hearing

(FROM PAGE ONE)

view of all his astounding labor is admissable and could consume endless time.

Due process will not allow a limit in time since the law is clear whenever a man's life or reputation is at stake.

Other incidents coud occur. Some board members, as it has been hinted, may resign if Dr. Patterson is seen as winning and can not be legally fired "as they hoped."

Further, it could be determined by law that the board could be disqualified to serve as "judge and jury" since some members have publically shown bias and determination to "fire him" without proving just cause.

* * * *

The "Resign or Be Fired" resolution adopted by the board can be likened to an indictment handed down by a Grand Jury. Charges have to be proven or thrown out.

Should the "Resign or Be Fired" resolution be found without sound legal basis, or "fail to stand up in court", there could hardly be any reason for Dr. Patterson to leave.

He could however resign at his own pleasure.

Nevertheless, the board could never at this point and under the present circumstances "capriciously" fire him.

* * *

The deadline to submit a formal request for the hearing is Saturday, June 14.

It is expected that Dr. Patterson's attorney, Larry Gibson, today (Friday) on return from out of town, will make the formal move.

The board's time schedule lists June 24 as the day the resignation must be submitted. If it is not, he will be fired the next day, June 25.

All this is dependent on what happens at the hearing and when the hearing comes to an end.

Even the board admits that setting a time limit on the hearing "would result in blatant denial of due process to stop a hearing before it is concluded."

* * *

The board will probably have witnesses to sustain its charges and this action will add to the length of the hearing.

The charges attached to the board's resolution are still standing.

* * *

If the Democratic system is to prevail legal steps on these charges could involve many motions and consume much time.

Although Dr.W. Eugene Scott did not read the charges when he made his motion June 9 to fire the superintendent, those charges are still in effect.

Dr. Scott told the AFRO, "I didn't feel it was necessary to repeat the specifications. My last sentence said they were attached hereto the resolution."

* * *

It will be the task of the city solicitor's office to prove the charges.

Sources state that if counsel for Dr. Patterson can prove that the charges have no sufficient grounds, this alone can stay his resignation ultimatum.

Even though the superintendent's contract may not be renewed after Oct. 1, sources say some board members may resign now if the superintendent is not fired.

* * * *

Board President Norman P. Ramsey who would determine the location and time of the hearing was out of town until Monday when the AFRO attempted to reach him.

However, some sources speculate that Mr. Ramsey may go ahead and conduct the meeting, open to the public, in the Board Room at 25th St. school headquarters. The same room used during the emergency meeting June 9 that accommodates only 70 persons.

* * *

Sources point out that it has not been determined whether the board will act as the deciding body once the hearing has concluded.

It has been suggested that a panel of professional community persons and educators may sit in on the hearing and make a decision.

Speaking on the legal aspects of such a panel, City Solicitor Benjamin L. Brown stated that the board cannot re-delegate its power or authority.

Yet, a school source points out that the superintendent may not have a fair hearing if the "board sits in judgement."

* * *

In support of this was Attorney Charles Josey, who told the AFRO, "If Mr. Gibson prefers charges against one or more of the board members before the hearing they should either resign or not be permitted to vote on the ultimate question."

He even suggested that if the board did make its final decision to fire the superintendent, that an appeal should then go to the courts.

Mr. Josey cited the legal significance in which the board proceeded with its timetable and also the fact that Mr. Ramsey as an attorney, was not willing to reschedule the June 9 meeting for Mr. Gibson who had to be out of town.

He continued that it could be proven that the board has acted arbitrarily.

THE DISORDERLY CONDUCT trials of former school board member James Griffin and AFRO photographer Ben Phillips, held Tuesday at the Northern District, were postponed until June 18. FIRST PANEL, Griffin leaves the courtroom with head bowed. SECOND PANEL, School Board president Norman Ramsey, tie flying in the wind, leaves the court. THIRD PANEL, Dr. Roland N. Patterson, who was in court in support of Griffin walks with his supporters Rev. Harold Carter, Rev. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, and aide Jerome Burroughs. FOURTH PANEL, AFRO photographer Ben Phillips leaves the courtroom. (See story page 44 in this issue)

(Photo by Robert M. Matthews IV)

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

(Near Buses)

# —Woman's Afro

(FROM PAGE ONE)

fessional medical aid was enroute from the local sheriff's office, fire and rescue units.

The Maryland State Police helicopter arrived and took Mrs. Bates to City Hospitals in Baltimore.

Here is the citation as read by the ASSE Chesapeake Chapter president.

"Mr. King, because of your extraordinary personal action in applying proper action in applying proper lifesaving techniques, a woman's life was saved enabling her eventually to return to her job and a normal life.

"The Chesapeake Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers has selected you as the winner of this year's lifesaving award. Congratulations!"

* * *

Mr. King received an engraved plaque with the following inscription: "The Cheseapeake Chapter American Society of Safety Engineers Lifesaving Citation to Freeman King Jr. who through proper application of lifesaving techniques and with great risk to himself, saved the life of a young woman in imminent danger of burning to death."

Bata representatives who attended the banquet to share the occasion in honor of Mr. King were: President Bill O'Rourke and Mrs. O'Rourke. Bata Industrial Ratlons Manager Frank Novak and Mrs. Novak, and Bata Safety Director John Werback and Mrs. Werback.

* * *

Freeman King's guest at the dinner, Mrs. Bates, was introduced as the woman whose life had been saved. She received special recognition and a round of applause for her successful recovery from the fire injuries.

Although this near-tragic incident had a happy ending, the Bata Company and ASSE safety warning message is: Hair-sprays and many other grooming products are extremely flammable, and they should be regarded by everyone as potential explosives!

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| Cedar Rapids/ Iowa City | 123.00 | 31.00 | Merced | 277.00 | 69.00 | Salt Lake City | 227.00 | 57.00 |
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| Des Moines | 131.00 | 33.00 | Modesto | 277.00 | 69.00 | San Francisco | 277.00 | 69.00 |
| Eugene, Ore. | 277.00 | 69.00 | Monterey | 277.00 | 69.00 | San Jose | 277.00 | 69.00 |
| Fresno | 277.00 | 69.00 | Oakland | 277.00 | 69.00 | Santa Barbara | 277.00 | 69.00 |
| Grand Junction | 211.00 | 53.00 | Omaha | 142.00 | 36.00 | Seattle/Tacoma | 277.00 | 69.00 |
| Las Vegas | 253.00 | 63.00 | Pendleton | 253.00 | 63.00 | Spokane | 253.00 | 63.00 |
| Lincoln | 147.00 | 37.00 | Portland | 277.00 | 69.00 | Stockton | 277.00 | 69.00 |
| Los Angeles/ Ontario | 277.00 | 69.00 | Reno | 269.00 | 67.00 | Vancouver, B.C. | 301.00 | 75.00 |

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Summer rates are in effect until September 15th, when adult savings increase to 25%. Fare is not available during certain holiday periods, or from 2:00 p.m. Friday to 10:30 a.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday to 10:30 a.m. Monday.

The Bicentennial Fare ends January 31, 1976.

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ONE GRUADUATE SAYS

# "I am more than ready to begin"

By Cynthia K. Grandison
(AFRO City Desk Summer Reporter)

Walbrook Senior High's commencement was fine as commencements go. Some songs were a bit flat and as usual, the audience was over enthusiastic.

The air was thick with the excitement and sentiment that characterizes every graduation.

The moment I put on my slightly wrinkled cap and gown, I was infected by the surrounding excitement. My adrenalin started to flow. I was full of vigor.

The sight of all those 700 gray and red gowns was beautiful and I knew our graduation would be better than last year's.

When I put on my sign, "Ave Atque Vale, Deo Gratias," (Latin for: Hail and Farewell, Thank God) people started to ask, What? Why?

I felt proud to say, "This is how I feel in a nutshell." That Top-of-the-World feeling made me want to shout, but I contained myself and let the sign shout for me.

As I fidgeted in my seat, I thought about the new freedom and independence I would now be able to take advantage of because of my newly acquired status.

My eyes speedily scanned the audience for familiar faces, especially that of my favorite teacher and friend, Mrs. Peggy Golden. She had persuaded me to attend graduation and was the one person who had helped me find myself.

For this and other reasons, she is like a second mother.

I spied her on the front row. Again, I had to contain myself from shouting because of my overwhelming happiness.

Then, I saw the familiar face of my supervisor, Mrs. Marie Cooke. That put the topping on the dessert, because I had no idea or expectation that she would be there.

My thought was, "I know she has more important things to do than come to a dumb graduation." However, I was very glad she had come.

I turned to the person next to me and said, "I never really had school spirit, but tonight I am proud to be a part of Walbrook."

The music sounded and it was time for our row to march across the stage. Though I felt like going berserk to let everyone know how glad I was to have made it this far, I simply strutted down with my chest out and waved to Mrs. Golden.

When I saw her back stage I said, if a bra could contain my pride, it would be mammouth.

I know I wasn't the only one bursting with pride and swelling with sentiment June 3.

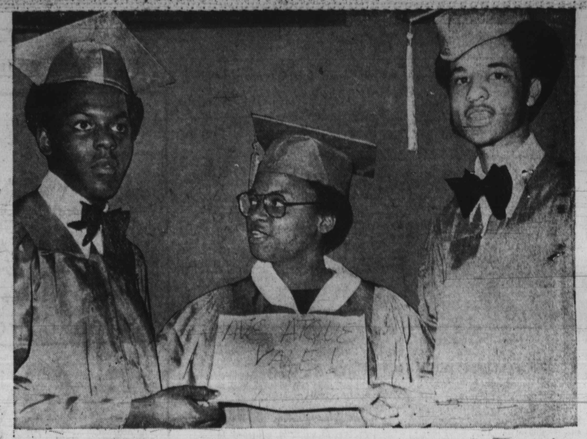
Former AFRO employee and classmate, Jay Gaskins gave me two good-bye hugs. Everywhere I look, I saw teary eyes. All I heard was, "Hey so-and-so, keep in touch," "Congratulations," "Where are you going to school" and "Good Luck."

I saw a lot of faces I had never seen before and got to talk to old friends and new. Gary Givens, Teen Column writer for the AFRO, was among the ones that I got a chance to talk to.

To most, graduation signifies the beginning of adulthood. This is what I hoped it signified to my parents because I have felt, acted and thought like an adult for quite some time.

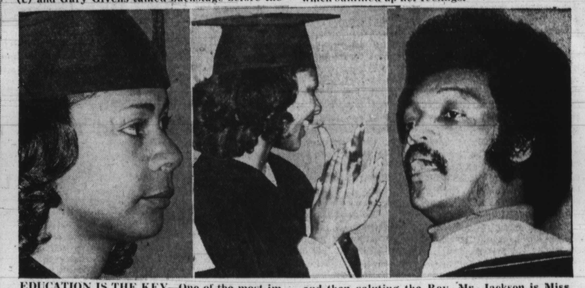
Commencement means beginning and I am more than ready to begin.

MICHAEL DAVID BELFIELD, a former teen columnist for the AFRO, graduated in May from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. Mr. Belfield, 21, of the 1100 block Myrtle Ave., is now home for vacation and will start working on July 28, as a claims representative for an insurance company. Mr. Belfield majored in sociology and was a staff member of WFNM radio station in Lancaster, Pa. He also served as president of the Student Union Board and served on the college government. His proud mother is Mrs. Jessye Belfield.



HAIL AND FAREWELL Walbrook High School graduates Jay Gaskins, (L), Cynthia Grandison (c) and Gary Givens talked backstage before the June 3 ceremony. Miss Grandison wore a sign saying, "Hail and Farewell, thank God" in Latin which summed up her feelings.

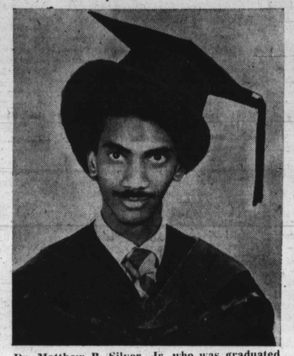
HELPING HAND—Prior to Fairmont Hill graduation Afro photographer found Miss Gillie Williams and James Scott relaxing in front of the Lake Clifton Auditorium.



EDUCATION IS THE KEY—One of the most important messages expressed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson at Bowie's commencement was the importance of education, and how without it there is no way to really progress. Listening tentatively and then saluting the Rev. Mr. Jackson is Miss Rise Patrice Showers, Prince George's County; and in the third panel the guest speaker the Rev. Mr. Jackson. (AFRO Staff Photos by Benjamin Murphy Phillips IV)

MISS JOWYNA WILSON, 18-year-old Edmondson High School graduate, was the recipient of the Student Government Award at commencement. She is daughter of James and Mrs. Mary Johnson of Rokeby Road.

TOP RANKING Crossland student Miss Lorraine Harris received the Charles Bennett award, Work Study award, Citizenship Award and Nurses Aide Award.



Dr. Matthew R. Silver, Jr. who was graduated May 10 from Howard School of Medicine, is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Matthew R. Silver, Sr., pastor of Concord Baptist Church. He is married to the former Miss Emily Francois of St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands. They have one son, Matthew, III.

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for these recent graduates of Bowie State College. From left—Miss Linda Elain Studevant of Washington, who insisted on getting out of her wheelchair to walk across the stage, is assisted by Dr. Samuel L. Myers, president. In the following panels are Miss Lia Carey Butler, Prince George's County; Janet Ann Andrews, summa cum laude from Charles Co.; and Robert Earl Nicols, Baltimore. Degrees were conferred by Mrs. Frances L. Murphy II, member of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Colleges. (AFRO Staff Photos by Benjamin Murphy Phillips IV)

ALICIA CROSSLAND HIGH held commencement exercises last Friday at Calvert Educational Center. Roger Hewitt received shop award.

FOR OUTSTANDING work in her Alicia Crossland High shop class, Miss Carolyn Ford receives an award from department head Mrs. Lorraine Maddox. She also was honored for outstanding work in Modern dance.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT Charles McMillion received Academic award, and distributive education award at Crossland graduation from department head Thomas Keefe.

GRADUATES—Three of the 27 graduates from Jane Addams General Vocational School are Juanita Winns, Carolyn M. Prentiss, and Laverne Wilson. (AFRO Photo by Ben Phillips)

Top graduates of the 1975 graduates from Eastern High were Misses Brenda Howard and Danita Tinner. (AFRO Photo by Ben Phillips)

TOPS POLITICALLY AND ACADEMICALLY—Miss Charlene Taylor of Forest Park High helps top ranking student academically and president of her class Miss Charlene Bonette Gordon. (AFRO Photo by Phillips IV)

JUN