Local author addresses Optimists at Racquet Club

On Thursday, Jan. 25, the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Optimists Clubs International had its regular bi - monthly meeting at the downtown Racquet Club.

Guest speaker was Jerome Dyson Wright, author of the recently released book," Poor, Black and in Real Trouble."

Wright spoke of his youth and how he served two prison terms before two members of the business community took an interest in him.

He told how the concern they exhibited toward him mad him realize that there must be something good within him. This enabled him to turn his life around, attend college and piece his life together again.

He is now the director of the Community Residence Center, a halfway house for male ex-offenders. In this capacity he acts as a benefactor to troubled youth and ex - offenders. The center is located on Lanvale Street.

Wright expressed confidence in the new state administration and feels that the outlook for improvement in the penal system is good.

The Optimists Clubs International is a civic organization stressing environmental, educational, moral and athletic development of youth.

In Baltimore the club has one of the most highly integrated and racially diversified chapters in the state. Two Baltimoreans who are charter members are Wally Orlinsky, president, City Council, and Sen. Juliam Lapides of the 2nd District.

Officers are: Jim David, president; Don Lebowitz, lieutenant governor, for the Md. District of Optimists; John Morgan, secretary - treasurer; Jerry Murphy, vice president; Buddy Armstrong, sergeant - at - arms, and Charles Faison and Marshall Bright, members of the Board of Directors.

The Mount Vernon Chapter is now preparing to conduct its annual Oratorical Contest for students of Baltimore City who have not yet reached age 18.

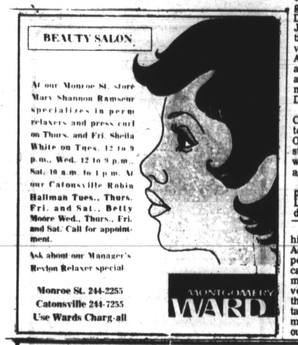
Students wishing to participate may call Don Lebowitz at 366 - 1180 for details.

For the first time in its history, the Veterans Administration is issuing personal identification cards to more than two million service-disabled veterans to emphasize their top priority in obtaining treatment at VA medical centers and outpatient clinics.

OPTIMIST MEMBERS — The Mt. Vernon Chapter of the Optimists Clubs International met recently at the downtown Racquet Club. Members who attended are (L to R): Marshall T. Bright Sr., Don Lebowitz, lieutenant governor; Rudy Charles Faison, Orville Roy, Jerry Murphy, Walter Orlinsky, City Council president; J. W. Morgan, secretary-treasurer; Jerome Dyson Wright, guest speaker and author; Jim David, president and Z. L. Armstrong.

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

BEAUTY SALON



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Social notes from the city next door

White House dinner for Chinese lacked color

The author of this corner is taking a two weeks vacation. Before she left, however, she asked me to relay her thoughts because she was so upset that she feared she might start a fire in her electric typewriter — upset about the lack of blacks invited by President Carter to the dinner in honor of Teng Hsiao-ping, the Chinese vice premier on Monday.

The fact that the two men were meeting to discuss future trade, gave cause to question why such local personalities like Dr. Berkeley Burrell of the National Business League; Doyle Mitchell and William Fitzgerald, the [illegible]; Walter Davis, the [illegible] or Bill Pollard of AFL - CIO were not included.

Perhaps, none of those mentioned might have been considered but there are certainly more like them across the country, who have made a name for themselves in chosen fields and would have rated an invite.

True, Jesse Hill of Atlanta, the John Johnsons of Chicago and the Kings — Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. and Coretta Scott King, are well known in the White House circles — but where were the members of the Congressional Black Caucus? It would have been nice for the Chinese guests to have seen a black congressman or two.

The opportunity to strike a blow at some of the myths that have been carried not only to the orient for years but other parts of the world, particularly during World Wars I and II and the Korean Conflict — that blacks have tails — it was a moment to show blacks as intelligent human beings and achievers.

How interesting it would have been to show that like most other human beings — they are short, tall, lean and fat and "come in a variety of colors."

While travel and study have been limited, there are not a handful of blacks who can be considered as "an old China hand," but given time and opportunity, young black professionals like Dr. Douglas Glasgow, who has visited China, can in time become an authority on one of the world's oldest cultures.

Blacks can contribute to the technology and all that goes into modernizing China. After all wasn't it a black man, Garrett A. Morgan who invented the belt fastener for the sewing machine to make it run properly? He also invented the gas mask and later the first automatic traffic signal. It had "stop and go" arms.

What might have been a social secretary's goof as to the absence of blacks at the dinner and "invite or not to invite" Senator Edward Kennedy, — the idea should not have been toyed with by those close to the president and such thoughts should not go as far as the media causing embarrassment.

The president has voiced his feelings many times about human rights abroad. Human rights at home are just as important. Minorities have long sought to get into the mainstream and now with China, all that black businessmen desire is the possibility of sharing a piece of the action. NIKKI

Washington Sidelights

By Nikki Nakatani

HISTORIC EVENT

You can bet your bottom dollar that our friend, Fannie Granton was on the scene at the Kennedy Center last Monday night for the gala given by President Carter in honor of Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao - ping. The dancing of the cast of "Eubie," the National Children's Choir and the Harlem Globetrotters were the crowd favorites from all reports.

NCNW national president, Dorothy I. Height, was there applauding and along with Thelma and Gilbert Daley of Baltimore (she's national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority), the Lisle Carters, the Carter Holmans, the Louis Martins, Earl Graves of Black Enterprise, Ben Brown, Doris Crenshaw, HUD Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris and her hubby, William, plus New York's Robert Hall.

In the atrium, crepes, fruits chestnuts and lively conversations with many of the sophisticated guests seeking autographs from the stars — Shirley McLaine, John Denver and especially the Harlem Globetrotters, who were flown in for the grand evening.

The program was televised and from all appearances the vice premier thoroughly enjoyed the affair.

KABUCKI BACK

Hardly seems possible that a year has passed since the Grand Ba Kabuki was at Kennedy Center. Glad to note that one of my favorite dances is being done . . . Double Lion dance.

Time does have a way of passing quickly for every time I think about California and look at the photos, which I took, it all seems like a dream that I had long ago.

But it was just a week when deepest sympathy was offered Dr. Jesse Barber and family for the loss of his beloved mother, and now we offer the same as his father passed. The news stunned the many friends of the Barbers.

To my Chinese family, whom I was about to call to wish "Happy New Year" — the Year of the Sheep (Ram or Lamb) it was also sincerest sympathy in the death of Clifford Wong, husband of my "sister" Rita and father of two lovely children, Greg and Wendy.

While in Houston at the Women's Conference, I did get to see Greg, who is quite handsome. The family had moved from Brooklyn, N.Y. to Mexico, where they lived for a number of years and then to Houston, to be closer to Uncle Harry Lee and the rest of the family.

Some people are strong or determined that they can carry their grief inside for time untold, not telling anyone of their loss, yet offering solace and advice to others as they silently suffer and overcome. Our heart and admiration go out to them with the hope that peace, happiness good health always be their good fortune.

ABOUT THE FORTUNE COOKIE

While in California, we were eating out and someone stated that they knew someone who worked in the factory that printed those exciting messages found in the fortune cookies. I had lots of questions to ask but had to take leave as we were headed for the Hollywood Hills.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The D.C. Congress of Parents and Teachers had a two day conference at the Northeast Holiday Inn with 50 local PTAers participating. Rosetta Peyton, chairperson did a tremendous job and everything went along splendidly with Ruth Swenson of the National Leaderships Training Officer officiating.

Among the participants were Deloris McCarter, local president; Linda Moody, William and Hazel Brown, Flossie Lee, Margaret Jones, Ross and Mary Everett, Dr. Perry Handy, Dr. Athel Liggins, Herbert Boyd, Blanche Bradley, Veronica Brown, Ernestine Muarry, Arnetta Hogan, Bettie Benjamin, Gloria Roberts, national vice president of Region II; John Holmes, Ruth Harris and Patricia Morris.

Scads of useful information, movies, slides and tips on how to motivate, relate and interpret were given to the group.

Pat Morris and husband, Joe, celebrated their birthdays last week. Many more happys to you.

February 11 will be a reception at the Gallery in Georgetown. Artists on exhibit will include S. Bruce Brown, Delilah Pierce, and Elaine Johnson. Such luck.

Oftimes methinks if it were not for bad luck, I wouldn't have any luck. Since returning from California, I had looked forward to the celebration of The Year of the Sheep at the lovely home of Yuki and Altho Beyelle.

Not only are their parties so relaxed and fun, but this is the last "Year of" party because they'll be heading New Mexico next fall. Well, the day came and that afternoon before I could get myself together, I broke out with a beautiful case of hives. What a blow to a starved soul.

Natch, I missed seeing Cindy Howard, Tom and Lucy Bryant and children, Florence Mahoney, who came in from Arizona; Henry and Maxine Costanza and some thirty other folks — and all that special, yummy food.

Although we didn't see each other very much, I'm certainly going to miss John Jacob of the Washington Urban League, who leaves for New York and his new job with the League. Best wishes, John.

The League brings to mind that Washington Bureau's director, Ron Brown's wife, is a new staffer at NCNW.

Pvt. Robert E. Herrman, son of Mrs. Monika Parker, 627 Gibson, recently completed Phase I of the Two - Station Test at Fort Knox, Ky.

The test is being conducted to see if basic entry training can be effectively reduced from 18 weeks to 12 weeks and still be administered at two stations.

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Reading--kids have their say

Nichelle Scott, Sixth grade, age 11 — Odum Smith, Sixth grade, age 12 — Calvin Myers, Sixth grade, age 11 — Kippa Madden, Third grade, age 8 — David Smith, Fifth grade, age 10

Based on the report issued recently stating, for the most part, that Baltimore students could not or were not reading as well as students in other parts of the country, the AFRO talked to students at Furman Templeton Elementary School, Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street.

The students were asked if they have trouble reading and why and whether they thought the report, as far as they could tell, was accurate.

Here are their responses.

David Smith, fifth grade, age 10: "I think they (students) can read but some of us don't try hard enough."

Nichelle Scott, sixth grade, age 11: "I think the kids can read. I can read. It's probably just a few."

Calvin Myers, sixth grade, age 11: "Maybe they can't pronounce some of the harder words."

Odum Smith, sixth grade, age 12: "I think we can read, but I think we could maybe read better than we are."

Kippa Madden, third grade, age 8: "Some of the kids don't pay attention most of the time."

Shirley Chisholm to speak at UMES on Feb. 5

Rep. Shirley Chisholm, member of Congress, 12th District, New York, will deliver the keynote address commencing Black Heritage Month activities at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. She will speak at the Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts on Monday, Feb. 5, at 8:15 p.m.

Shirley Chisholm is the senior Democratic Congresswoman in the United States House of Representatives. She is the only woman—and the only black American—to sit on the powerful House Rules Committee.

In addition, Mrs. Chisholm is secretary of the House Democratic Caucus and vice chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mrs. Chisholm holds three degrees in education and has received 15 honorary doctorates from schools across the nation.

When she entered the House of Representatives after the 1968 general election, she became the first woman of her race to be elected to the nation's legislating body and has served in Congress ever since.

In 1972, Rep. Chisholm ran for President, and became the first black woman to seek the nation's highest office.

She is the author of two books, Unbought and Unbossed, her autobiography, and The Good Fight, the story of her 1972 bid for the Presidency.

Mrs. Chisholm's address is open to the public, without admission charge.

Female security guard receives award

Twenty - two year old Christine Freeman, a security guard at Provident Hospital, says she wasn't worried about anything but "getting the money back" as she chased a young bandit from the hospital to the parking lot at Frederick Douglass High School, about one half mile away. "I wasn't even scared, until it was all over," she said.

The young man allegedly snatched the money from the cash register in the hospital gift shop after pushing the attendant aside. Ms. Freeman began the chase after the attendant shouted that she had been robbed. She chased him across Liberty Heights Avenue and towards Mondawmin Mall, and at one point stopped a bus, thinking he had boarded. After spotting him on the street, however, she resumed the chase.

He finally dropped the money, according to Ms. Freeman, after he looked back and saw how close she was. She picked up the money and was driven back to the hospital by an employee who had followed the pair after being alerted of the incident.

In a special ceremony held at the hospital, Ms. Freeman was presented a plaque and a certificate by the hospital president, Thomas W. Chapman, and the president of the auxiliary, Mrs. Geraldine Barbour. The auxiliary runs the gift shop.

Asked if she had been an athlete in school, Ms. Freeman smiled and said, "No. I never ran that fast in my life!"

There were no injuries in the incident.

Dunbar offers adult classes

The Dunbar Adult Center and Community Schools will begin registration for the second semester, Feb. 5, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at the school, 1400 Orleans St.

The GED program will be offered. The academic, business and vocational classes include math., history, English, typing, shorthand, business and more.

For further information call 396-6606 or 9607 after 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Sears to give college grants

Grants totaling more than $66,700 will be distributed to 47 privately supported colleges and universities in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virgina this week by The Sears - Roebuck Foundation.

District colleges and universities are among over 1,000 private accredited two and four year institutions across the country which are sharing in $1,300,000 in Sears Foundation funds for the 1978 - 79 academic year.

Funds may be used unrestrictedly as the colleges and universities deem necessary.

In addition to its unrestricted grant program, The Sears - Roebuck Foundation each year conducts a variety of special - purpose programs in elementary, secondary, higher, and continuing education.

Altogether, the Foundatin has expenditures of almost $2,500,000 in 1978 for its education activities.

Post-hospital care meetings scheduled

The Social Work Department at Saint Joseph Hospital, 7620 York Road, is conducting group meetings on post-hospital care every first and third Mondays of the month, beginning Feb. 5. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the hospital's fifth floor conference room.

Patients and families contemplating nursing home placement, or people with concerns about post-hospital care are invited to attend.

For further information call 828-5800 ext. 2453 or 2454.

Baltimore City Public Schools

Division of Adult & Community Education announces Mid Year registration dates:

February 1, 1979, Tues. - Thurs. Program
February 3, 1979, Saturday Program
February 5, 1979, Mon. - Wed. Program

A $2.00 Materials Fee is assessed all students in all classes conducted by Adult and Community Education.

School *denotes evening	Telephone	High School Credit	GED & Pre GED	Vocational Education	Day of the Week
Hamostead Hill*	396-9133	X	X	X	Mon -Wed
Southern*	396-1500	X	X	X	Mon -Wed
Northern*	396-6435	X	X	X	Mon -Wed
Mergenthaler*	396-6496	X	X	X	Tues -Thurs
Dunbar*	396-0608	X	X	X	Mon -Wed
Douglass*	396-0846	X	X	X	Mon -Wed
Carver*	396-0553	X	X	X	Mon -Wed
Pimlico*	396-0806		X	X	Mon -Wed
Edmondson*	396-0685		X		Mon -Wed
Calvert Educ	396-1588	X	X	X	Tues -Thurs
Calvert Saturday	396-1588	X	X	X	Saturday all day
Calvert Educ Day	396-1588	X	X	X	Mon thru Friday
Vocational Educ & Training Services	396-1612	X	X	X	Mon thru Friday and Saturday

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