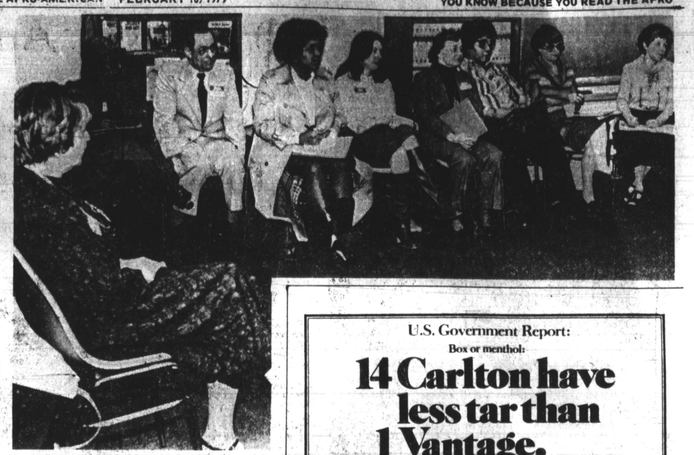

TEACHING AIDS — Sheryl Ryce (L) and Doris Cowan examine eye-catching teacher-made materials displayed on the second floor of the Urban Teacher Center.

AFRO photos by Robin McGinty

EDUCATORS GET TOGETHER — Teachers from public, private and parochial schools from all over the city meet at the new Urban Teacher Center to exchange ideas and discuss new instruction methods.

Urban Teacher Center

Educators helping each other

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

With all the recent emphasis on whether or not students are being taught properly in the classroom, it might be enhancing to know that teachers are not only concerned about this situation but they are doing something about it.

Local teachers are using each other to improve their teaching skills and all of this is being done at the Urban Teacher Center.

The center, born out of the need to establish a citywide "teacher support system," is federally funded and was originally conceived about one year ago as a place where instructors could hold seminars and workshops, relax, exchange ideas, and draw on the extensive library.

The facility is geared toward providing resource help for Baltimore's public, private and parochial school teachers, and has involved some 75 non-public schools since its inception. It is governed by a policy board representing the three educational areas.

If the "handwriting on the wall" is any indication of how teachers feel about the center, then it is well on its way to becoming a very vital part of the teaching process in Baltimore City.

Upon entering the two-story complex located at 2008 Pressbury Street in West Baltimore, the walls of the hallway leading from the entrance are adorned with signatures of instructors from all over Baltimore and the surrounding areas who came to the center during the past three weeks for Open House.

Troy Ryce, center director, stated that she thought it would be a nice idea to cover the walls with paper and allow teachers to sign their names so that it would be "a visible way to see just how much support we get."

The center, first and only one of its kind in Maryland is manned by Ms. Ryce who has over 13 years experience in education, recently working at the Harbor City Learning Center. She is assisted by Mary R. Larson, who comes to the center with nearly 20 years experience in early childhood and elementary school education.

"Teachers can discover again what it's like to be a learner," said Ms. Ryce, "but teachers make a teacher center and this program will grow based on their support."

The second floor of the facility houses a library, where teachers can not only borrow books but preview new materials from publishers that may be later ordered and used in the classroom.

Teachers will also be able to preview, once a month, new films that may be shown to students.

Also on display at the center are classroom materials made by teachers that can be used to decorate the classroom. Here, educators can obtain ideas and techniques of how to put unique displays together that will further explain subject matter being taught.

Wanda Maynor, teacher at William Pinderhughes Elementary School, said, "I think this is an excellent idea. The only problem is that it would open later and stay open longer."

She explained that she was unable to go to the school in the mornings but would be willing to spend time at the center in the afternoons.

Center hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but hours will become flexible based on teacher needs, stressed Ms. Ryce. Evening programs are also being considered.

"The potential here is fantastic," remarked Terri Chayt, a Rosemont Elementary School instructor. "It has re-sparked my interest in teaching. This is just what we needed, now it's up to us to make it work."

Baltimore's initiative to develop a teacher center is in keeping with 13 other states from Maine to Washington, D.C. who have established similar centers

The Reservoir Hill Community Association will hold its monthly membership meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 at its office at 917 Whitelock St.

U.S. Government Report:
Box or menthol:
14 Carlton have less tar than 1 Vantage.
Carlton Box, less than 0.5 mg. "tar" and 0.05 mg. nicotine
Carlton Menthol, "tar" less than 0.5 mg. nicotine 0.1 mg.
Vantage, "tar" 11 mg., nicotine, 0.8 mg.
Of all brands, lowest Carlton Box, less than 0.5 mg. "tar" and 0.05 mg. nicotine.
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OUR WORLD

Another great cook!
See page 10

Atlanta's Ben Brown honored

WO-BE-CO turns town out for political big-wig

WO-BE-CO HONORS BROWN — The members of Women Behind the Community turned the townspeople out on Sunday to greet Ben Brown of Atlanta, Ga., deputy national chairman, Democratic Committee. From left are: Cardrienne Griffin, founder and chairperson of affair; Marion Scarborough, president; Ben Brown, Ellen Gonzales, WO-BE-CO member and Atty. Anthony Robinson, also among Sunday's honorees.

Partyline

By Michele L. McRae and Pattie Hodges

Sunday was a very busy day for members of WO-BE-CO (Women Behind the Community) as they entertained some 350 persons at a reception honoring Ben Brown of Atlanta, Ga., deputy national chairman, Democratic Committee.

He was invited to Baltimore by the women's group to meet the forces of our community.

Chaired by member and founder of the group, Cardrienne Griffin, the affair was held in the foyer of the J. Millard Tawes College Center, Coppin State College.

Guests enjoyed a tasty repast while others passed through the receiving line to greet Brown, a graduate of Clark College, Atlanta and a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Also in the receiving line were Mrs. Griffin, Marion Scarborough, president; Gwen Howard, vice president; Atty. Anthony Robinson, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell and member, Ellen Gonzales.

Highlighting the affair was a poetic drama presentation by Percy Thomas and the Free Spirit Theatre. The three member team each delivered a reading by Frederick Douglass.

An award for outstanding community service was presented to Atty. Robinson by the club and Quinton Lawson, special assistant to the mayor presented Ben Brown with tokens from the city of Baltimore.

Other members of WO-BE-CO included: Sandy Vance, corresponding secretary; Essie Sutton, recording secretary; Barbara ...e, treasurer; Clara Bailey, Regina Bernard, Eugenia Britt, Joan Case, Vera Dorsey, Roslyn Dyer;

And, Betty Fitzgerald, Marie Frances, Sara Giles, Ellen Gonzales, Mary Robinson, Shirley Swafford, Amy Taylor and Cardrienne Griffin.

AFRO staff photos by Robin McGinty

WO-BE-CO vice president, Mrs. Gwen Howard, chats with Congressman Parren J. Mitchell at Sunday reception honoring Ben Brown.

Douglass Class of '54

"It all started back in July 1978 and ever since then we've been having a real ball," said Ms. Joan Coursey, a member of the Douglass High School Class of 1954.

The class members had a three-day reunion last week, but the celebration started long before then.

"Some 20 of the classmates came out to my summer home in Ocean Pines, Md. last July. We had a real ball enjoying swimming at the Yacht Club, fishing, dancing and just having a good time."

In October the class of Douglass '54 hosted a Wine and Cheese Disco at Odell's. Reports say the affair was highly attended and very successful.

During the intervals of class activity, members of the reunion planning committee met occasionally for meetings. "Sometimes I think that was the best part part of all," said Ms. Coursey. "The men would bring the drinks and the women would supply the food and after the meetings we would party."

The new year caught the Douglass classmates at a winter picnic at the Patapasco State Park. Inside one of the brick houses on the gorunds they barbecued, danced, sang and remembered "the gold old days."

The three-day class reunion officially began on Thursday night when the Douglass Class of '54 hosted the opening night of the play, "Detective Story" at the Arena Playhouse.

The play was a sellout and more chairs had to be added to accommodate all of the supporting guests.

Joan Coursey, directed "Detective Story" while Loretta Parkinson served as a cast member. Both Ms. Coursey and Ms. Parkinson members of the Arena Players and members of the Douglass Class of '54.

Friday night found classmates and their escorts in the upstairs room of the Sphinx Club on Pennsylvania Avenue.

During the special cocktail affair a birthday cake was presented to those members of the class born under the sign of Aquarius.

Also highlighting the event was the presentation of an award to Joan Coursey for her outstanding service as director of "Detective Story." Loretta Parkinson was presented a trophy which read, "A Star is Born," which was representative of her role in the same play.

(Continued on Page 11)

RECEPTION GUESTS — Mr. and Mrs. Carl Adair were among the 350 persons who greeted deputy national chairman, Democratic Committee, Ben Brown on Sunday.

READING— whose problem?

This is the second part of a two part series on the reading deficiencies of Baltimore public school children. Our children are falling below the national averages for reading and mathematics achievement levels.

A reality that caused the School Board to set rules that held that no student can be graduated from high school unless he or she passed certain proficiency tests.

Reading is an ability that is essential to survival in this world and our black children must be capable to compete with their white peers.

Educators, parents, social scientists all have theories as to why too many of our children cannot read, but the AFRO has attempted to search out those answers that would directly affect our community.

In this report we hear from the Rev. John R. Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church and a widowed mother of two school age children, Mrs. Lucille Dedmon.

Here, these two give their views on today's growing problem of reading deficiency.

The Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant, pastor, Bethel AME Church.—

Johnny cannot read because nobody is giving him attention. Parents are too often out of the home trying to earn money. Black children spend an average of eight hours a day looking at TV. The system should not allow this to happen. One wonders what quantity or quality of homework a child can possibly be getting done when he spends this much time in front of the tube.

Television has become the mother, the father and the teacher, and the television does not attempt to teach Johnny to read. It simply teaches him violent behavior and the need to become a consumer.

Mrs. Lucille Dedmon, widow and mother of two school age children.—

"I do believe that the burden of "Why Johnny can't read" lies with the parents. We are our children's first educators and are responsible for seeing to it that they get the best start in life.

"We should read to them and make them aware of different kinds of reading material. We might even begin by reading to them from their Sunday School lessons.

"Children also need to know that they are responsible citizens and that it is expected that they will be responsible adults one day. I personally believe that it has to be implanted in a child's head and heart that "He is somebody." We, as parents, should teach them how to be self-sufficient and make them understand that we expect them to do us proud.

"Television is blamed for taking at home hours away from children's reading time. This must be controlled by the parents.

"Teachers are blamed, at time, for teaching too many things that are wrong or for not teaching.

(Continued on Page 13)

'We can read!... Mrs. Biggs teaches us very well...'

SO SAYS TRACI SCOTT, sixth grader, age 11, Furman Templeton Elementary School.

Mother

Mrs. Lucille Dedmon

Minister

The Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant

Local club notes

Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Inc., Iota Chapter celebrated its 46th Annual Founders' Day, Jan. 27 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel with 400 guests and sorors. Guest speaker for the afternoon luncheon was Mrs. Cecelia Williams Bryant who addressed the theme: "Positive Leadership for Purposeful Action."

Mary Silva delivered the invocation followed by greetings from Augusta Amos. During the luncheon the guests were entertained by the continuous instrumental music of Haithcock Ensemble and several solos from Gloria Bond. An added attraction was an informal fashion show coordinated by Margaret Yates and Imogene Douglas.

The following guests and sorors shared their fabulous wardrobes of leisure and loungewear: Helen Tucker, Betty Wooden, Mayess Craig, Arabella Ross, Lynn Flournoy, Ovella Queen, Veldola Banks, Dorothy Stone, Catherine DeFord and Dorothy Smith.

The history of the organization was presented by Betty M. Shelton and Ruth Cooper introduced the guest speaker for the day.

Addressing the theme Mrs. Bryant said:

"The black female has the power, resource and ability to change not only the whole race but the nation in which we live. We can not wait passively in resignation but wait in responsible building. We are to stand ready for leadership.

"Our task of leadership will consist of the restoration of a sense of destiny; reconciliation of positive family life and the regeneration of hope and victory.

"We cannot stand still mentally, emotionally, spiritually or psychologically but must speak truth to the people, be practical and scientific as we deal with the times and objectives of our people.

(Continued on Page 10)

R.S.V.P.

WITH MARIE

I ask, "Tell me when it was that you decided that you wanted to open a boutique?"

She answers, "Um, let me think now. Oh, yea, I remember. It was when I was a little girl (Rocky Mount, N.C.) — I always liked to coordinate my little socks with my hair bows. And since then I have taken a special interest in coordinating outfits."

Pinnie and Lou open boutique

Pinnie L. Ross is Ellicott City's newest boutique owner, having just a week ago opened the doors to Act One and Two located at 8421 Main St. in the heart of the business district.

Mrs. Ross is one of several businesswomen nationwide who are offering top quality, second-hand (in many cases high fashion designer pieces) women's and children's clothing.

"Last summer while I was in California attending the Miss U.S. Talented Teen pageant and activities (she is Maryland state sponsor), I met another sponsor from Detroit whose mother had a similar business. That's how I got the idea for this type of business.

"So I came home and did a draft of a business plan. I thought there are many people, especially blacks, who are not able to purchase a good quality garment. So I thought, well maybe they'll be able to purchase a good quality second for less money."

It was then that Pinnie's idea started to gel.

"My good friend, Maggie Watkins developed the motto, 'A good second is better than a cheap first.'"

Mrs. Ross is the wife for 27 years of William Ross, president of Charter Homes in Richmond. When Pinnie shared her idea with him, he replied, "I'll back you." And so it was.

(Continued on Page 12)

(Photos by A. Snowden)

DESIGNERS' ORIGINALS are found in Act I, in the Golden Room of Ellicott City's newest boutique of new and nearly-new clothes, Act I and II. At left are owners, Lou Bennett and Pinnie Ross of Columbia, and customer, Celonia Walden, at right.