Controversial ex-Baltimore school chief now 'number 1' in N.Y.

All photos by Glasco Ryale.

DR. ROLAND N. PATTERSON, superintendent of the Bronx public schools and Glascoe Catlin, vice principal of Baltimore's Clifton Park Junior High School.

PATTERSON FANS, the Baltimore teachers who made the trip to the Bronx school system are Douglas N. Parker, Viola M. Pittman, Fernando Scruggs, Sheri Woodland, Dorothy V. Joyner, Gilbert Russell, Geraldine Mickle, Bettye Graves and Glascoe Catlin, vice principal Clifton Park Junior High, who arranged the tour.

MORE PATTERSON FANS from Baltimore include the fellow teachers of Clifton Park Jr. High: Maurice Dorsey, Janie Trimble, Geoffrey Katsu, Martha Lee, Clara Green, Humphrey Bruce, Abass Dabirsiaghi, Margie Harvey, Edith Harris, Phillip Pittman and Maxine Morgan. Not shown are Frannie Murdock, Frank Marshall, Randall Schnalz and John Stokes who also went with the tour group.

—Patterson doing great

(Continued from page 1)

Indeed, when the AFRO asked Community School Board President Honorable Jerome Alexander Greene for his thoughts about the new head of the Bronx school system, he replied, "We have found Dr. Patterson to be excellent. In fact, he is the number one educator in the entire nation and we are indeed fortunate to have him."

Greene added more information unknown to us prior to our accompanying a group of Baltimore teachers on a visit to the Bronx. He said, "We selected Dr. Patterson from over 100 applicants who were also highly qualified but we found him to be the best.

"We narrowed the list down to 10 finalists and only four survived. Then we sent a team of board members to Baltimore to investigate what had gone on there as to Dr. Patterson's firing.

"They returned to disclose they found the Baltimore report was false.

"I personally find Baltimore was myopic in not retaining Dr. Patterson. The white press and the white school board were biased and there was discrimination and vindictiveness."

Dr. Patterson was given the New York contract in 1977 and now receives a salary of $47,500. Greene states and adds, "We intend to keep him as long as we possibly can. He has no fear of us running him away. We all agree he has charisma, experience, expertise and he cannot be bought nor bossed."

Green, age 38, is a prominent educator himself and heads the board of five blacks and four Puerto Ricans.

The Bronx area where Dr. Patterson's District 9 system is centered has over 150,000 predominately adult black population with nearly as large a group of Spanish speaking Puerto Ricans and some Cubans and Asians too.

Under New York laws, the school boards of each educational district have members who are chose by the vote of the citizens in a special election for a three-year term. Dr. Patterson's contract extends beyond the board members' terms so that the may be retained.

The Central School Board hires the teachers and each community board hires its administrators, principals and superintendent.

The Baltimore group of visitors was led by Clifton Park Junior High School Vice Principal Glascoe Catlin who said at the end of the day-long trip, "This is the happiest day of my life."

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The unique observation of the Patterson school system at work was in three sections. After introduction and overview, four representative schools were visited. The program which followed was presented by the crak team of educators Patterson has gathered around him. Each is an expert in his field.

Dr. J.T. Gardner said he came from Arlington, Va. with an overwhelming desire to work with Dr. Patterson.

With an earned Ph.D., Dr. Gardner is one of two deputy superintendents. Mrs. Hilda Gutierrez, a brilliant Spanish-speaking young woman, is the second deputy.

The third section of the day was a forum of panelists who held the visitors spellbound with information on the one-of-a-kind school district and Dr. Patterson's bringing about progress in so short a time.

Although economic and social problems which affect education have not changed, the educational system under Patterson has been organized into a working plan.

Previously, the educators revealed, "we were so disoriented and fragmented we did not know where we were going. Dr. Patterson has pulled things together and has miraculously given us system, gidelines and direction.

As an example, Mrs. Linda Linton, director of Reading Programs, reported that in six months her team accomplished a two-year task and turned out "The Road To Reading" an inclusive program for grades Kindergarten to nine under the Patterson inspiration and guidelines.

The highly valuable volume is now an example for the various school systems of the nation. And "it's working," the Bronx teachers state.

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Dr. Garner gave the following facts about Dr. Patterson's District Nine which is one of 33 Community School District in the city of New York.

(Community Districts were established in 1970 thru State Legislation establishing decentralized educational systems).

— Community School District Nine has an annual budget of $34 million (Tax-Levy, Local - State appropriation) and $16 million reimbursible funds (10 - million federal and state funded programs).

— The pupil population is in excess of 32,000 (experiencing decline).

— Community School District Nine is the second largest school district in New York (largest being Staten Island, which encompasses an entire Borough).

— Our School District is the second largest in the state.

— Community School District Nine employs 1,650 educators (33 principals, 71 assistant principals, 94 school secretaries and 1,647 teachers).

— Community School District Nine employes 973 auxiliary staff (educational assistants, educational associates, school aides, school neighborhood workers and teacher's aides).

— Community School District Nine provides a Continuing Education Program which service students in tutorial and recreational activities.

— Community School District Nine has 32 buildings with 33 schools (29 has Elementary and Junior High School). The oldest building is CES 11 (constructed in the 1800s). The newest building CES-CIS 229 was opened in 1977-78.

— There are three district office buildings, 1377 Jerome Ave. (the main District Office building), Week's Avenue and CES 104 Annex. (Community School District Nine does not include high schools).

— Out student population, ethnically has approximately 51 percent black, 48 percent hispanic and 1 percent others (approximate figures).

— New York Public schools has Union contracts with Council of Supervisory Association (administrators, Principals and Assistant Principals), United Federation of Teachers, Custodians Union, Auxiliary Staff (paraprofessional Union) and numerous others.

Gardner concluded, "We feel, that we have one of the most outstanding programs in New York city, as well as, in the state of New York. Our leadership in Dr. Patterson and the School Board is dedicated to Educational Parity for our students."

Baltimoreans met the following educators in this order:

Arrival at CIS-166 — Robert Clemente School, Victor Lozono;

Introductory remarks — Dr. Roland N. Patterson, Mrs. Hilda Gutierrez, Dr. T. J. Gardner, Jerome A. Greene and Fred Brown

Educational Planning presentations:

Curriculum and Planning — Mrs. Hilda Gutierrez

Reading Programs — Mrs. Linda Linton

Bilingual Education — Roberto Batista

Early Childhood — Mrs. Miriam Sour

Staff Development — Mrs. Nilda Soto

Tour of CES-35 Franz Siegel School — Mrs. Hilda Irwin

CES-CIS-229 Twin Schools — Dr. Annie Wolinsky and Felton Johnson

Media presentation on the South Bronx — Fredric Strauss;

Forum-Questions and Answers — Ms. Lucille Evans.

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Teachers and administrators from Baltimore were:

Maurice Dorsey, principal and Glascoe Catlin, vice-preincipal, Clifton Park Junior High School; Mesdames Geraldine Mickle, head of the Mathematics Department; Edith Harris, head of Special Education; Marie Fortune, Region 4 Educational Specialist; Dorothy Joyner, librarian; Glasco Ryales and King Bennett photographers; parents Ophelia Noble and Branda Logan and teachers, Betty Graves School 69 and Clifton Park faculty:

Abass Dabirsiaghi, John E. Stokes, Mrs. Edith Harris, Mrs. Dorothy Joyner, Miss Sherl Woodland, Robert Russell, Mrs. Frannie Murdock, Humphrey Bruce;

Douglas Parker, Randall Schmalz, Miss Vulla Pittman, Mrs. Geraldine Mickle, Phillip Pittman, Mrs. Maxine Morgan, Miss Cynthia Palmer, Mrs. Eldon Thomas,

Geoffrey Katsu, Frank Marshall, Miss Janis Trimble, Guy Scruggs, John Davis, Mrs. Martha Lee, Mrs. Margie Harvey, Mrs. Clara Green and Miss Marion Williams.

Two die in fire

An elderly bedridden man and woman were killed Thursday in a one-alarm fire that raced through a west Baltimore row house after flames from a gas stove ignited a towel, fire officials said.

Fire Capt. John Griffith said Eddy Snowden, 60, and Clem Brodgen, 74, were pulled from the burning house and pronounced dead on the scene.

He said the fire began when flames from a gas stove the couple had been using to heat the house caught a towel on fire. About 50 firefighters battled the blaze for more than an hour before it was brought under control.

Griffith said Mrs. Snowden and Brodgen, both invalids, were trapped in the house, but Mrs. Snowden's 41-year-old daughter, Elinor Snowden, who was caring for the couple, escaped injury.

A Schaefer-Ferron political slate?

Who will be running for president of the City Council in the upcoming election on the ticket headed by Mayor William Donald Schafer?

Sometime ago City Council Vice President Clarence "Du" Burns's name was being bantered about as a possible running mate for Schaefer.

Now the name of John Ferron, head of the city's Community Relations Commission, has been linked to Schaefer's as a possible running mate.

Ferron found the possibility amusing when queried by the AFRO.

"I've heard the rumor," said Ferron pleasantly. "I have not talked to the Mayor but it has been suggested to me that I run for public office, possible for the city council presidency or a seat in the fifth congressional district.

Ferron added that if Sachaefer did ask to join him on a citywide ticket he be "quite honored" and would have to give it "serious thought."

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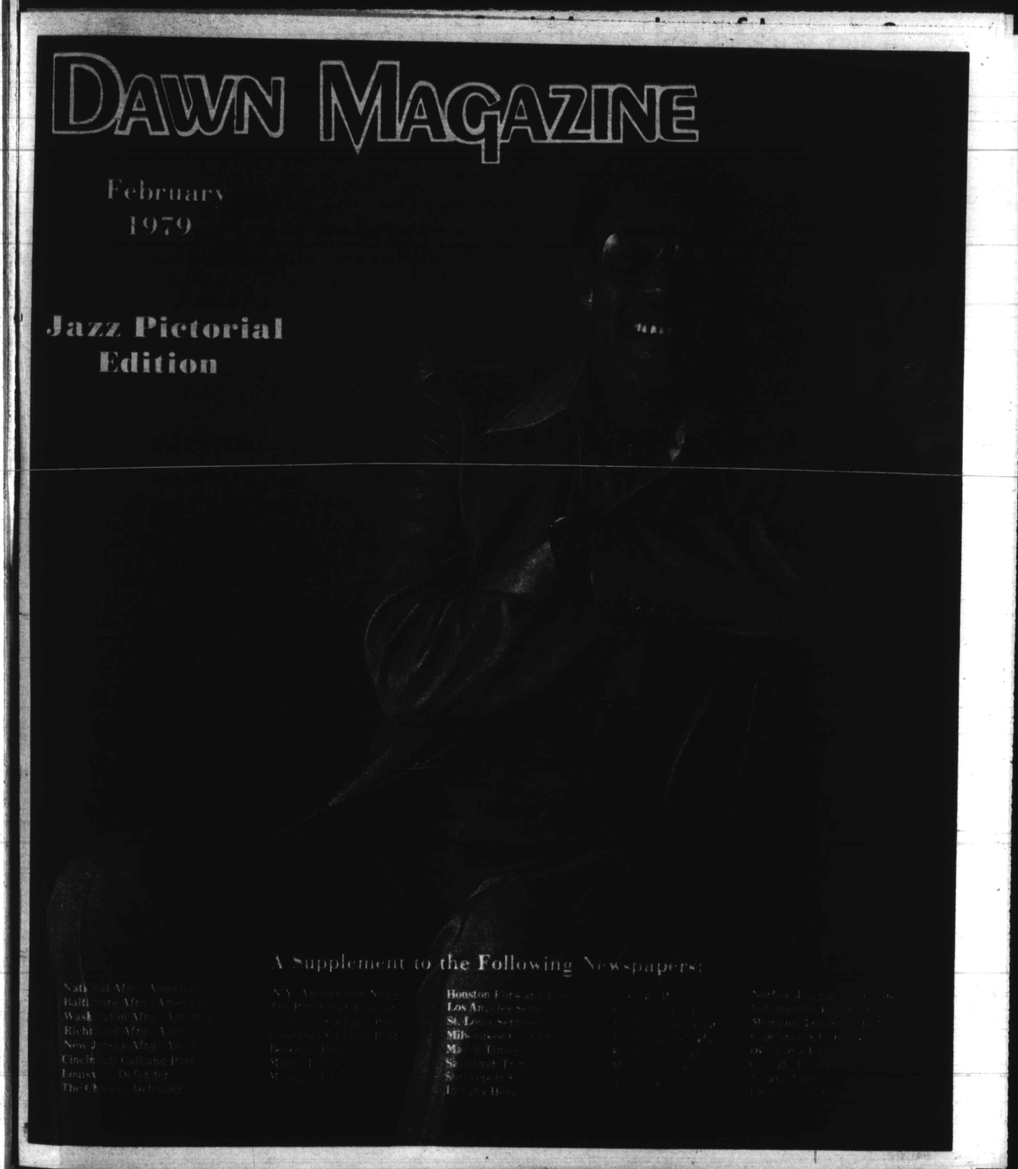
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