COLUMBIA CAPERS

ORIENTATION AND INDUCTION CEREMONY HELD

The Columbia Young Adult Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. held its Orientation and Induction Ceremony recently at the High Tor Service Room in Columbia.

The Orientation session opened with greetings by Celonia A. Walden, second vice president, followed by an original prayer by member Sandra Carter and a presentation of the club's purpose, official organ, flowers, colors and insignia by Miss Walden.

Daphne DeShields, president, informed new members about the national headquarters program, projects and officers; district officers; local officers, meetings and financial obligations.

Senior Club President, Sylvia Cook Martin highlighted national and local achievements while Celonia B. Walden, Senior Club Third Vice President and Young Adult Club advisor discussed club expections and benefits.

The impressive induction ceremony began with the administration of the official pledge of NANBPWC by Senior Club Advisor Celonia B. Walden to the following new members:

Monica B. Boone, Clothilda Brown, Vernell B. Crochan, Veronna J. Henry, Abbie Diane Martin and Valerie Montague.

After each new member was pinned by senior club president Sylvia Cook Martin, she received a handsome certificate of membership from president DeShields, a membership card from treasurer, Laurie Hose, and a yellow tea rose from recording secretary, Janet DeShields.

Member Carolyn Brown Coleman introduced each new member to a member of the Young Adult Club who will serve as her mentor.

Each member presented a lighted candle to note the bond between them. Celonia A. Walden officially closed the evening's ceremony.

Guests attending included Senior Club Member Doris Brown, mother of Carolyn Coleman and Mrs. Calvin Burnett mother of Tywanna Henry.

A lovely reception and exhibit of CYAC memorabilia increased the fellowship among those attending this first orientation and induction ceremony.

The program was planned and implemented by the membership committee which included: Carolyn R. Coleman, Daphne L. DeShields, Karen Rayfield, Mildred Smith Evans, Monica Boone and Tywanna Henry. Mrs. Evans served as photographer for the occasion.

BLACK HISTORY FAIR HELD

The Howard County Coalition for Black History sponsored its fifth annual Black History Fair at the Mall in Columbia last Saturday.

More than 4,000 people viewed the more than 35 exhibits. The exhibits had been designed to promote an awareness of the Afro-American culture and the contributions of black Americans to our society.

The fair's theme was "Black History—A Proud Heritage." The masters of ceremonies were David Rakes and Lewis Andrews. Sandra T. Gray opened the program at 12:05 p.m. by singing the Negro National Anthem followed by a welcome by program chairperson Mae Beale.

A statement of the occasion was presented by Coalition President - Myrtle Jackson. David Rakes read a proclamation from County Executive Hugh Nichols followed by remarks from County Council Chairman Dr. C. Vernon Gray.

At 12:35 John M. Wesley presented a narration on African Heritage while Michelle Brown performed an interpretive dance.

American Slavery was the focus of the second period of the program which was narrated by Kimberly Kelly.

A ragtime piano selection by Alan Gaines, selections by the Woodlawn Gospel Choir under the direction of Harrison Hill and the Suburban Mass Choir, directed by Rev. Elvora Robinson were features of the Slavery Period.

The focus on the Contemporary Period, narrated by John M. Wesley featured poetry by the narrator accompanied by pianist Phyllis Fuller.

Contemporary poetry and music, including rap music highlighted the Contemporary Period portion of the program.

Most significant was a presentation of a Black Historic Overview by the Pan Hellenic Council of the University of Maryland—Baltimore County.

Lewis Hamlin's Big Band with vocalist Dona Sherard was well received as was the Speech Choir directed by Evelyn Darden.

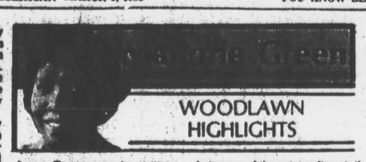
Our own songbird, Lavenia Ellicott stunned the audience with two contemporary solos.

Everything was going just great in the mall until some visitors announced that there was more than five inches of snow that had accumulated since the Black History festivities began.

Exhibit Chairman, Roberta Briscoe, received word that the exhibitors should end the exhibit early due to the inclement weather for some of the exhibitors had to journey as far as Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

All the beautiful sentiments in the world weight less than a single lovely action. — JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL



WOODLAWN HIGHLIGHTS

James Farmer speaks at SSA

"Black history is a book filled with rich and unexplored pages." This opening statement in the White House proclamation naming the month of February "National Afro-American (Black) History Month," set the tone this month for Black History commemoration programs and exhibits throughout the country.

The Social Security Administration in Woodlawn was no exception. Using the National theme: "The Afro-American Experience International Connection" the Office of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity presented civil rights activist James Farmer in a Wednesday afternoon program that also featured the SSA Choir, "All God's Children," and the talented classical singer Ms. Kimberly Kelly.

Martha McSteen, Commissioner of Social Security, in her remarks stated that all Americans through this wonderful book would "become aware of the struggles, achievements and the impact" that Afro Americans have made.

She referred to the guest speaker as a person with many accomplishments in civil rights and "whose vision has enabled him to become a renown writer."

McSteen also gifted Farmer with one of the Social Security Administrations 50th Anniversary paper weights.

Mr. Farmer, an Assistant Secretary for Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare from 1969-1970, holds the distinction of being one of the outstanding civil rights leaders in the 1960's.

As director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), he ranked along with Bayard Rustin, former CORE field secretary; Whitney Young, Jr., National Urban League executive director; Roy Wilkins, executive secretary, NAACP; the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; John Lewis, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); and A. Philip Randolph, head of the Negro American Labor Council.

In his presentation to a predominately black audience, James Farmer recalled the atmosphere of tension that flared into violence in the South and in several cities in the North during the Freedom Ride movement.

He talked of the personal fears, the racial discrimination that the mixed group of men and women met when they tested the discriminatory practices in public facilities along the freedom travel routes. "People were volunteering to risk life and limb," he said, "and anyone who said they weren't afraid is a liar or either a person without imagination."

He talked about a dream of a color blind nation where men and women are judged by the content of character and not the color of their skin and briefly mentioned the decline of the extended family.

His talk was a lesson in history for the students representing the four visiting schools which have been adopted by SSA as part of President Reagans National Partnership in Education program. According to Commissioner McSteen, the students were receiving "first hand the words of one of our nation's leaders in the recent history of our country."

In closing, Farmer voiced pleasure that "all over the country people are celebrating Black History, learning a little more about the people who were brought to this land in shackles and who have become a part of the life blood of the country."

His talk ended with the audience standing on their feet and applauding loudly in response to his closing remarks, "America never was America For Me—But this oath I swear, America will be."

Following the program, Mr. Farmer was the guest of honor at a luncheon attended by SSA's executive staff in the Altmeyer executive dining room.

Separation and Divorce Mediation

The YWCA Woman's Center will offer "Separation and Divorce Mediation" Thursday Mar. 6, 1-3 p.m. A trained divorce mediator will explain what separation and divorce mediation is, how it works, who can use it, and the advantages and disadvantages.

The workshop will also include discussion of how to deal with children and how to cope with the feelings and stress associated with separation and divorce. Helpful resources will be identified. The program will be presented by Martin Kranitz, M.A., C.R.C.

There is no fee, but preregistration is required. To register, call 268-4393. The Woman's Center is located at 167 Duke of Gloucester St. in downtown Annapolis.

SINGLE PARENTING

SINGLE PARENTING DIVORCE MEDIATION

In an effort to provide support to families on the brink of breaking up, only four states in the U.S. provide divorce mediation sessions.

On Maryland Public Television last week, they filmed at least four families who used divorce mediation. These families had been having problems for quite sometime, and if I am correct, in those four states it is mandatory that they participate.

One family's issue was child custody. Both parents were fighting for custody and, as in any divorce or separation, kids seem to feel that it may be their fault and they are subjected to undue pressure.

However, in talking with some parents, they feel that if they had sought mediation before actually separating, there may have been a chance that they would have stayed together.

Unfortunately, there are so many parents who have forgotten that children have feelings too! As a parent, it is important for you to consider your children and how they will be affected.

Too many parents use the children as pawns, bait, and in any other way that they think they can use their children against their ex-spouse.

The typical phrase (I am doing it for the kids) needs to be evaluated by the parent.....is it really in the best interest of the child?

Physical and mental abuse by parents between each other, gunloting parents, and malicious destruction, only shows that the parent is immature, selfish and should not be the parent to have custody.

There are too many women fearing for their lives because the man is showing violent behavior just because he is considered to be the more masculine one.

There are too many men who have bent over backwards because the ex-wife has pitted the children against him.

It is time for people to change there selfish attitudes about dealing with problems when they are unable to cope, or if things don't turn out in their favor.

This combatative attitude shows that if the world depended on you to make decisions coherently, we would probably be involved in another world war.

For any parent, whether male or female, stop and think about what you are doing to your children as well as yourself. Are you showing good sportsmanship? Are you trying to solve the problem realistically or are you just interested in getting even?

If you are a parent who falls into any of the above categories, (abusive, combatative, a kid user), then you should seek help. For the children of today deserve better.

The taking of one's life because of anger and rage will only lead to imprisonment. Leaving children without a mother or father takes away the head start that they will need in life in order to survive.

Divorce mediation should be every family's first step if there are problems in the marriage.

On Friday, February 28, 1986, BSP will hold their annual poet Valentine's dance at the Rose Price House in Columbia, from 9 p.m. until 1 A.M.

Admission is $7.00 for nonmembers and $6.00 for members, this includes beer, wine and food. For more information call the BSP hotline at (301) 466-5554.

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More Partyline

(Continued from page 7)

Atlantic Region, of which Soror Pugh is a representative.

But the most illuminating and eloquent highlight of the afternoon was the keynote address delivered by Soror Patricia Russel McCloud, Esq, who was introduced by Soror Smith.

Attorney McCloud took as her topic 'Res Ipsa Loquitur,' translated — The Things Speaks for Itself!

During her speech she pointed out the sad plight of black Americans and electrified the audience with statements like "While many of us have come from the back of the bus, few of us are in the driver's seat" and "Dream houses have been placed into paper castles."

She also stressed that each one of us must impact upon the situation that we must get away from the illusion of inclusion.

She spoke of our students treating the curriculum as a smorgasbord and selecting the delectables off the menu and leaving off the main course.

On a positive and challenging note, she stated, "Ours must be to dare to be different and to make a difference. We must know the facts of where we are and where we are not in the black American minority," and "we need the keys to unlock the doors to power."

Following her penetrating speech, interrupted many times with audience applause, the speaker received a standing ovation, a plaque presented by Soror Elaine White and roses, presented by Soror Smith.

The afternoon of joy and inspriration closed on a tender note, with the Greek Medley played by Soror Carol White and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Hymn, done by all sorors.

On the Founders' Day Committee were Barbara Smith, chairman; Roberta Briscoe, DeLace Burch, Lynn Coleman, Rosemary Craig, Vera Hayes, E. Marie Johnson, Elizabeth Moseley, Virginia Watkins and Elaine White.

Baltimore Links Lead against drugs

The Baltimore Chapter of Links will be sponsoring a project Lead workshop for the students of the Upward Bound Programs at the Gilman School and Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

The first Workshop to be held Saturday, March 1, 8:30 a.m. at The Gilman School, 5407 Roland Avenue.

Partial funding has been received through a grant submitted to the Baltimore City Health Department's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs. This is an Umbrella Project and all facets have incorporated this as their project during 1986.

Services to Youth is coordinating all luncheon arrangements as well as communicating with other organizations requesting their support and involvement.

National Trends and Services is video taping the workshops. The video tape will be available to other sister organizations.

International Trends and Services will be identifying a speaker from another country that will address "What Drugs are Doing to People in Our Country."

The Arts is sponsoring a poster contest among the Upward Bound students using the theme "Just Say No." An award will be given to the winning contestant and the winning poster will be used on all publications promoting the workshop.

In addition, the Scholarship Committee will be awarding two scholarships to Upward Bound students entering college in September, 1986, participating in the workshops.

The Umbrella Project Chair is Link Sylvia Law. The Co-Chairs are Link Wilhelmina Sprunt. The workshop will be offered in March and April.

We have had strong support on the advisory committee for these workshops with representatives from the Baltimore City Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Police Department, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Maryland State Health Department, and parent and student participation in addition to Link Members.

PLANNING committee for Project Beak left to right: Joanne Levy, Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice; Link Robbie Chissell, Link Sylvia Law, chairman, Project LEAD; Link Kathleen Carter, president; Ms. Lynda Robertson, Assistant Director, Gilman School Upward Bound Program. First alcohol and drug abuse workshop will be held Saturday, March 1, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Gilman School.

Mrs. Patricia Hughes, the Maryland Governor's wife, has consented to be the honorary Chairperson of this project.

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Betters celebrate 50 years

Mrs. Sarah Johnson hosted a surprise 50th wedding anniversary for Milton and Elizabeth Better, and surprised they were when they entered the beautifully decorated dining room at Martin's West to the greetings of family and friends.

Formal activities began with the serving of champagne, punch and finger foods. Romantic music was enjoyed throughout the evening.

Elizabeth and Milton, after recovering from the initial surprise, moved about talking with family and friends from Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland.

A delicious dinner was followed by a brief program which included favorite songs sung by Carolyn Smith and original poems by Sarah. Gifts were presented and dancing was led by the honorees.

Enjoying the evening were: Eleno Barrett, Celester Better, Emily Bryant, Ethel Diggs, Alice Harris, Hannah Lindsay, Inez Robinson, Deloris Mann.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Allen, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Harrod, Carrie Bridges, Henry Freeman, Rev. Thomas Taylor, Robin Wilmore, Thomas J. Wilmore, Thomas O. Wilmore, Gloria Better Lee, Troy Lee, Bobby Andrews, Dorothy Bacoate and Sarah Johnson.

From Phildelphia: Frances Lewis, William Lewis, Pamela Lewis, Tamara Lewis and Selena Lewis. From New Jersey: Sarah Lewis, Patricia Lewis, Kevin Lewis and Brenda Lewis.

Other guests included Vera Booze of Huntington, Md. and Jean Byers and Bernice Hicks of Washington, D.C.

From Williamsburg, Va. Louise Taylor, Carrie Radcliffe and Vernon Radcliffe.

From Yorktown, Va.: Rosetta Harrod, John Harrod Sr., John Harrod Jr. Shirley Jefferson, Mae Harrod, Lisa Harrod and Alberta Brooks.

—Reception

(Continued from page 7)

political persuasion in the State of Maryland.

Service during the reception was perfect, the cuisine was superb, and everyone present found that the fireplace, wood paneled walls, board room, and other amenities of the facility provided an excellent backdrop for a scintillating social interlude.

The Manor Club is a private membership club fashioned after the old gentlemen's clubs of the Victorian era in England. The purpose of those establishments was to provide a sanctuary in which business and/or relaxation could be conduced far from the teeming raucous behavior of the public rabble and prying spouses.

Saundra Dobson and Ernest Jones, the proprietors of the swanky establishment, have modified this concept sufficiently to provide a sanctuary for members of both sexes to enjoy the comforts of elegant and congenial atmosphere where business and soical activities can be conducted with the assurance of privacy, combined with easy access to superb food and service.

The Manor Club is located in the former ME-DE-SO Club which, for more than 35 years, served as the center of social life for the black community during those eras in which the wealthiest and most professional persons with sepia toned skins could not gain access to segregated clubs and restaurants.

Housed in a Victorian mansion built during the 1880's, the Manor Club boasts ample amenities including meeting rooms, board room, library, ballroom, solarium, banquet seating, a brick enclosed courtyard, and a plush television lounge with giant screens.

It's definitely a place to go for the ultimate in socializing, conversing and relaxing.

A HERO'S STORY

During his brief lifetime, NASA astronaut Ronald E. McNair achieved remarkable successes: honors graduate of North Carolina A&T University, a doctorate in physics from M.I.T. specializing in lasers; Presidential Scholar, Ford Foundation Fellow, black-belt Karate master, husband and father.

In an essay he wrote for students and their parents shortly before his tragic death aboard the space shuttle Challenger, Ron McNair told of how the Black college experience put him on the path to a successful life.

General Foods Corporation will be publishing Ron McNair's full essay in the near future. We think the following excerpts in support of Black colleges speak eloquently to the concerns of our young.

"In September 1967, I arrived at North Carolina A&T University, a predominantly Black institution, to pursue a degree in physics, though I could barely say the word, could not spell it, and knew even less about the subject matter. After discussing the matter with my counselor and taking standardized tests, I was advised to 'go and try' physics because, in the words of one counselor, 'You're good enough.' Obediently I took this advice—and went on to graduate in physics, with honors, on schedule and armed with the tools that would launch my career on a trajectory through graduate school, into the industrial laboratories and finally around the moon and aboard the space shuttle.

Black institutions have distinguished themselves through their capability to transform academic potential into scholarly achievement—while simultaneously challenging the precocious arrogant elite. If there is uncertainty about what area to pursue, one might choose a college that gives the latitude to think about, and then 'go and try.' Many Black professionals (including myself) will readily concede that life probably would have taken a different course if the support structure and academic programs of a Black Institution had not been available. (Though) I do not advocate that anyone select or eliminate a school solely on the basis of its racial makeup... my support of Black colleges and universities is competitive and indispensable institutions is firm and unequivocal.

Early one peaceful morning in February 1984, as I blissfully floated on the ceiling of the space shuttle Challenger fast asleep, I was awakened by music being piped up from the mission control center. My eyes stretched wide open in disbelief and my face lit up with delight, for immediately I recognized the music as my college alma mater. I glanced at the N.C.A&T banner proudly affixed to the wall, and 400 years of history quickly raced through my mind. It was during this charged moment of heightened awareness that I thanked God that through a Black university, I had had the chance to develop, the desire to be, and the opportunity to do."

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MARCH 1986