If you'd like to see your Medicare benefits improved, you can start by reading this ad.

In 1965, Medicare was signed into law and a promise was made to the citizens of this country.

A promise that people over 65 would always be guaranteed quality health care at an affordable price.

Today, Medicare is having a problem living up to that promise. And with the federal budget cuts now being implemented, the problem will only worsen.

Recognizing this, the federal government asked companies like Blue Cross & Blue Shield to develop possible alternatives. The proposal we submitted is called the Medicare Demonstration Project.

If you'll take a minute and compare it to traditional Medicare, you'll see that our program is clearly superior.

We don't want to replace Medicare, we want to improve it.

The program we've proposed *will not* take the place of traditional Medicare.

Instead, it will offer beneficiaries a *choice.* Traditional Medicare *or* one of three different options designed by Blue Cross & Blue Shield.

Options that include all services currently covered by Medicare, as well as a number of services that aren't. And if you're dissatisfied for any reason, you can switch back to Medicare at any time.

How Our Program Compares To Traditional Medicare.

	Medicare	Blue Cross & Blue Shield Medicare Demonstration Project
Hospitalization:	60 days covered in full after a $492 deductible per stay. 30 days with $123 per day patient co-pay. 60 "lifetime" days with $246 per day patient co-pay.	365 days paid-in-full. No deductibles. No co-pays.
Medical/Surgical:	80% of Medicare allowed charge after a $75 annual deductible.	Paid-in-full to participating providers. (Except $4-$5 for office visit, depending on program.)
Prescription Drugs:	None.	Covered except for $5 co-pay.
Local Control:	Federal program. No local control.	In addition to approval from the federal government, the programs and rates must also be approved by the Maryland Insurance Division.
Input by Seniors:	None.	An Oversight Committee and a Senior Advisory Committee will be implemented to provide seniors with direct and regular input on ways to improve the program.
Administration:	Claims for more than 300,000 beneficiaries administered by Maryland Blue Cross & Blue Shield.	Claims for more than 300,000 beneficiaries administered by Maryland Blue Cross & Blue Shield.

We're proposing increased coverage and greater freedom of choice.

Currently, only 30% of the physicians in Maryland accept the charge that Medicare allows as payment in full. The other 70% bill their patients for the balance.

One of the choices we'll make available has 90% of the physicians in Maryland accepting our payment in full. Another has 55% accepting.

That means you'll have greater freedom to see the physician of your choice. With no deductibles. No 20% co-payment. And *no balance billing.*

We think you should have some say in this matter, don't you agree?

Some people have opposed the project. They're opposed to even offering you these programs as an option.

Of course, the availability of traditional Medicare won't be affected one way or the other. What will be affected is your right to be given a choice.

At Blue Cross & Blue Shield, we think you should be allowed to make up your own mind. If you agree, we urge you to fill out the attached coupon and send it to us today.

I agree. Senior citizens should have the freedom to choose the expanded benefits proposed under the Medicare Demonstration Project by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Maryland.

Please send me additional information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Blue Cross & Blue Shield, P.O. Box 5485, Baltimore, MD 21204.

BAA3/86

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Maryland

OUR WORLD

Pattie Hodges

OUR WORLD EDITOR

PARTYLINE

GALA RETIREMENT DINNER

A gala retirement dinner was held for Mrs. Mary E. Turner recently at the Forum. The affair was arranged by her husband, five sons, and daughter, her four daughters-in-law, and a very good friend of the family.

Mrs. Turner retired on December 3, 1985, from the Social Security Administration after 22 years and 8 months of Service. She began working there as a Searching Clerk and retired in the capacity of a Section Manager.

A very impressive program had been prepared for this occasion, with Ethel Jenkins, a co-worker, as mistress of ceremonies.

The music was furnished by the Panthers Athletic Club's Disc Jockeys, the singing group "Rise", and Bobby Spencer as soloist, accompanied by pianist James Dewitt Alston.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Janice Ford, wife of the Rev. Herman A. Ford, pastor of Fountain Baptist Church, of which Mrs. Turner is a member.

A poem, which was especially written for this occasion, by her youngest son Wayne, was recited by three of her grandchildren, Sabrina Turner, Tara Turner, and Michele McDowell. Andre Anderson was the photographer.

Mrs. Turner wore a beautiful creation of off-white satin and polyester designed and made by one of her daughters-in-law, Mrs. Rachel E. Turner. Her accessories were purple with amethyst jewelry, and a waterfall diamond ring. The Forum was beautifully decorated with same colors of the honoree.

Mrs. Turner was presented with a red rose by her husband and each of her children as Bobby Spencer sang, "I Choose You Again". She was wished all of the good things that life can give during her years to come. Mrs. Turner was also presented with a video cassette recorder, among the many other gifts.

Some of Mrs. Turner's friends who shared in the celebration were, A.J. Alexander, Mrs. Annette Ames, Mrs. Wilhemina Best, Mrs. Addiemae Brown, Ms. Clarice Burke, Leonard Cox, Ms. Etta Crump, Miss Anita Davis, Ms. Bertha Davis, Mrs. Helen Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fitzgerald, Miss Yvonne Fitzgerald, Mrs. Annette Gibson, Mrs. Daisy Gillard, Ms. Joyce Gillard, Eddie Green, Ray Hairston, Thomas Henson, Ms. Jackie Hill, Ed Holy, Elijah Horsey, Mrs. Daisy Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Johnson, Mrs. Oceola Jordon, Mr. and Mrs. Lushes Lewis, Mrs. Lillie Martin, Mrs. Hallie Maynor, Mrs. Carolyn McFadden, Mrs. Bernice McNair, Larry McNair, Mrs. Mae Newby, Mrs. Pat Newby, Mrs. Martha Perry, Bernard Proctor, Mrs. Sibley Savage, Mrs. Betty Scott, Mrs. Linda Sloane, Mrs. Janice Spiller, Mrs. Francine Sykes, Miss Renae Sykes, Ms. Pat Taylor, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mrs. Maxcine Thomas, Foster Tuck, Mrs. Lucille Williams, Mrs. Virginia Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Young and Mrs. Geneva Green.

TAUETTE GIRLS' CLUB DINNER MEET

The seniors and juniors of the Tauette Girl's Club held a dinner meeting recently to finalize plans for the annual Diamond Scholarship Ball, which will be held March 15, in the Holliday Room in the Cross Keys. The meeting was hosted by Gyl Johnson and Kara Speights.

The seniors, known as "Diamonds" and the juniors, known as "rosebuds" are very excited about the upcoming affair, which is the highlight of the year.

The Tauette Club is sponsored by the Tau Gamma Delta Sorority, Inc., Pi Chapter. The purpose of the club is to encourage the development and growth of young ladies grades 7-12. They participate in cultural, educational, service and social activities.

The annual Diamond Ball is a co-sponsored event, designed to present the graduating members of the Tauette Club, and to award scholarships for the furtherance of their education.

After meeting, the young ladies dined on a real homemade Italian meal of spaghetti and meat sauce, lasagne, tossed salad, and a delectable assortment of desserts. The tables were decorated in pink and white, the Tauette Club colors, and adorned with fresh flowers.

The Diamonds are Schedanna Stevenson, Tessa Bacon, Martina Robertson, Kara Speights and Gyl Johnson. The Rosebuds in attendance were Alisha Johnson, Tracey Lanier, Adrienne Evans, Carolyn Terry and Cheri Roberts.

The senior advisor is Mrs. Theresa Lewis. The junior advisor and the National Director of the Tauette Clubs in Mrs. Loretta Daniel.

IOTA OBSERVES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., which is composed of more than 5,000 sorors who are members of chapters in eighty seven prominent cities representing thirty-one states, the District of Columbia, Bangaore, India, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, is recognized as an important national organization.

It encourages young women to qualify for the many challenges offered by increased employment opportunities. It is also recognized as an organization of competent women holding prominent positions in, or operating businesses that are satisfying and invaluable to community progress. It is further recognized as an organization whose members have a major interest in the total economic and cultural progress of all women.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., in today's world, seeks (1) to unite in a sisterhood qualified business and professional women; (2) to promote increased interest in business education among high school and college girls through planned programs and scholarships; (3) to encourage the development of personalities for all areas of leadership through the provision of educational opportunities; (4) to establish and promote civic and social activities for youth and adults.

Having been founded in 1929 by Lola Mercedes Parker of Chicago, IL, Iota has made many outstanding contributions to the changing socio-economic patterns of our time, and has continued to project the philosophy of the pursuit of excellence in all worthy endeavors.

During Black History Month Observance, Iota pointed with pride to the outstanding accomplishments of its own sorors. Many of them have distinguished themselves in the fields of education, federal government, accounting, nursing, religion, etc.

More than thirty years ago, Kappa Chapter initiated (through Soror Evelyn D. Wilkey) The Living Makers of Black History Society.

Today, more than one hundred-fifty outstanding Baltimoreans are listed as members of this society. This year, they saluted the Rev. Wendell Phillips, Pastor of Heritage United Church of Christ, State Legislator, and champion of Civil Rights.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the chapter presented Showcasing Iota Women, an exhibit displayed near the main entrance of Reisterstown Plaza, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Coordinators for the event were: Mrs. Carla Ann Johnson, Chairman; Mrs. Barbara Brice, Co-Chairman; Mrs. Mildred Marlow, Chapter President;

Committee members were: Ann Foster, Evelyn Faulk, Eva Cook, Mary B. Ames, Hazel Hyman and Fannie B. Poulson.

2 FOUNDATIONS TO AID COLLEGES THROUGH GRANTS

Directors of the Bush Foundation, Saint Paul and of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Menlo Park, CA., at separate meetings in January and February, agreed to launch a $7.9 million joint program of faculty development grants for historically black private undergraduate colleges.

The program will operate from 1987 through 1995, supported equality by the two foundations, and administered by the Bush Foundation.

1,000 attend colorful Omega Mardi Gras

Photos by Paris Gray

TOP WINNERS in the 'Best Individual' costume competition at the Omega Mardi Gras hosted by the Pi Omega Chapter at Martin's West Friday, Feb. 14 were Marion Ladd (R) the "Genie" who won first prize; and Calstinia Parker (L) the "Las Vegas Showgirl" who won third prize. Not pictured is Brenda Doswell, who got second prize as a "Geisha Girl."

Neither the steady snowstorm, nor cold weather or treacherous roadways nor an announcement on the radio earlier that day that the event was cancelled stopped the 1,000 folks who appeared with bells on for the 1986 Mardi Gras hosted by the Pi Omega Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

"Ready for the party" they appeared in droves at Martin's Friday, Feb. 14 beginning their arrival at 7:30 p.m., decked out in a myriad array of colorful and interesting costumes, or in glimmering formal wear.

They were not disappointed. The event, given for the benefit of the chapter's Scholarship Fund, was a smashing success. Guests and brothers danced with gusto to the effervescent tunes of the Dennis Fisher Band. They sipped cocktails of every variety and supped on a smorgasbord of delectables.

And that wasn't all. The Parade of Costumes produced first, second and third place winners in the categories of 'Best Individual', 'Best Couple' and 'Best Group.' What fun it was to watch the hilarious parade go by.

Marion Ladd, a "Genie" garnered the first prize in the Individual Costume, Brenda Doswell, a "Geisha Girl" took second place and Clastinia Parker, dressed as a "Las Vegas Show Girl" won third prize.

In the Couples category, Delhi and Peggy Thweatt won first prize as "Space Invaders", Howard and Sharon Tucker, won second prize as "Salt and Pepper" and third prize was won by Preston and Mary Blanks who came dressed in sacks as "Mr. and Mrs. Sacks of 5th Ave.

Taking top honors in the group category were the "Clowns", second place winners were a bunch dressed as hospital workers who had dubbed themselves "The Night Shift" and third place honors went to a group which called themselves "The Winning Hand" (cards).

In each category, the prizes were $100, $50 and $25 respectively.

Judging the costume competition were Ophelia Bell, coordinator, and director, Phi Go and Garland Thompson, Editorial Staff, Supporters (Individual), Joseph Poe, graphic designer, Public Relations Dept. MSU, and Eva Lewis (Couples) and Arnold Pierce, principal, School No. 178 and Bonnie Butler, Entertainment Editor, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers (groups).

There was more to come. Many guests won monetary prizes of $500, $100 and other amounts. The piece de resistance was the raffling of the car-a 1986 Mustang.

(Continued on page 10)

BEST COUPLE HONORS went to "Space Invaders" Delhi and Peggy Thweatt.

KEY COORDINATORS for the fantastically successful Mardi Gras were Dr. Benjamin White, co-chairman; George McKinney, basileus and Walter Ten, co-chairman.

GARNERING THE BEST GROUP SPOT were the "Clowns."

Epsilon Omega AKAs observe 78th Founders' Day

DR. MAXINE WOOD, (L) guest speaker (and soror) during the Founders' Day Observance of the Epsilon Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority held at the Forum Saturday, Feb. 15, is pictured with (from left): Sorors Heloise Frazier, basileus and Elizabeth Craig, Founders' Day Chairperson.

Photos by Paris Gray

ALL SMILES during the festive event are (L to R): Sorors Violet B. Cox, Vera B. Flint and Constance Grant.

OTHERS SEEN are (from left): Sorors Helen Thornton, Idell Pugh and Esther Bailey.

With the theme, 'Nourishing Our Roots', the Epsilon Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. observed its 78th Founders' Day Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Forum, Primrose Ave.

Though Baltimore was recovering from the previous night's snowstorm, with ice-laden streets, more than 300 sorors and guests came out to commemorate the founders of the oldest black sorority in the country.

Chaired by Soror Elizabeth Craig, who also presided, the program commenced, (following the cocktail hour which began at noon) with the processional and the singing of the Black National Anthem by the audience.

On the dais were Sorors Mildred Seaborne, Emma Bright, Flossie Dedmond, Flozella Clark, Virginia Vauls, Idell Paugh, Gilda Garrett,

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MARCH 1986