Omegas hold Achievement Week—Founders' Day Banquet

Photos by Paris Gray and R. L. Hobbs

ERNEST STOKES (C) raps with Saul M. Perdue at the 75th anniversary Achievement Week and Founders' Day Banquet held at the Forum, Primrose Ave. Sunday, Nov. 23. Listening in is Mrs. I. Humphrey.

OMEGA BROTHERS seen here are (front row, L to R): James Grant, Roosevelt Hobbs, Lester Buster, Donald Atkinson, James G. Carter, Luther Day; (back row, L to R): Edward Lane, Steve O. Smith, Arthur W. Lambert, Bryant K. Jenkins and Jerry H. Palmer.

CONGRESSMAN-ELECT KWEISI MFUME (L) receives a special award from Lester Buster, co-chairperson for the event.

GRAND BASILEUS MOSES C. NORMAN (L) who was guest speaker for the occasion, is seen with local Pi Omega Basileus George F. McKinney.

Pi Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Fraternity celebrated its annual achievement week and founders day with a banquet and program at the Forum on November 23. The celebration focused attention on those men and women in the community who have made outstanding achievements during the past year in line with the four cardinal principles of Omega — Manhood, Uplift, Scholarship, Perseverance.

Featured speakers were Moses C. Norman, Grand Basileus of Omega and its Chief Executive Officer, and Kweisi Mfume newly elected congressman. The Program started at 6 p.m. after an enjoyable cocktail hour which was more like "old home week" George McKinney, Basileus Omega, welcomed the assembled guests, and the hall resounded to the strains of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Invocation was offered by Donald Atkinson, chapter chaplain. Walter Amprey, past Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, took over as emcee and did a commendable job in keeping things moving and on schedule.

First to be honored were Pi Omegas distinguished achievers who have worked over and beyond the call of duty in the service of Omega. Recipients this year were Alfred F. James and Mack S. Williams with George McKinney as presenter.

Pi Omega's service awards for long time service to the Fraternity were to the following — Theodore Randolph and Powell Sheffey-sixty years; Colden L. Brown, Eugene Byrd, Sr. O. St. Clair Franklin, John J. Hurt, Saul M. Perdue, Mack S. Williams, Alfred L. Woodridge-fifty years; and James G. Carter, Henderson W. Neal - forty years. Andrew Ray, Second District Representative was presenter.

The Achievement Awards went to the following — the Omega Man of the Year to George McKinney Pi Omega, presenter Arthur Lambert; Charles Elliott Chi Kappa chapter, presenter Jerry Palmer.

The outstanding ctiizens of the year awards went to Levi Watkins, Jr. M.D. presenter Benjamin Whitten, Pi Omega, and Robert Wade, William Banks Ci Kappa presenter. Special Awards to Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Lester Buster presenter; Que-Ettes, James E. Grant presenter; AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, Bennie F. Short presenter.

Congressman Mfume, in his remarks spoke of the need to keep hope alive in the minds of our young people, to encourage them to stay in school, avoid drugs, to learn orderly work habits and to cultivate respect for themselves and each other that they might reach their full potential. He spoke movingly of his love affair with the community and of the help and support he had received from so many in his struggle from humble beginnings to his position today. Others can do likewise.

Additional awards were as follows — The Robert L. Gill Undergraduate Omega Man of the year award went to Paul Sean T. Gray-Iota Epsilon chapter of Towson State, presenter, Bryant T. Jenkins.

The Howard L. Cornish Humanitarian Award to Ruby C. Gill (Posthumously), presenter, Clarence M. Hurtt. Black Needs Assessment Project was presented by Judson B. Wood. Coffee House Ministry — Union Baptist Church, presenter was Luther W. Day, Sr.

Essay contest winners were Serrick McNeill first, Dawn Dorsey second. The essay topic this year was "An Investment In Today's Youth, Will Yield Dividends Tomorrow." First place was $100, second $75. Presenters were James Carter and Jerry Palmer.

Pi Omega Scholarship awards went to Darlene Keene, Nathan Johnson, So Bahk, Lynell Roberts, Woodrow King, Darrell Taylor and Troy Johnson.

The tribute to the founders featured a slide show with enlarged color photos of the four, projected on the screen as their lives and achievements were narrated by Colden Brown, assisted by Joseph McNeil and Barry Young.

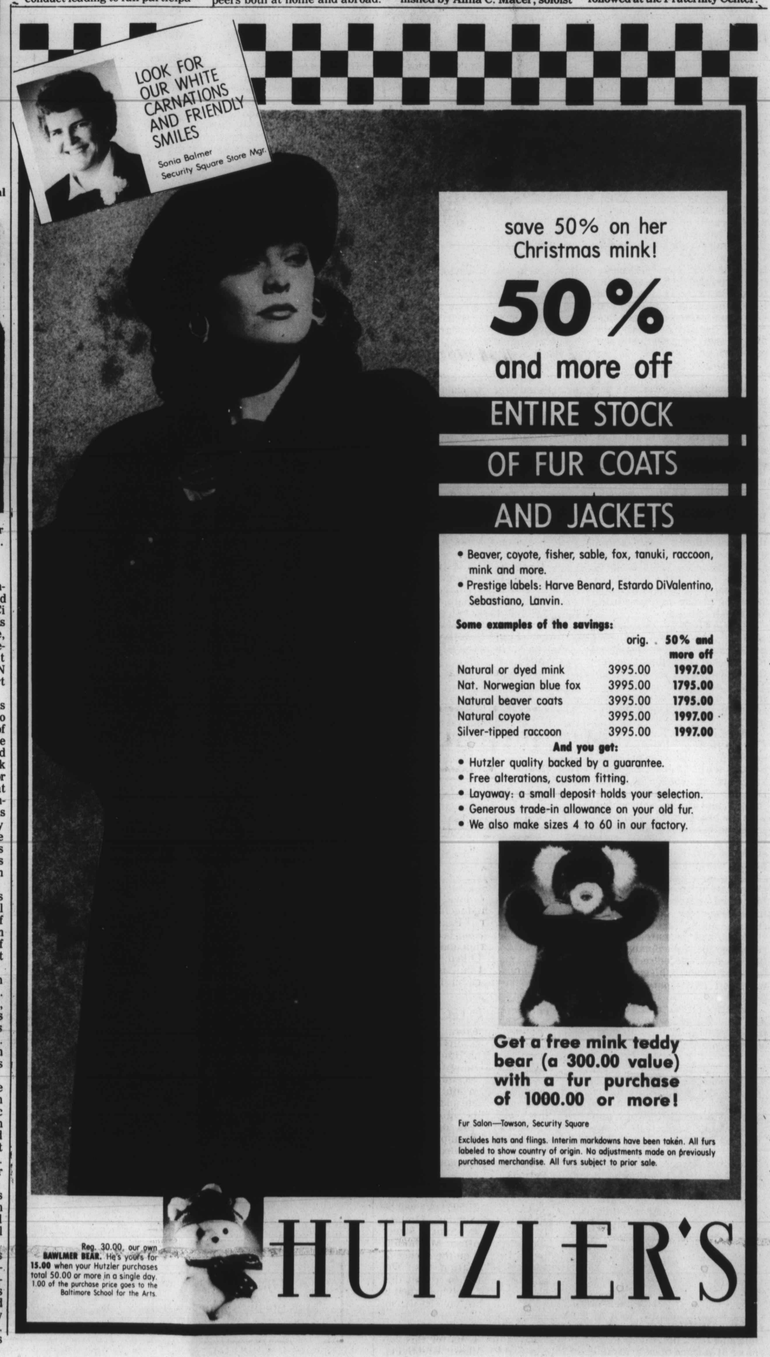
Dr. Norman in his address spoke of his travels throughout the country where he witnessed in all areas a growing concern and interest in higher education for our youth. He mentioned the moral obligation of college trained men and women to give back to the community those standards and values and codes of conduct leading to full participation in American life. He spoke of his association with one of Omega's Greats — Dr. Benjamin Mays, former Morehouse president, scholar, Divine, historian and race leader.

This man rose from the depths of poverty in Jim Crow South Carolina to be honored among his peers both at home and abroad. He mentioned the inspiration he received in his classes and outside. "Omega men" he said, "must be like the runners in a relay race. Each must run his distance, but the baton of learning must not be dropped but passed on to the next generation."

Music for the occasion was furnished by Alma C. Macer, soloist accompanied by Janice Forrest.

Members of the Lampodes Club acted as ushers and did an excellent job in seating and keeping passage ways clear.

The affair began and ended on time, closing with a stirring rendition of the Omega Hymn by the assembled brothers. A reception followed at the Fraternity Center.



Freedom Heritage Banquet held

THE REV. CECELIA WILLIAMS BRYANT (L) chats with (from L) Dr. Flossie Dedmond and Judge Robert Watts during the ninth annual Freedom Heritage Banquet fundraiser for the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum held Sunday, Nov. 23 at the Palladium, 2900 Liberty Hghts. Ave.

Photos by Paris Gray

THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE DOUGLASS WILDER (L), Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, receives the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper's Distinguished Award from John J. Oliver, Jr., Chairman of the AFRO's Board of Directors, following Lt. Gov. Wilder's keynote address at the banquet.

MRS. EMMA DUVALL DUDLEY (standing) receives the First Museum Award from Mrs. Viola C. Jackson (seated).

SHIRLEY REDDICK (L) and Anastatia Benton hold a private powwow during the event.

The ninth annual Freedom Heritage Banquet fundraiser for the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum (founded June 1978) was held Sunday Nov. 23 at the Palladium, 2900 Liberty Hgts. Ave.

As the numerous guests assembled at 5 p.m. they were welcomed by Judge Robert B. Watts, emcee, chairman, Board of Directors, Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum.

In keeping with our history, they soulfully sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and enjoyed a delicious dinner following the invocation by the Rev. Cecelia Willaims Bryant, Minister of Church Life and Development, Bethel A.M.E. Church. Dinner music was by Lionel Jiggetts.

The Occasion was done by the Rev. Mrs. Veris Lee, chairperson of the banquet, the introduction of dais guests by Mrs. Raquel Mitchell.

The audience was favored with a musical selection by Mrs. Mary C. Robinson, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all assembled.

Greetings were extended by James E. Lewis, museum president; Anthony Carey Esq., museum vice president and Virginia Kiah, museum founder-coordinator.

Following recognition of elected public officials Ms. Karen C. Braithwaite sang several musical selections.

Impressions of Dr. Lillie Carroll Jackson were done by Trazana Beverly, Tony award-winning actress, who did an original monologue.

Introduction of guest speaker, the Honorable Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was done by Juanita Jackson Mitchell. Esq.

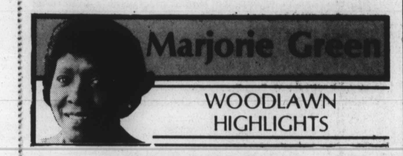
The address by Lt. Gov. Wilder was one of hope, which spoke of the struggles we have endured, uplifting of our youth, the need to be willing to sacrifice and work hard in unity, to achieve our common goals. Following his remarks, he received a standing ovation.

In addition he was presented the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper's Distinguished Award by John J. Oliver, Jr., Chairman of the AFRO's Board of Directors.

Other awards presented were the Freedom Heritage Award, presented by Dr. Florence V. Clark to Dr. Flossie Dedmond; the Freedom Heritage Award presented (posthumously) to the Rev. Arthur J. Payne by the Rev. Asbury Smith; the First Museum Award, presented to Mrs. Emma Duvall Dudley, by Mrs. Viola C. Jackson, and the Founder's Award, presented to Anthony Carey by Mrs. Virginia Jackson Kiah, founder-coordinator of the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum.

It was an evening which embodied both history and hope, and a sense of, at least for the moment, togetherness in a common bond.

Committees for the affair included Time and Place — Veris Lee, Chairperson; Juanita J. Mitchell, Esq. and G. Raquel Mitchell; Program — Flossie Dedmond, chairperson; Brenda Oliver, Geraldine Waters, Odell Payne and Jessie Gladden; Tickets — Emma D. Dudley, chairperson, Flozella R. Clark and Darcella Washington; Publicity — Loretta Moody, chairperson; Elizabeth Murphy Oliver and Christopher Landon; Awards — Viola Jackson, chairperson; Marcella Holland, Juanita Mitchell, Esq., Bowen Jackson and Geraldine Waters; Hostesses — Brenda Oliver, chairperson; Anastatia Benton, Leta Williams, Laura Mitchell, Lucille Jeffries, Elizabeth Gray, Marian Langley Shirley Stokes, Lillie Cottingham, Charlotte Stafford, Shirley Edwards, Helen Goodwin, Darcella Washington and Sandra Gordon.



Marjorie Green

WOODLAWN HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTY NAACP HOLDS FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA

The Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP presented an outstanding Holiday Extravaganza at the Forum on Primrose Ave. this past Sunday evening. The spacious ballroom was full of NAACP supporters of Black Business.. They were there to enjoy an evening of relaxation that included good food, good music, beautiful clothes and popular hair fashions.

Models associated with Chic Productions, under the direction of Michael Curry, waltzed through a fast moving show of original creations by designers Donovan, June Gould, Rob Gaymon, Charles Wells, and hat designer Phyllis Eley.

Hair styles were created under the watchful eye of Baltimore County Branch secretary Orelia Moore who is the proprietress of the O's Circle of Beauty on W. Rogers Avenue. The Branch is planning another Fashion extravaganza for the early spring according to Col. James Pennington, president of the Baltimore County Branch.

SURPRISE CALL

It was both surprising and refreshing to receive a telephone call recently from Mrs. Leesa Christian Green. She chatted on for several minutes about all the marvelous things God has brought into her life.

She claims the pen as her new found pulpit of love. A staunch follower of the teachings of the Reverends Fred Price and Ora Roberts, Leesa has been a visitor in both California and Tulsa, OK since we last talked. She seems convinced that she has been called not to preach but to teach by doing.

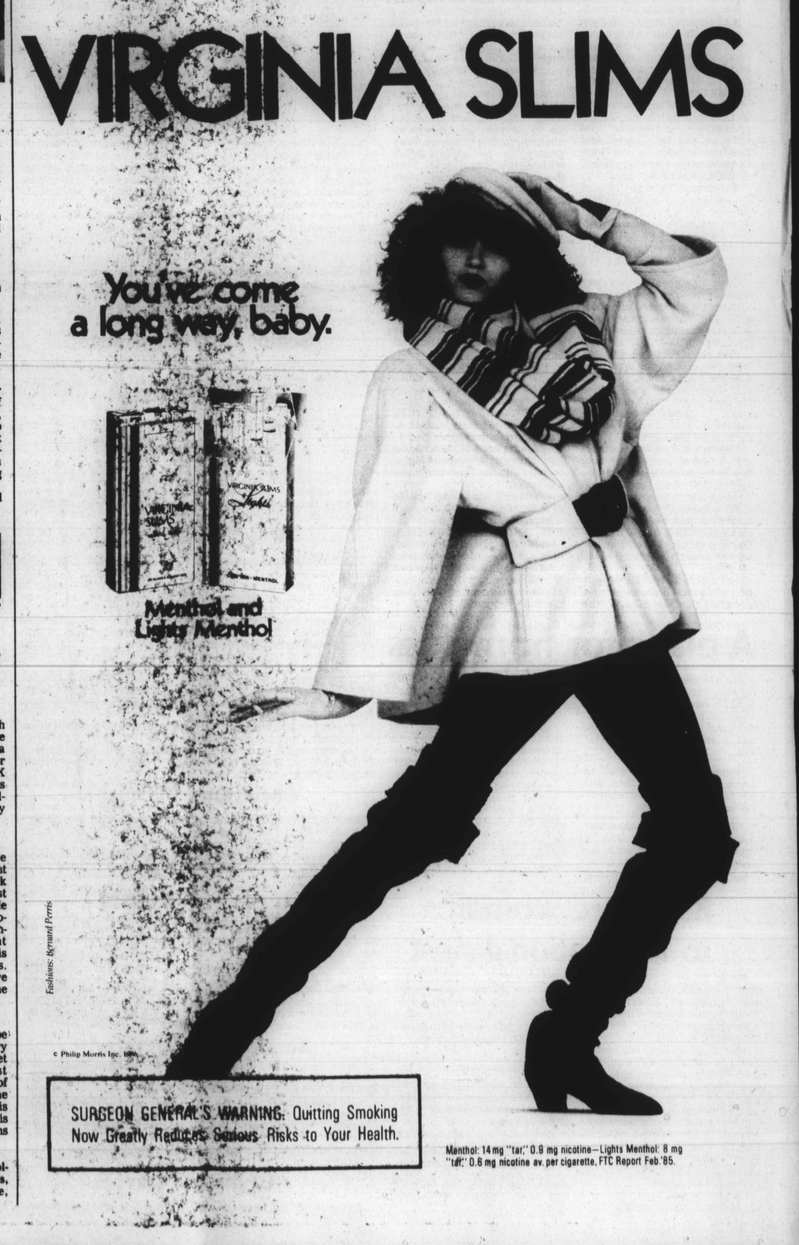
GBC/BIG ELECTIONS

Former greater Baltimore Chapter of Blacks In Government president Frank Hunt was back again campaigning for the post he vacated in December 1985. He has outlined an ambitious program for the state and local branches of this government organization. His opponent is Social Security employee, Ms. Dorothy Green. Next week we will announce the outcome of the elections.

NAACP

NAACP JUBILEE DAY will be celebrated on Sunday, January 11, 1987 at the Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church located on the corner of Dolphin and Etting Sts. The public is invited to attend this celebration. Dr. Calvin Burnett is chairman of the Jubilee Citizens Committee.

Send news items for this column c/o Woodlawn Highlights, P.O. Box 785, Baltimore, Maryland 21203



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