PEOPLE

Liberty picks head surgeon

Dr. Harold E. Ramsey has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Liberty Medical Center. In his new role, Dr. Ramsey is committed to giving the highest quality of surgical care and to narrow the gap between the patient and the care giver.

He attended Knoxville College, Howard University, and Meharry Medical College from which he received his medical degree. His internship was at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in New York and was followed by a residency in General Surgery at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Boston.

Thereafter, he served as the Assistant Chief of Surgery at the U.S. Public Health Services Hospital in Seattle for three years before entering the speciality of Tumor Surgery.

He completed an additional three years of residency in cancer surgery at Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York.

Upon completion of this training, he continued his work in tumor surgery at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Baltimore as Chief of Tumor Surgery and later became the Chief of Surgery.

After resigning from the position of Chief of Surgery in 1979, he entered private practice in Baltimore.

Dr. Ramsey holds teaching appointments at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, both as Assistant Professor in Surgery and Otolaryngology. He also teaches at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Harold E. Ramsey

Sessomes honored by VA

Nellie M. Sessomes, psychiatric nurse at the Baltimor VA Medical Center, has won the prestigious VA Administrator's Hands and Heart Award for 1987. Patient care delivered with kindness and compassion is the criterion for the award which is presented annually at each of the 172 VA Medical Centers across the nation.

James A. Christian, Medical Center Director, presented the award at a ceremony in her honor Feb. 8.

"Our nurses are our most important asset and Sessomes has continuously displayed professional expertise in the performance of her duties," he said.

Gay Nyman, M.D., Chief, Psychiatric Service, also spoke at the ceremony. He cited Sessomes' caring style and ability to communicate with patients as the winning combination which has won her not only the award, but the admiration of patients and staff alike.

Sessomes has worked at the Baltimore VA Medical Center since 1979 and been an integral part of the psychiatric staff there since 1983. "I care about the veterans," she says. "I want to help them get their priorities back in order.

They know what's right but just got mixed up temporarily so I help them learn what they already know."

A Baltimore resident, Sessomes graduated from the Kate Bittings Memorial School of Nursing in North Carolina in 1960.

Before coming to the VA, she worked at the Crownsville State Hospital, the Northwest Medical Center and worked with Dr. Addison Pope in developing a Screening and Evaluation Unit at City Hospitals.

Trusty gets state award

Virgie A. Trusty of West Baltimore, a cashier in the ticket office at the Francis Scott Key Bridge, is presented a plaque by Anthony P. Frate on being named the bridge's Operations Employee of 1987. Mr. Frate is the Executive Secretary to the Maryland Transportation Authority.

Ms. Trusty, who has been with the bridge's toll collection and fiscal units since 1962, was cited for exemplary and competent job performance during the past year. The recognition program was established by the Authority to publicly acknowledge and commend employees in various operational areas at each of its facilities who consistently display excellence in their work, as determined by supervisors and co-workers.

The Maryland Transportation Authority is the public body which manages and operates the state's seven toll facilities, including the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

Maryland taps 5 for Hall of Fame

Ruth Massinga, Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, announced today that five Maryland women will be inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame March 1, 1988.

The ceremony will take place in the Joint Committee Hearing Room, Legislative Services Building in Annapolis.

Governor William Donald Schaefer is scheduled to preside over the fourth annual Hall of Fame ceremonies recognizing the life achievements of Senator Barbara Ann Mikulski; pioneer photojournalist Sadie Kneller Miller; political activist Mary Eliza Watters Risteau; pioneer educator and feminist Martha Carey Thomas; and Senator Verda Freeman Welcome, politician, civil rights and community activist.

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, was established in 1985 to recognize the contributions of women to the economic, political, cultural and social life of Maryland and the nation.

Mikulski (1936 -), known as an effective hand-on representative of the people, is the first woman to hold a Senate seat not previously held by her husband. She is also the first Democratic woman ever to have served in both Houses of Congress and the first woman ever to win a statewide election in Maryland. Her theme for her work in the U.S. Senate is "Getting Maryland and our country ready for the future.

Miller (1867 - 1920) began her career with the Westminister Democratic Advocate, where she was able to pursue her interest in writing. She later became known as "the only woman baseball reporter in the country" while covering the old Baltimore Orioles for the Baltimore - Telegram. Successfully combining the occupations of writer and photographer, she was soon recognized as "the only woman war correspondent in the world."

Risteau (1890 - 1978) is credited with paving the way for Maryland women in politics and education. Among the list of "firsts" amassed during her political career were: first woman elected to the Maryland House of Delegates; first woman elected to the State Senate; first woman to serve on the State Board of Education; first woman clerk of circuit court; and first woman state commissioner of loans.

Thomas (1857 - 1935) is perhaps best known for having facilitated the admission of women to the Johns Hopkins Medical School.

With the help of our friends, a total of $500,000 was raised to aid the Medical School in its financial struggle. The funds raised were used as leverage to get the university to accept the women's terms. Thomas and her friend, Mary Garrett, also headed a project which resulted in the opening of the Bryn Mawr School of Girls in Baltimore to fill the need for a school where girls could obtain an education which would prepare them for a good college.

Welcome (1907 -) has been a civil rights and community activist throughout most of her life. In 1959, she was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates and became the first black woman to achieve that distinction. Later in 1962, she was elected to the Maryland Senate, becoming America's first black state senator.

During her distinguished political career she is credited with the passage of many significant pieces of legislation which dealt with the civil and human rights of all citizens.

The induction ceremony is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

For further information, contact: J. C. Shay, public information director at 333-0011.

Clark completes basic

Stephanie Clark

Airman Stephanie Clark, daughter of Dorothy Felder of 1423 Rayleigh Way, and Raleigh D. Clark of 3711 Chesholm Road, both of Baltimore, has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

During the six weeks of training the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the community college of the Air Force.

She is a 1979 graduate of Patterson Senior High School, Baltimore.

Whitehead back from FBI training

Sergeant Johnny C. Whitehead of the Baltimore County Police Department has resumed his duties at police headquarters after completing an executive training session at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Only 250 law enforcement personnel from the U.S. and 23 foreign countries were selected to attend the intensive 11-week program of advanced professional, leadership, and management instruction.

The 31-year-old, eight-year veteran officer was selected from a number of applicants by Police Chief Cornelius J. Behan. Whitehead, a Woodlawn resident, has served in Field Operations and as legislative liasion officer in the Legal Division. He also acts as Assistant to the Chief concerning minority matters.

Johnny C. Whitehead

Women's health day set

Good Samaritan Hospital will present a Women's Health Day on Saturday, March 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the hospital auditorium. (Snow date: March 19). Special events will include a presentation on assertiveness by Helen Reich at 11:30 a.m. and a discussion on skin care and color harmony by Dorothea Apgar at 1:30 p.m. At 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., breast self-examination will be taught in groups, followed by tours of the mammograph suite. Babysitting service will be offered free while mothers attend events.

In addition, the day will feature free pap smears, nutrition counseling by members of the hospital's dietary department, booths staffed by the National Organization of Women, American Civil Liberties Union, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, and Baltimore Center for Victims of Sexual Assault. There will be giveaway items and a selection of materials from the 31st Street Bookstore, Inc. that are of interest to women.

For more information call 532-3838.

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Little Rock 9 honored

One of the most historic achievements in the long history of the NAACP is the focus of a 30-minute documentary, "The Return of the Little Rock Nine - A Milestone in American History," to be aired over WMAR-TV (Channel 2) on Sunday, Feb. 28, 1988, at 12:30 p.m.

Filmed on location in Little Rock, Arkansas, the documentary recounts the tumultuous days in the fall of 1957 when nine black youngsters, supported by the NAACP, integrated the city's Central High School.

This marked the first time the Army was called out to enforce the desegregation of public schools as mandated by the Court school decision of 1954.

Thirty-years later-in the fall of 1987- the youngsters, now all in their mid-40's, and each successful in his or her individual career, returned to the school, again under the sponsorship of the NAACP for their first reunion.

The documentary records the warm welcome they received from Arkansas' present Governor Bill Clinton, today's students at Central High, and city officials, and the reaction of the Little Rock Nine.

Serving as Executive Producer was George W. Collins, a longtime figure in Baltimore television.

Featured in the documentary is Moses Newsome, who covered, the original story for the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper and later served as the paper's Executive Editor.

Treatment program for youths comes to Maryland

On Feb. 1, 1988, a new service for troubled and troubling children opened in Columbia, Maryland. PRYDE, a program of The Pressley Ridge Schools, trains and pays people to provide foster parenting and treatment to children with emotional and behavioral problems.

PRYDE is new to Maryland, but the program has been providing homes for children in Pittsburgh, Pa., since 1981.

It also operates three sites in West Virginia. Through contracts with Baltimore City and Maryland's Department of Human Resources, PRYDE will have 50 slots for children and adolescents in Maryland.

Site Director of PRYDE Maryland is Percilla Lynch, M.Ed., who was a member of the team that developed PRYDE in Pittsburgh.

From her office in Columbia, Lynch is actively involved in recruiting prospective PRYDE treatment parents.

"PRYDE is an extremely valuable resource to a community for two reasons," "Lynch said. On the one hand, it offers homes and treatment for their problem to kids who would have been placed in institutions. But it also benefits adults in the community."

"We provide free professional training in parenting and counseling skills. After certification, our PRYDE treatment parents are eligible to receive a youngster into their homes. Because we consider our PRYDE treatment parents part of our professional team, we pay them $12,000 a year for each child."

PRYDE's "professional team" consists of parent supervisors, and psychologists who develop individual treatment plans for each youngster. Working under the supervision of the PRYDE staff, PRYDE parents implement the treatment plan with their PRYDE child.

"Our supervision is intense," said Lynch. "Because each parent supervisor has only 6 youngsters in his or her caseload, our treatment parents receive a lot of support and guidance. We're also on 24-hour call for emergencies, and we offer respite care for kids and parents who need a break from one another."

Although PRYDE sounds like foster care, its developers say it is very different. "It is foster care to the extent that parents provide a home, shelter, food and care to children. But the difference is that parents also add treatment. Unlike kids in traditional foster programs, PRYDE youngsters have emotional and behavioral problems. If it weren't for our PRYDE treatment parents, these youngsters would need to be in highly restrictive, residential programs."

Typically youngsters are referred to PRYDE for a variety of emotional and behavioral problems. Many suffer from depression. A majority have been neglected and physically or sexually abused. Lacking skills or ability to solve their problems, many are defiant and run away.

"All of these kids are at risk of failure if they don't receive help. These are the kids who eventually become drop-outs, and get involved with drugs or prostitution and ultimately the law," explains Lynch. "Our treatment parents are people who want to make a difference in the life of a child. They find PRYDE a way of making a real contribution."

Lynch says she has seen many tragic stories in the lives of children referred to PRYDE. She remembers Mary, an attractive, intelligent 16-year old who was abandoned by her mother at age one. Mary was taken in by her grandparents. When she was very young, her grandfather began sexually abusing her and seducing her with alcohol. An alcoholic at age 14, she was severely depressed and became self-abusive. She was committed to a psychiatric hospital.

"When a PRYDE staff member saw her for the first time, Mary's face was covered with self-inflicted scars," says Percilla. "The treatment she was receiving at the hospital was helping, and Mary was proud that she had stopped scratching herself. More than anything Mary wanted a home."

Mary could not return home; nor was she a candidate for traditional foster care because she needed treatment. She was referred to PRYDE but could not be placed immediately because no homes were available.

"We always have a waiting list of kids who need PRYDE homes, and so our recruitment is ongoing," said Lynch.

Lynch has nothing but praise for PRYDE treatment parents. "Mary is doing so well in her PRYDE home. She's learning what it means to be part of a healthy family, which is what PRYDE is all about," adds Lynch.

Prospective PRYDE parents need not have prior training in counseling; nor is a degree necessary. PRYDE parents, who come from all walks of life, receive the training they need in the 6-week training session. Lynch says the only prerequisites are that people care about kids and want to help. For more information, contact Percilla Lunch, (301) 740-3311.

Phi Beta Sigma fights teen pregnancy

On Saturday, Feb. 20, 1988 the National Board of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. met at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The major focus of Sigma's National Action Program, during the 1987-1989 Conclave Period, will be 'Project: S.A.T.A.P. (acronym for Sigma's Attack Teenage Pregnancy).

The purpose of this project is to significantly reduce the number of teenage pregnancies in our predominantly African-American communities by educating our African-American teenage males.

The mission of this project will be to conduct educational workshops, seminars, programs, projects and rap-sessions for and with our teenage males.

Sigma's Beta Club, an organization of Junior and Senior High School males, is the vehicle through which the project will be effectuated.

The Sigma Beta Club falls under Phi Beta's National Education Program. S.A.T.A.P. is being extensively developed with a purpose of proposing the project to the National Foundation March of Dimes as it once did with another National Project entitled S.A.D. (Sigma's Attack Defects).

Nationwide bow]-a-thons and bowling tournaments will be one of its funding sources along with corporate sponsorships.

The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1914 by three young black male students by the names of A. Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Morse and Charles I. Brown. They wanted to organize a Greek-letter fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship and service.

With the force, vigor, power and energy of its more than 85,000 dedicated men united in more than 600 chapters across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. continues to faithfully perpetuate composite growth and progress as the "people's fraternity" dedicated to providing services to all humanity.

Marvin 'Doc' Cheatham, of Baltimore, Maryland, is the National Director of Social Action.

"We hope not only to be truly successful with Project S.A.T.A.P., but we also intend to truly carry out our 'Adopt-A-Cause' program. We strongly encourage our chapters, officers and members to involve themselves in Red Cross Blood Drives, C.P.R. Classes, Hypertension Seminars, Black History Month, Adopt-A-Child, Big Brothers, Support Senior Citizens and the Homeless, Adopt-A-Business, March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon, Drug/Substance Abuse Projects, Physical & Mental Health, Health/Career/Job Fairs, Voter Registration/Mobilization/Education, Ethical Investments, Black-on-Black Crime Symposiums, the Black Family Support, Ride-A-Bike for the Retarded, Adopt-A-School, A.O.I.P., Sickle Cell Anemia Fund Raisers, Urban League, N.A.A.C.P., Trick-or-Treat for U.N.I.C.E.F. Food & Clothing Drives, Toys For Tots and U.N.C.F., just to name a few."

For additional information citizens may contact Phi Beta Sigma at its William E. Doar, Jr. Memorial Headquarters, 145 Kennedy St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011, (202) 726-5434.

ANNAPOLIS—ROUND-UP

Legislator seeks AIDS sperm test

To ensure sperm blood and tissue samples infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, an AIDS related disease, are not used by institutions, Senators Nathan Irby D-45 and Paula Hollinger D-Baltimore County have introduced two bills which would prevent the samples from being distributed to patients.

One of the proposed bills requires institutions to test sperm, blood and tissue for HIV and to report the results to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The bill also prohibits institutions from disclosing the identities of donors who give infected samples and from using the specimens which test positive.

The second bill required medical laboratories where serum samples are tested for HIV to submit statistical results to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene every month and to keep the information confidential.

"I think these are bills that will get through with no problem," said Irby.

Irby and Hollinger both serve on the Governor's AIDS Council which was formerly the Governor's Task Force on AIDS.

Although institutions should already be testing specimens for HIV and AIDS related characteristics Irby said he and Hollinger are proposing their bills to make sure that samples infected with the disease are not used.

Alicia Benjamin

Blacks battle judgeship bill

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

If Gov. William Donald Schaefer has his way, people in the state will lose their right to elect circuit Court judges.

The bill was heard before the House Judiciary Committee about two weeks ago and voted on yesterday, after press time.

Currently, Circuit Court judges are appointed to fill vacancies but must be elected by citizens to regain their seats.

"I personally don't like it and I think it's inappropriate timing," said Del. Kenneth Montague D-44. "This process has served the citizens for a long period of time and we have not had any problems with it."

If there was some evidence that the present judicial selection process was not effective, there might be reason to change it, Montague continued.

Montague said he believes the change is being proposed because within the last 20 years, the population of Baltimore City has become predominantly black, which means potentially there could be more blacks elected to the bench.

The delegates said the election process checks the appointment of judges because citizens can voice their approval or disapproval of candidates which are appointed and have the power to elect who they want to serve them.

"If judges are appointed and you wind up with a slate of all white candidates in a predominately black jurisdiction, the constituents won't stand for it," he commented.

To date the appointment of judges has been balanced but that is due only to the election process, he stated.

The election of Circuit Court judges gives the people more opportunity to select who they want to serve them, Montague said.

"If you leave it in the hands of a group of people, I'm sure they won't do any better of assuring that there are better judges on the bench."

If the election process is taken out and replacement with the appointment of judges Del. Ralph Hughes D-40, member of the Judiciary Committee said it will be the only branch of government where the people have no say.

"The election process gives us the ability to protect ourselves from judges who are incompetent," Hughes said. "The framers of the state constitution thought the election process was necessary."

The Governor's plan would take an important power away from the people, Hughes pointed out.

"The election of judges allows circuit judges to have some contact with the people," Hughes said. "You rarely find judges getting involved with people except for every 15 years. Forcing judges to face the public every 15 years is not too much to ask."

HCC sponsors art exhibit

A collection of sculptures entitled "African Art" is currently on display in Harford Community College's Learning Resources Center. The exhibit, presented by Dolores Cornacchione, contains sculpture, wall masks and free standing figures from many cultures, including the Makonde.

Cornacchione, who was formerly a member of the HCC adjunct English faculty, is currently a realtor associate for Merrill Lynch Realty. She began collecting objects of African origin in 1964, and developed her initial interest in the art as decorative pieces.

This led to an exploration of various styles and distinctions in the designs and objects found in individual cultures. She intends to continue collecting objects "when and if they are affordable and appealing."

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, The NAACP-Baltimore Chapter, The Mass Transit Administration and Record World congratulate the winners of The Black Heroes and Heroines Essay Contest.

. . .AND THE WINNERS ARE!

Jocelyn Marie Datcher
Tumara Jordan
Jo'nita Michelle Pearce
Stacy A. Smith
Sharon Thomas
Prantica West

We encourage these and all young people to stay in school, keep striving and to help make Dr. Martin Luther King's dream a reality.

Below are three of the winning essays:

Jo'nita Michelle Pearce
Booker T. Washington Middle School
Age: 13
Grade: 8

I admire Kurt L. Schmoke for his positive outlook on education and the effect he has on youth. He has affected our youth in such a way that makes them want to strive and achieve the very best for their educational goals and never set a limit on what they can achieve.

History was made on Tuesday, December 8, 1987, in Baltimore, Maryland when Kurt L. Schmoke was inaugurated as Baltimore's first Black Mayor. His speech was very encouraging. He spoke of liberation, peace, and more importantly, education. He promised to make the school board more productive, school funds more accessible, and he wants Baltimore to be known as the city that reads, and I would like to add as one that also writes.

There is also a lesson to be learned from Kurt Schmoke's life and his family. His wife, Dr. Patricia Schmoke, was a teenage mother, therefore having to drop out of school. Dr. Schmoke realized that along with wanting to finish her education, she would also have to rear a baby. She overcame the obstacles: graduating from high school, she won a scholarship to attend Coppin State College, and completed her courses with straight A's. She was accepted into medical school and is now a practicing opthamologist. She is an excellent role model, not just for teenage mothers, but for proving that no matter what challenges or obstacles you may face, you can overcome with motivation, hard work, and perseverance.

Mayor Schmoke shows the same kind of characteristics. From the time he proved himself at City College, to the State's Attorney, and now Mayor of Baltimore City, his perseverance, aspirations to achieve, knowing what he wanted to do in life is the example our youth need to see, hear, and ultimately do. "Say no to drugs," "Don't drop out of school", **Scoring** is nothing to cheer about", are slogans that say a lot. But you need to be exposed to the more positive things in life. With excellent Black role models such as Schmoke's, youth will be able to set more positive goals and excellent career life choices. I have found my hero and heroine in our new mayor's family.

Tumara Jordan
Western High School
11th Grade
16 yrs.

He may not have marched on Washington or led the slaves through the midst of darkness, but his contributions in the form of the written word free the soul, lift the spirit, and enlighten the mind.

Poetry, as well as prose were his viewfinder to the human condition. Though his skin was pigmented and his life tainted with the misfortunes of segregation, despite what society may have considered an unfortunate situation his words were colorless, exempt from life's unscrupulous whip.

Langston Hughes is a hero in my eyes because his words are wider than the spectrum and the effects of his words will last longer than eternity. His words have moved me to write and to appreciate the power that lies behind them. Writing is a skill and yet through Langston Hughes I've realized it is an artform that can motion the masses into tears, push the people to laughter and corner the crowds to the brink of rioting. When I write I aspire to reach the acme as Hughes has. However, to move another human being to display his emotions I must first exhibit my own feelings. Through Hughes I've learned that I must love words to create an artform, I must love symbolism to use symbolism and I must care care about my subjects to manifest true passion.

As a young child reading "Mother to Son" and "The Negro Speaks of Rivers", I learned to dream. However, as I grow and I interpret Hughes' poetry, dreaming is not enough, it is only a plateau in my existence. Dreaming is the map to success but doing is the pathway. Hughes challenges me to dream, as well as do because success is found in the struggle and failure is succumbing to prejudice.

No matter what I become, no matter what I do his effect has made an indentation on my heart and his words will echo in my ears for a lifetime.

Stacy A. Smith
Western High School
11th Grade
16 years old

The black role model who has inspired me the most to strive for academic excellence in achieving my goals is my Aunt Pauline. She goes to work all the way on the other side of town, Tuesdays through Sundays, from three o'clock in the afternoon until unlimited hours of the night.

When my aunt comes home from work I often see she is tired and worn out and she knows this also. That is why she tells me to take advantage of all educational orientated things that I can, and tells me to also tell my other black peers to do the same, because she didn't have the opportunities that we as black youth have today.

Even though my aunt only has a fourth grade education, she educates me to the fullest extent with her wisdom and her experience. A day doesn't pass that she doesn't remind me of where I am today, who fought to put me there, and how thankful I should be.

Daily she tells me how she had to walk four miles to go to a run-down shack that had an unworthy title of school; whereas, white children were driven to a school right up the road from her home. She also tells me how she was unable to sit, eat, or drink in the same places white people did, yet she was allowed to spend her money at those places.

I have learned a great deal of my history, being a black youth, from my aunt that no history book in the world could ever teach me. For she is my history book and every time I need to know a certain aspect of my heritage I go to Aunt Pauline, because she won't just give you words; she'll give you the meanings behind the words.

If I was given a choice between all the riches of the world or my aunt, I would choose her. For she is all the riches to me, and I would be penniless without her.

FEB 1988