SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

Roland Park Elem.-Middle

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

"I was going to leave the school system... I was going home, then I looked at them (students) and looked at some of the teachers and we decided to make this place better." These were the thoughts of Evelyn T. Beasley, the current principal of Roland Park Elementary-Middle School, in March 1976.

In 1976, Beasley was sent to Roland Park as principal on what was to be a temporary basis. But, almost 14 years later, Evelyn Beasley is entertaining no thoughts of "going home," at least not in the near future.

According to Elizabeth Williams, assistant principal of the elementary school, Beasley has, "created the school in her image," independent, expressive, relaxed.

"We pride ourselves on building independent thinkers; the students are encouraged to express themselves as long as they do it in a respectful manner," claims Williams. For example, in a dispute over the scheduling of a final exam, an eighth-grade class aired their grievances with Beasley and she decided in their favor. "I think we have children who are happy... we let them know we respect them, their opinions and we get their respect," states Williams.

Seventh-graders, Miaesha Blackwell on cello, and Kimberly Waters on flute, perform during George Gaylord's music class.

Shizue Saffen, who teaches Japanese at Roland Park, works with first-graders.

Besides building a school that to a degree fits her personality, principal Beasley revised the entire curriculum when she arrived at Roland Park.

Foreign languages of French, German, Spanish and Japanese are taught from kindergarten and Roland Park students begin learning Latin in the fifth grade. In the math department, "Apple" computers are being integrated into the math curriculum.

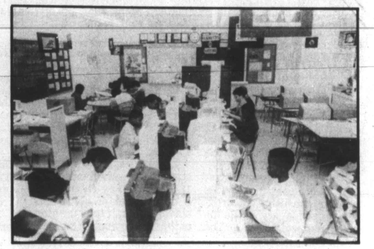
In a school with a majority African-American student population, the history and accomplishments of African-Americans are emphasized year around and the exchange of different cultures is encouraged.

"We had some parents calling the school inquiring about what types of programs we would be having in honor of Dr. King's birthday and Black History Month in February. We did have specific celebrations of the King Holiday and we will be doing things in February. But, I explained to them that African-Americans contributed to this country in every way, on every level and we celebrate those contributions all year long, not just for one month," explains Beasley.

"I am the principal of all of the students, but I have a special place in my heart for African-American males; I don't want their spirit broken. I let them speak their minds, as long as it's done with respect," says Beasley.

Often it seems the simplest, most logical formulas are the most successful. Just giving young people the power to speak their minds and be heard, giving them the opportunity to really get involved in their education and making them responsible for learning, gives a giant boost to their self-esteem.

"It's their (students) school, they feel it, they believe it," says Evelyn Beasley.



Computer literate. Roland Park was the first school in the city, public or private, to receive computers through the Giant Foods "Apples for Students" program. Here math department head, Tom Goerski's sixth-grade math class works on writing programs in basic computer language.

Roland Park has a student population of 1600, with a diverse racial and ethnic mix. Here, kindergarten kids line up for lunch.

Judith Smith is the head of Roland Park's outstanding language department. This summer the department will sponsor a trip to France and England.

Pulling together. Students of Roland Park Elementary-Middle School benefit from a very strong academic program and are encouraged to express their thoughts and opinions, but they are also expected to strictly adhere to established rules and regulations. Elizabeth Williams, assistant principal of the elementary school and Evelyn T. Beasley, principal of Roland Park, keep things running smoothly.

OPEN HOUSE

Join us for an OPEN HOUSE on Friday, February 2, 9-11 a.m. for grades five through 12. Call 825-4400 for details.

Admissions testing: All grades on Feb. 3; grades five through 12 only on Feb. 10.

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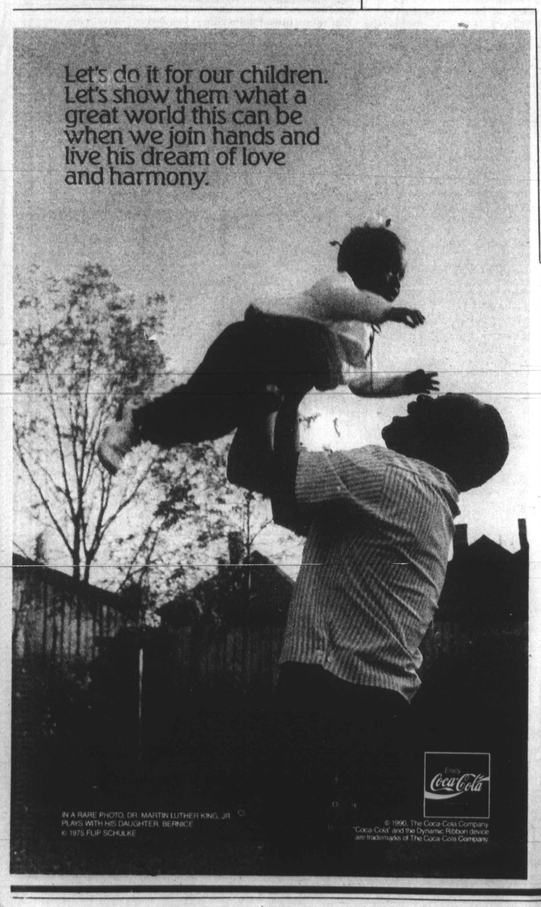

IN A RARE PHOTO, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PLAYS WITH HIS DAUGHTER, BERNICE
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PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SITTING

Kids Talk

Do you know this person?

Her name is Leontine T.C. Kelly.

She was the first Black woman to be named a bishop of a major religious organization. The United Methodist Church elected her to head the San Francisco area church in 1984.

She retired in 1988 and is currently a visiting professor at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Ca.

She became a minister after the death of her husband and she has always been a crusader in the church for the rights of women and other minorities.

She was born in Washington, D.C., one of four daughters of a Methodist minister, and grew up in Cincinnati.

Maryland's Capital Regions

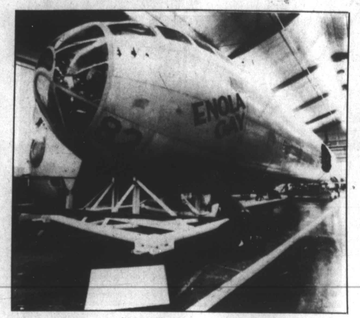
By Gregory A. King
AFRO Staff Writer

In Maryland, there is a place people of all ages can go to learn the history of this wonderful state. At Maryland's Capital Region a visitor can explore the wonders of Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Site-goers will even learn that at one time Washington, D.C. was a part of Maryland. In 1791, Maryland's Prince George's County gave a piece of land to create Washington, D.C.

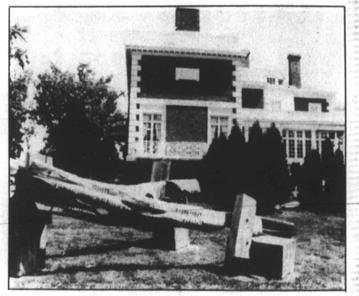
At Maryland's Capital Region you can tour some vineyards, take a stroll down a Main Street full of antique shops, visit aquatic gardens named for an opera star, or visit the home of the first American born saint.

There are worlds of things you can do at Capital Region for a minimal cost. And just think about the things you will learn about the wonderful state of Maryland.



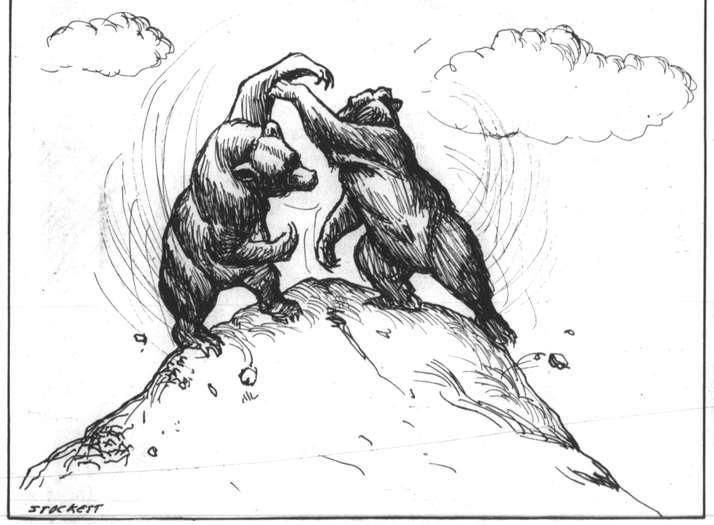
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY — The Enola Gay, most famous aircraft of WW2, is being re-furbished at the Paul Garber facility of the Smithsonian Institution. Once completed, many planes are taken from the facility to the Air and Space Museum for exhibition.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—John Poole House in Poolesville. Dating from 1793, this is the community's first building. The frame portion was added in 1866. It contains General Store and Civil War mementos. Poolesville is just a short drive from the Potomac's only ferry . . . White's Ferry.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY—Strathmore Hall Art Center in Rockville. This turn of the century mansion serves as the county's visual, performing, and literary arts center. There are regular events, performances and exhibitions scheduled here.

Color Me



Viewing the Brown Bear

By Gregory A. King
AFRO Staff Writer

Hey kids! Have you ever thought about taking a sightseeing trip just to view one of the wonders of nature — the brown bear. Do you remember the television star of the 70's, now in syndication— Gentle Ben? You know the friendly bear that comes on television every weekday, amusing little children throughout the country with his comical antics.

Well listen, there is a wonderful place to view this creature. No, not Ben, himself, but his ancestors. It is the Brooks River in Katmai National Park in Alaska.

At Brooks Camp a visitor is given an opportunity to watch 25 to 50 or more brown bears that gather from late July to September to eat sockeye salmon.

At the park a viewing platform gives 20 to 25 watchers at a time the opportunity to get as close as nine feet away from bears that co-habitat along the top and base of Brooks Falls to catch the leaping fish.

Bears can also be seen on the 1-mile-long river that links the Brooks and Naknek lakes together and on the beaches where planes deliver arriving visitors.

You know it's funny many people don't know that bears are very friendly creatures and extremely funny, especially when they wrestle. If you can't get to Brooks River take a trip to your local Zoo and enjoy yourself as you watch the capers of the brown bear.

Write to kids talk

Hey kids! "Kids Talk" would love to hear from you. You know school will be starting soon and you have to get your school supplies together. What school do you attend?

What grade are you in? What school supplies will you need for the new school year? What did you do over the summer? Did you attend summer camp or any hip concerts?

What hip fashions will you be buying when you go school shopping? "Kids Talk" needs you to write to us so we can learn more about what you like and what would be interesting and fun for you.

Write to us and tell us your goals and accomplishments. Kid's Talk, Washington AFRO-AMERICAN, 2002 11th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.

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By Greg King

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The Young Gourmet

In our attempt to let you know that you are special, we are continuing to print the poetic works of budding young scribes. Maybe these words printed will inspire you to write your own poems and send them to the AFRO to be published.

Love

Love is very special,
It comes deep down from the heart.

And since it is so special,
It comes from a special part.

Love is being caring,
And being very kind.

So show your love with everyone,
And don't leave it behind.

By Godlee Downing