—Daycare providers claim

(Continued from Page A1)

a message from her mother asking me to pick up the five year old at her kindergarten at noon rather than the customary agreed upon time of 11:15."

Ms. Tate said, "Later Mrs. Woodward called and we discussed both her refusal to keep her sick child home and the fact that she completely ignored the contracted upon time to pick up her daughter from kindergarten.

"Then I told her that we had a history of too many problems and I thought it best if she took the next two weeks to find a day care provider for her children. That is when she became loud and disrespectful and began to verbally abuse me, so I hung up."

"She immediately called back and said to me,'You don't hang up on me!'said Ms. Tate. "Then she threatened to get my license taken away from me."

"Twenty five minutes later Mrs. Woodward and her boyfriend were at my door. The door was open but I asked them not to enter because I knew the mood she was in. The boyfriend snatched up the three kids and took them to the car," said Ms. Tate.

Ms. Tate said, "I talked to her on my front porch and she began ranting and raving and grabbed my arm to make me listen and then we began fighting.

At that moment the boyfriend saw us and ran from the car and began hitting me in the stomach. Luckily my mother was visiting me and she told the boyfriend that she would break me away and he could break Jackie away.

"At that moment I ran in the house and called the police. When they responded to the call I filed assault charges against the mother."

This incident has resulted in a court hearing scheduled for June 22 as well as a general feeling of helplessness among the daycare providers such as Pat Woodward who say, "Each time a child is harmed the provider's license is removed and the police are notified immediately, but nothing is done to insure the protection of the provider."

Mrs. Woodward said, "Although we are not a part of Social Services, many of our providers have contracts with the agency for child placement.

"They refuse to give us any information on the parents' background in regard to former placement with daycare providers or the parents themselves."

Ms. Woodward continued "Anything such as previous alcohol or drug or physical abuse or worse is not told to us. If a family is a high risk, the provider enters the situation in the blind. They need some type of protection.

"Our association offers a network for providers and we also offer educational workshops on how to collect money due from parents and compile a blacklist on those parents known for using the services of a provider for a week and then skipping to a new one when the bill is due.

"We are a non-profit organization formed to build the confidence and self esteem of the provider.

"We are going to lobby in Annapolis on behalf of daycare providers to insure that they are given some kind of rights," said Mrs. Woodward.

"The Department of Social Services will not talk to us so our next avenue open is to meet with Governor Schaefer. After all, he is responsible for allocating Social Services money, so he has a lot of say in the matter."

Ms. Woodward said, "Daycare providers can no longer be viewed as just babysitters, we are tax paying businesses and should be respected as such.

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Mother-daughter graduates

Mrs. Rita Harris and daughter, Maria.

Mother and daughter, Rita and Maria Harris, were recently awarded certificates in retail floristry during Dundalk Community College's graduation ceremonies.

"Mom had quite a bit of skill in arranging silk flowers, but had no experience working with fresh flowers," explained daughter Maria about why they chose to enroll at Dundalk together.

"She was doing quite a bit of work with weddings but had to contract out for fresh flowers. So we thought if we attended DCC together, we could both put our skills to good use, added Maria.

The Baltimore City residents attended DCC part - time while working full time during the day. Rita Harris is the manager of the computer center at Stevecart Hill Elementary School.

Maria Harris is an office assistant at the Baltimore City Board of Education.

However, the two have already put their talents to work at Mallory's Florist on North Avenue, where they interned during the Fall 1989 semester.

In the future the Harris women hope to continue working together.

Award winning author visits

Author Ashley Bryan, well known illustrator, folklorist and teacher was a recent visitor at Lombard Middle School.

Mr. Bryan has published his works using the poetry of Langston Hughes, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Nikki Giovanni, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Eloise Greenfield to help the students understand poetry and make the printed page come alive.

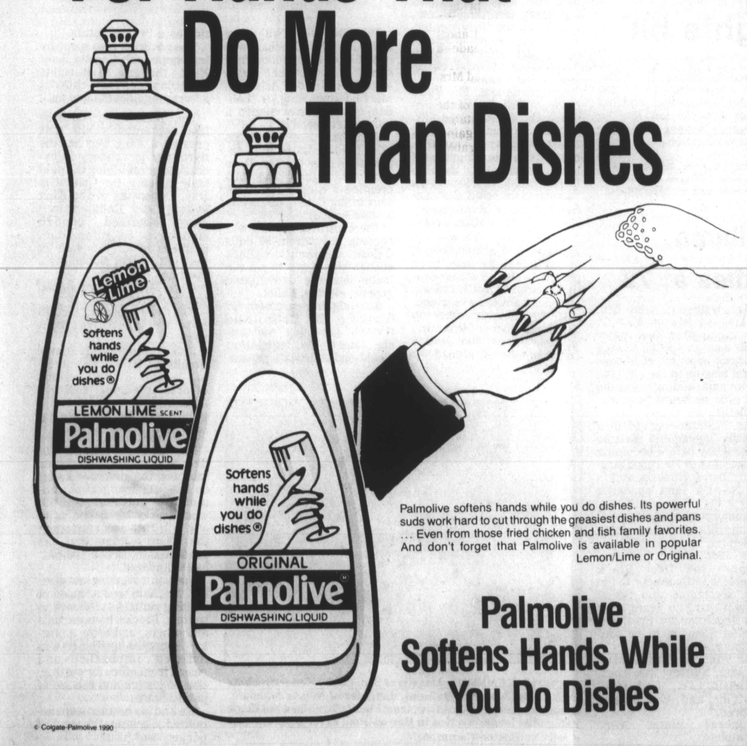
His use of voice, rhythms, and inflections reflect how a style and beat can enhance and give an overall effect of a poem being a musical composition.

Bryan uses different art media to illustrate his books. He uses block prints to illustrate his book of spirituals "Gather Together Children;" bright colored waterpaints to tell the story "Turtle Knows My Name" and delicate line drawing for the "The Cat's Purr," and the "Dancing Granny," a story about his grandmother.

The author showed his love of the musical nature of language in the naming of characters in his stories. Mr. Ashley has written and illustrated fifteen books for young people, but his appearance as a folklorist is for people of all ages.

Last month Mr. Bryan was awarded the May Hill Arthunot Lecture Award.

For Hands That Do More Than Dishes



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Edmondson Village Community Association

Edmondson Village Community Association will present Talent Extravaganza at Rognel Heights School, Wicklow Road & Seminole Ave. on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. Call 566-8405.

Cvlburn Arboretum Association, Inc.

Cylburn Arboretum Association, 4915 Greenspring Ave. will have two open house events during June 1990. On Saturday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a Perennial Day and open house. On Sunday, June 24 Cylburn will have open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Enjoy the beautiful park with an outdoor walk with nature volunteer Joy Wheeler at 2:30 p.m. Call 367-2217.

Alliance For The Mentally Ill of Metropolitan Baltimore, Inc.

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill (A.M.I.) of Metropolitan Baltimore, Inc. and the Liberty Support Group will hold Support Group Meetings for family members, friends and care-givers of the mentally ill. The Support Group Meeting is held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 3101 Towanda Ave. The next meeting is Saturday, June 9. Call 539-0525.

Nutrition Workshop

Eastern Health Education Awareness Project is sponsoring a workshop on nutritious meals. Ms. Deanna Page, a city school dietitian, and Project Lean, with the help of The American Culinary Federation, will give demonstrations and recipes for low cholesterol, low fat and high fiber dishes. The workshop will be held at Eastern United Methodist Church, 1429 E. North Ave. on June 9. A delicious lunch will be served after the 11:30 - 1 p.m. workshop.

The NAACP

The NAACP Maryland State Youth Conference will host the Mr. & Miss State Pageant on Sunday, June 10, 4 p.m., at the NAACP National Headquarters, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive. The winner from this Pageant will represent Maryland at the National Mr. & Miss Pageant in Los Angeles on Tuesday, July 10.

Anti-Crime Festival

On June 23, the Northwest Police District will hold the First Annual Anti-Crime Festival. The Festival, which will kickoff at 10 a.m. with an Anti-Crime Walk, will be held on the Northwest District Police Station grounds, 5271 Reisterstown Road. Anti-Crime Walk is being co-sponsored by the Park Heights Community Corp. Join the Northwest District Community Family for a fun-filled day of community togetherness.

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Saturday, June 2, 1990

Enolia McMillan
Profile of a NAACP president

By Joy M. Tyler
AFRO Staff Reporter

Former president of the Baltimore NAACP for 27 years, and distinguished educator for over 42 years, Enolia McMillan will be retiring from her high profile position with the civil rights organization at the end of the year.

Mrs. McMillan formally stepped down from her position as the National President for the NAACP this past February. Serving as a first in many areas of civil rights, education, and in other capacities, Mrs. McMillan has been a crusader for many causes most of her life.

Born in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania in 1904, she was educated in the Baltimore, Maryland schools and received her college degree at Howard University in Education, attended Hampton Institute, and received her M.A. in Administration and Supervision at Columbia University in the late 20's and early 30's.

The mother of one son and widowed in 1984, she has stayed ahead of the game by staying active in many civic programs and had been awarded numerous certificates and plaques by the governor, civic, educational, fraternal, historical and religious groups.

One of Mrs. McMillan's firsts was being appointed as the first Black woman principal of a high school in Maryland in 1928, and the only one elected to the presidency of the Maryland State Colored Teachers Association.

It was during this time that Mrs. McMillan learned ways to fight the school bureaucracy that saw no reason not only to treat Black teachers with respect, but to under pay, delay promotions, and deny quality and equal funding to all students in the system.

Selected as one of the top Black Business and Professional Women in 1986 at the age of 85, she has proven that age is not a requirement to a fruitful life.

The long affiliation with the NAACP for Mrs. McMillan is a affiliation of love for her people, her desire to educate, and encourage Blacks to steer ahead and reflect on the past achievements.

She became involved with the NAACP back in 1969 when then publisher Carl Murphy had heard of her (what the White bureaucracy called "causing trouble") thesis concerning Blacks and their mistreatment within the city school system, and asked her to bring her spark to the NAACP's struggle.

Her opinions on today's state of Black America is harsh and she feels that today's Blacks are definitely not doing enough to help themselves or future generations.

The first group consists of those who have achieved. She cites this group as being too complacent because they have "made it." They have nice homes, big cars, and the white picket fence, and don't call into question any of the issues that effect all Blacks and their progress.

The second group are the "forgetters." Forgetters are Blacks who have reaped all the benefits from the civil rights movement, and have not contributed anything on their own.

Last, but not least are the group of apathetics. Mrs. McMillan sees them as solely being concerned only with what's being put on the table, what they can eat.

Mrs. McMillan feels that all three types have put the Black struggle on the back burner and need to support organizations such as the NAACP to reignite against the fight for the continued injustices that are occurring frequently.

When asked why the younger generation is not responding to the struggle and joining organizations, she replied. "They are not responding because they haven't got any sense."

What causes this feisty woman to be so hard on the younger generation ? It comes from her background when as a child, she was raised on a farm located four miles away from school. Not the closest school mind you, but the closest school that Black children could attend.

Inside these shabby school buildings housed little of what would be called a proper school, Mrs. McMillan recalls, but classrooms that housed outdated, hand-me-down textbooks. Even the curriculum was second rate.

Students were all taught the same subjects, and areas of great knowledge and creativity, such as the library was a room measuring 8 x 12 that housed a table, an unabridged dictionary and only a few books.

Mrs. McMillan recalls that the only thing good about school was dedication of the teachers that made a difference.

Memories ran like a stream when the AFRO asked Mrs. McMillan about her proudest accomplishment.

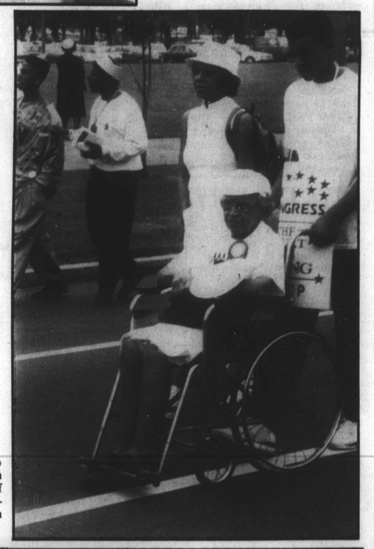
In her modesty she put herself in the background of the struggle with the group she represented for so long, stating that picketing hotels, stores that discriminated against Blacks and winning the right to do so, as most memorable.

So what does the woman who seems to have been over everyone's shoulder going to do now that she has left, at least in official capacity, the NAACP ?

Don't hold your breath, just as the AFRO was calling her to ask for this interview she was beginning her autobiography!

(Above) Enolia at 4 months of age, born in 1904.

(Left) Mrs. McMillan chuckles as she reminisces over her escapades during her 42 years of teaching.



(Photo by Ricardo Gray)

(Right) During the March on Washington in the summer of 1989, Mrs. McMillan got a little help from Walker Jason Morgan.

Over the years Mrs. McMillan has received numerous awards for her many accomplishments. Here she is cited by former Gov. of Maryland, Harry Hughes.

(Photo by Ricardo Gray)

Each year the NAACP holds its annual cutest baby contest, and Mrs. McMillan strikes a pose with the little contestants.