School of the Week

Forest Park Senior High School:

Preparing youngsters to compete with anyone

Interim principal of Forest Park High School, Dr. Jesse Little.

The office of the "Futures," program busy at work.

By Delfield S. Yoes III
AFRO Staff Writer

Change has played a major role in the history of Forest Park Senior High School.

For the most part, the changes at the school were concurrent with the changes that occurred in the Forest Park community and the society as a whole.

In the mid-fifties, with the advent of the Brown v. The Board of Education decision, Forest Park enrolled it's first black students. At the same time, the Forest Park neighborhoods were undergoing a metamorphosis of color.

In 1981, "old," Forest Park was torn down and a modern complex was erected in it's place. Today, the student population of Forest Park is 100% black and the school is still changing and growing.

Since January, the interim principal of Forest Park has been Dr. Jesse Little. Dr. Little replaced Jerelle Francois, who was appointed to the number two position at the Board of Education by Dr. Richard Hunter.

Little zealously praises the efforts and accomplishments of Francois and her predecessor, Dr. Edmonia Yates and credits them for creating the positive momentum at Forest Park, that Dr. Little is working hard to maintain.

Dr. Little discussed several academic features of the school that he is particularly proud of, but he is also enthusiastic about the resurgence of the Forest Park Athletic Department.

The athletic director is Evelyn Johnson and she enjoys a family like working relationship with swimming coach, Nick Johnson and lacrosse, wrestling and football coach, Obbie Barnes.

Over the past couple of seasons, Barnes football team has done exceedingly well on the gridiron and they are rapidly becoming contenders for the city championship. Barnes was also responsible for obtaining a $40,000.00 athletic scholarship for last year's star quarterback. The athletic department has established an excellent rapport with the students.

Forest Park possesses a premier ROTC program. They have won major drill competitions around the city. The unit is designed to be run by the students under adult supervision.

One of the ROTC's supervisors is Sgt. Howard Freeney, who recently organized a trip to New York City for members of the ROTC, some of whom have never been out of Baltimore City. They also participate in other activities, such as Outward Bound, in which they perform outdoor activities like mountain climbing.

MESA, (Math, Engineering and Science Achievement), at Forest Park is sponsored by the Johns Hopkins physics lab. The goal of MESA is to expose and involve more students in the areas of math, science and engineering.

Beverly Boston, the Math Department Chairperson, is MESA's coordinator. Recently, one of Boston's students, senior Garnett Hall, placed second in the city at the Coppin State College Academic Fair. He will soon compete statewide in Towson.

English Department Head, Glenn Baum, supervises Forest Park's efforts to improve scores on The Maryland Functional Reading, Writing and Math tests, as well as the California Achievement Tests.

Since the program was implemented four years ago, there has been a steady upswing in test scores and Forest Park now possesses the highest test scores of any zoned high school in the city.

"We realized that negative attitudes toward the tests were a big reason behind the low scores and we've worked hard to correct that," stated Baum.

Robert Johnson organizes the "Futures," program, which is essentially a dropout prevention program. Futures is sponsored by a grant from the Maryland's Tomorrow Foundation and is in partnership with the Essential Schools Coalition.

Futures is designed to help kids who are considered, "Risks." Most of them have failed a grade one or more times. Forest Park is the newest school in the city to implement the program.

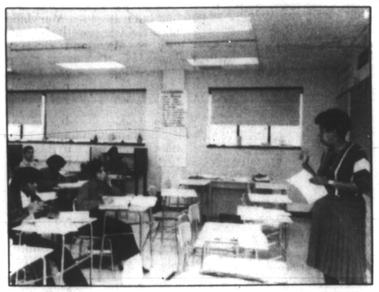
"You don't see immediated gratification in this program, but our goal is to see how many kids we can carry through to graduation in 1992," said Johnson.

At the conclusion of Dr. Little's tour of Forest Park, he discussed the aspirations he has for his school. " We're normal like other schools, but we're working hard to achieve here."

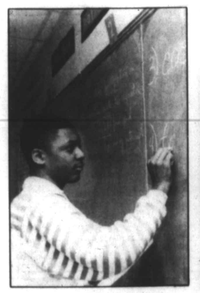
"We have a lot of good black students at Forest Park, with the right education, they will be able to compete with anyone. That's my personal goal."

Coach Carrel Reavis, who works with the Futures program, counsels a student.

Athletic Director, Evelyn Johnson, discusses the day's agenda with football coach Obbie Barnes, (left), and swimming coach Nick Johnson, (right).



Beverly Boston conducts the 12th grade advanced math class.



12th Grader, Garnett Hall, a math award winner, solves the equation.

Sgt. Howard Freeney, looks over ROTC inventory.

Shawn Hutchins, 12th grade MESA participant, works on his math project, "Name That Parallelogram."

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AREA OBITUARIES

Dorothy Iantha G. Smith

Dorothy Iantha Green Smith was born April 5,1911 in Pasaic, New Jersey to the union of Rev. Dr. Joshua H. Green and the late Goldie Iantha Green. After a series of illnesses, she died on February 11, in Detroit Michigan's Harper Hospital.

At a young age her family moved to Baltimore Maryland where she became an active member of her father's member of her father's church: Metropolitan Baptist Church.

After finishing Frederick Douglass High School, where she played the leading roles in school operas, she moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Later, she and her daughter, Claudia moved to Detroit, Michigan. (Claudia Althea Lewis is now deceased.)

In Detroit she used her musical talents as a Minister of Music at several churches, including Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Warren Avenue Baptist Church and Peace Baptist Church. She also directed several church choirs.

She married James Player, now deceased and later married Charles Smith.

Mrs. Smith was also a soloist and musician and for the Diggs and Stinson Funeral Homes.

Until her health prevented her Mrs. Smith was a loving and caring member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church.

After moving to Belle Maison East, she organized a group called "sing-a-long", which is still in existence, she also organized an actively participated in other building activities.

For ten years Mrs. Smith taught children of special needs in the schools of Wayne County, this is the position from which she retired .

Another important highlight in her life was her singing performance at the White House of President Franklin D. Roosevelt at a New Year's party.

She leaves to cherish her memory; five sisters, Bernice Kelly, Corinthia Green, Rev. Dr. Lydia Starks of Baltimore, Maryland, and Theresa Coleman; one brother,Semion Green, and one uncle, Dr. McKinley Reesby of Baltimore, Maryland; one godson, Robert Cox of Detroit, Michigan, and a host of her other relatives and friends.

Mildred Barzey

Mass was held for Mildred Wake Barzey 1:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Estep Brothers Funeral Home on Eutaw Place. She died Feb. 18.

Mrs. Barzey, 62, a native of Baltimore, moved to New York City after graduating from high school and years later married Bernard Wake.

In Brooklyn she worked in a Brooklyn school cafeteria and remarried. She wed James Barzey and the couple reared two sons, Kevin and Kenneth.

In 1973, Mrs. Barzey and her sons returned to Baltimore, focusing much of her attention on Kevin and Kenneth.

She is survived by her husband, James Barzey; sons, Kevin and Kenneth; mother Catherine Webb; aunts, Gladys Fleming and Evelyn Edmonds; three uncles, Joseph and Earl Bailey and Oswald Camphor; four sisters-in-law, friend, Harry Custis; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Edna Mae Williams

Services for Edna Mae Williams, took place February 25, at 10 a.m., at March Funeral Home-East.

Edna Mae Williams was born March 27,1914 in Littleton,North Carolina,to Arthur and Irene Burgess. Williams received her primary education at the Devils Backbone School in Littleton,North Carolina.

Later she moved to New York City, where she met and married Ellis Johnson and from this union they had one daughter, Rita Carter. Williams worked for several years at the Baltimore City Hospital.

She leaves to mourn: one daughter, Rita Carter; one granddaughter, Lita Carter; one grandson, Michael Carter; one great grandson, Paco Codi Carter; three sisters, Arlene, Matilda and Ruth; several nieces and nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Dolores Elsie C. Diggs

Services for teacher Dolores Elsie Chippey Diggs were held 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Greater New Hope Baptist Church on West North Avenue. She died Feb. 14.

Ms. Diggs, 45, taught in the Maryland and California school system.

The Wilmington, DE. native came to Baltimore at an early age and attended Baltimore City Pubic Schools.

She graduated from Douglass High School in 1961 and later attended Maryland State College, now the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Ms. Diggs enjoyed flower arranging, interior decorating and arts and crafts.

She was a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the UMES Alumnae Association, the NAACP and the American Federation of Teachers.

Her survivors include her step-mother, Georgia Chippey; step-uncle, Archie Rice, Jr.; godmother, Joyce Smith; friend, Ivylie Thompson; two godsons, Travis and Trevol; goddaughter, Christina Alexander and a host of other relatives and friends.

Marthy E. Nicholas Dabney

Funeral services were held for Martha Edith Nicholas Dabney at the Mt. Carmel Church of God In Christ in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday, February 4.

Martha Dabney was born to Annie and Garfield Nicholas on January 5, 1910 in Richmond, Virginia, Martha was the oldest of five children. She was educated in Richmond, and came to Baltimore in 1937, with her late husband, Henry and their young children.

Martha (or Miss Martha, as she was affectionately known), was a hard working, dependable, trusting person, with a strong faith in and love for God, she believed in planning and achieving. As a result, she saw many of her goals and dreams become realities.

Both her ears and her home were open to anyone, whenever she saw a need she would address it with a "good Samaritan-love", by feeding the hungry,or giving shelter, money, and other forms of assistance in order to help all those she came across in need.

Martha Dabney leaves a legacy of love behind in the hearts of her ten children: Doreen Berry, Robert, William, Delores Mosley, Roosevelt, Sr., Shirley Moore, Gloria Eaddie, Nettie Matthews, Sheila Porter and Jeanette Dabney.

She also leaves to mourn: one sister, Hattie Gibbs; thirty-seven grandchildren; twenty-one great grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and one god-daughter.

Doris Dancy Oswell

Doris Dancy Oswell, retired educator with the Baltimore City Public Schools and widow of the late Mahlon M. Oswell, former Credit Manager for the AFRO-American Newspapers, died at Johns Hopkins Hospital, March 11 after a brief illness. She was 77.

Mass of Resurrection was held at St. James Episcopal Church Thursday, with interment at Arbutus Memorial Park. Funeral arrangements were by Elizabeth L. Phillips Funeral Home.

Mrs. Oswell was the daughter of the late William F. and Callie Brown Dancy, and was born Jan. 9, 1912. She graduated from Douglass High School and received her B.S. in Sociology from Morgan College.

In her early marriage, she and her husband worked hard in the community and were instrumental in urging the Mayor and City Council to erect an elementary school in their Poplar Grove neighborhood.

The original, portable School #60 at Gwynns Falls Parkway and Dukeland Street was erected. Later the brick permanent school was built.

Mrs. Oswell's professional career was spent at the Venable School #115 designed for girls in Special Education.

She was a 65-year member of St. James Episcopal Church where she was an active member of St. Cecelia's Guild and the Committee on Aging for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

She is survived by three children, Mrs. Armory (Doris) Brunot of Washington, DC; Mahlon Oswell of Baltimore and Mrs. Alvin (Carole) Thompson of Columbia, MD.

Also her sister, Irma O. Dancy and five grandchildren, Armory Brunot, Jr.; Yvonne Brunot; Leslie Oswell, Irene Thompson and Ruth Thompson.

Also, sons-in-law Armory Brunot, Sr. and Alvin Thompson. One daughter-in-law Edity Cosby Oswell.

Virginia M. Campbell

Services for Virginia M. Campbell, took place February 25, at noon, at March Funeral Home-West

Virginia M. Campbell, the daughter of Edward William Campbell and Helen Gaines Campbell, was born October 18, 1944. Campbell received her education at Frederick Douglass High School and later attended the Community College of Baltimore.

Upon completion of her education, she became an employee of the United States Post Office. Later, she was employed by the Bendix Corporation.

Campbell attended the Kings Apostle Holiness Church of God.

She leaves to mourn: her son, Alfred Carrington, III; a granddaughter, Shanee Antoinette; six brothers, six sisters, 22 nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Ivan Leroy Johnson

Funeral services for Ivan Leroy Johnson were held Friday, February 3 at the Stevenson A.M.E. Church in Sparks Maryland.

Ivan Johnson was born December 12, 1931 in Sparks Maryland to the Late Helen and Raymond Johnson. He died Sunday, January 29,1989 at Sinai Hospital.

He attended the Baltimore County schools. He served his tour of duty in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was a friend to everyone he met.

Even though he was not a member of the Stevenson A.M.E. Church, he helped the late Rev. Albert Ringgold around the church whenever asked. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He leaves to mourn: one daughter, Jacqueline; four sons, Ivan Jr. in the U.S. Army, Gregory, Wendell and William; two step-children, Carolyn and George Jenkins; two sisters, Mary Shaw and Joanne Maddox; twenty grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends

Jacqueline R. Smith

Jacqueline Rochelle Smith

Funeral services were performed for Jacqueline Rochelle Smith on Tuesday March 7. Born May 17, 1961 in Baltimore, Smith died Friday, March 3 at 8:45 a.m.

"Jackie" as she is referred to by those close to her, received her formal education in Baltimore City Public School System, graduating from the Harbor City Learning Center in 1979.

She accepted Christ at an early age and attended Gillis Memorial Baptist Church.

A plain and honest person, Jackie verbalized life and situations as she saw them. She was not a pretentious person. She was well meaning, loving, caring and feeling.

She chose as her life's work the care and assistance of the aged, and pursued this career.

She leaves to mourn: a loving and devoted mother, Dorothy E. Macklin; one sister, Jarcelynn Hart; two brothers, Brandon T. and Brian E. Macklin.

A grandmother, Dorothy Avent of Hopewell, VA; one nephew, Cameron T. Hart; her favorite aunt, Stephanie A. Jones;

Brother-in-law, Carlton T. Hart, Jr.; a devoted friend, Robert Jackson; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and friends.

Charles F. Patterson

Services for Charles F. Patterson, took place February 28,at 10a.m., at March Funeral Home-East.

Charles F. Patterson was born March 16, 1969 to John F. and Elizabeth Patterson. He received his education at Barclay Elementary School. He then attended and graduated from Eastern High School. After high school, he attended the Community College of Baltimore.

While at C.C.B., Patterson was a member of the men's basketball team. He died while practicing prior to a game.

He leaves to mourn: his mother, Elizabeth Patterson; his father, John Patterson; two brothers,Johnny Patterson and Michael Melvin; one son, Kenneth Barnes; his grandmother, Estella Billinger; his great grandmother, Ida Pearl Price; and a host of other relatives and friends.

William Larry Moore

Funeral services for William Larry Moore, the first and only son of Lawrence and Althea Moore, were held on Thursday, February 23, at the Hicks Funeral Chapel in Annapolis, MD.

Larry was born in Washington, DC on November 27, 1946. He attended the public school of the District of Columbia where he graduated from McKinley Tech High School.

In 1970 Larry received a Bachelors Degree from Morgan State University.

For several years Larry Moore taught in the public schools of the District of Columbia. He left the school system to pursue a career in sales for the family business.

Nine years ago he entered the automobile sales business during which he worked for several businesses in the area. He was a stellar salesman for which he received many awards and recognition.

He had a great love for his wife, Amelia Pinder Moore; stepson, Denham Fassett; parents Lawrence and Althea Moore; sister, Rita Terese Moore and many uncles and aunts.

Eva Spivey Mines

EVA SPIVEY MINES

Ms. Eva Spivey Mines died Feb. 22 at the Medplex Rehab Center in Camden, NJ. Funeral services were held March 1 in the chapel of Marshall's Funeral Home, with Sis. Cunningham officiating.

A solo was sung by Sis. Mary Glover.

Ms. Mines is survived by three children, Larry, Molonda, and Ky-har; a devoted friend, Harold; mother, Bessie; two brothers, Harry and Harold; four sisters, Betty, Elsie, Shirron and Capatria.

Interment, arranged by Marshall's Funeral Home, was in Harmony Memorial Cemetery.

Jannie A. McGill

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Jannie A. McGill Feb. 10 in the chapel of Frazier's Funeral Home, with Reverend Sidney Yancey officiating. She died Feb. 5 at Howard University after a lengthy illness.

Mrs. McGill was born in Maysville, SC. on July 19, 1928.

Internment, arranged by Frazier's Funeral Home, was in Lincoln Cemetery.