THIS WEEK IN BLACK AMERICA

MILESTONE: Former National Security Adviser Colin Powell has become the only black four - star general in the nation's military. Powell, who served under former President Ronald Reagan, will command U.S. Army troops at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

EDUCATION: Grambling State University President, Dr. Joseph B. Johnson, withdrew his name from consideration to become the next president of Eastern Michigan University and will remain at Grambling. Johnson has been with Grambling for 12 years. The Louisiana university is known for its football program headed by Coach Eddie Robinson.

LAW: The Memphis, Tennessee Board of Education has been named in a discrimination suit by local black leaders who claim black history is not being taught to black children who comprise 78 percent of the students in Memphis. A 1972 state law requires all public schools to include in their curriculum contributions of blacks to the development of America.

POLITICS: A number of prominent black GOP members are threatening to boycott this month's African-American Summit if invitations to several controversial black Americans are not rescinded. The members notified Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, they would not attend the event if communist Angela Davis, author Stokley Carmichael and Muslim Louis Farrakhan accept.

HEALTH: The life expectancy for black Americans is declining, according to a report released by the National Center for Health Statistics. Poverty, poor nutrition and lack of access to adequate medical care, were all listed as contributing factors in the low life expectancy rates of black.

DEATH: Jerry Jacobs, member of the group that gained national attention as the Wilmington 10 in 1971 after they were imprisoned for firebombing a grocery store in Delaware during racial riots, has died at 37. Jacobs, along with eight black men and one white woman were convicted of firebombing a grocery store and shooting at emergency personnel responding to the subsequent fire. The convictions were overturned in 1980 after prosecution witnesses admitted they lied in court. Jacobs' cause of death was not released.

MOVING ON: Howard University President James Cheek has been given 2 months to decide if he will accept a post as U.S. Ambassador to a developing nation in Africa. Cheek, who recently drew heavy criticism for his handling of Republican National Chairman Lee Atwater's appointment to the Howard Board of Directors, was offered the post by President George Bush.

MOVING UP: Chicago Tribune Columnist Clarence Page was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, making him the first black columnist to receive the honor. The Pulitzer Prize is the most distinguished award in journalism.

ENTERTAINMENT: Joe Clark, principal of the Paterson, New Jersey High School that was immortalized in the film, "Lean On Me", will make a guest appearance on the television show, "227". The episode, which will air April 18, will feature Clark playing himself.

Morris Brown students take over administration bldg.

By Hal Lamar
Staff Reporter
Atlanta Inquirer
and Wire Reports

At presstime it was learned that administrators and students of Morris Brown College had reached a tentative agreement which ended the two-day takeover of the school's administration building.

Approximately 25 students from Atlanta's Morris Brown College barricaded themselves in the administration building and presented a list of demands to school administrators.

Protests come only a few weeks after their colleagues at Howard University in Washington, D.C. staged a similar takeover, and were largely successful with their demands to administrators there.

The students there were sparked by the disclosure that Republican Party Chairman Lee Atwater had been named to the Howard Board of Trustees.

Students at Morris Brown are protesting for different reasons, however, and it appeared that the main issue was the safety, or alleged lack of it, in the school's dorms.

One student held up a sign he claimed was attached to one of the dorm's elevators, which read, "Use at your own risk."

"We shouldn't have to use that at any risk," said one student leader. "We paid for those elevators; there should be no risk."

Derrick Boazman, president of the student body, sought to make one thing clear about their protest:

"We have people here who tend to misconstrue things" said Boazman, with his eyes cutting at cameras and reporters standing by.

"This is not the result of angry kids just deciding to take over the administration building. We attempted to deal rationally, but with no success."

Not every student agrees with the methods of the protest.

"I live in the campus dorms and, at times, I have been threatened with eviction and there are safety concerns. But taking over the administration is not one of the ways to do that. It's illegal," said one student, who did not want to be identified.

The students have said little to anybody since the protest started, and indicated they only want to negotiate through John Hurst Adams, presiding bishop of the Sixth District of the AME Church.

Morris Brown was founded by the AME Church in 1867.

Bishop Adams was not available for comment at presstime.

Morris Brown spokeswoman Cynthia Bell said administrators of the predominantly black college were "negotiating a time" to meet with the students.

Another 200 students gathered outside the administration building, issuing a two-page list of demands that included a new black studies major, an improved security system, better cafeteria food and a repaired heating and air conditioning system.

Students said the protest was triggered by a fire Saturday on the fourth floor of the Middleton Tower, a men's dormitory.

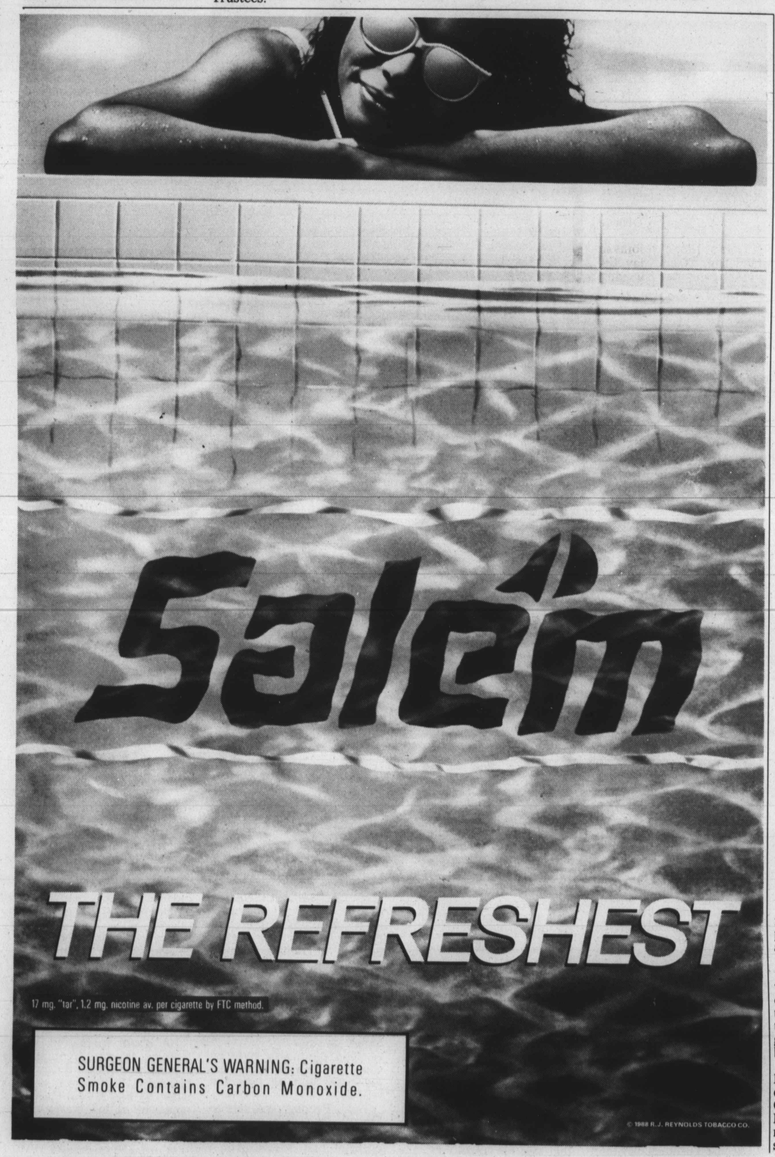
"The alarm didn't go off and the fire hose wouldn't put out any water," one student said.

An electrical short caused the fire. Nearly 100 students were evacuated but no one was injured.

"You are tired of paying top dollar for substandard housing," freshman Anton Chancellor said to the students. "You are tired of paying top dollar for substandard food."

Students also protested the college's plan to expel students who were behind on their tuition and fees. Bell refused to discuss those allegations.

The undergraduate college has an enrollment of 1,750 students.



Fugitive activist returns home

NEW YORK — A black militant who fled the United States 19 years ago returned home, claiming that information on an alleged FBI plot to frame him would overturn his conviction on plotting to kill two moderate black civil rights leaders, his lawyer said.

Herman Ferguson, now 68, arrived at Kennedy International Airport in New York on a Gulf Air jet at 11:30 p.m. Thursday at the end of his non-stop trip from Guyana, said Port Authority Police Officer Michael Palermo.

Ferguson, who was a member of a militant black group and who advocated separatism as the only way for black survival in America, fled to Guyana after exhausting his appeals to a 1968 murder-conspiracy conviction.

The former assistant principal at Public School 40, where he was an activist for decentralization, was taken into custody by FBI agents at 11:45 p.m., Palermo said.

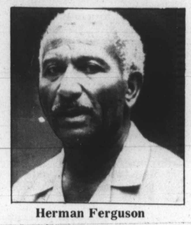
He was met by a small group, Palermo said.

His lawyer, Colin Moore, who awaited his arrival with other community activists, told WCBS News, that Ferguson would be vindicated of the charges.

"He's convinced that he's innocent and he wants to prove it," said Moore at the airport.

He said evidence would "conclusively" show that "he was in fact framed by agents of the FBI," then functioning under a CONTELPRO directive to squash black militant groups and discredit other black political leaders.

The announcement of Ferguson's arrival came a day after Moore asked Justice Charles Thomas to shield Ferguson from immediate arrest, to allow Ferguson to spend some time with his


Herman Ferguson

56-year-old wife, Iyaluua, at his home, Moore said.

Ferguson and Arthur Harris, 22, was arrested June 21, 1967 on charges of plotting the murders of NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins and Urban League Executive Whitney Young and at least three others.

They were among 15, including four women, who were arrested and charged with allegedly being members of the pro-Peking Revolutionary Action Movement, RAM, and planning illegal activities. A 16th suspect, Maxwell Stanford, said to be the group's head, was arrested in Philadelphia that day.

The indictments also charged that the group formulated the Jamaica Rifle Club in December 1966 to obtain weapons.

The arrests were in culmination of a raid by 150 police officers who found 30 weapons and more than 150 packets of heroin and subversive literature.

Ferguson, then 46, and Harris were convicted June 15, 1968, and sentenced Oct. 3 to prison terms of 3½ to 7 years each, but State Supreme Court Justice Joseh Conroy ruled Oct. 17 that there was "reasonable doubt" that they had received a fair trial and authorized their release on bail.

A WORD OF HOPE

By Maxine L. Wallace

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psalm 55:22

My friends, isn't it good to know that the Lord God Almighty is our rock and refuge ... He is our defender ... our protector ... our strength ... our all.

No wonder the Psalmist said, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help" . . . We too must be convinced that our help comes from the Lord.

Whatever your heartache ... whatever your affliction ... Beloved, God will take care of you. We serve a God who is bigger than any problem or circumstance we may face ... he's bigger than any trial or temptation ... he's bigger than any force that would come against us. God is omnipotent ... he's all powerful. God is God all by Himself.

Are you facing a hardship in you life today? I have good news — Jesus loves you. In the midst of your despair, He bids you to come unto Him — that He may give you rest.

My friend, cast your burden upon the Lord.

A songwriter said, "What a friend we have in Jesus; all our sins and griefs to bear ... What a privilege to carry ... everything to God in prayer." Beloved, prayer changes things. The Bible says, Men ought always to pray and not to faint. Sometimes in the midnight hour ... when all around my soul gives way ... when I've been misused and abused by this old world ... when my friends forsake me ... when my family turns their back on me ... when it feels like I'm all by myself ... I'm so glad that I can call on one who sticks closer than a brother. I'm so glad I can tell Him all about my troubles... I'm so glad I can have a little talk with Jesus.

Beloved, prayer is a two-way process. When you pray, God speaks back to you. Incline thine ear unto Him ... Listen, that you might live. When God speaks, blind eyes are open . . . When he speaks, deaf ears are unstopped . . . When He speaks, storm clouds roll away ... When He speaks, the weak become strong ... When He speaks, despair is turned to victory ... When the Lord speaks, men receive hope. What a mighty God we serve!

The Bible says, He shall sustain thee. God is able to keep you. The Bible says, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because trusteth in thee.

God has keeping power. He kept Daniel when he was in a lion's den ... He kept David when he fought Goliath... he kept Israel when they crossed the Red Sea ... He kept Lazarus when He raised him from the dead.

The Lord will sustain you; for God is not a respector of persons ... What He's done for others, I know He'll do for you.

The Bible says, I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed ever begging for bread. My friend, trust God to work a miracle in your life.

—Sugar Ray Robinson

(Continued from Page C5)

places whose names he couldn't remember.

Born May 3, 1921, in Detroit, Robinson moved with his family to New York's Harlem as a boy and drifted into boxing. He won 85 consecutive bouts — 69 by knockout — as an amateur and won his first 40 fights as a pro.

He never had a tutor. There was nothing to teach him.

Robinson won the vacant welterweight championship with a 15-round decision over Tommy Bell in 1946 and gave it up, undefeated, after winning the middleweight title from Jake LaMotta in 1951.

"We had six great, great, great fights. My God, how can I feel? I love the man, I just love the man," LaMotta said from New York. "He was the greatest fighter pound for pound."

Robinson's first reign as the 160-pound titlist was ended by Great Britain's Randy Turpin, who outpointed him July 10, 1951, in London. He regained the crown by stopping Turpin in 10 rounds Sept. 12, 1951, in New York.

After several defenses and an unsuccessful bid for the light heavyweight title against Joey Maxim in 1952, Robinson "retired" to become a nightclub dancer.

He resumed boxing in 1955 and engaged in several tuneups before knocking out Carl "Bobo" Olson in four rounds in 1956 to again become middleweight champion for the fourth time.

Carmen Basilio beat Robinson for the title on Sept. 23, 1957, but Sugar Ray, who said he had "loaned" the crown to the one-time potato farmer "as a favor," easily took it back in a return bout early in 1958.

It was in the 1960s that the once-amazing skills started to fade. There was still that velvety-like grace and faint smile. But the reflexes were slowing, and palookas who wouldn't have laid a glove on Sugar Ray in his prime began to last 10 and 12 rounds with him. He never complained, nor did his manager, George Gainford.

"That's life," Robinson would say. "Some day the grave is gonna have us all." — (UPI)

FIRST ANNUAL MOTHER OF THE YEAR CONTEST

The Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper will hold the First Annual Mother of the Year CONTEST.

Think of all the wonderful things your mother has done for you. All the special moments you have shared. Plan to truly celebrate Mother's Day, May 14, 1989. Nominate your mother and have your relatives and friends send in their ballots.

MOTHER OF THE YEAR CONTEST RULES

1. Each person must complete the following ballot, print or type legibly.
2. Acceptable ballots must be original ballot cut from the Afro-American Newspaper. No photocopies accepted.
3. The Mother receiving the largest number of votes will be determined the First place winner. Second place and Third place prizes will also be awarded.
4. All ballots must be received no later than April 26, 1989.
5. Your nominee must be a resident of The Baltimore Area.

BALLOT
My Choice for mother of the year

MOTHER'S NAME: _____
Address: _____ TEL: _____
My name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
TEL: _____

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