Discrimination still rife in 'front office' says Robinson

Major league baseball's first black manager— Frank Robinson of the Baltimore Orioles— believes there is continuing discrimination against minorities serving as managers and as "front office" personnel because of those "who don't want that little inner circle broken."

But the Hall of Fame slugger who broke into the major leagues in 1956 also says "It's slowly, cracking and slowly the door is starting to open. Over the next five years I don't think it will be an issue about minorities being in the front office or not being there."

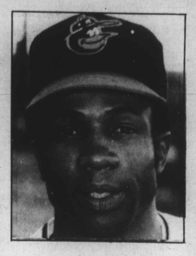
Robinson made the prediction in a recent cable interview. Asked by interviewer Ken Adelman if discrimination continues in the front offices of baseball teams, Robinson said "Yes, there is no doubt about that or otherwise you'd see more minorities in decision-making positions. It's still discrimination as far as managers are concerned. There is still discrimination as far as some coaches are concerned. I think there is still discrimination as far as some players are concerned."

Robinson described how "you have 26 general managers and if you have one minority, it's just like a fly in the milk. 'Oh, oh, here we go again. Oh, geez, I didn't mean that. I told that joke but I didn't mean that.' Those kind of things. I think they feel very comfortable having their buddies and friends around them and they don't want that little inner circle broken."

In discussing what it is like to be a manager today compared to when he entered baseball at age 20, Robinson said "today players question everything that a manager does." He also warned that contract guarantees undermine the authority a manager can exert when trying to motivate a player.

"I think it is one of the worst things ever to happen to baseball," said Robinson. "The guaranteed salaries. Not the big salaries...it's the rule and regulations and the guaranteed contracts.

Robinson" explained that as a manager he strives to encourage players to perform up to their capabilities. But contract and guarantee "take



Frank Robinson

away the self motivation. It has hurt the motivation in the individual players and they know that."

He said that with multi-year contracts and guarantees "it hurts me as a manager because it is very difficult. You can't even threaten a player today. You can't be the teacher and say 'if you don't do this you are not going to be able to go out and play.' You can't do that any more.

"If you say to a player, 'If you don't perform you may be released or sent back to the minors.' They look at you and say 'Who are you talking to buddy. I know I'm not going any place. If I'm not here I'm going to be some place else playing in the major leagues. If you release me I'll be somewhere else.' Or, 'You can't send me back without my O.K.' So you can't motivate by fear."

Asked about drug use in baseball, Robinson acknowledged it is a problem but said "I would stake my reputation and say the Orioles are drug free."

He also had some remarkable candid news for Orioles fans hoping for a World Series winner, saying "No, not with this ball club. This ball club has no chance of winning the pennant unless everybody else kinda just falls flat on their face. We have said to the fans we are going to clean house. We are going with young players. We are pointing toward 1991-92, but not to say we are not going to be competitive in 1989.

"But we are not going to fool anybody and say 'We are going to win the pennant.'" If I went down to the club house and said 'We are going to win the pennant' those players would want to know what I'm on...What have you been smoking? What have you been drinking."

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Concord Baptist Church

The Men's Day Committee of Concord Baptist Church, 5204 Liberty Heights Ave. will present a "Discipleship Workshop," Saturday, June 17 at 4 p.m. Annual Men's Day celebration will be held Sunday, June 25 beginning at 8 a.m, 11 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m. The theme, "Christian Men Walking Upright In Leadership." Call 367-1117.

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IF YOU ASK ME

By Bettye Moss

CCB Smiles

Smile-of-the-week orchids to 35-year-old **Karl Anthony Paige.** He is president of the Student Governance Board of Community College of Baltimore who wowed the commencement exercises on Sunday at the Arena.

He received standing ovation from his 477 fellow grads after he challenged them to have respect for the truth, be the best you can, and remember CCB as an outstanding institution of learning.

Cuff note: Mr. Paige was an honor grad, one of the first to rgceive degree in marine biotechnology. He is father of 3; who works part time as a cab driver, plans to enroll full time in Loyola College this fall.

* * *

More smiles orchids to two talented grads with music skills — **Vance Epps,** the pianist, and **Pamela Davis,** the mezzo - soprano who performed during the exercises. Beautiful!

$500 Smile

And more to the CCB Faculty Committee on Black Issues. They created the Norman V. A. Reeves Memorial leadership Award honoring the noted city councilman and activist.

The first $500 award was presented to **Mrs. Theodosia Baddy,** an honor grad in human services and a mother of 2.

She was cited for "outstanding ability and promise of constructive leadership through her work at the college and in the community.

Cuff note: **Mr. Reeves'** widow, City Councilwoman Iris Reeves, presented the check.

In the audience, the late Mr. Reeves' mother, **Dr. Lucy Mason Jones;** his son, **Norman, 3rd;** and his wife, **Carolyn;** and his sister, **Tracey Reeves.**

* * *

More Cuff: We shared a seat with a pleasant CCB staff member - **Shirley E. Doneghy,** the college personnel manager who has been at her post 18 months. She's member of Metropolitan Methodist Church and belongs to Links and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

CCB exercises were sedate, mainly we presume because grads were, for the most part, older people. There was, the usual outburst for some grads, and a "hi mom:" or a "that's my husband," or "right on, grandma" greeting as the red-robed grads walked across the stage to receive diplomas from **President Joseph Durham.**

Ramon E. Matthews, 62, was oldest grad.

Commencement speaker — **State Senator Clarence W. Blount** told grads they had reached one plateau or mountain in their lives, urged them to climb other mountains.

* * *

Nice gesture: CCB trustee chair, **Otis Warren** and vice chair, **Harry Johnson,** presented **Blount,** the Dr. Harry Bard Distinguished Citizenship Award, named for the late first CCB president credited with getting the college started 49 years ago.

—Also in the crowd - trustee, **Saundra Banks, the ever pleasant clerk of the Court of Common Pleas.**

About People

Happy birthday hellos to **Mrs. Sarah G. Harris.** She is 92 on June 17.

Five generations of her family gathered at Stella Maris, the Towson hospice - to salute her on Sunday. In the crowd, six of her nine children, 23 grandchildren, 27 great grands and 1 great, great grandchild.

Children there — daughter **Anita Hamilton, Agnes Giles, Marie Carey, Grace Giles and Robert and William Harris.**

They're delighted that Mama Harris is still alert, enjoys TV, and some reading. She's particularly pleased this period with the room full of flowers and greeting cards.

Cuff note: Mrs. Harris and her late husband, **George H. Harris,** for many years lived on a farm in Texas, Baltimore County. She is a lifetime member of St. Joseph Church.

* * *

Looking good: — 85-year-old **Mrs. Patti Page,** was among guests when members of the Gayzels Club hosted cocktail - dance Sunday afternoon at Fontaine Rouge.

Mrs. Page, retired Douglass High home ec teacher and long YWCA volunteer, was among guests at table hosted by her daughter and son-in-law, **Marguerite and Arthur Peterson.**

It was like a family reunion for Mrs. Page. Sons were there with their wives — **George and Nada Page** from D.C., and **Hugh and Elaine Page** of the city.

Another senior citizen there, looking stylish and a lovely sight as she danced to the music of Lionel Jiggetts orchestra, 79 - year - old Mary West Miller, the retired teacher who still performs with Arena Players.

More People

The Monday evening dinner party at the Hopkins Club was hosted by world traveller and Peabody voice instructor, **Dr. William Ray** and his wife, **Carrie.** Gathering gave guests an opportunity to greet educators and artists who are off for foreign soil, or who have recently returned from abroad.

Among guests **Daniel Comegys,** the renowned tenor, who is bound for concert dates **in Salzburg, Austria and his wife, Dr. Daphne Harrison,** who chairs the UMBC (University of Maryland Baltimore County) African - American Studies Program.

And, Johns Hopkins University vice president, **Jaki Hall** and his wife, **Christine,** the CCB instructor. He's off for ten days in Istanbul, Turkey, where he'll attend Hopkins **International Fellows Conference.**

Dr. Richard I. McKinney was there, with his wife, **Lena. He's just in from Israel where he attended international conference of Christians and Jews.**

* * *

Another interesting guest - William T. Brown, chair of theatre and drama at UMBC. He is the person who designed and directs the Shakespeare on Wheels production which is drawing many raves. It is free, and you can see it July 1-2 at UMBC, or August 13-14 at Wyman Park.

* * *

Also in the crowd - **Martin A. Dyer,** the lawyer, and his wife, **Jane,** the Baltimore county teacher. Mr. Dyer retired recently after 32 years with the Health Care and Financial Administration.

Mr. Dyer made news back in 1948 when he was a 17-year-old Dunbar High School grad, the first black student admitted to famed St. John College in Annapolis.

Despite the ugliness one gets in newly integrated situations, he stuck it out, graduated in 1952. He later served in the armed forces, then graduated from the U. of Md. Law School in 1959.

If it sounds easy, back in those days it wasn't. It took courage and fortitude, and Mr. Dyer is one of many unsung heroes who displayed these attributes, braved the mean and ugly and went on to achieve.

* * *

Cuff note: The Dyers have two daughters, **Jennifer** finished Harvard College last year, works for a computer firm. **Rebecca** graduated **Tuesday evening (June 13),** from Friends School.

Towson Carver Alumni

The Towson Carver Alumni Association Inc. will be celebrating its 5th anniversary and the opening, 50 years ago, of the George Washington Carver High School, in Towson. The celebration will be held at the Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. on Friday, June 30 from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Call 668-6309.

Elders at Work

Elders at Work is now offering to eligible seniors free training and placement assistant as Home Health Aides. Classes are now scheduled to begin July 10. Any interested Baltimore City residents, 55 and over, call 547-0801.

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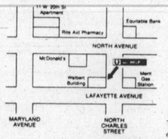

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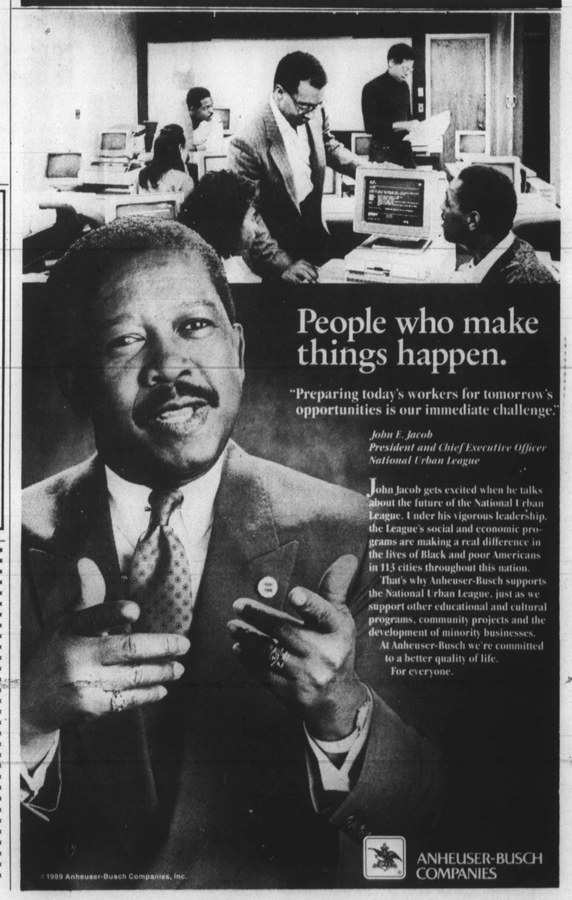

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