He tells how he finished D. C. law school, passed Va. bar

Young, brainy blind attorney

FEATURE PAGE

The Afro American

By Cassandra Wynn

What Claudie Grant Jr. sees most of the time is hazy.

When he reads, he has to use a machine that still enlarge the letters 35 times their normal size.

Grant, who is legally blind, has only 20-400 vision in his left eye and is blind in his right eye. (20-20 vision is normal.

But despite his handicap, the 30 - year - old native Virginian has been successful in achieving a goal that makes him somewhat of a phenomenon." He has excelled in the preliminary stages of a tough profession where many sighted persons have failed.

Last week, Grant, along with about 350 other law school graduates, was sworn into the Virginia State Bar.

He is currently employed as legal advisor for Human Development in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C. where he earned his law degree at Catholic Univerality Law School.

"Getting out of law school and passing the bar were probably the happiest things that ever happened to me. It was like a load off my back." Grant told an AFRO reporter moments after he had taken the lawyer's oath.

For him, burning the midnight oil in law school meant listening to hours of tapes from volumes of law textbooks and of lectures by his law professors.

"I listened over and over to tapes especially for the more complex courses like tax and commercial law," said Grant.

He ordered tapes from companies that tape books for the blind.

"The professors would tell me which case books and other supplemental material were needed," he said. "I would order the books from the publishers and they would send two complimentary copies to the recording company. And one week before an assignment (chapters to be read) was due in class, the company would send the recordings."

He also used braile and personal readers furnished by the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped.

Grant said he "took very few notes in class. When I did it was in very, very large ink. I was also permitted to record the lectures. Individual professors would have conferences with me to see did I understand the material."

It was in July when Grant took the bar exams, that he had to prove all the sweat was worth it.

The exam for Grant lasted a little longer than it did for other students. All his answers were given orally and breaks had to be taken about every half hour during the two-day period to transcribe his answers from short hand to the typewriter.

Ms. Joyce Sheppard of Richmond read the entire bar exam to Grant and she recalled some of the tension of the time. "Speed was of the essence," she said. "My diction had to be very good to avoid a lot of repeating."

Grant was a careful listener. Ms. Sheppard said, "Out of about 100 questions, I had to repeat, maybe 10."

Ms. Sheppard and several other of Grant's friends and his family were at the ceremony to congratulate him on his outstanding achievement.

Grant said that law was something he chose only after he had pondered over being a minister. "I was originally interested in the ministry when I came to Virginia Union," he said, speaking of his undergraduate days at the Richmond University.

But one summer during his college days, he was in a special minority program at the University of Virginia Law School, called the Council on Legal Education Opportunity.

"I changed my thinking that summer. It was there I really became interested in law," said Grant.

Grant won several awards some of which helped finance his way through law school. Among his awards are the 1976 District of Columbia MacFarland Award for Outstanding Rehabilitant of the Year and a scholarship from the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

He also received the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International Fellowship and the Russell H. Bull Scholarship presented by the AFL-CIO.

Grant also gave credit to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Claudie Grant Sr. of Branchville, Va. for helping with his law school finances.

He said that he hopes to return to Richmond eventually to have a private law practice. "I will most likely go into private practice. But I want to look at some corporate opportunities," he said.

Just what to specialize in is something that Grant has not decided yet and he said it could be anything from criminal to civil law.

"Law is one way of making a contribution in public service," he said.

Grant is a proud man who cherishes his independence. He lives alone in an apartment near the Capitol in Washington. He is more independent than most men. For example, he said he does all his household chores himself.

In his spare time he writes poetry and short stories. He is also a music lover and spends a lot of time going to hear the symphonies perform in the Washington area.

(AFRO Photo by Albert W. Brown

CONGRATULATIONS—Claudis Grant Jr. shakes hands with his father Claudie Grant Sr. moments after taking the oath admitting him to the Virginia State Bar. Also at the swearing-in ceremony held Oct. 6 at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond were his mother Mrs. Julia Grant and his brother Hugh Grant.

Photo play

Waiting on The Man

Could anybody be bored here? Well, it appears that President Carter's listeners, including his wife, could be wondering, as many of us have, "when will that guy ever shut up?" We don't know whether anybody was thinking this — but it sure looks that way. The President's other listeners are (from L): UN Ambassador Andrew Young, "Roots" author Alex Haley and Maryland Congressman Parren J. Mitchell. The scene was at the recent Black Congressional Caucus Banquet in Washington.

AFRO photo by Milton Williams

Take it off. . .

. . . Take it all off. The Great Pele appears to be responding to the seductive request of a popular TV commercial. Actually, he is changing his jersey for his farewell soccer appearance in East Rutherford, N.J.

Coming next week:

History coloring contest

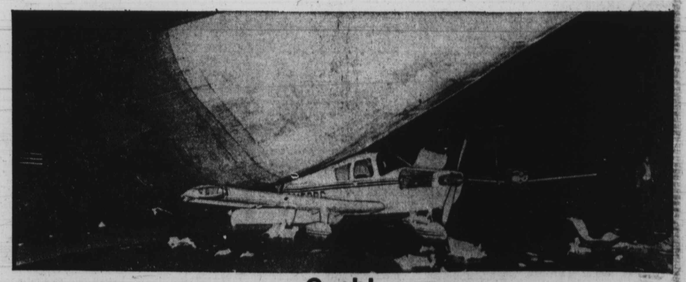
The AFRO has a real fun contest coming up..

Beginning next week, the AFRO will feature a 16-week history coloring contest.

The contest is designed to not only to pick winners and award prizes—but to enable our youngsters to have fun while learning about outstanding black men and women.

The contest will be open to all children 12 years old and under.

All details related to the contest will appear in next week's edition with the first coloring picture.



Ouch!

If it could talk, this tiny plane would have said more than that when the giant Pregnant Guppy cargo plane above landed on it in a freak accident at Van Nuys Airport in Los Angeles. Although there was a big smash and a pool of fuel leaked from the small plane, there were, thank goodness, no injuries.

Reflections of Afro-American lifestyles, ideas, society, fashion, food

OUR WORLD

Two CCB administrators honored at ceremony

Most of the speakers at Sunday's CCB naming ceremony stressed the significant educational opportunities both today's and tomorrows students are (and will be) offered.

Master of Ceremonies Charles Tildon, CC-B Board of Trustees chairman and Rafael Cortada, president of the college, both struck that note, before 500 listeners at Market Street.

They all witnessed the renaming of the two Harbor Campus buildings for the late Dr. Harry Bard and Dr. William Lockwood.

In his speech, Tildon said it "was fitting again to call attention to the hard work of Drs. Bard and Lockwood with a ceremony officially naming the buildings after these educators. The team of Bard and Lockwood opened up educational opportunities for thousands."

Dr. Rafeal Cortada, said "Drs. Bard and Lockwood met the test of greatness. They were able to bring to fruition a dream of providing for thousands of men and women today unusually good educational opportunities.

"Generations, still unborn, will profit also by the work of these two educators. The buildings will have an impact on the community, and they are visible memorials to the efforts of Drs. Bard and Lockwood.

"Many believe they can survive without skills and knowledge," Dr. Cortada continued. "But this is not true. People need college courses to provide systematic training and preparation for their careers ahead, and the Harbor Campus will be a resource for their dreams.

"The test of the branch college will be the students in the years to come."

Educators in attendance included Morgan University president Andrew Billingsley and Catonsville Community College president B. A. Barringer.

Spokesmen read statements from both acting Governor Blair Lee and Mayor Schaefer.

Opening the event, CC-B Vice President H. William Hammond, pointed out that "the occasion meant a rededication of the college to the high educational vision of the two educators, Drs. Bard and Lockwood."

Hammond had worked with both men during the 1960s when the Harbor Campus was first conceived of and it took a battle to get it constructed.

Dubbed "First Lady Emeritus of the Community College," by Liberty Campus, vice president Dr. Martin Reff, Mrs. Elanor Bard was also a speaker.

"These are challenging times," Dr. Lockwood declared with emphasis, in his keynote speech. "They call for excellence in all things we do, especially in education. Excellence has its own rewards, its lasting effects.

Dr. Lockwood, a Louisiana native, is now retired from the college, and is a member of the Maryland State Board of Community Colleges. He said that he would.

The ceremony included the unveiling of the inscriptions on the buildings. The North Building, on the Lombard street side, now carries the inscription, "Dr. Harry Bard Building," while the South Building bears: "Dr. William V. Lockwood Building."

CCB HARBOR CAMPUS Naming Ceremony was hosted last Sunday afternoon at the Inner Harbor site. Two buildings were named for two outstanding CCB administrators, Dr. William Lockwood and the late Dr. Harry Bard. At left is portrait of Dr. Lockwood, center shows him as he spoke at the ceremony. At left is portrait of the late Dr. Bard.

AN EXCITED AUDIENCE was at the Sunday naming ceremony of the CCB Harbor Campus Building for Dr. William Lockwood and Dr. Harry Bard. The crowd sat through the damp weather with hats and coats to honor the two administrators.

A NEW FRIDAY AFRO FEATURE

tattle • tales

WE THINK EARLY-BIRDS, EVEN IN THE 5th DISTRICT, ARE CUTE AS ALL GET-OUT: Which means, dear readers, that at least one prominent Northwest Baltimorean is taking no chances on winning election to the City Council in the 5th District. This individual's campaign war chest is well on the way to $35,000.

And scads more dough will come at a cocktail sip slated for the near future. And if that's not enough, friends promise to raise whatever it takes to win. Politics is soooooo expensive! AND SPEAKING OF POLITICS, now that Marvin M. has been found a naughty boy along with Irv the K., what are the political brothers and sisters who had their Park Heights gang's backing going to do? Go it alone, look for other white $$$ or proclaim themselves free at last and no longer willing to tap-dance? Everyone's wondering including us and we don't know the teeniest thing about politics.

EDWARD "EDDIE B." BURRELL, late of this city and who used to cut quite a figure on the Avenue, our Far West sources report, is fine and dandy in Las Vegas. "Eddie's working in the casinos (legit) and has his head on right. He's respected and has considerable poise." We always said Eddie B. would get it together. Remember Eddie. And how about inviting us out to hob nob with the stars, old buddy?

DAMITA JO and manager-husband BIDDY WOOD, alas, are not in town. Always a fun couple. But we hear REDD FOXX told both of them to get out on the Coast pronto. DAMITA's to do some TV work with Foxx and is resuming her career. BIDDY who is an absolute whiz at talent promotion has the package all together. Well at least that's what we hear.

LOVING AND LOSING IN COLUMBIA: We're all broken up, dears, and crying in our Reunite-filled glass, hearing that one of the more devastating grande ladies of Columbia, Md. and her businessman hubby are no more. He's all for going off and hitching up with one of those Nordic types and we just don't know who is taking the sister's heart. Now they were a fun couple. Isn't anyone sticking with anyone anymore? Must be the weather.

ADDRESS ALL TATTLE-TALES INQUIRIES TO TYRONE Q. TRAVERS, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, P.O. Box 1857, BALTIMORE, MD. 21201.

RSVP by Marie-next page

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AFRO staff photos by Robin McGinty →

Local club notes

DELTA SIGMA THETA Sorority, Inc., the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, headed by Aloha McCullough has done it again. A weekend ago they hosted the Ebony Fashion Fair for the 20th consecutive season and raised some $7,000 to benefit their scholarship fund. Over a period of 20 years the chapter has been successful in raising some $80,000 for scholarships from the fashion showing.

During the two fashion shows hosted at the Murphy Fine Arts Building, Morgan State University two outstanding community workers' Mary B. Adams and June Thorne, were cited for their civic, professional and cultural involvement and dedication to the black community.

Other highlights of the showings were two trips to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands won by Elaine McCormick, Stonewood Road and Rhonda Thompson, Elsinore Avenue.

Kodak cameras were won by Sonya Lyles of Frederick, Md. and Angeline Mosby, Carliview Road.

Shirley Waddy of Argyle Avenue was the winner of a Fashion Fair Cosmetic Kit.

LAMBDA KAPPA MU Sorority recently opened its club season with a gathering at the Sheraton Inn and already they have begun turning wheels for active involvement in community and professional services. The first fundraiser of the group will be the sponsoring of the play, "Ladies in Retirement" by the Arena Players, November 13, 2:30 p.m.

Aloha J. McCullough

Mary B. Adams

June Thorne

The organization which is already a Life Member of the NAACP made its first payment toward a Golden Heritage Membership last Saturday afternoon during a meeting at the Madison Avenue YWCA.

The group is under the leadership of Ovella Queen, basileus; Betty Shelton, first anti-basileus; E. Monterey Williams, second anti-basileus; Betty Wooden, recording grammateus;

Rachael Thompson, corresponding grammateus; Marguerite Wilkins, financial grammateus; Geraldine Smith, Tamiochus; Elaine Alexander, Epistoleus and Veta Greig, parliamentarian.

LES NEUF FEMMES also recently held their opening meeting at the home of member Alois Holliday.

Plans were made for the new year with president, Myrtice Bennett presiding.

ZETA PHI BETA Sorority, Alpha Zeta Chapter headed by basileus, Nathalia M. Roberts ventured to Boston a weekend ago for the 33rd Atlantic Regional Conference in Boston, Mass. Site of the meet was the Hyatt Regency, Cambridge.

Activities included workshops, officers meetings, undergraduate seminars and exhibits.

The Delta Omicron Zeta Alpha and Boston Amicae chapters of Boston served as hostesses.

SIGMA GAMMA RHO Sorority will host their 55th Founders' Day Luncheon, Saturday, Nov. 12, 1:30 p.m. at the Blue Crest North, 401 Reisterstown Road.

Luncheon theme will be "Sigma Women Reflect Community Service" with Dr. Lorraine A. Williams, vice president for Academic Affairs, Howard University, guest speaker.

THE VAG's will host their annual Luncheon-Fashion Show, Sunday, Nov. 6 at the Blue Crest North at noon.

President is Elizabeth Spicer.

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, Epsilon Omega Chapter will salute some 20 young women on Friday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m. at a banquet dinner at the Blue Crest North.

President is Idell Pugh.

The Pacesetters

Baltimoreans doing things in business, the professions and community service.

The Rev. Earl Tucker, director of admissions for Provident Hospital, has been elected president of the Admissions Association of the State of Maryland.

An association composed of admissions directors from area hospitals, this body is working towards upgrading the standards of hospital admissions departments.

Rev. Tucker, who is also pastor of the New Bethel Church, Dorchester Road, has been director of admissions at Provident since 1974.

Rev. Earl Tucker

Ernest M. Sewell has been assigned as District Data Processing Manager in the Comptrollers Headquarters Staff of the Chesapeake Potomac Telephone Companies.

Mr. Sewell is responsible for around-the-clock operations of a business record computer network and a timesharing computer system and development of large IBM companies in use in the operational procedures for several C&P Companies.

He is a 1964 graduate of Johns Hopkins University.

Ernest M. Sewell