Lawyers' banquet honors Thurgood Marshall

Over 800 persons were present at the March 23 banquet honoring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Sponsored by the University of Maryland Chapter of the Black American Law Students Association (BALSA), the event also witnessed the presentation of awards to other individuals and groups.

Accepting awards for Justice Marshall was Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., director of the NAACP Washington Bureau. Others presenting honors for Justice Marshall included Mrs. Marie Henderson on behalf of Baltimore County citizens, City Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver for the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers and City Solicitor Benjamin L. Brown for Mayor Schaefer and the city of Baltimore.

BALSA Community Service Award to the Baltimore Urban League was received by Travis Vauls, director; Elijah Cummings received the award for the academic assistance he gave to U. of Md. black students that resulted in the appointment of six of them to the Law School's prestigious Moot Court Board.

John W. Ester, who received the Teaching Excellence Award, is U of Md. professor of Conflicts of Law, Domestic Relations and Torts.

Andre M. Davis, BALSA president, received the AFRO's citation honoring the group's dedication and service.

Received with applause was his announcement that the chapter had adopted a resolution calling for the U of Md. board of Regents to name the proposed Law School library for Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Main speaker was Drew S. Days III, assistant attorney general Civil Rights, U.S. Justice Department, who warned that racial problems of the past still exist today.

His challenge to future black lawyers was in a rallying cry, "The valley is calling" as he urged them to continue the struggle until justice and equality become reality.

Others on the program were Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, Rev. Harold Carter; James E. Henson Sr., Second Year Day president; Law School Dean Michael H. Kelly, Judge Harry A. Cole and Michael W. Lee who served as banquet co - chairman with Henson.

BALSA was cited by Law School Dean Kelly as the "real strength of the U of Md. Law School."

Noteworthy is the fact that the present U of Md. Law School students (BALSA) are carrying on the fight for equality which began with a suit successfully fought by Donald Murray to open the school to blacks.

The law school thus became the first of any state institution to enroll black law students.

BALSA members are actively engaged in critical analyses of proposed state legislation and took part in NAACP fund raising for the 1977 Mississippi Emergency Fund. They have purchased a NAACP Life Membership.

Public presentations are made to enlighten the community as to important legal developments and the situation in South Africa.

Preparatory courses are offered for entering black law students as well as tutoring programs, preparatory course, practice sessions, exam - writing seminars and a "Big Buddy" system for first year persons.

Justice Marshall's triumphs past and present have great significance to BALSA as well as the victory of the late Attorney Charles H. Houston who fought the Murray case in 1933 to open the law school.

(Photo by Norfleet P. Barnes)

LAWYERS HONORS BANQUET last week saw present (L to R) Maryland Comptroller Louis Goldstein; Donald Murray, first graduate of the University of Maryland Law School; Rep. Parren J. Mitchell and A. Dwight Pettit, president, Monumental Bar Association.

HEAD TABLE—Guests at the recent BALSA banquet included (L to R) Judge Harry Cole, the Honorable Drew Day and James E. Henson Sr.

INVOCATION—Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mitchell Jr. (Juanita Jackson) clasped hands and bowed their heads for the invocation at the recent BALSA banquet.

PRAYER — Head table guests (L to R) A. Dwight Pettit, president of the Monumental Bar Association; Ms. Helena Hairston and Tavis Vauls, executive director of the Baltimore Urban League bow their heads in prayer at the BALSA Banquet.

GREETINGS—Lawyers and judges chat at the recent BALSA banquet. Shown are (L to R) Judge Milton Allen, Judge Solomon Baylor, attorney William Murphy Jr. and Judge Matthew Silver.

City may get more federal $

The federal government is considering a formula that would increase aid to Baltimore and other older cities in the country, according to a federal official.

Robert Embry, an assistant secretary of the United States Housing and Urban Development department and a former Baltimore housing commissioner, said the federal government is considering standards that would shift funds from the sun belt to older, "distressed" cities, and is trying to define "distressed."

Embry, who is one of the major planners in the government's urban development plans, said officials favor a six - factor definition of distressed and qualifying cities would have to meet at least four of the six conditions.

The six factors include a below average growth rate in median income, the percentage of housing built before 1940, demonstrable poverty, a declining population, unemployment and loss of jobs, said Embry.

Using these criteria, HUD statisticians said at least five of the largest cities, all located in the south - southwest sun belt, would not qualify for "distressed" designations.

David Peterson, chief of the Washington office of the Southern Growth Policies board, which promotes federal aid for the southern third of the country, said the administration's plans would "shift funds from the poverty and minority areas" of the south and be given to northern communities.

He said the new criteria would automatically penalize growing, southern communities whose economies have just begun to increase, even though the poverty level remains very low.

Combined appeal cancelled

CICHA, United Way squabble

The annual combined appeal of the United Way of Central Maryland and the Commerce and Industry Combined Health Appeal has been cancelled said a CICHA official.

CICHA President Richard Single said United Way officials had refused to continue the 1974 agreement that combined their annual fundraising appeals.

He also accused the United Way of a "calculated effort" to disband CICHA by signing contracts with the State Heart Association and the Cancer Society.

The two organizations had recently withdrawn from CICHA and reached more lucrative separate agreements with United Way, said Single.

He said United Way officials also refused to sign a legally binding agreement allowing CICHA donors to specify which health agency would receive their donation.

On the other hand, Mary Ellen Gunther, United Way's president, said she thought CICHA had "been struggling since 1974 to get out of their agreement, which required that "termination" was required before the contract could be renegotiated.

She said she had not expected CICHA's announcement and had spoken before CICHA's board of directors, shortly before it voted to end negotiations on a new agreement.

She said she had given the board a "memorandum of intent" from United Way's board to continue their joint fundraising efforts under the 1974 agreement.

"I hope it isn't final, that cooler heads may prevail in the next few days," she said.

She also denied accusations that United Way had "enticed" the cancer and heart organizations away from CICHA.

"Their national associations have been encouraging them to go independent," she said.

Mrs. Gunther said United Way did not prohibit donors from specifying which agency would receive their contributions.

"I think the problem is that CICHA doesn't accept our philosophy of one combined campaign," she said.

Officials of both agencies said they disagreed over the general division of proceeds from their joint fundraising campaigns, which raised $16.2 million in 1977.

CICHA said it wanted additional revenue because since 1974 it has had to absorb four new agencies, but received no increased proportion of funds raised from campaigns during that time.

The United Way president said her organization had offered an additional share for next year that was "more than fair, but we've got 84 affiliates, and we can't give away the store."

CICHA's Single said his organization shares its proceeds with 15 affiliated agencies.

Robert Whitney, executive director of CICHA, said he could not predict how this fall's donations would be affected by the split.

He said he had no specific plan yet, but there was the possibility "of a side-by-side campaign — both CICHA and United Way going in at the same time, but with separate pledge cards."

Educational plan proposed for pre-school children

Educational programs for 4 - year - olds should be developed to combat learning problems before they develop, the state school superintendent said Wednesday.

Dr. David Hornbeck told the state Board of Education that pre - kindergarten programs should be offered in schools where students generally score poorly on national standardized tests.

The proposal was based on studies citing benefits of providing schooling for children at an early age.

"A strong argument can be made that schools with a pattern of low scores on the (standardized tests) annually enroll children with a potential for academic failure," the proposal said.

"Early education programs would attack this problem at the root," it said.

Hornbeck's proposal would increase the number of 4 - year - olds in half - day school programs from 3,955 to 7,381.

He also wants the board to approve the drafting of legislation to allow the changes he wants.

Under the proposal, the preschool programs would be placed in 105 elementary schools where third graders score at least a half - year below grade level on the reading portion of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills.

Each program would be supervised by a master teacher with 246 teachers and 246 teacher aides. Each class would have 15 4 - year - olds.

The proposal cites several studies showing the benefits of providing schooling for children, particulary poor ones, at an early age.

Baltimore's Model Early Childhood Learning Program, which began in 1970, raised by 16 points the average IQ of a group of preschoolers from low income, inner city neighborhoods.

Testing of these children five years later, when they were in the third grade, showed that they were reading beyond the average reading level for third graders citywide.

"In their simple everyday activities, infants and toddlers form the foundation of all later developments," a researcher said.

Steel workers recalled

The Bethlehem Steel Corp. said it will begin recalling some of its 900 Maryland employees who were laid off during the 3½ month nationwide coal miners strike.

A company spokesman said he did not know when the recall would be complete, but the first group of workers are expected back at work next week.

He said the number of employees expected to be recalled to the Sparrows Point plant has not yet been decided.

"The company plans to gradually step up our coke oven operations as coal moves to the plants. As coke production increases, we'll increase steelmaking operations accordingly. Steel plant employees on layoff will be recalled as required," he said.

He said he did not know when the recall would be completed.

The company employs a total of 18,000 employees at the plant.

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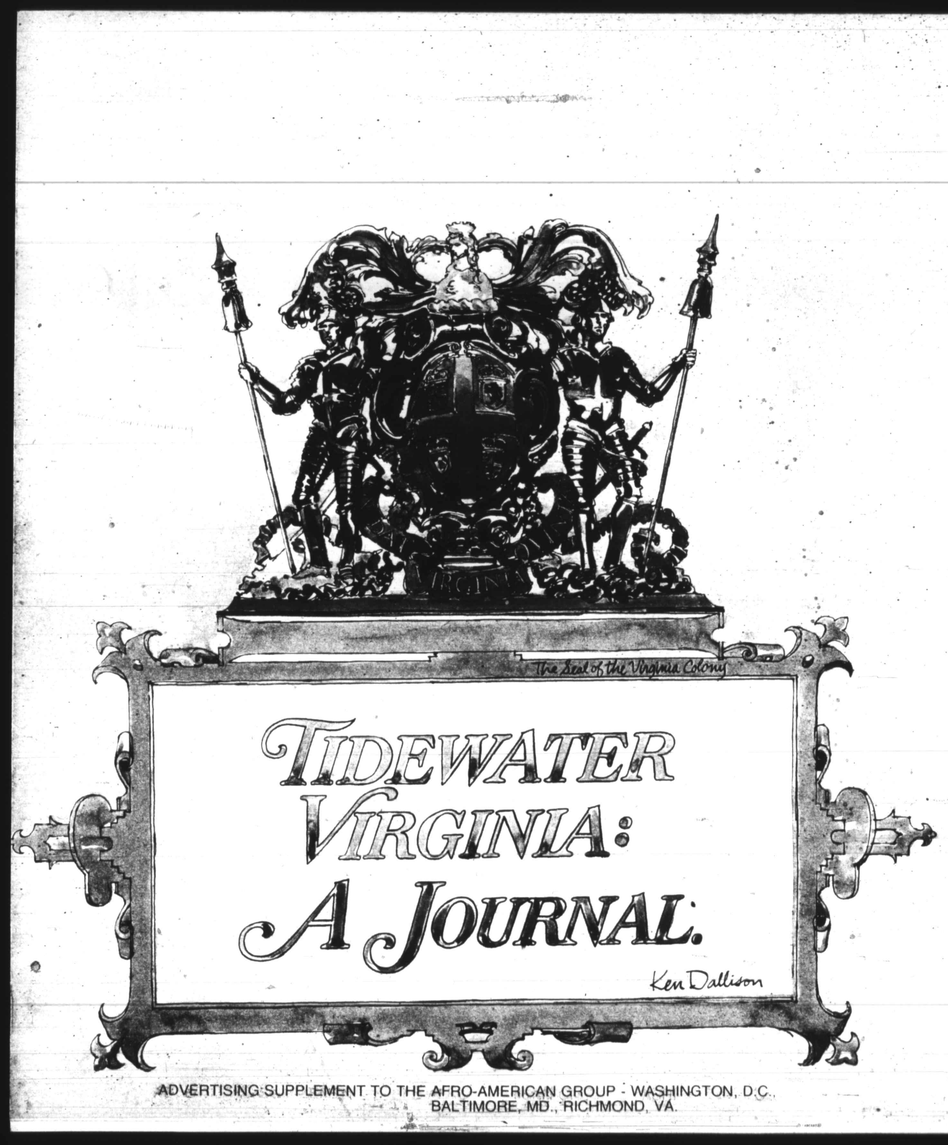

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