Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Patriscya's example

Ms. Patriscya Duncan, a former city court administrator, was the first Baltimorean to file to run for the new office of Clerk of the Circuit Court, the so-called "super clerk" slot under the pending reorganization of the local justice system.

In so doing, Ms. Duncan said her knowledge of management and computer systems made her confident she could do the job.

Ms. Saundra Banks, in the last election, won the post of Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, and had for sometime expressed an interest in seeking the Circuit Court top job.

Ms. Banks had been corraling support for her campaign for the big job unofficially for sometime now.

Ms. Duncan, less known and a comparative newcomer to politics, however got off to a flying start by filing to enter the election early on.

All this ordinarily would have made for an exciting political battle. Both of these black women are bright and personable.

What complicated the matter, however, is that a relatively unknown candidate, a white court clerk named John Kelly was hovering in the wings.

Mindful of the way whites unify in any city-wide candidacy for a white candidate, however, inept, (a recurring tragedy here in Baltimore) many political activists in our community were horror-struck at the thought of two able black women doing battle only to let the unknown Kelly squeak through to victory.

Patriscya Duncan, obviously has been doing some hard thinking also.

Today she announced her withdrawal as a candidate from the Circuit Court Clerk's post.

This move shows Ms. Duncan, although relatively new to local politics, to be a woman of great political potential.

It also shows that Ms. Duncan has no desire to be portrayed as a "spoiler" in political parlance, and she has the character to put personal ambition behind her for the greater good of our community.

One black woman running against a white opponent has a far better chance of winning than two.

Ms. Duncan said her decision was "based on the need for unity in our community and among all of our candidates. We need this spirit of the community as we struggle for political parity in proportion to our numbers at the citywide level..."

Patriscya Duncan has set a tone and articulated a philosophy we hope all black political aspirants will follow.

If for example the three black candidates for the Supreme Bench would develop the sense of unity Ms. Duncan is asking of our community, we would all be well served.

This is our city and we have to be politically sophisticated in extremis to win all the elective offices our numerical voting strength warrants our holding.

It took guts for Ms. Duncan to seek office, it took more guts for her to defer to a candidate with (theoretically) more solid support.

We hope Ms. Duncan's example and action takes hold East, West, North and South in our town.

Profiles on publishers

VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

The Philadelphia Tribune

VOLUME 98 NUMBER 65 TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1982

In the next few days, black publishers from across the nation will be meeting in Baltimore to attend the National Newspaper Publishers Association's 42nd annual summer convention.

To better acquaint the public with these black journalists and their publications, the AFRO is running a series of articles highlighting them.

Ninety-seven years ago, Chris J. Perry Sr. founded the Philadelphia Tribune, the nation's oldest black newspaper.

A native of Baltimore, Perry came to Philadelphia with little money in his pocket, but with a desire to start his own newspaper. He succeeded in 1884 - when the Philadelphia Tribune was born - 21 years after the end of the Civil War.

The late E. Washington Rhodes became editor and publisher of the Philadelphia Tribune following Perry's death in 1921. Rhodes brought the newspaper to a position of eminence in the changing pattern of the Philadelphia black community.

In 1959, Rhodes wrote:

"From that day, 75 years ago when Mr. Perry published the first edition of the Philadelphia Tribune, it has been the people's advocate for freedom, justice and equality.

"With great vision, supreme faith and indomitable courage, the founder of The Philadelphia Tribune undertook to supply a dire public need with only a few dollars, a desk, a chair, and a bottle of ink in a rented room, in the 700 block of Sansom Street.

"Through lean years and fat ones, during war and peace, Chris J. Perry's paper survived. Its existence covers an era during which the religious, political and economic progress of black Americans was phenominal and their numerical strength multiplied a hundrefold."

Chris J. Perry Sr. began life with one strike against him - his mother died at his birth. But, his father was a dedicated, industrious man who reared young Perry to be God fearing, respectabl, energetic and generous.

When Perry graduated from public school in Baltimore, his father endeavored to convice him to become a lawyer. But Perry was 17 and had other ideas



Waverly L. Easley

work. He wanted to be a newspaper reporter and eventually a newspaper publisher.

"For our people to progress, they must have a newspaper through which they can speak out against injustice," young Perry told his father.

Although no copies of the first two years' issues are known to exist, it is reported that buried in the cornerstone of the First African Baptist Church is a copy of the Tribune dated Oct. 23, 1897.

The church was dedicated that week in a ceremony at which the educator, Booker T. Washington, was the guest speaker.

In May, 1921 at the age of 65, Christopher J. Perry died and was succeeded by G. Grant Williams. Shortly thereafter, in June, 1922, Williams died and the newspaper was placed in the hands of Eugene Washington Rhodes, Perry's son-in-law and staff member, and a graduate of Lincoln University.

Led by its current president, Waverly L. Easley and James Cassell, Editor-in-chief, The Philadelphia Tribune is that newspaper young Perry spoke of - fostering the dissemination of news and constructive opinion to the people of the black community.

The Tribune champions the cause of black people against social and economic injustice and discrimination. It crusades for improved jobs, working conditions; education, housing and representation in government for black people, leading and supporting community service projects and affords aspiring black journalists valuable





MADELINE MURPHY

A man who would be king

How ironic that on the one hand, Mayor William D. Schaefer, a while back enlisted the aid of Famous Amos of cookie fame, to help launch a program to educate the 200,000 functional illiterates in Baltimore.

This was a nice PR gimmick if ever I saw one. It did two things: used a black to show he is not all that bad; and exploited a long standing problem to soften up the voters to show his concern for education.

Whatever happened to that program?

Then on the other hand, with a real slap in the face of the black community, he performs radical surgery on the school budget in a predominantly black school system, that causes the impending lay off of thousands of teachers, same in the arts, others in music and physical education.

How does one assess these machinations?

Didn't Schaefer set aside millions of dollars for the School for the Arts, in a declining economy, that trains fewer students than most high schools?

Didn't he trumpet tourism with the much touted International Bicycle Race, last weekend, while school physical education was getting the axe?

What kind of contraditions are these? It is like Nero fiddling while Rome burns.

Moreover, his Board Chairman, Danneker, spoke words to this effect at one of the School Commission meetings: "With 135,000 families representing 125,000 school age children. Baltimore taxpayers aren't going to be happy paying increased taxes for this small number." Now, even Danneker is astounded at the deep cutbacks in the school budget.

But don't you see dear reader, the scenario has already been written. Because even while this is going to press, frantic plans are in the offing, behind studies which declare blacks will be gradually and systematically moved to the country, without jobs, transportation or anything, to make way for increased gentrification of the inner city. Out of sight, out of mind.

"Tell us about it," they cried.

"I will," she replied.

Here in Cherry Hill, where the harbor of Back River, the industrial park, are forerunners to "Waterview Village," the creeping, greedy hand of land acquisition is poised to grab yet another black neighborhood.

I guess they are saying: "Let the schools wait," except for City and Poly-Western; except for the middle schools; except for the Performing Arts — the executioner— the handmaiden of the Mayor, John Crew, is merely following orders (unlike Patterson) without much of a whimper, for fear he will be told peremptorily again by hizzoner "Shaddup," as one hears is the case most of the time.

And the elite schools, have no fear, shall be kept intact waiting for a whitening population.

Except until that time with more push-outs and drop-outs than graduates, with no home visitors, the self-fulfilling prophecy that we blacks, considered by racists to be less than human, may act like a boomerang and waste Charm City.

But then, keeping the police and fire budgets intact will solve that problem should should there be need for a domestic army. How about it, Don?

Futilely, however, one asks, how come so much emphasis on loan breaks for hotels, office buildings, posh apartment buildings, new shopping malls, and so little on the substantial base for an employable populace — education.

Isn't the city its people, Mayor Schaefer?

Against this background, however, one should ask "which people?"

But then we can not forget other costly and mammoth errors in judgment beginning with an anti-busing stance that supported racism and spelled doom for orderly desegregation in the first place; or the Pyrolysis plant, or the Beethoven apartments still vacant after a year, costing millions in renovation and more in vacancies.

But at this point in the diatribe, show the people Harbor Place, Don, the Aquarium, Ridgeley's Delight and Sharp Street Townhouses, where the Hyatt Regency like a jewel lends its brilliant facade to the farce that bandages cover cancers.

Which reminds us that the black male cancer rate in Baltimore is one of the highest in the nation; that joblessness at 12 percent is increasingly a gnawing problem in Baltimore, while 50 percent black youth unemployment is a tinder box.

And just think. Educating all those 125,000 predominantly black students might well develop one or two who might surely find a cure for cancer, if given the chance. May be three or four might regenerate closing steel mills and factories, owned by multinationals who replace men with robots; make auto parts in third world countries, where workers are brutalized with peon's wages and long hours...if... ...If the educated and educable populace, regardless of race, are given a chance to be creative, to work in smaller classes with enough textbooks and dedicated teachers.

But Irene Dandridge, BTU president had it right.

If the trustees in their shadowy secret places can find money for these showy costly things, certainly they and the Mayor can find it for the most fundamental requirement of a populace — education.

If the Mayor says tourism and conventions bring dollars to the City — big league sports included — channel a whole lot more of it where it is needed — into the education budget.

I guess not this year. Because the City is really its concrete, glass, and brick, reigned over by a man who would be king; who would brook no nay-saying from anyone, John Crew included!

How can black people knowing this, put up with another term for William D. Schaefer in 1983? Beats me!



PARREN J. MITCHELL

Graduations and budgets

On Sunday, May 23, I was privileged to give the Commencement Address at Morehouse College and was awarded an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws, from that prestigeful black institution of higher education.

On Sunday, June 6, I was equally honored to give the Commencement Address at Albany State College in Albany, Georgia.

On both occasions, I watched the faces of the young people as they mounted the stage to receive their degrees. Expressions of pride, determination, joy, and accomplishment mingled on their features, and I thought the future of black Americans is not dismal as long as our institutions produce such fine young men and women.

However, I also thought to myself on both occasions that thousands of young black people may never have the opportunity to pursue a higher education because of the wicked actions taken by Reagan and the Congress in the federal budget for fiscal year 1982. In that budget, a billion dollars was cut from higher education and, as a result, almost a million students will not be able to enroll in colleges and universities in the fall of 1982.

Reagan's proposed budget for fiscal year 1983 was even more venal. He advocated additional cuts in education amounting to 762 million dollars; proposed a 40 percent cut in Pell Grants (the basic grant to low and middle income students); planned to eliminate graduate students from all low interest student loans; and required 10 percent of all loan fees before a loan could be approved.

Fortunately, the advocates for education lobbied hard and long against Reagan's proposal, which is now dead as a "dodo bird."

Black institutions would have been badly wounded had Reagan's ruthless education budget prevailed.

Dr. Samuel Myers, of the Association of Black Colleges, predicted the Administration's budget would have had a negative impact on 50,000 students who attend historically black colleges. He further predicted that 30,000 of that number would have lost so much money under the Reagan budget they would have been forced to drop out of school.

In addition, many black institutions get state assistance based upon student enrollment. A loss of students, caused by Reagan's budget, would have also meant a loss in state assistance.

It is one thing for the man in the White House to say he will help black colleges, and to participate in Howard University's fund raising efforts, but it is quite another thing for him to propose an education budget which would have hurt grievously the 111 historically black colleges.

I have warm memories of the 1982 Morehouse College Commencement and the Albany State College Commencement. However, along with those memories is the gnawing concern that black institutions and black gains are always in jeopardy.

We, all of us, must have the resolve to guarantee those black institutions will not be liquidated and our gains shall not be repealed.

Enter AFRO Craft contest

Dinner at the 42nd annual awards banquet of the National Newspaper Publishers Association convention could be in store for you, if you are the winner of a creative art or craft contest sponsored by the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

The public is urged to try its hand at Japanese art by recycling old AFRO newspapers and Dawn Magazines to form creative pieces of work such as the one fashioned by Peggy Gatillo, pictured.

The art works will be on display at the Hyatt Regency Hotel during the NNPA's summer convention June 16 through 18.

To enter, send your piece of creative art or craftwork or stop by and submit it at the AFRO office, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201 before Md. 21201 on or before June 14.

The entrant who submits the most orignial work will the the AFRO's guest at the NNPA awards dinner.

When entering a piece of art remember it should recognizably be made from an AFRO newspaper or a DAWN Magazine and it should be small enough to be displayed in a limited space.

Only one sample of work will be accepted from each entrant and



AFRO Sculpture by Peggy Gatillo

the work should be marked with your name and telephone number. For more information, call Mrs. Gertrude Steele at 396-6000.

LETTERS

Education: a priority

Dear AFRO:

Are the parents of this City going to sit idly by and allow the City fathers to get rid of 1,400 education employees? I don't have any children in public school, mine are grown.

But I care enough about our children to write this letter to the AFRO.

I hope you will care enough about your children to make your voice heard at City Hall.

Education should have first priority in the Budget. If you really love your children and I know you do, you won't let this happen.

The children can not speak for themselves.

MARY IVEY

The AFRO salutes Walbrook High

Walbrook is family!

In 11 glorious years 67,000 students have felt this Westside school's impact on their lives!

Some words and photographs about the city's largest high school

Stories by AFRO Staff Writer Denise Tann.

Photos by Roman Hankewycz and Martin Evans



THE WALBROOK FAMILY — Students School as "one big happy family." Since ministrators, staff and students stress the demonstrate the spirit at Walbrook High the school opened in 1971, faculty, ad- family tradition.

Walbrook High School, a handsome, comparatively new structure, has been the daytime "home" over the past 11 years to some 67,000 Baltimoreans. Walbrook's still is so young that the oldest alumnus would be no more than 28-years-old in 1982.

Although not the only such institution on Baltimore's Westside, Walbrook has been the center which fast inspired a great many of the most constructive of our city's young people to make something of their lives.

The 60,000 plus alumnus and the present student body, Walbrook is known as the "family."

The Walbrook area community association during the sixties set the pace for the sense of family for the Walbrook area. The new school, according to its first principal, Dr. Anne O. Emery, carried forth that sense of family and made it a part of its mission.

Dr. Emery presently serves in the Baltimore City Department of Education in the Public Information and Communication Division.

She symbolically can be called the mother of Walbrook.

Samuel R. Billups Jr., principal the last two years, is the Walbrook family tradition, can be perceived as the "father figure."

Hes known to some students as the 'enforcer,' a term used affectionately in many circles. Billup takes an active interest in many of the concerns of individual students.

Mid-afternoon talks with students in his office are not uncommon. The traffic flow into his office is a steady pace of students seeking a listening ear, a kind heart and a source of advice.

Walbrook first opened in 1971, as a ton-traditional zone school. Students come from all parts of the city to be among many of the students who live in the area and attend Walbrook.

In 1977, the school located at 2000 Edgewood Rd., was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secodary Schools.

Walbrook cost $16 million to build. It is a multi-level brick building and features two giant-sized sculptures in the open couryard.

One is entitled "The Turning Point," from which the school's literary magazines gets its name. The other is "Question Mark."

"Turning Point" symbolizes to new students that Walbrook can be the turning point in their lives, and points them in the direction of excellence in their chosen career.

The second sculpture, "Question Mark," is a philosophical work of art, posing for students, Who am I, Where am I going and How am I going to get there.

Walbrook is built around an open space courtyard. It is divided into three main elements with a main office, staffed with an assistant principal and two counselors.

Each section contains a specific number of homeroom classes and staff members, who are assigned to handle the concerns of approximately 1,000 students.

The aim is for personal attention and a close community.

In Dr. Emery's words, "Everyone is responsible for everyone else."

A typical day at Walbrook begins at 8:30 a.m. The classes run for 50 minutes with 10 minutes between classes, where students can engage in informal interplay, exchange news and hellos in the halls, at the lockers or in front of the next class.

Students talk quietly. The Walbrook mood is slightly laid-back, casual—a far cry from adult perceptions of high schools as enters of juvenile chaos.

"It's like a big family...a neighborhood thing," Kenneth McDaniel, an 18-year-old senior, who has been attending Walbrook since the ninth grade, said regarding school pride.

When Walbrook students visit other city schools for scholastic sporting events, they go in a group to cheer on their team — the Warriors.

Shouts of "we're number one," ring through the crowd as Walbrook students egg their team on to victory.

"It's a friendly atmosphere," Sheila Thorpe, president of the Student Government Association, said of the student-faculty

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A Walbrook tradition:

Training tomorrow's communicators today

Walbrook High School has very little problem in generating interest in school programs.

Most students at the school agree the programs offered are to their interest especially the highly acclaimed Communication Arts Emphasis Program.

The Communication Arts Emphasis program is a special course offered which draws more than 300 students, citywide.

"The program is terrific. It's totally out-of-sight. I mean the things the school offers like the media, the visual arts, the drama, the journalism program. It attracts you," Denise Graves, a junior journalism major, said speaking of the media and arts emphasis program.

Terri Lynn Feeser, Walbrook's only white student said "I applied to Walbrook because I wanted to be a journalism major and my (junior high school) counselor recommended Walbrook as the best school to study journalism."

Terri Lynn, a junior journalism major, and former student of Gwynn Falls Junior High School said she has successfully adjusted from her all-white neighborhood to predominately black Walbrook.

The Walbrook program includes an intensive study in seven different areas covering mass communications, radio and television, journalism, photography-filmmaking, dance, drama, fine and commercial art and music, the vocal or instrument option.

Equipped with a complete television studio, a school newspaper and a literary magazine, Walbrook students get a taste of the professional media world.

The school also houses a 1,200-capacity auditorium and a graphics workshop, where students work on school publications. Some outside printing and design work also is done in the shop.

A competitive program, students must have a "B" or better grade average to become eligible and must have good attendance, and a recommendation from a counselor from the previous school.



HISTORY SHAPER — Dr. Anne O. Emery, former principal of Walbrook High, who presently serves as the assistant superintendant of Public Information and Communication for the Baltimore City Department of Education, was responsible for making a place for Walbrook in the educational world. She initiated the Majors Program and the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. Program.



PRINCIPAL — Samuel R. Billups Jr., head of Walbrook for two years, is known for being a strong disciplinarian. A former principal of Pimlico Junior High, Billups stresses the school motto: Attend, Achieve, and Advance.

Auditions are required for students entering the fine arts, dance or music option.

Drama productions, film-making, sculpturing, drawing and writing are a few of the activities of students who participate in the program and who can boast of award-winning accomplishments.

Dancing at different affairs in the city, the Walbrook Dance

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