Push for educational excellence at Ft. Worthington school

By Kathy Owens Wyatt

The hue and cry across the country is the need for educational reform, educational excellence, and the establishment of educational priorities.

Cities all across the nation are attempting to right the wrongs cited by Educational Task Forces; and Baltimore is no exception.

During the summer, the City of Baltimore offers enrichment and remedial programs to students, supported by funds from the educational budget. However, these funds only go so far, and many needy students don't receive services.

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This summer, there is a program operating at East Baltimore's Fort Worthington Elementary School, operating without the support of funds from the Department of Education.

During the latter part of this past school year, a group of parents at the school saw the need to lend their all - out effort to meeting the educational needs of the school's students over the summer vacation.

Led by a parent volunteer, Mrs. Gladys Roane, the Fort Worthington parents sought to have a city-financed program at the school. They were not successful.

Finally convinced that the students needed this help, the group took their needs to area businesses and political leaders, but to no avail.

With these two avenues closed to them, the parents then sent letters to the school's parents seeking their support.

The letter outlined the goals of the summer - program and the cost - $50 per student.

There were over 100 favorable responses to the letter, and from that number, twenty-one parents paid to finance the program.

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The summer school is set up to run for six weeks, under the direction and teaching of Mrs. Mary McCrea, a Cluster I Specialist for the city schools.

Mrs. McCrea is paid a stipend, which by no means meets her regular salary, to work in the program.

The students are engaged in structured reading and language development, and individualized mathematics activities from 9 a.m. until 12 noon, Monday thru Thursday. At noon, they are dismissed for lunch with the Fun Campers at Fort Worthington's Recreation Center. After lunch, they participate in the Fun Camp activities.

On Friday, the "Summer Whiz Kids," participate in field trips with the recreation center.

The field trip experiences are then used to develop language lessons.

Each of the "Summer Whiz Kid's is also keeping a written journal of all of his/her program activities.

Most essential and instrumental in the success of this endeavor are the school's principal, Mrs. Peggy C. Madison, and Mrs. Gladys Roane.

When asked how she viewed the program, Mrs. Madison said, "The program is a tremendous success."

She was able to relate several stories that allow the program's benefits to speak for itself.

"One parent had registered her son in the program. When she came to visit and saw how the program operated the enthusiasm of the children, she went home, got her daughter, returned to the school, registered her and paid the tuition in full."

"One little girl came into the program and attended for three days. She had not registered and had not paid. When told she would not be able to stay in the summer school, the child left in tears. On the following Monday, her mother came to the school to register the youngster and pay the fees."

"In terms of monetary support, the school's P.T.A. donated $100 to help defray expenses, and a regularly assigned teacher at the school, Gordon B. Rose also contributed $100.

Mrs. Madison sees this program as such a success that she has already planned that a proposal will be submitted early in the next school year for city funding.

Mrs. Roane has worked untiringly to see that this program is beneficial to the youngsters.

She organized a bake sale at the school in June, with the proceeds going to the summer school program for supplies.

She has helped organize another fund raiser and a bus trip was held on Wednesday, July 25. All proceeds will go toward setting up a fund for next year's summer school.

Mrs. Roane also works as a full-time, unpaid assistant to the teacher in the summer program.

Mrs. Madison said of Mrs. Roane, "She is a parent with a mission. Her mission is to see that students maintain acquired during the school year, and move on the higher levels of achievement because of this special summer effort."

When this writer visited the classroom where the children work, their enthusiasm and active participation were the first things noted.

One group of children was working with the teacher, Mrs. McCrea, on a developmental reading lesson-Fact-Opinion. One youngster was working independently with a mathematics kit. Two groups of youngsters were engaged in recreational reading activities, while other were doing independent assignments in teacher-assigned activities. Two groups of youngsters were engaged in recreational. The children who are registered in the school's summer program are Sherri Diggs, Towanda Wilson, Khary Hudson, Gregory Fields, Stephanie Taniel, Theresa Jones, Rosalyn Jordan, Japonica Harding, Tiffany Gabbiri, Samuel Jones, Joanne Stokes, Rosalina Roane, Michael Branch, Gerard Thomas, Dante Edwards, Christina Cornick, Shawan Patterson, Latarsha Crawford, Tiairra Hardy, Tia Scott, and Cory Brown,

It is indeed obvious that the summer program at Fort Worthington Elementary School is doing its part to improve education for its youngsters.

All who are involved are to be commended, and perhaps they will serve as a model for other schools who wish to actively demonstrate their concern for Baltimore City youngsters.

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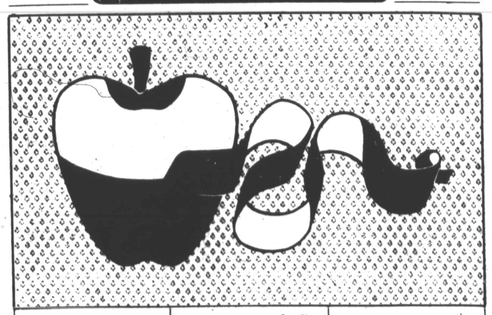
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Morgan alumnus 'Terry' Addison makes outstanding contribution

By Frederick I. Douglass

When B. Tyrous (Terry) Addison graduated from Morgan State University in 1957, he promised himself that someday he would find a way to repay the major investment that his instructors made in him through their diligent efforts to provide him with an education of the highest calibre, while prodding him to become an even greater achiever in the classroom and in life.

Recently, Mr. Addison made a major step toward fulfilling the vow he made to himself by contributing $12,000 worth of computer and word processing equipment to his Alma Mater's Public Relations Office.

"When I was a student at Morgan, it seemed like everyone went out of their way to help me...to answer my questions and to provide me with the kind of guidance I needed to make important decisions that would have a major impact on my career," says Mr. Addison.

"So many good things happened to me while I was at Morgan. I became a member of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, an organization which has been very helpful to me. I met a lot of people; I made a lot of friends. But most importantly, I got a good education...an education that gave me the firm foundation in mathematics that has enabled me to succeed in the computer field and in business.

"I received a lot from Morgan and now I want to give something back to the university to help insure that other young blacks will be able to receive the same kinds of educational opportunities that I received there."

Mr. Addison says that he decided to make a contribution of word processing equipment to Morgan's Public Relations Office because of his desire to assist the university to enhance its image within the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan area.

"Owning a travel agency has afforded me an opportunity to travel to many parts of the globe" says Terry Addison. "Everywhere I go, I hear wonderful things about Morgan State University.

"For example, the Morgan Choir is highly praised in the Virgin Islands, California and many other places where the group has performed. I've heard considerable praise of Morgan's Marching Band which has performed in parades throughout the country and for numerous nationally televised professional football and basketball games. And I've heard people praise the many scholars and leaders that have graduated from Morgan like Earl Graves, the publisher of Black ENTERPRISE Magazine and Wilson Goode, the Mayor of Philadelphia.

"What this says to me is that Morgan State University has a tremendous reputation throughout the world. Still, there are people right here in Maryland who take the university for granted."

"We have a problem in our community, a major problem of national scope" says Mr. Addison.

"We are too quick to criticize our black colleges, hospitals, businesses and other institutions when we should be seeking ways to help these organizations that have contributed so much to our community. Where would we be without Morgan State University? Who would have educated the thousands of people who graduated from there, especially during the era when white universities were turning away even the brightest black students.

"And we must also remember that Morgan is a business that provides jobs for hundreds of people and that has considerable impact on the State of Maryland's economy because of the goods that it must purchase to maintain its daily operations.

"The time has come for black people to take a critical look at how we can best use the resources provided by our colleges, business, churches and other institutions to help us get our fair share of the American economic pie."

Dedicated to black economic development, Terry Addison spends considerable time working with the HUB Organization, a group that actively campaigns for greater minority involvement in all aspects of business. He has been particularly instrumental in the success of HUB's Annual "Buy In-Buy Us" campaign and has formed three businesses networking groups (The Mentors & Protegees; The Movers & Shakers; and The Primetimers) which are geared toward encouraging established and successful businessmen to share their expertise with up and coming entrepreneus.

Mr. Addison's successful business ventures include ownership of the Business Travel Centre, the Atlas Insurance Agency, and The Forum, a catering facility that can accommodate up to 650 people. He has come a long way from his humble birth in Lumberton, N.C., the very heart of tobacco road, where he labored as a field hand until he was eighteen years old. Born the eleventh of twelve children, Terry Addison defied seemingly insurmountable odds to acquire a college education and to become a successful entrepreneus.

Following a three-year stay at Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C. which was interrupted by limited finances, Mr. Addison enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and the Korean Service Medal.

When he first came to Baltimore, he worked for Bethlehem Steel, but soon became tired of the grueling labor and fiery furnaces at Sparrows Point. Seizing an opportunity to work for the U.S. Post Office, he was able to arrange his schedule so that he could work fulltime while pursuing a degree in mathematics fulltime at Morgan what was then known as Morgan State College.

Upon graduating, Mr. Addison joined the rapidly expanding computer profession by going to work at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Ballistic Research Laboratory as a Systems Analyst where he performed advanced scientific programming on first generation digital and analog computer.

By 1966, Mr. Addison's increasingly sophisticated programming skills enabled him to acquire a job and obtain a high level position as Senior Engineer-Systems Analyst for the AAI Corporation. There he was responsible for writing contract bid proposals and performing the initial writing, testing and documentation of computer programs developed to train naval officers through the use of simulators involving radar and other shipboard electronic components.

Possessed with tremendous energy and an unquenchable thirst for success, Terry Addison began his career as an entrepreneur while working for the AAI Corporation. Somehow he found the time to establish and operate a cocktail lounge and restaurant; a neighborhood bar; and an insurance agency which he started in the back room of his cocktail lounge.

Despite the increasing time demands required by his various business ventures, Mr. Addison continued his career as a programmer, serving a brief stint with Commercial Credit as a Senior Computer Systems Analyst which was involved in the development of the National Computer Claims Processing System for Medicare and Medicaid.

Ultimately, Mr. Addison's drive to become a successful businessman became stronger than his interest in being a computer programmer and he left the 9 to 5 world to devote himself full-time to managing the Atlas Insurance Agency. Diversifying his business interests, he opened the Business Travel Center in 1983, a firm that specializes in providing full service travel consultation, arrangement of reservations and accommodations for groups and individuals.

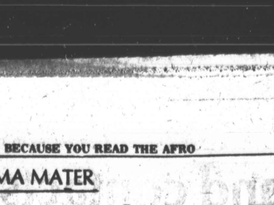
During 1983, Terry Addison also formed the investment group that purchased the controlling interest in The Forum Catering, Inc., a financial move that further strengthened his position as one of Baltimore's major black entrepreneurs.

Active in the community and in business circles, Mr. Addison is a member of several organizations including the President's Roundtable; the Greater Baltimore Committee; the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce; Advisory Board, Harbor Bank of Maryland; Advisory Board, Provident Hospital; the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce; and the President's Advisory Committee, Morgan State University.

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