Bettye Moss

IF YOU ASK ME

Service of love

St. Cecelia's Catholic Church was packed for the Thursday noon service of love for Mrs. Sarah Smith Brown, 87 of Chesholm Rd.

Standing tall — her husband of 70 years, George A. Brown Sr., the retired postal worker, their ten children, and most of the 31 grandchildren, 29 great - grandchildren and 1 great - great - grandchild.

The children are daughters, Clarice Richardson, Dorothy Press, Juliette Carpenter, Hilah Glaze, Augustine Gloster, Bette Roche, and sons, George, Harold, T. Elroy and Earl Brown, all of Baltimore, except Mrs. Gloster who lives in Silver Spring. Also surviving, a sister, Mrs. Hilah Francis of Philadelphia.

The family tribute recalled that despite the fact that she stood only 5 feet 1, Mrs. Brown captivated the hearts of all who knew her and gave generously of herself to help others.

Memorable: the profusion of love expressed in the three dozen floral pieces, among them a huge bleeding heart of red and white carnations from the grandchildren.

Grandchildren who served as active and honorary pallbearers are: Mark and Martin Glaze, Steven Brown, George Brown 3rd, John Gloster, Anthony Carpenter, Charles Richardson Jr., Harold Brown Jr., Jeffry Brown, Harold Richardson and Michael Press.

Fathers Blackwell and Sterling officiated at the rites.

Cuff note: For many years, when the children were growing up, the Browns lived in the 1300 block of Myrtle Ave. in West Baltimore. Theirs is an excellent example of an inner city family — where mom and dad were at the helm — and the 10 youngsters went on to meaningful careers when they grew up. God bless the memory of Mama Brown.

SERVICE OF LOVE honored Mrs. Sarah Smith Brown, 88, who leaves 73 immediate relatives. See more in If You Ask Me.

My mother

Sunday, May 12 is Mother's Day. Remember your own mom or a friend's mother on this special day.

The following tribute to my own mom is reprinted from this column 22 years ago, (May 11, 1965):—

"My mother was a gentle, gracious lady. She had a melodious, cultured voice and spread sunshine wherever she went.

"She talked in a charming precise manner, thanks to the school teacher experience she had before she met dad in his German class at Howard University.

"My mother felt very strong about certain things. She detested strong drink like the plague, and was vehemently vocal when there was talk of "buying a fifth."

"She abhored smut, foul language, gossip and disparaging talk.

"In fact, it was my mother who inspired me to write this newspaper column.

"She never got used to what she termed "idle gossip" columns, such as appear in many daily and weekly newspapers. (cheap talk, is the way she described them.)

'Write the good'

"And, so one day 20 years ago, she said to me. "Newspapers have to print the news, but you, Bettye, write a column which will tell the good things about people, the nice things which people do.

"Don't repeat sly remarks. Don't be a gossiper. Remember," she urged, "there are always two sides to a gossip's story" (her favorite expression was, "the dog who brings the bone will carry it.")

"Through the years, this column is glad to report, it has stuck to what mom called "good things," — people's birthdays, orchids to deserving neighbors, chitchat about people who look good and do "nice" things.

"And, never, mom, thanks to you, has there been gossip, and there never will be. The letters which cross this writer's desk indicate our readers like mom's idea — good things. . . ."

(The foregoing reprinted from the writer's book, "Be Strong," the life of her mother, Vashti Turley Murphy, 1884-1960).

"WRITE THE GOOD" was advice of If You Ask Me columnist's mother. Vashti Turley Murphy, shown in this 1913 photo, the year she and 21 other women founded Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at Howard University. Photo appears on cover of author's book, "Be Strong." See more in If You Ask Me.

MSU Choir

"Bravo . . . bravo . . . amen, amen . . ." You felt like shouting the words louder every time the Morgan State University Choir concluded a soul - stirring number during the Sunday evening concert at the magnificent Joseph Meyerhoff Concert Hall.

The young student singers gave a superb performance!!

We leave it to music critics like this newspaper's Fred Douglass, (whose review is in the Tuesday, May 7 issue), to give you details about the dynamics of the choir's voices, the fortissimo levels etc.

What we are about reporting is that this annual concert was like an inspiring church service . . . like a baptism . . . with music so glorious many listeners were moved to tears of joy.

The 122 singers looked good. Female members wore long blue dresses, accented with white at the neck and including one sleeve. The male members were in tux. They made a beautiful picture on the massive stage, with members of the Baltimore Symphony Chamber Orchestra seated in front.

Director - conductor, Dr. Nathan Carter, a joy to watch at any time, was in rare form as he moved deftly from one position to another, waving his baton to the orchestra, raising his hand to a soloist, and then literally jumping up and down as he urged the full ensemble to join in the presentation.

Crowd pleasers

There was not a single number on the evening's program which did not bring appreciation applause from the attentive audience.

But the crowded hall reserved its standing ovations and bravos for a number of selections, ranging from Handel's "If God Be With Us, Who Can Be Against Us," — featuring guest soprano Henrietta Davis — to an offering of pop and gospel numbers, including, "We Are the World."

And, for the hymns, "Precious Lord," and "Psalm Ninety Five" and "It Is Well," all specially arranged by Carter.

More pleasers: "Joy," with Elizabeth Hogue as soloist, rocked the hall. So did, "Didn't It Rain," and "Pray for Peace."

And, so did "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," an encore number which the choir sang just this past February on the nationwide television program from Rev. Robert Schuler's Crystal Cathedral in California.

A hush

Throughout the evening, concert - goers were most attentive . . . there was a hush as the singers performed — not even a cough or a baby's cry.

And listeners were not afraid to jump to their feet to give the performers the deserved ovations.

We were happy to be seated next to retired city school principal, Mary Lee, and her District Court Commissioner hubby, William Lee. They were generous in their applause and led in standing ovations.

Seen in the crowd: Lauren Coldough, now a junior at Morgan. He stopped us to recall he was a senior at Walbrook High when we first met at a career day program.

Sponsors

Sponsors of this annual event were the Baltimore Urban League and the President's Committee for the Morgan State University Choir.

During intermission, the sponsors did a nice thing — they thanked the audience and committee and staff members for helping them fill the huge hall.

Dr. James Priest, chair of UL exec board lauded UL president, Dr. Ben Whitten and vice, Dr. Lloyd Alston. UL board member Marvin E. Jones, committee chair, added his accolades.

President's committee chair, Mrs. Marion Garrett, was gracious in her compliments and the audience listened intently to every word. Morgan U president, Dr. Earl Richardson added his thanks.

There was presentation of an appreciation award for service to the choir to Alfred David Watts.

Director - conductor Carter (who changed to a white jacket during intermission), complimented the choir members, the guest artists and acknowledged presence of his family.

Who they were

In addition to Dr. Priest and Dr. Alston, and Mr. Jones, other members of the Urban League planning committee are:— Kaye Boone, Marie Givens, Dr. Lucy Jones, Dawn Robinson, Richard Sarmiento, Howard Jessamy, Robert I. Oser and Michael A. Griver.

In addition to Mrs. Garrett, other members of the President's committee are: Genevieve Wisner, Mae Moody, Lucy Adams, Mary Fields, Esther Brooks, Bernice Hunley, Audrey E. Williams, Donald Tynes, Isaac McCoy, Virginia Coleman, Margaret Jackson, Dr. Carter and Dr. Priest.

Other choir staff members: Eric Conway, accompanist; Margaret Lindsay - Johnson, director gospel choir; William Powell, graduate assistant and James A. Thomas. organist. Dr. Kay Pace was guest accompanist for Sunday's performance.

More good news — The sponsors prepared and distributed an attractive souvenir booklet featuring photos and stories about the sponsoring groups, and advertisements from area businesses.

Cuff notes: The Sunday night Morgan U. audience was not into dilly - dallying at the bar and refreshment stands during intermission. A few got some goodies, but most hurried to their seats after a few minutes, and were in place as concert resumed.

More Schmoke

We started out in this space last week to talk about the unique Kurt Schmoke mid - term fund raiser at the Fifth Regiment Armory last Sunday, (April 28), and how everybody in public life — at least almost everybody — was there to greet the State's Attorney. Space did not permit these other comments about the $25 per affair:—

Day after the event, many of the 5,000 Schmoke signs posted around the city were plastered with a Thank You.

7,000

Attorney Larry S. Gibson, a key Schmoke advisor, was overjoyed. He said over 7,000-persons attended, and noted "it is the first time in the city that a fund - raiser for a public official has approached that number."

He cited statistics — The Mandel Salute, statewide had only 5,000, Sachs had 4,000 in Dundalk, Du Burns had 2,000, and the salute for Schaefer, 2,500.

"We had actually over 7,000 people — I mean warm bodies, not including the volunteers. We had 300 volunteers, 150 of them kids from vocational schools who manned booths for refreshments, and were paid $25 each for four hours work, many of them earning their first money in life.

Looked good

Cuff note: And the youngsters looked good. We like the way they handled food — they wore thin gloves, so that their hands did not touch your hot dogs and rolls — Some Lexington Market food handlers could take lessons from them.

Unusual: Most of the guests stood in line — three blocks long at some points — waiting an opportunity to shake hands with the 38 - year - old honoree.

Schmoke stood on a raised platform at the rear of the hall. Beside him his wife, Dr. Patricia Schmoke, his mother, Mrs. Irene Reid of Mobile, Ala., wife of AME Bishop Frank Madison Reid; and his dad, Murray Schmoke, Baltimore, the U.S. government scientist.

By the way...

By Joe Black

I know that many of you have heard the expression "everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die." It depresses me to see that those words often reflect the attitude of too many Black Americans.

In the Black community, an individual is greeted with laudatory shouts of "right on" or "stay on the case" as long as he is elucidating about racism. But woe unto the Black person who dares to challenge or point out weaknesses that Black people can improve upon. Quickly the cheers change to jeers and "Tom," "Oreo," "Negro," or bourgeoisie, the villifying names we now hear.

However, I remind those name-callers that we, as a race, are doomed to second-class status as long as we refuse to admit that we are not perfect. I am the first to admit that Black Americans have made great socioeconomic gains during the past 3 decades, but we cannot afford the luxury of living on our victories of yesteryear. The battle for equality of opportunity and justice is still being fought. We must strengthen our battle lines by making the family — father, mother, and children — strong and united. To achieve this goal, we must be willing to admit that many Black babies don't go to bed hungry because of racism. No, they lack food because a Black man has failed to fulfill his responsibilities as a father and a husband.

Think about it. Do we Blacks have the courage to reduce the number of single-parent homes in our community?

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

Being Black in America: A Real Picture

The love's the same ... the woman has changed.

Some things are so special they endure forever. One of them is a mother's love. From generation to generation, Black mothers have passed on a legacy of caring, nurturing, and protecting.

Mothers of today have broader horizons, more opportunities, and a stronger status in the community. If they are able to offer their children more, it is because they are aware of the sacrifices made by other women before them.

Anheuser-Busch continues to support educational and vocational opportunities for women by creating an environment where the challenges faced by women are met with confidence.

A real picture of being Black in America includes all of us. The potential to realize our dreams is the promise of America. And, in the fulfillment of our goals, we make the American dream a reality.

Building a future in partnership with the community.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH COMPANIES

All smiles from left to right are Bertrand Bonnick, a dental student; Dr. Theodore Patterson; and Kym Chandler, senior medical student, as they pose for the AFRO camera during a reception for minority community leaders hosted by new University of Maryland at Baltimore chancellor Dr. Edward M. Brandt.

UMAB HOSTS

Gala reception for leaders

Chancellor Edward N. Brandt, M.D., of the University of Maryland at Baltimore (UMAB), hosted a memorable reception for 400 city and state minority professionals and community leaders on Sunday, May 5. The reception served as the initial kick - off activity for the "Minority Scholarship and Leadership Guild" which was organized in June, 1984.

Members of the Guild's Steering Committee, who attended the affair were, Dr. Anne Emery, Dr. Theodore Patterson, Dr. Roland Smoot, and Dr. Lois Young. During the two - hour event, entertainment was provided by aspiring young students from the Baltimore public schools and included a Jazz Ensemble from Douglass High School and several soloists from the Baltimore School for the Arts and Western High School.

In the main reception area, two exhibits depicting the early role of blacks in the dental and medical professions were available for perusal. A slide - tape demonstration on the history and future directions of the UMAB campus was continuously shown and tours of the Edgar Allen Poe Burial Grounds were available to guests throughout the evening.

The "Minority Scholarship and Leadership Guild" was organized to address the need for financial aid for minority scholars who are accepted into one of the seven health professions and human services schools at the University of Maryland at Baltimore. With the decrease in the availability of federal funds earmarked for student financial aid in the coming years, Chancellor Brandt and the "guild" have launched a joint campaign to insure that dollars will be available for students who would, otherwise, be unable to pursue a professional career, for a lack of financial assistance and support.

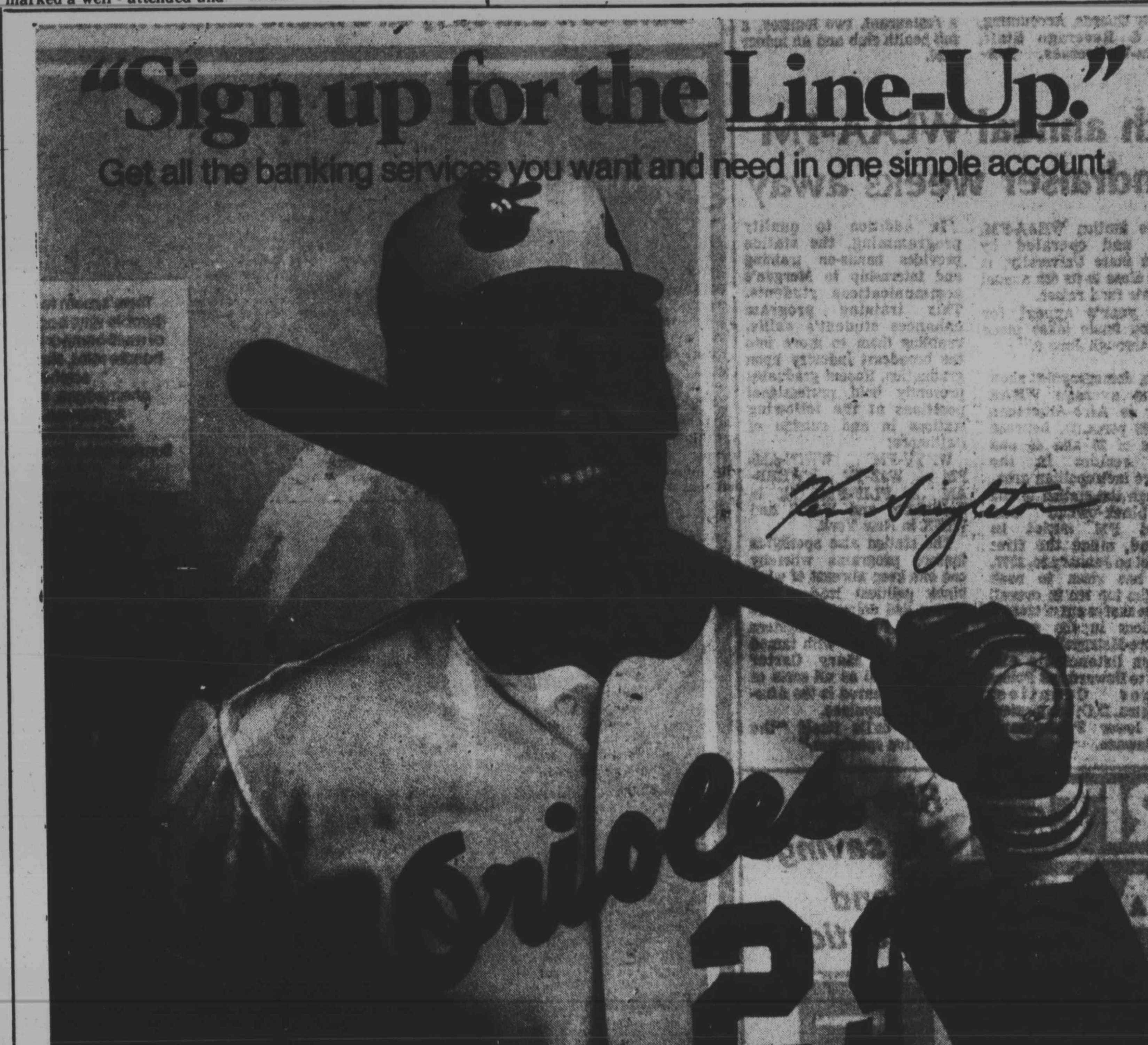
Noted minority professionals and community leaders have already begun to contribute time and dollars to the scholarship fund. Contributions to the "guild" have been received from: Drs. Aris and Fay Allen, Dr. Curtis Adams, Dr. Raymond Haysbert, Dr. Donald Roane, and Dr. Walker Robinson.

A sculpture, which has been appraised at an estimated value of $11,700.0, has been donated to the "guild" by Professor James Lewis. The work is currently housed in the Art Gallery at the University of Maryland, College Park campus.

A secondary goal of the "guild" is to establish a network of professional and community leaders who will be available to provide emotional support to students as they progress towards their professional goals.

Numerous minority students, presently attending one of the professional schools at UMAB, served as student escorts during the reception held on Sunday. Members of the black professional community, mingled and chatted with key university administrators to gain a better sense of the institution's goals, while at the same time, learned of a new focus targeted at the minority community.

By all accounts, this marked a well - attended and highly memorable occasion, and, it is anticipated that the event will become an annual affair.



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