CAREER CORNER

Boyer urges alternatives to public education

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

A viable plan for restructuring for the city school system was set forth recently at the initial session of a three part series of public issues on Urban Reform: Lessons for Baltimore presented by The Institute of Policy Studies of Johns Hopkins University.

Ernest L. Boyer, Ph.D., president of Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of teaching conducted the session entitled "Recent Trends in Education Reform: An Overview.

Boyer emphasized the necessity of children being the primary concern.

"Excellence in education is directly related to the saving of our children," said Boyer.

With the interest of improved conditions for both students and teachers, Boyer discussed several factors the Foundation deemed necessary in school renewal.

Much discussion was given to the importance of linguistic development in children. "Every teacher should consider language important," said Boyer.

Another suggestion for school renewal is having smaller classes. Boyer said class size is important.

"Small classes bring more academic gains... these children get more attention," said Boyer.

Boyer addressed the issue of low self-esteem and self-worth prevalent on the secondary level.

"There is a feeling among these students of being unknown, and unneeded by the outside world," said Boyer.

Boyer stated the necessity of having more adult mentors.

The third priority Boyer discussed was the need for the school system to readjust the current academic school year schedule to suit schedules relative to family life today.

Concerning this matter, Boyer compared lifestyle today with that in years passed. He concluded that the school year calendar was previously formed to suit farming patterns.

While farming is no longer the predominant means of labor for city residents, the school year calendar has still remained unaltered.

Ernest L. Boyer

"Our schools will need to change their schedule to adjust to the differences in school calendars and the realities of family life.

Boyer said there will be three patterns emerging.

The first pattern is an increase in Pre-Kindergarten programs; second, after hour workshops; and third, that the school calendar be lenghtened.

"The danger is that poor children will be allowed to drift," said Boyer.

Boyer said this plan of school renewal is not a new motion." I'm not plowing new ground," he said.

"The most urgent and compelling task is the rebuilding of the nation's schools," said Boyer.

He said poor families should be given a special grant to put their children in enrichment programs.

Boyer said school renewal also includes finding ways to give more power and more recognition to the teachers.

"No profession is made healthy by focusing on only what's bad," he said.

UM offers college prep summer course

By Denise Smith
AFRO Correspondent

A summer workshop program aimed at improving the academic skills of freshmen entering college will be offered at the University of Maryland, College Park, this summer.

Reading comprehension, time management, notetaking, writing, listening and math skills are among the courses to be given to ensure freshman a head start on a sound college education.

These subject areas will be held on campus because it (campus) can be an overpowering experience Dr. John Van Brunt, director of the College Park Learning Assistance program said.

The college-bound program will be available to high school juniors and seniors who plan to attend college upon graduation. "This program teaches students that the services offered here are the same as at any other college," Dr. Brunt said.

"Most high schools do not prepare students with the academic skills needed for a succesful college education," Dr. Brunt said. The services of the learning assistance program can teach the academic skills needed for college.

"Students who do not manage time effectively are the ones who disappear from college," Dr. Brunt said. He added that a major problem with most students entering college are inadequate writing and math skills.

He said college life is a different experience from high school in that no one takes attendance in college and the professors do not report to parents student's absence from class.

Ninety-five percent of the responsibility is on the student and "most students simply have not been trained to be responsible." He said that students should learn responsibility while in high school so the transition can be a smoother one.

For more information about this program, contact the Learning Assistance Service at (301) 454-2935.

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The Afro-American's professional opportunities section. CAREER CORNER is featured in Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Editions.

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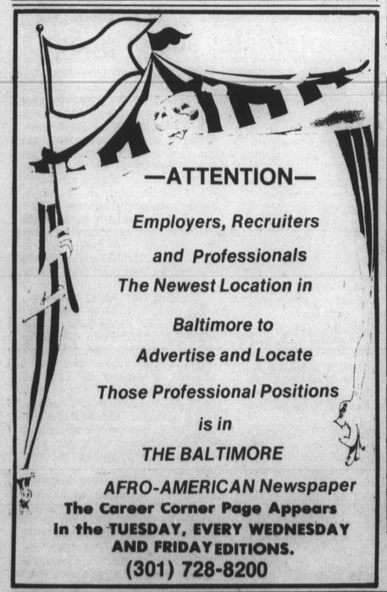

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SAM LACY

Sampson

The name could conjure different thoughts to different readers . . . . Is the reference to the strongman who lost his locks to Delilah? . . . . or to the little guy who rides raging bulls in championship fashion?

Or maybe it is a recall of sorts to a spindly basketball player, one who has no locks to afford and who wouldn't dare even approach an irate bull, to say nothing of climbing on its back?

The truth is that the spindly ball player, Ralph Sampson, has more in common with the Hebrew hero than he has with Charles Sampson, the tenacious bullrider . . . . This despite the fact that the former had no "p" separating Sam and son.

As Samson led a courageous military attack on the Philistines at the Gates of Gaza, Sampson is assuming the role of a 7-foot, 4-inch Moses, bent on leading his followers from the bondage of drugs.

Oh, Lacy, what schmaltz!

Strength negated

Sampson, speaking last week on "Drugs, Sports and You!" at Virginia Western Community College, urged the students to "take opportunity by the hand and force it as far as it can go."

Sampson, drafted by the Houston Rockets of the National Basketball Association after graduation and recently traded to the Golden State Warriors, urged the students to avoid drugs because there's no way to tell which effects the substances will have on the body.

"You can be the strongest person in the world, and the white powder (cocaine) or marijuana can make you the weakest person in the world," Sampson said . . . . "You don't know what cocaine will do to you . . . . Even alcohol — drinking beer — can break down your body."

A cousin's fate

Sampson, whose anti-drug speaking schedule includes work with the Drug Enforcement Administration, said he has used alcohol but has never taken drugs . . . . He said he was influenced by a cousin who got involved in drugs and ended up in jail.

"I saw what it did to him, and I didn't want the same thing to happen to me," Sampson said.

He told the students not to let friends talk them into trying drugs.

"If they jump from a 25-story building, does that mean you're going to do it, too?" he said. "No."

Fielding questions after his talk, Sampson said he was shocked by the cocaine overdose death of University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias . . . . Sampson added that he supported drug testing of athletes because they are role models, but said athletes who successfully fight their addiction should be allowed to return to professional sports.

A personal look

When this writer looks back at the Sampson experience, there is ample evidence that the 28-year-old Virginian is possessed of unyielding dedication and rare strength . . . . Both are qualities that make him a powerful role model for young people.

The proof of his dedication is found in the resolution he showed in rejecting countless lucrative pro offers in order to remain in the University of Virginia and obtain his degree in 1980.

And by playing through his junior and senior years — thus facing the risk of injury that would have deprived him of promised millions in the NBA — Sampson, also showed undisputed courage.

Notable quotable

Lakers center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, explaining why he refused an interview request from talk-show host Tom Snyder:

"I avoided him because he asks questions, answers them, and then comments on the words he puts in your mouth."

SPORTS on deck

NBA TOWER: Ralph Sampson, often accused of weakness in various areas, is described as a man of great sensitivity and caring (Lacy column).

* * *

FIRE FOR FREE: Colleagues, former colleagues and family members to convene in concerted effort to "roast" MEAC Commissioner Ken Free (1st Sports).

* * *

A MOUNTAIN CLIMBER?: You've probably never heard of Jean Ellis. If not, have patience. Two months hence, that name may crop as the first black to conquer Mt. Everest (2nd Sports).

* * *

KOREAN CONCERN: South Korean officials, despite assurances from North Korea, remain wary of the likelihood of Olympic Games disruptions (2nd Sports).

Greensboro 'roast' set for MEAC commissioner

Ken Free will be the subject of an appreciation roast Saturday, June 11, in Greensboro (NC).

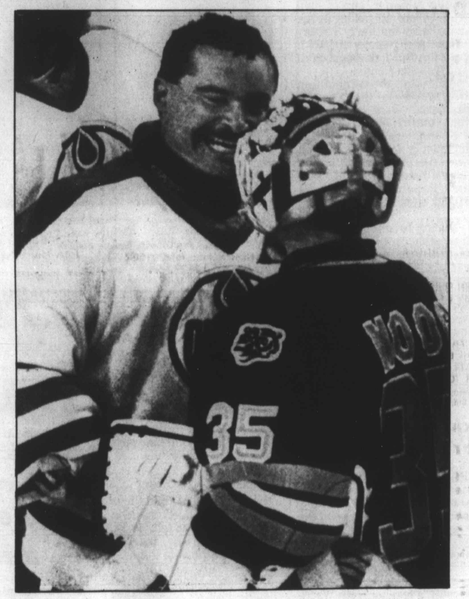
The affair, dubbed "The Man," will be held at the Ramada Hotel/Downtown beginning with a 6 pm reception and a 7 pm banquet.

Free, commissioner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and a North Carolina Parks and Recreation past president, became the first black person to serve on the NCAA Division I Basketball Selection Committee when named last fall.

Roasters include Bill Britt, Vance Chavis, Charles Logan, Free's sister, Loretta McKee; Albert Smith, and a special secret roaster.

Free, a Greensboro native, became the MEAC's first full-time commissioner when he accepted the post in 1978. He was instrumental in guiding the conference to NCAA Division I status.

Ken Free
sister among the needlers



CONGRATULATIONS!! — While Edmonton teammates Wayne Gretzky and Mark Messier and Esa Tikannon were taking bows elsewhere, Boston goalie Andy Moog was congratulating the Oilers' Grant Fuhr for his spectacular goal-tending throughout the 4-game Edmonton sweep to the Stanley Cup of ice hockey. The significant thing is that Fuhr had beaten out Moog for the Oiler job in goal each of three years the two were teammates, and Moog signed with Boston hoping to get even.

Lori out in Paris

Lori McNeil, highest seeded black entry in the French Open, was ousted from that first of the 1988 tennis majors on Thursday.

The 23-year-old Houston hope bowed to little-known Conchita Martinez of Spain, 1-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Lori was seeded No. 9; fellow Texan Zina Garrison is No. 10.

Garrison entered third round action during the weekend. Previously, she defeated fellow-American Stephanie Rehe, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 in the opening round, and disposed of Czech Iva Bordarova on Monday, 6-0, 6-7, 6-2.

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McNeil also set down first and second round opponents before bowing to the youthful Martinez, who is ranked 279th in the world.

Lori, who upset Chris Evert in the U.S. Open last fall and who had just succeeded in passing Garrison in the ratings, said she "completely" lost concentration after handily winning the first set against Martinez.

Whitfield to 'Fame'

Mal Whitfield, a combined triple gold in the 1948-52 Olympics, was inducted into the Olympic Hall of Fame Thursday.

Jim Slater for United Press

Players put muscle to baseball expansion

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — In a move to pressure expansion of major-league baseball, the players' union is seeking support from potential owners and state legislators.

"Owners have been able to maintain an artificial scarcity of franchises," said Donald Fehr, executive director of the Major League Players Association. "Owners have continued to engage in the threaten-to-move scenario to exact better arrangements from a community and the taxpayers.

"They must have available markets to threaten to move to. If there's no city looking for a team and making offers, you lose that. So you have deliberately vacant markets."

Fehr spoke Friday in the latest stop on a national tour of prime expansion sites. He charged that owners are avoiding expansion so existing teams can obtain better deals from their cities.

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Fehr has been meeting with potential owners and major figures in their cities, as well as The Senate Task Force on Baseball Expansion, to unite the push for additional teams. Along the way, he has been meeting with supporters of additional teams.

Fehr's group stands to benefit by adding hundreds of new jobs. He hopes a threat to baseball's antitrust status will provide incentive.

"You've got to have plain old American capitalistic competition," Fehr said. "We want to bring the question out of the closet. We feel the players' interest and those of disenfranchised cities are the same."

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Parts of a study commissioned by the union have been revealed by Fehr on previous stops in Washington, Phoenix, Miami and the Tampa Bay area. Those places, plus Denver and the New Jersey, are the largest of 23 markets analyzed in an independent study.

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Other markets researched include Indianapolis, Birmingham, Ala.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Columbus, Ohio; Charlotte, N.C.; Honolulu; Jacksonville and Orlando, Fla.; Louisville, Ky.; Memphis and Nashville, Tenn., New Orleans, San Antonio, Sacramento, Calif.; and the Canadian cities of Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg.

"We're not yet attempting to make judgments on what areas can support major league teams," Fehr said. "But you're going to see eight or 10 (in the study) that are going to be considered viable and Indianapolis is going to be in the middle of that group."

Art Angotti, president of the Indianapolis Arrows group seeking a major-league team, summed up the frustration of many hopeful owners.

"This is the first plausible explanation why, after we have worked so hard, we haven't been able to get to first base," Angotti said. "They're talking about $40 million for an expansion team, but if cities are pitted against each other and they're going to take the best offer, that could go to $60 million or $80 million."

Fehr said he suspects owners will decide it is not in their best interest to satisfy the demands of every potential expansion site.

"They will want to add as few as possible," he said. "I think they could add far more than two or four or six. But anything less than six would not be in good faith."