

ebony tree

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LIVING ON BORROWED TIME

I was assaulted, tortured, tormented . .

Narrative by Eddie T. Nyuke

Automatic weapons ready to fire, the rebel, Rhodesian troops sat huddled together near a dilapidated tent directly facing me, as they supervised the country-wide curfew, which had already imperilled the lives of hundreds of innocent black people. Crossing the death zone meant life or death for me.

I knelt down and said what I considered my last prayer on earth. I thought of sprinting past the soldiers to freedom only a few yards behind them, but my knees rendered rubbery by hunger and fear, could not power me along the path of my ambition. Then I bit my lower lip and declared that I would die, marching forward like a gallant soldier, than show the soldiers my clean heels.

The journey to this point at Bambatsi on the border between Rhodesia and Botswana had started in Salisbury, the capital of Rhodesia, without anyone knowing my intended destination. My flight continued despite ruthless pursuit by the forces.

One night at 12:00, I was arrested on suspicion of being involved in the Rhodesian Nationalist groups, which are striving to subvert the Smith Regime. I spent three months in solitary confinement. During this time, I went through hell. I was assaulted, tortured, tormented, starved, and humiliated beyond human imagination. After my tormentors failed to make me confess, they decided to charge me with having been in possession of what they called outlawed literature was a book entitled, "Chairman Mao's Thoughts". They said I was communist inspired.

The court which tried my case found me guilty and sentenced me to six months in jail with hard labor. The end of my term did not mean the end of my troubles; it was the beginning. I began to walk a tight rope from one day to the next, being suspected at every turn, weighing and balancing every word I



had to say. In the end, I felt a poor soul from a place behind God's back. Because of what I was experiencing, it became evident that I had become a stranger in my own country. The idea suddenly seized me that I should quit the country. Without giving the matter further thought, I yielded to the impulse and immediately applied for a passport.

Forty days later, I received a letter bearing the signature of the Chief Passport Officer. "After careful consideration, the State has found it a security risk to issue you a passport. Therefore, I regret to inform you that your application for a passport has been denied." I personally took the letter back to the passport officer to seek some clarification. The passport officer, through his secretary, told me that what he had said in the letter was final; if I should bother him again, he would call the police for my arrest.

I left the palace and went home to get myself ready to leave the country. I got off the train, walked several miles, and settled in the woods for the night. After a strenuous four hour journey on foot, I came to the bottom of a mountain on my right. When I turned my eyes to the left, I saw tents of the so-called security forces just a few yards from the path. I reduced my pace. Terror took hold of me like the grip of a python. I could not move. There seemed to be no escape. I found myself on my knees saying, "Lord, save me or I shall perish. I know you have a purpose in this. You wanted me to be here." In words like that I prayed and God smiled on me. Then, like a man whistling in the dark to keep up his courage, without looking sideways, I energetically walked past the troops unmolested. After a few yards, I jumped the demarcation fence into Botswana and sang "Amazing Grace".

Very few people could jump the gun

like I did in the curfew areas in Rhodesia. I know I had very little chance of making it. Therefore, with all that I went through, I believe that I am living on somebody else's time.

"The Last Kicks of A Dying Horse"

The last kicks of a dying horse are dangerous. The same is true with Ian Smith, the tyrant ruler of Rhodesia. He now realizes that he cannot resist nature's counsel forever. Smith knows now that his days of ruling are numbered and greatly diminishing. But, before he finally falls, Smith wants to carry out his promise to hinder majority rule. He has been quoted as saying, "Blacks must not inherit a developed country. When the time comes for us to surrender, we shall destroy and leave the country in the state we found it."

Every black person in Rhodesia has become Smith's hostage. He is holding them in prisons, restriction areas, detention camps, and the newly established keeps. Keeps are similar to the German concentration camps which have become the war's butchery. The living conditions in these institutions are very unhealthy. One wonders what the International Red Cross is doing about such an abominable situation.

After sustaining heavy losses in the woods at the hands of the freedom fighters, Smith's troops throw bombs in the keeps to kill defenseless citizens and blame the freedom fighters for this. He has also established mobile courts. Magistrates move in trailer courts in the war zones trying cases of guerrilla activities. Those found guilty are then sent to Salisbury where Monday has become a hanging day. The hangmen go on duty from dusk to dawn every Monday. All this evil is going on unchecked.

BLACK HISTORY FEATURE— MARY CHURCH TERRELL: A Forgotten Black Feminist

by
Dr. M. Sammye Mitler

Mary Church Terrell (1863-1954) was the daughter of the black Tennessee millionaire, Robert Reed Church Senior, who had amassed a fortune in Memphis real estate during the 1870's and Louisa Ayres Church, who owned vast properties in Memphis and operated a successful beauty business in lower Manhattan at the turn of the century. Though both of her parents divorced, Mary Church Terrell had a relatively happy childhood and recalled her parents remaining cordial to each other even after her father remarried.

At Oberlin College, Mary Church Terrell studied Greek and Latin (the course of study designed for males). She did further study in modern languages while living in Paris, Berlin and Florence. Upon returning to the United States, she taught for a second time in the public schools of the nation's capital. It was there that she met and married in 1891 her co-worker, Robert Heberton Terrell, the first black *cum laude* graduate of Harvard (1884) and the first black judge of the Municipal Court of the District of Columbia. In her fight for women's rights, the Judge was her greatest supporter, even when his friends cautioned him against the merits of having a too socially active wife. Judge Terrell once warned his wife that: "You will get old and wrinkled if you allow yourself to be put in the dumps by the jealousies and envy of those who don't like you because you are doing something in the world."

Mary Church Terrell became the first president of the National Association of Colored Women (1896) and the first black woman to serve on a Board of Education in the United States (District of Columbia). She brought world acclaim to herself when she spoke before the International Congress of Women in Berlin, Germany in 1904, and in 1919 she was invited by the International League for Peace and Freedom



Mary Church Terrell

to serve as delegate in Zurich, Switzerland, where she was unanimously chosen as the speaker to represent the United States. In 1937, she attended the World Fellowships of Faiths in London. At the Women's Centennial Congress held in New York, she received a social service citation.

By applying for membership in the Washington chapter of the American Association of University Women (at the age of 85), where she was rejected, Mary Church Terrell caused such controversy that the chapter's by-laws were changed so that a degree became the only qualification for membership.

Fortunately, Mrs. Terrell did record her legacy in an autobiography, *A Colored Woman In A White World*, which has been reprinted by the National Association of Colored Women's Club Incorporated. But equally important, has been the preservation of the many letters, diaries and other documents which give testimony to Mrs. Terrell's multifaceted career that are housed at the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress in Washington. Scholars in Women's history (especially black historians) have their work cut

out for them. Let's hope they'll make use of these vast resources.

For our Greek Community, Mary Church Terrell wrote the creed for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and her husband, Robert H. Terrell, was a member of Phi Beta Sigma and Sigma Pi Pni Honor Society, the oldest black Greek letter organization in America.

A NEW MAJOR IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Department of History and Politics has announced the development of a new program, a major in Public Administration.

The program brings together the services of the business community, local government and the federal agencies in the Washington metropolitan area along with special internships and regular academic preparation at the college. Hopefully, the program will be fully implemented by the fall of the 1978-1979 academic year.

The department currently offers special minors in Geography (15 hrs.), History (15 hrs.), Philosophy (15 hrs.), Pre-Law and Political Science (15 hrs.).



EBONY TREE INTERVIEW:

PARREN J. MITCHELL A Conversation with Leader of the Congressional Black Caucus

by
Byron Dobson and Kelvin Davis

Ebony Tree: President Carter recently proposed the new unemployment program which supplemented the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, he has proposed to cut down unemployment to 4% by 1983. Do you see this plan as being feasible?

Mitchell: Yes, I think it is feasible, not only feasible, I think it has got to happen. What most people don't understand is that the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill is really a comprehensive economic plan for this country.

It is fantastic that we have gotten the President to approve it despite the corporate interest and those other folks who are scared to death of economic planning. In the meanwhile, however, it is going to take two or three years before the impact of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill is felt. We are suggesting, in fact, I urged the President last week to do two things: (a) to accelerate the number of job programs spending that he's got out there right now; they aren't spending them at a rate fast enough to

have an impact; (b) I asked that he get the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Labor to sit down to see which one of those present jobs programs out there can be expanded. Our Black communities are being torn up with unemployment, so while they are waiting for the full impact of Humphrey-Hawkins, we got to meet the crisis of Black unemployment.

Ebony Tree: Many economic and corporate interests have claimed that the

plan would be highly inflationary. What are your feelings?

Mitchell: That's a lot of mollarkey. That's a lot of junk, really. The beauty of Humphrey-Hawkins was that it built in some factors to deal with inflation. There's nothing inflationary about it. The inflationary thing that's going on in this country is that they're paying large sums of money to keep people unemployed. Every 1% unemployment in this country costs us between fifteen and nineteen billion dollars a year. Multiply that by 7% unemployment and you'll see the astronomical figure being spent to keep the people out of work. So that's the inflationary factor.

Ebony Tree: How is Maryland's unemployment problem as compared to other states?

Mitchell: It's horrendous. The black communities in the State of Maryland are just racked with unemployment. The overall rate of unemployment in Maryland dropped, but the black unemployment rate for instance in Baltimore and Baltimore County is staying steady. It's about 14.5% for black adults and about 38% for black youth, and we're paying the price for it.

Ebony Tree: What did the Congressional Black Caucus propose as an unemployment solution?

Mitchell: There are really little or no differences between what Carter agreed to and what we proposed. This is the Humphrey-Hawkins plan along with some compromises negotiated with the White House. One difference was that we wanted the unemployment rate to be down to 3% in four years. The figure now calls for 4%. That takes into account all unemployment; our 3% was just dealing with adults; the 4% will deal with adult and teenage unemployment. So with 4% we are getting more people covered than if we had stuck with the 3%. Those are the only two differences between what Carter assigned and what we proposed. One was the target, how soon can we get unemployment down to that percent and what would be the acceptable unemployment count.

Ebony Tree: What does the job market look like for upcoming college graduates, especially the black graduate?

Mitchell: It's grim. It looks exceedingly grim. About the only areas where I would be reasonably assured of where Black college graduates can get something is in the highly technical areas; data processing, engineering, that sort of thing. But across the country we are hurting. Those that are graduating are hurting.

Ebony Tree: What will be the chance of students from Bowie entering the professional schools in Maryland?

Mitchell: It's going to be rough. What you are asking me is: What will be the chance of you, a graduate of Bowie entering the University of Maryland School of Law, University of Maryland School of Dentistry. I'm saying it's going to be rough. A couple of reasons: I think that these graduate schools have always had a kind of racist element in them. You have to remember that I lived through this. I had to sue to go to the University of Maryland, and I don't think that it has changed that much. The other thing is that I feel that they are going to grab hold of the Bakke Case and use that as a justification for cutting down on affirmative action programs for Blacks and disadvantaged. I'm convinced that it's going to be tough. But I would tell all the students **don't be despaired** because if they want to play that game then we're going to start the business of slapping court suits on them for discrimination in admissions.

Ebony Tree: Do you think that the University of California's handling of the Bakke Case indicates that maybe other schools in the country are mishandling affirmative action with regard to admissions?

Mitchell: No, no I don't think so. I don't think the University of California mishandled it. I think that their minority admissions program was fair. I think that it's wrong for this case to go to the Supreme Court because it is such a bad case. If I had any criticism of the University of California, it would be that it was not strong enough in setting aside certain seats for minority students. I wouldn't criticize them for setting aside the number that they did. It was alright, but they could have set aside more; that's my argument.

Ebony Tree: What do you think of the Blacks chosen by the Carter Administration, were there some surprises?

Mitchell: I didn't have any surprises because I and the members of the Black Caucus took the position that we would never recommend one person for the positions. We felt that was wrong. What we did was send in the names of five Black people or eight Black people that were all good and tell him to choose one. There was no surprise or disappointment for us. Overall, I think that it was some good choices. Pat Harris is tough. She is a tough tough sister. How long she'll stay in there, I don't know, because she is tough. Because of her particular hell raising in the Cabinet meeting, we started the ball rolling to get the Justice Department to turn around the decision in its brief on the Bakke Case. She has been good.

Ebony Tree: How about Andrew Young?

Mitchell: I love it when Ambassador Young stays in trouble. That just knocks me out, because all he's doing is telling the truth and why he may take some positions that we don't like, like the recent action in the United Nations, where he could not support total economic sanctions against South Africa. I understand that he is an Ambassador and he has to state a position arrived at by the President and Secretary of State. But on the other hand, I just love it to death when he gets out there and calls the Vorster government a racist government and illegitimate. I think he has been a good tough appointee. On some of the lower levels we have got some excellent people. There is a young Black lawyer who is from Seattle, Washington, who is serving as a special assistant in the Department of Transportation. It was through his head knocking that the Department has agreed to set aside fifteen percent of its business for minority business; overall, I'm pleased, of course there are some lugheads in there, when you make a lot of appointments you are bound to get some inept people. After all, look at Bert Lance.

Ebony Tree: Do you feel that the Carter Administration has failed the Black population?

Mitchell: Everyone asks me that question and it is a tough question. I say that because he does some good things and then again he does some awful things. For example, I think that he has failed us in that he has not addressed the problem of unemployment in a vigorous fashion. On the other hand, I feel that his appointment of Judge Johnson to head the FBI is a tremendous thing. Judge Johnson was a tough Civil Rights judge of the deep South. He is just repudiated by white Southerners because of his toughness. I say that is a good thing because maybe Judge Johnson can put some law back into what was supposed to be a law enforcement agency. The FBI has become one of the most lawless agencies that we have. It's a mixed feeling of good things and bad things. When Carter is good, he is excellent, when he is bad, he is terrible.

Ebony Tree: Do you think that the Black Caucus is influential with Carter?

Mitchell: I think that we are. I think that the case in point is the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill where he made a commitment to it during his campaign and then backed off from it. We just kept applying that pressure until he was just almost forced to support a full employment bill. I think that his action towards the government of South Africa was clearly responsive to some of the demands thrust upon him by the Black Caucus. The day before he recalled the Ambassador, we had sent him a telegram demanding that a first step had to be taken when the South African government had gone on this rampage that is something where you have to involve the Ambassador and he did.

Ebony Tree: Don't you feel that the President has come more in line with

protecting the United States' interest in South Africa?

Mitchell: Oh, I'm convinced of this, because we in the Caucus called for total economic sanction against the union of South Africa. Of course he stopped short of that and I feel that is because of the American corporate investment in that country.

Ebony Tree: What new plans have you (Black Caucus) submitted to the President?

Mitchell: When we last met with the President, we gave him a package of six bills, six legislative bills, all under the topic of South Africa. One of them involved demanding tax credits to the American corporations. For taxes that they paid to the union of South Africa. That is a ridiculous situation where we have these American companies investing there, then they pay tax to the



Union of South Africa and then get a credit here in America for having paid to the Union of South Africa. We gave him six bills on this type of thing to review because we plan to ram them through Congress where it is going to be tough because of the corporate interests.

Ebony Tree: Julian Bond recently stated that he felt more like an entertainer when he goes to college campuses instead of an informer to students on certain issues. How do you feel?

Mitchell: That's the same way that I feel and it's like that for a number of reasons: (1) The awful effort that it took to stop that war in Vietnam. I think that college students are aware of the tremendous physical effort that it took to stop the war and I don't know if they are able to undertake that physical effort again. (2) The issues are not as sharply defined as they were before. We can be outraged about South Africa, but no Americans are being dragged to go into an Army into South Africa. Issues are just not as sharp. No American youth has been killed. It's not only students, but the population in general has to have real sharp issues before they will take any action. We haven't had any massive series of protests about unemployment, why not? Because the reality is that more people are working now than ever before in America. On the other hand, more people are out of work than ever before, so it's just that there is not a line out about massive unemployment hitting all Americans. This is one of the reasons that massive protests aren't going on.

Ebony Tree: If the elections were being held today, would you take the same view as last November?

Mitchell: If the elections were being held today, I'd say, Mr. Carter, I support you, that would be it as opposed to what I did last time. I got out and tried to galvanize people and that sort of thing. But today, I would endorse him but I wouldn't try to rally people for support.

Ebony Tree: What are your political aspirations?

Mitchell: No more, it's enough here. Whenever I leave I'll probably teach somewhere for a while, I enjoy teach-

ing. People ask me why don't I run for United States Senate. I tell them that I don't want the back of my head blown off. There are parts of Maryland where I'd be shot at. You know what parts I'm talking about (laughter). No, it's not really that fear, it is just that I've built up a certain amount of force and recognition where I may have to sacrifice all of it. I think I can perhaps do more now than make another shift, starting out in the Senate as a junior member. I'm on some very powerful committees and I've gained a certain amount of respect in that House of Representatives.

Ebony Tree: Are there any plans being made in order to change the apathetic attitude in the various school systems today?

Mitchell: I don't have any plans. The reason for that is that I'm stuck on a Federal level. The educational system is part of the city, county, and state level. Something needs to be done. I would like to say one word of caution in terms of what is going on: When I was in high school, one of the biggest problems was students smoking reefer. That was a big problem. We had problems with drinking; some of the students came to class drunk! These problems have always been with us. I think the difference is that your student problem is that the number of students has grown and so has the number of problem students.

Ebony Tree: What do you feel that Black College students can do to make an impact on the country?

Mitchell: There is a tremendous amount that can be done. What would it mean if every Black college and university in this country campaigned and forced the president to adopt full employment? Suppose that students from Morehouse, Lincoln, Florida, Atlanta, all over the country sent letters. There is a strong Black student group at Indiana University that made a strong impact on the Bakke Case with the Justice Department. The issues are there. For instance, we need to press for an investigation into what prevented Judge Joseph Howard from being selected to serve on the Court of Appeals. This is in Maryland. It doesn't have to be a big earthshaking issue, but the

students could just take one issue at a time and make a great impact. The people who are generally Free to Fight are the self-employed Black professionals. They aren't on anybody's payroll. This whole business of attacking us in going into schools of medicine, schools of law will have the impact of reducing Free Black leadership.

Ebony Tree: How about the political scene in Maryland? How long before a Black governor could be a reality?

Mitchell: I would not even guess. Maryland is a very conservative state. It has its strong racist elements. I don't think that's possible at all. There are tremendous odds against Black politicians in Maryland.

Ebony Tree: What advice would you give college students today?

Mitchell: I have to answer this in a long roundabout way. On my staff now, which is totally Black, there is not one Political Science major. They had the qualities that I was looking for. They can read well, write well, they can talk well, and they have the quality of being analytical. My strong advice to young college students is to develop these skills. I know you get impatient being in college and not a part of the action. But ultimately, if you've got those basic skills you'll serve the cause so much better in the long run. There's nothing wrong if there's a dance on Saturday night. Sure, it's good to relax. But the other part is studying those books.

Ebony Tree: Congressman Mitchell, are you planning to run for re-election next term?

Mitchell: Yes, I think I'll run. Yes, with all things being equal, I'll run.



Archie O'Neil ALL-AMERICAN

by
Willie Mason

If Bowie State College middle linebacker Archie O'Neil had his way, the Bulldogs would be 9-0 going into their last game of the season and looking for a bowl bid.

However, O'Neil could not have his way because the Bowie team finished 3-7 after a narrow defeat handed to them by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for the final game of the season.

This is not to say that the 6-1, 215 pound play spoiler did not try. O'Neil leads the defense with 109 tackles, 55 assists and 12 sacks for an average of 18.2 tackles per game this year.

O'Neil, who was ranked the number two tackler in the nation last year among Division II schools by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, graduated in 1972 from Armstrong High School in Richmond, Virginia where he was the Most Valuable Player.

He is the fifth of eight children born to Willie and Mattie O'Neil and his personality reflects his strict upbringing.

"We are a close family," he confided. "We had to learn to accept responsibility. I thank God for that because it's been a tremendous help to me now that I'm grown."

Archie does accept responsibility so much that Bowie Head Coach John Organ calls him, "our defensive quarterback on the field". Coach Organ is unflinching in his highly acclaimed defensive playmaker.

"Archie has the uncanny knack of getting to the ball," he says. "Much to the dismay of our opponents, when O'Neil gets to the ball, he is going to hit, and I mean HIT!"

"He is a team player," continued Organ. "The funny thing is he takes our losses personally. He thinks that if we get burned for a long gain, he should take the blame because he didn't read the setup right. Don't get me wrong, the kid has so much confidence it is scary. He laid off in 1975 and when he came back last year, it took him about four games to regain his timing. He's mature and he is a leader."

Like other players, O'Neil at times has had his personal problems. It was those problems that caused him not to play in 1975. Unlike some players, Archie knew he would be back and continued to work out to stay in shape. There is not an ounce of fat on his 6-1 frame and he can easily bench press 330 pounds.

"I have this never ending desire to win with the team," said the soft spok-

en senior with the friendly smile.

"Sure, I set some goals for myself. I wanted to be an All-American by my senior year. I want to finish school with my degree in Accounting-Business Administration. I wanted my parents to say "that's my son". I want to play professional football. I want those things. But more so, I want our team to win. I want to put out in a game and see everybody else do the same. I want to share what I've learned in four years with the younger men.

"The way I look at it, you can't give credit to one man for a good game. We are part of a precise unit, motivating each other."

Defensive coordinator Mike Reynolds summed up his feelings for Archie this way: "With Archie playing for us I can't but feel that the big schools lost out not recruiting him. He's a gentleman, he's devoted and a team player."

Reynolds continued, "He's the hub of our defense in that he solidifies the unit. That guy has played with some ligaments damaged to his left hand since the third game of the season and he's still averaging around 18 tackles a game. What more can a coach ask from one of his players?"

It is the general feeling at Bowie that O'Neil is the best prospect to come out of the school since Milton Carr, fullback and leading ground gainer of the 1975 Bulldogs. He can run the 40 in 4.7 seconds and has amazing strength. Another asset is his leaping ability as was demonstrated against Fayetteville State when he went up man to man with a 6-8 tight end and batted the ball to the ground.

"Archie is a Jekyll and Hyde character," said Coach Reynolds. "Off the field, he's a happy go lucky guy, but on the field he is all business and mean as hell. He gets mad and then look out because someone is going to get stuck."

"If we ever have a child and it's a boy, I hope he'll be like Archie."

When asked about his coaches' assessment, O'Neil smiled and said, "I don't know what all the fuss is about. I just try to help our team and rebuild the reputation the school has had for defense. I wanted our record to be better than 3-7 but that's the way the ball bounces . . . We made too many mistakes on defense and offense."



BOWIE BASKETBALL UNDERWAY

by
Charles Harrington

The Bowie State College basketball team has opened the season with a new coach and a whole new system.

The coach, Taft Hickman, is taking his first head coaching job on the college level. Coach Hickman, a graduate of Northeast Oklahoma University, first coached in the area at Thomas Pullen Junior High in Prince George's County, where three of his ballplayers went on to become High School All Americans.

From 1972 to 1974, he was Assistant Coach at Bowie State. Hickman left Bowie to go to Laurel High School, where he built a team that had the best defense in the Metropolitan Washington area last year and his team won fifty percent of its games. This was the first time in fifteen years that a Laurel team made the .500 mark.

As a coach, he follows closely the philosophy of former UCLA coach, John Wooden. "My biggest thrill," said Hickman, "was meeting Mr. Wooden and having my picture taken with him." Coach Hickman believes his ballplayers must have self respect, a good attitude, and a good discipline. In order to function properly as a team, he likes his men to work together as a group on and off the court. They must believe in the system. In recruiting, the coach believes in good jumping ability and quickness.

Coach Hickman and his assistant, Eddie Myers, former Assistant Coach at Mackin High, have recruited some fine athletes.

They have three all Maryland State Junior College transfers including 6'5" Mike Jann and 6'4" Charles Shoulders, both from Harford Junior College and Charles Pinchback from Bay College in Baltimore, who averaged 27.5 points a game last year.

Three All-League freshmen are also donning the Bulldogs this year. They are Eugene Loudermill and Greg Moore from Laurel Senior High, where they were selected to the All P.G. County team last year, and 6'3" Elvis Ward from Calvert County. Elvis' 23 points and 13 rebounds a game earned him All County Honors in 1976.

With the return of most of last season's team and the flamboyant prospects for this year, 1977-78 promises to be a very exciting year on the hard board floors of Bowie State College.

COMMENTARY ON BOWIE FOOTBALL

by
Tony Cosby

The year 1977 gave birth to August 15, the first day of football practice. There were new faces and new coaches. The senior football players and members of the coaching staff were among those remaining from last year's season.

The hot summer days of August saw eighty six men in total combat down in the trenches of Bowie State football's practice field. After a few cuts, Bowie's team was down to 65 men and approaching its first game.

After two opening victories there was still something missing. A long bus ride to Liberty Baptist, left Bowie scoreless. We had suffered our first defeat, 47-0. Monday's practice following that loss ended with a fingerpointing session. Questions were raised concerning the team's offensive failure as well as the collapse of the defense. Problems developed; the problems led to conflicts, which in turn, led to jealousy, which led to injuries. The injury list continued to go on, and so did the season.

The next games were absolute disasters. As a result of inexperienced players starting, fumbles, and internal conflicts, Bowie found itself on a five game losing streak.

New York, Tech, Shaw University, Towson State University, Virginia State University, and Hampton University all realized that the once threatening Bulldogs could be tamed and beaten.

After talking with a few players, the reasons given for the team crumbling were varied. Both Kevin Coates and Keith Faison cited lack of experience and youth as the problems. James Jones, middle guard, felt that the team played in separate units at times. He also believed that internal conflicts, especially among freshmen, and the lack of respect towards the veterans on the team destroyed team spirit. Other players felt that poor coaching and favoritism toward different players were also contributing factors to the demise of the team's unity.

Judge Alexander Speaks at Bowie

by
Mary Rodriguez

Judge Harry Alexander spent ten years of his life on the Superior Court bench in the District of Columbia, dispensing justice and creating controversy. On November 17 he spoke at B.S. C. and demonstrated the commitment, character, and charisma that made those ten years memorable.

Speaking before the Fall membership meeting of Kappa Delta Pi on "The Necessity for Black Input in Affirmative Action", Dr. Alexander urged his listeners to fight for their civil rights and for the rights of all people. Citing Supreme

Court decisions through the past century as well as Congressional actions and Presidential quotes, he explained that this country's history of racism demands an overwhelming effort on the part of blacks to change the system.

He warned that those who fight for their rights must be prepared to be met with violence. As a young man in the 1940's the judge made his own stand through such tactics as riding in the "white only" sections of southern railroad trains. (His white friends, many of them priests and nuns, aided him by buying his tickets in advance.)

He told of being turned away from a white church in Atlanta, and of the humiliation endured by educated black people at the polls where barely literate white registrars had the power to stop them from exercising their constitutional rights. And he reminded his audience that these injustices had been remedied by people who were not afraid to put their lives on the line for a cause.

He stressed the need for Bowie State graduates and students to be leaders in the continuing struggle, insisting that good black people and good white people must take their places in demonstrations, rallies, and public demands for justice. First, he said, there must be concern for human rights and for the injustice that still exists. Next there must be genuine commitment to change, and then the courage to stand up for one's beliefs. Fear, he warned, prevents progress. "People are afraid to die", he stated. He paused and added, "But guess what? You are going to die! Since death is inevitable, the possibility of facing it for a cause should not be terrifying."

Dr. Alexander was not merely making a speech. His own life speaks even more powerfully than his words. From New Orleans shoeshine boy to D.C. judge is a long journey; he moved from defying Jim Crow laws to braving threats on his life during his tenure on the bench. As a private lawyer, he now commands fees of one hundred dollars an hour, but he travels from his Washington home to Bowie and other places to give his time to those who can profit from it. To insure that his words are not forgotten, he is helping B.S.C. students to form our own chapter of NAACP.

"Things could always be worse", someone said, but Judge Alexander's reply was strong. "No! Things can always be better." With leadership like his, they will be.



— SPORTS NOTE —

Bowie State defensive end Kevin Coates, defensive tackle Chris Moore, and linebacker Archie O'Neil have been named to the All-NAIA District 19 football team.

ROTC Leadership Laboratory

by
Gerald F. Sewall

This year's first joint Leadership Laboratory between the Bowie State and Howard University Cadet Corps was a big success. The Bowie State Cadets arrived from Bowie at Watkins Regional Park in Kenilworth at 9 o'clock and with the arrival of the Howard U Cadets a few moments later, the Picnic/Lab began.

The first event on the schedule was the annual Bowie vs. Howard football game. The Bowie squad remained true to form and once more exhibiting its gridiron superiority handed the game Howard gridders a resounding 18-0 defeat. Although someone had to lose, we all had fun. The female Cadres were not to be left out as they gave us moral support by cheering from the sidelines.

the next events were the volleyball and basketball games. While Bowie was on the roundall court handing Howard another defeat, Howard was at the volleyball net maintaining a bit of dignity as they took the volleyball match.

After the tiring sporting events came the moment all had been waiting for:

Chow Time! Except for a minor problem with the arrival of the punch, dinner time went smoothly and all appetites were filled.

Chow time was followed by a variety of games; the water balloon toss cooled off a few people on this warm day, while the egg toss afforded a few unfortunates the opportunity to see what a sour performance was awarded in Medieval days. The triple-leg race and the sack race found a number of aspiring Olympians eating dirt.

After the various trophies were handed out to the victors of the sporting events, everyone pitched in for the clean-up. Upon restoring the area to its former state of cleanliness, the buses loaded up and the Bowie Cadets, with the contented disposition of victors, and the Howard Cadets, midst jeers of wait till next year, went their separate ways.

It is the unanimous opinion of both Cadre and Cadet Corps that the Picnic/Leadership Laboratory, planned by the Company B Staff at Bowie with the assistance of Captain Jules Hampton was well organized, enjoyed immensely by all, and was a resounding success.

THE WIZ BREEZES THROUGH

by
Jeanine Powell

The Upward Bound Program presented the hit play, "The Wiz", Sunday, November 20, in the MLK Auditorium. The play was performed by the Garnett-Patterson "Wiz Kids" and directed by Ms. Blanche Hammonds. The "Wiz Kids" made their first public appearance in January of 1976. Since then, they have made about fifty appearances in the metropolitan area.

"The Wiz" was a combination of the well known children's favorite, "The Wizard of Oz", and each student's individual talent, which consisted of singing, dancing, and an incredible amount of acting ability. The actors and actresses in the play wrote their own lines, with quite a bit of ad libbing done on stage.

Linda Comfort, the "little lady" who played the part of Dorothy, captivated

the audience with her outstanding soprano voice and graceful charm. The scarecrow, played by Ronald Lewis, kept the audience in continuous laughter and amazement, along with Lawrence West, (the tinman), and Don Wilson (the cowardly lion) Sandy Hailstorks, (the Wiz) unleashed a variety of

talents — acting, singing, and playing the lead guitar. Evilene (the wicked witch) played by Bernadette Smith completely captured the entire audience's attention with her, "Don't Nobody Bring Me No Bad News."

To sum it up, the entire play was no less than superb! It was performed with

a high degree of professionalism. The majority of the actresses and actors are still attending Garnett-Patterson, others are attending Cardoza, and Dunbar High Schools in the Washington, D.C. area.

GREEKS GETTIN' IT ON



After nearly an hour delay, the 1977 Greek Dance was opened with the singing of the Greek unity song. Following this, the members of Zeta Phi Beta took the floor.

Following the Zetas were the members of Phi Beta Sigma, who dedicated their show to their late brother, William Roger "T.J." McNeil. It appeared that the members of the fraternity wanted to give T.J. all they could as they stepped to a fine precisioned performance. Following the Sigmas were the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha. These young ladies, dressed in pink and green, did a few songs and were later joined, as were the others, by their other members in the audience.

Following the AKAs were the members of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. The members of this fraternity, dressed in three piece suits, did a few songs and were joined by the Kappas in the audience.

After the Kappas finished, the members of Alpha Phi Alpha took the floor and were led by Tony Cosby as they harmonized through a few songs.

Following the Alphas were the members of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority. These ladies dressed in blue and gold performed three numbers.

The next group on the program were the members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. The audience came to its feet once again as the red and white attired members did their opening number. Although many in the audience were getting restless by this time, the Deltas continued to hold their attention and finish their portion of the show.

The last fraternity to appear at the Greek step were the members of Iota Phi Theta.

This Greek Sing and Dance seemed to be quite an exciting time for the capacity crowd that filled the McKeldin gymnasium.

GREETINGS FROM SIGMA GAMMA RHO

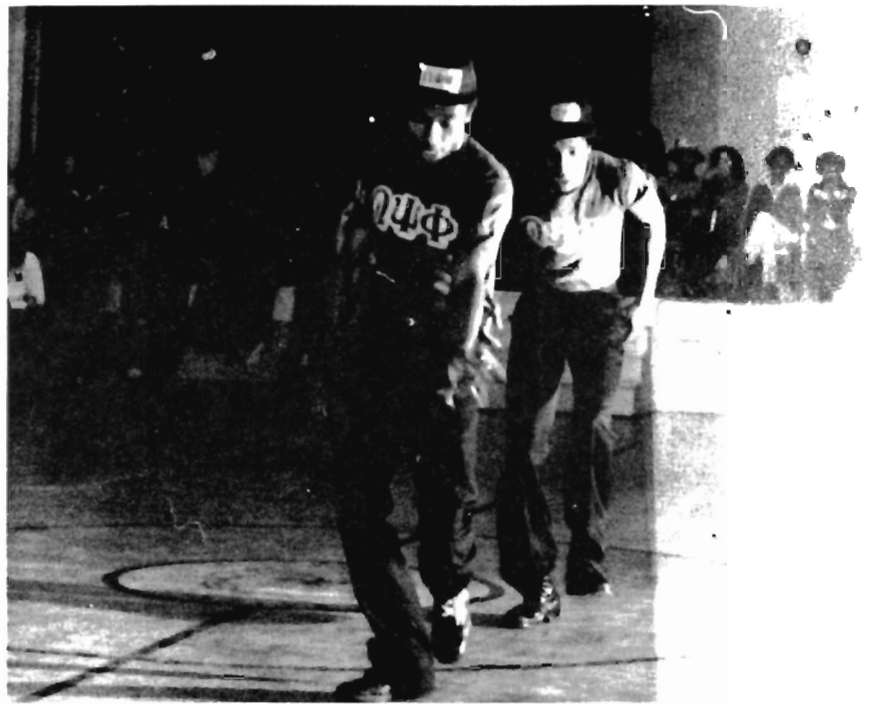
Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. takes this time to welcome our freshmen, all new and returning students to Bowie State College.

Epsilon Lambda was started on Bowie's campus in 1973, by nine women under the leadership of Dr. B.T. Vessels.

We are extending our invitation to all new students to participate in activities sponsored by Sigma Gamma Rho.

Our activities this year include: a Rush Party, Community Service Projects, a lecture by a prominent TV personality, Cultural Events, and dances.

We hope that you have time to share with us some of the expected pleasures of our events and have a very successful school year.



KAPPAS HOLD THEIR ANNUAL SMOKER — LAFAYETTE MERCHANT, SPEAKER

With the pledge season fast approaching, fraternities and sororities are introducing their organizations to prospective candidates with their annual smokers and teas. The Epsilon Sigma Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity held their Annual Smoker on November 17th, in the Martin Luther King Communications Center, featuring Mr. Lafayette Merchant, Associate Director of Admissions and an alumnus of Virginia State College in '72, and Mr. Wendell O. Moore, a Bowie alumnus of '77 from the Department of Business Administration & Economics. Both speakers stressed to their listeners that

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was interested in those men who exemplified scholarship, service to the community, leadership and possessed outstanding moral character. The audience response was enthusiastic. Other speakers included Professor Richard Lowery of the Business & Economics Department; Dr. Joseph Brandon, Vice-President of Student Affairs; and the Polemarch of Epsilon Sigma Chapter, Mr. Alvin Richardson, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

An added feature to the program was a performance by the probate line of Beta Sigma Chapter from Delaware

State College in Dover, Delaware. Indeed, they were impressive. Also in attendance were a number of visiting Kappas from the University of Maryland at College Park, Cheyney State College in Pennsylvania, members of Annapolis Alumni along with many alumni Brothers from the Epsilon Sigma Chapter (including charter members).

The Kappas hope that they have sent a strong message on the caliber of an individual who anticipates seeking membership in their organization. The challenge is open to all men who qualify.





HOMECOMING REVIEW

by

Debra A. Smoot

A series of events took place at BSC during Homecoming week, Nov. 2nd-6th including a pep rally, disco dance, play, homecoming football game, and the annual dusk to dawn dance.

The play, "Happy Birthday Black America", was presented in the MLK Arts Center on November 2nd. Directed and produced by Grace Bradford, a former D.C. public school teacher, the play opened last year at both the Ford and American Theaters; playing for two months at both theaters. All of the original cast members were from D.C. public high schools. Covering the history of American blacks from slavery and projecting their future, the theme of the play questioned the idea of blacks celebrating the American Bicentennial. A standing ovation displayed the appreciation of many Bowie students who attended the play.

The pep rally on November 4th featured various skits about Bowie life performed by BSC students, highlighted by the McKinley High School Marching Band from Washington, D.C. and an introduction of the Bowie State football team. Spirits ranged high and loud as

students prepared themselves for the Bowie vs. Fayetteville game held the following day.

As the night lights came on, so did the homecoming night life. On Thursday night after a brief introduction to the crowd by Debbie Johnson, SGA president, the dynamic Motherland African Dancers took the stage. The first selection, "Africano", was done by the percussion unit of the group. After this pulsating instrumental, the audience came alive as the African attired dancers took the stage and danced to the rhythms of "La Conga."

The audience also appeared devastated as the fifteen member group performed complex dances to the rhythms of the conga players. Marilyn Manners, the featured leader of the group, did an unusual display of fine rhythmic interpretation as did Phillip Durante following her. The dancers were not the only ones to turn on the audience. The versatility among the percussionists, featuring Tony Cousar, Vince Williams, and Ernie Brown, was well accepted.

Following a brief intermission the surprise of the evening took place. The

band, "The Moonlighters," assumed to be a quiet jazz band, ignited the audience with their show. This musically talented band got the audience on its feet as it opened the show with "Don't Want to Lose Your Love." Featuring its brass section, the band played the theme from "Rocky." The performance also included such popular tunes as "Lowdown," "Easy," "Feelings," "Ecstasy," and finally ending with "Get-away" by EWF.

The night life continued on Friday night following the pep rally when the SGA sponsored a "Dollar Disco." It was slightly dreary due to rainy weather and a lack of student participation. Held in the James Gymnasium, the dance lasted from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m., with music provided by Kantuck Sound Co., which featured both disco and soul music.

And then there was Homecoming Day . . . Highlighted by the Annapolis Corvette Club and the Alumni Association, the homecoming parade featuring many school organizations, clubs, dorms, fraternities, and sororities driving cars, floats, and various vehicles.



Awards were given to Holmes Hall (1st prize), Social Work Club (2nd prize), and Pep Club (3rd prize) for the best floats in the parade. Honorable mention was also given to Tubman Hall (dorm), Delta Sigma Theta (sorority), and Alpha Kappa Alpha (sorority). Music for the parade was provided by the Fayetteville marching band.

The Homecoming Game — the highlight and spotlight of the week — proved to be a victory for the Bowie State Bulldogs, as they defeated the Fayetteville team. Ricky Simmons, the starting wide-receiver, kicked the winning field goal in the fourth quarter giving Bowie a 15-13 victory. Smashing a five game losing streak for the Bowie

team, the game made Bowie's record 3-6. Special attention was given to the BSC Alumni Association for their large attendance during the game.

The Dusk to Dawn Dance, the traditional dance following the homecoming game, presented "Public Notice," "Jungle Rock," "Pleasure," and "Brainstorm". Held in the James Gymnasium from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m., the social atmosphere provided an evening for Bowie students, faculty, and administrators to mingle as well as enjoy both well known artists and local bands. "Public Notice," headed by Bowie student Greg Hammonds, received the most favorable response of the four groups. The bands provided various

styles of music while every one provided various styles of dress. The Dusk to Dawn dance was indeed a touch of Bowie's "class."

The final event of Homecoming week "77" was a gospel program presented by the Bowie Gospelaire. The Gospelaire, along with various area gospel singing groups, rendered a recital of many gospel and spiritual songs in the auditorium of the MLK Arts Center on November 6th. This activity provided inspiration for Bowie students and it also allowed an opportunity to praise the Lord in song TOGETHER.



INSIDE THE SGA

by
Kelvin Davis
and
Byron Dobson

"The purpose of the SGA, besides coordinating activities, is to enforce the rights of all students", says Deborah Johnson, president of this year's Student Government Association.

Since taking office in June, the SGA has taken direct action on issues which affect the learning process at Bowie State and have established relationships concerning outside interests. The SGA was instrumental in the extension of the working hours of the new library, the improvements of the conditions of the residential areas, and the development of an efficient communications channel to the students, faculty and administration.

The SGA's outside involvements include interaction with participants in prison rehabilitation programs, blood donor programs, the selection of the next college president, and a student scholarship program through the Bowie State College Foundation. More importantly, Evelyn Turner, vice-presi-

dent of the SGA, has made Bowie State an active member of the National Association of Black Colleges and Universities, and the Maryland Alliance of Black College and Universities. Through these groups, Ms. Turner and Dennis Barnes, co-director of Cultural Affairs, have become involved in such vital issues as the Bakke Case.

Although Ms. Johnson feels that she has been successful in serving the student body, she expresses a great concern over the lack of interest among many students. "At one time, there were complaints about not having enough activities on campus, especially on the weekends. Now we have many activities, but find a limited amount of students involved in the activities."

The recent homecoming at Bowie has made Ms. Johnson very proud of her administration. When asked about this year's administration as compared to the past administrations handling of homecoming, Ms. Johnson answered, "This has been the least expensive homecoming that we've had in the past four or five years. We didn't make any money, but we were able to have enough activities to involve the entire student body and to save them money. Overall the budget did suffer a slight

loss. Other administrations spent \$20,000 to \$30,000 for homecoming where we spent roughly \$13,000. I am very happy about this."

When asked about her greatest achievements since taking office, Ms. Johnson smiled and proudly answered, "You may be surprised to hear this, but there were a lot of people here who thought that a woman couldn't handle the position. I personally feel that Evelyn Turner, the vice-president, and I have handled the positions most effectively."

Johnson went on to say that "At this I have achieved two things: I have made a line of communication with the administration and faculty and I don't feel that in the past such a strong line existed. The other is a strong line of communication with the students. I thought that it was horrible that we didn't have some type of student publication. I have gotten a lot a criticism and compliments about the *Ebony Tree*, but personally, I feel that it is a success. It's a way of communicating to the students; it makes them think. By the end of the year, I hope that between these two achievements, we will have made such a strong bond at Bowie State College that it will be hard to break."



Our Best Wishes

Robert J. Brady Co.



The Power of the Black Woman

(Dedicated to Ms. Dianna McCall)

I am one Black woman
who stands alone from the crowd.
I made the weeping willows,
for it was me from whom they
bowed.

The sun only shines,
so that my loveliness will show.
My black and beautiful body
is silhouetted by the moon's glow
When I am down by the shores
the ocean waves, so does the sea.
Flowers only blossom
to open up their hearts to me
The word hate is one
I cannot comprehend,
I love all
I am everybody's friend.

There is nothing too difficult
for me to understand,
I change the four seasons
With a simple wave of my hand.
No one truly knows me, but myself,
because I am so divine,
So enchanting, so beautiful,
and so very satisfying . . .

I can be a doctor, lawyer, or
preacher.
I can be a queen, actress, a teacher.
Like a dove, I may very gratefully
fly.
I can live till eternity, never will I
die.
I can turn the sky green,
and the grass blue.
I can even make dreams come true!

As a matter of fact, the bear gave
up his coat,
to guard me from wind and cold.
In front of your very eyes,
I can make a whole, new world
untold.
In spite of all my wealth,
The most expensive thing I have
ever had,
Is the fact that I am Black,
beautiful, and
"I AM BAD"

Jeanine Powell



LOVELETTER

Life is better
Hello Loveletter
feel light as a feather
Hello Loveletter
I sign myself to you

Life no crystal stair
but I care
Just a little fresh air
Yes! I care
A flair of distinction quite rare

My life unique
unpatented technique
Love and happiness I reap
my unpatented technique
Peace is in sleep

Life situation circumstance
nothing attained by cursory glance
chance for romance
Hello Loveletter
I sign myself to you

Life can I channel her
Hello Loveletter
Last forever
Hello Loveletter
I sign myself to you

"A" Anthony Taylor

AND I LOVE HER

She raised me from a little girl
Let me enter her world
Deprived herself of many things
Home to me, the goodies she brings
She's my diamond, my heart, my
pearl

I love that woman, love that girl.

So special words cannot explain
Such joy inside my soul she brings
Woman, my love you hold
From now until the world unfold
To me, love is no game,
Now I'm yours and will be again

In harmony we try to live
Her my life I would give
Love, for her I never smother
I love that girl, she's my mother.

Sheila D. Tribbit

Ebony Tree Staff

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Debra Smoot,
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. . . . *Photographers*

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. . . *Sports Reporter*

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Support Your Senior Class

Meetings are being held every 2nd
and 4th Wednesday at 12:00 noon and
again at 6:00 p.m. It is of great import-
ance that all seniors, especially senior
commuters, make a special attempt to
make these meetings.

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Sheila Thorne *Vice President*
Shirley Brown *Secretary*
Sharon Preston *Treasurer*