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Editors Notes

Editorial Staff

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From the Editors Notebook

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROLAND L. FREEMAN



A Hospital for the Community

The March 2 formal dedication of the multi-million dollar Howard University Hospital crowned, without a doubt, the efforts of countless men and women who through sheer determination and hard work made a dream come true.

Now that the long-awaited hospital is ready for full operation, a renewed commitment on the part of the hospital staff and a fresh attitude on the part of the community are in order. Howard University Hospital is more than a building. It is a learning center, a research center, a health center, and a national monument of great significance for Black people.

In the beginning, the hospital project was only an idea in the minds of a handful of individuals who saw the need for a modern medical facility to replace old Freedmen's Hospital as the university's teaching, research and patient care center. A milestone was reached in 1961 when a bill authorizing construction funds was approved by Congress. And construction was begun in September 1971 on the site of the old Griffith Stadium. It took approximately \$43 million in Federal grants to build the 500-bed brick and glass structure which stands six stories high; about \$4 million more in furnishings and the best in medical equipment.

Like Freedmen's, its predecessor, the new hospital's mission is: To adequately serve the health care needs of the Washington, D. C. community, and to train medical practitioners, scientists, nurses and technicians to serve in other communities beyond the border line of the District of Columbia. (See *New Directions* Spring '74 edition for a comprehensive hospital story.)

Black Perspective

On March 3 in his convocation speech commemorating the 108th anniversary of Howard University, Dr. Howard Thurman spoke wistfully of a time in the '30s when he took his two small daughters back home to Florida:

This was the first time that I had ever carried our two daughters home, and the first day I took them around showing them all of my favorite places where my old oyster bed and where my favorite fishing spots used to be. Finally, we landed uptown and we came by a public school, and one of my daughters said: "Daddy, there's a swing over there. Let's go over and swing."

I said, "You can't swing over there."

"Why?"

I said, "I'll tell you when we get home, after we have had our lemonade."

When we got home and were drinking our lemonade, our younger daughter said, "Now, Daddy, we're home. We're drinking our lemonade . . . Now tell us."

I will tell you what I told them: "It takes the state legislature, state laws, all the judges, all the sheriffs, all the police, most of the churches, most of the schools, and all of the banks . . . It takes all of these people to keep two little girls from swinging in those swings. That's how important you are."

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