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## Newsfile

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# NEWSFILE



**A new 7-Eleven store** has opened near the Howard University campus on Georgia Avenue and Girard Street, N.W.

Unlike other 7-Elevens, this one came about as a result of a unique partnership between the university and the Southland Corporation, operator and franchiser of 7-Eleven stores across the country.

Both officials of the university and representatives from Southland were on hand to celebrate the store's grand opening in February.

It was noted at the ribbon cutting ceremony that the Howard-Southland partnership, the first for Southland with a university, represents a commitment to enhance participation by minorities in franchise operations.

Besides exposing business students to on-the-job franchise store management, the university will benefit in other ways. Under the terms of the partnership agreement, Southland will share its profits from the store with the

university in the form of grants and scholarships.

The Georgia Avenue store also will serve Southland as its regional training center.

**Professor Joseph P. Reidy** of the Department of History, along with two other authors of a historical book on the military, recently received the J. Franklin Jameson Prize. The prize is awarded once every five years by the American Historical Association in recognition of outstanding achievement in editing historical documents.

The other two editors of "The Black Military Experience" with whom Reidy shared the prize are Ira Berlin and Leslie S. Rowland, both of the University of Maryland.

"The Black Military Experience," published in 1982 by Cambridge University Press, chronicles the lives of Black soldiers during the Civil War era. It is the first of a projected 10-volume series on the documentary history of the Emancipation. Cambridge University Press recently published the second volume in the series, "The Destruction of Slavery," which Reidy also co-edited.

Besides Reidy, Berlin and Rowland, the other editors involved in this 10-volume series on Emancipation are Barbara J. Fields of the University of Michigan and Thavolia Glymph of the University of Texas at Arlington.

**The Howard University Divinity School** recently received a \$400,000 grant from the Sherman Fairchild Foundation. Half of the grant will be paid this year and the remaining half in 1987.

The donor foundation was established by the late inventor Sherman Fairchild, who founded the forerunner companies of Fairchild Industries.

The Divinity School, which currently is seeking to establish a \$2 million endowment fund to help students meet their educational financial obligations, will use the grant to supplement the endowment fund.

Founded in 1870, the Divinity School is supported entirely by private funds. Approximately two-thirds of its students require some sort of financial assistance.



**The School of Architecture and Planning** observed its 75th anniversary in February with an evening reception.

The celebration also coincided with two historical exhibitions on Haiti that were on display. The first, "Haiti: The First Black Republic and Its Monuments to Freedom," de-



pected important moments in Haitian history dating back to 1492 when Christopher Columbus landed on the island.

The second exhibit of 20 color photographs by Washington photographer Martin T. Jones featured one of Haiti's enduring monuments, The Citadel, a fort built by Henri Christophe. Christophe, a leader in the Haitian revolution, later became president and then King of Haiti, which became an independent nation in 1804.

**Nigeria's minister of external affairs, A. Bolaji Akiyemi, paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he spoke at Howard University on the birthday of the civil rights leader.**

"In Africa generally, and certainly in Nigeria, Martin Luther King meant more to us than a Black reverend struggling for racial equality and justice. His activities symbolized man's irrepressible need to be free from any bondage. . . ."

Several university administrators, faculty members, staff and Nigerian diplomats participated in the birthday celebration at the Blackburn Center.

**WHUR-FM, the Howard radio station, was ranked No. 1 by listeners in the Washington metropolitan area.**

According to Arbitron ratings released in January, the station reached the coveted top billing by beating more than 35 other competitors in the Washington metropolitan area, the eighth largest radio market in the nation.

Staffers attribute WHUR's success mainly to its innovative program offerings and its appeal to a target audience in the 25-49 age range.

Being No. 1 in the ratings, the first for WHUR, usually translates into more advertising revenues. But WHUR, which celebrated its 14th anniversary in December, will have to work a little harder at it, according to Diane Johnson, the station's general sales manager.

"We have to convince our advertisers and potential advertisers



that the quality of audience that WHUR delivers is no different than the audience delivered by a general market station. They consider us an urban, Black station, when in fact we are a general market station in Washington, D.C."

**A group of Howard students picketed a Washington radio station to protest a remark made by disc jockey Doug Tracht ("The Greaseman") on the first federal holiday to commemorate the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

On the morning show he hosts on WWDC-FM, Tracht had said that since one assassination of a Black leader had led to a day off, then killing "four more" [Black leaders] would result in having the rest of the week off.

Although he later apologized on the air for the remark, that wasn't enough for the Howard students — and many outraged others. Senior Steven Jackson, president of the campus-based group, Black United Youth, delivered a letter to the station's general manager asking for Tracht's dismissal and the group picketed the station on several occasions.

At press time, Tracht was still holding forth over the airwaves, but some advertisers — including Peoples Drug Stores and WDCA-TV (Channel 20) — pulled their ads from his show to protest the remark.

**Pop singer Deniece Williams** opened the first of six sessions of a Workshop in Commercial Voice at the university in February. Her presentation dealt with the ins and outs of commercial recording.

With eight albums to her credit, Williams was scheduled to lead two more sessions between February and April, one on singing before live audiences and the other on the business side of gospel singing.



Sponsored by the Continuing Studies in Music program of the College of Fine Arts, the purpose of the workshop was to expose aspiring musicians and others to some of the practical components of a career in commercial voice.

**"The incidence and mortality rate of cancer** is more related to environmental and socioeconomic factors than race," reported Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., chairman of the department of surgery at the College of Medicine and a former president of the American Cancer Society.

Speaking in the Blackburn Center at a recent press briefing sponsored by the Department of University Relations, Leffall called attention to the fact that Blacks are more likely to get and die from cancer than whites and cited factors he believes are responsible for this disproportion.

"The single reason there is more lung cancer in Black males," he said



by way of example, "is that Black males smoke more than white males." A diet relatively high in fat and low in fiber, a greater rate of alcoholism and unhealthy work environments are additional factors which combine to help explain the Black-white gap in cancer incidence.

Of the workplace environment, Leffall observed, "If there's a dirty job [one where there is greater exposure to toxic air and chemicals], you're more likely to find a Black American than a white American doing it."

Once a person gets cancer, if he is Black his chances of survival dip to 38 percent, compared to 50 percent for whites, the surgeon pointed out. Why this discrepancy? When someone comes in to see a doctor with a more advanced stage of disease, he has a much poorer chance of being cured, he said. And Black Americans — who often lack accessible and available health care and are often more concerned with the day-to-day struggle to put bread on the table than regular medical check-ups — are more likely to fall into this group.

"Race seems to play very little role [in cancer rates], unless you are poor," Leffall emphasized. "Those of us in this room who call ourselves middle-class will have the same rate as the white majority. It [cancer incidence and mortality] seems to be related to your station in life."

### The 50th anniversary of

Howard's surgical residency program was highlighted by several events held in early March. Among them were a reunion reception held in the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill, which attracted 200 guests; and a scientific presentation, which included a lecture by Dr. Charles H. Organ, Jr., the first Black chairman of the American Board of Surgery. The lecture is named in honor of two men who have made an indelible imprint on Howard's surgical residency program: the late Dr. Charles R. Drew and Dr. Burke Syphax.

Through the years the program has produced a cadre of Black surgeons who went on to hold top positions in hospitals and medical schools throughout the U.S., Africa and the Caribbean.

"You have to understand, back in the '30s there were very few programs that accepted Blacks," Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., chairman of the Department of Surgery at Howard, told a Washington Post reporter at the reception. "So we started out with an esprit de corps, as a family, and it's a family that's lasted for 50 years."



**Actor Bill Cosby**, who was recently named "Person of the Year in Television" by the nationally syndicated television show "Entertainment Tonight," has donated the \$5,000 prize awarded by the show to Howard University.

Additionally, the actor and his wife will match the prize money dollar-for-dollar to benefit a current or future Native American student at the university.

Both Cosby's selection as "Person of the Year" and the donation of the prize money to the university were announced to viewers of the show during a regular "Entertainment Tonight" telecast.

**Lois Mailou Jones Pierre-Noel**, professor emerita of art, has received an Honor Award for Achievement in the Visual Arts from the



Women's Caucus for Art. The caucus, founded in 1972, is the largest women's art organization in the U.S., drawing its members from the ranks of art historians and critics, professional artists and educators, gallery and museum professionals.

Others selected to receive the organization's honor award this year were painters Nell Blaine and Leonora Carrington, sculptor Sue Fuller, museum curator Dorothy Miller and photographer Barbara Morgan.

The honorees were presented with the awards at a ceremony on February 12 at Cooper Union School of Art in New York City. Included in the program prepared for the occasion is a biographical sketch of Pierre-Noel written by artist Faith Ringgold. It opens with a celebratory citation:

"We celebrate you, Dr. Lois Mailou Jones, painter, scholar and teacher, for over 50 years of extraordinary contributions to American art, for dedicating your life's work to the cause of raising the visibility of Black artists in America, Africa and the Caribbean and of women everywhere — in spite of the many barriers you face as a woman artist of color."

And it ends with a description of Pierre-Noel as "An American artist, an American woman artist, Black, highly accomplished and proud, of singular creative strength and beauty, young and vigorous at 80 and getting better." □