

New Directions

Volume 14 | Issue 1

Article 2

1-1-1987

Newsfile

Editorial Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections>

Recommended Citation

Staff, Editorial (1987) "Newsfile," *New Directions*: Vol. 14: Iss. 1, Article 2.
Available at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections/vol14/iss1/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Directions by an authorized editor of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact digitalservices@howard.edu.

NEWSFILE

Six politicians with a Howard connection were voted into office last November—in North Carolina, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

In North Carolina, Terry Sanford, a Howard trustee and president emeritus of Duke University, was elected to the U.S. Senate. He formerly served as North Carolina's governor from 1961 to 1965.

In the District of Columbia, law alumnus David C. Clarke was re-elected to a second term as chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia.

In Maryland, law alumni Alexander Williams and Isiah Leggett were elected to key positions in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. Williams became the first Black state's attorney in Prince George's and Leggett won a seat on the Montgomery County Council, also a first. Both are faculty members at the law school.

In Mississippi, Mike Espy, an alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts, became the first Black U.S. Congressman from that state since Reconstruction.

In Oklahoma, law school alumna Vickie Miles LaGrange won election to the State Senate.

The university mourns the loss of Edward W. Hawthorne, the visionary scientist/educator who was dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Hawthorne died October 7 of pneumonia and respiratory failure, following a long struggle with a progressively degenerating spinal condition, the legacy of a childhood bout with polio.



Confined to a wheelchair since the mid-1970s, he was "a man of indomitable will, tenacity and strength, who courageously and consistently ignored his physical handicap and continued to strive for excellence," in the words of Howard President James E. Cheek. "He never lost sight of or deviated from this goal and all who worked with him were inspired and motivated to emulate his noble qualities."

Hawthorne was also known as a man who had no hesitation about speaking his mind—even if it rubbed some people the wrong way. Explaining this trait, he once said, "I was trained in the sciences, was trained to question and probe into the possibilities of truth as a day-to-day fact of life. It has nothing to do with personalities. So if I don't think I'll agree with you, I'll tell you. I'll say, 'Noo, that doesn't make any sense.' All I ever said was I reserve the right to make my statement and after that whatever we decide, I'll work with you as far as I can.

But don't put a muzzle on me. I can't stand that." (*New Directions*, January 1983.)

Hawthorne was in many ways a Howard creature. He grew up near the campus, a self-described "faculty brat," whose stepfather was a professor of medicine at the university. He went on to earn two degrees from Howard, a B.S. in 1941 and M.D. in 1946; then went on to earn two more degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago, an M.S. in physiology in 1949 and a Ph.D., also in physiology in 1951. That year he returned to Howard as an associate professor of physiology and was to remain a fixture on the campus for 35 years. ("I'm sort of like the man who came to dinner," he used to joke.)

He became head of the department of physiology, assistant dean, associate dean and research professor in the College of Medicine and in 1974 became dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, then a new organizational entity.

All the while, he continued to pursue what was perhaps his first love: research. His studies on the definition of the geometric and dynamic shape changes that occur during a single heartbeat, for instance, were pioneering efforts that are still cited by leading cardiovascular physiologists today. The state-of-the-art cardiovascular research laboratory he developed for such studies attracted and trained many of the Black cardiovascular physiologists now practicing across the country.

As dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, it was natural that he should emphasize the

4 value of research, which he once described as "a personal vendetta against ignorance." Under his leadership, research funding channeled into the school increased and the school grew to offer some 50 programs of graduate study, with the Ph.D. awarded in 25 fields.

Underlying all his activities at the university, many believe, was his ability to conceptualize and articulate a vision. A vision of quality education for Black people and the special responsibility of Howard University to foster that education.



The Howard University Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Fred Irby III, spent 10 days in Peking this fall giving concerts, meeting Chinese musicians and performing on television as part of the Royal Pacific Cultural Exchange program sponsored by United Airlines and Sister Cities International.

The 18-member group was joined on the tour by choreographer Mike Malone's eight-member Dance Union. The two groups had competed with nearly 100 D.C. area music and dance organizations to win the coveted chance to represent the nation's capital in its sister city, Peking.

According to Chinese officials, the jazz ensemble was the first jazz band to visit China in a cultural exchange program. In a story datelined Peking, October 26, Daniel Southerland, a *Washington Post* correspondent, described the reception Chinese audiences gave to the unfamiliar music played by the visiting Howard group (a mixture of variations on jazz standards and original compositions that would have been considered quite "tame" by most U.S. jazz audiences.)

"The Chinese reaction ranged from curious and delighted to puzzled and shocked," he wrote. And later: "Chinese musicians visiting the American performers during rehearsals have shown an intense interest in the music or at least in the musicians' techniques. 'One Chinese musician almost crawled into my instrument during rehearsal,' said one member of the Howard University group"

In the above photo, Chinese musicians join Ensemble member Sais Kamalidiin in an impromptu performance.

The College of Fine Arts honored Dexter Gordon, the influential jazz saxophonist who stars in the critically acclaimed film, "Round Midnight," with a special concert



tribute on December 2 before a full house.

The tribute doubled as a fundraiser to establish a jazz studies scholarship at the university in the name of Gordon's father, a physician who was a Howard graduate.

The Cramton Auditorium concert featured performances by singer Nancy Wilson, guitarist Stanley Jordan, the Terence Blanchard/Donald Harrison Quintet and the Howard University Jazz Ensemble, with trumpeter Jon Faddis as special guest.

Among those making honorary presentations to Gordon at the event were representatives of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, the Office of the Mayor and Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.), author of a House bill to designate jazz as an American national treasure.

Speaking at the Tenth Annual Merze Tate Seminar in Diplomatic History in November, an American journalist predicted that "Over the next 40 years, populist Islam will become the most important ideological force in the world."

The prediction was made at the close of a lecture on "Terrorism and Dissent in the Third World" by Robin B. Wright, a former correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Washington Post*, the *London Sunday Times* and CBS News and author of "Sacred Rage: The Crusade of Modern Islam." She is currently a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Earlier, Wright had sought to debunk what she sees as the misconception that Muslim fundamentalists who favor terrorist tactics represent "some monolithic anti-American force." While this is not true, she said, these groups do have several things in common, namely:

- They don't see hijackings, bombings and other such actions as an initiative, but as a response, a response to what they see as oppression. "Most feel they are acting in defense of their faith, dignity and independence and against those who oppress them."
- There is a rebellion against Westernization, not against modernization. They want antibiotics and other technological benefits of the West, she pointed out, but they don't want these benefits "on terms dictated by the U.S."
- They have the support of a second generation, "one knowing

nothing but violence and enmity." And what this portends, she believes, is that "terrorism as a means of dissent will escalate."

For those in this second generation, as well as their elders, "Militant Islam has become an effective idiom of dissent," and one the U.S. must come to grips with, she emphasized. To simply blame Iran for the increase of terrorism in the Third World would be misguided, in her view, because she sees Iran's role as essentially "to inspire and promote those who were already angered and already committed."

In a response to Wright's lecture, Mohammed El-Khawas of the University of the District of Columbia, pointed out that "terrorism is almost everywhere" and that "it is not a new phenomenon. In fact, the U.S. was born in terrorism. To the British, George Washington was a terrorist. Terrorism is caused because some group is not in agreement with the established order"

With Iran splashed all over the news, the two presentations proved both timely and lively. As such, they seemed in keeping with the spirit of the Merze Tate Seminar in Diplomatic History which is named in honor of the distinguished professor emerita of history at Howard, the author of numerous pioneering books in the area of diplomatic history.

Lawrence E. Gary, director of the Institute for Urban Affairs and Research since 1972 and professor in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Social



Work at Howard University, has been appointed to an endowed chair at Hunter College in New York City for the current academic year.

According to Professor Gary, he is the first Black educator to hold the academic title of Henry and Lucy Moses Distinguished Visiting Professor at the college. He will return to Howard at the end of his year's tenure.

Professor Gary came to Howard in 1971 and served as assistant to the vice president for academic affairs until 1972. In addition to heading the Institute for Urban Affairs and Research, he also serves (since 1974) as director of the university's Mental Health Research and Development Center.

The seventh annual Charles H. Thompson Lecture in November featured a discussion of "The Hazards in Black Higher Education" by two men who are eminently qualified to address the topic: Her-

6 man R. Branson, president emeritus of Lincoln University, and Luther H. Foster, president emeritus of Tuskegee University.

In opening his presentation, Branson reminded his audience that "Black colleges are viewed by many whites and all too many Blacks as inadequate and ineffectual."

He then noted some of the steps Black educational institutions must take to overcome these perceptions, among them: "demolishing the notion that our colleges deserve only trickles of private contributions;" establishing programs to combat the decrease in the number of Blacks in graduate school; preparing students for a computerized age; and addressing the problem of the high drop out rate among Black college males.

Foster cited small and slipping enrollments, income that is heavily dependent on tuition, plant deterioration and goals that are in painful need of reshaping as some of the key problems plaguing historically Black colleges today.

Not surprisingly for a man who was once a budget officer at Howard and business manager of Tuskegee, he called for "strategic management" as the first line of defense against these problems. In his view, "strategic management can help build strengths for any institution — whatever its mission."

The lecture series' previous guest speakers were Benetta Jules-Rosette, Edmund W. Gordon, Floretta Dukes McKenzie, Bernard W. Harleston, Allison Davis and Stephen J. Wright.

Charles H. Thompson, for whom the series is named, was an influ-

ential educator who acted in many roles at Howard. He was chairman of the Department of Education, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, dean of the Graduate School and founder/editor of *The Journal of Negro Education*, to name some of them.



Audrey B. Chapman, a family therapist with the Howard University Counseling Center, has been at the center of a whirlwind of publicity surrounding her recently released book, "Man Sharing: Dilemma or Choice?"

She was guest of honor at a reception at the National Press Club to mark publication of the book, has promoted it on national television shows as well as on local radio and television programs, including the university's WHMM-TV Evening Exchange program and WHUR radio, and has been the subject of numerous newspaper articles and columns.

"Chapman takes a hard look at both the pros and cons of sharing

a man in an era where exclusive relationships are hard to come by, and demonstrates how women can actually benefit from this harsh social reality," notes a press release from the publisher, William Morrow & Co.

Joshua Smith, president and chief executive officer of the Maxima Corporation, speaking at a Seminar on Intellectual Property Law at the law school, cited "an alarming lack of Black entrepreneurship" as "the greatest social problem for Black people."

In his talk, Smith also discussed the growth and development of the Maxima Corporation, a Rockville, Md.-based information management services, products and supplies firm, which Black Enterprise in 1985 named the fastest growing Black-owned firm in the U.S.

In sharing some reasons behind his company's success, he emphasized the importance of developing a sound financial plan ("You have to plan and plan and plan"), of delivering on one's promises and of relying on legal counsel before undertaking any new action.

Other presentations at the seminar dealt with patents, trade secrets, genetic engineering, copyrights, trademarks and career opportunities in intellectual property law (i.e. law that deals with nontangible property.)

In opening the seminar, Law School Dean J. Clay Smith, Jr., stressed the need for more minority lawyers with backgrounds in science, engineering and mathematics to meet the demands of an increasingly technological world.



He cited the revolution in genetic engineering as one which must be of special concern to minorities and distributed a 36-page bibliographic index he prepared of newspaper articles on the subject over the past five years.

In the introduction to the index, he wrote: "Science is a reverent discipline, but it cannot and must not be left unnoticed or unscrutinized when it involves such great political, social, moral and legal issues as those associated with genetic engineering."

The Intellectual Property Law Association cosponsored the event with the law school.

The Department of Radiotherapy of Howard University Hospital recently performed the first hyperthermia treatment on a cancer patient in the metropolitan area.

The treatment, which involves subjecting the cancer site to extremely high temperatures, was

once considered experimental. But when used in combination with radiation therapy, it is rapidly becoming a standard weapon in the fight against cancer, especially for patients with recurrent or residual tumors.

A number of faculty members from the university participated in workshops sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus at the group's 18th annual legislative forums in October.

The Howard group included Clive Callender, director of the Transplant Center at the university, Alyce Gullatee, director of the Institute for Drug Abuse and Addiction, E. Ethelbert Miller, director of the Afro-American Resource Center and retired journalism professor Sam Yette.

The great division in American society is not so much between Blacks and whites as between "those who have hope and those who have given up," declared Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) in a December 3 address at the university. The address constituted the Eighth Annual Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Lecture, named in honor of the 13th Howard president who served the university for 34 years.

Simon identified education and jobs as the critical factors which give people hope. In this light, he warned of "the slippage in the percentage of Blacks attending colleges and universities." We have to provide more — not less —



educational opportunities for people, he said.

"The next great step to take," he added, "is to guarantee a job to every person." He called attention to two trend lines: "1) the demand for unskilled labor is going down; 2) the pool of unskilled labor is going up." Therefore, he said, "this means we face a choice between paying people for doing nothing — since we're not going to let people starve — or paying people for doing something . . . We have to turn the liability of unemployment into an asset," he observed.

At the end of his lecture, the senator turned philosophical: "It's important that we look beyond ourselves . . . Somehow when we lift others, we lift ourselves." □