

April 13, 1972

Vol. 1 No. 3

Black Focus + Festival
3rd printerGENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In addition to regular agenda items, this meeting will feature a presentation by Sultan and Campbell, the Black firm that designed the only condominiums built in Reston. The meeting will be an unusually interesting one as this firm's activity in Reston is a result of Focus demands to include Blacks in this town's development. Please attend on Thurs., April 20, 8 PM at the Redeemer Methodist Church.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES OUTLINED -- At the last general meeting, the Steering Committee and the membership agreed to initiate the following procedure: Members requesting Black Focus action as an organization, on matters which cannot wait for the next Steering Committee meeting should contact an elected member of the Committee. The person contacted will be responsible for contacting the other elected members. This body will decide what action to take including contacting other Steering Committee members, the committee chairman affected and or the entire membership. If telephone calls are to be made to the general body, a written statement will be given to the callers including information about the action to be taken, the purpose and objective of the action and the names of those making the decision.

STEPHANIE HEAD CONTEST WINNER

Stephanie won second place in the U. N.'s Speaking Contest. Many heard her speech on WNBC-TV. In addition to winning a \$50 prize, she appeared before the United Nations in N. Y. on March 21, also her birthday.

JEAN'S CALENDAR

Ladies Bridge Club -- Thurs., May 4, 8 PM, Sammie Campbell's home, 11530 Links Drive, (471-4416).

Supper-Discussion Club -- Sat., May 20, 8 PM, at the Secundy's. (call 437-1871 if interested). A very lively discussion on "bussing" took place last month.

Over 80 young people participated in the Youth Activities program last month. About five gallons of spaghetti sauce were consumed by the teens. It was a toss up as to who had the most fun-- the mothers who helped upstairs or the dancers downstairs--(At any rate the teens voted us the noisiest.) The 9-12's dyed almost 250 eggs and that should just about do it until next year!! The younger ones had a lovely sunny day to hunt for all those eggs and were sorry to find the last ones. Thanks to all the parents who helped cook, bake, drive and generally lent a hand.

Details at the next meeting about bowling, ice-skating, and bicycling. Be there and don't get left out!

-----Submitted by Jean Maxwell, Social Chairman

DANCE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL SUCCESS!

The Mad-Hatters' Spring Fling was in the grand tradition of Focus dances. The music was great! (The band's drummer, Benjamin, is Bob Secundy's brother and it was fortunate, indeed, that Marion could get them for us.) The capacity attendance was especially rewarding to those who worked so hard selling tickets with just three weeks time. Irwin Holmes did a skillful job managing the tickets and is preparing a full report. Very special credit is due the chairman, Mona Head, to Charles Smith, Doris Yancey and all the committee members. The committee is especially grateful to Lota Mushaw, Bob Taylor, Fred Fresh, Lewis Marshall, the judges and participants in the hat contest, and the on the spot M.C., Mort Marshall.

The dance committee and all who knew, were saddened by the personal tragedy that struck two of the hardest workers, Luther and Mary Williams. Mary's mother, who lived with them, died the week before the dance.

COUNTY-WIDE BLACK GROUP MEETS IN RESTON

The oldest and most widely represented Black organization in this county, "The Fairfax County-Wide Citizens Assoc." will meet on Wed. April 19, 8 PM at the Lake Anne School. Representatives of the Fairfax County Police Task Force will talk about their work. Mona Blake, who has been active with the group emphasized how much they want and need our support. Please Attend!

COMMITTEE ITEMS

EDUCATION--chaired by Laura Thomas. At least 60 Focus parents met with the principals (or their representatives) of the five area schools. The participation level was high. Fred Humphries, the moderator, summed up the parents' concern about the demonstrated lack of sensitivity toward Black children, their demands for changes, and their suggestions as to how the schools might begin to deal with their own problems in this. The parents made a specific recommendation, "to require all Fairfax County public school teachers to take courses in human relations."

COMMUNITY LAISON

Chairman, Lewis Marshall

This group met and outlined plans for contact with Gulf-Reston to discuss specific issues about the participation of Blacks in all aspects of Reston development. More details are forthcoming from Lewis who was called to Puerto Rico (at the time we went to press) to tend to the return of his cousin who suffered a stroke there.

COUNTY LAISON

This group, chaired by Bob Taylor has defined its objectives as follows: "To assist neighboring Black Community Organizations in Fairfax County toward working completion of current projects, plus helping them to identify their future needs." A meeting has been set with some Black leaders in Fairfax County.

FESTIVAL -- The next meeting will be held on Mon., April 24 at 8:30 PM at the home of the chairman, Frank Kent. Agenda items include: selection of a charity, Festival Dance plans, and completion of committee chairman appointments.

FOCUS NOTES!

DON'T WE ENVY DEPARTMENT -- ORA and GEORGE TOLBERT on a vacation trip to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Mexico ... Alene Smith, who learned a lot and had fun at the "Association of Black Social Workers' Conference" at the Fisk University campus, Nashville, Tenn.... MONA BLAKE off to attend the "National School Boards Association's Convention" in San Francisco, where she looks forward to participating in the "BLACK CAUCUS".

DID YOU KNOW THAT? ERNESTINE BUSH was elected to the Board of the Northern Virginia Music Center... FRANK KENT appeared on TV on the "Harambee" show in his capacity as Associate Director for Human Rights, OEO, and in print when his letter responding to an earlier letter criticizing Focus reaction to "the slave sale", appeared in the Washington Post... ALENE SMITH became the proud godmother of Shannon Derek, the five month old son of AL and MELBA BRYANT, at his christening on March 19. Alene's delight is matched only by eight year old DEVON'S elation with his baby brother.... Some Focus Folks we know have been working on Shirley Chisholm's Presidential Campaign. Five of them have been elected to be delegates from the 10th district to attend the Fairfax County Convention. Those are LEWIS DOUGLASS, chairman of the 31 member delegation, MONA BLAKE, ROGER COLEMAN, DELORES FRYE, and ILLONA WILLIAMS.

LAST MINUTE SCOOP! BILL WADE won the state level contest for "Student of the Year" and will represent Virginia at the National contest in California.

DORIS DOUGLASS
Chairman, Information News

Reston Black Focus

RESTON, VIRGINIA 22070,

December 12, 1972

Vol. I No 6

"NEWSLETTER"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: Thursday, Dec. 14, 1972
Time: 9 PM Please Be Prompt!
Place: Baptist on the Plaza
Agenda: Festival Report
Report of Sickle Cell
Legislative Committee
Final Report of Outgoing
Steering Committee
Election

NOMINEES OF STEERING COMMITTEE

The following names have been submitted of election to the Steering Committee:

Mary Alice Glenn
Alex Grant
Mason Mushaw
Alisha Shaw
Charles Smith
Bob Taylor
Dan Turner
Leon West

A LOOK AT FOCUS '72---Focus has had a busy year: i.e., conferring with our local schools administrators, meeting with county leaders and associations on sickle cell testing and other educational matters, denouncing a "Slave Sale", the Mad-Hatters' Spring Fling and other socials, the Annual Black Arts Festival, and publication of the Focus Newsletter!

And the year is not over! The membersnip meeting on this Thursday is important in that we are nearing final reports and looking ahead to next year by electing Steering Committee members. Do you recall last years's swinging Christmas Party? Well, we're going to swing again on December 30--place to be announced. So, reserve these two dates: December 14--Meeting and December 30--Party!

STEERING COMMITTEE--Of the eight (8) above names nominated for the Steering Committee, four (4) will be elected. Any further nominations may be made by calling Syliva Marshall, Mona Head and/or Joan Cooper. Nominations can also be made from the floor. The various Committee Chairmen make up the remaining members of the Steering Committee. If you will not be attending the Membership Meeting, you may vote by using the enclosed absentee ballot and returning it with your unpaid dues to Eileen Welch.

Mary Alice Glenn

Alisha Shaw

Dan Turner

BALLOT

Alex Grant

Charles Smith

Leon West

Mason Mushaw

Bob Taylor

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SICKLE CELL TESTING---At the Focus membership meeting on November 9, the regular agenda was tabled in order to discuss the sickle cell compulsory testing law passed by the Virginia Legislature; consider the ramifications of the new law and actions parents and/or Focus could take regarding the law. Objections were made on the basis of:

- compulsory testing as opposed to voluntary testing;
- possible psychological damage by testing only young Black school children;
- insensitive approach of school administrations in carrying out the ruling;
- invasion of privacy by maintaining tests results on health records.

Two actions were voted by the members present: Focus will proceed immediately to file an injunction against the law and a committee was appointed to contact a lawyer. The members appointed were Dr. George Tolbert, Attorney Grover Hankins, Dr. Lewis Marshall and Mona Blake of the Fairfax County School Board. The American Civil Liberties Union had already been contacted regarding the matter. Mona Head was appointed chairman of a Task Force of Parents to go to the schools in our area and to explain to the principals our concern over the testing program and other related communications-films, etc.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETS---On Nov. 18 the Education Committee, chaired by Alene Smith, called a special meeting at which representatives from all area schools were present. Also present was the Associate Superintendent of Schools, a representative from the Health Dept., the School Board Attorney, the Health Education Specialist, and a Human Relations Coordinator. Fred Humphries presided over the meeting. Several important points were made:

- as a result of Mona Blake's objections to the Virginia Legislatures bill, Fairfax County Schools agreed to have parents sign consent forms before testing and not to have the results of the test on the child's records; though the test are mandatory there will be no expulsion from school;
- Fairfax School Board passed a resolution to delay further testing in schools until the Legislature meets. This resolution will be given to the Legislature in Dec. by the Superintendent. Some schools have been slow in getting the communication to parents.
- State Health Dept. agrees with Focus' position;
- County Health Dept. has already made 1,473 tests, of which 113 were positive. Focus will be in contact with the Health Dept. concerning records, genetic counseling, etc of those already tested.
- Legislature made no appropriation of funds for testing, so the County is absorbing all cost.
- Elias Blake and Lewis Marshall made presentations in opposition to the law at Governor Holton's Conference

The Injunction Committee reported that they were in touch with ACLU lawyers and the price of \$400 was quoted-less with volunteer clerical help. The legal issues to be attacked would be mandatory testing, invasion of privacy and violation of civil rights. The Committee is presently soliciting position papers reflecting psychological, long-range impact and the social-educational impact; getting expert witnesses and counselors from across the country who will be willing to testify. This necessary research has cost the delay in filing the injunction.

WELCOME NEW FOCUS WIVES

What: A Coffee
When: December 28, 1972
Where: Home of Joyce Smith
Time: 10 AM 'til 1 PM

The Membership Committee will accept donations of coffee cake and encourages all to bring along recipes to share with others. Invitations will be mailed and calls may be made to Eileen Welch before Dec. 20.

TRAVEL

Bob and Jean Maxwell have just completed a trip to England and Ireland. We're glad to have them return from Ireland!

GET WELL

We wish a speedy recovery to Lucy Still, Jean Maxwell and Irma Henningburg.

IN THE NEWS---Bob Maxwell received an award from the Secretary of Transportation, John Volpe, for meritorious achievement for organizing and establishing the Office of Systems Engineering.

INTERESTED

Anyone interested in submitting his name for consideration as a volunteer on the Fairfax County Hospital Board of Trustees contact Mrs. Thomas, 484-8553. The Board determines policy for the hospital, so it is an important position.

In order that you might stay in the know, inform the Membership Committee of any change of address by calling Eileen Welch at 437-7909.

NEW ARRIVALS

Elias and Mona Blake welcomed their new 7 lb 10oz son, Elias Ayinde, on Nov. 14.

A belated welcome to Clarence Anthony, the new son of Joyce and Julius Williams.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Merrie Holmes of Reston Employment Service is looking for additional fulltime employment counselors. Reston Employment Service also has openings for secretaries and typists. If interested call 860-1054.

SEASONS GREETINGS!