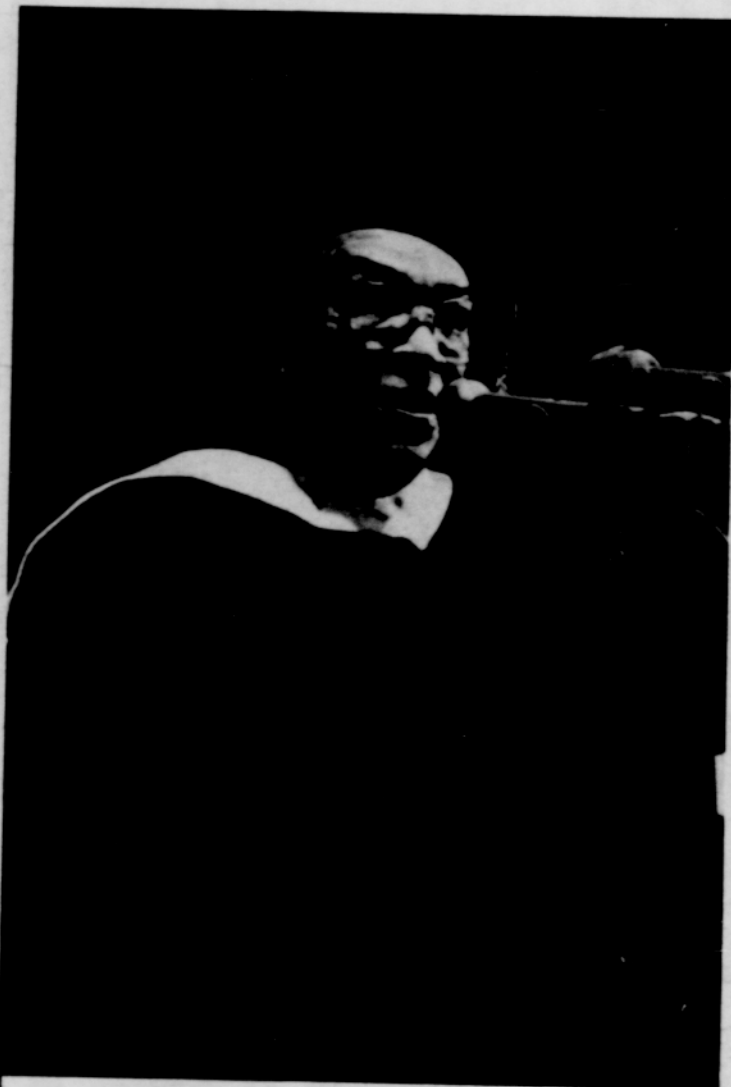


Businesswoman's Dream for Alma Mater Comes True



Speaking at Howard University's opening convocation, businesswoman Flaxie M. Pinkett challenged the university's business school to "do something significant where other schools — including the revered Harvard Business School — have not been so successful." The challenge: to train students to become business managers, not corporate bureaucrats.

In 1964, prominent Washington, D.C., businesswoman Flaxie M. Pinkett urged Howard University to establish a school of business, citing a "critical need" for blacks to enter the mainstream of American life.

In her judgment, business was the route. "It's not medicine, it's not law, or the ministry, or dentistry. It's business that moves this nation and world," she stressed.

Six years later, in 1970, a business school was born. Today, it's the fastest growing school at the predominantly black university, and now is housed in a massive, new \$13-million facility that opened this fall.

"One of my dreams has been fulfilled," declares Pinkett, president of John R. Pinkett, Inc., the oldest black combined real estate and insurance agency in the nation.

Pinkett, a 1936 graduate of Howard, remembers calling for the creation of a business school at the 1964 "Charter Day" ceremony commemorating the university's founding. Rather than following the practice of giving a laudatory acceptance speech after receiving an alumni achievement award, she hammered a message encouraging progress and development of blacks.

Howard's School of Business and Public Administration has grown to become second only to the university's College of Liberal Arts in enrollment at the 12,000-student institution comprising 17 schools and colleges.

Business enrollment has now topped 1,800 compared to more than 500 students enrolled during the school's early academic years. "There is a demand for our graduates," says the school's first and only dean, Dr. Milton Wilson, explaining the upsurge in enrollment.

"There is a critical shortage of managers and high-level technicians in business, government and health services professions," says the dean. "This shortage is particularly significant when related to education of blacks for management and as high-level technicians in the economic world."

In 1980, Howard University became one of only 153 schools in the nation to have an accredited master's program in business at a time when more than 500 institutions were granting degrees in business.

Howard's undergraduate and graduate business programs are believed to be the first to be accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business in the nation's capital, home of some 10 universities and colleges.

The accreditation has helped the school attract students and faculty alike, as well as corporate support, Dean Wilson indicates.

Business instruction was first initiated at Howard in 1869 in the university's commercial department. Today, business students attend classes at the school's ultra-modern facility, which features state-of-the-art equipment. A special satellite dish can beam business programs, including stock-market reports, to the building's various classrooms.

"I'm particularly excited at this time. The building is designed to meet the needs of the college," says Pinkett, who received an honorary degree from her alma mater and delivered the university's opening convocation address Sept. 28. Minutes later the new facility was dedicated.

At age 14, the 66-year-old businesswoman and realtor was unique among girls her age. She had matriculated at Howard and was working part-time in her father's struggling new business.

Earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1936, she began full-time employment with her father's firm. "When I graduated, I felt privileged to work when many blacks with master's degrees weren't working," she recalls. Pinkett subsequently pursued graduate studies in business.

She became president and chairman of the board of John R. Pinkett, Inc. when her father died in 1958.

But how a black woman survived in business for nearly 50 years — even before both the civil rights and women's movements gained momentum in the 60's? Says Pinkett: "I don't give people the opportunity to discriminate against me. I try to keep a sense of balance."

She is the only woman recipient of the prestigious "Man of the Year" award given annually by the Greater Washington Board of Trade, which represents Washington's top businesses.

In her recent address opening the university's 117th year, Pinkett challenged the business school to "do something significant where other schools — including the revered Harvard Business School — have not been so successful." The challenge: to train students to become business managers and not corporate bureaucrats.



CLINTON STREET ELEGANCE. 1920s construction sets off sparkling paint, new carpets, 3,000 sq. ft. living space. Formal living room, dining room graced with sliding glass doors, comfortable fireplace. 3-bdms, one upstairs, welcoming the sun. Grand kitchen, with romantic nook. A full basement, fenced backyard and detached double garage make this a dream house. Move right in! OPEN HOUSE: 10/17, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. PRICE: \$45,000.



TUDOR-TYPE DOLL HOUSE. Looks small but has 1,525 sq. ft. One bdrm. in finished upstairs. Two more bdrms on main floor. Quaint veranda door next to fireplace. Corner china closet in formal dining room. Kitchen nook, too. Detached carport and partially finished basement complete this close in S.E. deal. OPEN HOUSE: 10/17, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. PRICE: \$46,000.



BUILT IN 1906 with concern for detail. Rich, dark wood paneling gives dignity to living room, dining room. Two bdrms with built-in cabinetry, includes glassed book shelves. Original clawfoot tub. Clinton area. Come and explore nooks and crannies of another era! OPEN HOUSE: 10/17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. PRICE: \$37,500.



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BIG AS A BARN. 3-bdrms, new carpeting up and down, sparkling paint lead into fully-fenced backyard with covered patio. Country kitchen adjoins large utility room. Quaint bathroom contains large clawfoot tub. S.E. living, with space to move around! OPEN HOUSE: 10/14, 12 noon to 3 p.m. and 10/17, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. PRICE: \$42,500.



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