EXHIBITION
UNVEILING MORGAN’S LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP IN CIVIL RIGHTS (1947–1963)

November 10, 2011

Photo by I. Henry Phillips in 1947, Annapolis, MD
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UNVEILING MORGAN’S LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP IN CIVIL RIGHTS (1947–1963)

Presented by
The Robert M. Bell Center For Civil Rights In Education
Earl S. Richardson Library

November 10, 2011
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

University Student Center
Morgan State University
Baltimore, Maryland 21251
www.morgan.edu
Unveiling of Civil Rights Exhibition
Morgan State University
University Student Center
Founders Day
November 10, 2011
Presiding: Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan State University

Welcome .......................................................... Dr. David Wilson
President, Morgan State University

The Occasion ..................................................... Mr. Larry S. Gibson
Professor of Law, University of Maryland
Curator of Exhibition

Remarks .......................................................... The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor, State of Maryland
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
U.S. House of Representatives, 7th District of Maryland
The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, City of Baltimore
Mrs. Jacqueline Lawson
President, MSU National Alumni Association
Mr. DaQuan Lawrence
President, MSU Student Government Association

Video Documentary

Proclamation ..................................................... Dr. David Wilson
President, Morgan State University

Selection .......................................................... Morgan State University Choir

Closing Remarks ................................................ Mr. Dallas R. Evans
Chairman, Board of Regents, Morgan State University

Exhibition Unveiling ............................................ University Student Center

Reception .......................................................... Earl S. Richardson Library
Morgan’s Leadership in Civil Rights: 1947-1963

The students of Morgan State College provided important national leadership to the civil rights movement, including:

- The first mass demonstration for equal education funding
- The first sustained picketing against discriminatory seating
- The first successful restaurant sit-in campaign
- The first march to Washington for civil rights
- The first use of mass arrests to end discriminatory practices

Morgan students arrested during the Northwood Theatre demonstrations read an account of the event in the Afro-American, during their stay in Baltimore City Jail, Feb. 21, 1963. (AP Photo)
The civil rights activism of Morgan students began well before the Movement gained national attention, and it took many forms, from picketing in front of the racially segregated Ford’s Theatre in Baltimore to a mass demonstration in Annapolis to demand more funding for their school.
Long before the “Greensboro Four” made their famous protest in North Carolina in 1960, Morgan students launched the U.S. Sit-In Movement with demonstrations at segregated restaurants near their campus in Baltimore City.
After a series of successes desegregating businesses in the 1950s, Morgan students began the new decade with new strategies on a new front. Students from Goucher College and The Johns Hopkins University joined the demonstrations at the Northwood Theatre and the Hecht Company’s Rooftop Restaurant in 1960.
As their Sit-In Movement caught on nationwide, a court order limited the demonstrations by Morgan students at Northwood Shopping Center. The legal maneuver backfired, however, as the students channeled their activism to downtown Baltimore and beyond.
By 1963, the culture of nonviolent protest was well-established in Morgan's student body, and it turned its attention to the last segregationist holdout at Northwood Shopping Center: the movie theater.
Nearly 350 students, most from Morgan, were arrested and jailed during the Northwood Theatre demonstrations in February 1963, in the Civil Rights Movement’s first effective use of mass incarceration as a tactic to integrate public accommodations.
Six days into the demonstrations, the owners of the Northwood Theatre relented. The theater was desegregated, the charges against the student demonstrators were dropped, and the students emerged from jail, jubilant and victorious.
Unsung heroes of American history: the recently compiled list of students arrested during the Northwood Theatre demonstration in February 1963
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