"We are Americans and as Americans we should speak to America."
Frederick Douglass

FOUNDED IN 1892
By John H. Murphy Sr.
1840 - 1922
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Publishing Co., Inc.

The False Prophets

Through the protests raised against passage of a city public accommodations law at the hearing Thursday before a City Council committee, ran a familiar chant:

"We aren't against the bill on a moral basis, but it would be bad for business."

The chant came from restaurant owners, who formed the only organized resistance to the bill.

Despite impressive evidence to the contrary, the restaurant owners painted a gloomy picture of empty cash registers should integration come about in the city.

Based on what has happened here in Baltimore, with its limited integration, and in other cities, the end of segregation does not mean a loss in dollars, but a boost in profits — which should make good sense to any businessman.

The same forecast of a decline in revenue was made several years ago in Baltimore, when the hotels were under fire for their policies of discrimination.

When the hotels did open their doors to all people, the prophets of doom proved to be false prophets.

The hotels are busier than ever, and we understand that most of the owners wish they had integrated a long time ago.

The Northwest Baltimore restaurant owner said so publicly.

When the department stores and other downtown eating places opened their doors, the same cries of disaster were heard — and again the fears proved groundless.

Similar experiences have been reported in other cities, notably in nearby Washington.

These facts should certainly indicate to the restaurant owners that they have nothing to fear except fear itself. Integration makes good business sense.

The city is spending millions of dollars to renovate the downtown area and attract more visitors and conventions to Baltimore.

It would be extremely unfortunate if after all this was done, there were still restaurants in which a colored visitor or delegate would be insulted should he ask for a cup of coffee.

The way to avoid this is simplicity in itself — pass the Public Accommodations Law.

Not only is it morally right, but it makes good business sense.

We Are Responsible

The responsibility for the tragic fire that swept the 1600 block Eutaw Pl. Thursday night, has still to be fixed.

In the end, no matter who or what is held responsible, each of us will bear a share of the blame.

We bear it because we have allowed conditions to exist in our city, which create such tragedies.

We bear it because we have not raised our voices and demanded stricter enforcement of our housing laws.

Even before the fire broke out, the scene was set for tragedy.

The elements were a crowded house, a useless fire escape barred by a nailed door, and small children in a fourth floor apartment.

All that was needed was the element of fire, and unfortunately, this was supplied.

No words can ever return to life the five children who died in the holocaust, but their deaths need not have been in vain if we learn a lesson.

No human agency can prevent all fires, but we can take certain action to minimize injuries and destruction.

By action, we don't mean a flurry of well publicized investigations, but a well planned program that will still be in existence, when the Eutaw Pl. fire is all but forgotten.

It seems evident that there is something wrong with our housing ordinances.

They should be examined, with a view toward eliminating the loopholes that permit overcrowding.

A program of fire safety education should be launched for both landlords and tenants, to apprise them of the responsibilities and to point out how they might conceivably save their own lives, by taking simple precautions.

We recommend also a step up in housing investigations, particularly in the older areas of our city, where most of the tragic fires occur.

Granted that the city might not have enough personnel for continual city wide checking, it should still be possible to set up a system of spot checks that would keep landlords and tenants on their toes.

In line with this, we suggest harsher penalties in housing courts for those who fail to live up to their obligations.

Along with the rest of the city, we grieve for the five children who died so needlessly . . . we pray such a thing will never happen again.

Abolish Pro Boxing

Best suggestion we have heard about professional boxing is to abolish it, then turn the sport over to amateurs.

We saw Emile Griffith nearly kill Benny Paret last week in a New York prize fight ring. The sight was brutal.

Yet, this kind of near murder can happen in a score of boxing events every week if a referee, even one as skilled as Ruby Goldstein, has a mental lapse.

In addition, there is every evidence that professional boxing and wrestling are crooked.

We are in favor of giving them the boot.

The Glory Of Spring

Spring is billed as the most wonderful of all the seasons and though this one came in with some rainy, windy days, it has brought on some of those beautiful ones which make it the popular favorite.

With all the troubles in the world—Algeria, Germany, Argentina and such things as growing germ warfare stockpiles, a clear, bright spring day takes some of the strain out of the air.

Flowers and all the other green and lovely things of the season are coming alive.

There is a clean, optimistic outlook everywhere and while a few more chilly or dreary days can be expected, spring now has a firm grip on things.

Part of the blessing of the season is that of being so blessed as to be able to welcome and enjoy the glory of another spring.

Honor Roll Reminder

The AFRO Honor Roll deadline has arrived. Nominations must be postmarked no later than midnight Saturday, March 31, if the persons named are to be considered for this year's Honor Roll.

Each year the AFRO invites its readers to suggest the names of citizens from all walks of life who, in their estimation, have performed superior service to the community without thought of gain.

From the suggestions, AFRO editors select a number, usually 10 each year, who are awarded handsome plaques.

If it was your intention to nominate some deserving person for consideration this year and up to now you have not acted, this is your last chance.

All you have to do is write a letter to the Honor Roll editor, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, telling briefly what your candidate has done that you feel worthy of special recognition.

Stop Thief

In the early days, a thief, when caught, could lose a hand, be forced to leave the city, or face crucifixion.

We have been concerned about thievery in the public schools. Almost every week vandals "bust into" some school house.

Our police force, with the help of most modern alarm devices, has not been able to stop them.

It is provoking. Even when the culprits are caught, the punishment is a slap on the wrist or an excuse that they come from broken homes.

Just when we feel most sorry for ourselves and the poor school teachers, word comes that thieves are robbing even the offices of the Federal judges.

FBI and U.S. Marshals with guns and handcuffs notwithstanding, judge and lawyers lose overcoats and secretaries miss their pocketbooks.

It would appear that the Federal marshals are no better than local policemen in protecting public buildings, and that's bad.

How Long, How Long, How Long?

Sightseeing

The Year Television Discovered Doctors

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

The talented producers in the wasteland of television — and talented is a word I use very lightly—obviously travel in small circles, where original ideas come along so infrequently, that when one raises its head they seize upon it with the ferocity of a hawk swooping down on a defenseless chicken.

Let one show make it big, audience-wise, and immediately, if not sooner, a flock of carbon copies spring up to shine in a dazzling blaze of glory, until another new idea comes along, and the old ones die a merciful death.

At one time, Dragnet led the way for a series of cops and robbers shows; then we, the viewers, were flooded by a deluge of hard boiled private detective masterpieces, and then along came the westerns.

If the shows had shown any originality, they might have retained the interest of the watching audience—but the only thing that distinguished one from the other, was the night of the week on which they appeared.

* * *

THIS YEAR will probably go down in the annals of time as the year in which television discovered the field of medicine.

And as a result, we have been blessed, or perhaps accursed would be a better word, with a number of productions featuring followers of the Hippocratic oath.

There are so many medical shows currently on view, that I get the impression there are as many actors playing doctors, as there are doctors actually practicing medicine.

Since originality is frowned upon in TV when you are catering to the mass market, the shows pretty much follow the same general pattern.

* * *

THE CENTRAL figure is always a handsome, unsmiling, incorruptible, dedicated individual, whose life is wrapped up in the practice of medicine.

He is a paragon of virtue, so much so that if you look closely, you can see the halo.

His only fault is that sometimes he is hot-headed, and this often gets him into hot water, from which he always, but always manages to extricate himself, just in time to beat the last commercial on the program.

In the background, there stands the older doctor, always ready with pearls of wisdom to whisper in the ear of his young protege.

When the young doctor is impetuous, the older doctor urges caution; when the young doctor has a problem, the older doctor has the solution; when the board of trustees gets too nosey, the older doctor steps into protect the young doctor from its wrath.

The good old doc tries to appear hard and callous, but beneath the gruff exterior, he's really a lovable old so and so, who looks on the young doctor as a son.

The plots are usually fashioned along the same line — doctor meets patient, doctor almost loses patient, doctor saves patient —fade out.

* * *

TO LEND authenticity to the scripts, the doctors toss around two dollar medical words, which sound like a foreign language to the average viewer.

One doctor will discuss a patient with another doctor and you get a dialogue like this.

"He looks like a pretty sick boy to me, Ben, what's your diagnosis?"

"I'd say that he had only peliocarors, hepaleitis of the tibularto, even though it could possibly be an acute fricatheaded sastaitistis cystomuppy."

"Gee Ben, you don't see that much these days, do you?"

Way late in the show you learn that the fellow was suffering from a bad cold . . . but it wouldn't have sounded so authentic had the doctor come right out and said it . . . and besides, what would they have done for the other 45 minutes of the program?

THE MEDICAL shows have grown so popular, that even the toymakers, never ones to pass up a fast buck, have gotten on the act.

On the market are do-it-yourself medical kits, plastic skeletons, and transparent models of human bodies.

I didn't realize how much of a hold these medical shows have on the imagination of the younger generation, until, the other day when I overheard a conversation between two of the small fry.

First Small Fry —Let's play Dr. Kildare.

Second Small Fry — All righiee, I'll be brilliant young Dr. Kildare and you be a stupid patient.

FSF — How come I got to be stupid?

SMF — You're my patient ain't you?

FSF — You got a point there.

* * *

SMF — Now you wait right here while I run get some iodine bandages, a paring knife and an ironing board.

FSF — What's with the ironing board?

SMF — So how else am I going to operate on you?

That's when I, not being able to stand the sight of blood, stepped in and stopped the whole thing.

Sometimes, I think maybe kids don't understand that television isn't for real.

And for that, we should all be thankful.

What Our Readers Say

Writes On Teen-agers

Dear AFRO:

Whether or not teens can be trusted has become a rather controversial question. The fact that a relative small percentage has engaged in madcap antics has produced an ugly image of teen-agers.

Whenever a few irresponsible teens hit the headlines, the general impression is that all teens are young trollops and juvenile hoods.

Merely being a youth does not necessarily mean that he is a delinquent any more than being an Italian would automatically make one a servant of the Mafia. Public opinion has done more to create the idea that teens can't be trusted than anything that they themselves have or have not done.

It would seem that the question of whom can we trust should be asked of many of us, parents, instead of the teens.

In all too many instances the reasons why teens turn sour can be traced directly to the parents.

The parent was born first but it would seem that the child is the older because he often runs the family according to his tastes. Many mothers and fathers poorly educated and not abreast with modern trends in dress, recreation and teen social life let themselves be guided by their children.

Teen-agers often rave about what everyone is wearing and where everybody is going, the parent not wanting to be different from other parents and not wanting to cause unhappiness for his child will often give in.

Parents often give in to pressure not really knowing whether it is right or wrong.

On the other hand there are those of us who in our mad struggle to make money and out do the Joneses have neither the time nor the energy to help our offspring cope with their everyday problems.

There is also the problem of our busy social lives which leave us little or no time for the kids.

Lodge meetings, club meetings and weekend get-togethers often exhaust us as well as our leisure time.

In view of the fact that we can't spend an adequate amount of time with the children, we try to appease them and salve our own conscience by giving them everything they ask for, including too much money. A child who is free to do whatever amuses him is headed for trouble.

Sometimes ignorance and egotism on the part of parents play a role in the downfall of their children.

When our children ask us questions concerning the facts of life, we ignore or misinform them because of personal ignorance or because we are too proud to admit that we don't know.

This situation doesn't have to exist. Informative books on any subject can be purchased at the neighborhood bookstore.

Most teachers, doctors and clergymen are willing to confer with parents and children to help with the problems of growing up.

If teen-agers are not given an understanding and some explanation of new stresses and drives, that energy may channel itself into the wrong direction.

The fact that teens can be trusted is attested to by the large numbers of boy and girl scouts. We can further renew our faith in our youth by observing the many who are engaged in the work of Christ and His Church. We see still more proof of their sincerity in their demonstrations and sit-ins as they fight for equality and first class citizenship not only for themselves but also for us, parents, who for so long have accepted bias in silence.

J. M. DOOSE
Jennifer Story

Dear AFRO:

My family and I are deeply appreciative of the AFRO-AMERICAN'S recent news articles concerning my appointments to the National YMCA Physical Education Committee and the National Recreation Association's National Advisory Commission and George Collins' well - written story on my career in recreation.

I sincerely hope I can make a significant contribution in these new roles. I shall be reliant (as usual) on a number of very kind and unselfish people.

HAROLD J. JENNIFER JR.

Noteworthy

You Like Boxing? Why Not Bull Fighting?

By HERBERT MANGRUM

Most Americans say they can't stand bull fighting.

They claim the No. 1 sport South of the border is so brutal that it should never be allowed in this country.

Now I have witnessed any number of bull fights and I have enjoyed each and every one.

At some there appeared to be more Americans around than Mexicans, and they were yelling "ole!" just as loud.

My point? If we Americans can't stand bull fighting, how can we stand boxing?

I have yet to see or hear of a bull fight that was a brutal as that Paret-Griffith bout.

THERE WERE any number of angry duffers on hand at one of the local golf courses last Sunday morning.

All were angry because they were ordered to wait for more than an hour for a tournament to get under way ahead of them.

ESQUIRE MAGAZINE has scheduled for publication an article called "What they're thinking down there."

After reading an excerpt from the story I'm convinced that it will be hilarious. It starts off:

"The second Southern belle, conventionally honey-haired and blue-eyed, was introduced to me by her mother who said, 'I want you to meet my li'l ole jail-bird daughter.

"She's just been in and out of those jails since the sit-ins started, haven't you, lamb chop, and now she's on her way to Jackson with the Freedom Riders.' "

HAVE YOU had a chance to see the character on the Mike Wallace P.M. known as Eddie Greensleeve?

He's the guy who makes up those so-called folk tunes and wears a green sleeve on his suit jacket.

The pretender is really Ed Bakey, a Marylander, and was once "Mr. Pop Pop" on a local TV children's show.

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. Address them "Our Readers Say," AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Note On Visit

Dear AFRO:

We thank you for our visit to your newspaper building. We saw how the newspapers were printed. We saw how the type was made. We learned many things about a newspaper.

Thank you for the materials you gave us. Thank the photographer for taking our picture. We will be looking for it in the paper.

SCHOOL 100
Grade 4
Mrs. Carol M. Taylor, teacher

Denton Statement

Dear AFRO:

In your interview with L. H. Denton (March 24), he is quoted as saying that the segregation policy of downtown restaurants has not kept conventions from bringing their meetings to Baltimore.

Mr. Denton's interview appears on page 15. On Page one of the same edition, is a story which tells of two conventions that had scheduled conferences in Baltimore, but cancelled them when they were advised of restaurant jim crow.

These conventions were the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, which will now meet in New York; and the Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, which will also hold its conclave in New York. An estimated 1,000 delegates and visitors would have visited our city in April (Alphas), and in June (Kappa Mu).

What does Mr. Denton mean?—

JAMES L. SHAW

EDITOR'S NOTE: We asked Mr. Denton to clarify his statement in view of this reader's point which is well taken. Mr. Denton told the AFRO:

"I am very sorry about the cancellations, but I did not know about them until I read it in the AFRO. They were among the first all-colored groups to schedule their conventions in Baltimore hotels and we were glad to have them. I had hoped that it would cause favorable reaction among the restaurants."

Beautiful Story

Dear AFRO:

I am still overwhelmed by Elizabeth M. Oliver's beautiful story on me and my activities in the cause of freedom (AFRO Page 1, March 10, 1962).

You cannot begin to know how much it meant to me in the midst of the "brickbats" from those who just didn't want to understand our telegram to President Kennedy.

May God give us all strength and courage to stand uncompromisingly for the unconditional, absolute ending of this damnable racial segregation NOW!

MRS. JUANITA MITCHELL

Hodge-Podge

When Douglass Was An Elementary School

By ROBERT W. MATTHEWS

Went browsing through some old books and happened on a Baltimore Public School Directory for 1922.

Discovered that Colored High School was located at Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St. It had 36 teachers and 937 pupils. Principal was Mason A. Hawkins.

Ralph Reckling was head of the English Department, Fannie L. Barbour, head of math department and Carrington Davis headed up the language department.

* * *

DOUGLASS SCHOOL No. 100, was then an elementary school at Saratoga and Mount Sts., Joseph H. Lockerman was principal. Likewise Dunbar was School No. 101, and went to the 8th grade. William Anderson was principal.

Elementary school teachers had a starting salary of $1,200 and a maximum $2,200 after ten years.

Smallest school listed was Canton Toone St., W. of Clinton which had one teacher and 21 pupils.

* * *

A REMINDER of the old days can be found in Mt. Winans where a bar has revived a common practice of pre-prohibition days.

Residents of the area can take half-gallon sized jug into the bar and have it filled with draft beer. The jugs are put out by a local brewery.

The system operates much the same as it does for those accustomed to buying milk in half-gallon jugs.

AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept the faith with the common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR., 1920

—Call bill aid

(Continued from Page 1)

are being brought to bear from the other side.

"Realizing the number and calibre of persons backing the bill, I think that the Councilmen will take favorable action on it."

* * *

TUESDAY, an overflowing crowd descended on the City Council Chamber to witness a public hearing on the bill.

The audience, which spilled out of the chamber and balcony overflowed into the corridors and side rooms where they listened to the proceedings on the public address system.

During the three - hour hearing they heard 16 speakers, representing 41 religious, education, and community groups ask councilmen to pass the law.

Dr. Leo Sachs, president of the Jewish Council, and chairman of the committee created to get the law passed, was given prolonged applause when he urged the councilmen to lead the city along the orderly road of integration.

Declaring that there was only one other party—a disorderly one—Dr. Sachs said unless a public accommodations law is enacted, Baltimore will be plagued indefinitely with sit-ins, boycotts and protest demonstrations.

Core of opposition to the rights measure came from the Maryland Restaurant Association.

However, William Tutton Jr., vice president, told the councilmen:

"Our opposition to the bill is not in anyway whatsoever based on malice or racial prejudice. It is based on survival."

Heading the group of supporters was Dr. Alfred B. Starratt, chairman, City-Wide Coordinating Council of Equal Accommodations.

Dr. Starratt introduced both moral and practical reasons why the city should have a public accommodations law. . . .

THREE clergymen of the Catholic, Protestant and Hebrew faiths, who also conduct Sunday television programs testified that discrimination is a violation of their religious beliefs.

The Rev. William K. Dunn, chaplain and professor of religion and education at the College of Notre Dame, said:

"Enforced segregation is immoral because it imposes a stigma of inferiority on those against whom it is directed."

* * *

THE REV. Frederick W. Hefler, minister of the Christian Temple, said as a Christian, "I know no discrimination and my religion knows none."

Rabbi Abraham Shusterman of Bar Sinai Temple said he attended the hearing because "my religion makes it necessary for me to come and urge you to pass this law."

Offering more evidence that discrimination is morally wrong, the Rev. Dr. Starratt quoted Pope John XXII who said there is no discrimination in the Catholic Church.

David B. Maguire, managing editor of the Catholic Review, represented the Catholic Interracial Council.

He urged passage of the law as a means of "protecting and fostering the right of human dignity."

Francis S. Filbey, president, Baltimore Council of AFL - CIO. Unions, representing 100,000 members, said the labor movement has made the same methods to win rights for workers as those used by anti-segregation protestors. He continued:

"Many opponents of this legislation will contend that business has the right to select whom they will serve.

"With this we would not ordinarily disagree, provided this right is limited to the right to require that patrons be reasonably clean, wear neckties and/or jackets, etc.

"We do not however, agree that if all the above is met that the proprietor has the right to further deny service because of the race or color or religion or national origin of the patron."

* * *

MPS. Elizabeth Ruffin speaking for the Board of Governors of Enoch Pratt Library, urged passage of the law for both personal and professional reasons.

"Above all we wish to be assured that any citizen of this country or any visitor to this city from any other country will receive courteous service in any restaurant which professes to serve the public," she told the Councilmen.

Miss Una Corbett, Teachers Union, was wildly applauded when she pleaded, "Try at least to keep up with your children." Text of her statement can be found elsewhere in this edition.

* * *

FRANCIS D. MURNAGHAN, vice president of the Urban League, declared that discrimination works hardships on both races.

He cited an incident where he was inconvenienced and forced to attend court without adequate preparations.

"We (he and his client) spent so much time looking for a place to eat we had no time left to discuss the case."

Segregation, Mr. Murnaghan added, robs Baltimore of human resources.

Others testifying included: The Rev. Manfred Mandrodt, Interfaith Clergy Committee; the Rev. Donzel C. Wilder, Maryland Council of Churches;

William F. Springer, National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter; David McGuire, Catholic Interracial Council; Wade Smith, Committee to Integrate Johns Hopkins Hospital Community;

Also J. John Dohony, Christian Family Movement; and Roy Borom, Community Participation Committee.

SPEAKER FOR RESTANTS — William Tutton Jr., vice president of the Maryland Restaurant Association and chairman of its legislative committee makes known his opposition to the bill at the hearing on Tuesday. He spoke on behalf of the group.

HE SYMPATHIZES, BUT —Jimmy Wu, operator of a Chinese restaurant and a carry - out shop, admits he's been discriminated against as a Chinese and he sympathizes with other minority groups who are discriminated against. However, when it comes to a Public Accommodations Law for Baltimore, that's a different matter, and he's against it.

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APRIL 11 Baltimore — Third annual Conference of the Maryland Restaurant Association and chairman of the Maryland Restaurant Association, will meet on Family Relations, at Morgan State College. Mary-lege Christian center.

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