Keep Aiming For The Moon

Our Readers Say:

Harlem Cut Off

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 to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore.

Dear AFRO:

We have written Mr. Romney, secretary of Housing and Urban Development as residents of the Harlem Park Community, to ask his assistance, in helping this community to get some clarity regarding the following situation. The Harlem Park area is an Urban renewal development.

For approximately two and one half years, the residents of the Harlem Park Community have been involved with the planning of the construction of a multi-purpose center to serve the inner city residents of Harlem Park and fringe areas.

The residents have been in on every phase of the planning of the Lafayette Square Community Center Inc., up to and including the application for federal funds.

Recently, shockingly and suddenly, the community residents learned that the priority to apply for federal funds to construct a multi-purpose center to serve the inner-city residents of Harlem Park and fringe areas granted to Lafayette Square Community Center by City Planning, more than a year ago, has been changed.

Currently, the Harlem Park Community is excluded from the Community Action Program, Model Cities Program and the Dept. of Housing and Community Development will be phasing out of the area as of June, 1969. The residents want to know why the priority for federal funds for the multi-purpose center has been changed.

MISS PEARL MOULTON,
chairman
Harlem Park Neighborhood Council

Career edition

Dear AFRO:

I have just seen the excellent 13th Annual Career Planning Edition of the AFRO.

We would very much like to have The Johns Hopkins University and The Johns Hopkins Hospital participate when the next such edition is published.

PAUL VAN NEVEL

Article insulted

Dear AFRO:

After reading the article which appeared in Tuesday's edition (3-18-69) of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, many of us (teachers and counselors at P.S. No. 75) were not only shocked but deeply insulted.

The article, which concerned itself with the indefinite suspension of a student at Calverton and the further attempt of two parents to intercede, presented a "one-sided" and degrading view of P.S. No. 75 and all of its staff members.

We were not only shocked or insulted by the accusations made by the statements reported, but by the fact that your newspaper would descend to a level as to print such "trivia."

We are not only insulted by obvious fabrications from a bitter parent, but by your allowing your reporters to release such a story without mentioning the fact that the principal, Mr. Harry R. Parker, is one of the most highly respected and highly professional administrators in this city.

We here at Calverton feel that by printing such "trash" the AFRO-AMERICAN has not only insulted our school, but it has also insulted the intelligence of people who know both sides of the story.

Please don't lose this letter before you have a chance to print it. Thank you.

WALTER G. AMPREY

EDITOR'S NOTE — 75 counselors, teachers, and administrators at Calverton signed this letter.

Adult education

Dear AFRO:

Adult Education is undoubtedly a very wonderful program. When I registered for Adult Education, I felt this would be a way to get away from the usual housewife routine, and it would be to my advantage as well.

The course is held only two evenings a week, and for only two hours per evening, there is still plenty of time left for shopping as well as other things.

I found the program to be very inexpensive and interesting. Whenever I attended the class, there was always an inspiration to attend the next one.

My only regret is that others such as myself, haven't realized what they have been missing.

MAMIE HAYES

'Blacklist'

Dear AFRO:

The staff and trustees of the Enoch Pratt Free Library are deeply appreciative of the AFRO-AMERICAN'S excellent coverage of our new booklist, "The Blacklist," and in particular the editorial commenting on the list.

Through the remainder of the school year and next fall, the booklist will be distributed by Pratt young adult librarians in connection with book fairs we hold in Baltimore schools and will be used in our contacts with non-public as well as public schools.

Sample copies have been sent to a long list of institutions and organizations, public and-private, with the offer of additional free copies to any who wish them.

Among those who have responded so far is the Baltimore Community Relations Commission, which requested and was sent 400 booklists.

Libraries in Community Action Centers will receive copies, as well as Pratt branches, where posters are planned to give the publication visibility.

At the Atlantic City Conference of the American Library Association in June we expect to bring the list to the attention of some of the estimated 10,000 librarians attending, so that it is likely to receive national attention.

It is gratifying to know that the AFRO considers "The Blacklist" worthy of wide dissemination and we thank you for helping to spread the word.

EDWIN CASTAGNA

Untalented teachers

Dear AFRO:

My fondest memories are of the days that I spent in school. Even the teachers who used to box my ears are reverently held in the highest esteem and are remembered constantly and sacredly.

But just the same my research has uncovered this startling phenomenon that untalented teachers are opposed and violently jealous of talented children. Most of our nation's leading talent was discovered in back alleys, pool halls, carnivals, prisons, and saloons; our teachers would have a hard time explaining to me why they are incapable of sensing brilliance.

Most teachers demand conscious, as well as sub-conscious control over their pupils and generally any form of individual self expression is immediately suppressed.

What to do about this supposed dilemma is a job for the department of education: However I suppose that we could very easily use more talented and imaginative teachers. In writing this letter I would welcome some critical response; but then I can suppose that careful and critical criticism calls for at least some talent.

PAUL D. McALLISTER
Associate Director Public Relations

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 and prejudice, or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR. — 1928

Must Make It Stick

In the course of winning the division basketball championship, and following its acquisition by Baltimore, Bullet coach Gene Shue maintained that this was the one, big ambition.

To go further to the playoff title, he implied, was relatively unimportant.

It is the fervent hope that his statements on the subject do not reflect what might easily be read into them: that Baltimore should be satisfied with partial success and enjoy her moment in the sun.

We are positive Coach Shue meant no such thing, but the opportunity for such interpretation is certainly present.

Many sports-conscious people do not agree that the winning of one title is the ultimate in achievement.

They feel that the mettle of a true champion is proved in his ability to reign in his particular sphere.

In the parlance of the bleachers, he "must make it stick."

That is why there was boundless jubilation at the conclusion of the 1966 World Series, abject disappointment in the wake of the Super Bowl.

Our dream for the Bullets is that, even if they reach only the treetop, they'll be aiming for the moon.

Then It Was Toeless Shoes

If school teachers think they have problems today with outlandish fashions such as slack wearing girls, they should read an editorial from the Dec. 18, 1938 edition of the AFRO.

We were commenting on the fact that the Dean of Women at Howard University banned French toeless shoes and that the student committee at the University of Washington banned strapless evening gowns to proms and offered to supply the offenders with suspenders.

The editorial added, "this merely indicates how important the issue as to what to wear is to young people. An old fogy might be constrained to observe that the present generation is more concerned about what to put on their backs than what they put into their heads."

We may be a long way from worrying about toeless shoes and strapless gowns, but the old conflict between young and old persists.

Cyrus W. Marshall, principal of Lemmel Junior High, faced the issue of whether girls may wear pants to school with wisdom. In a letter to parents, he said, girls can wear pants to class but "that does not mean that we approve of such dress.

"In fact, we strongly disapprove of such dress. We consider pants totally improper for girls' schoolwear.

"Within reason, we will accept your daughters in school as you send them. If you permit them to wear pants, they should be of the dressy type. Please eliminate the dungarees and other work-type pants. We are depending on you to uphold proper standards of dress at Lemmel Junior High School."

Some of the students say that what you wear has no effect on what you learn. But an old fogy might still wonder why female students would go so far as to sit-in for the right to wear pants.

No Name Calling, Please

We do not like name-calling.

We are especially disturbed when persons in high places use epithets in an attempt to discredit others.

We were distressed when the term 'pinko', meaning one with Communist sympathies was hurled about City Hall circles recently.

Object of the ridicule was Dr. Chester Wickwire, executive secretary of the Johns Hopkins University YMCA, who had sought City Council approval of a poverty fund to finance a tutorial project.

Because City Hall support was denied, Dr. Wickwire's project is in jeopardy.

It shouldn't be.

The fact that Dr. Wickwire heads it should be recommendation enough of its value to the community.

His record of service, his courage, his determination are reasons enough to approve a venture he supports.

When Dr. Wickwire earned a place on this newspaper's 1965 Honor Roll, it was noted he exhibited courage and genuine humanity to provide superior public service to this community without thought of personal gain.

We recalled then his leadership in removing barriers at Gwynn Oak Park, his outspoken opposition to George Wallace and others of his kind, his chairmanship of the statewide commission to uphold public accommodations laws.

This is the kind of man who asks city help to continue a much-needed program.

We would hope city councilmen will look again at the Wickwire tutorial project and find the funds to help him continue it.

A Prayer For Lent

Help us, O God, in the relationships of life, to let those we love live their owns lives, and to love them when we can no longer understand them.

Help us to trust them, and to trust Thee, and then so open our heartsand minds that Christ Jesus may bring into them something of the greatness of His life and love.

We ask these things in His name. — AMEN (From Forward

Mr. DeSousa Was Here

The state of Maryland marked its 335th birthday this week.

The occasion gives us an opportunity again to remind our readers that colored people had a hand in founding our state. In fact, Mathias DeSousa, colored, is listed among the founding fathers. Historians tell that Mr. DeSousa was a great sea captain, a fur trader, a colonial merchant famed for his ability to deal peacefully with the Indians.

Records show that Mr. DeSousa arrived on St. Clements Island on March 25, 1634, and stepped ashore from the Ark, the sister ship of the Dove, along with Governor Leonard Calvert and other founding fathers.

Also present in the group of 320 persons were Catholics (the Jesuit priests), Protestants (the Englishmen) and persons of Jewish faith.

Mr. DeSousa boarded the Ark as a first class passenger when it landed in the West Indies in January, 1633, to take on food and supplies.

He strode ashore and stood proudly with the others as they sent up a cheer when the crude wooden cross was raised and they officially claimed the land named Maryland.

Also present was John Price, another colored passenger on the ship, and later in 1635, came Francis Peters another pioneer.

We'd like to see the day come when history books record these facts in regular texts for classroom use.

We see here a glorious opportunity for a student or historian to show school book publishers how to secure these facts and how important it is to put them in the regular texts.

Until they do, we'll keep on reminding our readers that their forebears were first to set foot on Maryland shores back in 1634.

The Ark and the Dove, the ships that brought the first settlers to Maryland, are shown resting on a map that follows the route of that first trip.

JOHN PRICE
He was not a slave and had the same status as the 300 other laboring men on the ship.

MATHIAS DeSOUSA
He was one of the most prominent men on the first voyage to Maryland.

Afro Line

AFRO LINE, a new AFRO community service, will help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a post card to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the action is.

FIRE HAZARD — Garbage dump in the 2100 block of Rosedale Ave. This collection of trash is in a row of abandoned garages where fires have been set frequently. This is the kind of problem often phoned in to AFRO LINE.

QUESTION: The back yard of 812 George St. is littered with garbage. People throw their garbage in the yard of this empty house. The house is boarded up, but it is not being torn down. The problem has been here for three years. It is periodically cleaned up, but just fills up again. I have been smelling this garbage for three years.

MRS. M. J.

Answer: The AFRO contacted Customer Services which operates through the Department of Public Works. The Complaint Department (PL 2-2000 Ext. 2661) said they would set in motion the cleaning up of the garbage and location of the owner of the house.

The house cannot be torn down without the owners consent. If the house is owned by the city, it is up to the Highway Department to keep the yard clean, according to the Complaint Department.

If it is privately owned, tax records will reveal the owner.

While the Complaint Department is working on the problem the neighbors can call the police if anyone is seen throwing garbage in the yard.

The Complaint Department urges anyone with a problem such as this one to call PL. 2-2000 Ext. 2661.

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QUESTION: I filed my state income tax return on or about Jan. 15 and was expective of a refund as of today (March 15). I have heard nothing. I would appreciate anything you can do in this matter.

WILLIAM GALLOWAY

ANSWER: The Internal Revenue Service has made numerous announcements recently about mathematical mistakes or change of address that have held up income tax returns. The reader should call the State Income Tax building to ask about his particular case. The number is 522-4700.

QUESTION: I am writing this letter hoping you will send me the addresses of the NAACP and CORE.

DARNELL D. LOGAN

ANSWER: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is located at 1234 Druid Hill Ave. The Congress of Racial Equality is at 832 N. Gay St.

Political Notebook

Mandel Defends His Judgeship Bill

By MAX JOHNSON

A week ago, much criticism was directed in this column to Gov. Marvin Mandel's judgeship bill, which takes the mandate of election of judges from the voters and gives the governor sole appointive powers for 15-year terms.

The bill, now enacted by the General Assembly, provides that judges so appointed by the governor be reappointed at the end of their 15-year term and serve until the retirement age of 70.

As the bill reads, only check on such gubernatorial appointments would be a required confirmation by the Senate.

The measure was termed "asinine" in this column, in that I suggested it was not in the best interest of minority groups in obtaining future judgeships.

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Fair play dictates, however, that Gov. Mandel's thinking behind his judgeship bill be given airing here.

In an interview with the governor Tuesday, I repeated the criticisms and reminded that they were also coming from a number of concerned leaders in the black community.

"I don't think that's right," Gov. Mandel began in rebuttal. "I think we are just considering a matter that has been floating around the Legislature ten years or more, in regard to court reform.

"It isn't something that rises because of any particular community or non-community problems.

"This will give the public an increasing voice in the naming of judges."

• • •

The governor was asked to explain his reasoning behind this, in light of the bill's wording giving the governor sole arbitrary powers in naming whomever he desires.

"Any objections to a nominee," he replied, "will be subject to an open hearing. Objections may be voiced through any senator, and the nominee need not to be confirmed.

"This is not the case under the present system of naming a judge.

"The governor picks somebody and that is it. The public has no voice."

• • •

Gov. Mandel was reminded at this point that gubernatorial nominees must run for election to 15-year terms, and thus do face the mandate of the people.

"This is the crux of the whole thing," he said. "It's becoming increasingly difficult to get the calibre of judges we need because of the election system.

"Competent attorneys are reluctant to give up lucrative law practices to accept a judgeship, knowing that in at least two years they must stand for an expensive election — and could possibly lose.

"Under the provisions of this bill, the fears of this elective process will be eliminated."

• • •

At this point, Gov. Mandel was reminded that the bill provides that all newly appointed judges, who under the existing law would have to stand for election next year, will be automatically locked in office for 15-year terms.

This includes Judges Harry A. Cole and John R. Hargrove.

How about the outlook for future judges from the black community? What will be these possibilities when vacancies arise under the reign of a conservative, reactionary judge?

Gov. Mandel paused to light his ever present pipe and answered:

"No governor could afford to make bad appointments. No governor can afford to ignore any community.

"Under this bill, we get rid of the separate communities and we'll have far more unity."

• • •

Asked to what extent he will look to the black community for future judgeship appointments, the governor said quickly:

"Of course, I will look to the black community as well as the white community. I will have to do that.

"This gives the black community opportunity for appointments which would not necessarily come through the process of election.

"Take the case of Joe Howard. That type of situation might not rise again in another 20 years, a case where he is the sole representative of the black community on the ballot.

"His victory was almost a foregone conclusion. You've been around politics long enough to know that."

• • •

The governor paused again to give attention to his pipe, and then continued with this:

"Just suppose Harry Cole and John Hargrove had to run for election next year against a field that might include another black lawer and some white lawers prominent and well liked in the black community?

"You know what would happen, the black vote would be split up so there would be a big possibility that one or both would lose.

"Then, the black community would lose its present judgeship representation. This bill locks both in office for 15-year terms, eliminating the necessity for them to stand for election."

The governor continued with this:

"I think we have got to look ahead. Look ahead to not what's just good for tomorrow, but what's good over the years to come

"This system will give us the best calibre of judges, and fair representation from all segments of the community.

"All the people have to do is compare the provisions of the bill with the system that has long been the practice.

"The public will be able to raise objections through their senators under this bill. Now, they have no say at all about whom a governor wants to name a judge.

"This bill ought to be given more study."

• • •

"Such was Gov. Mandel's defense of his Judgeship bill in an interview with the AFRO, following criticisms in this column and elsewhere in the black community.

The Assembly approved judgeship bill is a proposed constitutional amendment, and will be on referendum the coming November for voters to accept or reject.

Servicemen in the news

Marine Pvt. 1st Class Douglas W. Moran, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stafford C. Moran of 7517 Old Battle Grove Rd., is serving with Force Logistic Support Group Bravo in Vietnam.

Group Bravo supplies food, fuel and ammunition for eight to twelve thousand men.

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Seaman apprentice Charles M. Butler, USN, of 2110 E. Biddle St., recently visited Bangkok, Thailand, while serving aboard the destroyer USS Henry W. Tucker.

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Henry W. Tucker, a unit of Destroyer Division 32, is on its third combat tour in support of Seventh Fleet operations off the coast of Vietnam.

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Seaman Apprentice Freddie B. Bonds Jr., USCG, son of Mr. Freddie B. Bonds Sr. of 4506 St. Georges Ave., was graduated from basic training at the Coast Guard Recruit Training Center, Cape May, N.J.

Airman Rodger D. Pinder, grandson of Mrs. Elizabeth Mason, 121 N. Amity St., has completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex. He is remaining at Lackland for training in communications electronics systems. Airman Pinder, a 1967 graduate of Polytechnic High School, attended Morgan State College.

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