North Pole–60th Anniversary

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of hate and bitterness"—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Baltimore Afro-American

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful, and magnify our Father which is in heaven. May we stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism, and prejudice.—Carl Murphy, Editor-Publisher—1889-1967

Dr. Frisby Corrects History

More than any other individual, Baltimore's Dr. Herbert M. Frisby is responsible for correcting history about the discovery of the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

Ever since he left the public school classroom where he spent 40 years as history and geography teacher, Dr. Frisby has dedicated himself to giving Matthew A. Henson his right place in history.

AFRO readers know that Matt Henson, the Maryland-born seaman was the first to set foot on the North Pole and not Admiral Robert E. Peary as history books say.

Admiral Peary, disabled by frozen feet, reached the Pole 45 minutes after Matt Henson did.

In a talk at the 50th Anniversary of the discovery of the North Pole Herbert M. Frisby recounted the events of the historic day:

"On April 6, the day the Pole was finally reached, Peary sent Henson on ahead with the instruments.

"He himself was unable to walk, for Henson, who acted as his surgeon as well as his interpreter, had chopped off Peary's frozen toes with an ax to prevent gangrene.

"Forty-five minutes after his assistant had reached the Pole, Peary arrived on a dog sled to confirm Henson's calculations and plant the American flag."

This week, in observance of the 60th anniversary of the North Pole Expedition, Dr. Frisby and members of the historical society which bears his name, will memorialize Henson at Annapolis.

There they will lay a wreath in front of the bronze tablet, erected in his honor at Dr. Frisby's urging in 1961.

We hope Dr. Frisby will continue his campaign to bring world wide recognition to Matt Henson.

We are happy to note that announcement this week by another Baltimore historian claiming the North Pole discovery a fraud will not curtail the Frisby efforts.

We're inclined to believe that the only fraud involved in the North Pole discovery is the omission by history books of the role played by a black Marylander—Matthew A. Henson.

For correcting this omission—a fraud of the highest order, Dr. Frisby deserves the commendation of his fellow citizens.

Our Readers Say:

Never Too Old To Learn

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed but signatures 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:

The letter from M's Mamie Hayes on Adult Education (March 29) prompted me to write this letter.

Though I am not her teacher, I am a teacher of Adult Education that finds it a very rewarding task. There are those whom I have taught the first sentence that they have ever been able to read, as well as how to write their names and recognize the letters of the alphabet.

My rewards have been much greater than monetary compensation, for I feel that I have helped these wonderful people to live a more vital existence and to be more useful to themselves and those with whom they live and mingle.

My class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from seven to nine in the evening at 528 E. 22nd Street. There are other Neighborhood Study Groups, like this one, throughout the city.

For a list of these classes, you may contact Miss Norma J. Moore, School 440, Adult Education Center, 309 E. Federal Street.

The classes are small. Each person gets individual attention. The needs and desires of each person are recognized and considered. Anyone who is interested should visit and see how we operate.

I would like for those who want help to realize that 1. One is never too old to learn. 2. Every adult is welcome, especially those who would like to learn to read. 3. Classes are open and one may enter at anytime during the school year. 4. Admission is free and materials are supplied.

(Mrs.) BERNICE B. LEWIS

Judge Howard Article

Dear AFRO:

I read the article in this week's AFRO, (April 5), by Honorable Joseph Howard, Judge, Supreme Bench, Baltimore.

As a citizen of the United States and longtime reader of the AFRO, I want you to know I have never in my life read an article like the one by Judge Howard.

I would like to read more articles like this in the AFRO, because they help the young people learn more about what is going on in our community.

I have two sons, and I would like for them to learn more about our city government in our schools. If they don't learn it in our schools, they will never learn it.

JOSEPH S. WHITE

Degree Of Disgust

Dear AFRO:

It is impossible for me to register on paper the degree of disgust I feel as a result of your featured story which was headlined "Beauty Accuses Earl the Pearl," in the Friday, April 4 edition of your "newspaper."

Was there really no news more suitable to headline this edition of your bi-weekly?

Could no good be found in the black community during the festivities of the Easter Week and the anniversary of the death of our Black Christ that would shed a ray of goodwill, or good deeds, or goodness period at this time of threatened violence?

We don't need our own people telling us what is bad in our community, so please, print something inspiring for a change.

MISS ALICE R. MASON

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 injustices and prejudice, or compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR. — 1920

Inmates Hit Treatment

Dear AFRO:

This letter is in reference to the cruel and inhumane conditions that we as inmates have to suffer at the Md. Penitentiary.

We realize that a jail is an institution that does not afford luxuries or refinements, but neither should it lack rehabilitation.

Here in this bastardly, deplorable institution, racial prejudice, ethnic differentiation, and all forms of mental and culture prejudices are displayed daily.

The guards are inconsiderate, ignorant, and completely inane in their treatment to us.

As many of us here are homosexuals, we are segregated from the so-called normal men. It is an established legal fact that we suffer all forms of mental cruelties. They look on us as demented people and attach all forms of heinous nomenclatures to us.

Please take the time to make the reading public aware of the "crimes" committed on us, as criminals.

(Editor's Note: This letter was signed by five persons.

Model Cities Coverage

Dear AFRO:

We wish to express our keen appreciation for the fine coverage the AFRO gave to the recent Grand Opening of our Model Cities Community Council "E" building on March 23.

We feel the publicity given will help to create a public awareness of the importance of Model Cities Program.

REV. C. O. BROWN, President
STERLING A. PAIGE, Secretary

Is Jenkins Jiving?

In the Friday, March 29 edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN newspaper, Dr. Martin Jenkins, president of Morgan State College, issued a statement recalling "for the moment at least" his mandatory integration plan.

Dr. Jenkins stated to the Board of Trustees for Maryland State Colleges that: "although they (Morgan Students) welcome white students, they should attend voluntarily without unusual recruiting efforts by the college. They are opposed to mandatory measures."

He added that "it . . . after a year's experience it is found that voluntary interchange is not effective mandatory measures will have to be instituted."

Will "unusual recruiting efforts" be any more right next year than it is this year? Is forced integration any more right than forced or mandatory segregation? Just what is Dr. Jenkins planning to do between now and next year that will justify those unusual recruiting methods? It was also stated in the article that Dr. Jenkins has been pressured by students to discontinue the mandatory integration plan.

What makes Dr. Jenkins think that one year will relieve the student pressures to discontinue the forced integration plan?

Dr. Jenkins stated that history has shown that integration has never been successful, but he is going to attempt mandatory integration in spite of past experiences.

The president also said "it is not a matter of chance that there has never been a colored member of the Board of Regents." We should all realize that the white power structure has never and will never willingly share its poower especially as long as we continue to refer to ourselves as "colored").

Finally, the president of the college stated that integration will "result in a more broadly educated and socially sophisticated student body." Do you think that Morgan needs more whites to make it more "broadly educated and socially sophisticated." Is Dr. Jenkins truly speaking for the Black students and the Black community or is he merely acting as a tool for the white power structure?

PHILIP R. JOHNSON

A Challenge For Mandel

Now that Gov. Mandel has lined up colored backers of his scheme to appoint judges in a manner to do away with elections, he is challenged to come into the colored community and show in debates how it will be a good thing for them.

The time and place of the debates will be left to Gov. Mandel and he is welcome to bring along his choice from among the scheme's colored supporters and his choice of editorial backers from the daily press.

The Honorable Joseph Howard, judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore, and representatives of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, are willing to provide the opposition.

We think the stakes in November regarding the judgeship referendum are so high and so racially discriminatory against colored people in Baltimore that AFRO readers must vote the bill down at any and all costs.

The first thing to understand about the scheme is that it does not and cannot take the appointment of judges out of politics.

It can and will keep colored voters from electing a representative number of judges from their race.

To want to be able to do this is not racist. It is nothing more and nothing less than participating in the democratic process.

What Gov. Mandel and supporters of the scheme want, especially the white leadership of Baltimore, is for colored voters to accept less than their rightful representation on the bench — in fact, in every meaningful area of governing this city which now is almost one-half black.

One local evening paper had the affrontery to state that the racial issue cuts both ways and if colored voters play the game in Baltimore City, whites could play it elsewhere and it would be a long, long time before colored judges would be elected outside of the city.

That's exactly how Baltimore's power structure thinks.

The paper appears angel-faced innocent of the obvious fact that racism has been affecting the appointing and electing of judges already, for a long, long time, and that's exactly why there are no colored judges outside Baltimore today.

Racism also is the reason that in a city more than 44 per cent colored there is but 1 of 14 Municipal Court judges, none of 8 People's Court Judges and 3 of 21 Supreme Court judges who are colored.

The Governor, the judge scheme's backers and the daily press don't seem to be able to see this type of racial discrimination.

That is expected of the daily press because it sees one way, like headlines thundering "All Black Ticket in Fourth" but never "All White Ticket in First (or Third, or Sixth)."

We do not believe that white voters of Baltimore will refuse to vote for black people simply because they demand their right to full representation in the governing structure. Colored Baltimoreans did, do and will continue to vote for whites, as well as colored candidates.

There is nothing important enough about Gov. Mandel's judgeship scheme to make the colored community buy it when it means giving up the right to be able to elect judges of our own choice.

The federal government has better system and racism keeps colored judges out totally in the South with just a handful elsewhere.

The days are gone in Baltimore when the white power strucure can change the rules of the game to suit its own fancy.

If Gov. Mandel decides to come in to debate, which we seriously doubt, he should not try to make anyone believe, on the basis of his personal record in office, that he will be fair to colored citizens if he gets the power to make all judge appointments. We've got the record and intend to use it. We can do much better.

Gov. Mandel is right when he says there is no unanimity on this issue in the colored community. The same can be said of the white community. What counts are big enough majorities and we intend to have them in November.

Don't Desert The City

We agree with City Councilman Emerson Julian (D-4th), that solid citizens of both races should be encouraged to remain in the city and use their talents to make Baltimore a growing municipality.

There is much to do in an urban area like Baltimore with its complex problems of housing, employment, and accompanying tensions.

Trained people who are knowledgable in these fields should be convinced there is a satisfying contribution they can make here which they could not make in the comfort of the suburbs.

This is not to suggest that State Human Relations Commissioner Roscoe R. Nix is wrong in urging more affluent colored people to seek new homes in the suburbs. People should live where they desire.

We do, however, suggest there is a bigger job to be done in a city like Baltimore which is full of challenges.

They Ignore Fine Print

It is easier to criticize a new idea, than it is to study it, give it a chance to work.

The School Board has initiated a new 'open door policy' which allows parents to visit schools and observe classroom activities.

This is good. There is need for more parental and community involvement in our schools.

Those who oppose the new program policy—which has been working in many schools for sometime—predict it will cause catastrophies and permit hoodlums to invade the schools.

This is not what the policy says. It specifies parents are permitted to visit and observe—not hold teacher conferences—and it suggests they sign a visitors' book provided by the principal's office.

We think the 'open door policy' deserves a chance to demonstrate what it can do for the community and the schools.

Nature Doing Her Part

We've been blessed this week with balmy spring weather-temperatures in the 70's, sunshine and warm breezes.

The forsythia and tulips are in bloom. The brown grass has turned to green. Trees are budding.

Nature's changes remind us that this is the season to clean up winter debris.

Back yards and alleys littered with trash and refuse should be cleaned.

Residents who have been complaining to our AFRO Line column will want to help the city sanitation department give a new look to their areas.

The weather makes clean-up work outdoors a pleasure rather than a task.

Nature is doing her work of beautifying our surroundings. Each of us can do our part to help our neighborhoods keep in tune.

AFRO LINE

AFRO LINE, is an AFRO community service, to 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.

INVESTIGATE STRANGE ODORS

QUESTION — We are getting foul odors through the walls of a house in the Unit block S. Ellamont St. We heard a sewer pipe burst in the building which has fire hazards, health and building code violations. Neighbors have reported to various agencies but nothing has been done since a couple of months ago two children, left alone, set fire to the place. Can you find out why the deplorable situation is allowed to exist? — R.B.C.

ANSWER — The Bureau of Building Inspection of the Housing Enforcement Agency sent inspectors out to this address Tuesday afternoon right after the AFRO phoned in your complaint. If the smells continue, call Customers Service, City Hall, PL. 2-2000, Ext. 2661 and remind them. However, we have been assured the owners will be located promptly and given a written notice to correct the violations. If they fail to do so, the City will do the job and place a lein against the property for the cost.

HAUNTED? — The City is ordering this vacant and open house at the corner of S. Sharp St. and W. West St. bearded it. Open as it is, the building scares passersby since who-knows-what is inside after dark. Ghosts from the past? Phantom hiding from the law? The boogeyman?

EMPTY HOUSE SCARES

QUESTION — What does it take to have and old empty house boarded up? A house at the corner of South Sharp St. and West West St. has us very nervous The doors are open and some windows are broken. It is a menace to us living near and also to passersby. It is bewildering and disturbing. — A RESIDENT.

ANSWER — As of Tuesday City agents began a search for the owner of the house. In a few days, he will be notified that he must take care of the situation which keeps your nerves on edge, and rightly so. Report anything further to City Hall, Customers Service, PL 2-2000, Ext. 2661, and remind them of their promise to the AFRO that they would do something here.

HE KNOWS THE NAME OF A MURDERER

TO MAN WHO HAS BEEN THREATENED — Cut the worry out. The AFRO has turned your letter over to the States Attorney. If you want to call him: Charles E. Moylan Jr., States Attorney, PL. 2-2000. Wait few days and then call and tell him you want to talk about a letter the AFRO turned over to him on Tuesday, April 8. If you want to help, either go there or call. There's what the office is for, to check out such complaints as yours. They need help to solve unsolved murders such as the one you reveal. They will give you all protection so why not bare the whole bit and get it off your conscience?

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QUESTION: I have read a lot of initials in the paper recently. OEO, CEBO, and the like. There is one, MUND, that I understand is the Model Neighborhood Development Corporation. What is MUND and what is it doing? Am I right in what it stands for?

ANSWER: MUND does stand for Model Urban Neighborhood Development. It is a demonstration project designed to plan the renovation of an entire area, working with the Department of Housing and Community Development through federal funding.

According to MUND officials, the project will cost $25 million and affect seven neighborhoods. Residents are supposed to review all rehabilitation plans before they are submitted to the City Council.

A map of the area involved can be obtained from MUND headquarters, 2133 Maryland Ave.

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QUESTION: Is the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" the same as the Negro National Anthem?

ANSWER: Yes, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is known as the Negro National Anthem. It was written by James Weldon Johnson and his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, in 1896 in honor of Booker T. Washington. James Weldon Johnson wrote the words and J. Rosamond composed the lyrics.

The two planned to have it sung by a chorus of 500 children. It was copyrighted in 1900 and later adopted by the NAACP.

Here is the first stanza:

Lift every voice and sing
'Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Till it resounds loud as the rolling seas

Perspective

How Things Might Have Been

By DAVID E. SLOAN

Recently we read an article which described experiments now going on with animals in which the fetus is removed from the womb of the mother before birth, given treatments to avoid certain conditions such as cross-eyes, etc. then returned to the womb to await normal birth.

In most of the experiments to date the pre-birth treatments have been successful and the animal when it appears as a completed being is insulated against a condition which might otherwise be impossible to correct post-birth.

The improvement and expansion of this biological technology has not only far-flung and dramatic future possibilities, but just think how different the world might have been had such pre-birth operative procedures been in vogue 50 years or more ago.

Suppose, for instance, doctors had realized that Everett Dirksen, the Illinois Senator, would carry on a lifetime of flowery and persuasive rhetoric which would lull many to sleep, but would also cause many to suffer malnutrition and unemployment because of his great conservativism and vast legislative influence.

They could have snapped this in the bud by clipping ole Ev's vocal chords and returning him to the womb to emerge much less harmful.

Suppose doctors had known that the Duke of Windsor would have such a weakness for a certain lady that he would give up a whole empire just to marry her.

They could have untimely ripped him from his mother's womb, given him a little more stamina against female charms and then preserved a pre-ordained course of history.

Or suppose doctors could have known that Joe Louis, even though he would become the world's greatest boxer, would never be able to master the King's English and would always be the butt of jokes because of it.

They may have injected a little verbal suavity into Joe's brain and Voila!!! We would have had not only a demon fighter but a golden voiced advocate many years before Thurgood dazzled them in court.

Or just suppose Bilbo's mother's doctor had known that little fetus was suffering from an over supply of race bigotry.

He might have lifted him prematurely into the Delta gloom, injected a little colored blood into one of his arms, and the U.S. might never have gone through the convulsions of bigotry still being suffered even though Bilbo has long since passed on.

But this is an idle pastime. It benefits no one to dream of what might have been when faced with the reality of what may actually be in the yet unknown future. Does it?

Inexcusable Oversight

The Baltimore YMCA's Service To Youth Banquet and Annual Meeting last night was a fitting tribute to young people who have demonstrated talents and abilities in school and extra curricular activities.

The Y deserves commendation for singling out young people who have achieved.

It deserves further accolades for remembering senior citizens who have labored long in counseling young people and showing by example that service to one's fellow man has its own rewards.

This year's honoree was Judge Harvey C. Bickel, for over 50 years, an outstanding layman and public servant. He deserved the honor.

This brings us to what we consider an inexcusable oversight.

Among guests at the banquet was last year's Service To Youth Award winner, Dr. Louis E. Harmon. His presence was not acknowledged although others in the audience were presented.

Program planners might say this was an oversight. We think it was an inexcusable one.

76 YEARS AGO IN THE AFRO

1893 — New business on Lexington and Eutaw Streets (Lexington Market) seems to be fair to all customers. They sell the best quality supplies. There is no prejudice problem existing between races. Goods here are very attractive and have quality prices.

A Statement To The Readers of The AFRO-AMERICAN

The M. Goldseker Company was subjected to a vicious attack on a program presented by a local TV Station. An attempt was made by a guest on the program to distort our treatment of our customers.

It's time to set the record straight. This is something the TV Reporter did not even attempt to do before he broadcast his unsubstantiated allegations.

The M. Goldseker Co. has always conducted its business in a most ethical manner adhering to the theory of giving our customers full value for their money.

WHY then did the TV Commentator and his guest mislead the public by stating only our initial purchase price and our final selling price, falsely indicating a larger than normal profit by deliberately eliminating all of the business expenditures incurred other than the mere purchase price?

In addition to our purchase price . . . .

WHY didn't the TV Commentator mention our cost of settlement fees for purchasing a property which include paying a lawyer to search the title, paying a transfer tax to the City for buying the property and paying the State and Federal Government tax stamps?

WHY didn't the TV Commentator mention our cost of mortgage payments including interest, real property taxes, and ground rent while renovations and improvements are undertaken and while waiting for a potential buyer?

WHY did the reporter continue to mislead his audience by completely ignoring the largest expenditure of renovations and improvements to the property? We completely renovate every home we purchase installing, where necessary, anything from a new roof to a birch kitchen to a new heating plant. This expenditure usually runs from a minimum of $1,000 to as much as $3,000. Certainly very few homes could be purchased after having been occupied for many years and not need to be renovated and improved to attract an intelligent and selective buyer.

WHY was there no mention of our advertising costs to indicate to the public there is a house for sale?

WHY did the reporter fail to mention that our homes are fully guaranteed for one year covering all repair costs at no charge to the buyer?

WHY was there no mention by our accusers of the commission paid by us to salesmen for selling a home?

WHY didn't the TV Commentator and his guest indicate that our Company has normal overhead expenses, such as office rent, employee's salaries, electric lighting bills, telephone bills and many other expenses?

One can see that not only are there numerous major expenditures above our purchase price on a home but many operating expenses as well. The false picture of a purchase price and a selling price now takes on a different light.

Do we now realize our profit?

No! Whatever profit remaining is not immediately realized. This potential profit takes anywhere from 10 to 20 years to be realized! On the other hand, when buying a product off the shelf of a store, the seller realizes his profit the moment the buyer pays for the article.

Were the TV Reporter and his guest that immature and naive as to the basic concepts of any normal business? Were they not aware that in any business there is no commodity that can go from the manufacturer or the distributer or the retail outlet to the consumer without incurring many expenses other than the initial manufacturing cost or purchase price?

Because this is a matter of simple arithmetic, we can only conclude the the accusation was made from malice, not ignorance.

This Is A Fact!

We bring to your attention these flagrant untruths which, through the irresponsibility of the TV Commentator and other critics, have been permitted to circulate about the M. Goldseker Company.

On one point do we agree to the charges brought against us. The Guest on the television program stated that "M. Goldseker has been leading the exodus of the colored population of Baltimore out of the ghetto for the last (30) to thirty-five (35) years."

This is a fact: When restrictive codes prevented Negro families from leaving sub-standard housing for decent homes, even when they could afford it, we were providing good housing.

When no Government Agency at any level – city, state or nationl – concerned themselves with this problem, the M. Goldseker Company assisted Negro buyers to obtain mortgages. We offered financial assistance when families were in danger of losing homes because they could not meet mortgage payments when illness, strikes, or loss of employment for some other reason occurred.

Now that discriminatory real estate selling has been struck down by law, the M. Goldseker Company is continuing to participate in the same orderly way as in the past by supplying houses in areas in which Negro families have shown a desire to move. We have never used "scare" tactics!!

Long before most of today's so-called "civic action" groups were created, the M. Goldseker Company was attempting to do a needed job. Proof that we've treated our customers fairly is the fact that children of families we sold homes to thirty (30) years ago, who are grown and establishing families of their own, are turning to our Company for homes.

Now it is the M. Goldseker Company's turn to accuse. We accuse the TV Commentator and his Guest and our other critics of gross irresponsibility. We accuse them of feeding the fires of prejudice, merely to increase their audience.

We accuse the TV Commentator of failing to follow the basic commandments of decent reporting; discover the facts before, not after the story is published.

It is only because we have maintained such cordial relations with the Negro community for the past three (3) generations that we feel these unjustified accusations will not have the desired effect.

If our critics wish a lesson in civic responsibility, the M. Goldseker Company will be pleased to provide it. After all, we have been practicing for over thirty-five years, what these critics have just started to preach.

M. Goldseker Real Estate