EDITORIALS

What The AFRO Stands For

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts of the city

Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.

Extensive and untrammeled black political power.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems, except those constitutionally authorized.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

School Board Consensus

The Baltimore City School Board has selected Associate Superintendent Sterling S. Keyes as interim superintendent, pending appointment of a permanent head to succeed Dr. Thomas D. Sheldon, now on a new job in New York.

The unanimous 8-0 vote (the ninth member has not yet been confirmed), came after four long private meetings marked by considerable soul searching, wrangling, dealing and threats of resignation.

Mr. Keyes is the new man in Baltimore schools whom Dr. Sheldon brought with him when he came from Hempstead, New York. During the brief two years he has done a creditable job.

Our quarrel with the board's appointment of Mr. Keyes is not a personal one. It is merely because in selecting him to "keep the store" the board bypassed the Number One Associate Superintendent, William Pinderhughes, who has frequently acted in Dr. Sheldon's absence and is generally considered the Number Two man in the system.

This is bad precedent. In the past the ranking associate superintendents have taken the interim spot.

Failure of the recently restructured D'Alesandro board, headed by Robert L. Karwacki, to follow tradition is a slap in the face to an able, tried and true Baltimore educator, Mr. Pinderhughes.

The fact that it took four meetings for the board to arrive at its unanimous decision is a victory for the D'Alesandro-Karwacki emphasis on consensus.

In our judgment it is not a victory for the City of Baltimore and public schools, because we have learned from the past that progress does not come with concensus.

Credit For Dr. Julian

Although Mayor D'Alesandro has named another conservative, Councilman Emerson R. Julian, D-4th, deserves credit from the community for the work he did that resulted in Miss Norma Svejda's withdrawing as a school board nominee.

Miss Svejda, a former public school teacher, was so concerned about not having her record as a teacher made known that she chose to step aside. Obviously, she would not have made a good school board member. If for no other reason, her concern about having her record exposed might have made her susceptible to pressures from anyone with knowledge of it.

Someone who may have had problems while employed in the school system should not be put in a role where she could take revenge.

And while it did not get a big play, questions were raised about the relationship of Miss Svejda and black students she worked with as a teacher.

Dr. Julian could have overlooked the charges brought to his attention by former associates of Miss Svejda, but he did not. Often a public official checks on such charges only to find the claimants have overstated or misunderstood the facts.

But if an official is conscientious about the public trust, he looks into every charge brought to his attention if he can determine any merit to them.

Dr. Julian's growing reputation for devoting this type attention to his councilmanic duties led the concerned teachers to bring their knowledge of Miss Svejda's record to him.

They expected action from him. They got it.

And Baltimore's City Council avoided making a mistake that could have caused great damage to the teachers and students of the public school system.

Mandel Dodges Issue

State Senator Clarence Mitchell III called the shots accurately when he dubbed Gov. Marvin Mandel a major disappointment to the black community.

The young senator was right when he criticized Gov. Mandel for having a lily-white cabinet.

Also, he was dead on target when he said Gov. Mandel's example was a lousy one. How can he expect underlings to give credence to his noble statements on equality of opportunity when the chief executive flagrantly violates the spirit of fair employment?

Not only did Gov. Mandel fill all 11 secretarial positions in the government with whites, all the deputies are white too and he has done nothing spectacular in the way of choosing blacks for other state jobs.

Instead of answering Senator Mitchell's valid and significant charges, Gov. Mandel and his press aide stooped to evasive nonsense.

It is no answer to say that Mr. Mitchell is an unannounced candidate for mayor of Baltimore City and is trying to get publicity by making charges against the governor.

Likewise, it is no answer to say that Sen. Mitchell has not been as diligent as he might have been in taking part in committee meetings in Annapolis. Any shortcomings the senator had in this regard were known to Gov. Mandel when he showed up at that Baltimore testimonial to boost Mr. Mitchell's reelection.

Apparently, Gov. Mandel can see eight long years in the State House without paying too much attention to Maryland's black voters.

Many blacks are not surprised by this attitude.

They voted for the governor in the General Election because there was not an acceptable alternative in the Democratic primary nor in the Republican column.

If he continues to ignore black Marylanders the way he has thus far, Gov. Mandel may find himself a disappointment to thousands of white voters also.

Gov. Mandel should not think criticism of him in the black community is confined to Senator Mitchell and those legislators in Annapolis who supported his attack. Nor should he be deluded by the fact one major black political faction in Baltimore has not taken him to task publicly for his shortchanging of the black community.

The governor cannot escape the damaging truism that his is a lily-white cabinet and that his record of black appointments should be better, a lot better. He should stop trying to dodge the issue and start making some changes.

Pity Poor Ole George

Everyone knows Father of Our Country, First U.S. President George Washington, has not had an easy time of it since they first laid him to rest. For years there have been tales whispered around about his being "the father of our country" in more ways than one.

Then too, there has been enough historical evidence recorded to result in the saying, "He wasn't worth a quarter" as far as black citizens and their rights were concerned in his day.

Further, his reputation failed to improve as various historical societies threw up roadside markers at scores of taverns and inns. Motorists still gossip and giggle behind their hands every time they see, "George Washington slept here" signs.

But, with the coming this year of the new Federal long holiday weekend that moves his Feb. 22 birthday celebration up to Feb. 15, this has to be George's "last straw."

Come Monday when children explain they're out of school because it's the 15th and it's George Washington's Birthday, he'll flip in his grave.

Proud though dead George is, he knows this sudden shift from his correct natural date is going to bring more and more tragedy in the years to come.

What with Feb. 22 due to be celebrated most any day in the month as the decades go by, tomorrow's kids will ask, "When is the cat's birthday anyhow?"

Will Minister Try For Mayor?

There may be a sleeper in the mayor's race this year that he one has been taking into consideration.

No announcements are being made, in fact even thinking might result in denials, but don't be surprised later to see the Rev. Marion C. Bascom's name brought into the election picture.

The Rev. Mr. Bascom, pastor of Douglas Memorial Community Church and a member of the Fire Board, would run as the Republican if he is talked into making the race.

He would make a good candidate.

Republicans and some independents who are hoping the Rev. Mr. Bascom will make the race especially want him to be available in the event no black candidate gets through the Democratic primary.

City Solicitor George L. Russell Jr. and State Senator Clarence Mitchell III are seen as potential Democratic aspirants.

It still may be a bit early to smoke out a Republican candidate's plans because he might not have the same pressing need to raise large funds in time for a primary fight.

But the closer the mayoralty election gets, the more interesting it becomes. And if the Rev. Mr. Bascom does agree to get into the fray, the city is in for a terribly expensive election, especially if Mr. Russell does not run or fails to get through the Democratic primary.

COLUMNS

"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

Just Maim Him As A Lesson

LETTERS

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, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Completely Asinine

Dear AFRO:

The audacity of many of your readers having chastised Parren J. Mitchell's refusal, along with other black members of the House, is amusing, if not outright asinine.

I think we can safely bet, that none of these "civic minded, fair play" advocates, had the qualm when Friedel for years neglected the attitudes and opinions of his black constituency.

And, I suspect, that had the boy in the White House denied an audience to a Jewish delegation, the response would have been tumultuous.

I know Parren isn't a despicable racist and I further know that his activities will show that consistently in the future.

But more imperative, is his individual commitment to the minority faction of his district, which heretofore has gone without any representation.

A minority politician has but one of two duties; to wield power and influence to the best advantage of an oppressed people, or that failing, to expose for public consumption and subsequent action, the evil doings of those sworn to uphold the rights of the people.

He rightly deserves the support of all concerned citizens, in his efforts to bring about this kind of conformity, whatever means he employs, so long as they are consistent with humanity.

HARRY C. R. WILLIAMS III
Educational Coordinator,
Community Learning Center

New Enoch Pratt Branch

Dear AFRO:

Recently, I attended the opening of the new Enoch Pratt Free Library branch, Branch No. 5, at Broadway and Orleans Street, in East Baltimore. The building is a most modern public facility.

To the community area that the library serves, this is your public library. It's upkeep and useful purposes are for you.

But this is what I want to get across to the citizens of the community.

The majority of the community is black. The black ghetto communities of Baltimore have often brought up the fact that most all of the modern public buildings are always being built in the rich white and black suburban areas. Well, now the urban blacks have a beautiful modern public library, book rooms, many friendly, helpful librarians etc.

There is a ramp outside leading into the building for the crippled and, the handicapped persons to easily enter the library. The meeting room is on the ground floor level, with an outside door leading directly into the meeting room, making it easily accessible for the crippled and handicapped.

It is truly a structure to be proud of. And it is up to the community to see that it is kept free of broken windows, wordings scrawled on the building, stolen and mutilated books, noise and troublemaking in and around the building.

I've visited several such beautiful libraries when I resided in Washington and Virginia. Blacks there are proud and keep up the libraries beautifully.

So now the blacks of East Baltimore hvse a library to be proud of. So please, children especially, in like you would your own home and families.

Motor Vehicles

Dear AFRO:

Where are our political friends or representatives that age supposed to serve the people's best interests, junior and senior citizens? Will they let the legislation of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles get to the home plate?

The legislation to me is unfair, discriminating to the whites and blacks and could be a political scheme to take more money from the pockets of the people, plus time.

Isn't the accident rate more with the young people than the senior citizens?

Why is the insurance rates for the young, up to 25 years of age, more than the senior citizens? Should the majority be bugged for a few available handicaps that may cause an accident?

There are many young people whose reflexes do not cope with the 60 and 70 speed limits. I have done and do much traveling, and most of the older people that I see on the highways, keep on the right lanes and do not drive 60 or 70 miles per hour.

Who is going to pay the cost of the Commissioner's legislation if passed, the homeowners again?

I hope the AFRO will look into the Commissioner's legislation for the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

REV. G. S. McGUIRE

Ready Help For Elderly

Dr. Neil Solomon, secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, has praised the new state-wide Information and Referral Service for the Aging, established by the Health and Welfare Council of the Baltimore Area.

The secretary said that the service makes it easier for elderly persons and their families to determine what resources are available to them and where and how to obtain them, and is a much needed one and encouraged its use by Marylanders in need of such guidance.

Headquarters for the service is located in the lobby of the State Roads Commission Building, 300 W. Preston St., Baltimore 21201. Office hours are from 9 a. m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The telephone number for those calling from the Baltimore area is: 685-0555; and the toll-free line for the remainder of Maryland is: 1-800-492-0270.

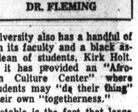
Nights and weekends, when the office is unattended, telephone messages are recorded and will be answered by the staff on the next work day.

The Information and Referral Service for the Aging is financed by the State Commission on Aging of the Maryland Department of Employment and Social Services.

NOW And THEN

Traveling In Wisc.

with G. JAMES FLEMING


DR. FLEMING

Three-foot high snowdrifts, closed highways, downed power lines, and below-zero temperatures made Wisconsin not the place to be last week. But there I was.

The most interesting stop was the People's Brewery, in Oshkosh, now in its 60th year, and recently bought by a predominantly black corporation. Its president is social-worker-turned-businessman, Theodore Mack Sr., once personnel officer of Pabst and former president of Milwaukee.

People's produces both a "Blue" and a "Red" labelled beer which sells all over northern Wisconsin and parts of Illinois. You can also buy it on the campuses of the state colleges and universities, and at the Milwaukee sports arena.

Both experts and non-experts swear that it is a good beer. Presently, its goal is 70,000 barrels per year. Next year's goal is set for 100,000 barrels.

Mack resents reporters and commentators referring to his company as a "black brewing company" since "when they talk about the other breweries they do not say they are 'white' brewing companies."

But, he is even more concerned about making good, in order that his business "may be an example to other black-owned enterprises."

He feels that the most promising road to success for blacks is to take over (BUY) already-established concerns, so that they will not have "to start from scratch."

"It calls for too much money to start everything — to find a location, to secure equipment, to train help, to build up a market, and to wait for returns," Mr. Mack holds. "Whereas, when a man buys a going business, the waiting period is shortened and he builds on what has gone on before — an established market, experienced workers, existing plant, etc., etc."

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People's Brewery, under 40-year-old Mack, has kept all the customers, except two, which the old owners had, and it has added many new outlets. In addition, it has added 900 new stockholders, made up of Wisconsinites across racial, religious and nationality lines.

Mack also believes that more blacks must buy themselves producing something that the larger public wants, and producing it at high quality. This, is the road, he says, to the real power, "green power."

Oshkosh, compared with past years, has grown up and out,—this growth symbolized by the Wisconsin State University — Oshkosh, with 10,000 students (and superseding the old teachers college).

Like other educational institutions, SWU — Oshkosh is trying to make a meaningful thrust in the direction of black studies — both for its white and black students.

The black students, (under 100, it seems) are just as questioning and demanding as elsewhere, and they are a promising group who are bound to make a real contribution in the years to come.

The university also has a handful of blacks on its faculty and a black assistant dean of students, Kirk Holt. Further, it has provided an "Afro-American Culture Center" where black students may "do their thing" within their own "togetherness."

Most notable is the fact that large numbers of white students are taking the courses in the Afro-American curriculum whereas, in some other places, these courses end-up being for blacks only — those few blacks who actually enroll. For instance, the enrolment in "Black American Literature" is so large it must be taught in five different sections. The "Blacks in American Politics" numbers 47 whites and three blacks.

Top-level endorsement is given to the Afro-American emphasis, as evidenced by the fact that the dean of the College of Liberal Arts attended two of the sessions at which I spokes, while the president of the university attended the lecture on "Blacks and Politics."

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Next came Milwaukee, from where I first received an invitation to speak to the College Endowment Association, an organization of several hundred women, which has been meeting twenty weeks out of every year, for the past 80 years.

Why do they meet? "For enlightenment and in order to keep up. . ." via lectures, films, and the like. Our topic was, "Making Room for New Faces in Politics."

They also underwrite scholarships and a professorship at Lawrence College.

Thanks to Joy Teschner, a college classmate, and to Mrs. Ralph W. Ells, president, and Mrs. Howard J. Lee, program chairman, for a good visit.

The Teschners (Joyce and husband Dick, a tax lawyer) also made it possible for me to meet old and new friends and to learn row blacks are doing in Milwaukee politically, economically and so far as housing and population (14 per cent black) are concerned. Among those we met (largely over cocktails) were:

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Hazel Maxwell, former Washingtonian, who has just stepped down as president of the Milwaukee YWCA and is now chairman of the County Library Board; her husband, Dr. John Maxwell Sr., County Commissioner Clinton Rose, and Mrs. Rose, the latter high in the U.S. Customs Service;

Also, Mrs. Pauline Coggs, former Washington social worker, now with the University of Wisconsin Extension; Mr. and Mrs. Emile O'Bee, a funeral directing twosome, but, in earlier years, she was a civic activist in Detroit.

The Teschners also showed us around the new Center for the Performing Arts (of which Dick Teschner was chairman of the development committee). We also saw some gianti-sized circular high-risers for senior citizens, and heard the same stories, as in Baltimore, of how people suffer as government uproots neighborhoods under the name of "renewal" or for building expressways.

TOGETHER

Redistricting; the City's 6th District

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

I was very glad to see Councilwoman Victorine Adams so vehemently opposed to the new redistricting scheme, which will continue to dilute the black vote in the city, until it will have less black votes than it does in the City Council now, and for years to come.

Everyone, however, has written off the Sixth District, not realizing that white people in the Sixth District don't vote in numbers, THEY ARE VOTED.

I have documented proof of irregularities in the polls in the 1967 Councilmanic Election, in which I had watchers and challengers, where: people were paid off to vote; election judges went into booths to help allegedly illiterate voters (who could write their names legibly and quickly); tally sheets were intercepted on the way to the Fifth Regiment Armory;

Voting places were changed from public places to houses, barber shops of the land of Luminaria and where the watchers and challengers were threatened with bodily harm or were forbidden to enter the polling places.

Therefore, during the 1968 campaigns of Parren Mitchell, I trained challengers and watchers, and in the 1970 campaigns of Mitchell, Allen, Murphy, Chester and Dean, an accelerated training program paid off, unearthing all kinds of scull-duggery in far flung voting areas across the city.

The same vigilant watching attack should be made in the Sixth District for whatever black candidate runs.

Councilman Leone, having won in 1967 by the skin of his teeth, hopes to forestall this event by putting the 24th Ward (white and racist) back into the Sixth District, to insure his re-election. He sponsored the petition in the council for redistricting.

He lives in the 24th Ward and needs the extra white votes he controls desperately if he expects to win against a vigorous black campaigner.

We must block this Gerrymander attempt quickly

The back of the segregationists in the City Council has to be broken this year, with the fielding of black candidates in every conceivable district where a win is possible, or it will be too late while the city remains solvent.

It is in the City Council where racism flourishes in regard to re-zoning, to appointments on boards and commissions, to approval of positions and salaries.

It is in the City Council where budgets for education, parks and recreation, health, poverty programs, legal aid services, model-cities, experimental welfare programs are cut or rejected.

It is in the City Council where metropolitan government will be acted upon.

It is in the City Council where the voice of the silent "minority" is heard while the city suffers from lack of vision, from divisiveness and corruption.

We have a great stake in this redistricting and we must see that it is equitable for the black citizens of this city, who have suffered too long under this particular kind of racism, otherwise we shall continue to suffer for a long time.

Poet's Nook

Rain Frogs

When it rains
They fill lawn and lanes
And it's perfectly queer
That after a pour
I ponder as I've done before
Where do they disappear?

PAUL D. McALLISTER

PAGE OPPOSITE

If You Ask Me

BY BETTYE MOSS

MRS. MOSS

A Prayer For The Week

Dear Lord, we thank Thee for the beauty of this day and the joy of living in it. Help us to be mindful of the needs of others and to do our best to relieve suffering, ignorance and injustice.

Help us, further, O Lord, to understand that those who pose as friends, whether they occupy high or low office, often mouth platitudes which have an empty ring when they are called on to produce.

Help us to remember that Thou who made us all would have us remember Thy teachings and forgive those among us who are selfish, evil, mean and downright ornery.

Help us not to follow their example but rather to keep kind and sweet and charitable as Thou would have us be. — AMEN

Happiness Is Many Things

Our happiness section is devoted this week to the following heartwarming letter from Mrs. Marian E. Spencer, who writes:

"Dear Mrs. Moss, about three weeks ago — early on a Saturday morning — I phoned your home to ask you about a teenage band that you had written about in one of your articles in the AFRO over a year ago.

"Your recall was fantastic — but that band was now out-of-town — so with sincere interest you and your teenage daughter came up with a suggestion for me to phone Mr. Nichols who manages the Landels. . .

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"Well, the rest of the story is just as fantastic as the beginning and at this point let me add to your HAPPINESS IS:

"HAPPINESS IS when you have a problem (even of a minor nature) and people who don't even know you — assume a genuine interest in your cause and offer their suggestions.

"Well, I phoned Mr. Nichols and I spoke to his wife, Ann Nichols. We had a most pleasant conversation — her husband was not at home but she took the message and later that evening I reached her husband.

"Mr. Nichols suggested a young teenagé band that was "trying to get extra exposure" — "The Northwest Seven."

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"Mr. Nichols indicates that if I wasn't satisfied with the arrangements that I should phone him again and he would see what else he could do. At this point, I couldn't help asking myself — "Where are all these beautiful people" coming from?

"I talked to Tommy Harper of the Northwest Seven group and we made arrangements. . .

"So, thanks to you and your daughter, my daughter, Sondra Lynn Spencer, celebrated her Sixteen Party on Saturday, January 30th and forty teenagers enjoyed the music of the Northwest Seven.

"The Northwest Seven consists of: Marshall Ferebee-lead; Michael Cunningham-bass; Aubrey Williamson-singer; Edward Cunningham-drum; Roderick Ferebee-drum; Jimi Cook-organ; Lonnie D.-trumpet; Danny Harper-trumpet.

"Some of those present at the party were: James Washington, Teddy, Steven and Teresa Shannon, Valerie Miller, Wanda Mason, Lyndale Parker;

And, Karen and Wanda Trent, Donna Hayes, James Church, Ronald Wilson, Juaneau Rogers, Lamont Perry.

Also, Cynthia Keys, Richard, Worth, Robin and Scherrie Mays, Glenn and Patricia Maxey, Harold and Valerie Clark, Allen Carter, Bobby, Kenneth and Janice Thompson, Marchell Johnson, Larry Wright, Melanie Paschall, Angie Boyles, Debbie, Peggy, and Denise Bosley, Gordon James.

"Best wishes to you and your family and do continue reporting all sorts of little tidbits — you probably come to the rescue of many other "poor souls" without even knowing it — but I just had to tell you about all the kindnesses I encountered which indirectly you were a part of."

This editor's note: Happiness is when you get an unsolicited letter like this from a reader. Happiness is friendly people.

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Cuff note about Sondra Spencer, the youngster whose mother wrote our happiness letter this week:

Sondra is a tenth grader at Park School in Brooklandville, Md. She has an 11-year-old sister who attends Hebbville Elementary School.

Their birthdays are one day apart — Diana (the 11-year-old) was born on January 26 — Sondra's birthday is January 27th.

Her mother, Mrs. Spencer is a home visitor with the BCPS. Her father, Milton Spencer, is a plainclothes police officer in Western District.

People, Places And Things

It's a girl for the Rev. and Mrs. Frank Madison Reid, formerly of Baltimore, now of Washington, where he is minister of Metropolitan AME Church.

Baby weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces when she arrived Jan. 29 at Sibley House.

Baby will probably be named Karla Francette Miriam. I say probably, because dad is not due home from abroad until today.

He has been in Cape Town, S. Africa since July 18. There, he attended the 75th jubilee of the AME Church. He stopped in Monrovia earlier this week and will be home to see the baby for the first time today.

Mrs. Reid is the former Mrs. Irene Schmoke, onetime Baltimore social worker. Her son, by a former marriage, is the named athlete, Kurt Schmoke, now 21.

Hellos to the new Reid baby will reach her if addressed to 2237 Sudbury Rd., in Washington, D.C., 20012.

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College note: If you have an eleventh grader in your household who is thinking about going to college, he or she should be registered to take the National Merit Scholarship Test on February 27.

Send $2.25 to the Counselor at the school and in turn the student will be given all of the information for the test.

Any eleventh grader can and should take this test.

Get well cards, please to John Hall, the Social Security employee, who has been confined to Sinai Hospital since last week.

He and his wife, Philathea, reside at 1900 Ruxton Ave. No visitors, please. Send cards to his home.

More, About People, Things

Congrats to Mrs. Mary Carter Smith, the Baltimore librarian lecturer and author, who is winning fame all over the U.S. and abroad.

Her latest accomplishment: Her 18 poems for children from her book, "Town Child," have been selected for a teaching record by the Lutheran Church in America.

The record was cut in December, is due for release soon.

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CUFF NOTE: Officer William D. Henry, formerly of Baltimore has completed a 12-week recruit class with the Executive Protective Service at the Secret Service Training Center in Washington.

Officer Henry is a 1967 graduate of Edmondson High School.

Prior to his appointment to the Executive Protective Service, Officer Henry served as a Military Policeman with the United States Marine Corps.

He is the son of Mrs. G. McPherson of the 5600 block of Winner Ave.

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Date note: — The Greater Baltimore Section, National Council of Negro Women, will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, at 2 p.m., at the Madison Ave. YWCA.

Guest speakers for the meeting will be Mrs. Helena Hicks, Day Care specialist of the Maryland Department of Social Services, and William Oglesbee, Staff Development Associate of the Social Security Administration.

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Mrs. Marion Banfield, social worker with Family and Children's Society and co-chairman of the Mayor's Task Force on Education will speak on "A Look at Baltimore City Schools" on Saturday at the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress-Maryland Women's Division.

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Note from Kaiserslautern, advises that Staff Sergeant Ralph Leo Wilson, son of Mrs. Edith Louise Brown, of 1509 Bay Street, Morehead City, N.C., was promoted to his present rank at the Headquarters, 32d Army Air Defense Command (32d AADCOM), here.

Sergeant Wilson is an engineer supply sergeant. He is presently serving on a Logistics Proficiency Inspection Team. He travels to the various 32d AADCOM units inspecting logistical (supply) items and procedures.

The 32-year-old soldier entered the Army in May, 1959. He completed his eight-week Basic Combat Training course at Fort Benning, Ga. Prior to his assignment here, he was stationed at Camp Pickett, Va.

Sergeant Wilson currently resides here in the Vogelweh Housing Area with his wife Vera Loraine, daughter of Mrs. Ada Jones of Mondawmin Ave., Balto.

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E. Thomas Williams, on two years leave of absence from his post as manager at the Mondawmin Branch Maryland National Bank is ill at Provident Hospital.

Mr. Williams, whose wife is the former Miss Audlyn Higgins, is now on an Urban Affairs post as a representative for the American Bankers Association and has offices at the Riggs National Bank in Washington.

In Room 4008-A, Mr. Williams was reported as improving at AFRO presstime.

In the Spotlight

"PERCEPTIONS OF A STREET N——R"

". . . That's how I really got my education — on the streets, and having been on the streets most of my young days made it difficult for me when I went to school."

Avon Bellamy, 30, presently involved in the authorship of a book of prose, was giving the AFRO his reasons for entitling his work "Perceptions ..."

Mr. Bellamy lives on Elgin Ave. with his wife, Florence and their son Avon, Jr. He attended Douglass and Edmondson High Schools in Baltimore, and Bates Jr. High in Annapolis, Md.

After receiving his high school diploma by equivalency, Mr. Bellamy was matriculated into Morgan State College.

At Morgan he was recognized as "Reporter of the Year" '69-'70, and earned three certificates of merit for his contributions to the Promethean Yearbook, the Spokesman Newspaper, and the Anthology, a student publication of prose and poetry.

He was awarded a fellowship to study at Johns Hopkins University, where he is now participating in their Master's program in writing seminar.

"At Hopkins, they're free . . . tremendously free. Guidelines for study are not rigid in the sense that things are blue-printed by everyone else. It's individual effort; you know that you have work to complete by the end of the year and how you complete it is your business. There's an advisor whose roll is to help you do your thing.

"School, however, postpones living. Education ought to be living based on your life style. Education as it exists in its present state is merely programming.

"It doesn't require any more than a good memory which earns good grades. The only thing education does in this country is sustain a system which has demonstrated that it will take advantage of black folks."

"In order for black people to achieve freedom, they've got to be mentally freeing people.

"The poetry that I write is dedicated to abolishing white thought in Black America. When you the (reader approach my material you have to free yourself in order to understand it. The language is used to formulate and produce unique thinking and ideas . . . ideas which are free from myth."

AVON BELLAMY

Three poems from the pen of Mr. Bellamy "If kisses Could Be Registered . . ," "Caroline and Me," "The Park Had a Mystical Beauty..." "will be included in Black Anthology, Idlewild Pub. Co., in Calif.

Another work will appear in the February issue of Urban Impact — "The Ego Is Black People."

Speaking on the roots of his revolutionary literature, Mr. Bellamy says: "I have been an activist for 'me' all my years. It stems from my father, Alfred Bellamy Sr. whose thing was don't take nothing off of nobody. Through him my brothers and sisters acquired a sense of pride in ourselves . . . from kids we were always outspoken."

My mother, Mrs. Doris Bellamy was the same way."

"After Hopkins, I will continue to write the kinds of analytical materials which I have been writing. The reason for this is that people have divorced themselves from creativity ... from things that you perceive and which go on in your world every day. Unless you can make reality creative, 'art' is a farce. How do you "flower" life if it is not that way. If you can make somebody else see your world as you see it, this is 'art.'

The function of black writers is to tell the truth . . . Our works must support what is true . . . what is real. It is our role to teach our people to analyze instead of memorize."

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 postcard 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 can be found.

Dear AFRO:

I am sending this letter in regard to the mistake that was in February 6, 1971 edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN. The pictures that were in the Family Fare section were taken at the Community College of Baltimore, not Morgan and the names of the ladies on the bottom row were somehow reversed.

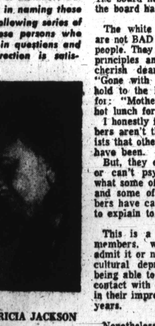
I cannot say who the other two young ladies are, but the first young lady on the left on the bottom row is Miss Windford Washington. I know this was an honest mistake and I thought you would like to know of the correction.

MISS WINDFORD WASHINGTON

OOPS WE GOOFED! Thanks to Miss Windford Washington who wrote the lead letter in this week's column we learned that a mistake was made in the description of a photo which ran last week. We know that the persons shown in the photo were among the 6,000 students at the Community College of Baltimore but we made the error in naming these we featured. The following series of pictures are of these persons who were in the photo in questions and we hope the correction is satisfactory.

MISS RITTA J. TREADWELL WINDFORD

MISS WASHINGTON

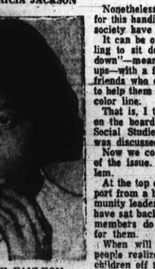

PATRICIA JACKSON

MISS EMILY JONES

QUESTION: I found a two inch needle in a loaf of bread I bought last Friday. I haven't yet returned the bread to the store. What should I do with it?

MISS JOYCE FAULKON

ANSWER: Suggest you call the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., and ask for help. The central Legal Aid office is at 341 N. Calvert St., phone 539-5340.



It's NOT A Man's World

PAUL EVANS

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Today, one worker in every three is a woman.

Three out of five women workers are married. One out of three married women works.

Last year 33 million women worked at some time during the year. So we can see that working for wages does not end with marriage.

As a working woman, do you know what your rights and responsibilities are?

If you don't know what your rights are — at least in general — you won't be able to use them. Laws do differ in various states concerning property, marriage and divorce, and the relations of parents and children.

Historically, family and property laws provided different rights for married women than for married men.

Under the old laws, it has been said, husband and wife were one and that one was the husband.

Many of the differences between these rights have been abolished, but some remain.

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The questions and answers that follow can be a general guide to your rights as a married woman who works outside her home.

Q. Who has the right to decide where the family lives?

A. Your husband, as the person legally responsible for family support, has the right to make this decision.

Unless he agrees to a separate residence, legally you must live where he provides the home, which is usually where he works.

Q. Who is responsible for family support?

A. In almost all states, your husband must support you and the children to the best of his ability.

If he is sick or for some other good reason is unable to provide support, then you must support the family to the extent that you are able.

In some states, both the husband and the wife are legally obligated to pay family expenses.

Q. Who owns property bought for family use?

A. Whether you work for wages or work in the home, your efforts as a member of the marriage partnership make it possible for the family to acquire possessions such as a house, furniture, and an automobile.

In the community property States, property acquired by joint efforts during the marriage belongs equally to husband and wife.

In other states, it is a wise practice to buy all property and possessions in both names; otherwise, it belongs to the person named in the title.

Q. If you buy or contribute money toward a major family purchase, such as a car or a television set, what are your rights to ownership?

A. Unless there is a rule or a record establishing otherwise, such purchases are generally considered to be the property of the husband.

It is wise family practice to put the bill of sale in both names.

This will help protect your interest in the event your husband dies or the marriages ends in separation or divorce.

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Q. Can you have a bank account in your own name?

A. Yes. In all states, whether you are employed or not, you do not need to have your husband's consent to start a bank account.

Q. Can you use money you earn in any way you wish?

A. Yes. In most states it is your separate property and you may buy things, or invest your money, or keep it in your own bank account.

However, in the community property states earnings belong to the common fund and usually are controlled by the husband.

Q. If you work in your husband's business, do you have a legal right to be paid?

A. No. Legally in most states your husband does not have to pay you if you work in his business.

Some states, however, allow you to make a contract with your husband which obligates him to pay you for working in his business or profession.

Q. If your husband borrows money from you, can you make him pay it back?

A. Yes, in most states; but you would probably have to bring a legal action to accomplish this.

If you have a problem getting borrowed money back, discuss it with a lawyer or the Legal Aid Society.

Odds and Ends

By PAUL EVANS

This writer has tried to refrain from commenting on the problems which have plagued the Board of School Commissioners since late summer. The board being on my reporter's "beat," I felt it would be best for of this newspaper, far as humanly possible, were presented the broad, objective view, void of opinion and commentary.

I am almost certain that by the both the BLACK and WHITE readers time you read this column the board will have named an interim superintendent to succeed Dr. Thomas D. Sheldon, now residing in New York.

But, in a way, no matter who is named to the top school executive post, the main problems of the board will still not have been solved.

The board has WHITE problems. The board has BLACK problems and the board has GRAY problems.

The white members of the board are not BAD people. They are human people. They have loyalties to certain principles and ideologies which they cherish dearly and fear may be "Gone with the wind" if they don't hold to the hard line and stand up for: "Motherhood, America and a hot lunch for orphans."

I honestly feel that the white members aren't the vicious, die-hard racists that other members of their race have been.

But, they either don't want to see or can't psychologically understand what some of the black young people and some of the black board members have and sincerely tried to explain to them.

This is a handicap to the white members, whether they want to admit it or not. This may stem from cultural deprivation; that is, not being able to have a large variety of contact with different types of people in their impressionable and formative years.

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Nonetheless, whatever the reasons for this handicap, many whites in our society have it.

It can be overcome if they are willing to sit down and "let their hair down"—meaning their racial hang-ups—with a few compassionate black friends who can be objective enough to help them see the other side of the color line.

That is, I think, the white problem on the board. The way in which the Social Studies Revision Commission was discussed is a singular example. Now we come to the BLACK problem.

At the top of the list is lack of support from a broad base of black community leaders, until it was too late. have sat back and let the black board members do their dirty, hard work for them.

When will more and more black people realize: when they send their children off to school in the morning their futures are at stake?

I mean this literally. What black children learn in their classrooms each day has an overwhelming effect on their emotional, academic, and social maturity in a society which measures its successful people on how well they can play the games and put up the best "front" and not let themselves be really human.

Whether black children can go beyond just making money in life and putting up the best "front" will for a long time to come be determined by the type of education they will receive from their teachers.

This will largely be drawn upon what type of persons are seated on the board, which is the sole determiner of the basic policy of the schools.

Another aspects of the BLACK problem is that the black members became desperate when they found that they would have to go it alone.

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This desperate state led them to say some things to people in the black community and on the board — and also do some things—which they hadn't done in the past.

This led them to see that they would have to be BLACK first and school commissioners second. It was unfortunate that their roles had to be split. Why couldn't they have been able to be 1971 black school board members and not pre-1954 black Baltimoreans?

Desperation led them to this action. Old ugly politics reared their heads in City Council and familiar words and personalities of racial battles now long dead began to emerge.

The black school commissioners were forced back into roles that too many blacks know existed for too long in Baltimore and still are not yet silent. Black survival was at stake.

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The GRAY problems on the board are the issues and ideas and conflicts which confront us all as an American people living in the last third of an unbelievably fast, momentous century.

Man has made more progress in the 20th century than all those which had existed before.

When will the board overcome its BLACK and WHITE problems and get on to the GRAY ones?

For if the GRAY ones aren't solved, you can forget the others, the world will be gone.

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, and the cowardice of compromise.

John H. Murphy, Sr.—1920