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.

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

The Resurrection

(St. John, XX, 1-17)

1. The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid Him.

3. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple and came to the sepulchre.

4. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

5. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

6. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

7. And the napkin, that was about His head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

8. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

9. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

10. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

11. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the sepulchre.

12. And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him.

14. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing Him to be the gardener, saith unto Him, Sir, if Thou have borne Him hence, tell me where Thou ast laid Him, and I will take Him away.

16. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto Him, Rabboni, which is to say, Master.

17. Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.

Dr. King's Heritage

Sunday, April 4, marked the third anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. Many around the nation and the world will never forget that Dark Day in Memphis, Tennessee, when Dr. King was trying to help the downtrodden sanitation workers in their struggle for better working conditions and just pay.

A look-back in history and a realization of what has transpired in America since 1968 provide clear evidence of why Dr. King was in Memphis that Dark Day. Black people there were victims of corruption in high government circles, and are still victims of unjust practices and unfair traditions which keep them on the lowest rung of the economic ladder.

Dr. King was there to help change the situation. He did help, and he paid for his efforts with his life. Few men in history have given so much.

Ironically all black people have been blamed by a few misguided persons for the destructive rioting and violent words of a few in the wake of the assassination. Then, as now, such charges were made to prevent black people from gaining full equality.

There is a profound difference in some quarters today, however. Thanks to the Civil Rights Revolution and the efforts of Dr. King, we have come too far to be easily turned around, too far to relinquish the fight, too far to forget the chaileng.

We have gained access to and a small measure of influence in institutions formerly closed to us. We have demonstrated political power that in many urban areas, political power that cannot fail to open hitherto closed doors when used intelligently.

Some part of this progress can be traced to Dr. King. He was a champion of racial equality on all levels. He was a man of the people, black and white, poor and rich, young and old, and he was a man people rallied around.

• • •

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 began the congressional approach of granting freedom of "black people on the installment plan. The 1965 version involved the Voter Rights Act, and housing, but full equality for Black Americans is still miles away.

The tragic death of Dr. King figured prominently in the passing of the 1968 Civil Rights Act conceived of a memoral to Dr. King but hardly enough.

A new generation of young black people, possessed of the spirit and determination to be free, has been produced. This generation is equally determined never again to be suppressed, and when Dr. King left off they intend to go forward.

We call upon Congress to give this generation something to remember; a fitting tribute to Dr. King by designating his birth date—Jan. 15—as a national holiday.

Meanwhile, we hope the young people, black and white, will lead the way to fulfillment of "The Dream" of Dr. King's by creating a new spirit, shaping new attitudes, and constructing new avenues for an America dominated by full equality for all.

We hope that they will build on the heritage of Dr. King by dedicating themselves to the cause of peace and progress in America with the same relentless zeal they have exhibited in battling for peace in Southeast Asia. One without the other may be useless.

Easter 1971-He Is Risen

A PRAYER FOR EASTER — O God, we thank thee for the comforting assurance that we shall live with thee. Thou hast promised to redeem us from death: we rejoice in the fact of the resurrection. Give us grace that we may follow in the Savior's footsteps, dying daily to sin. May we have a place with thee in that great company of the redeemed. In thy name. AMEN. (From Deep are Roots).

OUR READERS SAY

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.

MSA Dunbar Penalty Called 'Grossly Unfair'

Dear AFRO:

Thinking and fair-minded citizens must be concerned over the enormity of the penalty leveled by the Maryland Scholastic Association against the Dunbar Senior High School.

The penalty, to be sure, does not ameliorate the situation, but rather intensifies and exacerbates an unfortunate development.

There have been fights, disorders, and convolutions in athletic contests involving secondary schools in Baltimore City and, in fact, schools across the nation for well over two decades or longer.

To penalize, as the Maryland Scholastic Association has done, an entire student body is grossly unfair and wrong.

A small raucous and obstreperous element of the student body should not cause 1,273 Dunbar students to be stigmatized and suffer chagrin.

• • •

In view of the bleak opportunities for Dunbar students to have interracial experiences and contacts with predominately white schools, the Maryland Scholastic Association's action is a contribution to further polarzation and bifurcation.

It seems to the writer that what is needed is not a blanket condemnation of a total school but the following:

1. An intensive and massive effort in all secondary schools to point up the importance of fair play and sportsmanlike conduct at athletic contests.

2. A thorough and concentrated effort to promote intercultural and interracial understanding in all of our schools.

3. A determined effort to develop a "Community Partnership" (viz., teachers, parents, students, civic and business leaders, religious leaders, etc.) that focus on respect for individuals from varying socio-economic and racial backgrounds.

4. A sedulous effort to strengthen security precautions at athletic contests.

These measures would foster a climate supportive of wholesome scholastic understanding and cooperation. Attitudes must be changed if we are to have the kind of constructive athletic programs desired in the Baltimore City Public Schools.

The Maryland Scholastic Association's action is not a positive affirmation, but a grievous encumbrance to a strong, viable, and diversied athletic program in Baltimore City Public Schools predicated upon mutual respect and fairness.

It is to be hoped in the spirit of fair play and justice, that the Maryland Scholastic Association will rethink its action against the Dunbar Senior High School in the interest of the overwhelming majority of the Dunbar Senior High School students who daily manifest tolerance, understanding, and respect for all people.

SAMUEL L. BANKS

More On Calley

Dear AFRO:

We have done it again! Money is sent to help poor people in foreign countries, when it should be used to help our own citizens.

We hear about air pollution, population explosion and how they will eventually destroy us.

We see TV ads, advising high school graduates to join the Army.

Why? To be trained to kill, to suffer "unknown" agonies, and then come home to the country for which you have fought, only to be condemned and lose all the rights to which you are entitled?

MILDREAD C. GLEASON

Lt. Calley No Hero

Dear AFRO:

It had to come in our time, that we would have to indict a young male American for war crimes.

His crimes could not be glorified, complimented, nor white washed. The entire civilized world sweated through a long wait, in anticipation of a verdict that couldn't help from being guilty.

During world war II we wiped out no Italian villages; we wiped out no German villages; and our instructions were, that only armed soldiers were to be regarded as the enemy.

The slaughter at My Lai is unthinkable, unpardonable, and one of the ghastly horrors on my time.

The citizens of My-Lai were herded up like cattle and butchered in the worst possible way.

But like Billy the Kid, Jesse James, and General Custer, Lt. Calley is now the hero of the majority of Americans.

I wonder more if sanity on the American continent is possible or obtainable.

American sentiments are for Lt. Calley and not for an entire village that was deliberately demolished.

The whole affair has been exposed for what he really is.

As a fellow human I can forgive him for a gross mistake in judgment. I can visualize the possibility of a tragedy of this nature.

But what grives me is that America cries out, let that boy go.

They say he was only doing his job. If men like Lt. Calley are supposed to be protecting me against communism, then obviously I am doomed.

PAUL D. McALLISTER

Calley And Angela

Dear AFRO:

Is justice the same for all people or just for whites, as will be proven in the upcoming cases of Lt. Calley, Angela and Bobby?

Is it not true that Lt. Calley is personally responsible for at least 22 deaths, so you know what's gong to happen if he gets off scot free and not Angela and Bobby as well as numerous other political prisoners.

If it is true that Angela is as guilty as the perpetrators of the courtroom shootout, then Nixon is guiltier, because is is not true that he orders troops to kill brown people in Vietnam every day?

Free our political prisoners. Power to our brethers and sisters.

BEMOLA TUWUJUJU

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, and the cowardice of compromise.

John H. Murphy Sr.
—1927

Political Notebook

Redistricting Should Please Black Voters

BY MAX JOHNSON

Black citizens in Maryland have little, if anything, to fuss about in regard to new redistricting proposals — councilmanic in Baltimore City and congressional state-wide.

Both under any lens of scrutiny must be deemed highly favorable.

Both quite conceivably could have been otherwise.

Both must certainly reflect some sort of new and sadly needed political awareness in the city and state.

Let's look a bit closer to both plans — and to some of the prevailing thinking.

First off — the councilmanic plan realigning the boundaries of the city's six districts must be seen as the best possible proposal that could have come out of this current City Council.

The council has a heavy majority of conservatives among its 19 members — against whom the four black members and two white liberal-voting members have to pit efforts.

Don Sschaefer, the president, is moderate at times — and conservative at other times.

So — it's somewhat remarkable that this council did pass the redistricting plan so favorable to black residents of the city, though they form 47 percent of the total 905,000 plus population.

Black citizens now hold majorities under the new alignment in the 2nd.

The 4th District was actually the percent or more minority in the 6th District.

The 4th Dstrict was actually the only "safe" black district — despite the expanded black population.

Actually with some ingenuity — the conservatives could have contained the black votes in the 4th and 2nd Districts.

They had the votes — but they didn't have the valid plan.

They tried with Councilman Reuben Caplan's proposal which was such a gerrymandering thing — nobody had the gall to press for it, or a possible revision.

City Solicitor George L. Russell Jr. stepped in and ruled that a constitutionally acceptable plan would have to be as close as possible to the one submitted by Dr. Harry Bard's Redistricting Committee and rejected by Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro 3rd and the council.

And it was there that the conservatives ran out of steam.

The favorable adopted redistricting plan is the result.

It is not the utopia of the Bard Plan — but out-numbered black and liberal elements in the council got the best they could.

Somebody did a good job.

The congressional redistricting bill, as it affects black voters is Baltimore City, is something else again.

It virtually assures that the state's first black Congressman Parren J. Mitchell will have his 7th District "safe" for him through the next decade.

It is almost all black.

And believe it or not this safe Mitchell district was engineered by careful design.

I was there during the formation by the special General Assembly redistricting committee — and I saw this first hand.

Committee member after committee member in offering revisions was careful to make a point of saying:

"We don't want to do anything to hurt Maryland's first black congressman."

Even Gov. Marvin Mandel, whose home is in Mr. Mitchell's 7th District, gave his stamp of approval.

While they were doing this — they chopped off one of the city's three congressional districts, forcing Congressmen Paul S. Sarbanes and veteran Edward A. Garmatz into the same district.

There is something puzzling about this — something that defies direct fingering.

It's hard to visualize Gov. Mandel being so benevolent — specially toward Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Mitchell knocked off the long entrenched Congressman Sam Friedel, a close friend and tutor in politics of Mr. Mandel.

The governor hasn't been prone so far to make a special point in looking out for the best interests of the black community — politically-wise.

So — what's the kick?

Mr. Mitchell had this comment the other day:

"It's frightening. Somebody is looking ahead to something. But if they put somebody up against me when I run again I'll clobber them."

Significantly — the Mitchell 7th District is the only one of the eight congressional districts in Maryland considered "safe" for the incumbent holders.

There is something there somewhere — but then you get into the realm of looking a gift horse in the mouth, if you search too hard.

I would rather chalk the whole thing up to political awakening to the inevitable — black political power on the rise that will no longer be denied.

There may be other interpretations — but I'll stick to my own.

Whatever — black citizens in both redistricting instances can afford to grin rather happily.

It's NOT A Man's World

By BERNICE S. WHITE

There has been very little published by, about and for black women during this period of struggle for liberation.

Most literature reflects the thinking, the viewpoint, social expectations and aspirations of the middle-class white female.

An anthology entitled "The Black Woman," authored by Toni Cade, should be a reading must for all — especially the black woman.

Miss Cade, who is currently teaching at Rutgers University, collected the poems, stories, essays (formal and informal) that seem to reflect the thinking of the contemporary black woman in our society.

Many of the women who contributed to this anthology had never written professionally before.

Some, however, were and are professionals. Some are students, mothers — but most importantly, they are black.

Miss Cade stated in the preface of the book that is is dedicated to the "uptown mammas who nudged me to 'just set it down in print so it gets to be a habit to write letters to each other, so maybe that way we don't keep treadmilling the same old ground."

One contributor, Frances Beale, wrote a very stirring essay "Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female."

In it she attacks some of the outmoded myths about the black male and female.

She observes, "Black women are not resentful of the rise to power of black men.

We welcome it. We see it the eventual liberation of all black people from this corrupt system of capitalism. Nevertheless, this does not mean that you have to negate one for the other."

Miss Beale asserts that this kind of thinking is the result of miseducation that it has to be either male or it's female, and that it is false reasoning that in order for the black man to be strong, the black woman has to be weak.

"Those who are exerting their 'manhood,' she said, by telling black women to step back into a domestic, submissive role are assuming a counter-revolutionary position.

Black women, likewise, have been abused by the system and we must begin talking about the elimination of all kinds of oppression.

If we are talking about building a strong nation, capable of throwing off the yoke of capitalist oppression, then we are talking about the total involvement of every man, woman, and child, each with a highly developed political consciousness.

We need our whole army out there dealing with the enemy and not half an army."

Stressing the need for education Miss Beale continued: "We live in a highly industrialized society and every member of the black nation must be as knowledgeably and technologically developed as possible.

"To wage a revolution, we need competent teachers, doctors, nurses, electronics experts, chemists, biologists, physicists, political scientists, and so on and so forth.

"Black women sitting at home reading bedtime stories to their children are just not going to make it."

Right on — sister!

If you have questions you'd like to have discussed, write "Not A Man's World," c/o AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

TOGETHER
Black Man Vs Black Woman

By MADELINE MURPHY

Lecturing at Dickinson College this past year, guiding and exchanging ideas wth young black men and women, in a hostile environment, has been an invigorating experience.

The high point of the experience occurred a few weeks ago when over 200 black students from Pennsylvania colleges and universities held their annual convention of the Pennsylvania Congress of African Students (displaced Africans) to thrash out problems in the areas of communication, organization and ideology.

The black students at Dickinson College not only were hosts, but also planned and executed the whole affair, which lasted for two evenings and two days.

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It began with a presentation by Don L. Lee ("Don't Cry, Scream") poet in residence at the University of Chicago, and wound up with Imamu Baraka (LeRoi Jones and the Spirit House Movers from Newark, N.J., reports from the workshops and resolutions.

The most illuminating and disturbing part of the sessions for me was the women's section. (Not that men were excluded — a few attended.) Amid the discussion on "do's" and "don'ts" of African dress, the need for black women to be submissive and humble toward their men, I felt an atmosphere of an old Eastern European Culture, which I thought did violence to the struggle of all black people for liberation.

For certainly throughout our unique struggle in America as slaves, black women necessarily did (and are doing) the job which had to be done — Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, Daisy Bates, Angela Davis, Shirley Chisholm, just to name a few.

And so have black men — Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner, W. E. B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Richard Hatcher — all in their own time, in their own place — in a concerted human struggle for liberation.

We, therefore, as women cannot limit ourselves to an imitated white, middle-class structure of male supremacy, nor can black men luxuriate in the excuses and reasons for a so-called matriarchal society.

If we do this we quell ambition; we thwart the resources; we denigrate the achievements; we hamper the momentum which slavery thrust upon us, male and female, toward a human commitment and resolve.

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We are far beyond a male or female confrontation in this struggle. We are far more sophisticated in our methods of survival than our white counterparts, for we have, out of necessity, changed roles, shifted burdens, developed a mode of life which exemplified unity and complementary action.

This is such a fragile thread of existence — we are not careful, if side issues of male vs. female distract us from our common goal of liberation.

We are far beyond the total commitment and armed camp of the Black Women's Liberation Movement, because included in our civil rights fight we know that the laws of this land, the employment requirements of this land, the precarious care and protection of our young discriminate almost equally against both black sexes alike. Therefore, we can not separate the sexes in the liberation movement.

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To try to turn back the pages of history is to try to shift the course of black liberation.

Thus, to say that black women throughout history made no difference in the contribution to any change in the human condition; to say that their shoulder-to-shoulder struggles just make black men weaker, less manly, innocent, is a dishonest and stupid exercise.

If we buy that, we ignore the desperate need we have, on all fronts, to gain our civil rights, for every man, woman and child to make his contribution together!

So much work has to be done, so many battles must be won, to sidetrack the struggle with the battle of the sexes is to expend and divert precious energy and time, meaningfully.

To free us further, it would behoove us to read, to understand and encourage the kind of legislation offered by Delegates Lena K. Lee and Hildegarde's Boswell, (both D. 4th) in the Md. Legislature.

This is a revolutionary piece of legislation which deals precisely with the tyranny of a man-made institution, which has chained us to a cultural hang-up — unnatural to us.

It illustrates black womanly concern for the human condition of male and female alike.

This is the first innovative approach to marriage, I guess, since the 19th century, which lifts all people, especially women out of indentured servitude, and out of the courts' view of us as channels.

The positive element of this legislation is that many of us would work a bit harder those first three years if we knew the end was near.

In an untenable situation, we could look forward to its end, knowing we tried, but that failure would not mean the end of the world, would not tie us to a person for life we could not abide.

Delegates Lee and Boswell's contribution in this area of legislation should not be ridiculed, as has been done by the white news media.

Rather, it should be applauded as the first serious effort on the part of black women to assume their great responsibility as creative change agents for mankind.

They are showing us that we must act as human beings to better the lives of human beings. That we must free our minds of old taboos.

That we must not be afraid to entertain new and different thoughts.

That we must give our brains exercises which clear them of old-fashioned, unworkable, irrelevant, conforming patterns of thoughts.

Patterns of thought which are all the more destructive when we line-up male vs. female.

"Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; if it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins and so both are preserved." Mat 9:17 (RSV)

No Black Magic In City Council

with G. JAMES FLEMING

DR. FLEMING

What has happened in Baltimore will undoubtedly happen in many cities throughout the United States by the end of the 1970's.

Through redistricting of voting districts, and by absolutely legal means, blacks will be able to get more of the action and yield more of the power in city politics and governments.

This is bound to happen, unless changes in the U.S. Supreme Court bring about reversal of the one-man one-vote decision of the Warren Court, and unless blacks and their friends become careless.

• • •

But, it must be noted, the redistricting plan adopted by the City Council was not conceived as a probiack plan while in the hands of the Bard committee.

It started out to adjust councilmanic districts to the new (1970) census figures.

It also was obligated to recognize the acceptably good standards of redistricting-compactness, contiguity, non-gerrymandering, traditional boundaries, etc.

Blacks have gained because they are there in the heart of Baltimore. They could not flee to the counties.

Neither jobs nor housing gave them mobility. When German Bakers came to Baltimore, they found blacks had increased in numbers here, both absolutely and proportionally.

So, strictly under law, blacks had gain, politically.

It was by this same route—sheer numbers — that Poles achieved political power in Detroit, Italians in Boston, and the Irish in New York. What happened in Baltimore was not "Black magic."

It was political reality (a swinging of the pendulum).

• • •

But, the changes were not automatic. There first had to be a Warren Supreme Court; there had to be an aroused, watchful, black Baltimore;

There had to be a Thomas D'Alesandro, as mayor, who knew how to read the sign of the times;

There had to be a George Russell as city solicitor;

There had to be newspapers which, in this era, take the high road in serving all the people of the city;

There had to be some black members already seated in City Council;

There had to be a Bard-type Citizens Redistricting Advisory Committee with a large proportion of its members beholden to no special interest—only the public interest.

The end result is that next November should see about double the number of blacks in the City Council—from four to seven or eight, out of a total of eighteen.

Instead of the present four blacks representing only two of the city's six districts, the new members will come from three districts, the Second, Fourth and Fifth. The Sixth may even add another.

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Opposition to this kind of rise in power was inevitable. No practising politician could sit idly by and see his kingdom taken away — no more than an ancient ruler could be idle while a neighboring people threatened his land.

Those who tried "gerrymandering" were indulging in a bit of practical politics that is as American as bacon and eggs or apple pie. It happens that they failed this time.

The redistricting outcome in Baltimore also gives proof that right and justice can prevail and that the power structure can be made to listen—if there enough of the people join to make them listen.

It is not easy getting an opportunity to share in the goodies of society.

But those who want to share and enjoy America must be prepared to contend for what they want, and to enlist brains, skill, money and allies on their sides.

They must know, too, that competitors and opponents do not "drop dead." Spoken or unspoken, they must feel, "Wait 'til next time."

NOW AND THEN

IF YOU Ask Me

BY BETTYE MOSS

People, places and things

• • •

Glad you're better cards, please, to Dr. McDonald, Bands, the physician. He's in Brady section at Hopkins...had surgery, hopes to be home in the next ten days.

And hello to Union Memorial Hospital for the Rev. A. J. Payne, pastor of Enon Baptist Church. He had surgery, is doing nicely.

The Rev. Mr. Payne hopes to be out by May 7, which is the date members plan that testimonial to mark his 46 years as minister of Enon.

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Cuff note: Youngster being kind to others: On Thursday morning, ten-year-old Carl Wright, member of Enon's Power Hour Choir, phoned to let his minister know he was praying for him. Proof youngsters are thoughtful too!

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William T. Dorsey of N. Smallwood St., another good neighbor, remains confined to Greater Baltimore Medical Center. Keep his spirits up, he's doing well.

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Samuel Torsell, this newspaper's Catonsville correspondent, marked his 88th birthday on Thursday, April 6.

Many know him as the unofficial mayor of Catonsville and as a stalwart in many civic and fraternal groups.

AFRO readers may remember he was a piece on this newspaper's Honor Roll a year back.

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More on Honor Roll: The 1970 AFRO Honor Roll will be out this month. Honor Roll Committee is selecting winners now.

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Baltimoreans off on an Easter holiday jaunt to the Islands include the Ellson Higgsions, Royal Weaver, Charles Hillens and Samuel Blackwells.

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Good News: Paul R. Ellis, of W. Mulberry Street, has been awarded a John Unitas Achievement Scholarship in the 1970-71 National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Black Students.

He joins some 340 Achievement Scholars announced earlier by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which administers the program.

More about people and things

Entertainment Note:—

Three new plays from the current Black Theatre will be presented at Theatre Hopkins (at Johns Hopkins Homewood Campus), for three successive weekends beginning April 16.

Ed Bullins' A Son Come Home, Al Roi Jones' Great Goodness of Life, and Clay Goss' Andrew will be produced in Baltimore for the first time in this program.

Players from the community, The Arena Players, and Morgan State College will include Vacountess Payne, Adrienne Britt, Harry Johnson, Harvey Denmark, Edward Heath, Ben Land, and Darryl Hill.

Anthony Mazzaro will create the settings, and Larurlene Straughn Pratt will direct, assisted by Benjamin Land, instructor in speech at the Community College of Baltimore.

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Reunion Note: The class of June 1951, as of June, 1971 will have been out of high school 20 years.

A senor at the McDonogh School, Ellis plans to major in psychology at Howard University.

A Varsity football and Lacrosse player, Ellis is president of the Student Body. He has also served as president of the Junior and Senior Classes, vice-president of the Library Club and of the Black Student Union, and Lt. Col. of the Corp at McDonogh.

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Mailbag:—Reader Grace Burkett writes: It's always GOOD READING: your "If You Ask Me"...and especially the inspirational poetry you include so often.

Since it's another report card time in the schools, I thought you might find this little-known work "Effort," by Edgar A. Guest useful: —

He brought me his report card from the teacher, and he said

He wasn't very proud of it, and sadly bowed his head.

He was excellent in reading, but arithmetic was fair.

And I noticed that there were several "unsatisfactorys" there;

But one little bit of credit which was given brought me joy —

He was "excellent in effort," and I fairly hugged the boy.

Just keep excellent in effort — all the rest will come to you.

For there isn't any problem but some day you'll learn to do.

And at last, when you grow older, you will come to understand

That by sticking to patient toiling, men have risen to command.

And some day you will discover, when a greater goal's at stake,

That better far than brilliance is the effort you will make.

Although late in getting started in planning the 20th reunion, a small number of members of the class has been meeting over the last several months planning activities.

For details, write Donald Rigby, 5602 Groveland Ave., Baltimore, 21215.

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Cuff Note: The public is invited to the annual Sunrise (Easter) Service on the tennis courts of the Edgewood Arsenal Officers Club, Sunday, April 11, at 6:30 a.m.

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School Note: Outstanding was the presentation by the third grade classes of Franklin Square Elementary School No. 95 concluded their study of Colonial Maryland on celebrating Maryland Day.

Characters in the skit were: King Charles, James Brown; Lord Calvert; Keith Burke; Cecil Calvert, Thomas Stewart; Leonard Calvert, Tyrone Herbert;

Father White, Edward Justice; Maryland Guide I, Emma Tillman; Maryland Guide II, wanena Midgett; Maryland Guide III, Robertha Simpson; Maryland Guide IV, Rosemary Cook.

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There is nothing in the above news release as to whether these youngsters took due note that black people were aboard the Ark and Dove and thus among the first to land on Maryland soil 337 years ago.

If they didn't, another year they can use the story which appeared in this newspaper's Maryland Day edition and give due credit to Mathias Sousa and other black sailors. We were pioneers too.

People helping others:

The Baltimore City Extension Homemakers' Council is sponsoring two public meetings in April to publicize its "Consumer Protecton Program."

The first meeting is April 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The two locations are the Edmondson Library, 4330 Edmondson Ave, and the Herring Run Library, 3601 Erdman Ave.

The second consumer education is April 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Northwood Library, 4420 Loch Raven Blvd. All are welcome.

ODDS and ENDS

By PAUL EVANS

A new sports magazine devoted exclusively to blacks is scheduled for publication in April. To be called "Black Sports," the magazine will have opening exclusive features on Lew Alcindor and Oscar Robertson of the Milwaukee Bucks. First issue is an estimated 200,000 copies.

There are 26 black banks in the U.S. represented by The National Bankers Association. The association recently elected the only black member of the Federal Reserve Board, Andrew Brimmer, with distorting the performance and potential of black American banks.

Brimmer is reported to have said black banks were too small and lacked competent management and exported a large amount of their funds outside the "ghetto."

The Tony Award ceremony for outstanding performance on Broadway for the past year was tremendously inspiring on recent Sunday evening ABC television.

The awards are named for. Antoinette Perry, an actress who died in 1946.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Tony award.

Highlighting the Sunday show were excerpts from the great musicals of the past years. Included were: 1947—"Finian's Rainbow"; 1952—"The King and I"; 1957—"My Fair Lady"; 1960—"The Sound of Music"; 1964—"Hello Dolly"; 1965—"Fiddler on the Roof"; 1966—"Mame" and "Man of La Mancha"; 1967 — "Cabaret" and 1970—"Applause."

Coppin State President Calvin Wilks Burnett noted in his Inaugural Address last Saturday afternoon, said on integration;

"While we are on the subject, let me make a few remarks that are usually confined to our living rooms. This has to do with reservations about the implementation of integration.

"I believe real integration must involve both whites and blacks giving up something. To use the processes of integration to check and reduce the gains of black Americans is to destroy the concept."

To this, I say, Dr. Burnett's foresight will prove valid in the years ahead.

Blacks and whites must give up something if we are to achieve a stable living milieu for our children.

Have you ever thought what will happen in this country when being black is no longer the handicap that it is now?

Have you ever imagined yourself living in this land and being regarded ONLY on the "content of your character," and not the color of your skin?"

That day is fast approaching and we as a people must be prepared to advance in our own endeavors and strengths because then race won't mean a bloody thing.

Whites must give up their assumed air of superiority to blacks. Blacks, by this time, will have to expect to be regarded solely on their characters as human beings.

The world is nearing that stage in history.

Get ready for the councilmanic and mayoral elections this fall. They are really going to be hot.

LOOKING IN

BY BUTCH FRANKLIN

Compare these accounts:

"I remember one incident," said the soldier, "when I saw a lady run into a hut, and I looked at my commanding officer, who ordered me to shoot her or be shot myself. . . ."

"What did you do?"

"I shot her three times in the back and when she fell, she had a baby in her arms."

"Was the baby dead?"

"Yeap! bullet went right through her."

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The young black soldier was being interviewed in the film "My Lai" soldiers who participated in the My Lai Strick. This film questions five soldiers who participated n the My Lai massacre.

You can actually see their expressions as they describe the horrors of scalping some of the Vietnamese, the bestial acts of cutting off ears to parade around as trophies. All this, with the posterior that these acts are par for the course.

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The following description of the massacre of the Oglala Sioux Indians at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, on December 29, 1890, is to be found in The Long Death (Ralph K. Andriot, Collier Books):

"The seventh Cavalry . . . ceased to be a military unit and became a mass of infuriated men intent only on butchery.

"Women and children attempted to escape by running up the dry ravine but were pursued and slaughtered by hundreds of maddened soldiers, while shells from the Hotchkiss guns . . . . continued to burst among them . . . . no Indian that lived was safe. . . .

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The My Lai massacre, then, is not an isolated incident in American history and the huge public outcry that followed the conviction of Lt. Calley should have come as no surprise.

If we don't watch it, Lt. Calley might become a hero. A man who admitted killing women and children (But why children? "Well," continued a soldier in the film, "They might grow up to be Viet Cong") is between being the symbol of the 'little man' against the huge machine.

And the little man (as symbol anyway), always wins. President Nixon has assured us little people of that, by ordering Lt. Calley released from the stockade during his appeal.

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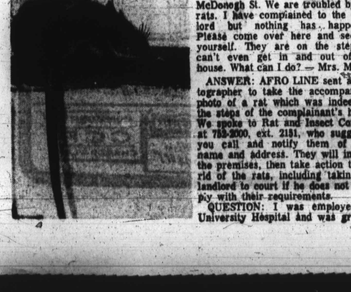
With the conviction coming in the spring, there will, no doubt, be "Free Calley" rallies, "Free Calley" Fund Raisers, "Free Calley 'cause he was only following orders" sceeches and maybe even Calley watches, if marketing agents feel they will sell.

Afro Lines

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 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.



QUESTION: I live in the 1000 block McDonald. We are troubled by big rats. I have complained to the landlord but nothing has happened. Please come over here and see for yourself. They are on the steps. I can't even get in and out of my house. What can I do? — Mrs. M. R.

ANSWER: AFRO LINE sent a photographer to take the accompanying photo of a rat which was indeed on the steps of the complainant's home. We spoke to Rat and Insect Control, at 783-2000, ext. 2181, who suggested you call and notify them of your name and address. They will inspect the premises, then take action to get rid of the rats, including taking the photo of a rat which was indeed on the steps of the complainant's home.

QUESTION: I was employed by University Hospital and was granted a maternity leave of absence. Now I am ready to go back to work, but they say there is no job for me.

Instead, they have offered me a different job at lower pay. What can I do to get my old job back? Mrs. C. R.

ANSWER: State law does not require the hospital to give you back that job until there is an opening in the same position. University Hospital is not even subject to that law. However, John O'Neill of the hospital personnel office assured AFRO LINE that every effort is being made to place you in your former job. The other job you have been offered is temporary, and you are not required to take it if you don't want to.

QUESTION: I have the Even Monthly Payment Plan (EMPP) with Gas and Electric. For six months I've paid $26. For the month of April I'm billed to pay $38. Why is there an increase?

The statement received with the bill reads: A review of the EMPP account shows that your actual use of service has been different from our latest estimate. Based on this experience your EMPP payment has been changed to the amount of $38. — Mrs. H. R.

ANSWER: A spokesman for Gas and Electric explained that the original $26 bill was based on an estimate of the amount of gas and electricity you would use. Since you are now using more than they estimated, your bill has been raised accordingly. This is done after six months to keep you from having to make up a large deficit in August.

In the Spotlight

Dennis Fisher, an employee of the Social Security Administration, has become the first blind person and the first black to be elected to the board of Directors of the Maryland School for the Blind.

A state-aided private institution, the school provides educational opportunities for blind children from kindergarten through high school. The school also works with blind preschool children and counsels their parents.

Located in northeast Baltimore County, the school employs a curriculum similar to that of most Baltimore public schools except that instruction is in Braille.

An alumnus of the school, Mr. Fisher has also graduated from Baltimore City College and Morgan State College, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in sociology.

The son of local radio personality Kelson "Chop-Chop" Fisher, Mr. Fisher was the first blind person to be hired by the Social Security Administration from the Federal Service Entrance Examination Register.

The agency currently employs ten blind persons at its Woodlawn headquarters.

Without the aid of vision, Mr. Fisher relies on a variety of implements to help him with his work in Social Security's Office of Research and Statistics.

Among them are a tape recorder for meetings and dictation; a slate and stylus, which is used to inscribe messages and notes; and a small abacus to record telephone numbers.

He also types about 40 words a minute on the Perkins Brailler, a machine patterned after the conventional typewriter, but one which "prints" Braille characters.

At Morgan, he was a three-time Central Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) wrestling champion in the 130-pound division and graduated in the top ten percent of his class. After working for the Maryland Workshop for the Blind and teaching, he took the Federal Service Entrance Examination orally.

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"It wasn't really a new experience for me," he relates. "Actually, most of my examinations in college were administered to me orally."

A hobby that Mr. Fisher perfected after college, playing jazz organ, has really paid off recently. Now a musician of considerable note, he plays in two trios a total of six nights a week in area clubs.

Mr. Fisher, who lives with his wife Jacqueline and their two children in northwest Baltimore, is full of excitement about his new appointment.

"Basically, the board of directors oversees the day-to-day operations of the school. They form the policies which eventually mold and shape the school. I've had a few ideas for years on what changes would be the most valuable for the students and I'm hoping that this new position will give me the chance to convince other board members that these changes are in the best interests of everybody concerned with the school," he stated.

In the Spotlight this week is Dennis Fisher.