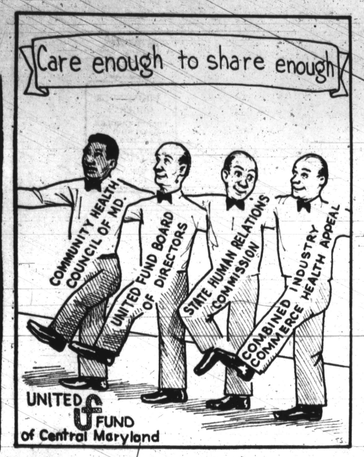
Let's Get In Step, Fellows!



NEWS ITEM: Community Health Council of Md. Inc., composed of black physicians, social workers and health officers, has its charges of discrimination in hiring and policy-making by United Fund substantiated by long-awaited report of State Human Relations Commission. After nearly a year of dialogue, United Fund directors and members of the Combined Industry Commerce Health Appeal (CICHA), have agreed to sit down and consider the black professionals' complaints.

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.

Orchids To Judge Baylor, But Court Needs Change

Dear AFRO:

The Citizens Planning and Housing Association would like to commend the very admirable performance of Judge Solomon Baylor since he took over the city's Housing Court in September of this year.

Judge Baylor has used the very limited tools he has available to him under present law to maximum effectiveness.

His recent actions on the bench will hopefully go a long way toward improving the quality of housing through the city of Baltimore.

JUDGE BAYLOR

At the same time, CPHA would like to call attention to its Housing Court report of last March which dealt at length with deficiencies in the court itself and call for the dropping of criminal jurisdiction and substituting broad civil and equity powers.

We maintain our belief that with civil and equity jurisdiction the court would be far more effective in obtaining abatement of the very many housing code violations which have reached almost epidemic proportions in our city.

We are delighted that many of the recommendations in our March report have already been adopted by Chief Judge Sweeney, Administrative Judge Hargrove and Judge Baylor himself, but we fervently believe that the court will only reach maximum effectiveness if it has civil and equity jurisdiction to deal firmly with the abatement of housing violations.

We strongly urge that a high priority be given to the many hundreds of cases which have been sent back to the Housing Court from the Supreme Bench after Judge Charles Harris' ruling that these defendants were not entitled to jury trials.

Many of these cases have been awaiting trial for more than a year, and certain individuals have scores, if not hundreds, of charges pending against them.

We feel that it would be in the best interests of the citizens of Baltimore, of our many neighborhood associations and the criminal justice system itself, if a high priority were given to speedy trials in these cases.

We must also not minimize the effects on thousands of tenants who have been required to live in substandard housing for intolerable periods of time.

Again, our congratulations to Judge Baylor on making maximum use of what we still consider to be a very inefficient system.

CHRISTOPHER C. HARTMAN
Executive Director
Citizens Planning and Housing Assn.

S.O.P. Thanks

Dear AFRO:

This is to express our heartfelt thanks to the many voters who gave us a tremendous vote of confidence in the election. It not only made us feel good but it also made us more determined to measure up to the expectations of our supporters.

We ask everyone to pull together with us to make Baltimore a more vibrant, progressive city of which we will all be proud.

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER,
WALTER S. ORLINSKY,
HYMAN AARON PRESSMAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: AFRO's designation of SOP Team means S for Schaefer, O for Orlinsky and P for Pressman all of whom signed above letter. During administration of Thomas J. D'Alesandro 3rd (which ends Dec. 6, 1971), AFRO heads and stories referred to him as TJD).

Afro Credo

I measure a newspaper not in buildings, equipment and employees —those are trimmings.

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

Whether it has kept 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 injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

Words of the Week

President Nixon's nomination of William H. Rehnquist to the Supreme Court places "the foot of racism . . . in the door of the temple of justice."

Clarence Mitchell, Washington director of the NAACP, urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject Rehnquist on grounds his record shows "a consistent pattern of opposition to the rights of black Americans in areas of public accommodations, freedom of expression, education and voting."

"These, taken singly or together, raise grave doubts about whether he could mete out to the black citizens of America equal justice under law," Mitchell testified.

The NAACP spokesman cited four points of opposition to Rehnquist, an Assistant Attorney General who formerly practiced law in Phoenix, Ariz.

He said Rehnquist opposed a Phoenix Public Accommodations Ordinance in 1964; that he "personally denounced" civil rights demonstrators at the Arizona State Capitol the same year;

That in a letter to an Arizona newspaper, he opposed proposals to end de facto segregation in the public schools, and that he participated in an effort to prevent blacks from voting.

78 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition should be classed with the enemy."— The AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893.

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—1880-1967.

More, Not Less

"A good dose of black pride is needed to spur us on, but it must spur us in the direction of black power."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, made the above statement recently, and concluded, "You can have black pride standing in the rain with no umbrella, but you still get wet."

Vivian Carter Mason, Norfolk School Board member, showed pride in our youth when she said in Baltimore Sunday, "If young people haven't given us anything at all it is their ability to call us what we are, BLACK."

Pride and Power is Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D.-7th, Md.) holding an audience in rapt attention as he talks about what this country needs to do.

And with pride, we must have black power.

Black power only comes with winning at the polls. Unless men like Parren Mitchell sit in Congress, in the State Legislatures and in City Hall, we can have all the pride in the world but very little power.

Baltimoreans have tasted pride and power and they must get it all together again before the Congressional Primary on May 16, 1972.

We believe that one of the main powers arms of Baltimore is Parren Mitchell. He's one step in the right direction of Black Power.

We need more, to join him, not to replace him.

Karwacki Departure

At the height of his career, when he could have shown great statesmanship, Thomas J. D'Alesandro, III, was found wanting.

The time was Feb. 24, 1970.

The city was rocked by riots at Eastern High. The School Board and the then Superintendent, Thomas D. Sheldon, and the then Board President, Francis D. Murnaghan, were at odds.

The community was disturbed at the insensitivity in many quarters.

Mr. Murnaghan resigned. Bowing to other City Hall voices, Mayor D'Alesandro overlooked the most capable man to succeed him.

Samuel T. Daniels, who had acted as President on several occasions and exhibited great tact, was not even considered.

Subsequently D'Alesandro and his associates picked a man unknown to the general community, Robert L. Karwacki, whose only contact of record with black citizens came when he was Assistant Attorney General in 1964.

This was when there was open confrontation with black leaders, including Parren J. Mitchell, now United States Congressman. The issue was alleged police mistreatment of a prisoner.

For the greater part of his 21 months on the Board, President Karwacki made his own rules. He acted like the fire captain giving orders to man the hoses even when the flames were out, without regard to the belongings of those involved.

The most glaring example was his leadership in abandoning tradition and picking Sterling S. Keyes as interim superintendent when Sheldon resigned.

Tradition would have given this spot to William Pinderhughes, the number two man.

But worse than this was his loss of memory after the board offered the temporary job to Keyes only with the understanding he would not seek the permanent spot.

But, it was Karwacki who later went back on his word and pushed Keyes for reconsideration as late as June 1971 when the board had completed several interviews and narrowed candidates to three, including Roland N. Patterson, who was subsequently selected.

This week, when Karwacki announced his resignation, (for personal reasons), effective Dec. 6, he admitted he had learned a lot.

We would agree. In these latter months, he had begun, after much prodding, to develop a sense of respect for other board members with different viewpoints, and show a new awareness for black concerns.

But the School Board presidency is not the place to train someone on how to address and treat the majority of people in the schools who happen to be black.

The president of a School Board, which sets policy for a school system 70 per cent black, ought to be skilled in race relations which is just as important as his knowledge of fiscal responsibility and curriculum development.

He must be meticulously fair in determining basic issues, many of which border on racism, inequities and sometimes distrust.

Martindale-Hubbell, the law directory, gives Bob Karwacki an A-V rating, meaning he stands tops in legal ability and integrity.

We hope Mayor-Elect Schaefer won't miss the boat like Mayor D'Alesandro did.

It would be a pity to follow D'Alesandro's lead and select an A-V lawyer, instead of a man or woman who has understanding and concern for the complex school problems, and the leadership ability to deal honestly with them as well as the know-how to get along with all elements of the community so the schools can get on with their job—quality education for all.

We can think of several people who fit this bill.

The community may think of dozens.

Mayor-Elect Schaefer might do well to get widespread community input before he fills this important position.

Hopkins And Oberlin

The Johns Hopkins University plans to spend $37,500 of Humble Oil money on a 27-minute color film as a means to attract more black applicants to its medical school.

That we agree is one way. . .

Another way is what the 13 members of the Congressional Black Caucus have worked out with Oberlin College in Ohio.

The Oberlin plan permits the members of the Caucus to nominate between 10 and 15 qualified students from their Congressional districts to Oberlin. Oberlin would then admit at least four of those students nominated by each Caucus member.

IN ADDITION, OBERLIN WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE FINANCIAL AID, if necessary.

To qualify, a student must be from the Congressman's district and be a member of a minority group which is racially or culturally "removed" from the "mainstream of American society."

Oberlin is trying to bring both its faculty staff and student body "up to a percentage at least equal to national minority group population level."

Predominantly white Oberlin and the Black Caucus in announcing the joint plan stated that the college had approached the Caucus for guidance and help because these 13 blacks in Congress had "clearly demonstrated concern for education of America's minority group members."

We are inclined to feel that the Oberlin plan is meant for action while the Hopkins plan is just more show. But only time will tell.

Hopkins and all predominantly white colleges would do well to watch the Oberlin plan, if for no other reason than this was jointly worked out by BOTH blacks and whites, and not just by whites for blacks.

Have you noticed?

For the past two months the Editorial Page and Page Opposite of your AFRO have looked different from all the other pages.

That's because they are produced by advanced method. No longer are they set on the linotype machines and made up like all the other delightful pages in your AFRO.

They are set photographically, pasted up and engraved, giving you a cleaner, easier to read, more inviting set of pages — all a part of the new AFRO of tomorrow.

Report From Washington

School Prayer Amendment

By PARREN J. MITCHELL (D.-7th, Md.)

REP. MITCHELL

A combination of religion and politics created intense pressure as the House of Representatives voted on a controversial amendment designed to override the Supreme Court's school prayer decisions. House Joint Resolution 191, would have required two-thirds majorities in the House and Senate and ratification by three-fourths of the States would have amended the Constitution.

The amendment read, "Nothing contained in this Constitution shall abridge the right of persons lawfully assembled, in any public building which is supported in whole or in part through the expenditure of public funds, to participate in nondenominational prayer."

The resolution came to the House Floor through a most unusual procedure — a discharge petition.

This permits a measure to be pulled out of a committee without the committee's action, on presentation of a petition signed by 218 (a majority of the Members of the House).

Congressman Wylie, author of the Amendment, argued its adoption was necessary to clarify the Supreme Court's decisions.

Wylie further argued that clarification would prevent "hairsplitting" lower court decisions such as the one which barred the compulsory recitation by public school kindergarten children of a thank-you verse.

Some 68 of us congressmen formed the Congressional Committee to preserve religious freedom. Eight other members of the Congressional Black Caucus also served on that committee.

I opposed the Amendment because it would restrict religious freedom, provide the opportunity for a governmental role in religious matters, divide religious groups in its implementation, dilute religion into nondenominationalism and set a dangerous precedent for tampering with the Bill of Rights.

What is nondenominational prayer? After consulting with ministers and religious leaders it was made clear to me that there can be no such thing as non-denominational prayer.

Religion and prayer are highly personal matters which should not be guided or controlled by government at any level.

In addition, if the Amendment had passed, the Congress would have indeed set a dangerous precedent for eroding the Bill of Rights.

Once the precedent had been established, what would have happened to the rights of those accused of crimes; what would have happened to the rights of those accused of descent; and what would have happened to the rights of those who seek to challenge the inequities in our governmental structure?

The final vote on the Wylie Amendment (as amended) was 240 yeas and 162 nays — therefore short of the two-thirds majorities required.

Already I have received ugly notes and threatening telephone calls labeling me as atheist, communist and a traitor.

This does not disturb me.

I shall continue to follow my conscience.

After consulting with all groups and individuals in the District I hold first to justice.

Blacks position regarding the 1st Amendment — "It must at least mean . . . that it is no part of the business of government to compose official prayers for any group of the American people to recite as part of a religious program carried on by government."

Statue To Stand Where Justices Once Parked

MR. LEWIS

Dear AFRO:

I wish to express my appreciation to the AFRO-AMERICAN (Oct. 30, 1971 issue), for its fair and equal time in reporting on the issue of the black American soldier. I feel that it is necessary for the artist to speak at this time.

First of all, the sculpture has been accepted and approved by four legally constituted city agencies; (1) the Civic Design Commission; (2) the Baltimore City Fine Arts Commission; (3) the Historical and Architectural Preservation Commission, and (4) the Board of Recreation and Parks.

There was but one dissenting vote from all of these commissions. That vote came from Harry D. Kaufman, member of the Board of Recreation and Parks.

The sculpture dedicated to the memory of the black American soldier (representing all Black American servicemen who have fought in American wars) will stand at the north end of the Battle Monument Plaza.

Mr. Kaufman's objection to the sculpture was based on its black designation. He indicated that he would also object to the memorializing of the Jewish soldier, the Polish soldier, or, more generally, the white soldier.

What Mr. Kaufman fails to see is the fact that every public monument in our fair city is dedicated to the memorialization of whites.

Every public Baltimore monument projects a white image, be it dedicated to an idea, concept or person; religious, military, scientific or humanistic.

We do not wish to diminish the worth of these figures.

Rather, we do wish to bring an element of fact and truth to the collective bias of images in our monumental city.

Where were the defenders of the sanctity of the Battle Monument when, in 1961, a newspaper and magazine kiosk was placed at the very foot of its pedestal?

The sacred area to which C. C. Davis and R. E. Michael alluded was said to have been completed in 1825.

It occupies less than one quarter of the Battle Monument Plaza, which, in 1961, was designed, completed and completely funded by the city of Baltimore.

The area where the Black American soldier will stand was, until 1961, a parking lot for Federal judges.

There is no conflict with the esthetic and/or restricted intent of the Battle Monument per se.

The Black American soldier, as a figure of enlightenment and pride, will stand where justice once parked.

JAMES E. LEWIS,
Chairman, Art Department
Director, Gallery of Art
Morgan State College.

Budding Artist

Dear AFRO:

I am a top grade student and I have written a play that I would like to have read.

I picked your paper, in particular, because it's just downright good. It's informative, it lets you in on what's happening and lots more. Besides, it's a black news paper and black is beautiful.

I am capable. Writing this play really means something to me. — D. A. B.

(EDITOR'S note: Submit your play to Arena Players, attention Mr. Sam Wilson and to Ira Aldridge Players, Morgan State College).

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.

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.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

TOGETHER

MR. SYKES

What's So Wrong With Baltimore?

By WILLIAM G. SYKES

(Editor's Note: Following are excerpts from a speech Mr. Sykes delivered at the monthly meeting of the Philomathian Club. Mr. Sykes is director of the Model Cities Agency and active on a score of boards, including the Md. State Board of Education. He is a graduate of Hampton Institute and holds a master's in social work from Howard University).

Is it the people? Is it the location? Is it the architecture? The crime rate? The weather? The employment situation?

Is it the lack of cultural outlets or the dearth of recreational facilities?

Are our churches worse than those elsewhere?

Is transportation uniquely difficult within our city?

Are our schools peculiarly unresponsive and our social agencies particularly insensitive?

Is the row house and the stone step something to be ashamed of?

Is our seafood somehow less appealing than the specialty foods of other cities?

I submit that there is nothing uniquely wrong with our town and it is about time for us to speak up and say so to ourselves and to our neighbors in Washington, who would have us believe that the national government could not function in their absence;

To our friends in New York, who still believe that the biggest is the best; to our visitors from the West Coast who still labor under the assumption that all troubles cease at the Mississippi River;

To our friends in Atlanta who confuse a big black bank and big black motel with social and economic freedom;

And, to our friends from Boston who are laboring under the delusion that the Browns and Smiths and Joneses are the equals of the Cabots and the Howells and the Lodges.

As a transplant to Baltimore from the heart of the tobacco belt in Virginia and as one who lived in the suburbs of a town whose population totaled some 500 persons, perhaps I can appreciate our city in a way that many of you can not.

About the people of Baltimore — sure, there are snobs, cads, boors and just plain obnoxious people here.

On the other hand, most Baltimoreans — old and new — are warm, friendly, responsive and eager to meet and welcome new people.

In this city when people invite you to their homes — as they often do — they bring out the food and the bottle — not one or the other as is the common practice in many towns.

They will take you to the kitchen as well as the parlor, and if you have to go to the powder room, you feel comfortable enough to use the pretty, clean towels.

Basically, Baltimoreans are just good people who like other people and who thrive on being nice to others, to others.

When we want to, we can do a very fine job of publicly expressing our concern for others.

Our weddings and parties are second to none, but it is my opinion that our wakes and funerals are particularly outstanding.

On the other hand, Baltimore is considered by many to be an ugly town.

I will admit that if you follow Route 40 to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway you could hardly draw any other conclusion.

But the flowing grace of Forest Park, the stately beauty of Ashburton, the sturdy charm of many well-preserved central city neighborhoods, the picturesque blending with nature of Morgan Park and the imaginative treatment of Madison Park are but a few examples of areas that could not be considered ugly by any stretch of the imagination.

Baltimore is not as pretty as San Francisco or San Diego, but it is clearly not as unattractive as Gary or Cincinnati or New York or Philadelphia.

We have many beautiful parks just as we have fantastically ugly junk yards.

We have stately mansions and very attractive row and townhouses, just as we have rotten slums.

We have beautiful streets, roads and lanes just as we have the eyesores that are expressways.

Yes, and we have beautiful people just as we have the sorrowful sights that one sees on the Block.

Downtown is no longer a complete eyesore and will be beautiful when the Inner Harbor and Central Business District Projects are completed.

NEXT WEEK:—Is Baltimore progressive enough?

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

Special note to students at the $13,892,000 Lake Clifton Senior High School No. 40: Your beautiful new school which you opened this fall has special meaning for many of your parents and older Baltimoreans.

We never had a new school to attend. We always had to wait until white students moved to new schools and then we got the hand-me-downs.

Just the same — old schools or not — your parents made good.

One of those who did is the young man who designed the unique art work, ("Second Genesis"), a $15,000 beauty which adorns the main compound in your school.

He is Edward N. Wilson Jr., professor of art and art history at State University of N.Y. at Binghamton.

He is a graduate of the old, hand-me-down Douglass High. He went on to Lincoln State University to earn two degrees. His parents, Dr. and Mrs. Edward N. Wilson of Dolphin St.

Dr. Wilson is registrar-emeritus at Morgan State College.

NOTE:— Please take care of Mr. Wilson's art work!

Plenty of sunshine and get-well wishes, please, to affable Samuel Snowden. He's out of Lutheran Hospital after surgery, recuperating at the home of his daughter, 1658 N. Smallwood St.

Many know Sam as the longtime (48 years) AFRO employee. For nearly half a century he has been an important cog in this newspaper's composing room (the heart of any newspaper). He holds the title of mechanical department supervisor.

Cuff note: AFRO artist Thomas Stockett designed the card with bank in which other co-workers stuffed bills to welcome Sam home from the hospital.

Sunshine to Sinai Hospital (Room 244 B), for Alphonso Cottman, the Druid supervisor at the Druid Post Office. He had surgery on Monday.

Good news about a loyal St. James Episcopal Church member: Mrs. Anna Dixon is home from the hospital, much improved, thank goodness.

Cheer to William (Billy) Ross. He's home from Lutheran where he had emergency surgery. Many know Mr. Ross as the stock broker with Walston Co.

Get-well cards to Provident Hospital for the Tutman brothers, Mark, 4; and Howard L. 3rd, 11.

They're children of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Tutman (Caroline) of Elba Drive. He's with Housing and Urban Development. She's AFRO executive secretary.

That big bash on Saturday evening out Monticello Rd. home was in honor of Ruth Webb Hagwood Chatman of Oakland, Calif. (She's one of the Webb sisters who lived for years on Gwynns Falls Parkway.)

She was in this area for the 19th conference of the American Society of Cytology at the Hilton in D.C. Party was at home of her aunt, Mrs. Evelyn Haywood.

That Sunday evening supper at the St. Paul St. apartment of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Hollander (Barry), gave us an opportunity to chat with a number of Hopkins professionals.

Cuff note: It's mighty fine of the Hopkins to have an exchange program with people from India, South America etc., but my goodness, here is a medical institution in the heart of a black American neighborhood which has so few black professionals!

And, this week's news releases report they're recruiting nurses from Canada. How could they!

Refreshing Sunday afternoon event at Enoch Pratt Library featured Gordon Parks, Life photographer, movie producer ('Shaft,' 'Flavio,' and 'The Learning Tree', and author, ('In Love,' 'The Learning Tree,' and his autobiography, 'A Choice of Weapons.)

He flew in from Paris to give the annual Annis Duff Lecture. His topic, 'Creativity.'

MRS. MOSS

Thanks to the Julian Lapideses (Linda — she chaired the committee), we joined an intimate group afterwards at the Hilton.

And, that's how we learned first hand that Gordon Parks (who made 6 million plus on 'Shaft' alone), has not let his fame and wealth go to his head.

He talked and acted like the old 'Blue' Parks we knew back at the University of Minnesota where he got his start taking protrait photos of us and composing tunes on the upright piano in the Eliphart Ave. home of the then Shirley Harris (now Mrs. Paul Thomasen) of St. Paul.

Cuff note: Gordon Parks considers Baltimore a second home. At least that's what he told the Sunday audience.

Mainly, he said, because his movie tryouts have been successful here and his work has been well received.

That means little ole Baltimore is a pretty good barometer for an artist who wants to know whether he's got it.

Spied at the lecture and after-bash for Mr. Parks, the Ken Wilsons (Jean). He's on the Enoch Pratt Library Trustee Board.

And, the James E. Lewises. He's chairman of Morgan State's art department. He introduced the speaker. (Cuff note: Morgan was first to exhibit Parks' photos in the Carl Murphy Gallery several years ago.)

Also about: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Curry (she's head of Payson St. branch); and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Diggs (Phillis).

Pleasant people met: Mr. and Mrs. C. Keating Bowie. He's president of Pratt trustee board. He wanted to know whether Gordon Parks exhibited his unusual talent back in the U. of Minnesota days.

He seemed surprised when we observed he hadn't found himself then.

Well, he hadn't!

Unusually pleasant experience late Sunday was meeting two senior citizens who are youthful in appearance and philosophy.

Mr. and Mrs. George Sides (Bertie) of Towson were at the Sam Owingses (Barbara).

They were observing their 61st wedding anniversary. She's 80 and he's 81. But, you'd never believe it.

We'll find out their secret for keeping young and share it with you here later.

Time flies note: Mrs. Roger K. Williams (Beryl), Morgan State dean, was at State University of New York in Buffalo over the weekend to visit their son who is teaching there.

Also up in N.Y., 13-year-old Carl Chester Matthews, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Matthews 3rd ('Vashti Murphy), was confirmed at St. Andrew's Episcopal Chapel in Brewster, N.Y. He attends Green Chimneys School there, graduates in June.

AFRO LINE

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

Miss Griffin

The Job Hunter

EDITOR'S NOTE: Direct your questions about possible careers, training opportunities, job openings, and the Maryland State Employment Service to Labor Market Information, Room 205, 1100 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md., 21201.

QUESTION: On page one of the Friday edition (Nov. 6), you published a very beautiful picture of the Douglass High queen and her court, but you made a mistake. The queen's name is NOT Janette McNeil, but Greer Griffin. — G. G.

ANSWER: Oops, we're sorry. The pretty Douglass High queen is indeed Greer Griffin (see attached photo). We are happy to make this correction.

Miss Douglass is a 17-year-old senior who is 5 ft. 10, weighs 100 lbs. She is vice president of the senior class.

After graduation next year, she plans to enter college and prepare to teach Spanish.

Miss Douglass is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Debrow Griffin, (Evelyn), of Boarman Ave.

Her sisters and brothers are: Deborah, 23, a Social Security employee; Hyla, 19, an Edmondson High grad; Pfc. Debrow Jr., 21, who returned last week from duty in Vietnam; Helen, 15, a Walbrook High student; and Bentley, 10, who attends the U. of Islam.

QUESTION: My roof leaks, the kitchen ceiling fell in but the landlord has given me nothing but promises. What can be done? We never get the heat he is supposed to give us.—DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE

ANSWER: Call Housing and Community Development, Housing Inspection — 727-3400. Tell them you have been advised by the AFRO Line that you will be referred to the proper person who will get fast action for you.

NOW and THEN

Loud Thinkings By Black Baltimoreans★!?

By G. JAMES FLEMING

Nearly every time a few blacks get together they end up declaring what is wrong with Baltimore or the U.S.A or that "What we need are some black leaders who can't be bought out," or, "It's all racism wherever you look," or "Genocide is on their mind," ad infinitum.

Just as often these loud thinkings put as highest priority "Unity," although there seems to be no agreement as to what is meant by unity.

In recent weeks it has been said repeatedly that "The black community has never been so divided!"

In one "rap" session of political and other professionals, one speaker almost cryingly implored: "What we need is a Carl Murphy; the vacuum left by 'Dr. Carl' has not been filled, and he can't come back."

That plea brought to mind that, in other times like these, "Dr. Carl" did take action.

He spearheaded a call to a citywide, representative conference on the black situation. It was held at Morgan State College.

The date was: Sept. 27, 1968.

The one-day conference brought together representatives from every segment of black community life; it heard many sides of many problems; it tried to work towards consensus.

Those who attended felt it was worthwhile.

There was unity in the very fact that so many kinds of black thought and action could listen to each other; agree or disagree on some matters, but nevertheless present a solid front on what was most important.

What if such a conference were held today, or next week, or early next year?

What are some of the matters that need exposure and clarification, from the point of view of Baltimore and Maryland?

One over-all question that always comes up has to do with whether racism, as commitment and practice, is not the way of life for the dominant group, in Baltimore as in the nation.

What are the facts? What would a scientific survey show? What counter-arguments could the dominant group present.

And this is only a beginning!

Is "police brutality" an outward and visible arm of this racism? What are the facts as distinguished from the oratory?

Is it true that there is a Baltimore City policeman who has shot five blacks "and is still on the force?"

What "due process" allows him to be where he can shoot more?

While some of us have been long and loud on rhetoric, mostly about ills in general, what is the race's status on public construction on Inner Harbor projects, on new buildings at Morgan and other state colleges, and on other public works?

Why, despite national, state and city laws and commissions (and rhetoric), does one need a microscope to find any black workers — especially skilled workers — on these construction jobs?

What about Black contractors?

Is the system such that a small contractor does not have a chance?

What are the facts about bidding, securing bond, and subcontracting?

Are black architects getting a chance to bid, especially on facilities to be used by us?

What about other employment opportunities?

What about reapportionment, to which this column referred two weeks ago? Is reapportionment going to be another way of saying "Get rid of those black lawmakers?"

What about the public schools? Do black parents and other citizens know as much as they should about why black children are, as a group, never up to par, as related to their grade levels? What programs are envisaged to overcome this handicap?

Some voices are saying that it is not so much what "the power structure" does, or may want to do, to blacks. It is what Blacks are doing or not doing, to and for themselves.

The No. 1 complaint in this department is the usually small turnout of black voters in both primary and general elections.

Some readers point to the fact that recent black candidates (for instance George Russell and Clarence Mitchell) lost not only their mayoralty bid, but that the votes they did receive, together, were still far from a winning total.

Others bemoan that "black may be beautiful," but Mrs. Margaret Dyer made a very poor showing in her race for city comptroller because most black voters placed her being a Republican ahead of her being black.

"Black may be beautiful," still others remark, but it seems of little importance when it comes to blacks supporting black economic enterprise — package goods stores, dress shops, groceries, restaurants, hotels, etc.

The only black businesses sure of our support seem to be those that, while businessmen are not interested in as yet, such as undertaking establishments, hairdressing, etc.

Blacks are nowhere in the wigs fabrication business and those Black "afros" are usually groomed with combs "Made in Japan" or "Made in Austria."

Even the dashikis are mostly made by non-blacks, in Holland, England, Japan, or the U.S.A.

DR. FLEMING

The loud thinkings go on and on, but they always end on the note of the need for "unity."

Is this the time for another Carl Murphy-type conference? Do blacks in Baltimore need to get together (as the spiritual says "Get Together, Children")?

Are we willing to listen to each other, regardless of whether we agree or not?

Can some of us stop talking long enough to listen?

Can we dissect, examine, analyze, as honest men and women, forgetting —for a while — personal advantage and think of the group?

Can we, or should we, draw up a blueprint, a "declaration of principles," an "action agenda" as guide for the seventies, and beyond?

What do we want most?

What do we believe?

What price are we willing to pay?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Carl Murphy referred to in above article was AFRO publisher, civic leader, statesman. He died in 1967 at the age of 78.)

THE STATE OF THINGS

High Noon In Annapolis

By VAL HYMES

An issue that has been lying dormant except for a few scattered forays in the last few years may be ready to explode again.

The issue is gun controls, one of the most emotional and polarizing subjects ever to divide the Maryland General Assembly, especially after the presidential assassination.

Today, partly because of recent sensational crimes, shootings in public schools and steady editorial campaigns, public and political interest is rekindled.

Although gun legislation in some form or another has been around the General Assembly since 1886, only one true gun control bill has ever passed, and that in an election year—1966.

That bill bore the names of former Del. Leonard Blondes of Montgomery County, former speaker Marvin Mandel and the City's former Del. Angelo Parisano; and started out to require for all sales of all guns a seven-day waiting period and police check.

But before it passed, the bill was gutted and rewritten — by the proud admission of the State Rifle and Pistol Association — into "uniform and passable" form, involving only hand guns bought from licensed dealers.

The law as it stands today refuses permits to alcoholics, addicts, certain felons, mental patients, fugitives, or those under 21. Last year, 24,243 persons applied and 459 were turned down.

By Oct. 31 of this year, 21,960 had filed applications, including 4,076 in Baltimore City, and 298 had been disapproved.

But as Del. Richard Rynd of Baltimore County has tried to point out in another bill every year since 1966, nobody knows what happens to those guns if Joe Citizen sells one privately. Rynd's bill, which was defeated this year by a mere seven votes after a last-minute maneuver for which the gun lobby takes credit, would have included private sales in the same waiting period and a police check.

J. Robert Esher, legislative chairman of the State Rifle and Pistol Association, an affiliate of the National Rifle Association, says such a bill could not be enforced and would only expose the law-abiding gun owner to the risk of technical violations the criminal could easily circumvent.

Rynd is convinced his bill would finally reach many underworld guns as they float around the black market and eventually reach an honest citizen willing to fill out a form. Another argument is that the lack of a permit would give the State one more weapon in prosecuting a crime involving a gun.

But it is the fear of a police state and of wholesale confiscation of guns from private citizens that stimulates the greatest opposition to gun controls.

The trent in the past has seen the Legislature accepting a compromise (which Blondes called a "cop-out") in such measures as the voluntary hunter safety program.

That program, also adopted in 1966, and with the backing of the NRA, has reached, in five years, 36,000 hunters. But the State licensed 200,000 last year.

COMPULSORY MOVE

There is a movement afoot today, revived by recent hunting tragedies, to make the program compulsory, especially for children. The original legislation left the door open to that possibility, but opposition would be expected.

While long guns are accessible to youngsters with parents' permission, public concern has grown with reports of shootings with hand guns in public schools. (A bill prohibiting deadly weapons on school property just passed this year.)

Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro and Sen. Verda F. Welcome (4th City) have both promised gun registration bills for this year.

And Sen. J. Joseph Curran Jr. (3rd City), chairman of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, plans to introduce a bill requiring a follow-up report of guns resold after the original police permit.

Curran also plans to put in a bill for mandatory sentences for illegal possession and the gun association says it would back one for additional mandatory sentences for crimes using firearms.

And Governor Mandel told this reporter last week that he feels the sales of hand guns between private individuals should come under the waiting period-permit law.

But most legislators would rather have Congress take the brunt of opposition than to risk the political fate of former U.S. Sen. Joseph D. Tydings. The point also has been made that a one-state law won't stop traffic across state lines.

There are a few legislators, however, who feel Maryland has waited too long. They appear to be ready to arm themselves against the inevitable. The gun lobby is ready for them with both barrels polished and aimed.

It looks like another High Noon showdown in Annapolis this January.

Capital News Serv. Dept. *

THE FINAL VOTES on Legislative Council committee items are coming fast and furious now, and some of the bills that will follow as a result will bring some furious debate including one to allow the Legislature to change priorities in the EXECUTIVE BUDGET and to reduce the JUDICIAL BUDGET . . . ANOTHER TO ALLOW SALES of liquor on election days . . . ONE VOTED DOWN would have given subpoena powers to the State's Division of Consumer Protection.

ON FIRST—DR. IRENE OLSON, director of Baltimore County's Department of Social Service who was just named director of Maryland's Social Services Administration.

Price Freeze

Q — The football team in my town is giving tickets for future games to those season ticket-holders due a refund because of prices charged above the wage-price ceiling. Is this form of compensation permitted?

A — Yes. Teams may offer patrons tickets to future games or other forms of compensation in lieu of a cash refund. However, at the same time, it still must offer the option of a cash refund when the other forms of compensation are unsatisfactory to the patron.

Q — Is military pay subject to the freeze?

A — Yes military pay is subject to the terms and conditions of the President's freeze on wage increases. However, exceptions have been granted for pay for personnel in the combat zone or missing in action, prisoners of war and hospitalized war casualties.

In addition, benefits for military personnel placed in a retired status during the freeze period will be computed and paid as if the freeze were not in effect. Military personnel who qualify for proficiency pay increases and similar military learning pay programs are treated in the same manner as civilians. This means that increases will be authorized if the person has increased his proficiency or has been promoted to a new position.