Good Advice From A Dummy

WHAT 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.

Pen In Violation

Dear AFRO: It was almost two years ago (in 1970), the Black United Front and other related organizations demonstrated in front of the Md. Penitentiary to bring to the public attention conditions that brought about the near castastrophe on Monday, July 17, 1972.

After being castigated by the State of Md. and Baltimore City Police for doing so, the Black United Front sought aid from the Maryland State Human Relations Commission.

After countless conversations and letters from many persons incarcerated in different penal institutions in the State, we presented to the State Human Relations Commission what we thought and still feel would have prevented today's cry for help from the inmates.

The inmates told us and we told the Commission that a grievance board was needed to siphon off the many grievances that are heard but never resolved.

The inmates requested that we try to formulate a grievance board that would consist of 5 inmates from each penal institution and 5 persons from the "grass roots" community.

Instead, Governor Mandel instituted a grievance board that is totally unsympathetic and created to be powerless in terms of aiding and abetting the incarcerated victims of the penal system in the state. Recently, one of the officials of this board resigned and condemned it as a trick.

In addition to the Grievance Board, we asked adequate medical care, clean, nourishing food, sanitary and healthful living quarters, the end of cruel, brutal atrocities that were and are being perpetrated by the custodial authorities.

Judge Roszel Thomsen set up Federal guidelines for the treatment of inmates. They obviously, have been violated. The authorities are in contempt of this Federal Court.

As spectators at the recent rebellion at the Pen we saw first hand the tragedy of negotiating from a position of weakness and unsureness. The trickery came while the Governor was talking peace, he was planning for war against the inmates.

For hours while the inmates were talking, all kinds of murderous equipment was taken into the Penitentiary by the authorities.

At least 500 flax-jacketed, blue helmet armed policemen with assorted weaponry set the stage for Attica No. 2.

After hours of Governor Mandel and Police Commissioner Pomerleau planning for slaughter and the inmates talking in good faith to try to bring about humane condition, Governor Mandel announced "You have ten minutes." At this time he had stacked the deck.

Add to this the helpless inmates asking to talk to Cong. Parren Mitchell, a black man, sitting across a table from a man who gave them ten minutes to live if they continued to protest the inhumane treatment in the Md. penal system.

Why is it the only time a cry is heard from the inmates is when it is loud, threatening and violent?—

(Mrs.) ZERITA SKATES.

Pen Helpers 'Insulted'

Dear AFRO:

Governor Mandel has blamed outsiders for coming into the Maryland Penitentiary and fomenting trouble. Is the Governor sure of his statement? Or is he taking the word of an incompetent individual who hopes the Governor will notice him and suggest an advancement for a higher grade?

I am hopeful Corrections Chief Lally and the Governor will take a second look at the prison disturbance before they decide to eliminate outsiders, or dedicated volunteers as I would like to call us.

I can understand why some of the guards do not want volunteers to come into an institution because we are a threat to their positions.

We might come back and tell the officials or the community of their attitudes towards us and the inmates.

Let's analyze the love-ins that have been described in a daily paper article. It was a humiliating article told solely for the public which has no idea about the inside of an institution.

It is easy to brainwash the public when they are ignorant of the procedures of entering an institution as a volunteer or a visitor.

I don't believe that there have been love-ins. If so, they were done with the permission of a guard and prearranged.

I have been a volunteer and advisor for some of the self help groups, and I know that I have been a radio personality and community leader in Baltimore for ten years and this is the first time anything so ridiculous has ever been suggested.

I and all of the women who have tried so hard to alleviate all the things that happen to make prisons explosive are highly insulted by the inference that our purposes for going in the institutions are for sex orgies. I demand an apology, and I'm sure the rest of the women feel the same.

Any guard who allowed this infraction should be fired without consideration.

In the past prison authorities have used the procedures of persona-non-grata (not welcome), for so-called troublemakers or others who had in their estimation violated rights of prison hospitality.

Why wasn't it done in the so called "love-in" incidents instead of blanketly condemning and insulting people who were trying to perform a needed service within the rules of the institution?

KITTY BRODY

Pomerleau Cited

Dear AFRO: Since the AFRO has been such a supporter of the administration of Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau, where were your representatives at the testimonial for him on last Wednesday? Were any black people there?—J. G. F.

ED's Note: The testimonial at Martin's West was given by members of the police department and attracted over 600 guests A Spokesman said it was an oversight that the AFRO was not notified of the $10 a plate affair. Yes, black officers were out in large numbers. Public officials, including City Solicitor George Russell, State's Attorney Milton B. Allen, City Councilman Emerson R. Julian were among black citizens in attendance.)

Hymie Says:

Dear AFRO: It is very wrong for anyone to attempt to inject racism into the argument over my statement against Judge Murphy (William H.). It is particularly distressing to me because I was the lawyer who made the motion that admitted blacks into the Bar Association of Baltimore City.

I represented the blacks in the two Equal Accommodations Law cases.

I represented the first two black State Senators in Maryland when an attempt was made to steal the elections from them.

I formed the second integrated law office in Maryland.

I have fought for the underdog for many years. When I ran for Governor in the general election of 1966, I was the only candidate who came out squarely for open housing.

It is very important to blacks that crime be controlled and that criminals be punished because most crimes are committed against blacks.

A public official should look out for his constituents and that is exactly what I am doing when I deplore Judge Murphy's revolving door policy.

The silliest remark against me was the statement that I was acting in a cowardly manner. Many people have told me how they appreciate that it took courage on my part to do what I did.

One critic declared that the Commission on Judicial Disabilities has the responsibility to enforce the judicial canons of ethics. This is precisely the Commission before which I asked the Attorney General to lodge a complaint. — HYMAN AARON PRESSMAN, Comptroller

Adult Education

Dear AFRO: In behalf of the Adult Education Division of the Baltimore City Public Schools, may I express appreciation for your consideration during the past year.

Without the interest and cooperation of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, through the publication of news releases, feature articles, etc., it would be difficult to inform the public relative to educational opportunities for adults in Baltimore. HILTON W. WELKOS, Supervisor-Adult Education

Cong. Mitchell

Dear AFRO:

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, being the person he is, has supported me in a matter with a government agency that took place outside of his district.

I say to the citizens of Maryland and throughout this country, Honorable Parren J. Mitchell is the right kind of a man for his office.

My sincere thanks to the Honorable Parren J. Mitchell and, also, the AFRO so I could bring this to your attention.

ROBERT JOHNSON
Dayton, Ohio.

Thank You, AFRO

Dear AFRO: Thank God for the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers. I read the coverage of the Penitentiary riot and a lot of other things too and believe me if it wasn't for the AFRO telling us what is going on we'd be in a bad way because the dailies slant the news for their own use. Or is it their reporters? Whatever the reason, I am glad there is you.

—JAMES Mc TOLSON

Baltimore Afro-American

NOW IN ITS 80th YEAR

Founded Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1860-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co. of Baltimore City Inc.

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. — CARL MURPHY, Editor-Publisher 1889-1967.

A-4 JULY 29, 1972

Good Approach To Drugs

During an April narcotics seminar at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, Narcotics Treatment Administration Director Dr. Robert DuPont called drug use—an individual's use of a drug to change the way he feels—"an apparently human characteristic" that is done, one way or another, all over the world.

The doctor's statement was not made to condone drug abuse, something that can destroy an individual, in its worst stages. Rather it was made to show just how widespread drug use—in both its positive and negative forms—is as well as how many everyday substances can be called drugs.

These same themes form part of the reasoning behind "Drugs: A Special Exhibit," currently on display at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Art and Industry.

Anyone interested in obtaining a historical perspective on and current information and attitudes about drugs ought to pay a visit to the Museum. The scope of the display reaches back to more than two thousand years before the birth of Christ and brings the viewer up to date with attitudes and information on drug use in the 20th Century.

A 20-foot high green-and-red neon sign glows over the exhibit. Under the sign, shining metal vending machine dispenses drug use related souvenirs. Nearby a game tests the viewer's understanding of drug terminology. Bright-colored 19th century posters trumpet the virtues of patent medicines like "Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil—for man or beast."

Further on, talking figures present diverse attitudes on drugs in today's world. In another area, use of hard drugs like opium, heroin and cocaine as well as softer drugs like alcohol, tobacco, soft drinks and patent medicines are placed in a historical context.

The total presentation is an engrossing and often surprising one whose soft-sell approach should make viewers reconsider any preconceived ideas they may have had about drugs. Out of this should come a renewed and deeper understanding of drug use and its implications.

Armed with this understanding, the people should be better able to avoid the pitfalls of drug abuse.

W.D.S., One Plus, One —

Baltimore's Mayor, William Donald Schaeffer sounded like a statesman and made a convincing argument in Washington on Tuesday when he requested passage of HR14570.

He was impressive as he talked about the importance of this Revenue Sharing measure. He told the Senate Finance Committee about Baltimore's urgent need for these Federal Funds in order to restore budget cuts and maintain adequate city services.

Next day back in City Hall the Mayor resumed his old posture.

His heralded press conference on City Jail was disappointing.

Instead of taking forthright steps to improve the City Jail as suggested by the Special Grand Jury Report, he took half-way measures.

He named a new Chairman of the Board, a young white man, H. Mebane Turner, President of the University of Baltimore.

He picked Dr. Elaine Davis, an attorney and educator and Linwood Jennings, a hospital accountant to bring the number of black members to three.

And, he did an unprecedented thing.

He designated the former chairman, Paul Reed, as the Hearing Officer, a more highly sensitive position than the one he held as Chairman of the Board!

Reed has been the center of much controversy along with Warden Hiram Schoonfield. Committees have blamed them for poor administration and resulting disorders. Yet, Mayor Schaefer did not remove him or the Warden.

Plus, he gave no attention to the proposal made by City Council President Walter Orlinsky, which would have added to the Board grass roots people including a social worker, a former inmate, a nurse, and a psychiatrist.

At the Senate Hearing in Washington, the Mayor referred to "Baltimore City's record of financial responsibility which has earned bond ratings of "A: by Moodys and Standard and Poors. No major East Coast City has a higher municipal bond rating."

It is a pity the same thing can not be said of the halfway measures he took in the City Jail crisis, too little and maybe too late.

He told the Senate Committee that Baltimore has a great future. If he continues to make moves like he did with the City Jail crisis, it would appear he is not helping improve the services to the people.

White Weather

The AFRO visited the U.S. Weather Bureau at Friendship Airport this week to find out why we're experiencing unusually cold and hot temperatures.

Our reporters were impressed by the operation of this agency but they came away with a sour taste in their mouths. The weatherman, a Federal employee, and all his assistants are white. They include 8 weather service specialists, 1 field aid and 1 electronics technician.

Never have there been any black meteorologists or assistants hired and in the words of Weather Chief, C. W. Reynolds, 'We don't ask about race. We do have a Puerto Rican.'

AFRO readers should note here is another Federal agency which draws the color line even though it is subject to Uncle Sam's equal employment opportunity regulations.

It's Urgent!

"Maryland is reaching only a fraction of those eligibles with food stamps. These are tax-paying working poor, making a vigorous effort to climb out of poverty. They have a right to be able to be certified for food stamps and to purchase them at hours convenient to them."

This is one of the recommendations contained in a survey of the administrative efficiency of the state's food stamp program at the request of the Md. Food Committee Inc., and the Community Nutrition Institute.

The suggestion to the state's food stamp administrators is a good one and should be implemented promptly, so that stamps are available at convenient locations on Saturdays and in the evenings.

A little About a LOT

The Unit 5 Syndrone

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

Recent events in regard to changes made by the Community Health Council of Maryland, Inc. (CHC) leveled at the United Fund of Central Maryland (UF) of "gross deceit", evoked this question from a friend:

"Do you remember Unit 5?" Without waiting for my reply, he explained: "Unit 5 was the segregated unit used by the UF (then called the Community Chest), to solicit funds from the black community.

"Influential black men and women were recruited to raise money from the black community to support black institutions.

"If they didn't raise it, black institutions didn't get the small pittance alloted them."

My friend continued: "And it's not much different now. You might say the UF is still trying to exploit the black leadership to raise money in the black community, only this time the money will go to city and county agencies who have just recently admitted their racism, or have been revealed as racist.

"I want to know," he asked, "what is the UF going to do about it beside talk?"

He hotly declared: "I've been giving regularly for thirty years, but not this year" And as an afterthought he said, "They'll (UF) never change."

The CHC in its appeal to the black community to withhold its giving, to put its money in Advance Federal and Ideal Building and Loan Association is not without precedent.

The Catalysts, Chicago, Ill., formed in 1968, a group of black professionals working in social welfare institutions, has as one of its goals "the placement of social welfare financial resources in the Black community through the desposits of funds in Black banks and the purchasing of goods from black producers."

The United Black Fund, Washington, D.C., established in 1969, went a bit further.

It sought "to secure funds from all segments of the Washington community to act as an allocating agent for groups and organizations and agencies which serve the disadvantaged Black communities of Washington, D.C."

Jerome C. Stevenson's research paper: "Some Black Observation on Attitudes of Blacks toward United Way Organizations in Five Cities, July 1971," describes the aforementioned programs as well as others in Cleveland, Ohio, Providence, R.I. and Pittsburgh, Pa.

MRS. MURPHY

Mr. Stevenson, a black Associate Executive Director of the Community Fund, Chicago, Inc., was commissioned by the United Way of America to make this study because of growing disenchantment of blacks all over America with U.F. hiring policies and funding procedures, board representation as well as programs and services in black communities.

To those who scoff that "blacks don't give anyway to anything", the CHC has documentation that poor blacks, poor whites give more in proportion to their incomes (as in taxes and everything else) than industries or middle class independent professionals and businessmen, primarily because the poor work in companies, agencies, industries where check deduction mechanisms are used.

Particularly if they work for city agencies are they subjected to pressure and harrassment—a kind of strong arm "extortion".

We must not forget the Pressman-Schaefer verbal scuffle a few years back, when Schaefer as City Council President was caught exerting undue force and threats to make city workers give more (than their fair share?)

UF progress reports in city agencies in staff meetings become special agenda items between September and November, so that the givers may be revealed and praised, while the non-givers are chastised and stigmatized—a kangaroo court within the system!

Not surprising, according to Mr. Stevenson's paper, is the revelation that slight changes in UF funding to black communities came about only in the wake of civil disorders and rebellions in urban areas.

Yet on the other hand, Mr. Stevenson states: "Blacks were disturbed with the relationships which had developed between UF and the Red Cross in many cities which guarantees a set percentage of the campaign receipts.

"Many blacks in the organizations considers the Red Cross a blatantly racist institution.

"Apparently this opinion was related to the reported experiences of blacks in Chicago, Cleveland and Washington, D.C., who indicated the Red Cross failed to provide services to Black victims of civil disorders."

Similar complaints are central to the demands of the CHC that UF must radically change from institutional racism, providing "funds for 'high risk' programs developed by and for blacks", as indicated in the Program to aid Citizen Enterprises (PACE) in Pittsburgh.

The Human Relations Commission report recommends that UF "revise allocations and programs, affect elimination of any discrimination and file a written policy statement of equal job opportunities, board membership and services."

The indictment of UF and CICHA in the HRC report and the proposed recommendations concluding that report, makes one wonder why, the CHC, a community based organization, is the only group battling this "behemoth."

Against this background, UF rather than being chastised, goaded and made to follow the recommendations of HRC, is flaunting its "gross deceit," is encouraging guilt on the part of potential givers and is playing the divide and conquer game in the community without giving up for changing a thing.

It has the nerve to call "foul" against CHC before the "game" has even begun.

This tactic should make us even more resolute in setting aside our giving in black institutions until such time as the UF board of directors show that it has a strategy, a commitment to develop a clear and acceptable time table, a target date, for changing its institutional racism; a model which will effectively measure the impact of funds upon poor and blacks in Baltimore City.

It is clear at the outset that UF must put its money where its mouth is and that the black community must divest itself of its "Unit 5 (sucker) syndrome once and for all!"

NOW and THEN

DuBois 'Thoughts' Collected

By G. JAMES FLEMING

It is so easy to forget men and their times! It is even easier for a new generation to overlook the pioneers, workers and heroes of the past!

For these reasons, Henry Lee Moon has done a real service — and done it very well, indeed—in collecting and editing The Emerging Thought of W.E.B. DuBois — the essays and editorials written by the celebrated editor of the Crisis and co-founder of the NAACP (Published by Simon and Schuster, New York; 421 pp.).

Many people are still living who were first stimulated into civil rights thinking and into the quest for full equality in America by reading the Crisis, beginning in 1910, and in listening to Dr. DuBois as he spoke in church, school and college in all parts of the country.

For these, Dr. DuBois made "all the difference" in their lives.

DuBois was unequivocal in standing forth for full manhood for blacks; he was not afraid to include "social equality" for his people among his demands; he lambasted those who thought blacks should be trained for Negro jobs (trades only);

And, he extolled the necessity for giving the maximum and the highest education to the "Talented Tenth" of black Americans.

All of his years DuBois was merciless in his condemnation of the U.S. for its racial practices to blacks, both as a group and as individuals.

He exposed discrimination in government employment and in the armed forces; he held the nation up to shame for its long years of lynching black men and women, and he exacerbated the former Confederate states for their denial of education to black boys and girls.

Wherever there was wrong, based on racial prejudice; whether there was institutionalized racism, DuBois went after it, whether the objects of his vitriol were Presidents or governors, whether they were white or black.

Dr. FLEMING

William Edward Burghardt DuBois was well-equipped for his mission as the voice of the NAACP.

He was an eminent user of the English language; his was one of America's brightest minds; he was well trained — in New England public schools, at Fisk, and Harvard, and the University of Berlin.

Even before the organization of the NAACP, he had founded the Niagara Movement, which later merged with the NAACP.

No partial quotation of DuBois can do him justice but, desultorily, we pick a few:

In drafting "A Philosophy for 1913," he wrote:

". . . Sometimes I cannot even protest by words; but may God forget me and mine if in time or eternity I ever weakly admit to myself or the world that wrong is not wrong, that insult is not insult, or that color discrimination is anything but an inhuman and damnable shame."

On voting, among many items, he also wrote;

"Let every colored man who can, vote; and whether he votes the Republican or Democratic or Socialist ticket, let him vote it, not because his father did or because he is afraid, but because after intelligent consideration he thinks the success of that ticket best for his people and his country."

DuBois, who supported Woodrow Wilson, a fellow-scholar, for the Presidency, a year later found himself writing to him, as follows:

". . . Not a single act and not a single word of yours since election has given anyone reason to infer that you have the slightest interest in the colored people or desire to alleviate their intolerable position."

DuBois always had a large following, but not always a completely approving one. Many loudly dissented when, during World War I, he called on American blacks to "close ranks shoulder to shoulder with our white fellow-citizens" and "forget our special grievances."

At the war's end, however, he wrote:

"But by the God of Heaven, we are cowards and jackasses if, now that the war is over, we do not marshal every ounce of our brain and brawn to fight a sterner, longer, more unbending battle against the forces of hell in our own land."

Speaking for returning black enlisted men, he added;

"Make way for democracy! We saved it in France, and by the Great Jehovah, we will save it in the United States of America, or know the reason why."

One is overwhelmed by the breadth and depth of DuBois' world. He seems to have been able to write expertly in all areas of human experience — economics, education, international affairs, including Africa, war and peace, science and politics.

He was well-travelled; he knew men of letters and public affairs in many countries; he spoke French and German.

While Emerging Thought will be nostalgic to those of advanced years, it is to present-day young people that it should have special appeal.

It will bring them light on the immediate past; it will replace ignorance with facts; it will give them a sense of history; it will be a premier example of how to use the English language.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We regret that Dr. Fleming's column on the Democratic convention was mixed up last week. It is reprinted in this edition on a news page.

It's NOT A MAN'S World

Is There Sex Discrimination In The Schools?

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Title IX of Public Law 92-318, (the Education Amendments of 1972), provides that "No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex; be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance

". . . While this prohibition applies generally to elementary and secondary schools, it does not apply to "admissions" to elementary and secondary schools, except to "institutions of vocational education." There are also general exceptions for religious institutions and military schools.

Since this Act will give organizations seeking elimination of bias in the school a new means of effecting change, the Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women (Washington, D.C.) has adopted six important recommendations for action.

The Council is urging State and city Commissions on the Status of Women and other groups interested in education to foster the review of local public school systems to determine the degree of sex discrimination especially with respect to:

(1) schools restricted to one sex;
(2) courses of study in co-educational schools restricted to one sex;
(3) the per capita expenditure of funds by sex for physical education courses and physical education extra curricular and other extra curricular activities;
(4) text books, library books, and other curriculum aids;
(5) school activities, such as hall patrols, safety squads, room chores, etc., and,
(6) the promotion of teachers.

Why are sex discrimination studies needed?

Systematic surveys of public schools in Ann Arbor, Mich., and New York City by women's organizations document areas of inferiority in the educational opportunities afforded girls at all levels of the public schools surveyed.

The Council believes that similar conditions are common in the many public school systems throughout the country.

Teachers and counselor attitudes and practices often discourage girls' aspirations and limit their sense of autonomy and self-image.

Analysis of widely used textbooks provides evidence that women and girls are usually represented as passive followers of men and boys.

Occupational roles for women and girls are usually limited to that of the homemaker or to sex stereotyped occupations such as secretary, teacher, sales clerk or nurse.

MRS. WHITE

More than half of the women and girls in public vocational programs are being trained in home economics and one-third are studying office practices, while vocational courses leading to the often higher-paying jobs in trades and industry are often closed to girls.

Opportunities for girls to gain recognition through excellence in sports are by no means equal to those for boys, and the development by girls of strong, healthy bodies is not given proper emphasis.

That discrimination is generally prevalent in public school systems is borne out in recommendations of some state commissions on the status of women, personal experiences of Council members, etc.

Even some preschool classes and child development centers are reported to seperate boys' and girls' toys and to discourage playing by one sex with toys identified with the opposite sex. Books for preschool age children are reported to be among the worst offenders in sex role stereotyping.

Who should make the reviews?

Ideally, such surveys should be conducted by state or local boards of education in cooperation with state or city status of women commissions and or representatives of other interested citizen volunteer groups.

Maximum community understanding and support will be necessary to secure remedial action.

PTA's, teachers organizations, women's and youth organizations, and news media, are particularly important, and their participation in the survey will help mobilize the support needed to effect change.

More on "What should be investigated? next week.

Words to live by: "Great Spirit-Grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins" (Indian Prayer).

Need More Telethons

Dear AFRO:

While watching the star-studded telethon Saturday night which raised money for victims of Tropical Storm Agnes, it was amazing and gratifying to see the response given to such a worthy cause.

Headed by Bob Hope, Steve Allen, Jimmy Stewart, Mike Douglass, and others, the telethon received pledges over 1.5 million dollars during a 6 hour span.

One of the stars who participated on the show stated, "It was amazing what Americans can do for their brothers when they work together."

After that statement, I began to think how wonderful it would be if we used the same efforts on other domestic problems: Why wait until Nature creates a disaster area before we act as brothers?

Most of our cities and counties across America are major disaster areas with very chronic daily problems: — unemployment, poor housing, rat-infested areas, hunger victims, drug addiction, and other general poor health facilities for a great number of our fellow Americans.

Just think how effective such a star-studded telethon would be if given once or twice a year to aid in the salvation of our dying cities.

LLOYD H. ROSS

79 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.

Police Major Talks With People

Phone Vandalism Dangerous

By MAJ. JAMES H. WATKINS

(ED's NOTE: Maj. Watkins, one of Baltimore City's highest ranking police officers, is director of the Department's Community Relations Division, which won a place on the AFRO's 1971 Honor Roll. He is a veteran of 22 years on the force).

I recently talked with P. B. White, Public Information — C and P Telephone Co., and learned of a potentially dangerous situation to the welfare and safety of various communities in the inner city — malicious destruction of phones on the street. He said it is a terrible waste of money to constantly repair and replace telephones.

Also, in an emergency, very often people go to the phone to seek assistance and find that it has been knocked out of service.

Destruction of public phones can affect citizens in two (2) ways:

1. The phone may be out of service when you need it.
2. Every damaged phone costs money and this causes an increase in phone rates.

Last year, just to repair and replace phones which had been maliciously damaged, C and P spent more than $100,000. This expense becomes a part of the cost of telephone service for everyone — so it eventually affects you.

Mr. White suggests that if anyone finds a damaged phone or one that is not working for any reason, he can help by going to another phone and calling "611" and giving the telephone repair service the number or location of the phone that is out of order.

The Telephone Company is doing several things about the problem:

1. Repairing public phones as quickly as possible.
2. Installing phones in well-lighted, well-maintained locations.
3. Installing sturdier phones.
4. Maintaining crews who are responsible for keeping phone booths clean, making them less likely to be defaced.
5. Assigning roving patrols and working with the police to catch vandals.

WARNING!!! People who tamper with phones are not getting away so easily today. Recently, malicious destruction of a telephone brought a Baltimore man a sentence of nine months in the House of Correction.

Since 1970, in Maryland, 83 persons have been arrested for phone tampering. Of these, 45 have been convicted, 14 cases are still pending.

I call on the AFRO readers to assist in reducing the amount of malicious destruction of a worthwhile service to the community, especially in an emergency.

LOWER PARK HEIGHTS AREA
(Progress Report)

I promised AFRO readers a progress report on the police relations with the community of the Northwest Lower Park Heights Area and some of the summer programs that were instituted to provide recreation and a more harmonious relationship.

MAJ. WATKINS

First, I want to commend and thank the numerous citizens living in the Park Heights area who have assisted the police and other city agencies to do a more worthwhile service in that area.

To the major agencies, such as, Sanitation — Rodent Control — Housing — Abandoned Car Section — Health Department and many others not named that have moved into this area and really, perhaps, for the first time given the citizens the service that they pay taxes for.

This goes to show what can be done In a community once the citizens make up their minds to act positively, rather than use the all too infamous negative approach or rhetoric, such as, "We are not getting service because we are black."

The citizens in the Lower Park Heights Area have formed committees to deal with the various problems and actively support the various agencies when they come into the area.

I also want to commend Mayor Schaefer's representative, Quenton Lawson for his role as liaison between the various city agencies and the community.

Because the people are too numerous to mention I will not drop any more names with the exception of Sgt. Mercedes V. Rankin, of the Community Relations Section, who has done a yeoman's job in the Lower Park Heights area (she's so petite that the residents find it hard to believe she is a police officer, but it doesn't take her long to convince them otherwise).

The Community Relations Section under Sgt. Rankin's guidance has been able to send 20 children between the ages of 9 and 13 to Fresh Air Camp, near Street, Md. — free of charge.

Some 60 children and 10 adults spent a day at Fort Smallwood — transportation and lunch provided free.

Operation Champ set up equipment on July 19 on the northside of Towanda playfield. On July 27 in the 2700 block of Keyworth Ave., with cooperation of Operation Champ, a cookout for 400 residents was held.

The Baltimore Fire Department hosted 15 on a trip to Lutherville July 22 and on Saturday, they will host 25 more.

One of the large department stores in the area has donated over 50 gallons of paint for area residents to paint and fix up their homes.

So folks in the Lower Park Heights Area, continue to identify with your problems and seek assistance when it is needed from the various agencies. Pretty soon you will have the type of community you desire.

LETTERS DEPT.: From 2700 Block Cylburn Ave., Widow asking help regarding vandalism.

ANSWER — We have started action, hopefully, to alleviate your complaint of vandalism by neighborhood children.

Letter — From Good Clean Neighbors — East Lombard St.

ANSWER — This problem is now being investigated. More will follow.

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 ask 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 to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

JOHN H. MURPHY SR.
December 25, 1920

PAGE OPPOSITE
Baltimore Afro-American

A-5 JULY 29, 1972

A Column Of CHOICE

About soul, magic and bug science

By MARION BANFIELD

I'm hearing so much about time spent looking at television shows, that I thought I ought to call attention to some interesting things I have come across lately.

"Soul Train" on Channel 45 Sundays at 2 p.m. is a current fad of young viewers. Those young people can move in a way to make anybody understand that body rhythm and music go together. They are beautiful!

Sorry I'm too old to match the beat! Those black youngsters are creative. They feel the music and express themselves.

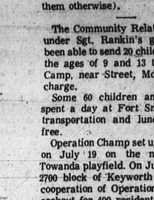
On a recent Saturday, June Thorne's Saturday (2 p.m., Channel 2) program had an excellent presentation which teachers and parents would enjoy along with students.

Two young men, Ray, who is black, and Kirt, who is white, produced a scientific show with some "magic." The show was "Previews of Progress" and is used to stimulate interest in scientific careers.

This team of young men can be gotten to schools by writing to the Public Relations Department of General Motors Corp., Detroit, Michigan for information about "Previews of Progress."

Our children, both boys and girls, will develop an interest in scientific careers when schools make such careers better known and as interesting as was shown on June Thorne's show.

Nine little boys from McCulloh Homes sat in the board room of Family and Children's Society last week. They were having the first meeting of their "Black Americans Club I."



MRS. BANFIELD

Michael Barland, a Coppin sophomore working with Family and Children's Society for the summer, is their leader.

As we talked about contributions of black Americans, about scientific and folk tales of how the world began, those boys were alert and articulate.

I asked how many would like to be scientists when they grow up. Four hands shot up into the air.

The boys were: Bryant Evans, Andrew Marcus, Emmitt Starkes, Aaron Brown, Roland Jones, Nathaniel Hampton, Rodney Jones, Duane Herndon and David Marcus.

Follow-up by home and school is what is needed.

Some years ago, a mother in Westport told me that her seven-year-old son was crazy about bugs, all kinds of bugs. I talked with the youngster about becoming an entomologist.

In May, he and I went to visit a laboratory in Catonsville where the entomologists showed him how he worked with insects. It was such a delightful experience to the boy that although he did not see me for three months, he remembered his scientific career.

We need to think of ways to give our children choice with scientific careers. This is a scientific age.

Attention, Physicians

Dear AFRO:

The Committee on High School Athletics has recently had discussions with the Baltimore City Public School system representatives to determine ways in which the Baltimore City Medical Society can assist the athletes participating in high school sports.

Among the problems recounted by the school officials is that of physician coverage at football games. School Board regulations require that a physician be in attendance at every high school football game played during the season.

In the past, this coverage has been provided through the Baltimore City Health Department by the employment of interns and residents from the hospitals in the city on an episodic basis.

Often, the physicians covering the game have little understanding or knowledge of the sport and are unaware of the type of injuries which can occur.

Games are played Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons and on Saturday mornings during a ten week period in the fall. There are approximately 150 games played during the season and the school system pays $25 for the physician coverage at the games.

We would appreciate physicians letting us know if they would be willing to spend one or more afternoons covering games at a high school near them.

CHRIS P. TOUNTAS, M.D.
Chairman Committee on
High School Athletics
1211 Cathedral St.