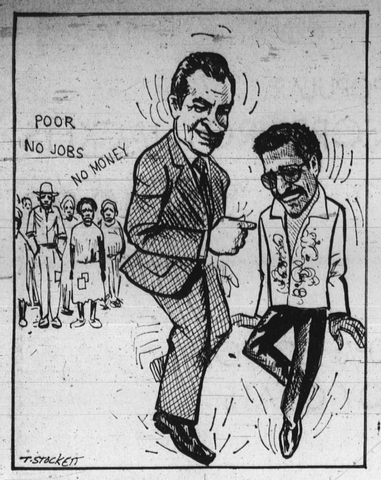
No Laughing Matter To Some



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.

What Makes Sammy Clown?

SAMMY AND DICK

Dear AFRO:

Some things make the pen grow heavy, the hand halting, and the mind reluctant.

I have thrashed with writing this letter. But the question is one many people wish answered, "What makes Sammy clown?"

Young people who remember the March on Washington, the Selma to Montgomery march, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the movement for black freedom and the courts to seek out and deliver just redress of the grievances of the poor and the black, are asking this question.

People who know how the administration, in its courtship of the South, found for itself a "stop the blacks" ticket, plucked it from the flames of Dr. Martin Luther King's funeral wake, kept it alive with a second-in-command who seized on that moment to try to place the curbing bit in the mouth of the black leaders, and rekindled it in 1972 by executive voice in the bus-that's-us issue, are asking this question.

People who know the Agnew mold for black leaders and of his suggestion that, if the present black leaders would not submit to his treatment of them, he would make some black leaders of his own, are asking this question.

People who know of the long line of sell-outs of blacks by leaders, once they saw a chance for personal gains, are asking this question.

What makes Sammy clown? Surely the more obvious answer cannot be the correct one.

The pictures printed in the media had to be a distortion.

What else can people who want to believe in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Candy Man, believe?

The alternative bears significance too ominous to contemplate.

Maybe Sammy has an answer.

People who are awake do not want to believe this is an example of the black "sapatalism" they can expect from the administration. — Dr. ERNEST O. BROWN, M.D.

Morally Wrong

Dear AFRO:

Abortions to my knowledge are generally performed in the following methods:

(1) The surgeon dilates the womb, inserts a forcep and drags the baby out with the afterbirth.

Usually the baby's soft bones including the skull, give way and the child is dismembered as it is removed.

The woman experiences a great deal of bleeding.

This method is usually employed at around twelve weeks by which time the unborn child has a heart, his arms and legs, nails, breathing, the ability to feel pain, cry and to suck his thumb;

(2) The surgeon opens the abdominal wall and removes the baby usually resulting in death by asphyxiation; or

(3) The surgeon inserts a needle into the abdomen injecting a fluid into the womb. The baby can be felt to make a few convulsive movements and dies within a few moments.

In about twenty-four hours labor starts, and the already disintegrating baby is delivered. This is the most faulty method from which many live but burnt babies are born.

None of the methods paints a pretty picture.

I would think that abortion laws have been liberalized because the general public is not aware of what is involved in the killing of an unborn human being.

I also feel that the liberalization of abortion laws is a direct result of the fact that for the most part the people of this nation do not consider themselves answerable to the Lord.

I believe that a person is a living soul from conception and, therefore, all abortions are morally wrong, because abortions are just as much murder as killing a child after birth.

DAVID PEARL

Citizens' Arrest

Dear AFRO:

In the Aug. 26 edition of your paper you featured an article on the capturing of a suspect wanted for murdering a man on Gwynn Oak Ave. by two black men.

I have been a reader of the AFRO for 19 years and this is the first time I have felt compelled to write concerning two of your articles.

I felt there should've been more coverage on the two brothers who captured the suspect. Perhaps it would have let people know that blacks are concerned about crime in their neighborhoods.

It may even cause more people to come forward in other such cases.

During one month in my neighborhood there were 18 burglaries in a two-week period, in which no one wanted to get involved, not even to call the police when they noticed something suspicious.

In one instance, a woman admitted having seen strangers coming out of vacant homes with TV sets.

I realize people have legitimate reasons for not becoming physically involved, but there is not too much involved in calling the police.

When two black men were involved, however, they were given back page coverage and Liddie Jones was given front page coverage for having his rights violated.

I feel everyone should have their rights upheld, but in this instance the rights of black people are involved.

When Mr. Jones was riding his expensive cars up and down the avenue and putting out $5,000 and bragging about having more he was not concerned about the rights of the black people. He did not earn this money by punching a clock.

In this day and time when you cannot walk the streets safely, it is worth mentioning someone who becomes involved in capturing a suspect.

Perhaps it will make the brothers who are demanding the release of prisoners because they are brothers think more about what they are saying. — ELLIOTT YOUNG

Baltimore Afro American

OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Founded Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. 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.

No More Willies

Willie Lemmon, the 15-year-old junior high school student, should be alive today if. . . .

The policeman had caught him
He had stayed in the car
He had not run

The policeman had taken proper aim and shot at his legs.

But Willie, a clean shaven black boy, died on the pavement of North Avenue and Collington Street, with a policeman's bullet in the back of his neck causing his blood to ooze out over the sidewalk.

WHY?

Can we blame society for a policeman who shoots first and asks questions later?

Can we blame the neighborhood, which screamed out in anger and terror after the shooting?

Can we blame the school system, which knew Willie needed extra special help (like thousands of children are getting today with State money) so that he could hear better, talk better and be in better control of his senses . . . . .

Who really is to blame?

The blame really lies with society, the police, the community, the home and the school. All must share equally for Willie's death for all contributed to it . . . . .

But Willie is dead and the only question left to be answered is how many more Willies do we need before:

Policemen are taught how to run fast enough to capture a fleeing suspect from behind and NOT SHOOT HIM IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD.

The schools are taught to recognize and give help to all children with difficulties not just special ones whose parents raise the most noise.

And families are helped to have decent jobs and homes so that their children can grow up to expect more out of life than riding around at night in cars.

And finally, the community understands that in order to prevent another Willie they must band behind someone — their city councilman, their minister or their congressman and demand NOT ASK that there be no more WILLIES.

Goodbye Summer

Summer has gone. All your wishes n not bring it back. For some it's it a fond goodbye to dreamy acations in far away lands and unforgettable adventures. They are the ones who go on now to plans for a delightful Winter by the fireside, holiday parties, Thanksgiving tables full, Christmas stockings brimming.

But what about those who dread Summer's end? For thousands of citizens, the coming of the long, cold season means empty cupboards, no heat, youngsters in bed day and night to keep warm, no shoes for school and a grieved father with no job, hunting in vain for work. The chilly snap these past few days is no harbinger of a winter wonderland of snow for them. If Summer would only stay, they would be happier, warmer and could make it somehow.

A School Needs Love

School vandalism ran upwards to one quarter million dollars last year. An elementary teacher, however, was able to keep her school's windows from being broken by her own sort of miracle.

Parents and the youngsters report she told an assembly one afternoon, "A school needs your love. When you are grown up, you will look back upon good days here and wish they could come again with classmates and fun and delight as the world of learning opened to you.

"But, if you don't love your school, It will not give you all you should get. Without love, it will become broken, old and ugly. Don't break your school's windows. Don't let anyone else break them. Keep your school beautiful so you will have pride in years to come."

Report From Washington

A Break For Black Veterans?

By PARREN J. MITCHELL

Senator Vance Hartke, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs recently wrote the following to me: "I want to express my deep appreciation for the expression of your views earlier this year concerning the G.I. bill.

"It was immensely helpful to the committee in its deliberations to have the benefit of your counsel and to know the diversity of opinion with respect to H.R. 12828 which had passed the House earlier."

Senate Bill 2161, increasing the basic rate to $250 a month, passed the Senate on Aug. 3, represents a substantial increase over the current law ($175) and H.R. 12828 ($200). In addition, Title V of S. 2161 provides for a supplementary loan program of up to $1,575 an academic year for the veteran who wishes to attend the higher cost institution.

Senator Hartke continued in his correspondence by saying "I am also pleased to inform you that consistent with the recommendations of your letter, our bill provides for the same measurement criteria for a full-time student whether he is pursuing his education in the evening or in the daytime."

The problem now is that the Senate Bill S. 2161 differs considerably from the House version of the G.I. bill.

These differences must be worked out in a joint Senate-House conference committee. I have written the chairman and the members of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs urging that we adopt the Senate Bill with its much more liberal features.

CONG. MITCHELL

The black veteran suffers disproportionately in terms of job opportunities and other benefits.

The least we can do is to provide him with a real chance to secure higher education. The Senate Bill will, if passed, increase the college participation rate by black veterans as well as enable them a wider choice of institutions to attend.

The vote on the conference report shall come up rather quickly. I urge that interested citizens of Maryland write their respective congressman urging adoption of the Senate version of the G.I. Bill.

A little About a LOT

We Have Done It Before

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

After listening to WJZ-TV's "Another Point of View," when Fr. Richard Wagner, St. Veronica's Church, stated patronizing descriptions and half-truths about the people of Cherry Hill, I think a long time resident of that community ought to set the record straight.

Cherry Hill has always been the community where residents carried the fight for better streets, lighting, transportation, recreation, schools and church programs.

Notably, for a time at least, Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian Church provided leadership in the areas of social services, voter registration, PTA presidents, and was the rallying point for after school education, recreation, boy and girl scouts, teenage canteen, day care services (subsequently funded by the Dept. of Social Services).

Although public welfare recipients are three fourths of the Housing project residents, the largest Welfare Rights Organization in the city is based in Cherry Hill, the Community Organizer and former president of the Citywide Welfare Rights Organization is a Cherry Hill resident.

In the area of education, a sizeable number of our young people from project and private homes have graduated from college, have gotten advanced degrees, have entered the fields of engineering, banking, law, medicine, teaching and social work.

Since the Housing Project — Cherry Hill Homes — comprises only half of the housing in Cherry Hill, it is dishonest to equate fatherless homes with Cherry Hill, to generalize about the general poverty of a community without making reference to the mixture of residents who are also home owners, two parent families, working people, who pay direct taxes. Yet, welfare recipients pay indirect taxes through rent, food, clothing, utilities, etc. (Usually more than their fair share).

The strength of this community stems from a community based organization, the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council, which over the past twenty-five years, has had an illustrious history (in addition to schools, recreation, etc.) in keeping spot zoning out, and only recently, by an unforgiveable blunder, was unable to keep a liquor store out after having successfully defeated eighteen previous tries in twenty-three years.

Perhaps what should have been said was that with four elementary schools, seven or more churches, one junior high school, despite all its past successes, the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council no longer fulfills its role as spokesman for the community.

Otherwise, Fr. Wagner would never have been so bold as to individually discuss, on the basis of no factual evidence, the problems of Cherry Hill, without first consulting the Coordinating Council, or the Community Action Agency Center, who, if truly strong would have spoken for themselves.

The Cherry Hill Coordinating Council has been reduced to nominal membership because it has lost sight of its initial purpose: "That of acting as a combined order for the production of results."

MRS. MURPHY

It has fallen into the position of being part of the establishment, of being used unwittingly by the establishment to divide Cherry Hill between the haves and have nots.

It has become physically exhausted over personality fights, power plays, individual glory seeking, rather than involve itself in the interests and problems of its residents, thereby broadening representation and credibility.

Census data, carefully examined, will show no dilapidated housing, no lack of plumbing, no high density of population, it will, however, reveal low median high school completion, low median income and very high male unemployment. These are the root causes of dope addiction, crime (which is no where near the city average) and anti-social behavior.

To focus on Cherry Hill only when firemen are harassed is "to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel."

This problem recurs every other year, mainly because there are no adequate recreation facilities in Cherry Hill, no inclusion of project people in the decision-making level of the Coordinating Council, and no monitoring of firemen and police who oftimes use foul language, profane name-calling when they are surrounded by a crowd of youthful onlookers at a false alarm or fire scene.

What Engine 58 Co. needs is more black firemen!

If the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council would return to its old structure, where representatives of working organizations like the Welfare Rights Organization, the Brotherhood, the CAA Community Organization, the Cherry Hill Homes Tenant Organization, representatives from rental units, recreation groups, schools and churches, would have EQUAL voices in its operation, the Coordinating Council would be able to deal more effectively with the problems of unemployment, voter registration, school drop-outs and anti-social behavior.

If the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council would develop a Steering Committee of representatives from each of the viable organizations in Cherry Hill, it could set goals and priorities, it could develop real democratic, intelligent leadership for the good and welfare of all citizens of Cherry Hill.

Then the leadership would not have to manipulate officer elections to guard jealousy control over the organization for its own self-perpetuation.

It would then be speaking and working WITH a more representative body of residents, fulfilling its function as coordinator, not dictator, not holding on to programs which other groups would be involved in and power which is not working for the production of results."

As the old song title goes: "We have done it before, and we can do it again."

It rests with Cherry Hill residents to either reform a once viable organization — the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council — or to form another organization which will be relevant and responsive to the needs of the total citizenry of Cherry Hill.

But first, the citizens of Cherry Hill must unite and stop fighting among ourselves!

Our 80th Anniversary Year

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Give The Games Back

Dear AFRO: Children today can't enjoy a child's game because of professionalism. When I was a child, we played games only a child could understand but we had fun, and that is the general idea.

Our baseball games involved all of the kids available at the time the game started. Sometimes there were as few as six on a team. Sometime as many as eleven.

But we all had fun. The rules changed from day to day, some of the rules we used would make Babe Ruth turn over in his grave, but the general idea was to have fun.

Today's games are so professional there is no place left for fun for the kids. They are supervised by professionals or semi-professionals. The kids have to show professional potential or they can't take part in the game.

The kids are confused to the point they become nervous wrecks by the time they are ten years old.

Sometimes the games end up in fights between the parents and the officials. As for the kids and the fun they were to have, they could have stayed in bed. BURRELL R. BRADBY

NOW and THEN

Higher State Court Posts Also Politics

By G. JAMES FLEMING

There are other high political offices to be filled on November 7, or thereabouts, besides those of President and Vice-President — principally the offices of U.S. Senator and of member of the House of Representatives.

The candidates for these offices should not be overlooked.

All 435 seats must be filled in the House of Representatives, and one-third of the 100-member Senate must also be elected.

In addition, for the first time, the territories of the Virgin Islands and Guam will elect one "Delegate" each to sit in the House of Representatives, to join the other two non-voting Delegates from the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

DR. FLEMING

There are also some purely local elections, in different parts of the country, that should not be ignored.

Why are all these elections important?

To deal with the more local elections first, let us not forget that all of us first live in some "locality"—some village, town, county, or city. It is these places which are responsible for most of the services which we receive, or ought to receive—such as water, sewage disposal, street building and repairing, police protection, and public education.

In addition, even if the most attractive President is elected, unless he is balanced by a people-serving and-courageous Senate and House of Representatives, he may be much less effective than he might otherwise be.

This does not mean that a Republican President must necessarily be backed up by a Republican Congress, or at least by one of the two houses. It may mean just the opposite. That goes also for the Democrats. Ignoring the importance of the legislative branch, means ignoring that it takes both branches to insure the checks and balances provided for in the Constitution.

What we are trying to say is that it is most important for each voter to be pretty clear in his or her mind what candidate he or she is supporting for the Senate and House of Representatives and why. The same "reasons why" go for the other offices below that of President.

In Maryland, there are no races for the Senate. The campaign for the House of Representatives, so far as Blacks are concerned, centers in the Seventh Congressional District, where Representative Parren Mitchell is sure of reelection for a third term.

More important for Marylanders is an opening on the Court of Special Appeals, to be filled anytime now by appointment of the governor. This court is the second highest judicial body in the state, with 10 members. No black judge now sits on this court or on the state's topmost judicial body, the Court of Appeals (This would be the "supreme" court in most other states).

This column does not see how Governor Mandel, in good conscience, or from the viewpoint of smart politics, can ignore Maryland's Blacks this time.

There are many black lawyers and several Black judges from whom the governor can choose, even after half-asking, "if they are qualified."

After an examination of the facts politics of life, it appears that the frontrunner for the Court of Special Appeals should be David T. Mason, presently chairman of the State Parole Road. In addition to being a lawyer of broad experience, he has served in the attorney general's office and in several other legal areas of the state.

District Judge John R. Hargrove is also being mentioned. He has served on several levels of the judiciary, from magistrate, to housing court judge, to municipal court judge, to his present position of the judge-in-charge of the Baltimore City district of the new state district court system.

But, Judge Hargrove's present term is good for another 14 years, which fact makes some of his usual backers to feel he "should stay where he is and leave the road clear for Mason."

The No. One community candidate in earlier months was George L. Russell, who made racial history by becoming City Solicitor of Baltimore City some five years ago. Last year he had many-faceted support for mayor of Baltimore, but lost out to William Donald Schaefer, the man he still serves as City Solicitor.

Mr. Russell, it is reported, is no longer being considered for the Court of Special Appeals but is slated for a cabinet post under Governor Mandel. This column hopes he will not accept the position in mind, even though this would make him the first Black cabinet member in the state.

Whoever is selected, from county commissionership, to judgeship, to President, it is all part of the political process—and those who exclude themselves from politics will find themselves also excluded from the benefits of politics and government.

Major Speaks to the People

We Police Our Police

Many times I have been asked "Do you really investigate complaints about Police Officers?"

Today my column will deal with "How We Police Our Police." Believe me your complaints are investigated.

The primary goal of a Police Department is good order in our public streets and service to the public. Citizens of Baltimore have every right to expect professional response and honorable personal conduct from representatives rendering service.

The Internal Investigation Division is a staff arm which police misconduct by personnel and creates an atmosphere of public confidence, through objective investigations. It also screens out potential misconduct by investigating applicants.

Cleaning up "our own backyard" removes any need for the imposition of a non-police agency to perform the task of preserving integrity within the Department.

When a complaint is filed at any police sub-division, or other locations noted on the back page, a control number is assigned. Initial complaints are received by telephone, mail or in person.

Anonymous complaints of a specific nature are subject to preliminary inquiry to ascertain whether further investigation is warranted.

Arrangements are made to interview complainants and witnesses. Photos and sketches are prepared, depending upon the need.

Expeditiously, statements and relevant data are compiled, covering the scope of the allegation. Accused personnel are additionally questioned

MAJ. JAMES H. WATKINS

and required to respond to the accusations in detail. Investigative aids, such as the polygraph are employed in certain situations.

After all the facts are in, the contents of the investigation are examined closely. If adequate evidence exists which supports the allegation; the entire investigative file is forwarded to the Commanding Officer of the accused for review and recommendation.

If the investigation is unable to resolve the accusation for lack of witnesses, or the accusation is determined not to be factual, a finding of unfounded, exonerated, or not sustained is determined in accordance with the particular circumstances.

In all cases, the person who registered the complaint receives a letter from the Police Commissioner, informing him of the conclusion of the investigation.

The Complaint Evaluation Board is composed of a majority of non-police personnel including representatives of the Attorney General, City Solicitor, States Attorney and one representative of the Police Department. A Legal Aid Bureau representative serves as secretary.

They meet monthly to review completed investigations dealing with allegations of physical abuse and discourtesy on the part of department members.

Files of all such investigations are delivered to each member of the complaint evaluation board, even though such complaints were not initially referred on the Complaint Evaluation Board official forms.

Members of the Board may agree or disagree with the determination made by the Police Department.

Further investigation may be called for, or the Board has the option to secure the services of the Maryland State Police for its independent investigation into the same complaint.

THOUGHT

"A Police Department which is unable to keep its own members under control cannot be entrusted with the control of others."

Anonymous

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

TELEPHONE OR VISIT: Internal Investigation Division, 1900 Argonne Drive, Phone 685-1600, Ext. 463, 464, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

-or-

After 4:30 p.m. or Sunday call 685-1600, Ext. 391.

-or-

Any Police Building

-or-

Attorney General's Office, One Charles Center.

City Solicitor's Office, Tower Building, Guilford Ave. and Baltimore St.

Legal Aid Bureau, Peoples Court Building, Fayette and Gay Streets

State's Attorney's Office, Court House, Calvert and Fayette Streets

WRITE — Police Commissioner, Baltimore Police Headquarters, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

-or-

Box 222-3333, Baltimore, Maryland 21203

A Column Of Choice

A Special Message To All Students

By MARION BANFIELD

School has opened. Again you have the opportunity to get ready to live in this world. No one knows what the world of 1984 will be. We all know that it will be different.

Here are some questions as you think about 1984: 1. Where will you be?

2. Will you be involved in making decisions for the government of your city or your state?

3. Will you know enough about history to actively influence legislation on the federal level?

4. What part will you play in development of improving techniques for building cars, bridges, houses, hospitals?

5. Will you be part of a team of scientists going down into the seas for more food for mankind?

6. What kind of music will you hear?

7. Will you be using music for newer purposes to affect human, animal or plant life?

8. In what legislative assembly will you sit?

9. Will you be paying taxes to give better services?

10. Will you be unhappily stuck in an institution which other taxpayers will support?

11. Will you be healing the mind or body of others?

12. Will you be proud of yourself?

13. Will you feel competent to deal with yourself and others?

14. Will you be making the world a better place to live?

School is your starting place.

Seventh graders especially find school a very difficult and frustrating experience.

Our schools appear to be huge, impersonal institutions to seventh graders. Some of you feel lost.

This year you of the seventh grade and of other grades have the possibility of finding a more caring school system.

Dr. Roland Patterson is a black superintendent of schools who is very much concerned that all students have a good opportunity to learn. Students are his chief concern.

All kinds of workshops have been held so that principals and teachers could develop new and better ways of helping students to learn.

A good school system turns out good students. With adults trying to be more understanding. It is now very important for students to be aware of the difference and to approach school with the intention of learning.

Students have the following choices:

1. To come to school to sit in classes because the law and parents say it must be so.

2. To come to school to rebel against all authority.

3. To come to school to peddle dope to get more money for drugs or fancy clothes.

4. To come to school intending to force your own ideas and theories on others.

5. To come to school to learn what black and white women and men have to say.

6. To come to school to learn to read, to write, to handle numbers, to question, to argue, to get a foundation for future ideas.

7. To come to school to clown and disrupt so that your own ignorance about reading and understanding ideas will be less conspicuous.

8. To come to school long enough to check in, then sneak off into fun and trouble with your friends.

9. To come to school to learn, to share ideas, to get new understanding of yourself and of this world.

10. To come to school to fulfill the hopes of your parents and your race and of your country that you will become a constructive citizen.

Choice to be a learner is difficult because so many of out children have not dreamed about their future.

It takes courage to live in a way to respect yourself day and night.

It takes guts to do what you know is right.

The future is yours. Do not let other kids ruin your future.

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

AFRO Stands For

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts.

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

Extensive and meaningful 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.

A black-owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

It's NOT A Man's World

Women Find It's Tough To Get Credit

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Women across the country are furiously and feverishly coordinating feminist actions against credit discrimination.

They are coming forward with claims that they are discriminated against by banks, savings and loan associations, credit card companies, finance companies, insurance companies, retail stores and even the federal government.

They are now tired of being humiliated when, attempting to borrow money, open a charge account, or to buy and sell stock, they are told to secure the husband's permission and signature.

Earlier this year, the National Commission on Consumer Finance held hearings in Washington to determine the extent of financial discrimination against women.

Women from all walks of life cited case after case of blatant discriminatory practices.

One such case involved a single woman in her early 30's who could not get a loan to purchase a house despite the fact that she had an adequate down payment and was regularly employed.

The woman's fiance, who had claimed bankruptcy, was able to secure a loan to purchase the same house with a much smaller down payment.

Another example is that a woman applicant for a BankAmericard with an individual income of $15,000 probably will discover that the credit will be issued to her husband in his name only.

A married woman who applies for a Diner's Club Card will receive a response requiring her husband to sign for her as the "authorizing officer."

A widow testified that after her husband's death six years ago, she tried in vain to have the charge accounts transferred to her name.

The accounts still remain in his name. In the words of the speaker, it became obvious to her that "a man who has been dead for six years has a higher credit rating than a woman widowed and working."

Another woman told the committee, "If you are married and in child-bearing years, you're a bad credit risk. If you're single or divorced, you're a bad credit risk. Men are bad credit risks when they don't pay their bills. Women, just because they are women."

MRS. WHITE

Three bills have been introduced in Congress to remedy credit discrimination. H.R. 15114 would prohibit discrimination by sex or marital status in federally-related mortgage transactions.

H.R. 15115 would prohibit discrimination by sex or marital status when creditors are extending credit: H.R. 15116 would forbid any federally insured bank, savings and loan association, or credit union to practice discrimination by sex or marital status in applications for credit and credit transactions.

This will be legislation for women to watch, work for passage and support on national and local levels.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Dr. Cleveland Chandler

Dear AFRO:

It is with much shock and surprise that I learn of the dismissal of Dr. Cleveland A. Chandler as Dean of Coppin State College.

My first reaction upon hearing about this was to raise questions and attempt to see where answers might be found.

The two main questions are: "Why has such a step been taken," and secondly, "What, if any, are the charges against the dean which would support such an action?"

I feel that answers to these questions should be forthcoming, and further, that as a concerned individual, alumnus of Coppin, member of the community, and faculty member of this institution, I am entitled to some answers.

In the time that I have known Cleveland Chandler, I have always found him to be a dedicated, honorable, hard-working, and honest member of the Coppin Family.

He has dedicated himself for service to our college, and with his expertise as an academician and administrator as well as his standing in the community, he is one person whom we call ill afford to lose! !

In my capacity as a member of the faculty here, I have had contacts with Dr. Chandler on numerous occasions.

I have always found him to be genuinely interested in and supportive of efforts to improve the quality of higher education offered at Coppin. He is not concerned with acquiring position and power for personal glory or gratification.

His major concern has always been to make Coppin the best possible place for black students to come and acquire those skills needed to function as a members of our society.

How is it then that such a man can be asked to step down and divorce himself from that to which he has made a strong commitment? Coppin is at a crucial stage in its development, and we need men like Dr. Chandler to help us to forge ahead and achieve our goals.

Dr. Chandler has only been at Coppin for one year, and it can be noted that a year is a very short time for a man to demonstrate his worth to its fullest extent.

It is my feeling that our dean has performed with distinction and that he should be given the opportunity to continue to work for a better and more viable Coppin State College. — T. M.

(Ed's Note: This letter was signed; the name is omitted at writer's request).

Sen. Welcome:

Dear AFRO:

Congratulations on your 80th anniversary!! May you continue to work toward the goal set by the founder, the great John H. Murphy Sr. and his distinguished son, Dr. Carl Murphy.

The AFRO Credo which John H. Murphy Sr. espoused over fifty-two years ago, is still very appropriate today.

And to paraphrase the great Dr. Carl Murphy: In the years to come, may the AFRO continue "to let its light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful. May it stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism and prejudice."

Again, congratulations and heartiest best wishes.

VERDA F. WELCOME,
(State Senator, 4th District)

More On Abortions

Dear AFRO: The "great American chain of goodness," as any chain, is only as strong as its weakest link. Our most vulnerable link is the unborn child.

If we permit the unborn child, for economic or other pragmatic reasons, to be denied his "inalienable" right to life (the right upon which, of necessity, all rights are predicated), we are nearer to having that right denied ourselves, to having severed the chain.

A society's true worth is not determined by monetary measures alone, but more so by its willingness to endure inconvenience or hardship to perpetuate, for all generations, sacred principles — principles which keep the chain from breaking.

One such principle is the protection of the right to life of innocents.

America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.

America cannot be great if easy abortions become the law of the land because at that point America will cease to be good. — JOSEPHINE M. GIESKE, Pebblestone Dr., Silver Spring.

He Remembers

Dear AFRO: I am writing this letter for the purpose of publicly thanking Congressman Parren Mitchell for the efforts that he is presently making in my behalf.

At the present time I'm an inmate at the Maryland Pen, being illegaly held.

During the past 8 months I have been subjected to the type of blind justice reserved only to the black man in general, and the poor black man in particular.

To be specific, I was found guilty and sentenced for a crime after the court had lost its power to prosecute me. The Judge completely ignored my lawyer's references to the six-month Statute of Limitation Law that is related to my case.

After being sentenced, my lawyer immediately put in an appeal, and immediately I began contacting people whom I felt might take an interest in the case. Parren Mitchell was the only one out of all the organizations and individuals that I had contacted whom responded.

Regardless of the outcome of the investigation into the case, I felt that because of his responsiveness to the needs of an individual from his district, he should be commended.— WILLARD DUBOSE