Baltimore Afro-American

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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, (1889-1967)
Editor-Publisher, (1922-1967)

POWs Returning

The first of some 562 American servicemen, prisoners of war in North Vietnam and others, began arriving in the Philippines this week.

Ever since President Nixon announced the possibility of the end of the war and the return of their loved ones, families have been on the anxious seat. In a way they're the lucky ones. Some 1,300 others are still missing in Southeast Asia.

In the Baltimore area plans for the POWs returns have special meaning for the wife and two daughters of Sgt. Donald J. Rander, formerly of Turner Station, now of Baltimore County, and for the family of Air Force Capt. Marion A. Marshall of Kentland, Md., near Washington.

The delay and mix-up have caused sleepless nights, sadness and gloom.

And now, for some, the good news. Mrs. Beatrice Williams, wife of Air Force Capt. James W. Williams of Memphis expressed the reaction of many. When she received the call from the Pentagon she cried, "I thank you, Jesus."

It is interesting to note that many of the men who will be returning from Vietnam will likely be strangers to their families and friends.

The government has suggested that they might be compared to Rip Van Winkle, and they'll even speak an alien tongue.

Whatever the language barrier may be, we'll wager these returning men will have no difficulty expressing their love nor will their families.

After all, love is a universal language.

We need also to be reminded of the fact that thousands of other veterans, none POWs, are returning from Vietnam. The important thing is what are they returning to.

These servicemen are anxious to know whether or not the social situation they left in America has changed, what jobs await them and how the American people will receive them.

Let us hope the answers to these significant questions prove to be good ones and that these veterans will receive the support they deserve. We applaud them for their service.

Mr. Harmon Leaves

Baltimore City's Department of Social Services lost its director last week.

Maurice A. Harmon has accepted a promotion to Deputy-Secretary of the Md. State Department of Employment and Social Services, second in command of the department headed by David T. Mason.

Ever since he came to Baltimore from Iowa in August, 1969, Mr. Harmon has demonstrated the kind of concern, understanding, compassion so necessary in the sensitive job he's held as the city's chief welfare officer.

In his new post, Mr. Harmon will have a chance to broaden his activities and serve the larger Maryland community.

Mr. Harmon himself points with pride to the fact that during his administration social service functions were separated from income maintenance functions and child welfare services were integrated into the total social services of the department.

Certainly Baltimore owes him a debt of gratitude for the new programs he initiated, including the Community Services, a special client employment and education unit and client information and referral unit.

In addition, he originated a client advisory committee so that clients could have input into the department's decision making.

No one can deny that the five-year plan he began for decentralization of the department, taking the services closer to the individual communities and neighborhoods they serve, is a step forward for the city.

To date, 12 of the 22 neighborhood Social Services Centers are in operation.

Hopefully, Mr. Harmon's successor will continue this important service.

We wish Mr. Harmon well in his new job.

Dunbar Dematha Game

Whether to be encouraged or fearful remains to be determined, but Baltimore should be cautious at best, in appraising the announcement that a high school basketball game between DeMatha of Washington and Dunbar of this city, will be played next Saturday (24th) at the Baltimore Civic Center.

The school administration's approval of the game is to be praised if for no other reason than that it offers evidence that some measure of faith has been restored in the young people of Baltimore.

It means that school officials are confident that the climate has sufficiently improved to rule out — or at least allay—fears that there may be a resumption of the disorders which led to the discontinuation of scholastic championships in some sports.

So, the sanction by Superintendent Patterson's office would seem to indicate that the time is ripe once more for normal extra-curricular activity in our schools. And that is encouraging.

A meeting between two highly-talented, undefeated high school teams represents a choice morsel of the winter sports menu. And the affair could not be staged for a more worthy cause than the Olympic program for the mentally retarded.

But the AFRO's urge for caution stems from the fact that this paper has consistently opposed the commercialization of high school athletics.

Whenever money from the public is sought in open promotion, whenever the gates of a public arena are thrown open and support by all elements is begged, the situation is fraught with danger.

School officials have no control over the man in the street, and that leaves clear the possibility of confrontation between the public and the police. And who needs that?

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 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

Returning Viet Vets Have Questions

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 more than 300 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Police bungling?

Dear AFRO:

On Nov. 24, 1972 about noon, my son, while legally parked and working from the back of his truck was struck by another car. His body was crushed and taken by ambulance to the hospital by request of the police radio car called to the scene.

On the scene the driver of the other vehicle was given a traffic summons for negligent driving. At 8:15 p.m. that same day, my son died as a direct result of the accident.

When the case was heard in Traffic Court on Feb. 8, the driver of the other vehicle was found guilty of negligent driving and fined $25.

Where is the justice in this case? A life was lost as a direct result of the accident — why wasn't the driver charged with manslaughter?

During the hearing the judge stated that the case was so long coming to trial because they had to present it to the State's Attorney. However, this date of trial was on the original summons.

There were witnesses at the scene who had given their names and addresses to the officer; yet, the police officer stated he "did not notify the witnesses of the trial."

The driver even admitted that she didn't know what happened to cause her to run into the back of my son who was in a parking lane.

AFRO Exhibit

Dear AFRO:

Thank you very much for your kindness and cooperation in making it possible for the Bard Library to have a fine exhibit depicting the history and services of the AFRO-AMERICAN.

The exhibit was viewed by both faculty and students with a great deal of pleasure and interest.

It was educational also in highlighting the achievements of a remarkable family and newspaper. Baltimore is fortunate to have published in its environs a newspaper which is international in scope.

Your kindness in sharing with Community College of Baltimore, the AFRO-AMERICAN's accomplishments is appreciated a great deal.

KATHERINE M. BRUBECK
Director, Library
Community College
of Baltimore

Of course the dead man could not appear and tell his side of the story, and since none of the witnesses were notified nor any of the deceased's family, only one side of the case was heard.

Upon bench conference with the judge, he stated that the State's Attorney did not feel there were adequate circumstances to warrant a more serious charge than negligent driving.

When a life is lost, I thought it was an automatic manslaughter charge. The inference I got from the judge was that it was due to the State's Attorney.

My opinion is that the fault first lies with the Police Department. Complete investigation of the case was apparently not made; no investigation of the driver's condition on the scene was made by the police.

There were known witnesses, whose statements were not even mentioned by the police.

The entire affair was poorly handled by the Baltimore City Police Department.

So many facts were hidden, obvious crosses in explanation were shown, and it looks like another case of police bribery — if no witnesses appear and no statements are presented — there is obviously no case. It even smells with racial overtones.

My son was a black man and the driver a black woman, but it looks as if the police department is deliberately not doing its job so they can cast blame on the State's Attorney who is also a black man.

If the police on the scene do not present facts and results of investigations to the State's Attorney's office, the state prosecutors can hardly present the true facts of the case.

This bungling of the Police Department is an insult to my intelligence; an additional heartache for a mother who has lost a son; and an obvious underground movement by the police to obscure facts, try to fool the public and pretend it wasn't their lack of performance that created another case of a typical miscarriage of justice.

It won't work!. The Police Department is held primarily responsible and needs the public's censor.

(Mrs.) EFFIE HAYNIE

America!

Dear AFRO: Here is an original verse I composed. Listening to the radio and reading the newspaper one becomes depressed knowing of world affairs.

This was written one morning while listening to a news broadcast on POW's release and the desegregation plan of Prince George's County schools:

America, America, oh how beautiful,
The Vietnam War is over
The racial stress is on.
The POWs will soon be home
What will be waiting. . .
Crime, pollution, welfare
Drugs, unemployment, segregation
and poor housing.
America, America, let's make it
beautiful!

ARNETTA HARGROVE

Delta Project

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Delta Living Project, Inc. please accept our sincere thanks for the coverage of "Open House" on Sunday, February 4, 1973.

Because of the cuts in President Nixon's budget, we will not receive the twenty-five per cent matching funds from Model Cities in the next fiscal year.

As a demonstration project, we hope to be able to find money to continue our work for at least another year.

(Mrs.) VIVIAN E. WASHINGTON
(President)

Can Do Better

Dear AFRO:

I have been a reader of the AFRO-AMERICAN for many years and I feel that I have gained much from many of your fine articles and information.

However, on occasion, the typography and proof reading leaves much to be desired. A case in point might be the enclosed clipping from the Feb. 3-73 issue.

It is a fine article, full of interesting and valuable information, but the errors in typography detract from its value.

After 81 years surely the AFRO-AMERICAN can do much better.

HOWARD F. RHONE

(Ed. note: Our current expansion plans which include offset printing will enable us to present a cleaner, more readable newspaper for our readers. The hard-to-read articles distress us too!)

A little About A LOT Black English

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

At a time when separatism has its good points and its bad, a new trend in liberal white educators', and some benighted black educators, view is that blacks should be able to keep the language of the ghetto, which can only be understood by blacks, and that teaching it in the schools will legitimatize the black peoples' right to a language of their own, unhindered by purists of the English language.

In line with that thinking, the textbook markets have been glutted with these vernacular primers, with a pervading sense that loose relationships in black kids' homes, that poverty and unsanitary environments are the norm and to be expected in every black neighborhood.

Thus the stereotype continues to prove to whites that all blacks in the ghetto have the same "non"-aspirations, the same amoral lifestyle attirbuted to slaves.

It is as if to say that blacks regardless of surroundings will revert to type, thus remaining "unteachable," a la Jencks, Moynihan.

That a rationale for that unteachability is that our language barrier is genetic, a throw-back to a lost African tongue, and should be accepted as the norm in teaching black kids.

I totally disagree with this kind of thinking, because what separatism has done in this case has been to freeze a superimposition by white "liberal" educators putting intelligent black people into an unchanging mold.

That unlike the numbers of immigrants with their native tongues and dialects heavily imbedded in their speech, we on the other hand can not become Americanized.

I am certain that the illiterate immigrant store keeper, who hired me to write letters to his literate son in the service; who used to write our name on the Sunday paper "V. L. R.," for Wheeler, had no difficulty keeping his heritage, and at the same time giving his sons the impetus to aspire in the mainstream of American life.

Following that to its natural conclusion, primers in every ethnic neighborhood would reflect the vernacular, rather than the acceptable language of communication — English — which helps to develop doctors, teachers, mechanics, social workers, who can compete and communicate, effectively and successfully in their chosen professions.

At the same time, professionals in the black community decry the fact that they have difficulty hiring efficient, competent black secretaries, usually black high school graduates, who have a knowledge of and fluency in the English language.

In order to compete, in order to gain an economic foothold in this society, we had better be about the business of excelling in the language that whitey uses to confound us.

Surely all of us use words in the black community which are common to our common heritage, but we also must be adept at writing, reading, composing in English, in order to beat whitey at his game of enslaving us.

I have become so concerned about this that I composed the following gingle:

"Some people can tell, my critics as well
This column's verbose, this is true,
But how can one tell
In words of one syll'bell
How whitey imparts it to you?
Unless you're aware, that words are
put there
To obfuscate, to frustrate, to confuse?
That unless you're wary, use the
dictionary
Your ignorance will be what YOU
choose!"

The greatest invention, for our benefit, is the Enoch Pratt Free Library. (I remember the time, in my hometown, when I couldn't use the library).

Yet my mother used to warn me that if you don't use it, you lose it.

This can be applied to most things — sensual, pleasurable, useful and educational!

All I say is, in order to get our stuff together, we've also got to use the man's language, understand the man's language, and develop the usage of the man's language to our ultimate benefit and liberation.

Big Lucille

Dear AFRO:

I think Big Lucille was telling the truth. Some Baltimore cops are getting paid off by a high ranking member of the Mafia, to keep quiet about dope and prostitution, and have been doing so since 1966.

I am tired of keeping my mouth shut, because they don't pay me to do so.

M. E.

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

The Coming Storm

By PARREN J. MITCHELL
D-7th District—Maryland
U.S. House of Representatives

We are perhaps most aware of the budget cuts made against the Model Cities Agency and the Community Action Agency.

Many agencies, citizens and organizations are working together to try to save these programs.

My great fear is that if we act to save individual programs only; without seeing or knowing the whole picture, we will end up heightening fragmentation in our community.

We may win the battle and lose the war.

It is impossible to cover the whole picture in this column, but let me give you some proposed actions above and beyond the Model-Cities Community Action Agency crises.

First, as I reported to you earlier, I am convinced that the Nixon Administration intends to take the federal government out of the business of providing housing. There is being circulated quietly, a plan "to privatize" the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). If the private sector takes over the FHA, it may well rule out black districts as too expensive or too risky to service.

The administration plan is quite clear.

First, discredit the housing subsidy programs, then halt them, as was done through the moratorium.

Second, get the government out of the mortgage insurance business completely.

Third, pass a housing allowance program giving the poor the means to pay, but not giving them any way to make sure they get a good value.

Now, let us look at the legal aid services to the poor as they are threatened.

They are funded for most part by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). That office faces the prospect of being dismantled.

If the legal services projects are abandoned, it will occur at a time when two other developments in law, justice and policing will take place. It is clear that state and national legislative bodies will seek to pass tougher, regressive laws in an effort to combat "the increase in crime."

Additionally, monies from the law enforcement assistance program will be increased and will be spent mostly on "hardware" for the police, with little, if any funds going into reform and rehabilitation.

The net result of these three developments (1. elimination of legal services, 2. tougher crime legislation and 3. increased hardware for the law enforcement agents) will mean that the poor and the black, who have historically been the chief victims of the mal-administration of justice, will find themselves more vulnerable, more threatened and more defenseless than ever against the dysfunctions of the administration of justice.

Last, let us look at the future of the department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

At the highest level of government, a plan known as "the mega plan" (also referred to as the comprehensive HEW simplification and reform plan) is quietly being put together and, in fact, is in part being implemented without the consent of the congress.

"The mega plan" would totally alter the present structure of HEW by eliminating many programs, and consolidating others. It is anticipated that categorical grant programs will be replaced by special revenue sharing programs in health, in education and in social services. If this comes to pass, those states and cities facing financial difficulties will be forced to use those special revenue sharing funds to provide for the ongoing of just the most basic services. There will not be money for those special and added services required if blacks and the poor are ever to achieve parity in health, education and social services.

These are but some of the ominous developments.

I do not report them to you in an attempt to induce fear or panic.

Rather, I believe that if we know about these plans, we can develop rational, comprehensive counter-attack plans.

I believe that in each city a summit meeting should be called to develop comprehensive counter-attack plans.

At those meetings, consideration should be given to such things as:

At those meetings, consideration should be given to such things as:

— Strategies for mass civil disobedience;

— Sympathy strikes against the government labor unions;—mass work stoppages.

These may sound like desperate measures but the coming storm against the poor, the black, the alienated and the forgotten demands such desperate measures.

Civil Rights In U.S. Gov't. Still Far Off

By G. JAMES FLEMING

The "Promised Land" in civil rights is very far off, as all black Americans know — now undergirded by the current annual report of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

And nowhere is achievement, as exemplified by non-discriminatory employment practices, more evident than in the United States government.

In agency after agency, most of the government maintains barriers, based on race and color, according to the 425-page report — barriers against fair employment or against fair up-grading.

The departments of Housing and Urban Development and Health, Education and Welfare are commended by the commission for their efforts, but there the praises end.

In land, sea and air, more or less, civil rights laws are "practically meaningless," says the report.

DR. FLEMING

President Nixon was extolled for his international accomplishments, but "inertia" is the word used to describe the interest and actions of the Chief Executive in reference to civil rights.

NOW and THEN

In other words, the 15-year-old official agency of the government has underlined what black newspapers and black civil rights observers have been saying all along. This column has also made this point more than once.

This is the last report under the chairmanship of Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University. His resignation (a handwriting on the wall) was accepted by President Nixon shortly after his November victory.

REVENUE "SHARING": Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter has given one state's experience with Mr. Nixon's "revenue sharing," which is supposed to be a "shot in the arm" to the nation's states and localities.

Georgia, said the governor recently, is earmarked to receive $36.6 million in revenue-sharing. Big deal!

But, while the Nixon right hand made this beneficence, the left hand also cut existing welfare and other programs by $56 million, leaving Georgia some $20 million less of needed funds — and worst off than it was before revenue-sharing.

William Sykes, director of Baltimore's Model Cities, has announced that Baltimore will not suffer too much from the cuts to his agency. Not much? Only by a 44 per cent slash.

BLACK HISTORY WEEK receives our salute as one of the very useful "weeks" celebrated every year.

It was a good week for Rep. Parren Mitchell to remind black students (speaking at UMBC) that they cannot afford to ignore the achievements of western civilization in science, industry, invention, and so on.

In his own words, he warned that no group that is trying to catch up, can do so without knowing as much as its competitor or its oppressor.

Or as John Akar, leading West African, once told a Morehouse graduation class, "It's not what's on your head that counts, it's what's in your head."

Black History Week is also a good time for black young people to examine the so-called "generation gap" which has caused them to cut connections — to a great extent — with their elders — "old" parents, "old" teachers, "old" historical figures. Of course, a generation gap is not new, in verbiage or in fact.

A biological gap is indigenous to nature, and young and old have always had moments of suspicion, one group of the other.

Seldom, however, has a younger generation tried so completely to rid itself of its recent past, as the present generation of young blacks, except where a few of its current headline-makers are concerned.

To hear some of the young people speak, their grandparents and parents have served no good purpose. They have all been "Uncle Toms," or stooges, or they "sold out." They "haven't done nothing to fight whitey."

They have little good to say about Booker T. Washington; they see A. Philip Randolph as "just a Pullman Porter. The NAACP is run by the white folks who put up the money."

Without ever defining what "old" is or when "too old" is too old, they would cut themselves off from all their roots, forgetting that when a tree is separated from its roots, it dies — flowers and fruit, leaves and branches and then trunk.

Perhaps Black History Week is a good time to forge a more working and fruitful union between the young and those once young; a good time to strengthen rootage among the living.

A Column of CHOICE

Urban Schools Are Failing Black Youth

By MARION BANFIED

It is more than "a social class prejudice toward the poor black" which needs the attention of the Board of School Commissioners. The above quotation by Dr. Wayman E. Scott offers no solution to the problems of under-utilized and over-populated schools.

In my opinion large urban schools have failed black children throughout America. The failures are a symptom of this country's racism which is built on the thesis that blacks are inferior to whites.

The resulting self-hatred of blacks is as pervasive as the white man's self-deceiving attitude of white superiority.

Since the Supreme Court's 1954 decision that racially separate schools are injurious to children, there has been the battle, direct or subtle, to stumble on with traditional educational methods and attitudes.

Innovations meet with too much resistance.

So thoroughly convinced are white parents that black children don't learn like white children, that these parents do everything within their power to educate their children away from black youngsters.

White Americans are in the majority. Their opinions are powerful forces in the education of America's young.

It's a black child with a strong emotional home background who can look any human being in the eye and say, "My race does not make me an inferior human.

"If you believe that I'm inferior because I'm black, you're the fool, not I."

Thousands of poor black children get born through a biological accident. No one planned for them. After their infancy, their mothers and fathers find it difficult to give the love and to nurture the self-respect which produces the child who says and believes, "I am Somebody!"

Too many black children believe that "Black is beautiful" is really a hair style.

Many years ago, Kenneth B. Clark, the noted psychologist who studied racial attitudes in children, spoke at Coppin College. Dr. Clark pointed out the emotional disaster of kindergarten for many poor blacks.

The teacher does not mean to be cruel. She simply looks at the poor child, dismisses him emotionally from her concerns, and expects nothing from the child.

So sensitive are children that they

MRS. BANFIELD

sense this rejection acutely. They respond to this rejection in various ways.

Some withdraw.

Some vent their anger in a variety of ways.

Some are too emotionally hurt to learn.

They are described in various phrases that leave the burden of non-learning on the child—not the teacher or system.

It doesn't take a Dr. Clark to realize how rejected many of our black children have been both at home and at school.

With the rejection of home and school, there is the additional burden of seeing and experiencing rejection on the streets, in stores, on TV, in the newspapers, and 11 a.m. on Sundays.

As thousands of black children endure the failures of our educational methods and attitudes, they fulfill the prophecy of classroom inadequacy.

They resent success of children who succeed. They do not expect excellence from within themselves and their jealousy of the success of other children makes the teaching-learning process a deep-rooted emotional battle.

The pervasive non-motivation, lack of regard for excellence, rebellion against rules or authority, has made teaching a most arduous occupation.

Americans have never recognized that teachers are the most important professionals in our culture. Teachers don't even realize that themselves.

The black children who defeat their own chances for success by their choice of values which are so geared to pleasure rather than to surviving, need to be made conscious of the role of choice.

When I compare the eloquence of letters from prisoners who were very late in making the choice of self-respect and brotherhood with the fragmented, unparagraphed writings of some high school pupils, I wish that black youngsters could become more conscious of the power of language.

It is in language use that parents often begin to draw the lines as to where their children shall go to school.

Since black youngsters often reject language patterns other than that of their own neighborhood; blacks with a different speech pattern are often rejected as "trying to be white."

Black students have never sorted out "white ways" "black ways" "meaningful ways."

College bound students have to be able to handle language. Parents who are ambitious for their offspring send their children where preparation for college and business competition will be adequate. These parents are largely middle class.

I have yet to talk with a poor black parent who didn't want his or her child to have a really first class education at least for 12 years. The poor black parent, remembering his own school frustrations, may be less hopeful of children going through 16, 18 or 20 years of school.

The middle class black "made it" because of 16, 18 or 20 years of schooling and expects the same of his children.

The unfortunate phase of all this is attitudes. The attitudes within a school population determine the "prestige" of a school.

Prestige is a human quality that is based on fact and myth. We have to deal with it in Baltimore. The Board hasn't gotten around to removing some inequities which students could easily describe.

The Board of School Commissioners has a responsibility to demand more realistic plans for allowing black and white students to learn together.

Above all, the Board has the responsibility to hold teachers and administrators accountable for teaching all "normal" Baltimore children to read up to sixth grade level. The law requires education for children up to 16. The Board has not carried out that mandate.

One of the major needs for education is an expansion of good human relations within the schools. That's the most effective way of reducing the racial self-hatred exhibited in fighting and lack of excellence in learning.

Busing of children is no guarantee of either integration or quality education. The human relationships either build up a child's self-image or demolish his inner security.

Our choice is to demand that, in addition to Dr. Patterson's "Right to Read" program, every school develop a human relations program that will help children to respect themselves and each other.

This choice needs the devotion of faculties who recognize their importance in shaping the thinking of our citizens.

This choice needs the dedication of parents who will carry their responsibility of joining with educators in improving the image children have of themselves and the "prestige" of their schools.

An Open Letter To Gov. Mandel On Gambling

Dear Governor Mandel: I don't know exactly how you feel about gambling, but I think the only difference between crossing a street and playing a horse is the odds. In fact, playing a horse is safer — your life is worth more than your money.

Every time we attempt anything we first consider the odds against success. Even when we take a long trip we must consider our chances of getting back.

When a salesman goes out he always considers his chances of success.

And when a politician runs for office he considers his chances of being elected and does what he can to cut the odds against him.

Million dollar insurance companies gamble for money every time they write a policy.

The millionaire gambles for money when he builds a thirty story building. The millionaire gambles for money when he backs a Broadway show. The million dollar industries gamble for money with every new product. This sounds like a lot of fun!

Why not let the taxpayers have some of this kind of fun? Everything is sinful for the taxpayers, but the millionaire who pays no taxed indulges himself to his heart's content.

It is very clear that there is a great deal of discrimination against the taxpayer, even to the point of denying him the excitement of a little bet now and then. The only legal way he can gamble is to spend a sizeable chunk of money for transportation and admission to a race track — and this is the most dangerous form of gambling, because he is usually stuck at the track with no way to get home until late in the day, and he bets every race.

This is a sure way to lose. Of course, we are getting the lottery, but this type of gambling offers no challenge because there is no control of the number you get.

We gamble every day with things more valuable than money. Why this insane hatred of gambling for money? There is nothing about gambling whish is foreign to everyday life.

And there is no argument that will convince me that any government, or individual, or organization has the moral right to keep anyone from gambling for money if that's what he wants to do.

It is extremely audacious for the State to continue its stand against off-track betting and casino gambling. I don't think you personally are blocking any moves for a more realistic attitude toward gambling but I hope you will not give up trying to insure for the people of Maryland the RIGHT to off-track betting and casino gambling.

God gives rights — the State is supposed to insure these rights. If God was against gambling all life would stop.

There would be no marriages, no investments, the stock market would cease to exist, and we would all be dead, because life itself is a gamble.

How can the State justify its stand against off-track betting and casino gambling in view of these facts?

RICHARD C. RIO

IT's NOT A Man's World

WOW A Unique Group

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Washington Opportunities for Women (WOW) has for six years operated a free advisory service and information center for Washington area women seeking job information, career planning assistance, and education and training program descriptions.

The Center is operated by trained volunteers and a small paid staff. In June, 1972, the U.S. Labor Department asked WOW to assist in formulating guidelines for use of volunteer self-help groups in Employment Service offices.

These guidelines will be based on the experience gained by WOW in its six years of successful operation and its work with the Labor Department helping women in six selected cities to start self-help groups of their own.

WOW was selected for the task because it is unique among women's organizations in two ways:

First, WOW is a service for all women in Washington—black, white, young, old, uneducated as well as educated, poor and affluent.

Second, it is the only such program operating in cooperation with the United States Employment Service.

MRS. WHITE

Since its early days, when WOW offered mainly basic job information, it has expanded its outreach to develop training programs for women in high-demand fields; to provide information about supportive services such as day care, help for the handicapped, etc.; and to inform employers and universities about women's special needs-especially the need for part-time work and flexible study programs.

The Labor Department and WOW have selected six cities in which both feel there is potential for cooperation between women's groups who want to do something to help themselves and the local employment services that want to make more use of community resources.

The six cities involved in project are Atlanta, Boston, Providence, White River Junction, Richmond, and Baltimore. Baltimore's Project has been named "Baltimore New Directions For Women"

Members of the newly organized project will participate in a ceremony in the Mayor's office on Feb. 28 to receive a proclamation naming the week of March 4 as "Baltimore Women's Week."

During this week "Baltimore New Directors For Women" will sponsor a series of activities planned to focus attention on the new center located at 330 N. Charles St., Room 103.

The center, which is operated by volunteers, provides free advisory, informational and referral services for women seeking careers, training, educational guidance and job information.

The center will maintain extensive resource materials including information about continuing education programs in the Baltimore area.

The center staff will establish a liaison with business and industry to encourage employment and advancement for women.

Ellie Sokolove, President of the non-profit organization, expects the center to be highly successful in this area because of the interest and strong support the project has received from women with a variety of backgrounds.

Ms. Sokolove was at one time a volunteer at the WOW Center in the District of Columbia.

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

No smoking progress report: It worked fine for a month, our self-imposed no-smoking ban, but then we got on the scales to find that we were ten pounds heavier.

But, get this — this writer has not given up, repeat NOT given up. After vacation, will be back on the band-wagon, but this time I will throw away the jelly beans and other sweets I've kept on the desk.

Love in bloom: Happiest twosome around Baltimore this week: Tom Hawkins, the Baltimore-born Los Angeles hospital director, who flew in on Friday to squire his intended to the Omega Mardi Gras.

She is Mrs. Audrey Smith Brooks, only daughter of Dr. A. A. Smith of Morgan Park, and the late Mrs. Smith (Anne).

After 20 years of being unattached, personable Mrs. Brooks, a divorcee, has decided to give marriage another try.

She's wearing his ring and a wedding is planned soon in Los Angeles.

Many know Mrs. Smith as the director of education with the Md. Health Corp., 4200 Edmondson Ave., here in Baltimore. She was formerly on the registrar's staff at Morgan State College.

Mr. Hawkins, a widower, is public relations director of Los Angeles' Martin Luther King Hospital. Cuff note: A little birdie told me it will probably be an April wedding.

More people looking happy: Mr. and Mrs. J. Nelson Fortune (Jack and Mae), looking not a bit like senior citizens, but young lovers when this column spied them in a doctor's office this week. They looked so happy and so young!

MR. HAWKINS MRS. BROOKS

Many know Mrs. Fortune as the retired Baltimore City teacher and Mr. Fortune as the longtime AFRO advertising manager before his retirement.

Still others know him as the stepfather of the famed Calloway family (Cab, Bernice et al).

Lest we forget: The death this week of Dr. H. Maceo Williams, 74, brings to mind his long fight to improve health facilities for the city's poor and disadvantaged and his dedication to the public health field.

Thanks to the AFRO's Honor Roll, Dr. Williams received his flowers while he could enjoy them.

In May 1962, this newspaper's Honor Roll citation hailed Dr. Williams, then director of the Druid Health Center, for his work as health officer who gave up a lucrative medical practice to fill important health needs."

The citation noted that during his administration in 1961 the old health center moved from inadequate quarters at 1313 Druid Hill Ave., to 1515 W. North Ave., a $1,500,000 center.

It told of his work in reducing the tuberculosis rate in northwest Baltimore before the miracle drugs and how the Druid Health Center's services to the people "set a pattern for other centers throughout the city, since it was a first."

H. Maceo Williams was a kind, understanding and beautiful human being who cared about others so much he sacrificed personal gain to serve them. He will be missed.

Speaking of good neighbors who will be missed: Mrs. Vernice T. West, 56, who was buried Wednesday, was a good, good neighbor whose pleasant disposition brought joy to those with whom she had contact.

Many knew her as the friendly receptionist, switchboard operator at Mt. Royal Fremont Housing Community Development Office.

Still others recall her helpfulness as catalogue clerk at Sears.

MRS. MOSS

Her husband, William C. West (Billy), is manager of Fairfield Homes.

Their sons are Arno Luther, a city teacher; and William Jr., who has just finished Morgan.

Other survivors include her dad, Osceola Conway; brother, Osceola Jr., sisters, Mrs. Christe Young, and Mrs. Nellie Cole; and grandson, Lamont West.

Want to help somebody? Anna Mae Hunter Home for Blind needs a wheelchair please.

Travel note: AME Bishop and Mrs. Frank Madison Reid (Irene), and their two-year-older, Carla, leave Feb. 22 for his new assignment in Liberia.

Cuff note: Mrs. Reid's son, Kurt Schmoke, the famed athlete and Rhodes scholar, is also overseas, studying at Oxford in England.

If you have ever wondered why the railroad station in New York City always looks like it has millions of people going in all directions, a walk around the station would tell you why.

At Penn Central Station these days you can do everything from bet on a horse, buy a lottery ticket, eat dinner, browse in a wine and liquor store, buy souvenirs, good china, sit in a cocktail lounge as well as catch a train.

We tried to do all that the other weekend and found that the railroad station was just like going to a carnival.

Maybe the railroad should take a hint from the station. At least it appears they know how to make money.