Baltimore Afro-American

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful, and magnify our Father which is in heaven. May we stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism and prejudice.

Carl Murphy, 1889-1967
Editor-Publisher — 1922-1967

Leading The Way To The Future

Black Press Week

The first black newspaper in America was published in March, 1827.

This week, the AFRO, now in its 81st year, joins its sister publications in celebrating the 146th birthday of the black press.

The very first newspaper, Freedom's Journal, founded by John B. Russwurm and the Rev. Samuel E. Cornish, raised its editorial voice against the savagery of slavery.

From that time until today, black newspapers have been voices of protest against injustices, as well as organs of information and education.

John H. Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO on Aug. 13, 1892, wrote the credo this newspaper chain follows today, extending its energies to serve the common people, with no other goal save to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured, while at the same time condemning injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

AFRO Press Week activities have included inviting visitors to tour the plant and talks in area schools by staff members.

Of particular interest is the reaction younger staff writers experienced in the classroom.

In this edition, an 18-year-old mini-skirted reporter, herself a 1972 high school graduate, recounts the enthusiastic reception she received when she spoke to Garrison Junior High eighth graders.

She told them of AFRO history, how the Baltimore AFRO staff writes headlines, dummies pages, what happens when a late news story breaks and how this newspaper prints two editions a week.

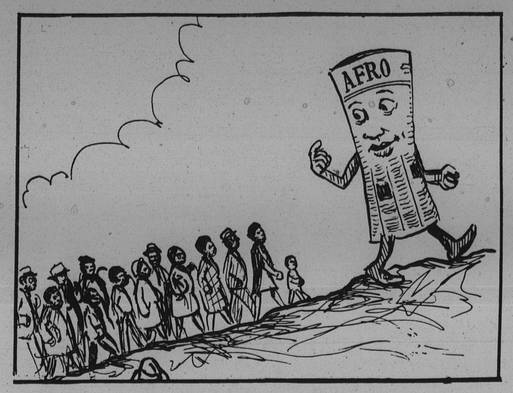
A 25-year-old staff reporter from Ghana had an "exciting" visit with Hampstead Hill Junior High pupils.

At these and other area schools where our reporters appeared, teachers described the student audiences as "fascinated." They gave their young guests their undivided attention and were reluctant to end the discussions.

AFRO founder Murphy's credo expressed the view that this newspaper would succeed if it kept faith in the present generation.

The performance of our young reporters who spread the word about black press week and the interest and concern expressed by their student peers gives us great hope for the future.

After all, the young students and the young reporters are the ones who will perpetuate the black press as it continues its courageous fight to make the future bright for all Americans.



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

On 'Doc' Woingust

Dear AFRO:

The late Creston 'Doc' Woingust, who died March 5, was a close personal and professional friend of mine.

We worked together on the editorial staff of a trade journal of the entertainment field many years ago.

It is from the files of that publication that I reactivate an appraisal of 'Doc' that I made in 1958. It is, I believe, as valid today as it was 15 years ago when it was written.

"Doc" Woingust knows everybody. If he doesn't know you, not only are you a nobody, but the chances of ever becoming a somebody are very slight.

"Doc's" mind is a filing cabinet that contains the whole historical background of Baltimore and Baltimoreans since the fire.

Everybody from the greats to the non-greats, from the out-standing citizens to the pimps and prostitutes; "Doc" knows. One would think that a man of such vast knowledge would be an invaluable asset to some large news-gathering organization. And so he was; but not for long.

"Doc" was never anything for long. He has been farmer, soothsayer, pharmacists, notary public, impresario, politician, magician, realtor, and many other things that we won't mention at the moment.

But throughout his many and varied careers, "Doc" has never been entirely happy. Simply because he really never wanted to be anything but an actor. He is a born ham. He loves the tinselled make-believe of the semi-darkened stage, the roar of crowd, the magical fantasia of the open sesame syndrome.

"He can do more stalling in front of a camera than a prima donna. Point a spotlight in his general direction and he swoons with delight. He can do a walk-in two-liner and steal the show.

"But seriously, "Doc" loves people. And in loving them he has an insatiable desire to make them happy. He is ever in fine form when he can don one of his many outfits and prance and cavort all over the place, ad-libbing all the while.

"All in all he is a Master of Ceremony par excellence. "Mr. Impromptu", master of the quick quip, the equally quick squelch, always in charge of the situation, and always pledged to say the right thing at the right time.

"That is in itself an art. And "Doc" is nothing if not an artist."

CLEM VENTURE

Wounded Knee

Dear AFRO:

Let me encourage every black person in America to send a letter of endorsement to our red brothers in Wounded Knee, S.D.

After all, we all have a little "red" blood in us, too. In addition, we share with our red brothers of America frustrations, disillusionments and broken promises from "the white man."

We, too, have seen the broken promises of democracy fall at our feet while we hav scrambled to attempt to put back together our lives.

Our environment has been one of common despair filled with the injustices of poverty, persecution and apathy.

Right on, Wounded Knee!

LOLA AMIS
Assistant professor of English
Morgan State College

CAA Helped

Dear AFRO:

My name is Ann Smith. I have volunteered at the Community Action Agency, for two years. The CAA has helped in so many ways. They helped me get a job with VISTA for a year. I was very happy because I was looking for a job.

If the President's budget passes, it will hurt a lot of senior citizens, teenagers and many poor people.

(Mrs.) ANN SMITH

The Sports Scene

Baltimore's interest in collegiate baseball commences tomorrow (Saturday) with Morgan visiting Orangeburg, S.C., to oppose South Carolina State. Three weeks from today (April 6), the Orioles inaugurate the major league season.

From this point through mid-October, the followers of both the Bears and the Birds will know the glory of winning some and the gloom of losing some.

It will not be an exactly new experience in either case. Baltimore sports buffs, particularly at the professional level, have suffered through the years with the Orioles, the football Colts, the basketball Bullets and the hockey Clippers.

But there have been bright years also. On Hillen Road, on 33rd Street and on Baltimore Street, there have been years of ecstacy following in the wake of triumph.

So, if fear is felt that the Bullets — despite their fine recent performance — are destined to fail in the stretch, and that the Clippers won't even make their playoffs, we should not dismay. Nor should we be disturbed too much if reports from Florida offer scant hope for an Oriole pennant.

Things could be worse, as they are in Atlanta and Philadelphia.

Last year, there were 17 major league baseball teams better than the Atlanta Braves, 12 NFL clubs superior to the Atlanta Falcons, and right now there are seven NBA teams (including the Bullets) with better records than the Atlanta Hawks.

In Philadelphia, the city's baseball fans cheered a club that stood 22nd among 24, a football team which tied for 24th in a 26-team league, and a basketball outfit that is well advanced in working on the poorest record in the history of pro basketball.

No Baltimorean is likely to reach that point of frustration of the dyed-in-the-wool fan who died, and had inscribed on his tombstone: "I'd rather be here than in Philadelphia."

The Blessed Winter And . . .

Smile, you're in Baltimore is an appropriate theme as we face the end of winter and the advent of spring.

Baltimoreans made it through the long, hard winter with moderate temperatures and only 1.2 (one and two-tenths inches) of snow. This is the lowest snowfall in 24 years. The record was 0.7, (seven tenths of an inch) in 1949.

In our area where winter snowfall averages 24 inches, 1973 has been a blessing.

And, a saving too, the Baltimore City Bureau of Utility Operations reports it has $600,000 left in the snow removal fund. Only $130,000 was spent for street salts and stand-by men when the weatherman incorrectly predicted snow on Feb. 19.

But, all is not lost, there are 15,000 tons of rock salt left over for next year and $600,000 to return to the general city fund.

Spring arrives next Tuesday, March 20, at 1:11 p.m., so it is safe to predict Baltimore has made it with a mild winter and only a fistful of snow. (Feb. 21).

While we can rejoice about the weather, there is no cause to smile about general conditions in our city.

For example, expose in the AFRO and court records tell of reported link between high police officials and a known drug dealer now serving 15 years in prison. The records raised serious questions as to whether police officers may legally make deals to protect known lawbreakers.

And there is the obvious breakdown of communication between the office of Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau and State's Attorney Milton B. Allen.

There are some who suggest that this breech would not exist if the city's chief state's attorney were a white man. We would not like to think this is true.

Rather, it appears that the lesion is caused because the city fathers and the state's attorney's office, who have a direct responsibility for the safety of the city, must look to the state house for guidance. Gov. Mandel names the police commissioner.

With the persistent reports of irregular activities by police officers, triggered initially by a federal investigation, it is understandable that some lawmakers and other public officials see the need to reassess the method of appointment of the police chief.

They contend in another day it may have been wise to give the governor power to name the Baltimore city police head. It may not be so wise in 1973.

And, state's attorney spokesmen are decrying the stranglehold the police department has on its division established to investigate organized crime. They say policemen assigned to this high level work are not responsible to that office.

These complaints deserve serious study by lawmakers and the officials involved. They ought to sit down and counsel together now.

Baltimore's mild winter could be followed by a stormy spring and summer if the charges and counter-charges continue and the people lose faith in those expected to maintain law and order.

A little About a LOT

Reverse Racism

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

"As long as people believe in absurdities, they will continue to commit atrocities" — Voltaire

Both Dr. John M. Hamilton, superintendent of Clifton Perkins State Hospital and Baltimore City Solicitor George L. Russell Jr. have used dangerously twisted arguments when they raise the false theory that five black firemen have "unjustly advanced the cause of blacks by practicing racism against whites;" they call it "reverse racism."

They have also suggested that the five firefighters have been "demeaned and castrated" in their case before Federal Court for equal job opportunity and promotion in the Fire Department,as a result of testimony offered by a Howard University professor: "from conception to death there is a denigration of the capacity of blacks to present an equal face to the world."

If black people reading these ridiculous arguments from the mouths of these two influential professionals, (spawned in the black community), are both impressed and agree, they, like the professionals, haven't done their homework in recent black history.

Following the riots of 1965, Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson appointed a Commission to find out the reasons for the riots. The report's most overriding statement, which set LBJ (With a feeble request not to indict a whole society!) and white America back on its heels was: "the main cause of black violence in the ghettos last summer was white racism."

White racism as an active force in American society is the violent act of imposing white culture upon the black community, this means white superiority.

The most damning condition of blacks, by white America, that differs from all other white ethnics has been that black men and women were enslaved in the most "demeaning, castrating" way, more so than any other race of people on the face of the earth.

The rationale for these atrocities was stated in the 18th Century by Montesquieu: "It is impossible for us to suppose these creatures (blacks) to be men, because in allowing them to be men, a suspicion would follow that we, ourselves, are not Christians."

The black community has reacted to this force in a number of ways:

The most notable reactions have been Supreme Court cases resulting in the abolition of separate but equal school systems, housing; the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the black power movement; and civil disorders.

In spite of these reactions, schools and housing remain separate; black. unemployment soars; job opportunities and promotions are thwarted by either irrelevant and middle class oriented Civil Service exams, or dishonest department heads who block promotions of blacks.

Before civil rights legislation, Civil Service exams were easily weighted toward whites, with the use of red ink for blacks and black ink for whites on lists of those who passed; so that no matter what the grade, blacks never got jobs in city government because department heads only picked the black inked names. (Remember Harold Jennifer and the Dept. of Recreation?)

Thus we see an accumulation of whites in greater numbers in top city jobs, because of longevity, seniority and difficulty to dismiss incompetents under Civil Service, and because blacks only recently have been "black inked" on eligibility lists.

Evidence of racism still prevails, continuing the myth of white superiority in more subtle and devious ways. As a result blacks have been conditioned to believe they can't achieve.

Part of achieving is knowing and believing you can achieve. With no visible example before you, how can you believe?

Consequently, the black power movement caused blacks to separate from whites, to band together, to develop a sense of black pride, to not only "regroup" as Lerone Bennett states, but to develop the kind of economic and political muscle that would help us react more effectively against white racist America.

Although we realize, more than most, that nothing beats excellence (you've heard of and seen "super n——s"), we also have witnessed how whites in national, state and local jobs are usually mediocre. Mediocrity seems always to succeed especially for the politically powerful ethnic groups — Greek, Italian, Jew, German or Irish.

What, then, is so unusual in this pluralistic society, for blacks to band together, to point up the contradictions and to demand our piece of the mediocre pie?

Yet, according to white racist America, when we develop a nationalistic stance, it's "reverse racism;" for them it's "unity."

"Now in the America of the Seventies, ethnic shame and anonymity is the great sin of the age.

The great surge of this decade is the struggle for individual and collective identity, the gathering of nationalistic pride that many would like to believe was left on foreign shores.

"It is up to us to work as individuals — and as a community — to carve out a community identity as Americans, as Jews, as American Jews."

These remarks were made by Gov. Marvin Mandel, at the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, 43rd Annual Convention, Miami, Fla., May 29, 1972.

Unfortunately, Hamilton and Russell, speak not as Black Americans, but as those few successful "Americans" who move into the main stream and thus take on the intolerance, forgetfulness; the rigidity, the self-righteousness of the white racist power structure — a near sighted mode of survival.

So the "denigration of our capacity" is even more evident because "black" and "inferiority" are synonymous in their eyes.

Therefore, regardless of all our reactions against white racism, we must ultimately arrive at the logical conclusion of Ashley Montagu, in his book Race, Man's Most Dangerous Myth: "The doctrine of (white) racists has had as its (main) object(ive) the overthrow of democracy."

WASHINGTON REPORT — Tactics Of Destruction

By PARREN J. MITCHELL
(D-7th District-Md.)
U.S. House of Representatives

Howard Phillips, acting director of OEO, seeks to demolish that agency prior to June 30.

As a part of that process, Phillips has issued a memorandum, calling for close investigation of all OEO-CAA programs.

The memorandum urges the investigators to seek out especially: (A) misuse of funds; (B) partisan political activity; (C) activities promoting racial and or class strife; (D) activities promoting unrest.

This is the type of broad smear approach which characterized the hey-day of the late Senator Joseph McCarthy.

Such practices have always existed, but the greater concern is that they have been institutionalized in the House Internal Security Committee.

For this reason I testified against the 1974 budget request for that committee.

On March 13, in my testimony before the subcommittee on accounts of the House Administration Committee, I pointed out the following:

"In its quasi-judicial function, this committee can and has comported itself as a latter-day star chamber. In its fullest scope this new committee would see itself as "policeman of Americanism at home." The activities of this committee (HISC) are broad.

In the field of foreign affairs it can pillory Americans of foresight and good conscience who might recognize that good relationships with China or with the Soviet Union would be vital to world peace. On the domestic front the committee could knowingly or perhaps unwittingly buoy efforts to suppress the struggle for equal rights in the South. It would use its files to defame this nation's civil rights leaders and to smear civil right groups with charges of Communist infiltration.

"It can advocate the maintenance of detention centers for "the temporary imprisonment of warring urban guerillas."

"The House Internal Security Committee was at one time named the House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities. Whether it is called HISC or HUAC, I believe the committee's actions have brought dishonor to the House of Representatives."

Continuing my testimony before the committee, I stated, "For the past 27 years, the Congress has dutifully voted to continue the committee's appropriations with little substantive justification.

"Are we intimidated by this committee? Do we support its goals? Do we grant it funds because its activities justify it or are we stymied by inertia and the desire not to rock the boat? These questions must be answered.

"We are faced with a clear question of congressional responsibility."

At the conclusion of the testimony I explained that it is difficult to explain to the citizens of the 7th Congressional District how we can spend $575,000 for frivolous investigations, while monies for schools, or low cost housing, or for medical school scholarships, or food for the hungry cannot be found.

So long as we continue to apr its requests for appropriations v as culpable as the committee

I therefore urged in very plai simple terms that the entire budget request of the House Internal Security Committee be turned down.

I am convinced that the Howard Phillips types, and the House Internal Security Committee and other high-handed, arbitrary public servants and agencies will, unfortunately, persist, and will indeed win each round — until such time as we determine to put an end to them and the repression they exert on our lives.

AFRO Credo

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

Whether it has kept 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.
(From a letter dated Dec. 25, 1920,, by founder of AFRO on Aug. 13, 1892.)

Del. Boswell Decides On Senate Race

By G. JAMES FLEMING

Delegate Hildegardeis Boswell, a Democrat from Baltimore City's present Fourth District, will be a candidate for the State Senate next year. She has made up her mind.

At least, she had come to this firm decision before the new Mandel apportionment plan had been challenged in court.

There are all indications that Del. Boswell will enter the Senatorial race, even if the present district lines remain. This will make her a third or fourth major candidate, challenging incumbents Senator Verda F. Welcome and Clarence Mitchell III.

The sharp-tongued, controversial, headline-making delegate is, on paper, a member of the Fourth District Democratic Organization, the Welcome organization. But only the naive would expect that affiliation to stop the Boswell ambition.

Del. Boswell explains, "My constituents have been pushing me to move up to the Senate where, they feel, I suppose, that I will be able to shake things up a little."

DR. FLEMING

When this column tried to make sure the freshman delegate was really in earnest, she explained in many different versions that she had really definitely made up her mind.

So far, she is not running "against" anybody — but there are, of course, only two Senate seats in her Fourth District, regardless of how the district is renumbered.

Don't forget, too, that Delegate Troy Brailey (the graves' discoverer), also has his eyes on the Senate, as this column revealed some months ago, without any rebuttal from Mr. Brailey.

There should really be a hot time in the old Fourth Legislative District, come next election time.

VICTORIOUS FILIBUSTER: A lusty salute to those four state senators who mounted and continued, for weeks, a filibuster against Resolution 8, in the Maryland State Senate.

By their talkathon, they prevented the Senate from passing a petition to Congress, calling upon that national body to prevent the Supreme Court from ordering school busing to achieve racial balance.

Some state senators would stop the Supreme Court and the other federal courts from functioning fully as a third equal branch of government. Thus, they used every ruse to put over the resolution, but to no avail.

Senators Blount, Welcome, Mitchell and Dalton took a leaf out of the deep-South notebook and talked, and talked, and talked — thus blocking the movement of other legislation.

These four have demonstrated beautifully that, even a very small group of black lawmakers, if united, and if led smartly, can hurl a wallop, far beyond the strength of their numbers.

All white senators were not in favor of the resolution, but the diehards did not give up trying. They have written letters to the President of the U.S. Senate and the speaker of the House, declaring that the resolution could have passed, if it were not for the filibuster.

These diehards have collected signatures to their letter and hope to get some headlines out of their last-ditch maneuver. Perhaps they'll get a speech from Mr. Agnew in his role as president of the Senate.

But this letter to Congress will have no legal status. It is only "face-saving" for the opponents of the Supreme Court. Perhaps, they will live better with their constituents.

The fact is that the anti-busing resolution was killed by the united, determined leadership, preparation and voice of four black senators.

RUSSELL vs. RUSSELL?: This writer was not in the Federal District Court when City Solicitor George L. Russell reportedly accused the NAACP of practicing "racism" in its backing of a lawsuit by black Baltimore firemen against the city's Board of Fire Commissioners.

Russell also charged that the federal courts "all over this country" are practicing "paternalism" by issuing rulings in favor of blacks in cases such as the one in question.

As is general knowledge, the black fire officers have charged that the fire department's entrance examinations and promotion system discriminate against blacks.

The plaintiffs hold, further, that the long years of refusing to employ blacks have given them an unfair distribution in the upper levels of the departments.

Russell is representing the Fire Board because of his position as the city's chief law officer. He was, therefore, compelled to answer the charges. In strict construction, he was doing his duty.

Further, he is not the first black person to question, or warn against, requests for lowering standards, or making "special" arrangements, in order to give blacks a "break" (or, more correctly, to right past wrongs).

But, what about George Russell, politician and perhaps still a candidate for mayor? Could he not have packaged his views differently?

What he said, chastising the NAACP and the Supreme Court, is bound to plague him in the years ahead; is bound to be used against him — even if he gets out of electoral politics.

To a black politician, lambasting the NAACP, when it is fighting against job discrimination, is like condemning motherhood. Is such attack smart politics in a city such as Baltimore?

It's NOT A Man's World Black Woman In Maryland

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Just recently, this writer finally found a report which dealt, in part, with the status of the black woman in Maryland. The facts were startling to say the least.

Did you know:

— that the black population in Maryland is 698,494 and that black females number 361,926 or 51 per cent of that population — outnumbering black males?

— that in the 18-21 year age group there are 19,769 black women and only 7,418 black men?

— that black women over 25 years of age form the largest concentration in the Baltimore Metropolitan area (123,010)?

— that black women in Maryland are living in the following group quarters: college dormitories, 1,134; mental hospitals, 76; aged homes, 709; prisons, special schools, etc., 1,076?

— that half of the working black women in Maryland are in domestic or service jobs?

— that there are 30,801 black families in poverty in Maryland and 17,740 are headed by a female — over half?

Employment of black women as well as black men is basic to the black economy, especially when the shortage of men is considered.

Black women will continue to have to work, like it or not. They may as well get as many job advantages as any other ethnic group.

Most studies show that the black woman is generally in economic need and is always at the lowest economic level.

The black woman suffers health-wise because of this economic need.

Causes of death from serious illness for black and other nonwhite women in 1968 ranked in order of frequency: (1) diseases of the heart and blood vessels; (2) cerebrovascular diseases (strokes); (3) malignancy, all kinds (cancer); (4) diabetes; and (5) pneumonia.

Black women need to get their thing together and begin addressing themselves to some very serious social issues facing the black community.

We are faced with strained family relationships, crime, drugs, poverty of our aged, blind and disabled, poor housing, hunger and unemployment.

"Maryland, My Maryland" is the state song and this is supposed to be the "Free" State.

But can black people really sing it with conviction when there is so much suffering and so much needs to be done?

Concern about the social problems and the problems of women ought to be the real challenge to the aware black woman of today.

What The AFRO Stands For

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

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

Extensive and independent 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.

NOW and THEN

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

Big bash on the East Coast this past weekend was the installation of three chapters by the nationally known Smart Set Club, a women's social and civic organization.

The gals installed members from Charlotte, Durham and Atlanta. All events were in the fabulous Regency-Hyatt in Atlanta.

The three-day activities began Friday evening with hospitality, followed by Saturday luncheon and formal.

Bashies of the gala weekend events was the Friday evening cocktailer Dr. Marcus (Mike) Moore gave in his 20th floor suite.

He is the Baltimore physician and one of our town's more eligible unattached.

This is the piece de resistance: — Co-hosting with him Friday evening, was beauteous Phyllis Morris, the Chicago educator who is national president of the Smart Set.

And get this, she was sporting his 4-carat plus diamond on the right finger and they talked of plans for an April marriage. Both are divorced.

Marylanders who attended the Smart Set convention include Dr. and Mrs. Simon Carter (Kay, she's president of the Baltimore group); Mrs. Bertha Forte, Mr. and Mrs. John Wood (Dot); Mrs. Helen Queen and Mrs. Alice Pinderhughes, all of Baltimore and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hicks, Frederick;

Mrs. and Mrs. James Gilliam of Wilmington, Del. were also there.

In Sunday from a holiday at San Juan's Holiday Inn were members of the nationally known HM Club, that group of professional and businessmen along the East Coast who have taken an annual winter vacation in a snazzy resort for the 30 years they've been organized.

The group has no officers but William S. Harps of D.C. is the Southern District director; and Dr. Ernest Wetmore of Morristown, N.J., heads the Northern area.

Even though the Puerto Rico capital had a taxi strike and there was some rain, Baltimoreans report the balmy 84 degrees more than compensated for the inconvenience.

Baltimoreans on the trip were William Stanford, Dr. Louis E. Harmon, Vernon Greene and James H. Murphy; and from Frederick, Md., Dr. Ulysses Bourne.

Among others on the trip:

From Washington: Jesse Dedmond, Dr. Henry (Stud) Greene, Thomas Lowe, Dr. William Nash, H. G. Williams, Dr. Herbert Marshall, S. R. Bryant, Robert Plummer, Waddell Thomas;

From Philadelphia: Lt. Col. Charles H. Clarke, Dr. Thomas W. Flanagan;

From New York: Hampton Gill, Cornelius McDougall, Dr. Richard Carey;

From New Jersey: Clinton O. Williams, Wallace Haddon, Edward Dowdy, Dr. Ernest Wetmore;

From Richmond: Charlie McCarthy, Dr. Everett White;

From W. Va.: Dr. Peyton R. Higginbotham.

More Baltimoreans in San Juan last week were these golf enthusiasts, also at Holiday Inn: Benjamin Foreman, William Adams, Dr. Billy Davis, azier Brice, Dr. Raymond Gray and Henry Parks.

More Baltimoreans traveling abroad — Come this weekend, HM Club members who selected Acapulco, Mexico, instead of San Juan, will be off for a holiday.

They are Dr. Irving Henderson and Arlington Phillips. Also on the trip, Leroy Dyett and Dr. I. Logan Kearse.

Here's a different travel note: Mrs. Theodore Patterson (Sylvia), was with the group of Dundalk, Md. Jaycees who left Wednesday for a trip to Dundalk, Ireland. They'll be there for the St. Patrick Day festivities.

Mrs. Patterson is wife of the physician, who is longtime (and first black) member of Dundalk Jaycees. He now holds title of Exalted Rooster.

Others in the Dundalk, Md. group: Mr. and Mrs. John Dabrowski and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Garner.

Down memory lane: Pearl S. Buck is dead at the age of 80. The world famed author of more than 85 books and winner of the Pulitzer Prize (1931) and Nobel Prize (1938), for her book, "The Good Earth," made a memorable visit to Baltimore in Oct., 1948.

In Oct., 1965, this column published an 'Open Letter to Pearl Buck' and received this reply: dated Nov. 22, 1965: "Dear Mrs. Moss: Thank you, very much for your thoughtfulness in sending me your column. It makes me happy to think that anything I could have said or done has helped in the situation in Baltimore. — Pearl S. Buck."

Here is the open letter to Miss Buck this column published: —

Dear Miss Buck: A lot of water has gone over the dam since you spoke here in Baltimore in October, 1948.

You may recall you came here that year to speak to the Maryland State Teachers Association's 81st annual meeting at the Armory.

Remember you had selected as your topic, 'America Looks At Asia,' but instead you gave us Baltimoreans, and teachers in particular, a good spanking.

Our newspaper files show that you protested the arrangement made without your knowledge and consent which meant you addressed an all-white teachers meeting and colored teachers were excluded and such was against your principle and practices.

You said: "It distressed me very much to learn that colored teachers were not to sit with us.

"I suggested that the situation be met by asking that the session be held under the auspices of the colored teachers and was told that the proposal had been advanced but the program of the colored association had all been arranged.

"Still later, I learned that this was not quite true, and that the colored teachers would have been glad to sponsor the meeting . . ."

Afterwards, Miss Lillian G. Moore, president, who presided at the convention, praised Miss Buck for 'turning our eyes upon ourselves.'

And the AFRO of that date published an editorial, 'Miss Buck Gets 'Em Told.' It said in part: —

"We are obliged to Miss Pearl Buck, the novelist-lecturer, for one of the most pointed debunkings of America's white supremacy myth to come to our attention in many moons.

"It seems that Miss Buck, who spoke to the lily-white Maryland State Teachers' Association in Baltimore last week, had been led to believe that she would be speaking to ALL of Maryland's teachers, regardless of race, instead of to an all-white group.

"Not only that, but when she discovered the jim crow arrangement and suggested that she be permitted to speak under the auspices of the colored teachers' group meeting at the same time, she was told that such a proposal had already been advanced but could not be effected because the program of the colored association had 'all been arranged.'

"In a scathing denunciation of segregation, Miss Buck told her all-white audience that the explanation was not quite true since she knew that the colored teachers and the local teachers' union would have been glad to sponsor such a meeting had the offer been made.

"In other words, Miss Buck was saying that she had not only been insulted, but she had been lied to in the bargain.

"We could use more envoys like Miss Buck spreading the doctrine of true brotherhood in the United States instead of two-faced emissaries abroad seeking converts from the nation whose skepticism of our sincerity continues to mount as a result of incidents such as that which took place in Maryland last week.

"Thank God that there are some sections of the nation where it could not have happened."

Not long after you spoke here, Miss Buck, this teachers' group integrated its membership.

Last week, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, the association noted in a published interview that it desegregated its membership before the 1954 Supreme Court decision.

True, it did, but you, Miss Buck had a lot to do with it.

You might also be interested to know that for the first time in the association's history, a colored teacher will head the group.

Too long, you know, colored officers in many professional offices have been limited to secretary of vice something or other.

President designate for 1966 is Everett G. Pettigrew, Anne Arundel County elementary supervisor.

Cuff note: The MSTA follows in the footsteps of Baltimore Teachers Union, which has broken the colored-only officer designation.

Dennis Cosby, Dunbar High teacher and former CORE education chairman, is the current president and Miss Thelma Cox is recording secretary.

AFRO LINE IS AN AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a postcard to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your home address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE EACH week because that is where the action can be found.

AFRO Line gets prompt action for reader who didn't have mail order filled

Q: On Nov. 20, 1972, I ordered a dress from an Atlantic City, N.J. mail order firm.

After writing them several letters, they wrote me Feb. 12 that the dress was on its way, yet I haven't received it.

Can you help me?

MRS. D. W.

A: The assistant supervisor of the company's customer service department told the AFRO "an immediate adjustment is being made and the lady's dress is being sent to her."

Q: I am writing to see if you could find the date when my husband was robbed.

It was in February, 1972.

Junius Smith was robbed of $299 in the 900 block Eden St. in East Baltimore, around 3 or 4 a.m.

I need it for my income taxes.

MRS. H. S.

A: Patrolman William Markwordt, Eastern Police District, 1620 Edison Highway, told AFRO LINE: "We have no record of any such robbery.

"Apparently the gentleman didn't report it."

Q: Please investigate a firm which rents a Northwest Baltimore complex.

We start paying a rent increase April 1.

Didn't they get a letter telling them to cool it until April 30?

The apartment and grounds needs a lot of repairing, but the health department and Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) don't do anything about it.

Could there be a little bribery?

APT. DWELLER

A: Bill Brosnahan, program manager for the northeastern HCD district told AFRO LINE that the northwestern district, in which the apartment complex is located, made an inspection tour Jan. 29 and that there was no cause for action.

He explained, "rents aren't in our control.

"However, we do believe the rents there are exorbitantly high.

"We recommend that the writer get in touch with the Internal Revenue Service, which is what we're doing also."

Q: Should I put my Social Security number on my tax payments?

D. S.

A: Internal Revenue says yes. Also, to assure proper credit of tax payments, you should put your Social Security number on all checks or money orders you make out to the Internal Revenue Service.

When the IRS receives a payment without an accompanying form or notice, sometimes it cannot properly credit the payment to the taxpayer's account.

You should also keep money order stubs or cancelled checks in case the IRS requests verification of a payment.

A Column Of CHOICE

Students Need Time In School For Discussion

By MARION BANFIELD

Sending black and white children to the same school is not a guarantee of racial integration. There can be a racial isolation which reinforces racial prejudices just as much as any segregated school.

As a matter of fact, the segregation of races within a school building can be evidence of staff lack of concern with developing the kind of human relationships which will allow our students to mature with fewer prejudices than their parents.

Parents and faculty need to take a good look at what the racial patterns of classrooms represent.

Do white students constitute the core and majority of classes where academic excellence is expected?

If Baltimore teachers are so inadequate that they cannot produce numbers of black students from whom excellence is expected in sufficient numbers to have significant racial integration in classrooms of integrated schools, then there is a real lack of teaching skill and concern.

Somehow, I tend to think that teachers and administrators are so racially biased, consciously and unconsciously, that black children are allowed to evade or reject excellence.

Patterns of self-hatred among black students are a major factor in low achievement.

Acceptance by one's peers is an important influence in teenage behavior. If classmates identify academic excellence as a white

MRS. BANFIELD

characteristic, then being black implies rejection of those standards.

This distorted conception of brain power produces a mass of confused, hostile, rebellious teenagers.

By the time they realize how they have wasted their abilities, thousands are too old and discouraged to try to catch up with goals they had been capable of achieving.

The human relations programs now underway in schools like Pimlico Junior High School and School No. 19 are beginning efforts to deal with some of the self-imposed values which bring so little joy to our children.

Our students need to have school time set aside where they can discuss values.

Pimlico students had suggested that one homeroom period a week be set aside for student discussion leaders to focus student talking about school problems and solutions.

Students are being trained how to lead and share in discussions.

Such involvement means that students are more conscious of the choices they make in behavior.

Their choice of values will be influenced by more careful thinking. This is a good way for them to learn to take responsibility for their own behavior.