Baltimore Afro-American

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

Provident Hospital

George Russell, the Baltimore City solicitor, can solve the Provident Hospital dilemma but name calling, grandstanding and bickering will only create more problems.

The black community is not interested in a "who did what" duel, but in whether the debt-ridden hospital they put their hard earned money in will remain "their hospital."

Is it strange that the people like the Prince Hall Masons, the various clubs, the average John Doe are so silent while a few on their way out of town are making the most noise?

No. We believe that the black community has wisely adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

We believe that despite personal feelings their common sense says that George Russell, the new head of the Baltimore City Bar Association, has both the ability and the common sense to pull Provident out of the hole.

We have said it before and we say it again. The black community would do itself proud to get behind George Russell and push.

At the same time we say, "good riddance" to all outsiders who do not know how to stand and fight for what they believe is right and good for this community.

Middle School

Educators have come to the conclusion that modern day youth at junior high school age need to be separated from youngsters in elementary and high schools.

Thus, the middle school concept, which eliminates the present junior high school for sixth, seventh and eighth grades and substitutes the middle school for seventh and eighth grades. The difference between junior high and middle schools is that the ninth grade is dropped and included in senior high school.

Youngsters in grades seven and eight go to school together with their peers who have the same level of understanding and growth.

Northwest Baltimore City parents in the area of Arlington Elementary School No. 241, 3705 Rogers Avenue, agree with this concept, but they are bitterly vocal against the school board's program to establish the first middle school at Fallstaff, and keep their children out even though they are in the same neighborhood.

Fallstaff, located at 3801 Fallstaff Road, is in a predominantly white area.

Parents here sold their plans for *the middle school to the school board which approved them last month by a* divided vote.

The opponents see this as an affront because enrollment is only for pupils coming from predominantly white Cross Country Elementary, two and one half miles away, and Mt. Washington Elementary, one mile away, but excludes youngsters from the closest school, predominantly black Arlington Elementary, not quite a mile away.

Arlington parents and other concerned residents contend restrictions are based on race and economics and housing and an attempt to perpetuate a predominantly white school without a concern for black youngsters who attend schools in the vicinity.

The school board, however, turned down their claims and went ahead to satisfy a limited group of white parents joined by a few black parents in the area.

Announcement this week by the concerned Arlington parents is that they will take the matter to the court.

They are particularly concerned that the present plans even permit white children from private schools to enroll in Falstaff, but not black children in the area.

If a public body like the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners is not enlightened sufficiently to understand that in this day and time they cannot turn back the clock and *put restrictions on a public school,* then it is time to let the courts decide whether this action is in violation of the Civil Rights Act and the city's commitment to equal educational opportunities for all.

Pro Sports Shift

One might well be amazed by the sudden shift in the professional sports fortunes of Washington and Baltimore.

In recent years, the District has been a one-team city with only the football Redskins as a big league attraction — there being no baseball, basketball or hockey, and local fans wishing to attend the races having to journey to Maryland or West Virginia.

Suddenly, Washington is in the midst of a pro sports bonanza.

The Redskins continue not only as a football team but as a title contending football team, which is something that cannot at the moment be said of the Colts.

Recent purchase of the San Diego Padres virtually assures Washington not only baseball, but National League baseball which is good baseball.

The National Basketball Association scene has been transplanted to Largo, Md., a Washington suburb. And the building of the arena there, which figured as a part of the Bullets' shift, also lured a National Hockey League franchise. And NHL hockey is conceded to be a better brand of game than that played in the American Hockey League, represented by the Clippers.

Meanwhile, in Baltimore the Orioles and Colts have signed long-term contracts which promise their presence in the city for an indefinite period. But the feeling is that, somewhere in the fine print of the agreements, are guarantees by the city that improved facilities will be forthcoming — either in the form of the new stadium complex or in the massive renovation of the present site on 33rd Street.

Which course is to be followed has yet to be determined by the politicians. But they would do well to hurry.

Nixon And Tolbert

In the wake of the recent visit of Emperor Haile Selassie to the White House, this week found Africa's newest leader in Washington for a talk with President Nixon.

President William Tolbert of the Republic of Liberia, who was inaugurated in 1971, had a face-to-face discussion with Mr. Nixon.

Details of what they discussed have not been publicized as yet, but there is little doubt that the discussion centered (1) on the Nixon Administration's plans and policies with respect to Africa, and (2) the recent Conference of the Organization of African Unity, of which Dr. Tolbert is vice president.

Liberia, as the oldest black independent country in Africa, has long ties with America. Mostly, however, they have been of one-way benefit, with the United States having the best of it and Liberia, unfortunately, acquiring a reputation as a "U.S. colony."

In recent years, much of that has changed, and changed for Liberia's progress.

While continually maintaining good relations with the United States, President Tolbert has established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, and has "wheedled a better deal out of foreign concessionaires," who export Liberia's iron ore and rubber.

These deals have increased Liberia's treasury by $5,000,000 per year. One of President Tolbert's aims is to attract another $700 million from the United States and Japanese source, for a new huge new iron ore project at Wologisi, which reportedly has estimated reserves up to a billion tons.

Liberia also seeks to expand its agricultural production as the price of imported rice, its diet staple, has doubled in recent years, and the country has little money for development along these lines.

Report From Washington

Minimum Wages Help Prevent Exploitation

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

"The tendency to deny the existence of social injustices and to extol the virtues of government is a distinguishing mark of the authoritarian personality."

This statement was made about the Union of South Africa by Alan Paton.

Here, in America, the President extols the virtues of government, but denies that keeping workers at slave wage, exploiting them by denying them a minimum wage, is a social injustice.

The Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1973 (H.R. 7935), increasing the federal minimum wage to $2.20 an hour and extending wage and overtime protections to new workers, was considered by the House June 5 and 6.

The bill is supported by organized labor, civil rights, women's rights, church and farm groups.

The Nixon Administration, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers oppose the bill and support a substitute which will be offered as an amendment by Representative John N. Erlenborn (R-Ill.).

At the time this column was written the House had not voted on the bill.

The major provisions of H. R. 7130 are as follows:

1. The minimum wage for non-agricultural employees covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act prior to 1966 will rise from $1.60 per hour to $2.20 per hour in two steps — to $2.00 30 days after enactment, and to $2.20 on July 1, 1974.

2. The minimum wage for non-agricultural employees covered by the 1966 amendments (principally laundry, dry cleaning, restaurant and hotel employees) will rise from $1.60 per hour to $2.20 in three steps — to $1.90 30 days after enactment, to $2.00 on July 1, 1974, and to $2.20 on July 1, 1975.

3. The 30 cents per hour differential for agricultural employees would be deleted. Agricultural employees will henceforth come under the same minimum wage category as non-agricultural employees after a four step upward adjustment, concluding July 1, 1976.

4. Minimum wage and overtime coverage are extended to employees of state and local governments, domestic service employees and employees of conglomerates. (Federal employees and state and local policemen and firemen now are specifically exempted from the overtime provisions.)

5. The committee bill establishes a sub-minimum wage applicable only to students of 85 per cent of the applicable minimum, or $1.60, whichever is higher.

Of course, I want to see all workers earn a decent wage. I want to see all workers protected under minimum wage law provisions. However, my especial concern is with the plight of the black domestic workers.

One of the most forgotten and ignored segments of America's labor force are the 1.5 million individuals privately employed as domestics.

With the exception of four states they are not covered by either state or federal minimum wage laws.

As a result, the median annual income for a domestic who worked 50-52 weeks in 1969 was approximately $1,400. More than 97 per cent of all domestics are women and one-half to two-thirds are black.

Among blacks, where 28 per cent of the families are headed by women, one out of every five employed women is working as a domestic.

As of March, 1970, more than 200,000 domestics were the heads of families. About one-fourth included at least four children.

Almost three-fifths of the female heads of families who reported private household employment as the job held longest during 1969 had incomes below the poverty level ($3,743) for a family of four).

During the debate on the floor, I advised the Republicans, who led the opposition to the bill, that their party could never win the support of blacks as long as it remained insensitive to human needs.

In similar fashion, during the floor debate I told these Southern Democrats that they could never successfully project the image of the "new south" as long as they permitted exploitation of workers.

There is currently a popular hit song called "I'll Always Love My Mama." A part of the song tells how "mama had to clean someone else's house, just to get me a new pair of shoes."

Black mothers have often held families together by working as domestics. They have truly been exploited as domestic workers.

The Congress must pass the minimum wage legislation if it is to deal effectively with this, and other wage injustices.

"The tendency to deny the existence of social injustice and to extol the virtues of government is the distinguishing mark of the authoritarian 'legislature.'"

A little About A LOT

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

The recent public forum, "How to Save Provident Hospital," sponsored by the Community Health Council of Maryland, Inc., had all the flavor of Watergate, the President's jealous control over executive privilege and secrecy to avoid damaging disclosure of the facts.

An alleged threat to muzzle this writer's participation, by "taking care" of her eldest son, if she raised sensitive and probing questions about the mismanagement of the hospital, smacks of "cover-up".

This should alert an already suspicious community to the underworld tactics and pressures yet to come, should anyone try to reveal the real facts about the mysterious Provident caper.

Take heart, however, Blackmail is successful only when the victim cringes in fearful silence!

The same devious rhetoric and jockeying of Watergate, were also present at the public forum.

To explain his absence, George L. Russell Jr., the receiver, stated by letter that court supervision demanded that he remain silent. This was simply not true.

(With signals crossed, the day after the forum, the governor could not explain the receiver's reluctance to answer questions at the forum. Yet, the governor refused to attend the forum as an invited guest, or send anyone to represent him.)

On the other hand, the attorney for the receivership claimed that he had admonished the receiver not to answer any questions, nor to attend the forum.

As a result the new PR man, an inept spokesman and master of double talk, twisted the meaning of the meeting, warning that "whitey" wanted to see us fighting among ourselves; that we should unite and divest ourselves of "negativism".

With that paternalistic advice, he could evade answering more substantive questions relating to the future of Provident's Nursing School; the need and demand for black control of the hospital; participation on the part of the black community to make long term decisions; a continuation of training programs for resident physicians; and the maintenance of Provident as a general hospital to continue its history as the oasis in a desert of white hospital racism.

Finally, the vice president of the old Provident trustee board, Dr. Saul Perdue, disavowed any knowledge of secret plans for the conversion and/or dismantling of the hospital.

Yet, he did not know or reveal that the meeting over which he presided where the decision was made to deliver the hospital into receivership, came on the heels of a threat from Lt. Gov. Blair Lee, to the black legislators, that if they did not accept voluntary receivership immediately, no one at Provident would get paid.

After this and Watergate, paranoia is as normal and American as apple pie!

Watergate At Provident?

In concert with the heavy-handed, intrigue, conflict of interest in regard to the receiver—like sending the fox to guard the hen house—the Regional Planning Council of Maryland (RPC) has been studying what it calls a "bed moratorium". It finds that there are 2400 extra hospital beds in Baltimore.

In addition, the Md. Council on Higher Education has agreed to turn over Provident Nursing School to the management of Towson State College to "Avoid duplication of effort and services" in the State educational network.

Thus, black control of teaching institutions is gradually and surreptitously being wrested away.

Furthermore, it is alleged that an interracial group outside Baltimore is rubbing its hands in anticipation of buying Provident. More dilution of black control, locally.

To show how things fall into line, the RPC's bed moratorium task force reported on May 2: "Task Force suggestions include reducing duplication of services and functions, sharing of services, conversion of specifically allocated beds to other use, closing under-occupied beds and opening beds in areas of high need and changes in hospital staffing patterns and practices."

Logically, therefore, if Provident is already under-utilized, if there are already enough hospital beds in Baltimore, RPC's task force would recommend that Provident no longer needs to be a general hospital, but should be converted to other uses.

Only through continued infusion of State money, without strings, can this be prevented. All citizens should alert their representatives at the special Legislative Session, in Annapolis, in July and August, that this is the State's responsibility.

In the meantime, let us not revert to that slave mentality, that the State will be "giving" us anything. State monies to be used for bailing Provident out, come from hundreds of thousands of black citizens who pay taxes, from professionals to welfare recipients, whose hidden taxes are never publicly credited in the public till, nor considered in setting priorities — dealing with black folk's needs.

When we lapse into that inferiority complex bag, it should be reassuring to remember what W. E. B. DuBois wrote in "Souls of Black Folk":

"Your country? How come it's yours? . . . Actively we have woven ourselves with the very warp and woof of this nation, — we have fought their battles, shared their sorrow, mingled our blood with theirs, and generation after generation have pleaded with a headstrong, careless people to despise not Justice, Mercy and Truth, lest the nation be smitten with a curse . . . Would America have been America without her Negro (black) people?"

Whose taxes? Yours and mine, friend, will justifiably be used to keep Provident, our general hospital, as long as you remember it is our birthright and are ready, willing and able to fight, along with our black legislators, to keep it so.

Good Business Methods Bring Profits For Hospitals

Reprinted with permission from 'Industry Week,' May 28, 1973. Copyright Penton Publishing Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

Hospitals that make a profit?

Unheard of, you say. And until a few years ago that was true.

But a growing industry is now based on the ability to make a profit from the business of running a hospital.

These profitable facilities are called proprietary hospitals, and although they have been on the scene only a short time, about six years, there already are 42 chains in operation; the largest companies have annual revenues ranging from $40 million to $200 million. And this segment of the health care industry represents about 6 per cent of the non-government community hospitals in the U.S.

This new for-profit trend in health care may one day affect industry. Some 90 per cent of all hospital patients have their bills paid by some form of medical insurance.

Many of these insurance plans are paid in part or in full by employers, and anything that makes hospitals more efficient could well reduce health care costs, insurance costs and the ultimate cost to industry.

Just what does a proprietary hospital do to make a profit? "There's nothing extraordinary about it. It's just the use of good business techniques," says John G. Main of Coloney, Cannon, Main and Pursell Inc. (CCMP), New York.

The management consultant firm has just finished a study of the proprietary hospital system in the U.S., and Mr. Main contends that sound business methods and a basic change in management structure permit these hospitals to make a profit, while other hospitals, often termed voluntary hospitals, generally run in the red.

He states that voluntary hospitals are run by administrators who have no control over the medical staff — and the medical staff isn't concerned with hospital costs. That's an oversimplification, he admits, but it does represent an accurate picture of why voluntary hospitals operate at a loss, he insists.

Cost control — However, in proprietary hospitals, managers, — whether doctors or nonmedical administrators — have the responsibility and authority to control costs.

The result, Mr. Main points out, is that good business practices are applied to hospital management. For example, the proprietary hospital chains take advantage of their buying power and centralize their purchasing operation.

Simon O'Shea, also of CCM&P, points out that many voluntary hospitals have bills outstanding for up to 18 months. "The proprietary chains try to collect in 30 to 60 days, so they have better control of their cash flow."

In short, these hospitals are run like a business (consistent with good medical practice, Mr. Main stresses) with the result being a profit. This in turn has improved the productivity of hospital care in the proprietary system, says the CCMP study.

First, the study shows that proprietary hospitals had 262 staff members for every 100 patients in 1971, compared with 301 staff members for every 100 patients in voluntary hospitals — a difference of 13 per cent. The payroll cost per patient day was $43.96 for proprietary hospitals and $54.73 for voluntary — a difference of just under 20 per cent.

In another way, and perhaps most importantly, the proprietary hospitals show their efficiency by having a lower occupancy rate — 71.2 per cent — compared with 79.1 per cent for voluntary hospitals. Proprietary hospitals also operated at 7 per cent less total cost per patient day than voluntary hospitals — $87.25 versus $93.84 — even after paying federal income taxes, the study says.

Shorter stay — Proprietary hospital administrators realize that profits come from ancillary services — X-rays, drugs and therapy — and not from the length of a patient's stay in the hospital.

So they have worked at getting the patient out of the hospital as soon as good medical practice allows. The result is that the average stay in a proprietary hospital was 6.7 days compared with 8.1 days in voluntary hospitals — a 17 per cent shorter stay, says the study.

All this talk about profits and health care has generated criticism of proprietary hospitals. Critics most often charge that these hospitals do not provide medical training facilities, facilities for the poor and other services usually provided by voluntary hospitals.

True, say administrators of the proprietary chains, but this, they add, is compensated for by paying taxes that can help defray the cost of such services at voluntary hospitals.

Afro Line

AFRO LINE IS AN AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be.

All you have to do is write a 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 name, address and telephone number.

Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the action can be found.

QUESTION: April 23 I was shopping in a downtown department store when I saw a man being arrested, apparently for shoplifting.

The youth was being held on the floor by three security men employed by the store.

They already had him down on the floor and handcuffed, but continued to beat and spray him with mace.

I considered this excessive force and merely a chance for them to beat a black man.

I got no satisfaction out of the security force chief or the store's personnel manager in this affair.

I have since closed my account with the store and have urged my friends to do likewise.

The security guards told me, a patron, to keep quiet or else I'd get arrested too.

What right do they have to do that?

A. J.

ANSWER: AFRO LINE was told by John Woolcocks, representing the store. "The name given by the youth that day wasn't the correct one, nor was the one the patron got from the police.

"The youth is still in custody, we assume, and many legal procedures against him are pending.

"The store makes no statement at this time concerning the allegations against its security personnel."

Tom Bradley Should Make A-1 Mayor

By G. JAMES FLEMING

Most of the nation has known Thomas Bradley, mayor-elect of Los Angeles, for only about five years. But there are some people who have known him over many years.

To these latter and fortunate people, who have followed Tom Bradley for a long time, there is no doubt that he will prove an outstanding mayor. More cautiously stated, he has the capacity, the tools and the sensitivities for being an A-1 chief executive of the nation's third largest, and perhaps most multi-ethnic, city.

He cannot achieve these heights alone, however. He will need the cooperation, support and prayers of his fellow-citizens. He will especially need the vigorous under-girding of big business and of the civic leadership. It will be mandatory that he have the fanatic honesty of his appointees.

Although the "experts" say that most American cities just cannot be governed, if it is left to Bradley, his administration will be honest, dedicated, lively, people-contered and well organized.

In addition, Bradley does not think work; he is zealous about the team approach but he is not wishy-washy about making everybody happy at any price; and he loves Los Angeles.

The new mayor is also old-fashioned enough to believe that what he does and how he does it will reflect on all black people and affect their future.

He is an aware "soul brother," but his No. 1 commitment, as this column sees it, is to humanity and all human beings — in the understanding that, if the world is destructive to all humanity, it will not be good for blacks, either.

Incidentally, but most importantly, soul brothers and soul sisters have a key role in determining how much of a success Tom Bradley can be as mayor. This is especially true of the younger soul brothers and sisters.

This writer has known Thomas Bradley since the early 1940's. As a college student, he became a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and, since his initiation, the organization has always known that something special happened to it, because of him.

The fraternity had never held one of its annual conventions on the West Coast. California was deemed too distant; too far from the center of Kappa membership; too expensive in travel for both officers and members.

But, Tom Bradley began attending the annual conclaves, wherever they were held — north, midwest or south. He would pack his car with four or five "brothers" and, together, they would "plug" for "A conclave on the West Coast."

"Impossible" was the response, but the members did not know the quiet tenacity of Bradley: In 1946 the first Kappa conclave held on the West Coast was convened in Los Angeles. And Kappamen have never forgotten it — for the way every business and social need and expectation had been anticipated.

Tom Bradley had made the impossible possible.

Since 1946, Mayor Bradley has filled nearly every office in Kappa Alpha Psi, including that of national president (Grand Polemarch). He has also helped many young people to enter college and to remain until graduation.

On each of the fraternity levels on which he served, he has performed creatively, vigorously, responsibly, honestly and constructively. He has operated from a position of strength; he was a leader, although low-key; he was inspirational.

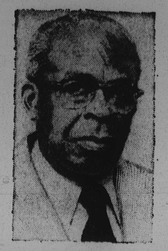
He also showed great respect for facts and figures, as contrasted with fiction. His reports were gems. He was a "No foolishness" kind of person.

Thomas Bradley became a policeman, rising to the rank of lieutenant, despite "the system;" then he became a lawyer (studying nights) and later, a member of the Los Angeles City Council. At each of these steps his high qualities and his special assets, already referred to, stood out.

It is this record which causes this writer to expect an A-1 administration under the new mayor. It is this record which made possible his election (56-44 per cent) in a city with only a 15-16 per cent black population.

FIGHTING BACK — Not only is President Nixon, himself, fighting back against those who see him "guilty by association," if nothing more, in the Watergate scandals. Other voices, many levels down in officialdom, also seem to be on the counter-offensive.

One such voice was heard in Baltimore last week when retired Lt. Col. William Corson, now a civil servant, was the principal speaker at the Fifth Annual Awards Dinner of the Maryland Veterans for Peace.



DR. FLEMING

Corson, author of "The Betrayal," a book critical of U.S. foreign policy, came to speak at an affair honoring Henry Niles for his long years in the peace movement.

But, red-faced and fighting, he sounded off into an attack on Daniel Ellsberg and his exposure of the Pentagon Papers. He proclaimed for "law and order," for security and secrecy, and accused Dr. Ellsberg of some offenses which never figured in the court case against him (if these so-called offenses ever really took place).

Corson ignored the fact that Dr. Ellsberg has been acquitted by a federal court and that the same court had found that the government, itself, had engaged in illegal acts against Dr. Ellsberg.

Some countries have a "party line." The USA presently has a "Nixon line."

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

Middle School

Dear AFRO:

Since when did our public schools determine enrollment by class? "A middle class solution to a middle class problem" as quoted from the Morning Sun editorial of June 4th.

Public schools were not intended for "middle class," "lower class" or any other economic class.

If schools are not private or parochial, the schools are for everybody — that is why they are called Baltimore City PUBLIC schools.

I agree with the article that the Fallstaff Middle School was an ingenious plan. However, to give full credit I believe a better word would be "deceptive" plan.

It is deceptive because the planners portray a 40 per cent black and 60 per cent white population when, in fact, the planners knew and know that the racial ratio could not be anywhere near this figure since the present black enrollment is comprised of a majority of students living outside of the area.

For instance, Mt. Washington's present black enrollment is 42.

Cross Country has approximately 200 black students presently enrolled — 41 special education students being bussed; 60 students from school 62 being bussed; and approximately 79 in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades riding MTA buses, living more than a mile from the school.

According to telephone contact with the Department of Education, no school buses will be running in September, 1973, so what about these black students?

How can blacks move into the neighborhood, as the planners claim to have preplanned, when these planners comprise the same group of citizens who were for stabilized neighborhoods. Remember?

These people did not plan to sell out when a few blacks moved in a while back.

I ask, if there are no living accommodations being sold, rented or leased, how can blacks move into the neighborhood?

Let's face facts — in districting the Fallstaff Middle School within an area approximately 90 per cent white and 10 per cent black, the school will be racially segregated.

(Mrs.) GRACE A. HINES

Phone Charges

Dear AFRO:

I'm sure it's legal but is it right that the telephone company is permitted to charge in advance (one month) for service? That's a tidy piece of change it collects from its thousands of subscribers. — B. J. SMALL

Thank You

Dear AFRO:

The Third Annual Girls' Sports Day sponsored by District Eight of the Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation was very successful. Some 350 girls representing ten recreation centers participated in the program. We feel that our objectives are achieved.

On behalf of the Bureau of Recreation and District Eight, I would like to thank you for assisting us in the presentation of awards. Your presence contributed to our success.

JAMES E. GRANT
District Supervisor

Student Embarrassed

Dear AFRO:

On Thursday, March 24, 1973, I was totally embarrassed and insulted at the School Board meeting at the Coldstream Elementary School.

In the company of my mother, school officials, Arlington parents and other visitors at the meeting, I had to listen to myself and my schoolmates being referred to as "scruffy, black, black children."

In particular, the rude and obnoxious behavior of Dr. Scott (Dr. Eugene Scott, a black school commissioner) does not, in my opinion, warrant his being a member of the School Board.

I certainly felt very happy each time a parent was able to remind Dr. Scott that he was not a supreme being, but merely a member of the School Board.

Media Blacks

Dear AFRO:

I am writing you in regard to an article in the TV Guide dated May 12-18. The title of the article is "I'm Not Prepared To Dismiss The Observation That It's Easier For a Naked Man To Watch TV Than It Is For Him To Read" by Edmund Carpenter.

Part of this article tells how Amos 'n' Andy was played by two white men on the radio. On TV, however, the characters were portrayed by blacks acting as comic servants.

Mr. Carpenter also stated, ". . . media image soon shifted from real blacks—unemployed, uneducated and hungry—to media blacks—professionally employed, college educated and well dressed. Real blacks, once more, became invisible."

I am a black woman and I was really offended by this statement. I realize that the statements were his opinions, but being black I could not let them go by unnoticed.

How can this man distinguish between real blacks and media blacks?

In case he doesn't know it, there are real blacks that are well dressed, professionally employed, college educated and hold high official offices.

Blacks aren't the only unemployed, uneducated and hungry group of people in America. Whites as well as other minority groups fit this description.

Why is it that black people are always considered on the bottom of the barrel?

MRS. DEBORAH ROBINSON

Fashion Fad

Dear AFRO:

Since spring and summer fashions (halter tops, backless dresses) are about us, I have noticed how many young ladies with tremendous breasts, flopping from one side to another walking the streets.

The only possible solution that I find reasonable is for small busted women to go braless or to wear some type of covering for the breast. Our breasts are used for infants not for publicity.

I'm not against the fashions of today, but I certainly won't disgrace my human body or my morals just to entice some male breast hawk.

I am certain mothers will agree with this. Let's preserve our bodies for decency.

ANDREA DORIA WILLIAMS

NOW and THEN

A Column Of CHOICE

Exciting Education Choices

By MARION BANFIELD

Why not have more variety in our public schools? Why must parents worry about vouchers for various styles of education?

Perhaps the time has come for schools to be free to emphasize educational approaches decided upon by administrators and faculty.

Whereas, open classes and team teaching appeal to some educators, others prefer individual classrooms.

There are book series, teaching machinery, behavior modification, parent involvements and other educational techniques varying from school to school.

Baltimore educators are aware of varieties of educational approaches. What is needed is leadership that encourages individual educational styles.

No style can be effective unless administrators and faculty are enthusiastic about their program.

Parents also have a need to respond to educators' efforts to involve them in the educational process.

With a minimum of publicity, elementary schools of the inner city have imaginatively included, or tried to include parents, in teaching children.

Some parents would be opposed to schools without report cards. Yet, some private schools have recognized the inadequacy and personal bias of teachers which prevent the card from being a true indicator of the child's ability and performance.

The magnet school concept of secondary schools has been implemented or publicized to the fullest.

As parents, educators and pupils examine public schools, the need for greater individual respect is evident. Without respect there are serious disciplinary problems.

Until classrooms are comfortable learning places for children, educators will continue their five-day, a week frustrating battle with disruptive behavior and stubborn ignorance.

Classrooms will become effective learning centers only when there is an atmosphere of mutual respect.

This atmosphere can only be established when educators recognize the need for a strong human relations base for intellectual accomplishment.

Parental choice is to approach educators with the idea of developing some special learning and teaching program in respective schools.

Pupil choice is to encourage educators and parents to bring about some changes that will make schools more challenging, more meaningful.

Taking the best of our public schools and developing specialties is an exciting choice.

IF YOU ASK ME

By BETTYE MOSS

Two graduates in the family: Robert Eugene Stanley, 22, received his bachelor's degree in math from Morgan State College, has been accepted as computer trainee with Traveller's Insurance in Hartford.

His brother, William D., 17, is among June 18 graduates at Northern High.

They are sons of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Stanley (Dorothy).

Couple your congratulation cards with get well wishes for Mrs. Stanley. She is in Hopkins Hospital, Osler 815B, undergoing a series of tests. Many know her as the physical ed instructor at Morgan State College.

Dr. Stanley, by the way, is the program specialist with the Maryland Council on Higher Education.

At the glorious 85th annual graduation exercises at Douglass High School on Monday evening, the audience included a large number of parents, grandparents and guardians. And didn't the 575 grads give them a standing ovation!

Of course, happiness is attending a Douglass High graduation. You feel a part of it. Monday evening was no exception — the singing was magnificent, as usual.

Douglass, you know, is famous for its music instruction. Performing were: —

The concert band, directed by Thomas DeLaine and Repperd Stone; the chorus by Mrs. Lois Wright, Clyde Taylor and Craig Montgomery; the dramatic class, directed by Mrs. Mary West Miller (whom seniors gave a standing ovation when it was announced she is retiring). Accompanists at organ and piano, Timothy Pickens and Mrs. Jewel Churn. They were out of sight!

Highlight of the evening's entertainment was graduates presentation of 'Our Determination,' in words and song.

Typical excerpt by the group: 'Conflict and quest for freedom have courted us in our search for education and enlightenment. We can not remember a period of harmony at home or abroad! . . . yet we have learned that education is a catalyst in the acquisition of freedom . . .

". . . we have received our inspiration from the words of Frederick Douglass for whom our school is named. He was a true champion of education and freedom . . . over 100 years ago . . .'

And, then the resonant voice of Fred Douglass, portrayed by Frank Russell. ". . . If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground . . .'

Graduates sang a medley of moving songs as they told in word and song of their struggle for 'our goals . . .' and concluded that 'freedom through education is not an impossible dream.'

Among the songs, 'We Shall Overcome,' 'I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free,' 'Young, Gifted and Black' and 'Save the Country.'

More beautiful singing: The combined choirs and graduates, joined by the audience, opened the program with 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' and the 'Star Spangled Banner,' both with gusto.

Love principal, Edna Over Campbell. When a couple of hoodlum friends of graduates got loud in their enthusiasm, she walked quietly to the mike and suggested they were embarrassing the graduates. The audience applauded. The hoods desisted.

Wanta see how people with class operate? You should have seen how Principal Campbell and her faculty associates walked quietly to rescue a grad who fainted and escorted her to the waiting arms of her parents.

And, the grads showed unusual calm during the crisis. They were hushed and so was the audience, while the sick grad was carried from the stage. Bravo!

More cuff notes: Of course, this 1934 Douglass grad liked singing of the class song, 'Hail, Douglass,' because it was written by two members of our class, James Hill and the late Meredith Birche.

Three young women top top class honors, Janet Hopkins, who won 10 awards including a $7,200 scholarship to U. of Md.; Sheila Tolson, nine awards, including $825 scholarship to Towson State; Rosalyn Carter, 10 awards, including $14,000 scholarship to U. of Michigan (she was the class honorarian).

Coast Guard note: Michael M. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Brown of Archer St., in Bel Air, Md., is one of two black grads of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn.

After his commission as an ensign, he will report for duty on the Minnetonka at Long Beach, Calif.

At the academy, Ensign Brown was on the superintendent's list, was adjutant 3rd make, was on the staff of the "Howling Gale" and played in the dance band.

Ensign Brown majored in history and government and plans to get his master's degree, go into the flight school and make the Coast Guard his career.

Cuff note: Ensign Brown has a brother in the 10th grade in high school and a sister who is a sophomore in Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn.

Cuff Note: Use of four letter words is an ignorant man's way of being forceful. It is an old saying we have heard quite often.

This thought comes to mind as we recall hearing the worst kind of four letter words in a public meeting uttered by a city official during a meeting last week. Ho hum!!

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.

(Dec. 25, 1920.)

(From The Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded AFRO Aug. 13, 1892).

It's NOT A Man's World

Continuing Education For Women

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Although continuing education programs for women originated in the late '50s and early '60s, the movement is still a new idea to many colleges and universities.

The rationale for developing such programs is that many institutional barriers restrict mature women from taking advantage of available educational opportunities. Programs tailored to their special needs and interests are therefore needed.

The design and focus of the programs developed have varied considerably, depending on such factors as the interests and requests of adult women in the immediate area, the special talents of interested faculty or community leaders and local labor market demands.

Programs and services which have stimulated many older women to school generally offer one or more of the following features: enrollment on a part-time basis, flexible course hours, short-term courses, counseling services for adult women, financial aid for part-time study, limited residence requirements, removal of age restrictions, liberal transfer of course credits, curriculum geared to adult experiences, credit by examination, refresher courses, reorientation courses, information services, child care facilities, relaxation of time requirements for degrees and job placement assistance.

The response of women to "their" programs has stimulated a mounting number of colleges, universities and other organizations to develop similar programs.

There is little doubt, however, that a wide gap still exists between the latent educational interests and aspirations of mature women and the existence of sufficient educational programs which meet their needs.

Other plans for educational reform move beyond continuing education's modifications of the current educational structure. Still in the developmental stage, they are variously designated by such terms as "external degrees," "the open university" and "university without walls." These plans envision fundamental changes in the whole educational system as it relates to instruction, examination, transfer of credits and certification.

Learning outside the conventional instruction program would utilize such facilities as TV courses, correspondence courses, video cassettes, apprenticeships, work experience and other teaching innovations. The learning might be validated by national examinations.

Under consideration are an increase in the number of subjects for which credits could be obtained by examination and the devising of tests for "affective" qualities, formerly judged by observation.

It is hoped that credits gained by examination could be transferred on a national scale, possibly through certification by a specialized institution like a National University.

The open university concept has been described as encompassing the development of its own curriculum and teaching materials, having a resident faculty but not resident *students and supervising a network of centers for counseling, tutoring and* testing.

The Greater Baltimore Section, National Council of Negro Women, will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, June 10, 1973 at 2:00 p.m. at the Madison Avenue Branch, YWCA.

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

(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

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