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)



# BLACK OCTOBER
## What Excuse, Governor?

James (Turk) Scott and George L. Evans are dead. And a group called "Black October" has supposedly left its calling card at each murder scene with the label "Death to the pusher."

Whether or not Scott, an East Baltimore member of the State Legislature, or Evans, a West Baltimore resident, had anything to do with dope or whether or not the deaths were caused by "Black October," will have to be proven.

But the main thing citizens throughout the state and nation must face is the fact that (1) there ever was a need for a group like "Black October" and (2) murders like this can take place right under the noses of the police.

Why should our young people be dying from dope? Why should the black community have to stand silently by and watch its beautiful young people be supplied with dope?

If the youth know where to buy the dope, how come the police can't find the pusher and the supplier?

Are we to believe that a handful of men and women without modern computer devices know more about the criminal elements than the great investigative arms like the FBI, the CIA and our own computerized walking, riding and flying police department?

Back in the old West we heard of vigilante groups being formed because there were no policemen. But once the police force was organized, the watchmen disappeared.

In old western movies, volunteers were deputized because the police force was too small to handle the situation.

Baltimore can neither claim the lack of a police force or a police force that is too small. But there must be some reason for the existence of "Black October" and the blame must be placed squarely on the shoulder of Md.'s Governor Marvin Mandel and Baltimore City Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau.

Governor, Commissioner, what's your excuse?

# The Baltimore Colts

The evidence continues to mount. One doesn't question the judgment, or challenge the authority, of Joe Thomas.

The general manager of the Baltimore Colts completed house cleaning of those who have been inclined to do so by dispatching defensive end Bubba Smith to the Oakland Raiders in exchange for tight end Raymond Chester.

Bubba was the last, and most vocal, of the coterie of critics who condemned the iron-fisted tactics of Thomas in dismantling the Colts after his takeover last year.

Of the parties heard from, the trade with Oakland brought satisfaction all around. The Raiders were happy to get defensive help; the Colts were pleased with the acquisition of offensive potential; Smith was enthusiastic about getting away from the Colts and Thomas, and, presumably, Chester will welcome the opportunity to return to his hometown where he played ball at Douglass High and Morgan State College.

Baltimore is delighted to have native son Chester back, and eagerly awaits the first view of a Morgan graduate in a uniform other than the enemy's.

But there may be some to doubt Thomas' veracity when he says he didn't make the trade (1) to rid himself of Smith's displeasure, and, (2) to answer the critics who rapped the Colts for their longtime disregard of Morgan athletes.

Today's teams in all sports build defense first, and defenses aren't built, or strengthened, by trading off the game's premier defensive end.

And since Joe, in alternate weeks, has described Colts' incumbent Tom Mitchell and newcomer Chester as "the best tight ends in the business," what does he need with both of them?

# Prison Conditions

We agree with our correspondent, an inmate at the Md. Penitentiary, whose views appear in our Letters to the Editor column this week.

There are some people in positions of authority who have not yet learned that you can not keep doing things in the same old way in operating institutions which control people's lives.

There are too many unanswered questions concerning last Thursday's incident at Md. Penitentiary.

Were the guards at fault? Were they attacked by inmates? Were prisoners abused, or did they use force only when beaten?

It ought to be easy enough for the State Correctional Department, in cooperation with the police and self-help groups and citizens, to get the right answers. Maryland does not need a prison riot of the proportions of an Attica, nor does it need the disorders it had at the Md. Pen last year.

Responsible correctional officials ought to be able to get the facts, identify the guilty persons and establish proper and meaningful communication between inmates and those charged with supervising them.

We accept the challenge given by our correspondent, and go on record here and now in urging prompt action by James Jordan, Commissioner of Correction and Robert J. Lally, Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

A thorough investigation of last Thursday's incident is mandatory. We do not need an Attica here in Maryland.

So it should be no surprise to anyone when ordinary US citizens hear bits and pieces of the US Constitution, without knowing what they are, and disagree violently with the Constitution, calling it communist or un-American!

Practice and preachment are that far apart and have been for 200 years.

When the televised Watergate hearings began, in a TV street interview a black girl stated with great hostility, "I don't look at it. That's white folks' business. They did it to themselves."

Even though she may have been right, we as blacks are inextricably tied to Watergate. Like it or not, freedom and justice, our jobs, homes, money, taxes our very lives depend upon this shockingly precarious American Way of Life.

As the hearings have progressed, more and more blacks are overwhelmed by the depth and breadth of illegality, deception, the metastasis (spreading cancer) of moral bankruptcy and corruption of American government locally and nationally.

The reason for this shock may be that we all start in elementary school, in Sunday School, learning how things ought to be, the ideal. We become brainwashed at an early age doing what is right, believing that what ought to be, is.

No wonder, by now, many black eyebrows have receded into their foreheads!

Elitism, the act of leadership concealing its knowledge of misdeeds, manipulating the issues, acting without the involvement or consent of the people it purports to serve, has been standard operating procedure, since 1776, despite the noble intentions of the founding fathers.

Richard Nixon, however, has proven to be the most elitist president this country has ever had.

He reigns without belief, without faith in the ability of the people, once they are informed, to make decisions in order to determine their own destiny.

Adn it is such elitism that forsakes the intended role of servant of the people and suddenly becomes ruler, dictator of the people. He alone is privy to secret information, or makes information secret to cover up acts which go against the very foundations of democracy — the dangerous path to facism.

Therefore, American multi-international corporations sell us out in foreign exchange for the dollar, cause prices to spiral, goods to become scarce, so that the few involved, gain more money, power and control over our lives, out destiny, in order to rule and control the peoples of the world.

To keep this control, the time is coming when more wars of expediency for money, population control, control of labor markets, world-wide markets, will be trumpeted from the most unexpected sources. Teddy Kennedy's prodigal visit to George Wallace, the prime war-monger of the South, is just one example.

Racist anthropologists, scientists, like Shockley, Jenks, Jensen, the notorious syphilis experiment of Tuskegee, the sterilization of children, like the Relf case, are forerunners to enforced population control, committed in its basest form, to prove that the blacks are physically and mentally inferior, and are no longer needed in the scheme of things.

Depressing though it may seem, life was ever thus. The best chronicler of man's inhumanity to man is the Bible.

Even though history repeats itself, however, one must continue to ask, "Why should it?"

Perhaps because we mistakenly believe it's still white folks' business.

## Signs On Streets Tell Story

# A little About a LOT
## White Folks' Business?

By Madeline W. Murphy

"How the West Was Won", a highly touted movie, several years ago, recently ran for two nights on television. The principal element omitted from this nationalistic display of American white supremacy, was slavery.

Nevertheless, shrewd, attentive viewers of this epic, would have no trouble answering the question: "How did Watergate ever happen?" if they make the comparison between the real life drama of Watergate on their TV screens and the exploits of the wild, wild west.

The brutal slavery of blacks, the rape of the Indian, in "winning" the West, were the initial breeding grounds, where Americans were conditioned to believe that it was their divine right to abuse power, in order to get ahead, to get things done, no matter what the cost in human lives.

The industrial revolution, cut throat competition, of untimes muderous manipulation of laborers, with the abuse of women and children, accelerated this theory.

Carrying it to the present time by the way of the H-bombing of Japan, subsequent undeclared wars in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos; near wars like the Bay of Pigs, the U-2 incident, we come to the logical conclusion that these are merely extensions of the shamelessness and hypocrisy, the callous disregard for human rights in the USA.

The denial of the tenets of the preamble to the Constitution is perpetrated, in all these acts, as well as the denial of civil rights to black citizens in this country.

So it should be no surprise to anyone when ordinary US citizens hear bits and pieces of the US Constitution, without knowing what they are, and disagree violently with the Constitution, calling it communist or un-American!

Practice and preachment are that far apart and have been for 200 years.

When the televised Watergate hearings began, in a TV street interview a black girl stated with great hostility, "I don't look at it. That's white folks' business. They did it to themselves."

Even though she may have been right, we as blacks are inextricably tied to Watergate. Like it or not, freedom and justice, our jobs, homes, money, taxes our very lives depend upon this shockingly precarious American Way of Life.

As the hearings have progressed, more and more blacks are overwhelmed by the depth and breadth of illegality, deception, the metastasis (spreading cancer) of moral bankruptcy and corruption of American government locally and nationally.

The reason for this shock may be that we all start in elementary school, in Sunday School, learning how things ought to be, the ideal. We become brainwashed at an early age doing what is right, believing that what ought to be, is.

No wonder, by now, many black eyebrows have receded into their foreheads!

Elitism, the act of leadership concealing its knowledge of misdeeds, manipulating the issues, acting without the involvement or consent of the people it purports to serve, has been standard operating procedure, since 1776, despite the noble intentions of the founding fathers.

Richard Nixon, however, has proven to be the most elitist president this country has ever had.

# WASHINGTON REPORT
## Pyramid Schemes

By Parren J. Mitchell
(D-7th District-Maryland)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Sub-committee of Minority Small Business Enterprise, on which I serve, is conducting hearings on franchise operations and Pyramid Schemes.

A franchise is a contract by which a person who wants to operate a business obtains from a business organization the right to use a trademark or trade name owned by the franchisor and agrees to operate the business in accordance with a uniform plan of operations set by franchisor.

Thus, one could get a franchise to run an automobile sales business.

A pyramid plan (which is also known as a multi-level distributorship plan) is a recruitment marketing scheme wherein the investor buys the right to recruit others to sell a product or a service.

Franchising appeared, at first, to be a good method of getting blacks into the business world.

However, most blacks who tried this were not sophisticated businessmen who were used to complex contract matters.

In addition, most had limited financial resources.

There are many risks and abuses in a franchise operation.

During the course of the hearings witnesses spoke about certain kinds of abuses. For example, the franchisor makes all the determinations about how and where to advertise, but the little guy who runs the business must pay a part of the advertising costs.

Another illustration of abuse is that the franchisor often compels the little guy who runs the business to make local purchases from only a select number of local businesses.

Even when the local man can make local purchases more cheaply, the franchisor can, and often does deny that right to purchase more cheaply.

A third illustration of abuse is that the company can let a franchise for inner city location, and once the business is in operation, the company can open its own company run franchise in the same area as a competitor.

Let us now deal with pyramids. Black citizens, because of their economic circumstance, are especially vulnerable to the pyramid scheme idea.

They are really "get rich quick schemes" wherein poor, unwary persons are tricked by high pressure sales tactics, to give their money in the hope that they would get a large return.

I can well remember that one of my friends, a hardworking man, invested in Koscot Interplanetary, Inc.

The New York attorney general has indicated that only 79 of the 1600 distributors in Koscot Interplanetary, Inc. made more than $5,000.00 through the sales of Koscot Inc.

Last year, another of my friends approached me to become involved in "Dare To Be Great," another pyramid scheme.

He had invested $500 of his hard-earned money and was attempting to recruit me as an investor.

I told him of the nature of this kind of operation.

In Pennsylvania, according to SEC, during a five month period ending in February, 1972, of 845 people who enrolled in "Dare To Be Great" only 72 got their original investment back, and 656 failed to get any return whatsoever.

Insofar as the pyramid schemes are concerned, those persons who can least afford to invest are encouraged by the scheme promoters to take out loans from small loan companies to pay for their interest in the schemes.

Pyramid schemes are especially wicked because they are sold with a sort of evangelist fervor and most frequently concentrate their sales pitch at persons of limited education and limited financial resources.

Clearly, federal action is required to protect us, that is why the Subcommittee on which I serve is conducting hearings.

The best approach is simply to outlaw pyramid sales schemes. Senator Mondale will re-introduce a bill calling for the outlawing of pyramid sales schemes.

With regard to franchising, the Federal Trade Commission is attempting to develop a proposed rule on disclosures on the part of franchisors to franchisees, which will include:

— information concerning the business experience of key franchise officials;

— criminal and civil convictions of key franchisor personnel;

— financial history of the franchisor;

— information concerning the franchise fee to be paid;

— fees which must be paid in addition to the franchise fee;

— a statement of the conditions under which the franchise agreement may be terminated;

— a list of ten representative franchisees with whom prospective franchise purchasers may consult; and

— if the franchisor represents that training will be provided, the precise amount of training in terms of hours of instruction that will be made available.

Pending enactment of the bill by Senator Mondale and pending establishment of a new rule by the Federal Trade Commission, let me issue this serious warning to black citizens.

There are no get rich quick guarantees in franchise operations nor in pyramid sales.

Don't be fooled by the sharpies masquerading as business promoters.

When they approach you with "the deal," notify either the States Attorney's office or the Attorney General's office and call the police.

We all work too hard for our wages to see them taken away by some slickster whose only "work" is the exploitation of fellow human beings.

# 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: I live at 1817 N. Montford Ave. and have tried since February to get the house next door to me at 1819 Montford Ave., closed up.

I have called a David Catlau several times. He promised to do something but has not. I have also called Rain Line several times and still no one does anything about it.

The front door is torn out. The back door is open. There is old furniture in the house. People are throwing trash in the grass, which is so thick in the yard that rats are running.

I have two small children, but the neighborhood has lots of children. The dogs and cats are going in there and the place smells terrible.

I am writing to ask you please to try and get the house cleaned out and boarded up because it is a mess.

I have even been talking to the policemen about it and nothing is being done. I would certainly thank you if you could do something.

Mrs. ESTELLA HARRISON

ANSWER: The AFRO LINE took Mrs. Harrison's compaint to the Baltimore City Housing and Community Development Department.

After numerous phone calls to several different divisions, Warren Weaver, director of relocation, stepped forward and made this statement about the house.

"This property is privately owned. What has happened is this. Mrs. Harrison is right that the building is unoccupied and in a state of disrepair.

"The first action is for us to post a boarding up notice for 30 days and then a final notice for 5 days.

"The next step is for a building inspector to place a lien against the building and a boarding up crew will be assigned to the dwelling.

"This has been done and the house should be closed off before the end of this week," Weaver concluded.

The AFRO LINE thanks the Department of Housing and Community Development for their prompt service and Mrs. Harrison said she would certainly feel much safer knowing the building would be closed off from mischevous children and persons who dump trash there.

QUESTION: I am advised that there will be at least two vacancies on the Wicomico County Board of Supervisors of Elections on the Eastern Shore in the near future. I think blacks should be appointed to fill both vacancies, as black political representation on the Eastern Shore is almost non-existent.

What can you find out?—C. H.

ANSWER: AFRO LINE has learned from Gov. Mandel's office that three new, permanent board members have been appointed.

They are H. Walter Jones and Marion W. Barkley, both Democrats; and Mrs. Lawrence Murray, a Republican.

They began their two-year terms Monday, June 4. Mr. Barkley is black.

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American



# OUR READERS SAY

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

## Pen Confrontations

Dear AFRO:

This letter is addressed to all people who feel a concern for those of us who are incarcerated, and to those among you, who are charged with the responsibility of "maintaining" us, while we are in the various institutions throughout this, and other states.

As you are all aware, this past Thursday (July 12th), the penitentiary was the scene of another "confrontation," that led to the near death of a correctional officer.

I use the word "confrontation," because I feel that it best describes the situation as it was. My concern is not centered around who was right, and who was wrong; my argument is based on the premise that such a situation did not have to occur at all.

It appears to this writer that everyone concerned could have used other means to settle any difference of opinion.

No doubt, people are saying that the individual(s) involved, are a prime example of the disrespect towards anything that represents authority, that is rampant in this so called, wonderful country of ours (yours).

But before you speak, try to find out the cause of this disrespect. The prisons of this country are steadily growing, population wise, and with this growth, the prisons are seeing an influx of much younger people. These younger people are not the same prisoners of years gone by who were content to take any abuse meted out with the knowledge that one day it will all end.

The attitude "I don't want to lose any of this or that," doesn't exist anymore. These younger people are striking out in the same manner as they are being struck at, with "force."

Correctional officers have the same "get tough" attitude as their predecessors who were more "accurately" described as guards.

The non-existent dialogue between inmates and officers is the cause of the problem.

Just as you cannot "beat" an "animal" and force "obedience," you can not "mistreat" a "man" and receive respect.

Through observation, I find that the majority of officers in the various institutions are ill-equipped, education wise, to handle modern day concepts of "penalogy," to implement new ideas and concepts.

You first have to have a person who can "understand" what the word "implement" means. You have officers that have trouble spelling their own names in charge of "rehabilitating" offenders. How is this possible?

On top of this, most of them have "psychological" quirks themselves, so how are they to aid me in returning to society a better man?

As long as this situation exists, there will be no "dialogue." Each will "strike out" in the only way he knows how, and injury or death will be the only result.

This does not have to be as it is, if you, the people show some concern about your sons and daughters. It would be possible to alleviate this situation. You are the taxpayers, so therefore, you have a say in how the prisons of this state will be run.

It is your money that hires the wardens, officers and anyone else connected with the prisons. This being true, why don't you seek the best for your money as you do when you are out to buy something?

Each man in an institution is an "investment." If he comes out with a new outlook, he may possibly be an asset, but if his attitude is no different because of the treatment he received while he was incarcerated, then he becomes a "liability."

In this condition, he is a "threat" to everyone, not just himself. You can start by taking an active interest in how the prisons are run, what type of people run them and what type people are in them.

No one wants to see another "Attica," but at the rate things are going, one can readily perceive of it happening here in Maryland. I will not blame you individually, nor, collectively, for my being here, but if my stay here produces no inclination to change, then you are to blame and you will reap whatever harvest that is sowed.

My brothers and myself only ask to be treated as "men" are supposed to be treated, but we will not sit by and accept anything less with the idea it will all end one day. Today is that day.

This writer sincerely hopes that such a situation as the one that occurred last Thursday will not repeat itself, but if it does, remember that you had a chance to stop it.

AHMED AKANDE SHARIFF
(Md. Penitentiary
No. 119-973)

### Mandel Hero

Dear AFRO:

Governor Mandel comes up as my hero again. Simply by being calm and cool as usual and not making a soap box opera of his personal life for the TV men.

However, in extreme reverse, Mrs. Mandel put on TV spectacular with the "Agnew" foot in her mouth, when she announced that she wasn't leaving the state house.

From the women's angle a passenger in my cab who had her mind over the meter, stated, "Mrs. Mandel seems more interested in the prestige and holding the statehouse; she would come up the heroine had she said, "no divorce is going to take my Marvin."

How naive also are we the public to believe that she also knew nothing. All wives and women with intuition are aware when the flame of love has left the fire.

In this society, I am sure in the near future we will even have a "Broadway Joe" type of bachelor as president.

Let's make a separation between a good marriage and a successful governor who will certainly be re-elected.

JOHN T. BAILEY

### Mr. Pressman

Dear AFRO:

If Mr. Hyman Pressman keeps track of our fiscal affairs as poorly as he keeps track of Mr. Allen's trips — and handles our money as loosely as he handles the truth "God Help Us"

LOUIS GRAYSON

### Hollander School

Dear AFRO:

Please permit me the liberty of suggesting that it would be most fitting and proper that one of Baltimore's public schools, now in the process of building, be named in honor of Sidney Hollander Sr. He was a Baltimorean and an example of a Marylander at his best.

He was a ground-breaker, a pioneer in enlightened black-white relations, and he did not only talk but backed up his words with action.

G. JAMES FLEMING

80 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition, should be classed with the enemy."
(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

### Pleased

Dear AFRO:

I take this time to express my sincere gratitude for the article on Model Cities Award's Banquet.

The article was expertly printed, we have already begun to receive response from the community.

ROBERTA A. GAINES
Program Director

### 18-Year Olds--

Dear AFRO:

The glittering gold gained from granting the 18-year-old vote appears to be boomeranging where teen-agers are now also permitted to buy alcohol legally.

The Automobile Club of Michigan has some sobering and frightening statistics for 1972, the first year's experience. Traffic accidents in which teenagers were involved rose by about 120 per cent.

Drinking drivers showed about a 55 per cent increase in fatal accidents; about a 106 per cent increase in injuries; about a 135 per cent increase in property damage.

Lowering legal age limits means much more than permitting them access to political conventions, marching, demonstrations, signing petitions, etc.

Admittedly, much depends on the individual and the mere lowering of the age limit is not accepted by most as a license to do wrong, but it may still be wise to go easy in lifting certain barriers.

B. J. SMALL

# You DON'T Have To Get Pregnant, Unless YOU Want To

You don't have to get pregnant, unless you want to!

That's what Planned Parenthood is all about. It's in business to serve everyone in Maryland who wants to know about and use some form of birth control.

Some people visit Planned Parenthood because they want to plan their families wisely, and have only the number of children they really want.

Other people do so because they don't want to be pregnant for a long time to come. No matter what the reasons, Planned Parenthood is in business to help.

This family planning agency operates three community centers. The main one is at 517 N. Charles St. in Baltimore city.

Two smaller clinics are at Catonsville Community College and Goucher College in Towson. All three are open to the general public. The phone number is 752-0131.

When a woman visits Planned Parenthood, she first talks to an interviewer who tells her about the various methods of birth control.

Then she sees one of the doctors, who examines her (including a Pap smear for cancer detection), and helps her decide which method to use.

It could be the pill, an I.U.D., diaphragm, foam and condom, or the rhythm system.

She receives whatever supplies she needs to use the method she has chosen.

She returns regularly for birth control supplies, if she takes the pill, and returns once a year for a medical check-up.

What about fees? Planned Parenthood never turns anyone away for lack of money. This is the reason the agency has to go to the community for support.

It costs about $50 per year to care for one woman, yet the average fee is only $7.

'No matter what she decides, the Center will help her ....

Some patients pay nothing at all.

Suppose a woman, or a man, decides that sterilization is the best thing to do? Planned Parenthood sees many people who have had as many children as they really want, and who want permanent birth control.

The agency operates a vasectomy clinic for men at 517 North Charles St., with physicians from Johns Hopkins performing the surgery.

Since this clinic opened two years ago, approximately about 1,500 men have had the operation.

It does not require hospitalization and for the man whose family is complete, the vasectomy operation is becoming more and more popular. Parenthood for another reason. They desperately want to have a child, but

For the woman who wants to be sterilized, Planned Parenthood will help her make the necessary arrangements.

Many couples visit Planned have been unable to achieve a pregnancy.

PP has enabled many, many men and women to have a family, through its infertility clinic.

What happens if a girl or woman thinks she's pregnant, and doesn't want to be? She can call or visit the Pregnancy Testing and Counseling Center at 809 Cathedral St. in Baltimore City (752-2161 or 752-1130) and find out for sure.

If she is pregnant, she can sit down with a trained counselor who will help her think through the whole situation and decide whether she wants to continue or end the pregnancy.

No matter what she decides, the Center will help her make the necessary arrangements.

If she is not pregnant, the counselor will talk to her about using birth control and will urge her to make an appointment at Planned Parenthood, with her own doctor, or some other contraceptive clinic.

Last year some 20,000 women came to Planned Parenthood clinics and the Pregnancy Testing and Counseling Center.

Two years ago, there were fewer than 5,000 patients.

For many women, Planned Parenthood offers the only medical attention they receive during the entire year.

Planned Parenthood offers education as well as medical service to the community. In response to continuous requests, the agency sends speakers and films all over the Baltimore metropolitan area, to talk with all groups: schools, parents, youth organizations, job training, churches and service organizations.

People want to know the facts about family planning, but they're also deeply interested in knowing a lot more about human sexuality in general.

To make arrangements for a Planned Parenthood speaker, call the Information and Education office at 752-0131.

ED.'S NOTE: Watch for next installment, How Planned Parenthood works with Baltimore City public schools.

# If YOU Ask ME

By Bettye Moss

The following is a true story of a black man's inhumanity to a brother.

When Mrs. Isabella Bond Byrd's husband of 31 years, Robert Byrd, was attacked by two youngsters, who tried to rob him as he drove in his GI Cab from Reisterstown Rd. to Gilmor and Baker Sts. on Tuesday, she received a call to rush to the Emergency Room of a northwest Baltimore City hospital.

She did not know that her husband had been shot and killed. All that she knew was that somebody in her family was involved in an emergency.

At the hospital, this is what she got: — "Where is your Blue Cross card?"

She answered, "What has happened? What's wrong?"

The attendant responded, "Where is your Blue Cross card?"

Finally, after the hospital attendant persisted on the Blue Cross deal, she said, "I can not think. What is wrong?"

It was then the a bystander advised her that her husband was dead. And yet, even then, the hospital attendants were asking, "Where is your Blue Cross card?"

No wonder Mrs. Byrd was still in a state of shock when this columnist talked to her Thursday morning.

It was then we learned that she and her husband were our classmates at Douglass High School and that both of us had common interests in this past June's Western High School graduation because our daughters were among those receiving diplomas.

Their daughter, Rosemary, age 18, was among the honor graduates and has received a full scholarship to Northwestern University. Their nine other children range in age from 9 to 29.

Cuff Note: A long time Baltimorean, we remember Mr. Byrd pioneered in getting a permit to drive a cab in Baltimore. There was a time, you know, when we couldn't operate our own cabs. Oldtimers will recall that there was an AFRO campaign to get permits for black men, and Mr. Byrd was among the first who was granted such a license.

He was a World War II veteran who served in the Pacific for 6 years and was discharged with the rank of 1st Lt. He had been a GI taxicab driver and owner for 27 years.

Sympathy cards to the family should be addressed to 2318 W. Lanvale St. here in Baltimore.

All weddings are lovely — all brides are beautiful, and it was so on Saturday when pretty Pat Carrington, the Joel Carrington's darling became Mrs. Hugh Warner.

The occasion gave us cause to shudder — the little children have grown up and finished college and are now out to make their own way in life. Yet, it seems only yesterday that they were babes in arms.

Like the stately young lady who towered over me and said, "Hi, Aunt Bettye.' She turned out to be our former longtime Bentalou St. neighbor, Stephanie Woolridge, the Alfred Woolridge's older daughter. She had flown here from Detroit to be one of Pat's bridesmaids.

Liked the way Joel and Vera Carrington arranged the reception at their Sequoia Rd. home . . . there were miniature altars, one in the living room where the wedding party received, and the second on lawn where guests chatted and toasted the newlyweds. Unique.

Pleasant Columbus, Ohio visitors met at the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wilson (Cleo). (She was attractive in blue gown). Mr. Wilson is cousin of bride's mother.

Cuff note: Saturday was the second time in two weeks the Wilsons have been here in Baltimore for a wedding.

Two weeks ago, they were in town for the marriage of Miss Clementine Johnson, the teacher and their son, Arthur Wilson Jr.

People moving about: The Milton Stanleys (Doreva), should be in their new Scott's Lane home by the time you read this.

And Dr. and Mrs. Robert Phillips (Joan), will be deserting Ethland Ave. soon. Their neighbors objected to their plans to erect a swimming pool. Ho hum!

The Noah Thompsons (Dorothy), have deserted Sutton Place, are now in their new apartment on Stevens Forest Rd., in Columbia.

In the mailbag, this note from a new business firm owner and her husband (D and L Auto Service, 5910 Liberty Rd.): —

"Thank you for printing my letter in your column (July 13). Already several people have read the article and have commented favorably to me about it.

"I also read the AFRO article about "Crip" the florist on Poplar Grove

"AFRO continue to "write up" and build up our black businessmen. Your paper is doing a good job. Again thank you . . Evelyn O. A. Darden"

More children growing up: — The baby in our household (Rachael) went to college last week. Promptly at 7:30 on Wednesday morning we saw her off on the Greyhound Bus to Petersburg where she is enrolling in Virginia State College. She wants to be an accountant.

When you get to the third child, is there as much excitement, getting a youngster off to college as the first time around?

The answer is yes, if it's a baby girl, just 17, who has worked after school during her last years in high school.

And especially so if she's frugal and saves some pennies, even to shopping for bargains to make a dress.

There are no children at home anymore!

Glad you're better cards to Mrs. Martin D. Jenkins (Elizabeth), wife of the director of American Council on Education's Urban Affairs. She had been here in Johns Hopkins Hospital for three weeks, is now at their suburban Maryland home.

# NOW and THEN
## Independence Of Bahamas

By G. James Fleming

There is something exciting about the Bahamas' achieving independence and replacing the Union Jack with its own flag—black, gold and aquamarine.

The new sovereign state, a stone's throw from Florida, can boast only 185,000 people, at the most, but it is not the smallest independent nation. There are at least four sovereign states with fewer people.

It is, of course, not the first predominantly black nation in the Caribbean located and close to the United States. There are, also, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad-Tobago, all three once under Great Britain.

There is also Cuba and, much older than all these, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which have been independent over 150 years.

So a salute to the Bahamas, as it enters into the family of nations, with a seat in the United Nations.

Independence, however, is not only a test for the indigenous Bahamians. It is also a test for white Bahamians and the other whites who live there or who visit there.

Just as it happened in Africa, some whites are showing their true color as they express fear of living under a fully black government, and as they engage in nit-picking, complaining about black Bahamians staring at them, or hotel help not being polite enough.

These whites are "seeing things." They are looking for anti-white behavior.

They are forgetting that resort and hotel waiters, all over the world, are impolite sometimes.

They can not face the fact that where one and one-half million different people visit every year, they are bound to be both tourists and "natives" who are not always as "nice and lovely" as they should be.

One could write a book on how some tourists behave once they leave home!

What is coming to the surface in the Bahamas reveals a sad truth: There are few whites who can, or will, accept anything—government, schools, housing, etc.—where blacks are in the majority or in dominance.

Few whites, also, are happy in the presence of blacks who speak their minds or who "talk back" or who indulge in the right to be "disgusting."

Few whites seem to be able to adjust to blacks who feel and act equal.

Another lesson from the Bahamas' independence is what little appreciation most whites have as to the long years during which blacks were not only stared at, but were ignored in public places; refused entrance to restaurants, hotels, and beaches; and refused admittance to "private" schools and sometimes barred from churches.

Dr. Fleming

Worst of all, in the Bahamas, as in the rest of the Caribbean and in Africa, blacks were refused employment except in the lower paid and menial jobs.

Sometimes, even salesgirls' vacancies were advertised in England and Ireland while native, black girls were under-employed or refused employment. Management positions were substantially reserved for whites, native and foreign-born.

The system also gave East Indians and-or Lebanese preferential treatment, in jobs and schooling, to native blacks.

It should not be surprising to whites in the Bahamas if black youths stick their chests out, with heads up, as they feel independence as meaning more freedom, better justice, greater opportunity, real manhood.

It should not be surprising to those who review history, if Bahamians behave like every other people who have thrown off the bonds of overlordship, even of colonialism.

Bahamians, too, have been immersed in the history and mythology of Magna Carta, just as black Americans have recited Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death."

The Bahamians were English for some 200 years. There were children of "Rule Brittannia, Rule the Waves, Britons Never Shall be Slaves."

It would be a surprise if they, too, had not contended for non-colonialism.

White Bahamians who have run away from the new commonwealth, or who are "trembling in their boots," are perhaps just demonstrating their guilt feeling. Knowing how the system of white dominance has maltreated blacks, they imagine there must be an about-face.

So did whites react in free Africa. They rushed to Belgium, England and France—but most of them returned to Africa, where they were born, because they found they had little status in their ancestral homes, they could find no "prestige" jobs, and they had to do all of their own housework.

Here's hoping time will show that blacks and whites, working constructively together in the Bahamas, can build a nation, strong and healthy, economically and politically.