Baltimore Afro American

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May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful and magnify our Father which is in Heaven
CARL MURPHY, (1889-1967)
Editor-Publisher, (1922-1967)

School Board Stupidity

Banning of 'Manchild In The Promised Land', by a 3-2 vote of the nine-member Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, has more than one implication for citizens.

First, they would have to question the ability of 63-year-old, Hopkins professor, John Walton, who presided at the meeting. Did he do the citizens of Baltimore a disservice by allowing this type of action to be voted on without making an effort to get the considered opinion of all members?

When he was asked for his own opinion, why did he say, "I plead the 5th Amendment?"

As presiding chairman, is he saying to citizens that he is too weak to lead the Board, that he cannot cope with the problems, that he who teaches Principles of Education cannot translate this theory into practice as Board chairman?

Secondly, what of these three who stupidly think removing Claude Brown's best selling autobiography will keep it from being read?

We can excuse Mrs. Maree Farring, whose past actions and votes are a result of her "peaches 'n cream" environment. But what of Robert Schaefer and Dr. W. Eugene Scott, two younger members of the Board? Are they so far removed from everyday living that they cannot see how "Manchild" could be used as a valuable teaching tool?

Citizens of Baltimore might wonder whether any of these three school board members had a financial interest in the book firm which published "Manchild" because now that the book has been "banned" it may again become a best seller as it was in the sixties.

And, citizens, in assessing the board action should note with praise the yeoman attempt of the two board members who sought to keep their fellow commissioners on the right track. Larry Gibson and James M. Griffin were defeated in their efforts to have the ban rescinded because they saw the action as "ludicrous" in light of staff specialists' approval of the book for classroom study.

And, we agree with them, it is poor practice for a responsible public body to make major unannounced policy rulings at a time when all members are not present to have input.

It is possible that more suburban white children and parents will read this book now that it has been removed.

On third thought, this might be good, taking into consideration our half white-half black city.

Could someone also encourage these three to ban Beth Day's 'Sexual Life Between Blacks and Whites,' or maybe the 'Lynchers,' by John Edgar Widenan, two books which we are sure would give these three School Board members "nightmares" but which should be read by every single student before he or she finishes the Baltimore school system.

Born To A Tight Belt

It is not news to report that the country is in aggravation because of the energy crisis.

Affluence has made the U.S. the most powerful — and, as a consequence, the most arrogant — force in the family of nations.

Uncle Sam has never before been the victim of an embargo about which he could do nothing. Always in the past, the lanky character in the stars-and-stripes attire was the symbol of the man who called the tune for the rest of the world to dance.

This reality has spoiled him, and us.

That is why the entire country — from the mastermind in the White House all the way down to the burglar at Watergate — now chafes at the need to disrupt its routine of hearty eating, warm living, fast travel, etc.

Abandonment of a friend or acquiescence to international blackmail is unthinkable. So, the squeeze being imposed by the Middle East in retaliation for American support of Israel is something we must learn to live with, and for a long time.

For majority America, the realization that money doesn't buy everything and the threat of having to "tighten the belt" as President Nixon says, are painful accommodations.

But for the black man, the adjustment will be not nearly so difficult. He was born in a tight belt — and with little money.

AFRO Line Serves

The current issue of the trade magazine, Editor and Publisher, has a discussion by newspaper editors as to the effectiveness of a service column which answers readers' queries for help.

One editor suggested that it was a waste of time and that the newspapers were performing a service which should be done by city or state agencies.

That may be so, but on the other side of the coin, it occurs to us that readers support columns such as AFRO Line because the newspaper is objective and will do anything in its power to help them.

One reader wrote AFRO Line last week to remind us that our clientele is appreciative of this service.

Some newspapers have to make up questions and answers for a column of this sort. This is not so at the AFRO.

There is a genuine need for this type of reader participation. Editors of AFRO Line are pleased to find out what's on readers' minds and to help them by referring their queries to proper city and state agencies or going directly to these public bodies for direction and guidance of our readers.

Sen. Blount Is Right

We agree with Fifth District State Senator Clarence W. Blount. The official state song, Maryland! My Maryland! is offensive, divisive, irrelevant, and inappropriate.

Senator Blount has prefiled a resolution to provide new lyrics. He has asked Gov. Mandel to appoint a committee to supervise a statewide contest to choose the new song.

Late AFRO publisher Carl Murphy, conducted this newspaper's campaign to change the words of the state song or find another one, and to eliminate it as required learning until a change was made.

He was only partially successful. Youngsters in schools are no longer compelled to learn each verse as they used to do years ago.

So we are glad to see Sen. Blount continue the AFRO's campaign.

James Ryder Randall, an embittered Dixie sympathizer during the Civil War, composed the song in 1861, shortly after Union troops passed through Baltimore. It was adopted as our state song in 1939.

Its unpatriotic lyrics urge the overthrow of the U.S. Government. Mr. Blount correctly describes them as having "warlike and divisive connotations."

Look at these words in the first verse:—
The despot's heel is on thy shore,
Maryland!
His torch is at thy temple door,
Maryland!
Avenge the patriotic gore.
That flecked the streets of Baltimore,
And be the battle queen of yore,
Maryland! My Maryland!

The same is true in the second verse, which goes like this:
Hark to an exiled son's appeal,
Maryland!
My mother State! to thee I kneel,
Maryland!
For life and death, for woe and weal,
Thy peerless chivalry reveal,
And gird thy beauteous limbs with steel,
Maryland! My Maryland!

And then in the ninth verse, still more inappropriate language:
I hear the distant thunder-hum,
Maryland!
The Old Line's bugle, fife, and drum,
Maryland!
She is not dead, nor deaf, nor dumb—
Huzza! she spurns the Northern scum!
She breathes! she burns! she'll come!
she'll come!
Maryland! My Maryland!

We repeat, we agree with Sen. Blount. In this year 1973, on the eve of America's bicentennial when there is emphasis on unity, togetherness, empathy and understanding, it is appropriate that Maryland would take the steps suggested by his resolution.

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 justice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise. (Dec. 25, 1920)

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

'I Don't Care If I'm An Old Goat, Or Not, These Books Are Morally Wrong'

A little About A LOT

The Offense Of Obscenity

By Madeline W. Murphy

Maree Farring has been a long-time divisive force on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Because of her hysterical opinions, first against integration, then busing, then against blacks being promoted to high level administrative positions, she has clearly shown her racial prejudice.

Now in her apoplexy over obscenity in books about the real life experiences of blacks in the ghetto, she has become the protector of the reading habits of Baltimore City public school pupils by forcing a vote at a sparsely attended board meeting to ban the books of James Baldwin, Claude Brown, Richard Wright and Eldridge Cleaver.

It is evident, more than ever, that her only reason for being a School Board member is to preserve Archie Bunker ignorance and to maintain the status quo.

After her latest foray, a friend remarked, "Is it an obscenity that Claude Brown wrote Manchild in a Promised Land, or is it an obscenity that he lived what he wrote?

"How hypocritical," he added, "that it offends Mrs. Farring to read this naked truth, when for humanity's sake, it should offend her that the naked truth, in all its ugliness, exists."

How fortuitous, therefore, for Mayor William D. Schaefer, that this kind of prejudice has surfaced, for now he can become the statesman rather than the politician. He can now reappoint the black holdovers on the board. He can rightfully ask for the immediate resignations of Mrs. M. Richmond Farring and Dr. W. Eugene Scott, and fill those and other vacant seats on the board, with people of vision.

However, in order to reform the school board, Mayor Schaefer must have an idea of what citizens think should be the role of education. He must be enlightened enough to appreciate the need for revolutionary programs. He must be foresighted enough to demand informed, intelligent future citizens.

If he realizes this responsibility, has this insight, his statesmanlike actions now would develop the art of infusing students with voracious appetites for learning, with inquiring minds.

He would inspire them to develop realistic solutions to the searing problems so aptly recounted in the books of Brown, Baldwin, Cleaver, Wright and countless other brilliant black authors.

Then, he would go down in history as "the man who" developed students adequately prepared for job markets that would be able to cope with these problems, cure these ills and reform the system.

For intuitively, he would know that students learn how to become reformers when they read and learn about the hard realities of life.

At this point, however, the current popular scapegoating found in City Hall, in letters to the editor, from disgruntled, mostly white teachers, evokes a political pragmatist, not a statesman in Mayor Schaefer.

He makes ill-advised appointments. He manipulates the board by holding over lame duck commissioners, and he gives no enlightened leadership to a City Council that continually threatens the board's autonomy and its budgets.

Now, more than ever, people of courage, bright young men and women, parents who are vocal, active and mature are sorely needed on the School Board.

Yet, narrow-minded people who fear change, fear truth, fear strength are perpetuated. Because as puppets of the political hierarchy, they serve the vested interests. They perpetuate the myths of racial inferiority, in order to swell the growing ranks of unproductive, unemployed, a-political push-outs.

And there will be this lingering obstruction to quality education, so long as people of Mrs. Farring's caliber, of Dr. Scott's lack of courage are continually appointed to the board, through the mayor's misplaced loyalty to the racist political machines of the city.

The mayor, in the face of a 50 per cent black population, knows this. Evidently he prefers it this way.

Be prepared, therefore, to learn about the school system and its programs, so that you become prepared to defend it against this kind of political racism, political pragmatism and ineptitute; so that you will remember in the mayoral election of 1975, Mayor Schaefer's unresponsiveness to the black community.

Be warned that this program of harassment, censorship, sabotage of experimental programs, is designed to force the school system back into a factory, a warehouse of ignorance, and at the same time to drive out the only good thing that has happened to our schools since 1954 — Dr. Roland N. Patterson, first black superintendent of Baltimore Public Schools.

Washington Report

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

I cannot rid myself of the strong feeling that much of the energy crisis is contrived. The corporate oil interests have been pressuring the government for the right to do off-shore oil drilling. The corporate interests have been fighting for years to free themselves from certain anti-trust, anti-monopoly provisions of law. The energy crisis might help them to do so. The oil interests, here and abroad, have been seeking to expand multinational corporations. The energy crisis may help them in this respect. The corporate interest has fought against the National Environmental Protection Act. The energy crisis will be used to weaken the Environmental Protection Act.

Contrived or not, the energy crisis must be dealt with swiftly and effectively. Action is now taking place in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives on legislation to cope with the crisis.

As I understand it, attempts will be made to amend both the House and Senate Bills to provide for an enormous increase (as much as fifty cents or more) on the sale of gasoline for automobile use. This would be grossly unfair to the black workers. If gasoline prices are allowed to soar, black unemployment rates will also go up, and our rates of unemployment are disastrously high now. The picture is very clear. For years as black populations grew in cities we moved industry out of the cities to the surrounding counties. The white population fled our cities and industry followed the white population. Blacks, in order to work at these industrial sites in the counties, must have an automobile. Price gasoline sky high and you have priced the black worker out of a job.

Let us go back to the contrived situation. Under the proposed House Bill H. R. 11450 known as the National Energy Emergency Act: (1) the provisions of the National Environmental Protection Act will be temporarily suspended; (2) the President is authorized to request and use allocation of crude oil or refined petroleum products; (3) the President may do so if he thinks it is necessary, but is not required to impose rationing; and (4) the provisions of the Clean Air Act Standards will be temporarily suspended. Under this bill, the corporate interests will get what they have wanted, at least on a temporary basis.

The present bill calls for the President to adopt energy conservation plans. These plans may include speed limits or other restrictions on public or private energy use. Each plan must be submitted to Congress. Either House may disapprove any plan under an expedited procedure like that in the Reorganization Act. If there is a disapproval within the time set by the bill, then the plan does not become effective.

There is a lot of talk about maximum efficiency rates, grid systems, peak loads, etc. That's all fine and good, but I want much more attention given to the plight of the inner city working man in this crisis; the plight of the inner city tenant renting from an absentee landlord; and the plight of the inner city resident who is ill but must face shortage of certain medicines and medical supplies because of the energy crisis. What I am saying to the Congress and to the corporate interest is, "Don't treat black people as expendable items."

NOW and THEN

Less Mayhem Seen In Baltimore Politics

By G. James Fleming

There will be no mayhem, no racial suicide among Baltimore blacks in the next election hereabouts, if we read the signs right, especially in the old Fourth legislative district.

But it will not be a totally dull election campaign, either, come 1974.

On the plus side, it seems that there will be no fight for the State Senate seat between the veteran Senator Verda F. Welcome and the dapper Senator Clarence M. Mitchell, III.

Both are formerly of the old Fourth Legislative District. But they have made their peace and Senator Welcome will run from her present residence, 2101 Liberty Heights Avenue, and Senator Mitchell from a new residence.

Senator Welcome will be running from the new 40th District, and Senator Mitchell from the new 38th District.

Another sign of unity is the early slate announced by Senator Welcome, which includes, in addition to the Senator, Delegates Frank Conaway, Lloyd Randolph, and Troy Brailey — all three running for reelection.

There may be other aspirants and some nuisance candidates also in the race, but this Welcome ticket means that there will be no dis-unifying warfare among the strong, experienced incumbents.

Whether there will be a rip-roaring surprise from Delegate Hildegarden Boswell no one knows at this writing. Neither are there many sparks coming from the old Second and Fifth Legislative Districts.

Talking about surprise, it is a good one from City Councilman Robert Douglass, Democrat of the Second District, who has signified that he intends to be a candidate for city comptroller.

This is no last-minute idea. It has been forming in Mr. Douglass' mind as he delved further and further with municipal finances as a member of the Council and its committees.

Another good sign coming from the black community is the decision of Milton B. Allen, the effective state's attorney, to throw his weight behind the same kind of unity coalition ticket that put him into office.

Then, three years ago, he won with Paul Chester, who was elected clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, and Judge William Murphy, now of the District Court.

Politics is politics. Multi-ethnic politics is just that. When Judge Watts once tried to be altruistic with the slogan of "Vote for Eight" and neglected to say "Vote for Watts Alone," he was clobbered. He lost. The other seven won.

That's the way politics is in the U.S.A.

And this leads to the present city comptroller, Hyman Pressman, once liberal "watchdog" for the underdog. He has declared his intention to enter the race for the governorship, thus competing against Governor Marvin Mandel in the primary.

This will give real excitement to the primary campaign, as some former Mandel backers turn against him over his quitting his wife of 33 years, for another woman.

Democrats, hopefully, will not split so much in the primary that the state will experience another fluke such as put Spiro T. Agnew in the governor's seat and, later, in the Vice-Presidency.

Comptroller Pressman is bargaining for something or other, but he seems to have lost the capacity to win the governorship sometime back. No substantial voices are supporting him as yet.

Incidentally, black political pros "feel sure" that there will be slight black defection from Governor Mandel because of the rift with his wife.

Open Letter Community Schools

This week in Baltimore has been declared Community Education Week by Mayor William Donald Schaefer. The National Community School Education Association is holding its conference here. At the opening session, Dr. Roland Patterson proclaimed "Every School is a Community School."

The League of Women Voters of Baltimore City has been interested in community schools since 1969 when we produced a twenty-two page study of the community school concept and the program as it existed in Baltimore.

With decentralization, there have been changes made, with the program now being part of the Adult Continuing Education Department.

The fact that the schools will remain open and more will be encouraged to do so in order to provide activities and programs and make use of the school facility for the community is good to know.

Hopefully, with the energy crisis, these buildings might even be useful by providing a central location for activities for communities, thus conserving fuel and electricity in the homes.

However, the League is concerned about the apparent lack of emphasis on the councils and their importance as a structure for participation by the community in the decisions of the entire school.

We uriderstand such councils are to be formed on the regional level in all nine regions as an advisory body for the regional Superintendents.

The report from the task force that studied selection of such councils and their function has been presented to the Board of School Commissioners.

We would like, in keeping with our week of Community Education, to see this report discussed by the School Board and acted upon directly.

The report has not been available to the public and therefore the League has no comment on it. But until the Board establishes guidelines this important aspect of decentralization—the Regional Advisory Councils—is not going to get started.

Our support of the decentralization plan was to make schools more responsive to the community and its needs.

Without these councils there is no guaranteed forum for the community to express its needs and assume its role in developing effective schools for us all.

MIMI WAXTER
(President)

Counselor's Testimony

Dear AFRO:

I was both disturbed and distressed upon reading the following statement in the December 1, 1973 edition of your newspaper, an article by Pam Widgeon on the Dobson Case:

"In the Woods"

"Mrs. Dionne Carpenter, a Counselor at Lemmel Junior High School told the jury the defendant attended Lemmel and was familiar with the "wooded area behind the school." "

This is a gross half truth and is an injustice to me as well as the defendant in the case. At no time while I was on the witness stand was the question of the "wooded area" brought up. Therefore, I would not have made such a statement. Furthermore, I certainly could not testify under oath that Sherman Dobson "was familiar with the wooded area behind the school" because first I had no knowledge or proof of this, second I have never been in the area in question myself.

When the request from the District Attorney's office was made, it was simply to bring school records to verify the fact that Sherman Dobson had attended Lemmel Junior High School. Since, I had been the counselor for Sherman's class (1966-67), and knew him, I went secure in the knowledge that I could inform the court of his record here at Lemmel. Sherman was a student in our accelerated curriculum, and completed his three years work in two years. He was a fine student and made a worthwhile contribution to the school.

It gave me grave concern that a reputable newspaper would make an innaccurate report on such vital information (which must be on court record).

I feel that this statement is very damaging to me and to my role as a counselor and would appreciate a retraction of it.

LEONA W. CARPENTER
Counselor

EDITOR'S NOTE: The AFRO herewith complies with the request of Mrs. Leona W. Carpenter that her testimony in the Sherman Dobson trial be printed. We regret the concern she suffered as result of a previous story in the AFRO.

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.

Correctional Gap

Dear AFRO:

As captives of The Maryland Correctional Training Center here at Hagerstown, we highly recommend the erection of a more corrigible and completed Institution.

The seriousness of an individual's future is somewhat overlooked as far as the certain necessities and qualities he should possess upon returning to his Socio-Order; which has undoubtfully changed.

Pior to his liberation, he still has most of the problems or more than he was confronted with upon entering the Institution.

We think that there is a gap that needs to be filled between "punishment and rehabilitation. Before rehabilitation can be accomplished, interest has to be shown by the receiver and the deliverer.

Also to mention, a variety of other vital necessities pertaining to the development of healthy potentials and self-motivated performances.

Due to the overcrowding of Penal Institutions, it is almost impossible for an individual to receive a thorough evaluation to truthfully detect if he is able to conquer existing perplexities imposed by his environment.

It's quite evident that a great number of individuals should be in some type of Camp Center, but because of insufficient space and administrative personnel, they will always get the short end of the stick.

It would be most beneficial to give this suggestion a great deal of thought. Has it ever occurred to you that maybe your sons or daughters may be victims of physical and psychological punishment that is endured from incarceration? I am quite sure that this has a great bearing on you as parents and everyone who sincerely cares about their loved ones in which they shouldn't forsake when they are really needed.

I do think another center will give a person a little more of a chance to deal with himself and what makes him react the way he does, with the help of more specialists.

The Penal System in Maryland is behind time. For instance, we do not allow conjural visits here, which can inspire a person to receive a healthy outlook on life. Everyone needs some type of love and affection so he doesn't deteriorate.

Also special supervision by psychologist, penalogist, psyco-analyst, counselors, specialist on human behavior, doctors, etc. are definitely needed. We would like to urge everyone that is interested in helping to start this Center, to please write to their Councilmen (especially in the 5th District) to insure him that prison reform can't possibly take place if there is no unity among us as a whole, regardless where we come from or who we are. For once, let's live together.

LEONARD ADAMS
Sands, Inc.

Offended?

Dear AFRO:

If the book, "Manchild In the Promised Land" offends Mrs. Farring and other School Board members, they should be equally offended by the conditions of urban life that caused its conception.

EVELYN ORR

Coppin Series

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for the coverage which the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper has given to the Coppin State College Center Series. We are most pleased that you were able to place the Shirley Verrett concert and reception in your busy schedule.

It was necessary at the last moment for me to cancel attending the reception, but I understand from my colleagues Saretha Greene and Charles Wright that the press conference went well.

HENRY N. FREEMAN
(Associate Professor of Music)

No Name

Dear AFRO:

NOTE to writer who wrote, "It is time black people woke up to what Police Commissioner Pomerleau is doing. This was in reference to our recent published comments about unequal hiring policies: The AFRO does not and will not print unsigned letters.

We welcome letters for our Readers Say column provided writers sign their names. However, names will be deleted upon request.

Walbrook

Dear AFRO:

The Walbrook Library Media Center and English Department wish to thank you again for your wonderful presentation on "Career Day at Walbrook."

We are most appreciative of your interest in, and support of our program. The students found your visit very valuable.

(Mrs.) CATHERINE T. HOWARD
(Librarian)

Manchild Ban

Dear AFRO:

The recent decision of the Board of School Commissioners in prohibiting the use of Claude Brown's, "Manchild in the Promised Land" will have calamitous and serious educational consequences if it remains in effect.

As the Coordinator of Social Studies (K-12) for the Baltimore City Public Schools, I hope that the board will reconsider its decision.

The paramount reasons for my concern are as follows:

1. As the former director of the Commission on Social Studies that designed and wrote our new Social Studies curriculum, an effort was made to make sure that the new program reflected two fundamental points: TRUTH and REALITY.

As the current coordinator of Social Studies, our total Social Studies program remains wedded to these two principles: — Brown's Manchild depicts many of the issues (viz, racism, unemployment, wretched housing, social and economic pathology, dynamics of urban living, etc.) contained in our Social Studies curriculum. Our new curriculum has been approved by the Board of School Commissioners.

2. The decision, if it remains in force, will have a chilling and stultifying effect on students and teachers. Open-inquiry and freedom of expression are the hallmarks of an educational environment.

3. The practical effect of the decision will result in an upsurge as regards the reading of Manchild. The book is readily accessible in local libraries and book stores.

4. Brown's book represents, in practice, a reality and truth that over 450,000 black residents of Baltimore and 25 million, nationally, encounter daily in their lives. And, in a larger sense it represents a reality and truth for the larger white society that created the Manchilds of our nation.

5. The basic criterion that undergirds the selection of educational materials for utilization in our schools is whether it has educational value. Manchild has educational value for black and white students.

An overarching and pivotal issue involved in this matter is that the grim, compelling and intensely human value described by Brown represents an idea whose time, belatedly, has come.

The issuance of prohibitions will not deter or encumber ideas. King Canute, centuries ago, discovered this painful reality.

SAMUEL L. BANKS
(Coordinator of Social Studies
K-12
Baltimore City Public Schools)

SCHOLAR, WRITER ON SCHOOL BOARD AND BOOK BAN

Language Which Hides Or Evades The Truth Is 'Bad' Language

By Nick Aaron Ford

November 29, 1973, was a sad day for all those who want to think of Baltimore as a progressive, enlightened, forward-looking city, for the banning of Claude Brown's "Manchild in the Promised Land," from high school bookshelves and classroom use is a step backward into the age of witch-hunting and book-burning which most Americans deplore and condemn.

The fact that the majority of the school board and of the City Council may be able to counteract this despicable action by a later vote offers very little comfort. For we can never forget how close we are to Fascism, which is a fancy word for Hitlerism, as long as there is such a large percentage of people in places of leadership and public trust in our city.

For a school board member or a councilman to say that he or she abstained from voting on this vital issue because he or she had not read the book is an indefensible position.

The decision to ban or not to ban should not be based on whether one likes or dislikes the book, but on whether or not one is willing to allow such experts on literature as trained and experienced teachers of literature and language and the librarians of the school system and of the Enoch Pratt Library decide whether or not the book is unfit for educational purposes.

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that no book with a reasonable amount of social value can be legally banned by a community or its agents in a democratic society.

Book-banning, which is equivalent to book-burning, is the exclusive hallmark of totalitarianism and the bane of democracy.

For anyone to say of this book that "every page is filthy; there's not a line of good English in it," is to let the world know that the speaker is either deliberately falsifying the truth or does not know what good English is.

Aren't these sentences good English? — "I decided to run. The most natural thing to do was to take refuge in Harlem. I was hurt, and I was running home. I was going to stay away from white people and the white world."

Not only are the preceding sentences good English; they are a heart-rending description of the plight of Claude Brown, when he was a boy.

Furthermore, if you substitute for Harlem the names of thousands of cities and towns throughout America, it is the description of the current plight of millions of black children (and many whites), as they face the indifference and insensitivity of tens of millions of grown-ups like the three school board members who passed the ordinance and the ten councilmen who supported them.

The pity is that unless books like this one are read in the schools by black and white children who in the years ahead will become school board members, city councilmen, mayors, governors, and (pray God) Presidents, there can be scant hope for improvement.

As James Baldwin has said so well, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

'Manchild' is not a novel, a book of make-believe, as one councilman described it. It is a book of facts, the true life story of Claude Brown, now thirty-six, who in early childhood was sent to school for the emotionally disturbed, who later finished high school after having been committed to reform school on three occasions, who was graduated from Howard University with a B.A. degree, and has earned a law degree from Rutgers University.

Of course, there is some obscene language in the book. But the living conditions in the ghetto for thousands of children in Baltimore are also obscene, more outrageously obscene than any words can adequately describe.

It is absolutely impossible for anyone to tell the full truth about such slums without the use of obscene language.

There is also obscene language in the writings of such great English poets of the past as Chaucer and Shakespeare, and in the writings of all of the great authors of the contemporary world in America and abroad.

But is obscene language necessarily bad language? I admit that any obscene language which fails to jibe with the truth is bad language.

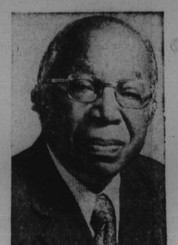
However, I also insist that any language, obscene or not, whose major intent is to hide or evade the truth is also bad language.

In my opinion the language that is most often used by the defendants in the Watergate case is really bad language regardless of its polish and suave surface, for its primary purpose is to deceive, to hide the truth rather than to reveal it.

And I include in this category much of the language of President Nixon.

If our school board members and our public servants in the City Council wish to condemn bad language, let them direct their fire at the glib, slippery, double talk of the well-groomed, slick, sophisticated crowd that spawned Watergate and its tragic aftermath.

(Ed's Note: Dr. Ford, who has been professor of English at Baltimore's Morgan State College since 1945 and head of the English department there until 1970, earned his Ph.D. in English at the University of Iowa, and is the author and/or co-author of nine books, one of which is "Language In Uniform" which has been adopted for class use in important colleges and universities in twenty-six states, including Calif., Conn., Fla., Ga., Ill., Ind., Kans., Ky., La., Md., Mass., Mich., Minn., Miss., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N.C., N. Dak., Ohio, Penn., Tex., Utah, and Wisc. and in Puerto Rico.



DR. NICK AARON FORD—'Let them direct their fire at the . . . slick . . . crowd that spawned Watergate,' noted professor and author says in accompanying article. on Baltimore City School Board censors.

REUNION AT AFRO AFTER - 38 YEARS

IF YOU Ask ME

REUNION after 38 years. AFRO's Mrs. Moss, right and Howard U. classmate, Jeannette Layton Forrester.

Specialist in Nashville; Mary Ellen, wife of King Hollands, East Orange, N.J. (They have two daughters, Kisha, 3; and Konya, 2; and expect bundle No. 3 in April).

Also, William Manning Taylor Forrester, 23, pre-law grad of Kent State, now living in Columbus, Ohio, where he's working with handicapped program before entering law school.

And, Bennye Anita, wife of Christopher Dotye of Nashville, where both are students and proud parents of family's only grandson, Christopher Benjamin Dotye 3rd.

Cuff notes: Mrs. Forrester was in the Baltimore area this week for three reasons—1. To hear her son preach at St. James Church this Sunday.

2. To help him and his wife, Karen Schuster Forrester, the Coppin State prof., get settled in their new apartment; and

3. To attend funeral services of her Howard University roommate mentioned above, Mrs. Louise Buncamper Tucker. She was given last rites Tuesday at St. Joseph Church. Father Forrester assisted at the Catholic services in Alexandria, Va.

Cuff notes: Mrs. Tucker, onetime government employee, was stricken while on a cruise to her native St. Martin's in the British West Indies.

She was head of Student Government Association during our Howard University days, and a very brilliant woman.

Good news: — Mrs. Mae Chamberlain, the Baltimore city teacher, who was stricken with a heart attack last month is out of the hospital and resting at home.

Hellos to her at 3100 St. Luke's Lane. Many know her as the hard working coordinator of the Harbor City Learning Program, and a lady who puts her heart in every civic endeavor in which she is involved.

More Good News: — Mrs. Charles Law (Mary) is still confined to Maryland General Hospital and showing marked improvement.

Keep her spirits up. Many may recall she is the mortician who suffered a heart attack while conducting the October funeral of Dr. Louis E. Harmon.

Another good neighbor who is much improved is Mrs. Janie G. Sanders. She is out of the hospital and feeling much better. Your cards will reach her if addressed to 2546 Terra Firma Road.

Cuff Note: The beautiful candelabra which was used at St. James Episcopal Church on Sunday for the first time was given in memory of Mrs. Minnie E. Cesar.

This reminds me to mention that the current issue of the Baltimore Delta, published for and about members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, has an In Memoriam verse for Mrs. Cesar. It is by Marion P. Finney and says:

Minnie B. Cesar, you were a Delta pearl. Minnie B. Cesar, you belong to the Delta world. Your gifts of love, power, strength and grace, were always visible in your face. Minnie B. Cesar, you are still my Delta Girl."

More cuff notes:—Deltas hold their monthly meeting this Saturday, Dec. 8, at 3 p.m. at the Helene Fuld Auditorium at Provident Hospital.

1935 AFRO photo of the then Jeannette Layton when she was May Queen at Howard University. See accompanying, If You Ask Me.

The UFO /Syndrome

Dear AFRO:

The purple people eaters haven't possessed my body as of yet; but it seems a very natural time to take a look at the UFO's.

I have been clipping newspapers and magazines for about a ten-year period, contemplating the possibility that one day I might just go berserk and try to solve the mystery.

Barnum and Bailey would blush, however, at some of the attempted hoaxes. Some were crude and cheap; while some were elaborate and shown by pranksters to be of a high level of creativity.

Some photos of the flying saucers were manufactured in dark rooms with little or no effort.

And now for years I have wondered why people who claim to have taken a ride to outer space with these visitors have not been put into an institution.

And though I suspect nearly everyone has seen these illuminated spinning wheels, time will tell whether they are same after all.

I wonder if the people who have sighted strange objects are in positions of responsibility.

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.

QUESTION — In your recent front page story on the new director of Provident Hospital, you said (Nov. 10), he would get $38,000. This is a stupendous salary in view of the fact that the hospital is still in bankruptcy.

Plus, I understood former top administrators there didn't get this kind of money. You owe it to your readers to give the details of the salary arrangements for the new director. What are they? — J.T.S.

ANSWER: Under terms of the contract Provident Hospital Receiver George L. Russell has made with 43-year-old Dennis A. Gowie of N.Y. the new top administrator for Baltimore city's Provident Hospital. He will receive:

1. $36,000 annually for the first year, beginning Dec. 1, 1973, in two-week installments of $1,384.61.

2. Second year, $38,000 annually, payable in two-week installements of $1,461.54.

After the second year, the salary will be mutually agreed on by Mr. Goowie and the hospital.

Other terms of the agreement with Mr. Gowie: The Hospital to maintain without cost to him a term life policy of $54,000 during his employment. (He will have an option to continue same if he should leave the hospital for any reason.)

Plus, the hospital will maintain a disability policy of $18,000 in the event Mr. Gowie is disabled, and will maintain without cost to him a malpractice insurance with a range of $1 to $2 million.

Other fringe benefits to the new hospital director include $250 a month toward rental of residence for his use (Any rental charge above this amount to be borne by the hospital director).

And, a suitable passenger car to be leased for his use, in lieu of allowance for auto expense.

The hospital will pay all required dues for professional societies the director may deem it necessary to join and shall reimburse him for all expenses incurred (with prior written approval), in connection with his duties and for out-of pocket expenses, including without limitation, those arising from travel to and from and attendance at professional meetings in the U.S.

In addition, the hospital will reimburse the director for travel, room, board and other incidentals incurred in rendering services to the hospital receiver (George L. Russell Jr.), prior to his employment on Dec. 3, 1973.

The contract also provides four weeks vacation with pay and may be terminated by either party with 90 days written notice.

QUESTION: I would like to write Mrs. Rose Kennedy, but all efforts to contact her at Hyannis Port, Mass. have proved futile. Could you possibly let me know where I might write her? — M. G.

ANSWER: Sen. Edward Kennedy's office in Washington advises Hyannis Port, Mass. is the correct address to reach Mrs. Rose Kennedy.

QUESTION: Your last week's editorial (Nov. 17, 1973) about the suits against the Baltimore city police department was very timely. Keep up the good work.

I was interested in that portion of your editorial in which you list the number of black officers. Somebody at the police department is still pulling your leg. So far as I know, there is no black lieutenant colonel on the force and there are only captains. What is right?

Where are you getting your figures from? Of course, I realize that when this court suit is heard, then the police department will be forced to give the true and accurate figures, but meantime, can't AFRO LINE get the information?

— EX-POLICEMAN

ANSWER: The reader is right. There is not a single black lieutenant colonel on the Baltimore City police department. The figures we listed last week were as of June, 1973 and included Lt. Col. William (Boxi) Harris, who is no longer with the department. He is now serving on Gov. Mandel's staff.

The following is a breakdown from the police personnel office, as of Nov. 13, 1973. These show that there are 4 Lt. Col., none of whom are black; only 3 black majors out of 16; 1 black captain out of 16, 104 lieutenants and only 4 are black; 20 black sergeants out of 378.

In addition, of the total 3,408 on force, only 453 are black and 403 of them are patrolmen.