OPINION

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)

A—4 MAY 18, 1974

The First In 67 Years

Not since 1907, when Father Joseph Plantvigne was ordained in the chapel at St. Joseph's Seminary by Auxiliary Bishop Curtiss, has there been a black person elevated to the Catholic priesthood in Baltimore city.

But on this past Saturday at St. Ann's Church, 22nd and Greenmount Ave., over 1200 persons witnessed the ordination of a 26-year-old black priest, Father Donald A. Sterling.

This coming Saturday morning at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, another young black priest, Father Maurice J. Blackwell, 28, will be installed in a similar ceremony.

It is significant that both of these new priests will be vested by one of this century's most outstanding religious leaders, His Eminence, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan.

This will be one of the last official acts of Cardinal Shehan, 76, who has to his credit nearly ten years as the chief Vatican spokesman here in the city.

His 51-year career in the ministry as priest, bishop and cardinal have won him wide acclaim for his conscientious and courageous efforts to bring about racial justice in his native Baltimore.

It is noteworthy that the last cardinal to elevate a black minister to the priesthood, His Eminence James Cardinal Gibbons, was likewise an outspoken proponent of justice for all.

AFRO readers should be comforted in knowing that the city's two new black priests have already indicated that they plan to devote their service to parishes in the inner communities where they grew up.

They have added a new dimension. In an AFRO interview they both expressed their commitment to the liberation of black people and indicated that no sacrifice is too great to help bring this about.

This is indeed a new day in Baltimore. Congratulations are due Cardinal Shehan and the young new priests who have labored long years to reach this point in their careers.

In their elevation to the priesthood, Fathers Sterling and Blackwell are not like the first black priest who served in the Baltimore area.

The climate of the city and the nation has greatly improved in the past 67 years and it's not unreasonable to presume that in not too many years, they too could aspire to even higher office in the Catholic church.

And if this be so, the first black priests like Father Plantvigne, who served at great sacrifice in Baltimore and encountered all kinds of discrimination will likely be smiling down on them.

Father Plantvigne served at St. Joseph's Seminary here in Baltimore before his death in 1913.

Other black pioneer priests, all appointed by Cardinal Gibbons were Father John Henry Dorsey, S.S.J., ordained in 1902. He served as pastor of St. Monica's church as well as a missionary in a number of southern churches before his death in 1926.

The very first priest to be ordained by Cardinal Gibbons at the Baltimore Cathedral in 1901, Father Charles Randolph Uncles, was for 42 years a teacher at Epiphany College in Walbrook, Md. and later in New York, until his death in 1933.

Damned If You Do

The confusion caused by the clamor among Republican representatives and senators for the resignation of President Nixon, really, is not confusing at all. They are acting from a strong sense of loyalty to country, party and themselves — but in reverse order.

Better than the President, who seems to harbor an unyielding faith in the ability to hoodwink, these fellow-Republicans recognize the value of saving what can be saved from the horrible mess in Washington.

In what has come to be a mushrooming advocacy of resignation, Republican members of the legislative arm are hoping to (1) protect their own political future, (2) spare the GOP the danger of irreparable harm, and (3) forestall the collapse of American influence on the world front.

The logical interpretation of the recent defections in Congress is that there is general expectancy of impeachment.

Such process will take from six to eight months at the least, and during its course members of the House will be required to vote for or against impeachment, and senators will face the unwelcome compulsion of supporting or opposing conviction — all this with the constituency, the party, the nation and the world watching.

Therein lies the life-sized example of "damned if you do, and damned if you don't.

Aside from the inherent danger of indicting their own administration, these men must run the risk of divorcing the party and thus exposing the nation to universal ridicule.

This accounts for the almost daily call for Mr. Nixon's reassessment of his position and acquiescence to resignation. Otherwise his associates are left little choice.

So, the confusion, actually, is not confusing.

How To Get Judgeships

Because Governor Mandel continues to overlook black lawyers and picks his buddies and other white people for judgeships — there is growing concern in the black community.

But it is one thing to be concerned and another thing to do something about it.

One way black voters can assure proper representation on the bench is to register and be prepared to vote into office qualified black persons who deserve to sit in justice on their fellow citizens.

You can register now to vote in the September 10, 1974 Primary when candidates will be nominated for governor, state legislature, judges, court clerks and other state offices.

There is no waiting in line to qualify to vote.

Voters may register by mail.

Registration applications are available in neighborhood branches of the Pratt Library and at Community Action Centers.

Black residents can remedy unfair representation in the courts at the ballot box.

Registration deadline for the Primary Election is August 12, 1974.

A Man Called Love

Edgar Amos Love liked to recall that he was destined to be a minister.

In a 1957 AFRO interview, he reminisced that his grandfather was a Methodist pastor and that he himself was born in a Methodist parsonage. His father, the Rev. Julius C. Love served the church's Washington Conference for 46 years. His mother, Susan, was a licensed preacher.

When he died last week at the age of 82, Edgar A. Love had given 50 years of dedicated service to the church which had recognized his sterling qualities by electing him to the highest office — bishop — and conferring on him numerous honors and citations.

In the early days when the Methodist Church was divided along racial lines, men of vision like Dr. Love worked diligently and quietly to bring about change. This was in the 50's when it was not popular to be frank and open in a commitment to true fellowship in the church.

But under Dr. Love's leadership, the church's social and economic relations boards counseled together and sponsored interracial workshops to encourage integration of the whole church.

Bishop Love's contributions were not limited to his church assignments, here and abroad, but spread over into the community where he lived.

Morgan State College history shows he followed in the footsteps of his mother, the first woman to finish the Morgan Normal Department in 1878.

After completing Morgan Academy in 1905, he became teacher and later principla there.

Then followed degrees at Howard University where he distinguished himself as a student and leader. With the late Dr. Ernest E. Just, Dr. Frank Coleman and Dr. Oscar Cooper, he organized the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on Nov. 15, 1911, and served as its first grand president.

Because he loved people and was beloved by them, Bishop Love received his flowers while he could appreciate them. He was much in demand as a speaker and advisor. He was active as trustee on five college boards, (including Morgan Christian Center), and his counsel was sought by a variety of civic groups which respected his wisdom and objectivity.

The Baltimore community and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity did themselves proud in November 1972 when they arranged a banquet honoring Bishop Love.

It is fitting that they announced then that the $5,000 Morgan State College scholarship for deserving students bears his name, as will the community center of the $6 million Omega Heights development soon to be built in the Dickeyville section of northwest Baltimore.

Very Historical Moment

A little About a LOT — by Madeline W. Murphy

Reformers And Rule-Changers

The Sun editorial last Sunday, entitled "Add One More, the City Sheriff" conjures up another facist specter over the diminishing right of people to decide who shall represent them in the democratic process.

After lamenting the alleged breach of public trust of Frank J. Pelz, former sheriff of Baltimore City, and his resignation amid grand jury investigations, the editor suggests "A high-minded commission of judges and lawyers" who would ultimately decide that both the sheriff's office and court clerks should be more directly under the jurisdiction and control of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, an arm of the state government and a sure way to keep from ever electing any more sheriffs or court clerks.

The idea of taking the so-called less political road to fill public offices dealing with the courts, has precedent in the constitutional amendment of 1970, where District Court Judges can no longer be elected, but are chosen by a quasi-public Judicial Selections Commission, with the ultimate choice being made by the Governor, and approved by the Senate — a rubber stamp operation.

The legislators anticipated that a black person would run, challenging the "sitting judge principle," and in fact one did and won. "Reform" will keep other blacks out.

This high-minded paternalism is not only ridiculous but dangerous, when you recall that Mr. Pelz was initially appointed by the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Dignan, who died in office.

The Supreme Bench, substituting its "infallible judgment," in all its "infinite wisdom," picked Frank J. Pelz, as the right man for the job.

Against this background, we must ask the questions: "Did the Supreme Bench conduct adequate inquiries into any flaws that might have appeared in its erstwhile candidate?

Were other considerations made that took precedence over Mr. Pelz's fitness for the office that compromised the court's judicial integrity?

And, in his subsequent re-elections, once the court realized it made a mistake, where was the principled voice of the Supreme Bench, that could have influenced voters to make a better choice for sheriff of Baltimore City? (Oh, I forgot, another candidate was black!)

It has been reported as the September Primary nears, that Jim Parker may well be a candidate for sheriff of Baltimore City, that a bright young black woman, Barbara Jefferson, might well be the candidate for clerk of the Criminal Court, and that a third black candidate may try for clerk of the Baltimore City Court. (Incidentally, all of these jobs will pay in the neighborhood of $25,000 a year.)

It is evident that those who want to change the rules in the middle of the game, are well aware of the reasonable probability that blacks, through the democratic process of election, might be able to capture these positions with all of the appointive power of workers in their respective offices, the fruits that go along with being winners.

They, also, are more aware than we, that the Hon. Paul L. Chester, clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, represents the opening wedge that brought about more equal representation of blacks in the court system.

Isn't it odd that these same voices of reform won't point to Paul Chester as an example of how the elective process really works for the good of the people?

Isn't it amazing that these same voices of reform are really interested in defeating him?

Watergate, especially the recent release of Nixon transcripts, should warn us that power in the hands of a few unscrupulous, greedy men, corrupts.

The difference between national corruption and local corruption is a matter of degree, and from the foregoing you get an inkling of how corruption, greed and racism go hand in hand.

Therefore, we as black citizens of the State of Maryland, by voting in large numbers as a bloc should thwart any efforts of these power hungry (expletive deleted) power brokers to gain an unlimited concentration of power, offering no checks and balances.

Otherwise, the state of Maryland will goose-step in tandem with the Nixon Administration, toward dictatorship, where the people will have no rights, no voice, that dictators will be bound to respect.

And, of course, the fault for this watering down of the democratic process will lie at our doorstep, for we will have allowed it to happen by our own inaction.

NOW and THEN — by G. James Fleming

Anything can happen in Washington, now, so far as the future of Richard Nixon is concerned.

What the President and his aides say can be taken "with a grain of salt." What they do is important.

We have heard it repeated often that the President will NOT resign, but this does not mean that he may not resign, if the heat gets too much for him.

Most recently, one Nixon voice has said that he would resign only if resignation were "best for the nation."

This column, several issues back, said Mr. Nixon would not resign and that he would not be removed by the impeachment process.

But, we added a big "UNLESS" — Unless, he did something overwhelmingly foolish or unacceptable, such as he did in the firing of Archibald Cox, his own special prosecutor.

That "foolish and unacceptable" thing has been done by the President, through the issuance of his "transcripts," together with the withholding of all other information from all other agencies of the government — the Senate and House investigating committees and Special Prosecutor Jaworski.

His intended magnanimous release of some transcripts of his White House tapes, after severe editing by himself, has back-fired.

With their deletions, and their sections labelled "inaudible" and "unintelligible," the transcripts have convinced Mr. Nixon's friends and foes that "the man" has no intention to come clean with honoring requests or obeying subpoenas.

In one way or another, Richard Nixon has taken the position, repeatedly, that "I am above the law." Wasn't it the German Kaiser of World War I who once declared, "I am the law!"

The President has done everything to frustrate the Ervin Committee, the House Judiciary Committee and the Grand Jury. He spits in the face of the equality of the three branches of government.

Now, however, Mr. Nixon has become "too much" even for his old supporters, including Republican Senator Hugh Scott (of Penna.) and the stalwart Chicago Tribune. They have, at last, seen through their idol.

No one can read the transcripts, edited and cosmetized though they are, without deciding that Richard Nixon is neck-deep in all that is meant by Watergate and its cover-up.

When everything in the transcripts is added to his income tax "schemes," to the shady handling of campaign funds, to the unreasonable spending of public monies on his private homes, and the attempts to rob Americans of such freedom as they enjoy, it adds up to a mighty mountain of suspicions and involvements that Mr. Nixon has not yet explained "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Now, the President has made known that he will give no more tapes or records to the Congress, the Special Prosecutor or the Courts.

What is Mr. Nixon hiding? What is there of the people's business that the President can not share with authorized members of the Congress, persons also elected by the people?

These are the questions that even Nixon supporters are asking.

And, somehow, the answer persists that what is being withheld, the stuff that Mr. Nixon won't reveal, won't share, is even more indicting than what is contained in the transcripts, or whatever else is known to date.

There is bound to be continuing defection from Richard Nixon, as the emperor loses his clothes.

The more he finds himself naked, the more quickly he may decide that early resignation is the best choice for him, after all.

No telling what may happen in the White House, sooner or later.

Stalwarts

Within the last month, Annapolis has lost two stalwart citizens.

On April 5, William H. Richardson, a pioneer in personnel at the U.S. Naval Academy, and a leader in church and civic affairs, died at the age of 78.

This week, Dallas G. Pace, teacher, coach, church and civic leader, is dead at the age of 59.

Both men had much in common. They believed in working with their fellow white citizens in an effort to resolve the inequities which plague the state's capital.

And both gave untiringly of their time to others. They will be remembered as good neighbors.

EDITOR PENS OPEN LETTERS TO . . .

Bob Lally

Dear Bob: You really opened a Pandora's Box when you failed to approve the recommendations of Correction Commissioner James Jordan, to fill the warden job at the Md. Penitentiary and the director of prison camps post.

Didn't you know you would be subject to charges of racism when you used your office of Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to change the rules and veto the selections of Commissioner Jordan, the very competent correction commissioner who happens to be black?

Didn't you realize the top nominees were black and the recommendations were a step forward in improving the posture of the penal institutions which are predominantly black?

Wouldn't you just like to forget all about it and approve Commissioner Jordan's recommendations?

Anne Arundel County Del. William J. Burkshead says you should resign or be fired because you are arrogant, heavy handed and completely out of tune with state personnel needs in your failure to approve these promotions and appointments.

You can prove Del. Burkhead wrong and restore the confidence of the career people in the prison system if you change your mind now.

You see, no matter how noble your plan or program was on job specs, your motives are circumspect because of the racial overtones.

Remember, you didn't talk about requiring the wardens and other top correctional executives to be college graduates until the No. 1 applicants turned out to be black, and that's sort of smelly.

Poly Students

We attribute your demonstrations this week at City Hall and school board headquarters, protesting the opening of Polytechnic Insitute to all students, as a sign of spring fever.

We are inclined to believe that today's young people are more than sensitive to the need to obey the law. In 1974, the law says no person may be denied entrance to a public high school because of his race or sex.

The handwriting is on the wall. Girls will be coming to Poly, and before too long they will likely be no one sex school in Baltimore or anywhere else.

Yes, alas, girls, ladies, women — females, that is — are coming into their own. They're human beings, deserving of equal rights. Move over, boys, gentlemen, males, make room.

Dr. Walton

Dear John: In 1954, on May 17, to be exact, exactly 20 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered an end to separate but equal schools.

At that time the Baltimore schools moved swiftly to obey the law, thanks to the leadership of the then school board president, Walter Sondheim Jr.

Two weeks after the court ruled, (June 3, 1954), the school board met and voted unanimously to comply with the law. This positive action meant Baltimore city schools were integrated when schools opened that September.

But, here we are and you, the school board president, are making no positive statements urging obedience to the Federal government's mandate to desegregate our schools this fall.

We think, Dr. Walton, you can copy a page from history and show the kind of statesmanship Mr. Sondheim exhibited 20 years ago if you really care about the future of this city and its children.

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 the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

WASHINGTON REPORT

No Time Left For Playing

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

The pace of elected officials is grueling. In Congress committee meetings start at 10 a.m. and the House of Representatives goes into session each day at noon.

Above and beyond that work, many other demands are made. I thought it might be interesting for you to have a look at some of last week's activities.

Monday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. I testified before the Governor's Commission on Structure and Governance in Education. My main thrust was that Maryland desegregation plan for institutions of higher learning was to have included significant increases in funds for the predominately black institutions to be used for curriculum enhancement and enrichment.

The funds are not in the budget, therefore I shall oppose the State's plan for desegregation of colleges and universities.

Tuesday, May 7, 8 p.m. There was a meeting of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. I am the only black person serving on this twenty-five Member Committee.

The issue for the meeting was the Bolling's Committee's Report on Congressional Reform.

I had to miss the P.A.L.M.A. Anniversary because I was late getting in from Washington and also because I had an 8 p.m. meeting with Rosemont Neighborhood Association at School 217, 1400 block of N. Ellamont St.

Wednesday, May 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Appointments at the District office, 1008 Bloomingdale Road. Beginning at 2:00 p.m. appointments in the Washington Congressional Office.

Thursday, May 9, 9 a.m. Democratic Caucus in Washington. At this Caucus, the important Bolling Committee Report on Congressional Reform was killed off in effect by the Democratic Caucus by sending the report to the Hansen Committee for further study.

11:30 a.m., joined the Rev. Melvin Chester Swann of Baltimore's Waters AME Church and about 40 members of his congregation, who came to hear the Rev. Mr. Swann deliver the opening prayer to the U.S. House of Representatives at noon.

2 p.m., Met with national officials of General Electric Co., to discuss legislation governing the Export Import Bank.

4 p.m. Met officials from HEW to discuss proposed agency changes in the Upward Mobility Program. 7:30 p.m. I was to have been at the Kirk Center but someone gave me the wrong address. I ended up at Kirk Avenue and 25th St. at a recreation center where I spent about an hour and a half with the young people in the center.

Friday, May 10, 7 p.m. Addressed the Association of Real Estate Brokers and the Ohio Association of Real Estate Brokers in Cleveland, Ohio.

Saturday, May 11, 11:30 a.m. I toured the YMCA Art Fair held in Charles Center Plaza in Baltimore.

Sunday, May 12, 4 p.m. Spoke at the Fulton Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. attended Citizens Salute to Delegate Troy Brailey, 8:30 p.m., spoke to the Black Student Union.

The week's legislative program was also heavy. On Monday, we considered: (1) H.R. 206 — Preservation of Historical and Archeological Data and (2) S. 1125 — Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Act.

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives handled four relatively private calendar bills and on the same day voted on 10 important bills among which were Metric System Conversion (I voted against this); Veterans and Survivors Compensation Increases (I voted for this); and the National School Lunch Act Amendment, (I voted for this).

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed the Energy Transportation Security Act, which I supported but failed to pass the Rule for the Voter Registration Act, thus killing off this bill which I though was a terribly important piece of legislation for black people and other minorities.

The House of Representatives failed to act responsibly on the Voter Registration Act.

AFRO Line

. . . AFRO LINE is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be.

. . . All you have to do is write a post card 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:

I am an inmate at Baltimore City Jail. I was left some new clothes here at the jail and have not received the articles.

I have talked to high ranking jail officials and have also been sent through a number of difficult changes, but they have not solved the problem.

I was about to ask the assistant warden about the situation, but he cut our conversation real short by simply saying he didn't have time, turned his back and walked away.

So really I did not know any other step to take, so I figured I should convey my problem to you. There is no one here who really cares, so I thought it best to seek outside help. — X. Y.

There's also another problem. The guards here act like my eight-month-old son, or should I say some of the guards, mostly black.

ANSWER:

Deputy Warden Nuth told AFRO-Line, "For the past month-and-a-half, we have had, I think, an excessive amount of complaints about clothing not being delivered. The writer may be one of those persons.

"What I have been saying to the complainers is give me in writing what was delivered and try to obtain receipts for them, I have to negotiate with the city auditor's office and try to see if we can reimburse the people.

"A lot of it's real and a lot of it's imagined. In other words, if you knew that there was a chance that you could get some money back for something you have claimed was taken, you would certainly put in for it. I can't separate the two myself. However, I am taking a log of all the complaints. I can't promise any immediate reimbursement, because our bookkeeping system isn't set up to reimburse for this type of loss, which means we have to go before the Board of Estimates.

" . . . First of all when clothing comes in it is brought in by a visitor. It's brought into our mail room and our personnel take it, inventory it and give a receipt to the person who brought it in.

"They keep a copy of what was brought in, bag it in large plastic clothes bags. The section officer comes and takes it and delivers it to him on the section.

"As you can see, it has changed hands about three times. He signs for the clothes and the empty clothing bag is brought back. At which time we know it was delivered and we have his signature that he received it.

"When he submits to me his name and the date the clothes were allegedly brought in and what the clothes were, we can trace it and see if we can not find whether or not someone signed for his clothes. That's our system."

Question: I want to say a word about the Gas and Electric Co. I read about not having to pay a late fee on your bill. In April, I missed paying my bill by two days. It was only 93 cents. I sent the bill as the paper read, "Attention LPC Clerk."

For your information, when I received my bill for May, the 93 cents was added as a prior charge. So what goes with the gas company? I don't understand it. L. B.

ANSWER: AFRO LINE spoke with Mr. Leber, Public Relations representative for the Gas and Electric Co. He said, "I honestly can't say what happened.

"I think the best thing for the customer to do would be to call our service board at 685-0123 and discuss it with them.

"It might have been that the other bill was already in preparation when the payment came in."

As AFRO Line explained in this column last week, customers can avoid a late fee twice in any twelve-month period.

However, this is done only if the customer requests it.

Payments where the consumer pays only the net total after the due date should be sent to BG and E in their return envelope with "Attention LPC Clerk" written on the front.

QUESTION: I have a blind brother. Somewhere I heard there were to be new benefits for blind people. Can you tell me what they are? J. R.

ANSWER: AFRO Line just this week received word that HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger last week approved regulations making it easier for blind people to become eligible for social security disability benefits.

The new orders reduce the work requirements for men so they can qualify for benefits with the same amount of work women need and reduce the waiting period for disability benefits.

The regulations carry out changes made by the Social Security Amendments of 1972, P.L. 92-603.

They provide that:

— A person whose eyesight is so poor that the law considers him blind no longer needs to have substantial work in recent years under the program to get benefits.

It is enough if he is "fully insured" under the law — that is, he has enough work to be eligible for benefits if he had reached retirement age.

— The waiting period after a person becomes disabled and before he can get disability insurance benefits is reduced from 6 to 5 months.

— Beginning in 1975, a man will need the same amount of work to get benefits as a woman. Under the old law, the amount of work required for a man was based on the date he would reach age 65, even if he retired earlier.

For a woman, the amount of work required was based on the date she would reach age 62.

The change will be gradual; in 1974 a man will need less work than before, but more than a woman.

QUESTION: I am studying Africa. It is very interesting. I would like to know if you could send me some information on Africa. L. M. B.

ANSWER: Enoch Pratt Library has a complete collection on Africa. There is also plenty of news on Africa in the AFRO every Tuesday. Reader may come in and buy some back copies.

QUESTION: I filed my income tax before the April 15th deadline. When do I get my refund?

ANSWER: Internal Revenue advises AFRO-Line that if there are no mistakes on your return that might delay processing, it normally takes about six weeks after a return is filed.

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro American

A—5 MAY 18, 1974

AFRO Writer Finds Favorite Grad In Howard Graduation Crowd of 15,000

By Bettye Moss

The sun was shining brightly on Saturday when we returned to Howard University for the first graduation we have witnessed in over 20 years, the 106th convocation held in the balmy outdoors had people everywhere.

It wasn't like the Howard University we knew when we attended back in the thirties. The school has truly outgrown its pants.

The buildings are close together. The people are close together. It's unbelievable . . . absolutely unbelievable. It is equally surprising that minutes after we arrived on the campus, we spied the person we went to see. In that huge mob it's fantastic.

Mrs. Virginia Prout, whom many know as the head of the food service at the YMCA Camp King's Landing in Huntingtown, Md. was the person we were looking for.

Her daughter, June Denise, received a B.S. in Zoology. Many know her as her mother's assistant during the camping season.

Also there to see June get her degree were June's cousin, Cheryl Wiggins, who received a master's in English. Other relatives there, Cheryl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Wiggins of Washington, and her sister, Bridgette, and an aunt, Mrs. Bessie Moore of Huntingtown, Md.

Also there, the girls' aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Waters of Baltimore.

More oddity, the very first person we saw upon entering campus was Father Crayton Diggs of Rogers Chapel A.M.E. Church, who is leaving his post as associate priest there next week to take a similar post at a Nashville, Tenn. church.

More hometowners spied: Mrs. Henry Neal, (Connie), Mrs. Queener Willis, (Carolyn) and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rogers, (Thelma) of Woodmore, Md. They were there to see the Rogerses' daughter, Denise, receive her A.B. in Sociology. She has already been accepted for graduate study at the Univ. of Md. School of Social Work.

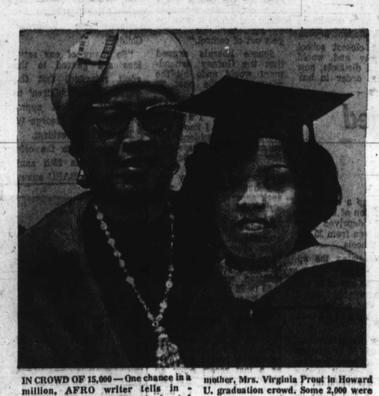
Also there to see Miss Rogers graduate were her aunts, Miss Louise Rogers and Mrs. Freida Servis, and her grandparents, Mrs. Edna Contee, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rogers.

Also, her godmother, Mrs. Perry Johnson (Ruth) and Mrs. Johnson's son, Perry, who is a law student at Catholic University; and the graduate's sister, Lisa, a student at Woodlawn High.

Father Dudley, mentioned above, and Mrs. Dudley and their daughter, Karen, Mrs. Thelma Satchell, Mrs. Ardell Jeudy, Arthur Murphy, were also there. They were among guests at the Rogers family reception afterwards.

More at Howard University Letters. He receives his sixth honorary degree this Sunday at 2 p.m., when he gives Morgan's commencement address.

CITED AT H.U. — Dr. Benjamin A. Quarles, famed author and distinguished Morgan State history professor, received Doctor of Humane



IN CROWD OF 15,000 — One chance in a million, AFRO writer tells in accompanying article how she located Huntingtown, Md.'s June Prout and her mother, Mrs. Virginia Prout in Howard U. graduation crowd. Some 2,000 were graduated. (AFRO photo by Moss).

graduation: Mrs. Betty Chapman and her two daughters, Kathy and Tracey, to see another daughter, Brenda receive a B.S. in Social Work. Also there, her great-aunt, Mrs. Marguerite Black and the AFRO's Mrs. Beatrice Wilson.

Also saw our We Wives clubmember, Mrs. Walter Brown, (Josephine) and her sister, Mrs. Aloha McCullough. They were there for the graduation of their nephew, Haywood Demby McCullough of Trenton, who received an A.B. in architecture.

His mother, Mrs. Ruby McCullough and his grandfather, Joseph Demby, both of Trenton, were also there.

Patient and tired was the Rev. R. D. Jackson of St. Louis, whom we met while he was looking for his relatives.

He had left the CME Conference in Philadelphia and travelled all night in order to arrive for the Howard exercises.

He was there for the graduation of his stepdaughter, Sharon Strickland. His wife is Mrs. Belvia Jackson, a Chicago teacher.

Cuff Note: The Rev. Mr. Jackson formerly pastored St. John's CME in Washington. He hails from Akron, Ohio.

Old friends spied: Dr. Clarence Holmes of Denver walked right into our camera along with his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Clarice Walker, who is on the faculty of the School of Social Work at Howard.

She and her husband, who is president of Opportunity System, Inc., reside in Silver Spring, Md.

Two of the Walker children were with them, Carolyn, 9, and Ann, 14. Sons, George, 8, and Cyrus, 6, were at home.

More graduates spied: Arthur T. Childs who hails from Lanham, Md. received his master's in social work. He lives in New York where he is with the Housing Authority.

With him his wife, Beverly, and their 9-month-old daughter, Keisha.

Also with them from Lanham, Md., Wilbur Burnette, a third-year dental student at the U. of Md.

More Baltimoreans there: Mrs. Mamie Woodford; her son, Carroll Sidney Woodford, received his medical degree.

The Rev. Monroe Saunders Sr., received a Doctor of Ministry. He is the bishop of Baltimore's First United Apostolic Church.

Cuff Note: Bishop Saunders earned his B.A. degree at Howard in 1953, and his Bachelor of Divinity in 1957. So this makes three degrees for him from Howard.

One of the nation's famed historians, Dr. Benjamin Arthur Quarles, distinguished professor of history at Morgan State College was among those receiving Howard's honorary degrees. His was a Doctor of Humane Letters.

Dr. Quarles, who is author of several books on black history is considered one of the country's most outstanding scholars in Afro-American history.

Apostolic Church. Dr. Quarles, who is author of several books on black history is considered one of the country's most outstanding scholars in Afro-American history.

He is a graduate of Shaw University and holds a master's and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin.

Previously, he has received honorary degrees from Shaw, Kenyon College and Towson State and the University of Maryland.

His wife, Dr. Ruth Brett Quarles, coordinator of counseling services at Morgan, was there to witness the Howard citation.

Others honored: Mrs. Catherine Myer Graham, publisher of the Washington Post; Judge Damon Jerome Keith, of Detroit, (who incidentally gets the 1974 Spingarn Medal); D.C.'s Mayor, Walter E. Washington, and the Honorable Barbara Jordan, a member of the U.S. Representatives from Houston, Texas, 18th District. She was the commencement speaker.

Morgan State grads who earned master's degrees in social work were, Herman Wallace Jones, a 1972 Morgan grad, and Richard Franklin Waters, who finished in 1968.

Bowie State 1971 grad, Sandra Elizabeth Spears, also got her M.A., as did Hester M. Jackson, a 1964 graduate of the Univ. of Md. and Harriett Dandridge a 1960 graduate of Towson State. So did Bowie State 1972 graduate, David McKinley Young.

More grads: — Fielding L. Gentry III, a 1958 Morgan grad received a master's of art in teaching.

Call them "Dr." now: — Ph.D. degrees went to Sylvia Marie Julian, a 1964 Morgan grad; earned hers in Pharmacology. Her thesis was on, "Pharmacological Agents of Protection in Experimental Myocardial Anoxia."

Cynthia A. Newerton, who earned a B.A. from Morgan in 1965 and a M.S. in 1968, received her doctorate in History.

Her thesis, "The Articulation and Implementation of Education Goals For Blacks in the South, 1845-1925."

Cuff Note: Today's graduation audiences don't sing their alma mater with as much relish as we remember they did in our days at Howard, or maybe it's because the exercises were outdoors in the stadium.

But, "reared against the eastern sky, proudly there on hilltop high, far above the lake so blue, stands old Howard firm and true . . ." didn't come through with as much fervor as we remembered it.

More Cuff: Howard President James E. Cheek has five degrees beside his name, Ph.D.; L.H.D.; LL.D.; D.H.O., and M.D. How about that!

He's brother of Morgan State's Dr. King V. Cheek.

8-1 YEARS AGO—"The interest 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)

Readers Rap On Many Issues

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.

Promotions At Pen

Dear AFRO:

Bird's Nest No. 954 here in this Maryland Penitentiary was once primary a sport organization, dealing mainly with the sponsorship of placing "Little League" Team in the League and equipping them.

Due to the rapidly social change outside in the community, and the deep concern for the high rise of crime and violence within our community, we realized that we must become more involved with the community.

Understanding that criminals are part of the problem of crime, we knew and understood that we also part of the solution of crime.

Bird's Nest No. 954, therefore started a program of active leadership starting, first with a "speaker's bureau" to give the men in the organization the inspiration to develop leadership and a forum to speak out in order to bring about unity and togetherness.

On March 21, 1974, at the Penitentiary, Bird's Nest No. 954 held its "first annual awards night," a fund raising project to not only sponsor their Little League Team and equip them, but to lay the foundation for other important projects, such as a picnic for pre-teen children, inner city talent show, as well as an art exhibit to expose the talent of the prisoners within the confine of these walls.

And now in the action of Robert J. Lally, the Secretary for Public Safety and Correctional Services, in rejecting the choice of Commissioner James Jordan, the name of Mr. McLindsey Hawkins for warden of the Maryland Penitentiary, we as Board of Directors must speak out on this issue.

We urge you to rally support for Commissioner Jordan in his selection of Mr. Hawkins as Warden of this institution. This kind of racism must be eradicated. Being black, we must stand firm together on the pressing issue.

Secretary Lally indeed has a right according to the Law to the final say about appointments and Commissioner Jordan is subject to the "Powers and Authority" of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

But neither the Secretary nor Governor or any one man, has the power of authority to change the law made and set aside in the Annotated Code of Maryland.

This we strongly condemn as being arbitrary abuse of his authority and sparks of racism, since the top choices were black.

To allow Secretary Lally's decision to stand would take the incentive and inspiration out of other correctional officials, who work up from the ranks and are able and capable of doing the job in the modern conception of penal philosophy.

How many wardens have been appointed since 1970, which was when the position of "Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services" was founded?

Why all of a sudden are the qualifications spelled out in the Annotated Code of Maryland (Article 27, Section 622), now ineffective, when they were all right in his approval of the other wardens, which the Commissioner of Correction approved and sent to him?

OMAR ABDULLAH ALI,
Public Relation Director
Bird's Nest No. 954

(Editor's Note: This letter was also signed by Nathaniel Williams, pres.; Samuel Lane, vice pres., John Simms, exec. secy.; Robert D. Taylor, treas.; Duke Wilson, Anthony Graham, directors.)

The Fleming Column

Dear AFRO:

Dr. G. James Fleming is to be congratulated for having merited retirement after having contributed so much in his pragmatic political teachings at Morgan State College, his publications and significantly in his column entitled "Now and Then" that appears weekly in the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Dr. Fleming is even to be congratulated more for continuing to keep in abreast with our relationship to the world situation. The AFRO column does give a minority optimistic hope in the evaluation of a not so bright sociological past.

The column further gives specific instances where the minority is presently actively participating in the shaping of the future of the nation.

This reader has had the rich fortune of reading Dr. Fleming's column each.

(Mrs.) MIRIAM L. WINBORNE

Poets ICAC

Dear AFRO:

One of the important factors in the success of the Poets Inner City Athletic Clinic program has been the intense publicity and coverage given by the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper.

Thanks to Michelle McRae, Bill Rhoden, Moses Newsome, and many other behind the scenes personnel, the Poets were able to present its program and concept to the Model Cities and Community Action Agencies community.

During the winter of 1973, the Poets were scheduled to be discontinued because of lack of funds from the Model Cities Agency.

The AFRO-AMERICAN did an article on the program's plight, and together with the sincere and dedicated staff of the Poets, the program was allowed to continue.

One of the consistent headaches that confronts any program or agency is getting cooperation from others in helping to achieve goals set by that particular program or agency.

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper's assistance in this program is just another way of using the available resources which surrounds a business. We truly are grateful you accommodated us.

KENNETH D. CHAPMAN,
Director
Poets Inner City Athletic Clinic
Model Cities and Community Action Agencies Program

George Hill Story

Dear AFRO:

Your recent article, "A Magnetic Attraction To Everyone He Meets," was very beautiful and I enjoyed it very much.

However, I find it very difficult to believe that anyone can "sing, write or imitate almost anything or anyone" as perfectly as the writer of the letter concerning Mr. Hill describes him.

I think that perhaps the writer of this letter has bitten off more than George Hill can chew, because if he is as talented as proclaimed, he belongs in a place, far better than Hollywood, for many of the top stars today can not even do that.

BERTHA HAWKINS

(Editor's Note: The writer refers to the article, "A Magnetic Attraction To Everyone He Meets," which was printed on Page Opposite on April 27, 1974. It concerned George E. Hill, a young Morgan student, who has unusual musical talents as was expressed in a letter to the AFRO by one of his fellow students.)

Honor Roll

Dear AFRO:

I am appreciative of being named to the AFRO Honor Roll!

However, my address was printed as Catonsville, and I live in southwest Baltimore.

I wanted to be sure when you tried to contact me for the plaque, you wouldn't think it was Catonsville.

MINISTER HELEN D. RUSSELL

Aren't They Beautiful!

We have always said that Spring is the loveliest time of the year because Mother Nature gives us all an opportunity to enjoy the freshness and beauty of a new season.

In the Baltimore area, things of beauty are the red, pink and white azaleas, the white spirea and the