OPINION

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)

School Deseg Plans

Baltimore city school superintendent Roland N. Patterson and his staff have performed a Herculean task in preparing a desegregation plan to conform to the mandate issued by the U.S. Dept. of Health Education and Welfare (HEW).

The 236-page document released at a school board meeting Tuesday evening has been difficult to prepare because the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, with the urging of Mayor Schaefer, has failed to act responsibly.

It crippled the school administration with restrictive guidelines designed to circumvent the HEW order "to implement a substantial desegregation plan" by September, 1974.

In particular, the Schaefer no-forced bussing guideline for elementary schools is a stumbling block for any meaningful change in a system 70 per cent black.

The May 30 deadline for Baltimore "to complete plans to remove vestiges of segregation which prevailed in its schools for 20 years" has passed. Yet the School Board is meeting again next Tuesday to study some more.

This is more delay and an apparent attempt to get around the HEW order particularly since Baltimore is on notice its plans must be prompt so HEW can have "sufficient time to review and discuss them and make any necessary changes."

On the elementary level, the Baltimore desegregation plan makes superficial attempts to improve the proportions in just 45 of 145 schools, (by 11 pairings of 27 schools), thus leaving 111 schools predominantly segregated, most of which were like that before the 1954 Brown desegregation ruling.

HEW refers to substantial implementation by fall. From the preliminary report, it is questionable whether this kind of planning can be interpreted as ample.

On the junior high level under consideration are two plans. One would create nine clusters improving racial balances in 20 or 24 schools and a feeder plan which would take three years to implement, creating improved racial balance only in the 7th grades this fall.

On the middle school level it would leave intact the recently established, Falstaff and Chiquapin, not even including them in the so-called cluster plan, nor allowing black youngsters who are locked in or out of these areas to have a choice of selection.

At the senior high level it would beef up a magnet program for 7 schools, create 7 comprehensive schools and merge the Carver and Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High Schools.

Suggestions for transfer and assignment of teachers and administrators and creation of a compliance office are also proposed.

As we said last week, because Baltimore's Mayor Schaefer and the school board have pussyfooted with the "we can't bus" element, the desegregation program as we have been able to read it, is really only a drop in the bucket.

In a way it seems that Baltimore is inviting Uncle Sam in. It ought to confess to HEW that in all honesty Baltimore can't handle its problems and ask for professional help.

We predicted last week Baltimore would find itself in this dilemma.

Unless there is a drastic revision in the plan as publicized this week, Baltimore will still have a disproportionate school system, based entirely on race.

We are glad to note the Baltimore NAACP is monitoring the school board deliberations and is already moving to take "immediate, appropriate action."

The task is too ponderous for the school board and too involved in politics to have any meaning. It's just the same old job of patchwork we have been having for years.

One solution is for the NAACP to get a plan before the court so that Baltimore schools can have substantial integration in September when they open.

CARVER-MERVO

One part of the desegregation plan mentioned above calls for the merger of the city's two technical high schools, George Carver in West Baltimore and Mergenthaler, in East Baltimore.

There is nothing new or creative about this. It's been a matter which has been before the board and the public for some 16 years, ever since Carver was built for black students and Mervo for whites.

Carver, created in 1956, has a rich history and was one of the first technical schools in the nation to be accredited. Mervo followed.

Maybe combining Mervo and Carver is not the answer.

Has anybody thought of adding to the merger proposal the stipulation that one would be the feeder school for the other so that there is indeed real involvement for junior high youngsters headed toward the technical career?

It's one thing to yell "Save Carver," or, "Mervo Forever." It takes a little thought and commitment to come up with a merger plan which will stand up in court.

A little About a LOT

by Madeline W. Murphy

Thank You, Duke!

The death of Duke Ellington, last week, brought to mind the universality of his genius.

When several of us visited the Soviet Union last year, as we sat down for our first meal in the Hotel Rossia dining room, the orchestra greeted us with "Black Satin."

We were not only pleased but flattered that we were being so honored, and though we were some 6,000 miles from home, we could not have been too homesick with the nostalgic strains of the Duke's plaintive melody enfolding us.

That his music—6,000 compositions—has endured so long; that its versatility has kept it contemporary; that its veracity has reached across all social strata and cultures, gives one the assurance that true creativity knows no era, no changing fad.

"Negro music," as Duke called his, is seldom fickle.

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I venture to guess that few who hear the music of Duke Ellington, will not be stirred by some nearly forgotten - memory, some unrequited love, some moment of sheer ecstasy.

For at high school proms, college dances, (before TV), when the segregation of show biz made us the chosen ones with our stellar black entertainers, how blessed we were to have been among the first to have heard, to have appreciated, to have danced to the exciting music of the Duke; and to have slipped away with our first love only to have had the haunting, distant rhythms play counterpoint to our spooning . . .

In quiet moments, the melodies haunt us still, making sweet the memories of days gone by.

"If music be the food of love, play on . . ."

How sad that we must lose the Duke, a man whose fame never really matched his genius in a racist society, and that the medal came too late to prove that America indeed had come of age to believe that "Music is the universal language of mankind."

But you and I know it is, because a prolific Edward Kennedy Ellington made it so! Thanks, Duke!

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The alarms sounded by Treasury Secretary Simon and Federal Reserve Director Burns, about how inflation will change the economic structure to chaos, as well as intensify social upheaval in this country, might make us just wonder about all the top secret money still being spent in Vietnam, on the Pentagon and its increasing war machine.

While unemployment, curtailment of social welfare, health, housing programs are proclaimed as anti-inflationary and with longer unemployment and social service lines, this rapacious raid on the treasury mirrors the Nixon personality and imprint on his administration.

Moreover, a glimpse at social upheaval and the war games to quell the dissidents, e.g. Attica, Kent and Jackson States, Fred Hampton, Angela Davis, Zebra search and seizures, the Symbionese Liberation Army war, and the most recent atrocity against a black couple in Baltimore County, reveal a movement toward control the government will take over hungry, unemployed disgruntled citizens, as the steady progression toward dictatorship evolves.

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In fact, legislative undergirding in the form of two bills passed in the first session of the 93rd Congress solidify this movement. These two bills dealt with planning for the millions of dollars going to local commissions for law enforcement and the administration of justice.

HR 8152 (Pt. 1) was an amendment adopted by Congress to make optional rather than mandatory, inclusion of representatives of citizens, professionals and community organizations in state and regional criminal justice and law enforcement planning.

Heretofore, such representation had been required, but now citizens will be further removed from planning aims and emphasis of police forces—law and order vs. crime prevention — stockpiling weapons and artillery, tactics and right-wing politicizing of police departments.

HR 8152 (Pt. 2) was an amendment adopted by Congress that stated no part of the bill should be interpreted to require the state or city to adopt a quota or other system to achieve racial balance or deny or terminate a grant because a recipient refused to adopt a quota or other such system for this purpose.

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This regressive action keeps blacks and minorities out of the inner sanctum-sanctorum of law enforcement and administration of justice, as was done to the Jews as Hitler became more repressive.

Some will said, "Nixon's got the Army, Air Force and the Navy, all we've got is the Home Regt. at Arms!" With Nixon's arrogant refusal to obey the courts, he just might decide to prohibit the presidential election in '76 and remain in the White House as King, until death do us part. Who's to stop him?

Nevertheless, we cannot blame Nixon alone, when we see the support given him in this direction by a racist, conservative, warmongering Congress, along with the consenting silent majority.

So we had better pool and be more watchful of a golden Congress, which we spend less time cheering and cheering for Nixon's impeachment, since Watergate covers a multitude of their sins, too.

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84 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)

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Parren J. Mitchell

Can OEO Continue Its Impact?

Basic Programs Funded Through '77

..Mr. Mitchell represents Md.'s Seventh Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The National Anti-Poverty Program began with great promise, weathered many assaults and has now come to a major change in its life.

On May 29, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H. R. 14449, providing for a three-year continuation of the programs authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

The bill transfers the authority for Headstart, Follow Through, Native Americans, Comprehensive Health Services and the Human Services Policy Research programs to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The authority for legal services would be transferred to HEW until the Legal Services Corporation is established.

The bill also moves the migrant programs to the Labor Department and the Community Economic Development program to the Commerce Department.

Additionally, it establishes a Community Action Administration within the Department of HEW to administer Community Action programs transferred from OEO.

The director of the new administration would be appointed by the President, subject to Senate confirmation. He would be directly responsible to the Secretary of HEW, who would be prohibited from delegating any of the functions of the director to any other officer not responsible to the director.

The bill provides for a declining level of federal support for Community Action programs to 80 per cent for FY (fiscal year) 1975, 70 per cent for FY 1976 and 60 per cent for FY 1977. It allows the local share to be met on a statewide basis.

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The measure also would transfer the remaining OEO employees to the new Community Action Administration in HEW without loss of salary, rank or other benefits, including the right to representation and existing collective bargaining agreements.

The Nixon Administration has always opposed OEO. Nixon attempted to dismantle the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1973, but, fortunately, the action of the federal courts prevented this.

The basic programs of OEO are now funded through to 1977. The present employees are protected in their jobs.

The real question is can OEO, and, especially the Community Action programs, continue to be strong, aggressive for the rights of the poor in this nation?

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Like many members of the House Education and Labor Committee, I hated the idea of placing OEO under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

That department has all too often been proved to be a sterile, suffocating bureaucracy which had little, if any, commitment to the nation's poor.

If anti-poverty fighters allow themselves to be caught up in the agency decision out of fear of losing their jobs, then the war against poverty in America is indeed dead.

If, on the other hand, the anti-poverty fighters refuse to be bound by the bureaucracy of HEW, blindly accepting (which are based on loss of job security), then, maybe then the real war against poverty will be revitalized.

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For if such things are done, we may bring about basic institutional change in HEW which, after all, is the agency which should have been fighting for the poor in the first place.

NOW and THEN

by G. James Fleming

More On Cost Of Freedom

"Mathematics will be the universal language of the 21st Century (Indeed, it is now!) and only those who master it will have power in the new century."

This mastery is one of the prices that blacks, and others, must pay in order to enjoy freedom, continuing along the same lines this column began last week.

The quoted first paragraph was spoken a few days ago by Dr. Barbara Sizemore, superintendent of Washington, D.C. schools, in a brilliant 62nd annual closing address to the DuBois Circle of Baltimore.

Mrs. Sizemore, looking almost like a college senior, also stressed the need for the use of letters, thus mastering communication — "in this day, even as cavemen did in the centuries before printing was invented."

Without blaming either teachers or students for the poor showing most American students make in English, she did see mastery of the language as another route to power — "and power brings freedom," she said.

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Mrs. Sizemore made a special case for "multi-language" schools.

She condemned the practice of making everybody learn via English alone, "when so many Americans speak some other language that is more native to them than English."

She seemed to be on the side of having Americans as multi-lingual as most Europeans — are especially the urban dwellers.

But, it was mathematics and computer science that Mrs. Sizemore contended for most, as the route to power and freedom.

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All of this caused this writer to recall what the renowned black scientist, Charles Drew, told him just before he was killed in an automobile accident.

He, too, was deploring the poor state of mathematics teaching in most black schools and colleges, and pleading for more and higher math as a way to the salvation of blacks.

"We (black people) do very little in the higher branches of science and invention," he moaned, "because we are so poorly trained in mathematics.

"Most of our research and invention is still laboratory-oriented, at a time when higher research and invention is, and must be, mathematics-oriented."

The world's authority on blood plasma continued that, "If you can't do it on paper, you just won't. Can you imagine putting an atomic bomb together in a laboratory?"

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Dr. Drew wanted ever more blacks enrolled in the higher branches of mathematics. And, Dr. Sizemore, 20 years later, also called on black schools, black parents, and the black community to lead black young people along this route, from as early in their lives as possible.

Dr. Sizemore said: "It is ridiculous that most American young people never go beyond plane geometry, if that far . . ."

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And, again, she reminded the 322 men and women present that "knowledge is power" and "the more mathematical knowledge the more power in the 21st Century."

The audience gave Dr. Sizemore a rousing ovation.

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Some of those present might also have had second or third thoughts on whether some years ago, black Baltimoreans should have helped to take the teeth out of the higher-level math and science courses at City College, and, reportedly, also at Poly (both famed high schools).

The price is low to boast a "City" diploma when City's program, really, has been watered down.

The price is high, but inescapable, for parents, principals, teachers and students to commit themselves, and take the difficult road to mastering higher mathematics, science, and the communication skills.

But, this is the highway to power and, as Dr. Sizemore reminds, "Power is the key to freedom."

It's NOT A Man's World

by Bernice S. White

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. is calling upon all of its members, friends, affiliate organizations, and people throughout the nation to participate in the dedication activities of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial on July 10-12, 1974.

This will be the first memorial to a black American to be erected on public land in the nation's capital.

The Bethune Memorial sculptural work is a grouping of three figures. Around the base of the monument will be the words of Mrs. Bethune's Last will and testament.

It reads: — "I leave you love — I leave you hope — I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another — I leave you a thirst for education — I leave you a respect for the use of power — I leave you faith — I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow man — I leave you, finally, a responsibility to our young people."

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The Memorial will be placed in Lincoln Park facing the Emancipation Group — a statue of Abraham Lincoln and a newly freed slave at his knee.

One hundred years after the Emancipation Group was placed in Lincoln Park, we must view the placing of the Bethune Memorial not so much as the end of a struggle for dignity and self respect, but rather as a milestone and the fruit of one hundred years of a tortuous struggle — one that must continue.

The dedication activities will include more than the unveiling of the statue. There will be three days of special events designed to thrust onto the American scene a message about women and black women in particular.

A symposia will take place where vital issues of concern to the black woman and her family will be discussed.

In addition to these activities, a 24-hour vigil has been planned to continue at the site of the memorial throughout the first day.

Several receptions have been planned as well as a banquet and a concert that will feature an extraordinary array of talented performers.

The three-day event will end with a Harambee celebration at Lincoln Park under the majestic figure of Mary McLeod Bethune.

Some 100,000 persons are expected for this historic event and we hope many Baltimoreans will be a part of the happenings. This will be a significant tribute to black Americans for generations to come.

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).

Check Up Or Check Out

High blood pressure is one of the major health problems in the country today. It is perhaps the biggest single causative factor of all deaths.

"Even a patient with mild hypertension has twice the risk of the normotensive patient of dying before age 65," according to Dr. Marvin Moser, chief of cardiology, White Plains (N.Y.) Hospital and assistant clinical professor of medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y.

However, experimental studies have shown that cardiovascular-renal damage can be prevented by lowering the blood pressure.

It is hoped that as a result of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program, many more persons will become aware of the prevalence and dangers of high blood pressure, and the fact that "it can and must be controlled through continuing treatment by a qualified physician."

Who is most likely to get hypertension?

Everyone should have his blood pressure checked. However, research has shown that although more women than men have hypertension, it is more severe in men.

With few exceptions, blood pressure rises as a person gets older. The rise is steeper in women than in men.

"Below the age of 45, blood pressure levels of women are somewhat lower than those of men," says another authority in the field, Thomas R. Dawber, MD, associate professor of medicine, Boston University School of Medicine.

While no satisfactory explanation for this difference has been forthcoming, Dr. Dawber explains the crossover at the age of menopause suggests a hormonal basis.

It is twice as prevalent among blacks as whites. About 85 per cent of all cases of high blood pressure is diagnosed as "essential hypertension" — persistent elevated readings which cannot be attributed to any specific organic cause.

Most researchers agree that high blood pressure runs in families and that heredity is a factor in its development.

There is increasing evidence that pattern of essential hypertension is set in childhood, perhaps during the first two years of life, or even before birth, according to James L. Reynolds, MD, former president of the Louisiana Heart Association.

"Blood pressure measurement should be a routine part of childhood physical examination," says Dr. Reynolds.

Other suggested causes are overweight, too much salt in the diet, anxiety, and environmental stress.

Surely it is not too much to ask that each one of us get a check-up soon.

A check-up now, may prevent an early "check-out."

FRISBY Can Help YOU

Call FRISBY. This may be the latest answer to job and home problems of Baltimore youth 10-22 years of age, if the new Youth Services System Demonstration Project now in effect is successful.

FRISBY, which can be reached by calling 837-5588 from 8 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week, is a service geared to the city's youth, who might need a job, help with family problems, have VD, are pregnant, or just want counseling, and don't know where to turn.

FRISBY is a service which will tie in all city agencies through a central computer. A phone call from a child, a parent, or a school might be answered by one of three youth counselors, Mrs. Frances Gail, Mrs. Anne Sweeney, Maurice Zietler.

They will put a youngster in touch with the agency and follow through to make sure that the caller doesn't go away without getting help he needs.

When members of the Health and Welfare Council of Central Maryland, Inc. saw a demonstration film on this service at their board meeting this past Tuesday, they agreed that the service was long overdue. The new system is funded by HWC and the mayor's Office of Manpower Resources.

The AFRO joins with HWC in welcoming this long-needed service to Baltimore.

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro American

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 1557, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Legislators Praised

Dear AFRO:

The legislative session in Annapolis has ended. At its termination one factor stands out above many others. This has been an outstanding session on the part of the Black Caucus of Legislators in the passage of "significant legislation to help people."

The Black Caucus has shown a sense of total community awareness in addressing the problems, issues and needs of their constituents and the larger population.

I believe that the citizens of this community should be fully aware of the high degree of competence demonstrated by these representatives and the kinds of programs and legislation proposed, supported and passed by them.

Citizens should also be aware of the protective influence that these particular legislators have had on the damaging legislation that might have adversely affected members of the larger community as well as specific groups and the black community.

The most outstanding feat accomplished by the collective effort of the Black Caucus was the passage of three bills totaling more than $3 million to save Provident Hospital.

The black legislators have worked collectively for legislation that would benefit all citizens of Maryland.

They passed legislation to assure the availability of emergency dental services in all health institutions throughout the state.

They also came to the rescue of the city school board when efforts were being made to abolish it and mobilized their collective concerns in providing new and beneficial legislation regarding mortgage insurance for city residents.

They worked in concert with other legislators on innumerable measures that plague the state of Maryland and its citizens. (A more complete enumeration of the accomplishments of the Black Caucus of Legislators is available in an article in the AFRO-AMERICAN, April 20, 1974).

It gives me a sense of great personal pride and group accomplishment to recognize that the problems confronting this community have been outlined and addressed so competently by the collective efforts of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland x deserve our heartfelt thanks.

HARV NELS JR., D.D.S.
Executive Director,
Provident Comprehensive
Neighborhood Health
Center)

'Outrageous Insult'

Dear AFRO:

As a life long citizen of Baltimore City, I as well as many, many others find the actions of our Mayor to be outrageously insulting to the black community, especially those actions concerning appointments to city boards and commissions.

The handling of Mrs. Moss' "resignation" was unconscionable and unstatesmanlike, particularly since she was unaware that she had resigned, although she has been well aware for the past two years that she has been held in 'limbo' by the Mayor and not officially reappointed.

It appears to many citizens that the suddenness of Mrs. Moss' dismissal, without even affording her the common courtesy of previous contact, must have been spearheaded by some secretive motive.

At this point we would not be surprised if there is an immediate attempt to suddenly replace Mr. Griffin.

The first thought that arises in citizens' minds is that Mr. Griffin will be intentionally replaced because since he is presently vice-president of the board, it would be normal to assume that at the expiration of Board President Walton's term, Mr. Griffin might then become the president.

Certainly, the black community has no known objections to the appointment of Dr. Beryl Williams and she is recognized as an educator. However, to simply replace one black board member with another black member is not satisfactory because this still does not increase the black membership.

Instead it leaves the racial composition as is. This is totally unacceptable!

In a city with a school population 70 per cent black, it is unthinkable that the Mayor did recently deliberately appoint 3 new white board members, when indeed this was the opportunity to begin to rectify a moral injustice, corrective action that is long overdue.

(Mrs.) GRACE HINES

Girls At Poly

Dear AFRO:

I am not a teenager. I am a 21-year-old senior at Towson State College. In June, 1972, I graduated from Western Senior High School.

It really makes me mad to read and hear all the idiotic reasons that the students (Western and Poly) have for remaining unisex. Most of them are worried about lowered academic standards and being distracted.

Are females academically inferior to males? Shouldn't they have the same opportunities as males to do whatever they choose?

Are senior high students so immature that they can't do their lessons without worrying about impressing the opposite sex?

How can anyone overlook the fact that all students should have equal opportunity to get the best possible education?

It was fun and prestigious going to an all-girl school just as it must have been at an all-male school. But, tradition must never be allowed to stand in the way of progress.

Thank you, Bryan Holt, (AFRO Teen Columnist) for your comments on the subject. You made more sense alone than all of your interviewees combined.

I hope that others will drop their ridiculous arguments and allow the change to take place in an orderly manner.

My best wishes go out to the girls who will enter Poly in September. I hope that they will be strong girls because it is obvious that strength will be their greatest asset.

HELEN R. BROWN,
(Western High, Class of '71)

Newstip

Dear AFRO:

Thank you very much for the gift for my news tip on the wingless roasted chicken. Incidentally, it was delicious. This was my first news tip and I was thrilled to receive it. Thank you very much.

MRS. M. M. BUSH

Register To Vote

Do so TODAY at Supervisor of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Streets, Baltimore. Open daily, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

You may also register by mail. Forms are available at all branches of Enoch Pratt Libraries; all Baltimore City department stores; all secondary schools; the office of the League of Women Voters, 2318 N. Charles St. and at all 23 Community Action Agency offices.

Next primary election for governor and state legislators is September 10, 1974. August 12, 1974 is the last day to register.

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 — Was Duke Ellington ever honored in Baltimore? We had a discussion in our class after he died last Friday at the age of 75. My mother told me she remembered something about him being honored at Morgan. Is this right? — G. SMITH

ANSWER — AFRO-Line's happy to report mother's right. Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington was presented an honorary Doctor of Music Degree at Morgan State College here in Baltimore in May 1967.

Morgan president at the time was Dr. Martin D. Jenkins.

The late Dr. H. Hayes Striker, chairman of the Morgan music department, helped prepare the citation which hailed Ellington as 'Ameri an Cultural Ambassador to the Wrold.'

After the ceremony, Duke gave a special concert at Morgan and posed with Morgan students, telling them, 'I love you all. You're beautiful.'

Accompanying photo shows Duke with students Nancy Oliver, Catherine Purnell, and Gloria Greene. AFRO-Line would like to hear from them about their recollections of this memorable occasion.

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QUESTION: AFRO Line has received a number of queries signed by students at Douglass High School.

In essence, they complain they have been denied the right to hold their commencement exercises at the Civic Center.

One letter states:

"The reason why we were denied this privilege is that our graduating class totals 400, which is not enough students to use the Civic Center.

Administrators told us that we had to use Calvert Educational Center.

Also, we were told that the city would not pay for any school graduating class, exercises if the class totaled 400 or less.

Yet, there was an article in your newspaper stating that Dunbar Senior High has a total of 290 students graduating and using the Civic Center.

"We are upset and feel that we are being denied the privilege of graduating from the Civic Center. As you know, Frederick Douglass was the first school to use the Civic Center for graduating exercises. It has become a tradition with us. Now we feel that this tradition is being lost . . .

"This is unfair and needs some kind of action to be taken to find the truth of the matter. The AFRO-AMERICAN is the only one who can help us, the students of Frederick Douglass Senior School."

X.Y.

ANSWER: Mr. E. Robert Umphery, administrative assistant of Baltimore City Superintendent Roland N. Patterson, told AFRO Line:

"The choice of Calvert was not an assignment by the administration. It was a selection by the school staff, advisors and senior class committee and it has nothing to do with 400 or less.

"These are the facts: — Back in early fall when decisions were being made as to where commencements were to be held, there was no mention as to the size of the class as to whether or not that would prohibit them from being held in the Civic Center or what not.

"The principal, faculty advisor and student representatives met and made a decision about the site of their graduation or commencement exercises. The Douglass High School family chose Calvert Education Center. (Graduation is 8 p.m. June 3).

"In the interim, an offshoot group of students who had nothing to do with the majority decisions decided they couldn't understand why their commencement was not being held in the Civic Center like all the other schools.'

"That is not true, because all the other schools are not being held there. Some are being held in the Calvert Auditorium, some are being held on the athletic field of the school itself.

"Poly is holding it in its stadium. City is holding its commencement in its own auditorium. Forest Park is going to Calverton, etc.

"In the interim, the administration has gone to some expense in order to outfit Calvert for these commencements, spending almost between $800-$1,000 for rises to accommodate the graduating classes.

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QUESTION: I am presently serving 10 years at the Md. Correctional Institution for Women at Jessup. I am just 19.

Here, they treat us like dirt. They feel as though, since we're incarcerated, we don't have any feelings but we do.

The water is not clear. It is rusty. Our skins break out with ugly bumps on our face. When you turn the shower water on, it hurts you. The water feels like pins sticking in your breast.

The food isn't healthy at all.

I know we're not at Holiday Inn or anything like that but we could stand for the proper food we need.

It would be nice if the judge could send a few of his people down here to do a little time just to let him know what sure hell we have to go through day after day. AFRO Line please do that favor for me. A.A.X.

ANSWER: The warden told AFRO Line he is anxious to talk with the writer of this letter. Try it and write AFRO Line if things don't improve.

THE ROSE

The fragrance of a rose in the spring
Reminds you of the sweet things in life
But the rose died in the winter!

WANNETTA LAWS

THE DUKE with Morgan coeds on his 1967 visit to the Baltimore college.

If YOU Ask ME

by Bettye Moss

Meet a good neighbor: William A. Robinson of Gold St., recently celebrated his 75th birthday at the Penthurst Ave., home of his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. James Milligan, (Evelyn). His wife, Mrs. Sarah Robinson was there to share in the festivities.

Born April 21, 1899, Mr. Robinson is the oldest of 10 children, 9 of whom are still living.

His twin sister, Mrs. Ella Louise Robinson and sisters, Miss Nannie Robinson, Miss Nellie Robinson all of Dunnesville, Va. were unable to attend.

Mr. Robinson is the father of six children, 4 of whom still live. He has 30 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was married for 40 years to Mrs. Alice Robinson. She died in 1964.

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Mr. Robinson, who still holds his membership at the Good Hope Baptist Church in Virginia, was ordained as a minister at the New Shiloh Baptist Church in 1945, and was an elder at Jerusalem Holiness Church in February, 1973.

He is a 33rd degree Mason of the Most Worshipful Hiram Grand Lodge. He worked at B. and O. from 1923 and to 1958 and the Esplanade Apartments from 1958 until his retirement in 1964.

Cuff Note: Mr. Robinson likes to look at flowers and therefore gets plenty of exercise because he takes daily walks just watching the grass and the flowers.

In addition to his to his wife, and daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Milligan, other relatives who helped him celebrate were sons and daughters-in-law, Messrs and Mesdames Louis Robinson, (Dolly); Leroy Robinson, (Odelia) and daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Wilson (Elizabeth).

Relatives from Philadelphia here were sisters, Mrs. Gentry, her son, Gary and grandson, Tyrone; brother and-sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Robinson; sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson.

And sister, Mrs. Edith Malone of New York; sister Mrs. Lula Muse, her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Johnson and grandson, William, all of Dunnesville, Va.

Cousins from Dunnsville were Messrs Roy Clarke, Donald Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. George Turner. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Robinson were here from Philadelphia.

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Other guests included the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Israel Boone; Messrs and Mesdames William Graham and son; Charles Rollins, James Williamson, Alexander Williamson; Carroll Milligan; Bryant Horton and daughter; Robert Harpe; John Milligan; Willis McKnight; Maryland Derrick.

Also Mesdames Margaret Lomax, Mary B. Campbell, Constance Jeffries, Rachel Wimbush, Barbara Campbell, Nellie Milligan, Misses Lillian Mitchell, Edith Harrison, Donna Johnson.

And, Messrs Tyrone Ward; Curtis Whittenburg, Rudolph Williams, Ralph Wimbush.

More guests from Dunnsville: Messrs and Mesdames James Segar; George Turner and Mrs. Louis Segar.

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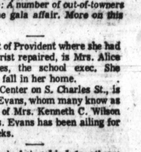
People being kind to others: At the recent Cherry Hill Coordinating Council annual meeting, deserving citizens were awarded plaques.

Cited for "outstanding service" were, Miss Margie Wilson, Mrs. Elizabeth Greer, Donald Simms, and Shepherd H. Burge, Jr., pres.

Surprised honoree was Alvin S. Steele, center director for the area's Community Action Agency. Michael Brown of CAA hailed him for "outstanding service."

Mr. Brown explained, "We wanted to knock this young man right off his feet because for the last 4½ years he has really worked with us. He attends meetings, in hail, sleet, rain and snow to help make us a better community."



WILLIAM A. ROBINSON
Celebrates 75th birthday

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Grad Note: Mrs. Ruth Russell and her brother, Louis H. Russell of Washington, attended Yale University graduation, (New Haven, Conn.) of Miss Louise L. Hall of Chicago.

Miss Hall who finished law school, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James L. Hall, Jr. of Chicago, and the granddaughter of Mr. Russell, a native Baltimorean, who has lived in Washington for many years.

Cuff Note: Mr. Russell is a founder of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a retired science professor.

Miss Hall is also the granddaughter of the late Dr. James Hall, Sr. of Chicago, who at one time was superintendent of Freedmen's Hospital in Washington.

Cuff Note: Mrs. Hall, Sr. of Chicago attended her 60th class reunion at Atlanta University.

Coppin reunion class note. Meetings are every Saturday noon at 1106 Mondawmin Concourse for members of June class of '54.

Get-well-quick cards to Provident Hospital for James H. Murphy, the Morgan State exec., who was rushed there on Sunday. He's resting comfortably.

And, he looked so good earlier Sunday at the elegant supper party at Hunt Valley Inn, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. J. Hiram Butler and Mr. and Mrs. E. Bernard Cooper.

Cuff note: A number of out-of-towners here for the gala affair. More on this next week.

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In and out of Provident where she had a broken wrist repaired, is Mrs. Alice Pinderhughes, the school exec. She sustained a fall in her home.

In Deton Center on S. Charles St., is Mrs. Betty Evans, whom many know as the mother of Mrs. Kenneth C. Wilson (Jean). Mrs. Evans has been ailing for several weeks.

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More people being kind to others: That was a nice thing the Franklin DeShields did (They're the caterers). They gave a dinner party at their Colpy Rd. home on Saturday honoring Father and Mrs. Crayton Dudley and family.

Father Dudley, former associate priest at St. James Episcopal here, has a new post in Nashville.

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Cuff Note: Morgan's new $3.2 million field house was the setting for the commencement. If you ask me, a field house without air condition, (or at least air condition that's not effective) is NOT the place to hold a commencement. Acoustics are poor. Plus the 80-degree weather contributed to the restlessness of the crowd.

Many times during the exercises, people, including some grads, were milling about like they were in a church convention.

Ho hum — some of them even talked when they sang the Alma Mater although they did remain silent during the Rev. Howard Cornish's benediction.

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More Cuff notes: They called the names of all 1,004 graduates — and there's nothing wrong with that. After four long years, you deserve some credit!!

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More cuff: — Wonder why colleges don't pay special attention to those who achieve highest honor. Trimming names on program is not enough. They ought to get special photos and interviews.

Some 28 at Morgan finished with highest honors, summa cum laude;

Martin Lewis Daugherty, history and Mary Raphel Osenburg, social welfare, topped the 792 undergraduates, each with a 3.930 cummulative academic average, while Ronald Xavier Roberson, art, ranked third with a 3.907. All are Baltimoreans.

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Goof: Missing from the second highest list on the program, Mrs. Jacqueline Glaze Wallace, who finished with 3.417 earned degree in social welfare.

Her husband, Thomas D. Wallace, a 1971 Morgan grad, is special assistant to Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

'Black-Owned And Black-Operated'—And Proud

By Jane Jasper

"Black owned and black operated." This is the friendly greeting you receive if you board a Midway Charter Coach Company Bus.

On a recent trip to a Pennsylvania resort, this was the greeting this writer received.

The driver turned out to be Leonard Spence, who says he has been driving for the family-owned company since his dad went in business for himself.

"We base our business strictly on service. We demand our drivers to be courteous, and our buses are always clean and well-equipped. We take pride in giving good service."

Roy Spence, owner and president of the firm was telling the AFRO why his business has succeeded.

Headquarters are at 5029 Reisterstown Rd.

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A former Baltimore Motor Coach and Yale Transportation Co. driver, Mr. Spence has always wanted to own his own business and serve the public.

Mr. Spence started out in 1966 by converting an old bus. Today, the 46-year-old businessman has a total of 16 vehicles.

"We were the first blacks in Baltimore issued an ICC (Interstate Commerce Commission) license, and we operated over 100,000 miles last June through August without a breakdown on the road."

The firm has several large buses and transports customers over 19 states and D.C. Two of them are 46 seaters, 4 are 39, and one is 45.

All have facilities found in other bus firms — and are air-conditioned.

There are also a mini-bus which seats 25 and two 12 passenger buses.

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Mrs. Roy Spence (Bessie), is secretary-treasurer of the company. Another Spence brother, Clyde, handles public relations and safety.

Another son, William, also is a driver for the family business.

Mrs. Leonard Spence (Cherring) is an office secretary.

The company employs seven full-time persons and ten part-time drivers. Roy Spence told the AFRO that, "90 per cent of our business is weekend trips, however, we handle daily athletic programs, including all trips for Morgan State College athletic department."

Mr. Spence explained that they were not "jammed," but they only have a few open dates between now and September.

The family attends First United Apostolic Church, where Mr. Spence is a deacon.

Norman Spence is a deacon at St. Paul Apostolic Church.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE is provided the black-owned family business by Midway Charter Coach Co. Pictured (AFRO photo by Moss) . . . Roy Spence, son of founder of