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)

A—4 JUNE 8, 1974

Ronnie Collins Did

Four years ago when he was finishing Pocomoke, Md. High School, a counselor advised Ronnie L. Collins to forget about college and go into vocational training.

On June 1, Collins graduated with honors from Bowie State College where he won both a Fulbright Hayes scholarship and a Danforth Fellowship.

The prestigious Fulbright will allow him to attend the University of Scotland in Edinburgh next year to study Comparative Linguistics for a year (Oct. 74-75.)

To qualify for the Danforth Fellowship, he was one of 100 students selected from 1700 applicants all over the country.

This fellowship will entitle him to go even further. He will receive tuition, living expenses for four years while he gets a doctorate, in preparation for his college teaching career.

When the story of Ronnie Collins first appeared in the AFRO last month, readers may have been inclined to chastise his white high school counselor, but Collins himself credits her for making him make full use of his potential. "I give her a lot of credit," he said, "if she hadn't made me want to prove myself, I would have stopped growing."

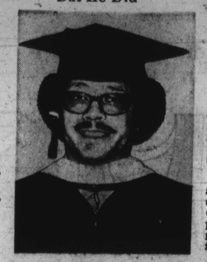
At Bowie, Collins did indeed grow. During his four years he took a leadership role in campus activities, including student government, president of his class and head of the Honor Society.

He went on a 1973 study tour to India. He won a place in "Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges" and found time to be active in sports—table tennis and tennis. Plus, he did student teaching in a Bowie High School this last year.

Not everyone has stamina to rebuff discouragement like Ronnie Collins did. Many end up drop-outs.

So the AFRO is happy to salute Ronnie L. Collins of Pocomoke City, Md. We hope this story will be an inspiration to other young people who may have been thwarted in their desire to further their education.

They Said He Couldn't, But He Did



RONNIE COLLINS — Earned BA in English, with honors.

Counseling, at best, is a hit and miss situation. Too many high school counselors are insensitive to the needs of young people and to their differences. There are always going to be those who write youngsters off because they are impatient or prejudiced, or inept.

Ronnie Collins is an example of one who was written off, but who proved his counselor wrong.

We Told You So!

"The time has come to stop pussyfooting with the 'we can't bus element; and move the educational fate of Baltimore children into the federal courts where there is still respect for the law of the land.

"When the new deadline established by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, (HEW), comes and passes next week there will not be an acceptable school desegregation plan for Baltimore city's segregated school system . . ."

The above quotation is from a May 25, 1974, editorial in this newspaper.

On June 1, 1974, in this space we said:

"Because Baltimore's Mayor Schaefer and the school board have pussyfooted with the can't bus element, its segregation plan . . . is 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 . . ."

There was and still is wisdom in our editorial posture. The adoption by the city school board this Tuesday of a watered down desegregation plan kowtows to protests by a handful of parents, students and maneuvering politicians who would rather create disorder than work to obey the law of the land.

The mandate from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare was specific: — Baltimore was to submit to it for review a substantial desegregation plan to be effective by the opening of school this September.

May 30 was the deadline. Today is June 7, and Washington is just getting its response.

What the Schaefer administration and the school board are sending to Washington fails far short of resembling substantial change in our existing segregated school system.

Originally, a Citizens' Task Force, Superintendent Patterson and his staff had consulted for long hours to find ways to reduce one-race schools, a difficult job at best in a system which is 70 per cent black.

But their efforts were doomed from the beginning. Instead of encouraging the community to cooperate and do likewise, the school board and the Schaefer administration did just the opposite.

The first guideline was that there would be no forced busing at the elementary level to promote integration, a slap in the face to the HEW mandate.

On the elementary level, the Baltimore proposal now would involve 9 per cent of the population, effecting change in just 14 of the 145 elementary schools — a token action.

On the junior high school level, open enrollment is eliminated and youngsters must remain in their own neighborhood schools — another backward step because of our housing patterns.

On the high school level is a crazy gimmick which zones white high school youngsters into the schools in their neighborhood, and zones black youngsters out.

Plus, the failure to suggest an innovative way of combining two identical technical high schools, Mervo and Carver, is inexcusable.

We said it before and we say it again, it's time for the NAACP to take "immediate appropriate action," that is, seek approval of a court approved plan of desegregation so that necessary arrangements can be made to obey the law of the land when schools open this September.

The Baltimore plan to HEW perpetuates segregation — maintains the status quo.

Baltimore ought to be taken to court pronto!

Father Richard Swift

Father Richard J. Swift, S.S.J., was rector of St. Monica's Catholic Church, 400 block W. Hamburg St. in South Baltimore when he won a place on the AFRO's 1955 Honor Roll.

The citation saluted him for working enthusiastically with young people, encouraging them to overcome their pessimistic attitudes.

In particular, it cited his key role in seeking support for the fair employment practice act then pending before the Baltimore City Council.

In the AFRO interview at the time of the honor, the Boston born Josephite priest observed, "God has given talents to many who are not given the right to use them. Why train young people for positions they can not hold because of segregation?

And he added, "Baltimore is handicapped by not using its natural resources. I am sure there are several more George Washington Carvers who are not being put to use."

Father Swift left Baltimore in 1957 to become pastor of a N.C. Church, and was assigned to a St. Joseph Society Church in Washington when he died last week at the age of 58.

In the turbulent 1950's there were not many outspoken voices in the cause of civil rights.

But Father Swift, an energetic man with infectious good humor, dared stand up and be counted. With Rabbi Abraham Schusterman and the Rev. Fred Helfer, he openly discussed community and race problems on a weekly WAAN television show which gained national recognition and featured Dave Brigham as moderator.

His dedication will be remembered by many who struggled with him in the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, the Baltimore Urban League where he was a devoted board member, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Catholic Interracial Council and citizens groups for fair employment, which led to the creation of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

He was truly a man of God, dedicated to raising the dignity of all people. Baltimore needs more Father Swifts today.

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).

A little About a LOT — by Madeline W. Murphy

Provincial Baltimore, Cultural Wasteland And 'Smile' Gimmick Is A Real Farce!

Poor whites, one of the most obviously exploited classes in this city, must have something or someone to blame for their second class citizenship, and the logical underdog, the blacks, are their scapegoats and personifications of evil.

This is why they are hounding blacks about forced busing, an issue led by upwardly mobile white politicians, (some equally exploited lower class peasants), who are gleefully willing to grind our necks in the dust; to extort a feeling of self-worth and superiority.

And though patriotism is said to be the last refuge of a scoundrel, racism in Baltimore holds greater priority, when one sees the numbers of Confederate flags flying over East and South Baltimore; and when one hears the mouthings of the mayor, president of the city council, comptroller, delegates, city councilmen, et al, who lie about the school budget — in better shape than it has ever been — and pander to advocates of lawlessness and disorder, in the name of "neighborhood schools" or "quality education."

The act of being narrow, uncultured, illiberal is called provincialism and though it seems inconsistent with the cultural institutions Baltimore exists, provincialism and racism make Baltimore a cultural wasteland.

'SMILE' gimmick is big joke, says accompanying article

Who, in his right mind, can wonder why toursim won't catch on in Baltimore?

Political dishonesty in the guise of "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours," "reward your friends; screw your enemies," political pay-offs to business campaign contributors, has reinforced the "Them vs. us" concept, the adversary positions that make "Smile, you're in Baltimore" a farce!

And surfacing amidst this mini-Watergate mentality, are political prostitutes pitting one group against the other; dividing in order to conquer the votes of hateful, mean, ignorant constituents, who remain just as exploited and cheated by these demagogues, because they hate blacks so much they would rather deceive themselves; because they need someone on whom to blame their stupidity.

Thus in an election year, all this race-baiting about integration, though predictable, hurts them much more than it does us. (Well, really, they get the government they deserve!)

Moreover, hidebound religious dogma, on the one hand espoused by the Catholic hierarchy, which owns and controls 35 per cent of the wealth and minds of the city; and on the other hand, by the Jews, who economically and politically control much more than their population warrants, preach basic religious tenets like "love thy neighbor," "let him without sin cast the first stone," etc.

This remains superstitious lip service on Saturdays and Sundays, when it is negated the remaining five days in the market place. In the halls of government by powerful religionists, who value greed and graft over sharing the wealth; lies over truth; hate over love; in order to grease the palms and desecrate the principles of democracy and enlightened leadership.

And with opposing points of view in matters of justice, e.g. "an eye for an eye" vs. "turn the other cheek," blacks have become crushed in their vise of police corruption and brutality, punitive incompetence in the courts, prison brutality; always manipulated, exploited an messed over to the point that we are the most unemployed, most mis-educated, most poverty stricken, most imprisoned group in the city.

And yet . . . and yet . . here in this city of over 500,000 blacks, with hundreds of black churches, with black educational institutions, fraternal organizations, social clubs and service groups, interfaced with all our dollars downtown in powerful white banks! ballots uncounted because we don't vote in sizeable numbers; our churches less activist, more country-clubbish, when do we let it be known we've had enough?

Maybe we don't because we've been so successfully divided that we've accepted the spoils of disunity for our self-serving purposes; have become so entwined and co-opted by the system that we are now carriers of the disease of corrupting power and too impotent or debilitated to cure it.

Perhaps we must take on our role as chosen people so that the balm of Gilead will heal the sin-sick souls of these provincial racists.

Twenty years ago with the 1954 Supreme Court decision we started the job, are we now ready, willing and able to finish it?

NOW and THEN — by G. James Fleming

Inner City Teacher: One View

"If I had my way, teachers being trained for service in inner-city schools would be encouraged to forget all that they have learned about 'the disadvantaged child,' 'the culturally deprived,' 'the economically impoverished,' and 'white middle-class values' . . ."

These are the words of T.J. Sellers, a special assistant to a community superintendent in the New York City public school system and a veteran teacher (writing first in the CBE Bulletin, Vol. XVIII).

Most of the professional literature which utilize such terms, as quoted in the first paragraph, above presupposes, according to Sellers, a wide cultural gap that separates the "middle-class teacher" from the ghetto pupil.

He calls this presupposition, "nonsense," and he points to the fact that only the teaching profession is burdened with this presupposition.

He continues:

"We just don't find this sort of nonsense stressed in any other profession but classroom teaching.

"No one assumes that the medical doctor cannot successful cope with illness in the inner city because he was not actually born there, and the record is filled with succesful clergymen of all faiths and social workers who made impressive contributions in depressed areas despite original roots in more favorable surroundings . . ."

Too much stress is put on the "difference" between teachers and pupils, Mr. Sellers maintains, in these words:

"Instead of the 'see how different we are' approach, young men and women entering teaching would be taught that nobody can hope to succeed in it who does not throw his whole heart in it.

"Teaching in the ghetto requires freshness and vigor of mind. It is not an easy thing and it requires a special personality trait.

"The job implies the ability to draw out the intelligence and fashion the character of young human beings in the process of development."

But, it takes character to build character; just in the event we have forgotten. The New York observer reminds us:

"Would-be teachers in inner-city school would be urged to understand that nothing can influence the character of a young person like character."

Somewhere along the way, would-be teachers would learn "the importance of patience, forbearance, and the conviction that every child has a right to be taught by a sincere and capable teacher who really believes that all children can learn."

What about the most serious of all educational prblem? Mr. Sellers has an answer and a blueprint:

"If I had my way, each teacher would be her own reading specialist because she would have been taught to know that there is no great mystery in teaching those skills.

"There wuld be no more special corrective reading sessions . . . when the 'dumb-dumbs' would be required to leave the class for the purpose of joining the slow readers group in the library.

"Every hour in every day would be devoted to corrective reading, regardless of the subject area being considered by the class."

What about "jive talk" and "street dialect" which some "experts" extoll? Not T. J. Sellers. He suggests:

"Teachers about to start work in inner city schools would most definitely be helped to understand that mini courses or demonstrations in black English, jive talk, street dialect, and even Swahili, are not acceptable substitutes for competent performance in oral and written English."

As to mastery of tribal dances and tom-toms, and other ancestral forms, he sees these as "legitimate uses of leisure time, but these activities should not take precedence over the fundamental skills of reading, writing and arithmetic."

Sellers also takes to task the producers of "hogwash" in the name of research, but space compels us to end this sampling of one schoolperson's opinions about this most important of problems, the schooling of the masses of urban America — a public service with the highest demands, fiscal and political, as well as educational.

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 writing to you to seek equity in a situation that I am sure other poor people are facing. I was called in by the IRS for an audit of the 1972 tax year. My taxable income for that year was, $3,858.41. The federal tax withheld with exemptions was $280.

I claimed one regular exemption for myself and 50 per cent deduction for my elderly father. My father is 73 years old (71 in 1972), and received about $100. a month from Social Security.

It was figured that the bare necessities (rent, food, gas and electricity, insurance and telephone) amounted to a little over $2800. for 1972:

It is impossible for anyone to stretch $1200.00 a year to meet the bare necessities. I provided one-half of all the necessities' cost and all of the extras. My father has no other source of income. My income was barely poverty level.

Yet, the exemption was disallowed on my income tax. I wound up owing $123. plus interest.

With the tax system as it exists, I am being penalized for being poor, single, and uneducated to the tax processes. This situation has just increased my anger at this so-called democratic system.

It has been admitted that the tax burden of this country is weighted more heavily on the shoulders of people like me. The question is not can I or can't I pay the amount it is said that I owe.

The real question is will I or won't I pay the somewhat questionable debt.

I don't relish being told that the federal government is all important when you owe them money. This was the statement of a collections officer, at the Baltimore Federal office building.

It is these remarks and the attitudes they reflect that further widen the chasm between the government (of the people, by the people and for the people) and the people.

Poor people need to be educated not only to the tax processes but to the fact that the rich with the advantage of influence can get out of taking their share of the tax burden. And to hell with us who are poor enough to get caught carrying the load.

I, because of no desire for extra hassle and ignorance, signed form 1902-E, so I am not going to court over $123., but I have no intentions of paying it either. What is the procedure for having the IRS review the audit?

MRS. J. B. I.

ANSWER: — David Estey, Public Relations Officer for IRS, told AFRO-Line: —

"I think that it would be difficult for us to respond because it seems to me that the writer is questioning the equality of the tax laws, which of course aren't passed by IRS, but Congress.

"The only answer that we would have to something like that is that if in fact what the writer says is disagreement with the rate of tax, then there is a disagreement with Congress. Our job is to enforce it.

However, the IRS spokesman added:

"We couldn't agree with the writer more that the poor and most people in the country need to know a lot more about the tax structure and the tax laws than they do.

"That is where I come in in a sense. But, on the equity of the tax laws the IRS really isn't the appropriate one to be responding to that I guess."

FOLLOWUP: Last week in AFRO Line Mr. Robert Umphery in answering complaints from some Douglass students who wanted their graduation held in the Civic Center used the term 'off-shoot' in referring to those who protested graduation at Calbert Adult Center.

Although the students of Douglass had a beautiful graduation, they take offense in being referred to as "off-shoot students."

The truth is that the sponsors at Douglass did tell the students and parents that they did not have enough graduates to go to the Civic Center and later after seeing the graduation schedule and inquiring as to why Douglass could not hold its graduation at the Civic Center, were told that all the students hadn't paid their CAP (Combined Activity Program) dues.

We feel as though the underlying reason is because of the disgraceful performance last year, they were not allowed to return this year. If this be true, they feel as though the students should have been told this.

To be called an "offshoot" group, after having worked so hard, (because this group consisted of students with 83.5 averages, honor roll students and students cited for outstanding leadership) was an insult.

(Mrs.) ESTHER MIDDLETON

QUESTION: I am writing to inquire if you know of any plans for a class reunion of the 1934 graduating class of Douglass High School. I am a member of that class and would be very interested to know if such plans are in the making.

When the class had its 30th reunion I did not know about it until I saw the picture in the AFRO. I am a regular reader of the AFRO.

Thank you for any information that you might be able to give me.

(Mrs.) WINIFRED GREEN QUEEN

ANSWER: AFRO Line readers who have such information should write AFRO LINE, AFRO-AMERICAN P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

QUESTION: — I think jury duty is terrible because whether you want to serve or not you must.

If you are a good citizen and a registered voter you must serve regardless what your feelings are.

I was sent a form with many questions which I thought too personal.

After reporting my first day for jury duty I was given a slip of paper with a list of people, including myself, with all the personal information that I had sent previously to the jury commissioner.

I talked to some of the other people about the list and to my surprise there were others who didn't like their business put on a slip of paper where everyone could see it.

This slip of paper is handed to each member of the jury and lawyers coming into the courtroom.

If I'm not mistaken even the criminals get a chance to see who his or her jury members will be. My question is, suppose this list falls into the wrong hands.

E.X.

ANSWER:

AFRO Line spoke to Mrs. Tokarski in Petit Court Commissioner's office. She said:

"Yes. What we give the jurors is the panel sheet that goes down to the courtroom and that has on the panel sheet what the law requires us to put on it, that is, the person's position, employer, sex, age, education and marital status.

"We used to put the address on at one time, but that's been changed. Now the only thing we put on there is the precinct, district and ward.

"The law states that we have to make certain information available to the attorney, so he will know what jurors to challenge.

"When the jurors are taken to the court room for a specific case the panel sheets go along and as their names are called the counselor can follow along on the panel sheet."

Mrs. Juanita Miller in the grand jury commissioner's office told AFRO-Line:—

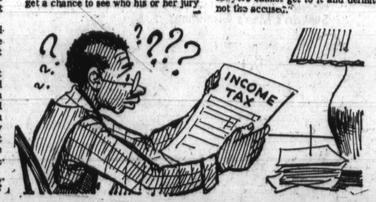
"In order to serve as a juriat, first you have to be a registered voter in Baltimore City, not county. On the qualification forms there are questions to be answered, concerning educational background, religion, etc.

"This is not given to the lawyers. This is sent to the persons whom we have selected out of the computer to serve as jurors.

"This is mailed to the individual. No lawyers has nothing to do with it. When they are returned, they are handled in the Jury Commissioner's office.

"No lawyer even sees the form unless the individual wants someone to fill it for him. We have on that form a statement asking if someone helped fill out the form, if so list their name. They have to sign also.

"This information is confidential. The lawyers cannot get to it and definitely not the accuser."



ARENA PLAYERS AWARDS BANQUET — The AFRO camera was there on Friday evening when Arena Players Inc. held its annual awards dinner at Blue Crest North. In left panel, George Barrick, an Arena director; Mrs. Catherine Adams with Mrs. Zerita Skates, who presented award to Mrs. Adams. Center panel, Mrs. June Thorne Garrett who presided, is pictured with noted author, playwrite, director, Donald T. Evans and Mrs. Evans. Mr. Evans was one of honorees. Fourth panel, Miss Joyce Finney, Western High honor grad this year, holds $1,000 Lorraine Hansberry Scholarship Award presented her to continue studies in theatre and music at Boston University. Pictured with her from left, Angelo Fortunato, Western High principal; Mrs. Christine Moore, who presented the award for Arena, and the student's mother, Mrs. Frances Finney. (AFRO Photos by Moss)

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro American

A—5 JUNE 8, 1974

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.

Democrat Convention

Dear AFRO:

The Maryland News Media is almost totally insensitive to the positive aspects of the political scene.

The negative aspects — Watergate and the like — receive intensive coverage which unquestionably will shape voter attitudes toward incumbents in the 1974 election. Hopefully, voters will identify the honest and hard-working elected officials and support them for re-election.

The positive aspects, on the other hand, receive little if any news coverage and thus an entire side of the political process is ignored.

As an example, how many registered Democrats know that the Democratic Party will adopt a national Constitution at a meeting in Kansas City next December? Very few, in spite of the fact that the Democratic Party is in the eighth week of a campaign to inform them.

Interested Democrats may want to seek election to the body of delegates who will represent Maryland at this Paul Place in Baltimore, has all the information. But how can they know to file if the media will not cover the story?

A new Constitution for one of the two major political parties is a significant event that can and will shape future political activities. Yet the Democratic Party's records show that only a few newspapers have published any stories on the event

There is no question in the value of a free media acting as a watch-dog against corruption in politics. But there is equal value in covering the constructive aspects of national, state, and local politics.

If such coverage is not provided, how the (expletive deleted) are we ever going to get people — particularly women, minorities, and young persons — interested and active in the political process?

JACK HAMPTON
(Executive Director of the Maryland Democratic Party)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Not the AFRO. News story on the upcoming Convention appears in this edition)

Paul's School Audit

Dear AFRO:

Having examined in detail both the report of the city auditor, Mr. Daniel Paul, and the press release of Dr. Roland N. Patterson, superintendent of public instruction, we unanimously and unequivocally endorse Mr. Patterson's statement regarding the 1972, 1973 and 1974 budgets.

Mr. Paul's report, through both its incompleteness and inconsistency, is at best misleading. Because the Special Audit requested by City Council president, Walter Orlinsky, includes expenditures from only three sections of the total educational budget, it is not possible to judge the expenditures in the context of the overall figures.

In addition, certain portions of the report are based on the approved Operational Budget while elsewhere this budget is ignored.

The only rationale for this inconsistency seems to be the choice of whichever figures prove the particular point under consideration.

Finally, it is inconceivable to us that a city agency should release to every available media a report based solely on an internal audit without first consulting the agency examined and submitting the figures to an impartial auditor.

In all fairness, citizens should reserve judgment until they have had an opportunity to read and evaluate a thorough report made by an independent auditor.

DR. REBECCA CARROLL
(Editor's Note: This letter was signed by 20 other members of the Division of Instruction and Curriculum Management, Baltimore City Schools as well as Dr. Carroll, assistant superintendent).

An Orchid

Dear AFRO:

Please allow me to say how much we appreciated and enjoyed Fletcher Roberts' piece about our daughter, Georgette and her matriculation to Princeton University in pursuit of an engineering career.

People sometimes complain that published versions of interviews with newspaper men are usually distorted beyond recognition. Not so with you!

Mr. Roberts' article was especially well written and the interview faithfully followed. The whole affair was a pleasure for my family and we were pleasantly surprised at the number of people, white and black, who told us that they read the article and that they thought it was a very well done piece. So many people seemed to have read it.

We are grateful to the AFRO-AMERICAN for the generous amount of space that was devoted to Georgette.

GEORGE SINKLER

Honor Roll

Dear AFRO:

Thank you so much for nominating and selecting us for your coveted AFRO Honor Roll. The Honor Roll has long been recognized by us as a truly admirable achievement in the community. Thus, we can fully appreciate this great honor bestowed upon us.

(Mr. and Mrs.) SAMUEL BATTEN

'Deeply Grieved'

Dear AFRO:

We are deeply grieved by the actions of the Mayor of Baltimore City and Mr. Orlinsky, and seriously question their dedication to work for the improvement of Baltimore City.

How can they expect to improve conditions in Baltimore when they are underhandedly attempting to divest the city of the backbone by which any society must grow; and, that is a society's educational system.

By the appointments of three members to the Board of School Commissioners, all of whom are white, while only a black citizen is appointed to replace a black representative, the Mayor has shown he is definitely not working in the best interest of our City.

Our present school board is not representative of the school population which it serves.

Even though our schools are 70 per cent black to 30 per cent white, the School Board remains predominantly white. Our City also has a majority black population yet, the Mayor persists in attempting to have the few decide all policies for the masses.

Further, we find the Mayor has shown no respect for the black citizens by the manner in which he dares to dismiss our black officials and representatives from various boards.

We are fully aware of what's happening and we would hope that the Mayor will see fit to reappoint School Commissioner Griffin, NOW, and reappoint Mr. Gibson at the expiration of his term of office.

This would be a first step for the Mayor if he is going to fulfill his duties as Mayor of the entire City of Baltimore.

We must remind the Mayor that the black citizens shall be heard and listened to; that we shall, together, make the decisions.

(Mrs.) VERA JACQUES
Citizens for Civil Rights

Love . . . Pride . . . Joy At Arena Awards

By Bettye Moss

Love, pride and joy were bursting out all over at the 9th Annual Awards Presenation Dinner-Dance sponsored by the Arena Players, Inc.

Echoing the theme, "The Possible Dream," some 500 guests applauded the achievements of their honorees at Blue Crest North on Friday evening.

Their enthusiastic response seemed to be saying they had renewed hope they would reach their $150,000 goal to renovate the Orchard St. Playhouse and make black drama a real force in the Baltimore community.

Mrs. June Thorne Garrett presided at the formal program. Mrs. Marian Morrow, president of the auxiliary, greeted guests.

The Rev. John M. Day, pastor of Christ Edmondson Methodist Church, said the prayers.

Following dinner, the group's first $1,000 Lorraine Hansberry Scholarship Award was presented to a Western High School senior, Miss Joyce Finney, who plans to enter Boston University this fall.

The scholarship honors the memory of the author of "Raisin in the Sun," which later became the musical, "Raisin."

Arena created the scholarship to encourage young people in their "knowledge, appreciation and study efforts in the theater."

Miss Finney, daughter of Mrs. Frances Finney of Baltimore, and Dr. James Finney of Philadelphia, had previously had a Peabody Scholarship in voice, attended the Towson High Theater Workshop and appeared in the TV series, "Our Street." She was also active in the Western High Little Theater. She sings, acts and plays the piano.

In accepting the award she told the hushed audience, "I am deeply moved and sincerely grateful." The audience responded with joy — sustained applause.

Mrs. Christine Moore made the presentation for Arena.

There was also joyous applause when the second citation was read by Mrs. Zerita Skates to Mrs. Catherine W. Adams, member of Arena's Board of Directors, auxiliary chairman of the banquet, who also co-chairs "The Possible Dream."

SALUTE for her birthday and courage gives Mrs. Delores Stokes at Arena gala. (AFRO photo by Moss)

In presenting her the service award for these activities, Mrs. Skates said, "we admire you, we salute you, we love you."

Mrs. Adams had the audience in stitches when she told how surprised she was that she had been selected. "Until my picture came out in the AFRO," she confessed; "I didn't know that they were going to give me anything."

She added: — "I want to thank my left arm who has given me permission to keep going and we have been married 40 years in June. If I had to live life over again, I'd go back and get the same husband."

Here to see their mother honored were Mrs. Anne Graves and her husband, James of Cleveland and Mrs. Sheriki (Nina) Kumanyika, of Ithaca, N.Y. She and her husband, Makaza assumed their names after a recent visit to W. Africa where they were adopted by a family.

Of this: Mrs. Adams commented, "However she wants it, she is still Nina to me." The audience roared approval.

George Barrett presented the third Arena award to Donald T. Evans, the noted author, playwright, director, lecturer and actor and presently visiting lecturer in Afro-American Studies with emphasis on Afro-American Theater at Princeton University.

He is the author of "Sugar Mouth Sam, Don't Dance No More" which was a popular attraction at the Playhouse.

Of Mr. Evans, Mr. Barrett said, "we are happy to salute a man who has packed a lot of discernment in his 35 years."

Humbly, Mr. Evans responded, "It is a strange experience when one is rewarded so far above one's rather dubious achievements."

He added: —

"I think of Alice Chilress, Ron, Ed Lafter and Bill Brook and others. Nevertheless, there is sugar in my bowl. There is sweetness in my soul.

"I think about how "Niger" was struggling to live on Broadway, and I think of the closing of the Lafayette Theater but ... the Black Theater ... is the container which will capsulize the experiences, the contributions, the life-style and the ambitions of my people, the Black Theater, Sam Wilson, president and others.

"I am feeling sweetness in my soul and I thank you. Tonight there is sugar being brought to fruition, the ambitions of my people in my bones, we are moving."

There followed a report that $42,000 has been raised so far. Guests were urged to be generous in giving to the drive.

Theme song for the campaign is "Possible Dream," an original song by Arena supporter, Dr. Ernest O. Brown. Charles Pryor sang the song. Victor Myrick was at the piano.

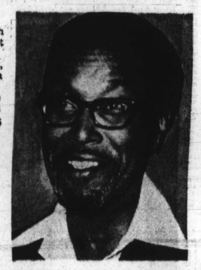
Excerpts from the song: — "I dream a sweet possible dream of things that are full in my sights, of talent, of youth, of opportunity, of successful cooperative might . . .

There was also a happy birthday musical salute by the banquet audience to Mrs. Delores (Bonnie) Stokes, an Arena member since 1956.

Mrs. Stokes, who retires this year as teacher at School No. 107, is awaiting a donor for kidney surgery.

Associates' love came through as they saluted her birthday and her bravery.

Proudest of them all was her mother, Mrs. Sadie Givens, who was seated at the table with her. Mrs. Givens was a Social Security employee for 30 years before her recent retirement.



PRESIDENT of Arena Players is Samuel Wilson Jr.

In addition, there was a special salute to Miss Patricia Fal Walker Davis who was described as a "new talent." She is a counselor in Baltimore City schools without walls and a director and playwright.

A graduate of Howard University, she wrote the play, "The Everlasting Arm," called by Arena "one of the lights which has touched the Arena Players and which we expect to shine brighter for years to come."

The Bobby Felder Orchestra of Washington provided music for dancing after the program.

Chairman of Arena board of directors is Mrs. Camilla Sherrard.

Other members are Leroy Tayler, treasurer; Irvin Turner, manager and director; Dr. Peter Valletutti, Joseph Wilson, vice president; Samuel Wilson Jr., president.

Other board members: — Mrs. Catherine Adams, Felix Anderson, George Barrett, Mrs. Ethel Day, corresponding secretary; Miss Elinor Dimmy, Mrs. June Garrett, assistant secretary; Charles Howard Jr., attorney; Mrs. Mary Morrow, president of the Ladies Auxiliary and Dr. Fred McFadden, secretary.

Auxiliary officers in addition to Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Morrow are Mesdames Marguerite Brown, Louise Dennis, Hildred Jones, Rosalie McGuire, Valerie McNeil, Josie Smith and Allegra Taylor.

Flim-Flam Warning

The aged, blind and disabled are targets of the con man or flim-flam artist.

Mondawmin Social Security manager Jack Sanchez warns: "Persons posing as Social Security employees have been calling on recipients of the new Supplemental Security Income program and promising to 'double' benefit checks if recipients answered certain questions or otherwise cooperated in their 'investigation.'"

The Social Security spokesman warns that anyone promising to "double" a person's SSI benefit check should be viewed with suspicion.

AFRO readers should remember no employee of the Social Security Administration could make such a promise.

All Social Security Administration employees who contact members of the public are required to carry official identification with them at all times.

Any bona fide social security representative will readily show his identification and will not mind at all if you want to double-check by calling the Social Security office while he is there.

If you're not sure, don't listen to the visitor—He or she may be out to "con" you.

More Humane

Dear AFRO:

Education is certainly what it's all about. The not-yet-housebroken child was taught the national pastime (baseball).

I wish the curriculum included a few minutes to teach the little boy, and the parents, that the family's pet puppy (only several weeks young), also needed to be patiently and tenderly taught to do "its duty" outside where it could be easily scooped up and disposed of.

The teaching of this could be almost like a game and people would see how quickly even the youngest puppy catches on — certainly more quickly then we humans did.

And we weren't compelled to go outside while learning. How much more humane this would be, than getting rid of the innocent puppy! — B. J. SMALL

1974 Election

Dates to Remember

Deadline for Filing Candidacy, candidates running in party primaries and candidates filing by petition—9 p.m. July 1.

Deadline for Withdrawal of Candidacy and Party Primary Candidates—9 p.m. July 26.

Deadline for Verification of Petitions by Boards of Supervisors of Elections—9 p.m. Aug. 5.

Last Day to Register Before Primary Election, Aug. 12.

Deadline for Certification of Candidates to Local Boards (Sat.) Aug. 10.

Deadline for Receipt of Absentee Voting Applications for Primary Election, Sept. 3.

Deadline for Pre-Primary Financial Reports by Candidates and Political Committees—not later than noon Sept. 3.

PRIMARY ELECTION Sept. 10.

Reporting of Official Primary Election Results by Local Boards of Canvassers, Sept. 19.

Registration Books Remain Closed 10 days after Primary. Reopen for Registration and other Transactions Sept. 23.

Deadline for Withdrawal of Candidacy Before General Election. Candidates nominated by Petition or Winners of Party Primary—9 p.m. Sept. 30.

Deadline for Certification of Nominees to Local Boards (Saturday) Oct. 5.

Last Day to Register Before General Election Oct. 7.

WHERE AND HOW TO REGISTER: At the Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Streets, Baltimore. Open daily, 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Fridays. You may also register by mail. Forms are available at all branches of Enoch Pratt Library, all Baltimore City department stores; all secondary public schools and at the office of the League of Women Voters, 2318 N. Charles St. Also at the following 23 Community Action Agency Centers: 1131 Harford Ave.; 1517 N. Gay; 706 N. Gay; 1809 Ashland; 125 Colvin; 1500 E. Baltimore; 211 S. Broadway; 109 Albermarle; 1411 Gough; 1309 Bunsen Way; 2500 Woodbrook; 1816 W. North; 1125 N. Fulton; 1031 N. Calhoun; 758 Dolphin; 1619 Druid Hill; 310 N. Arlington; 740 W. Saratoga; 1401 Hollins; 2000 Wilkins; 788 Washington Blvd.; 2416 Annor Ct.; 807 Cherry Hill Rd.

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