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 JUNE 29, 1974

Gwynn Oak Park quits

Mere mention of the name Gwynn Oak Park leaves a sour taste in the mouths of many AFRO readers.

To them, it recalls the unhappy experiences in the 50's and early 60's when public places like the northwest Baltimore amusement playground admitted whites only and used police force to keep others out.

Before the park was forced to admit all in 1963, there had been nearly ten years of demonstrations, led by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), joined later by ministers of both races and other concerned citizens.

There were annual July 4 mass civil disobedience campaigns which focused on the park's All Nations Day Festival because it admitted foreigners but denied participation by black Americans.

For many years, the black demonstrators had no support from their white neighbors. In 1963, when Cardinal Shehan banned Catholic school use of the park, other white ministers and laymen joined black protestants and the die was cast.

Whenever the AFRO thinks of Gwynn Oak, the picture of ministers and students and civic leaders being carted off to Woodlawn Police Station, with an assist by police dogs, comes to mind.

And, we shall never forget the glorious Fourth in 1963, when some 500 Freedom Riders from all sections of the country came to give their non-violent support. And when over half of them were jailed for trespassing, the then Baltimore Co. Executive, Spiro Agnew, showed a measure of statesmanship when he urged police to release them on their own recognizance since they were not lawbreakers in the true sense of the word.

And, we remember too, the late Mrs. Adah Killion Jenkins, long-time teacher and AFRO music critic, whose dogged determination inspired others to picket and protest Gwynn Oak's policy, come rain or shine.

This week, Gwynn Oak was auctioned off by its owners who complain lack of patronage and insufficient funds prevented them from upgrading the facilities.

Further, they contend that integration of the park in 1963 has been 'a major factor' in its decline.

This is the kind of excuse we've come to expect when the complexion of a neighborhood or business clientele changes.

But nobody asked white residents to run to the suburbs and to confine their recreational activities to predominantly white areas.

If the Gwynn Oak Amusement Park lost income, it was because its management did not see fit to offer the kind of recreational facilities to attract its predominantly black neighbors.

Maybe the new owners who purchased Gwynn Oak at auction will catch the vision and restore the park to an attractive playground offering the recreation people who live in the area will want to patronize.

But in their own state?

Athletic officials from the University of Maryland converged on Baltimore the other day and fired a public relations broadside designed to knock down the wall of complacency behind which local sports fans recently have been hiding, to the dismay of hometown teams.

At a lavish luncheon at Cross Keys, athletic director Jim Kehoe, promotions chief Russ Potts and head football coach Jerry Clayborne took turns driving home to news media representatives the importance of convincing Baltimore that the Terps have a fantastic program to sell.

They pointed out that the Bullets have left, that the Orioles are threatening to leave, and that the Colts appear to have reached a state of mutual disenchantment with a large segment of local fandom.

Head basketball coach Lefty Driesell would have been present to add his clarion chords to the Terrapin chorus if he had not been embroiled in the tug-of-war with 299 other colleges drooling at the prospect of signing high school phenom Moses Malone.

A highly attractive football schedule was revealed. It opens with powerful Alabama and includes such nationally-ranked teams as Penn State, North Carolina, North Carolina State and Florida.

In basketball, the story was much the same, geared, as is football, to attaining No. 1 status in the nation.

But, while they professed to see the need to fill the void caused by declining interest in professional sports here, none of the Maryland spokesmen took note of the fact that Morgan has not left Baltimore, doesn't intend to leave, and would very much like to help the Terps put on a show for local fans.

Too, none said Maryland would be acquiescent to finding a place in one of her schedules for Morgan.

So, while the Terps are thirsting for the nectar of national recognition, why would they be unwilling to drink first the toast that is available in their own state?

Commencements

The more we see of Baltimore High School graduations, the more we are convinced there ought to be a change.

This year, Baltimore City schools graduated 2,767 youngsters and adults from 28 schools. Classes ranged in size from 10 at Eastern Adult Center to 1,000 in Walbrook High.

In recent years, school officials have arranged exercises in the school auditorium or the Civic Center, permitting youngsters to invite family and friends.

Unfortunately, too many so-called "friends" of graduates have demonstrated so much enthusiasm the exercises have taken on a carnival-like atmosphere.

Since most high schools hold what they call a senior day ceremony in the school where awards are announced and proper notice taken of graduates' achievements, maybe the school administration should consider another format for commencements.

Rent the stadium and present graduates their diplomas en massee. There, their friends can yell with abandon.

Awarding diplomas in large groups without calling names and shaking individual hands is not unusual. Other large city school systems don't.

In addition, there used to be a time when graduations were occasions for the chief city official, the mayor, to come and shake each graduate's hand and offer congratulations, but even that practice has gone out of the window under the Schaefer administration.

In the last two years he has delegated this responsibility, at most graduations, to school board members and other city officials.

Since the enthusiasm of the graduates and their families and their friends is at such height at commencement time it ought to be possible for them to enjoy the evening without sitting through a formal program.

Put the graduations in the stadium. They could all be one day or at most three days rather than spread over a period of two weeks as they were this month.

No for sale signs

Black Baltimoreans who have had difficulty locating housing and who have been restricted to certain areas of the city for years should have no sympathy for the real estate dealers who are now crying because they can not post their for sale signs.

The new regulation, passed by City Council this week prohibits all signs, whether posted by owners or realtors.

Some house salesmen now claim the restriction would work to the disadvantage of black people because they would not know where homes were available.

In the first place, too many realtors have encouraged the kind of concentration of minority groups in certain sections of the city where their for-sale signs caused panic, thus hastening rapid segregation in former integrated neighborhoods.

Secondly, they have consistently listed only certain properties in their advertisements in the AFRO which appeals mainly to black home buyers, using the dailies for their properties in more desirable areas.

If these realtors are sincere in their concern for black home buyers, there is a forum available to help them—the advertising columns of this newspaper which is just a phone call away.

It has no happy memories for us

A little about a lot — by Madeline W. Murphy

A racist is a racist, is a racist.....

Black folks spend an inordinate amount of time skirting the problem by being indirect in their language.

We use euphemisms to soften the blow. Euphemisms are using mild or indirect expressions instead of those that are harsh or unpleasantly direct.

Thus, the Baltimore Community Relations Commission was cautioned recently by one of its members to stop using the word, racist. It seems that this is an inflammatory expression and should not be used to incite reactions of anger.

Yet, Roget's Thesaurus has no synonymn for the word — doesn't list it — but does have revealing subajitutes for racism like: "racialism, race prejudice, race snobbery, racial discrimination." It just can't get away from the redundancy of the root word—race!

And the dictionaries in my house don't even define racist, it is the noun tacked on to the definition of racism: "an excessive and irrational belief in or advocacy of the superiority of a given group, people or nation on racial grounds alone; race hatred; racist, n."

So what is a suitably saccharine substitute for what we experience from these er-ah, ah, white, ah (expletive deleted)? Any reasonable man or woman must realize that not using the word is not like waving a magic wand; racists won't go away.

The following judgment was made by the Kerner Commission in its report on Civil Disorders in 1968: "What white Americans have never fully understood — but what the Negro can never forget — is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

Tom Wicker, in his insightful introduction to the report warns; . . . "until the fact of white racism is admitted, it cannot conceivably be expunged; and until it is far more nearly eliminated than this Commission — or any fair man — Could find today, how can that great commitment of money and effort here recommended even be approached, much less made?"

In light of the failure of poverty programs, even summer work programs for black youth, that was a pretty heavy statement.

In explaining the black man's chances of occupational success in the U.S., Raymond W. Mack, Northwestern University, in the December 1969, Social Science Quarterly opines, "In this sense, it is whites who have initiated conflict in American society.

"Conflict arises when, in competition, one of the competitors refuses to abide by the rules—when a runner in a race trips his competitor."

And these seven years, after the Kerner Commission Report, have been one hell of a tripping expedition.

Mack concludes: "Social scientists have helped American society to comprehend the dilemma by their careful research on the ten per cent of our population which is black.

"Perhaps the time is past due for us to exert equal energy on careful research into the 90 per cent which is white, and which defines what it means to be black in America."

Now considering the violent, vengefulness of the White House Mafia, the wave of corruption in police departments all over the country, it seems almost too late to do a study that could reverse this uncivilized horde in its road toward self-destruction.

Therefore, if one has no recourse, We, as a people, have not been treated unfairly or indirectly by the white man's oppression. He shows us harshly and unpleasantly that we are an oppressed, repressed people.

My not calling him a racist won't change this, and if this is all I can do, to paraphrase Gertrude Stein, "a racist is a racist, is a racist" . . . and that's the truth.

Washington — by Parren J. Mitchell

And the poor get poorer

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

There is an old song that contains the lines "and the rich get richer and the poor get poorer; in the meantime, in between time, ain't we got fun."

Well, not only are the poor getting poorer, but those coming out of poverty are also being kicked around the system.

A brief time ago, Maryland witnessed the sordid spectacle of housing settlement costs being doubled or tripled in many cases. This was true all over the nation.

Not only were excessive settlement costs being charged at the time the final purchase action was taken, there were also many well documented cases of kickbacks, unearned fees and the receiving of title insurance commissions by certain attorneys.

One case that I remember vividly involved the purchase of a $22,000 home.

The lady involved had made all the payments required, including every aspect of settlement cost.

At the time she was signing the final papers, she was advised by her attorney that she had to pay an additional $300 to a second attorney who had "associated himself with the case."

In 1972, Congress, recognizing the fleecing that was being done to home buyers, enacted Title IX of the 1972 Housing and Urban Development Act.

Among other things, the bill provided for:

1). Strong civil and criminal penalties against kickbacks and referral fees;

2). Advance disclosure of settlement costs to home buyers on a uniform settlement sheet to be developed by HUD;

3). A requirement that lenders give applicants for home mortgage loans a special information booklet that will explain the settlement process and its costs;

4). Limitation on the amounts lenders can require home buyers to pay into escrow accounts;

5). The establishment by HUD on a demonstration basis, of various model land recordation systems to deal with what the HUD-VA report found to be the "root problem involved in reducing costs" — reform and reorganization of public land records;

6). Requires disclosure of present owner, date of purchase, seller and previous selling price of real estate;

7). Prohibits fee for Truth-in-Lending and uniform settlement statements; and,

8). Prohibits seller, as condition of sale, from stipulating that title insurance can be obtained from a particular title company and provides penalty for violation equal to 3 times all charges for title insurance.

In addition, the Department of Housing and Urban Development was given the authority to regulate certain real estate settlement costs.

Under this provision, if an unscrupulous person charged an excessive settlement cost, the party could complain to HUD which could, if necessary, regulate the settlement cost down to an equitable level.

Of course the real estate interests and certain lawyers groups fought bitterly against giving HUD that authority.

Since 1972, HUD has rarely not used the authority given to it to protect the consumer, but the interest groups continued to fight HUD's authority to regulate certain settlement costs.

On Tuesday, June 25, in the Banking and Currency Committee, Congressman Robert Stephens of Georgia introduced, H. R. 9989, a bill known as the "Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1973."

The Stephens Bill knocks out HUD's authority to regulate certain real estate settlement cost.

Although 14 members of the Banking and Currency Committee voted against the Stephens Amendment, it passed in committee and will probably pass in the U.S. House of Representatives.

If that should happen, the prospective home buyer would have his interest protected by the state governmental agencies which, all too often, have worked hand and glove with those parties who were cooking home purchasers by requiring kickbacks and excessive settlement costs.

The words of the old song are true: "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer."

Now and then — by G. James Fleming

Bicentennial -- Maryland and elsewhere

In a few days, July 4—Independence Day—will be here again, and in two years the nation will reach the 200th anniversary of its birth.

According to the custom of nations, this 200th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence should be an occasion for celebration and rededication.

Such a time is also, usually, devoted to world fairs and local fairs and to every other imaginable kind of program. No such opportunity will come again for 100 years.

If anything significant is to happen in 1976, it will be because of the ideas and plans that have developed now and in the preceding years.

Somehow, it does not appear that the idea of a Glorious Bicentennial is "taking." Nowhere is there real excitement. The national effort, itself, has not gotten off the ground; our big cities have little to show except letterheads; ditto for the states.

Some critics say that Bicentennial commissions and their members have been selected more "for politics" than for their knowledge or interest in the American Revolution and the many-faceted experiences that were climaxed by the birth of a new nation—the USA.

Maryland is no exception.

As the resigning chairman of the Baltimore Commission, the Rev. Dr. Norman Van Brunt, put it, planning for the Bicentennial is "really not jelling. . ." The pastor of Grace United Methodist Church also pointed to the "confusion in the leadership" of the city commission is much better.

Black Marylanders need not wait, however, for the official commissions. The predominantly black colleges, the NAACP, church organizations, and the fraternal societies, may jointly or separately plan their own Bicentennial programs.

There is much historical material, involving the nation and its black population, that needs study or that lends itself to pageantry. Just the examination of the concept and philosophy of "revolution" could fill a lifetime.

Perhaps the incentive for a bicentennial celebration has been dimmed by the impingement of Watergate, but Watergate may be the very reason for serious dedication and rededication to something better.

Tragic Watergate

Dear AFRO:

If all the world is a stage and all men and women merely actors, than certainly the tragic events of Watergate should be incorporated into a notorious melodrama.

The major dramatic question introduced in this melodrama would be is the President or is not the President impeachable due to the evidence collected?

The drama's setting would be the impeachment proceedings of "cacotopian" Washington during the year 1974.

The actors for casting would be all the vocal and concerned members from the jurisdictional, executive and legislative branches of the United States government.

But alas, the most important character in this play would be President Nixon. He would succeed in making the tortoise-like impeachment procedures creep on until the year 1976.

He would accomplish this gloomy act by throwing in a series of complications and sidetracks, The White House tape battle, the Vice-President affair and the questionable power of the White House prosecutor would be examples.

Consequently, this cunning character would overide an impending dramatical crisis because by the year 1976 Nixon would officially end his Presidency. Hence there would be no need for impeachment.

HARRIET TANZYMORE

Light in the night

Dear AFRO:

Coming from shopping late day morning, I passed a house in a neighborhood as a young lady sat, apparently in tears, being comforted by an elderly woman.

The elderly woman held the young lady close to her tiny, thin form and patted her gently on her back.

Several passers-by, such as I, stopped to inquire about what had occurred.

"Her brother", someone spoke through excitement, "shot himself!"

I remained for awhile, thinking of what I could say to strengthen the young lady who evidently was terrified and deeply saddened by the catastrophe.

My thoughts suddenly dispersed at the sight of the young black male, carried on stretcher by the ambulance attendants, lying lifeless with his shirt encircled at his chest with bright, red blood.

I was curious then of his motive for choosing such a fate; whether dead or not, I didn't know.

Then I began thinking of how serious this adventure of life becomes when one is caught and entangled in the threads of survival and how its experiences, especially those over which we have no control, seem to choke the very breath from our fragile bodies, the reasoning from our weak minds and the strength from our hearts and souls.

Everything turns black. There seems to be no way out.

Some resort to suicide with an effort to end life, and others to false stimuli in order to escape its complexities.

My reason for sharing this story is to tell someone that there is a Light in the Night. I have found it. It is God!

During the blackness of my life, I raise a simple plea for God's strength, patience and guidance. It isn't long before the heaviness of my soul takes flight and my heart is filled with mystical light. Try Him!

(Mrs.) PHYLLIS QUICKLEY

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).

FAMED DR. KENNETH B. CLARK SAYS:

'Our nation not so afflicted with extensive moral dryrot that it can not be saved'

BY KENNETH B. CLARK

(Dr. Clark is Distinguished Professor of psychology at the College of the City of New York, author of numerous works on race and modern psychology, and director of the Metropolitan Applied Research Center in New York.

(These excerpts are from an article appearing in the May 1974 Crisis Magazine, entitled, 'Segregation — The Road To Desegregation?', they are adapted from an address by Dr. Clark at a private dinner of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in New York, May 17, 1973, which has not previously been published. Dr. Clark's testimony and findings confirming the psychological damage of segregation are cited in the Supreme Court's historic decision of May 17, 1954.)

The problems which now confront those of us who are concerned with any genuine form of public school desegregation in the North seem to this observer even more complex and difficult than those problems found in the South.

Among the complicating factors in northern urban racial segregation is the fact that in the North educational racism is now supported by the rhetoric and manipulations of black nationalists and separatists.

These separatist blacks argue successfully for their own segregated schools.

White decision-makers grant these demands with suspicious alacrity.

Separated ghettos and de facto segregation under the guise of racial control and black power.

They insist that racial pride can be developed only within the context of racially segregated social and educational institutions.

They refuse to answer the critical question:

What magic now exists that will make racially segregated schools effective educational institutions when the entire history of American racism supports Gunnar Myrdal's contention that racial segregation in American life can exist only under the conditions of clear inequality?

ONE OF THE KEY men behind famed 1954 school desegregation ruling gives his views in accompanying article. This 1963 photo was made when he received honorary degree at Morgan State College. Then Registrar William W. Proctor holds the hood.

Racially segregated schools attended by blacks are inevitably inferior whether they are imposed by white segregationists or are demanded by black separatists.

This is true because they exist in a history and a context of racism, and the function of racism is to impose inequality on the lower status groups.

In a racist society the lower status minority group does not have and will not be given the ultimate power necessary to control the quality of its alleged "own" institutions.

The pathos of black students in predominantly white colleges and universities who are demanding segregated social and academic facilities is matched only by the subtle guile and cynicism of white academic and administrative officials who grant these demands with a speed unprecedented in the tortuously slow and pedantic academic process.

The segregated facilities in predominantly white colleges are, in fact, duplicating within campuses the process of institutionalized educational segregation.

They are racist.

They perpetuate the damage done to black youth.

They make it difficult, if not impossible, for these young people to be competitive with others, academically and vocationally.

They reduce the intellectual and psychological and human potential of even the brightest of these young people to an unacceptably inferior norm with the rationale of racial style, pride and "soul."

In reinforcing this pattern of personal insecurity and frustration, and in exploiting the fears of black students, white college administrators and decision-makers are accessories to these illegal forms of segregation on their campuses and, intentionally or unintentionally, are agents of that dehumanization and intellectual inferiority being perpetrated on a whole generation of potential leaders of black people in the United States.

They are contributing to a new form of racial stereotyping and they are adding academic respectability to the racial lie that only the black people in the United States should be denied the right to be judged in terms of a single standard of academic training which is the basis for group mobility and the continuity of middle-class aspirations and success.

This is a most insidious and destructive form of racism.

It is a contamination, a poisoning, of the destiny of a people at the very source of its future.

It is a form of racism that even the most bigoted of Southerners did not imagine or seek to implement.

It can be seen from this analysis that it is now my considered judgment that the most critical issue at this stage of the American civil rights crisis is the insidious, all-pervasive northern forms of educational segregation and racism.

Some way must be found to bring this issue of de facto, subtle, "liberal," black separatist justifications for educational racism before the public and before the Federal courts.

De facto segregation must now be faced head-on with the same relentless, systematic approach necessary for its removal that characterized the approach to the removal of de jure segregation.

If the experiences in New York City, the State University of New York and of the black separatists in private and public colleges and universities throughout the nation are symptoms of the virulence of the American racist disease, then we must move immediately to seek and to impose the remedies.

Because the future of our children is at stake we must assume the risks inherent in intensifying the fight against the many forms of insidious racism. We must seek antidotes to this seeming benign but most virulent national poison.

We must continue to fight on the basis of hope—the hope that this nation is not so afflicted with such extensive moral dry rot that it cannot be saved.

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: Some news articles refer to the new Baltimore City school board member as Mrs. Beryl Williams, others as Dr. Beryl Williams. Which is right? What kind of doctor is she? —N.G.

ANSWER: Both are right. Dr. Williams is the wife of Dr. Roger K. Williams, also of the Morgan State College where she is a dean.

The doctorate she holds is honorary—doctor of pedagogy, — and was bestowed on her in August 1972, by her alma mater, the University of Maine.

Dr. Williams graciously permitted us to have a copy of the citation which was read when she received the degree, to share with AFRO-Line readers.

Here it is:

"BERYL WARNER WILLIAMS — born in Bangor and educated in its public schools; you are an honors graduate of this University with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in mathematics.

"You chose to leave Maine to begin your teaching career in the deep South, in the 1950's and 60's, this was, indeed, a great distance away. You have taught in secondary schools and colleges in Louisiana, Florida, the Carolinas and Maryland.

"Since 1968, you have been associated with Morgan State College in Baltimore, first part-time in extensive programs; then as a member of the English and Mathematics departments; from 1973 as director of the evening and summer sessions; and since 1971 as Dean of the Center for Continuing Education.

"During your entire life you have worked well and effectively with both the YWCA and the Methodist Church.

"Your professional career has been an integral part of your life-long effort to improve education, housing and employment for black people.

"To that commitment you have brought faith and optimism, courage and persistence, and hard, hard work.

"You have said you maintain within yourself "a lively dialogue as to the meaning of the Maine experience and expanded vision of life as the result of pine trees, classrooms and people at the University of Maine . . ."

"If some of your "expanded vision of life" came from your University of Maine experience, then you and we have attained a very precious goal of liberal education.

"A university is honored and distinguished by such successes.

"However, it is because you in turn constantly and creatively work to expand the vision of life of your students and your fellow citizens that the trustees of your Alma Mater interrupt your dialogue to honor you and the work you do, and with pride confer upon you the honorary degree of Doctor of Pedagogy, with all the rights and honors pertaining thereto. Your name will forever be borne upon the rolls of the University of Maine at Orono."

Smile

AS SOON AS THE RUSH IS OVER
I AM GOING TO HAVE A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN
I OWE IT TO MYSELF
AND NOBODY IS GOING TO DEPRIVE ME OF IT. — Anon.

QUESTION: I would like for you to know how much I enjoy reading the AFRO.

Now I would like you to do something for me, help me find a job. I don't have experience at many jobs but I am willing.

Maybe you could put me in touch with the right people. I heard that there are social workers. Is there any way they can give me aid? M.B.

ANSWER: George Purcell of Job Bank advises AFRO-Line that you may come to 1100 N. Eutaw, 2nd Floor, bring your social security card and identification and register for a job.

You make look through the Job Bank yourself or have someone assist you. It is IMPORTANT that you take your social security card or some form of identification with the social security number on it.

Dear AFRO:

On March 7, 1974, the Jessup Jaycees, Inc. (Maryland House of Correction) kicked off a fund-raising campaign to send a minimum of ten visually handicapped children to summer camp for a week of fun.

Mr. Nathaniel Moore, Project Coordinator of "If I have Sight Today Will I Have It Tomorrow," points out that the project has met many obstacles since its approval by the MHC-Administration. But Mr. Moore believes the chapter can still reach its goal by August 15, with the assistance of the Columbia Jaycees, Inc.—who have adopted the project and the community.

Funds for this project are being raised by donations from inmates in this institution and by the sale of applesauce. There are only forty-seven cases of applesauce to be sold.

For more information on how and where to purchase this applesauce, contact Mr. James H. Hubbard, National Director, Maryland Jaycees, Inc., 451 Bendale Drive, Severna Park, Md. 21146.

All inmates or their relatives who have blind children between the ages of 9 and 18 are asked to contact the Jessup Jaycees, Inc., P. O. Box 834, Jessup, Maryland 20794. HAROLD BANKS (State Director)

Wonderful

Dear AFRO:

I am writing this letter to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the wonderful article that your paper wrote concerning myself (George Hill "A Magnetic Attraction To Everyone He Meets").

The article has helped me in many ways, and I am quite sure that it will assist me a great deal in the near future. In any event however, I would like for you to know that you have dispelled the myth that "Not even the newspapers try to assist the rising talents in Baltimore."

Thank you very much AFRO. We blacks, need a newspaper that cares.

GEORGE E. HILL

81 YEARS AGO—"The interests of the Afro-American population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition, should be classed with the enemy."

(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April 1893)

If YOU ASK Me — by bettye moss

New Citizen: A 5-lb. 9½-oz. girl was the Father's Day gift for Mr. and Mrs. Tyrone (Nilene) Harris. She will answer to the name of Tyrene Mache.

Father is a Social Security employee. Mother, who recently graduated from Morgan summa cum laude, is a Baltimore City Planning Department employee.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Skates (Zerita).

A number of beautiful visitors graced Baltimore town recently. This columnist spotted Waterbury, Conn.'s Dr. and Mrs. Louis H. Schuster at the elegant supper-dance hosted by Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority a Friday evening.

The Schusters are parents of Mrs. Joseph L. B. Forrester 3rd. (Karen). He is the young Episcopal priest who was ordained at Baltimore's St. James Church on Friday evening.

Dr. Schuster is a professor of City College in N.Y., and she is a teacher. A pretty sight, seeing over a hundred AKA women join hands to sing their song . . . and Mrs. Schuster was a picture as she announced the gathering was the first large AKA affair she'd attended in many a moon.

Also spied at the AKA affair, James D. Williams of N.Y., where he is director of communications with the National Urban League. He was escorting Baltimore's state legislator, Del. Hildagardeis Boswell.

More on AKA affair — it was wall-to-wall people — so warm and friendly and wall-to-wall dancing, too, to the tunes of Jimmy Smith.

Mrs. Agnes Patterson, Mrs. Gertrude Cooper, and Mrs. Mary Young co-chaired the affair. Mrs. Virginia Vaals is basileus.

Special thinking-of-you cards, please to Md. General Hospital for Mrs. Arthur L. Lewis (Cora), who had eye surgery.

Many know her as the longtime member of Douglas Memorial Church, she is the wife of the longtime AFRO foreman, now retired, and mother of longtime AFRO engraver, William Lewis.

AFRO's intern photographer, Miss Norma Spencer, is doing nicely at Good Samaritan Hospital (Room 331 West). She's the Morgan student who is an energetic worker who has won the admiration of co-workers for her charm and ability.

More Baltimore visitors spied: — at the Saturday evening dinner-dance given by The Schweitzer Men's Club at LaFontaine Bleu, Dr. James S. Davidson, one of the members, had tables of guests, including his sister, Mrs. Dan Cunningham (Gwen), who flew up from Charlotte, N.C.

Club president, William Herring, had among his guests, the famous Baltimore-born soprano, Marsta Gaither Graves, of N.Y., who has recently appeared in Canada.

Others about here looking good: Baltimore's Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Williams (Maude); Mr. and Mrs. Earl Koger; Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Holmes and James C. Partridge Jr.

Cuff Notes: Mr. Partridge was "saying something" in an all-white suit, cut in the latest style. As folks passed to admire his outfit he confessed he'd always wanted one and agreed with them it was something.

By the way, Mr. Partridge was in Atlanta last month for the high school graduation of his brother, Gregory.

In Baltimore, Mr. Partridge is a specialist in institutional services with the State Department of Education.

At the same table were, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robinson (Mary). She is in that new early childhood learning post with the state education department.

This means she and Partridge work in the same building so they had a chance to meet each other and share experiences. Small world!

Civic Forum

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of the Northwest Civic Forum Inc., I'w old like to express our sincere appreciation for your coverage and subsequent article which appeared in the June 4, 1974, edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN covering our public meeting at the Masonic Temple on the evening of June 3.

Our organization has become extremely perturbed over recent events involving the various desegregation plans before the school board and the school budget, as well as the continued harassment of Dr. Roland N. Patterson, the superintendent.

Since so many of these problems were highly technical and complex, the Forum felt that this type of public meeting would be beneficial both in terms of informing and edifying the black community, as well as creating an environment for a dialogue.

We can not emphasize enough the importance of an informed black community, as well as a concerned and involved black press which you represent. Without question, your article contributed to the success of our mission.

THOMAS E. HICKS, (Chairman Education Committee, Northwest Civic Forum)

Grad notes: Miss Mandy Bynum, a senior student in the 1974 graduating class at Villa Julie College in Stevenson, Md., has been awarded an Upper Division Scholarship by the College Entrance Examination Board for the Ford Foundation.

Miss Bynum, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Bynum of Mondamin Ave., earned her associate of arts degree in the fine arts drama, program. She plans to continue her study at Antioch College.

The Alvin Waterses (Marjorie), of Roslyn Ave., had another honor graduate this year.

Their youngest, Carol Anne, finished second in her Walbrook High class.

Honors and awards she earned include, the faculty award; 5 departmental awards, Science (her major), English, French, home economics and the Library Media, which awarded her a United States government bond.

Plus, the Governor's Merit Award; and a Walbrook letter for service; membership in the National Honor Society (she is the vice-president of the Walbrook chapter), and in the Society of Outstanding High School Students of America.

She also received a National Merit Scholarship to the University of Maryland (Balto. County).

More: — She maintained a perfect attendance record for her 3 years at Walbrook, even during the teachers' strike. Whew!

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.

Inmates get degrees

Dear AFRO: When I first entered the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown, I was very young (nineteen to be exact) and possessed only an eighth grade education.

I have since earned a high school equivalency diploma which subsequently led to my being transferred to the Maryland Correctional Training Center.

Although it was at MCI that I first started taking courses from Hagerstown Junior College, it was not until my transfer to MCTC, that I began doing so on a full time basis.

I am now very fortunate and proud to say that on May 26, 1974, I along with five other inmates, graduated with Associate of Arts degrees from Hagerstown Junior College.

After reading those sections of your newspaper devoted to the commencement exercises of students graduating throughout the city, I felt almost compelled to write and inform you of our recent accomplishments. It is all too often that one has the displeasure of reading distasteful and oftentimes alarming accounts of crimes perpetrated upon the citizens of Baltimore.

Rarely does one read of those incarcerated offenders who are indeed making an honest attempt to add to, and not take away from the aspirations of Baltimore and Baltimoreans alike.

Hopefully, I will soon be returning to the black community from whence I came, at which time I intend to continue my education; however, it would all seem to lose its significance if the community knew not of men such as myself who do aspire to be productive citizens. I'd really like to think you'd feel our achievements noteworthy enough to place in your paper.

THOMAS L. POWELL

(Editor's Note: The AFRO is glad to note the achievement of inmates from Md. Correctional Center. Other graduates were, Gregory Brown, Elton Baker, Richard Archey, Gregory Dashields and Theodore Hawkins.)

Mitchell

Dear AFRO:

Hopefully, the good citizens of Baltimore will look closely at the wording of this latest attack on Clarence Mitchell. The key word is "allegation."

An "allegation" is an assertion without proof.

So what proof has been given that any of these "allegations" are true?

A letter reproduced in the paper? Many a businessman throughout the State of Maryland could show similar type letters; offering prisoners, jobs upon their release.

Many have made calls, and visits to the Parole Board and key personnel in the prison system on behalf of an inmate.

What proof of the money that was supposed to have exchanged hands exists? What validity can you put in the testimony in Court of an already admitted violator of Federal law?

If the federal government had this information for months and did nothing — why is it being brought out now? What relationship does this testimony have to the particular case under investigation?

So what has this latest attack on Clarence Mitchell proved? NOTHING — unless it is the fact that there's a sinister force working to discredit him in the eyes of the community.

So Baltimoreans, remember that "allegations" are: "assertions without proof." To date we have not been given proof of these allegations regarding Clarence Mitchell.

WOMEN FOR PENAL REFORM,
MRS. VIVIAN N. BIRD, president;
MRS RUTH FORD, secretary.

Editor's Note: Clarence Mitchell referred to here is state senator from Baltimore City's Fourth District.

How he measures

Dear AFRO:

We hear African nations who "went out on the anti-Israel diplomatic limb," and received a "paltry $200 million from Arabs as booty for collectively going along with Arab exhortations to diplomatically isolate Israel."

The destitute Africans were duped and suckered in. Time will make it crystal clear that no price would have made it right!

What's been done can surely be undone — those African nations will find Israel compassionate and understanding — the break with Israel can be mended.

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell has announced plans to run again and asks for support to keep him in office. Therefore, now would be a good time for him to tell us how he feels about the Arab treatment of African nations.

After all, he said it was because of his African friends that several months ago he voted against aid for Israel. We must know how he measures up.

Knowing his measurements will tell us whether to make a dunce cap or a finely-tailored suit as befits a man who having made an honest mistake has the guts to say "I'm sorry." — B.J. SMALL.

Afro There

Dear AFRO:

Your man, Moses Newson, is very well on the job here in South Africa. We met yesterday at Edendale. We met again today at the Ecumenical Centre there.

I have conducted lectures and a four-day art workshop there. Newson gave a great lecture there giving some ray of hope for the future to a people (youth) who seemingly are in a hopeless situation. Perhaps we two have brought a ray of hope by our presence.

These persons see almost no black Americans.

The AFRO-AMERICAN must mount an effort of help from the black American communities; to provide education materials, money, etc.

The Rt. Rev. Zulu's proposal needs to be acted upon by our wealthy lawyers, doctors and numbers men too. When I return to the U.S. in July, I shall propose a financial commitment which I hope will cause others to follow. — JAMES E. LEWIS

(Editor's note: Mr. Lewis is head of the art department at Morgan State College. Mr. Newson, the AFRO's executive editor, returned from South Africa last week. His first picture-story appeared in our Tuesday edition (June 25). Watch for the next installment in the July 2 edition.)

REGISTER to VOTE

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. to 4:4 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, 1461 Hollins; 2000 Wilkins; 788 Washington Blvd.; 2416 Annor Ct.; 807 Cherry Hill Rd.

SPECIAL NOTE: Register to vote mail envelopes are available at the AFRO office, 628 N. Eutaw St., in downtown Baltimore, and may be picked up during business hours, 8