"I am a man of peace: God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace."
— Hungarian Freedom Fighter Kossuth

# 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)



## M.L.K. birthday hope

Had Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. not been shot down by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968, he would have celebrated his 46th birthday this week.

Instead, in Baltimore and all over the nation, people paused to remember the fallen civil rights leader and to relive the August, 1963 March on Washington.

They recalled that glorious day when more than 250,000 strong staged a massive demonstration for civil rights in the nation's capital.

It was without a doubt the greatest assemblage for redress of grievances that this nation has ever seen.

Marchers came from all walks of life. They were black and white, big and little, poor and rich, Protestant, Catholic, Jew and Gentile.

Nobody really noticed color. They were all marching for a common goal.

And for those of us who were there no one can forget the picture of Dr. King as he delivered his now famous, "I Have A Dream" speech.

It was a moving, touching spirited speech that gave hope and inspiration to all. We knew we had come a long way and wondered when, and if, the dream would come true.

So, on this past Wednesday, January 15, his birthday, all of us were forced to reflect and note that a dream is still just a dream and wonder too if and when it may ever be realized.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose delivery reminds one very much of Dr. King's, was the speaker for the Monday evening celebration in Baltimore City's Masonic Temple.

There, an estimated 3,000 persons sat in rapt attention, applauding frequently, as he reminded them that Dr. King's dream indeed had not been fulfilled.

He recalled Dr. King was right when he said we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check; it is obvious today that America has defaulted . . . . . that America has given its colored people a bad check, a check that has come back marked 'insufficient funds . . . .

Today, 12 years later, Jesse Jackson reminds us the fundamental economic problem Dr. King raised has not been resolved:

Hear him, "Black folks are still getting bounced checks saying 'insufficient funds.' We have been to Vietnam and come back with mutilated bodies, and yet we come back to American bases and we are still getting the same answer, 'insufficient funds.'

"Some of us are a little tired of that now, we are saying cut us in or cut us out . . . . we have our civil rights, now we want our silver rights."

As black Americans in the year 1975 reassess their positions, they must agree with Dr. Jackson that all of us must press hard for a piece of the action, for jobs and for involvement in those agencies which make the decisions in hiring and promotions.

Six years after Martin Luther King's death some of us may be weary because it sometimes seems that his dream and our dream are still far away.

In his famous, "I Have A Dream" speech, Dr. King expressed hope that with faith,

"we would be able to transform the jangling discord of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

Jesse Jackson took this same position this week in his Baltimore speech when he urged support of marches for full employment and a commitment by all to support a move on the economic boulevard.

## To: Senator Mathias

As a leader of moderate forces in the Republican Party, U.S. Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr. would betray the great confidence and high esteem he has earned from thousands of Marylanders were he to support arch-conservative Jervis Finney as U.S. attorney.

Promoting a reactionary like Finney for this sensitive legal position, where all kinds of desegregation, labor, job discrimination and other crucial social-related issues must be argued, would constitute a step backwards for Maryland to which we hope Senator Mathias will not be party.

## School Board spanked

At the risk of sounding repetitious, we have to point out we forecast in this space several times that the Baltimore City school plan for desegregating public schools would be unacceptable.

Our predictions were right. Last week, Peter Holmes, director of the Office of Civil Rights for HEW (Department of Health, Education and Welfare), rejected the watered-down Baltimore plan, noting that instead of increasing integration in schools, it increases separation by race and continues overcrowding to achieve it.

So, Baltimore has another deadline — Feb. 3 — to come up with a substantial program or face the loss of $23 million federal support.

Because some school officials and board members and some politicians would rather discredit the administration of Superintendent Roland N Patterson than devise a suitable plan, we hold little hope that Baltimore schools will meet the deseg deadline.

We repeat — there is need for a citizens' suit which would ask a federal court to fix a program which will remedy the obvious segregation in classrooms and on faculties that still exists 20 years after the Supreme Court ruled it illegal.

## 3 new AFRO planks

In this space last week we applauded Mayor Schaefer's appointment of school board members, so far as creating a black majority for the first time in history. Now, five of the nine members are black.

This action satisfies one of the planks which appears on our editorial page under the heading, 'The AFRO stands for.'

This week, readers will note we have eliminated the call for a black majority, and now list a new aspiration—a black president of the School Board.

We believe the time has come for public officials to recognize black citizens have leadership ability and can chair boards and commissions effectively just as their white neighbors have done for years.

In fact, on some sensitive boards like the school commission, they would perhaps do a far better job. It is a pity Mayor Schaefer did not recognize Vice President James Griffin's ability in this area and reappoint him as chairman.

Since we're updating our position box, we've added two other new planks this week. They speak for themselves:—

University status for Morgan State College and black cabinet officers with meaningful responsibility in the office of the mayor of Baltimore city and the governor of Maryland.

### Thoughts of the Founder

"Just suppose Governor Goldsborough could do with the legislature like President Wilson is doing with Congress, my what a time there would be down in Annapolis.

But if he should attempt it there would be some bucking, and that is no joke. (Jan. 17, 1914.)

J. H. Murphy

## Now and then — by C. James Fleming

### Politics makes strange bedfellows

"Politics is politics . . . Is politics . . . is politics, and politics make strange bedfellows. . . .

Two incidents have evoked these sentiments:

1. Governor Wallace's appointment of a black Alabaman to his cabinet, as coordinator for highway and traffic safety, and Jesse Lewis' acceptance of the appointment, and

2. Baltimore's State Senator Clarence Blount's support of Steny Hoyer as president of the State Senate, in exchange for Blount's appointment as Senate majority whip and vice-chairman of the new, powerful 12-man Budget and Taxation Committee.

No black member has ever served before in such a strategic and high political position in the Maryland Senate, as Blount now serves, just as no black Alabaman has ever before been named to the governor's cabinet in his state.

There is another similarity in the appointments. Both appointers have had long anti-black records, shown most markedly in their opposition to desegregating public schools.

On the surface, how can any black person support, or cooperate with the likes of Wallace or Hoyer?

Questions like this one are being asked, just as they have been asked before, and just as they will be asked again.

And here is where our leading paragraph comes in: "Politics is politics . . . is politics . . . is politics," to imitate Gertrude Stein and, as has been repeated a million times, down the years, "Politics makes strange bedfellows."

The appointments referred to, by Governor Wallace and by Democratic organization man, Senator Hoyer, represent a shifting of gears, an about-face by both of these practical politicians, no less so than the shifting on the part of the black appointees.

If the main objective of all politicians is to win what they want most, then an equal demand on them is that they be willing to change.

They cannot afford the luxury of consistency!

George Wallace and his sattelites had cried "never" to all the political happenings in which they are now indulging.

Their banners and auto stickers shouted "Segregation Forever."

They had made themselves believe (like their forebears) that they had pushed blacks into their voteless, cloutless political place, for good.

Through the years, blacks did not allow themselves to get in the bind where they said "never" to working with whites or to accommodating themselves to whites. Nevertheless, there are countless blacks who get quite jolted when a man like Walter Lewis, editor of a Birmingham weekly, finds it comfortable to share political bed with a Wallace, or when a Clarence Blount, militant activist, chooses to throw his support to one whom in another time he would have called a racist.

It should be helpful to recall that Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson both had terrible anti-black voting records as members of the Congress.

However, they became outstanding Presidents from the point of view of their stand on civil rights issues.

There is a long list of judges, also, who were "racists" as clubhouse politicians but who became liberals and innovators in their decisions in civil rights cases—most notably being the late Hugo Black of the U.S. Supreme Court, an Alabaman.

Perhaps the key issue is whether a black leader supports a Wallace or a Hoyer strictly for his personal gain, or whether he shifts gear for the public good or for his group's political advancement.

Baltimore's Senator Blount holds that his selection as majority whip should be taken as a "victory" for blacks and for his city.

In a recent newspaper interview, he explained—

"I view my selection in the leadership position as a major step towards helping blacks and helping Baltimore.

"As part of the inner circle of influence I think that I am in good position now to make a substantial contribution to my constituents."

Politics—practical politics—often means shifting gears, changing one's position, making strange bedfellows.

We have not heard the last of such politics. It takes two to do the tango.

### Was his dream in vain?

## Washington report — by Parren J. Mitchell

### Congress faces awesome tasks

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

On January 14, 1975, I raised my hand with other Representatives, to take the oath, and was sworn in as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 94th Congress.

This Congress has awesome responsibilities.

It is almost impossible to establish action priority items, but there can be no doubt that the Congress must deal swiftly and effectively with the widespread, mounting unemployment which taxes its heaviest toll on blacks.

The national rate of unemployment is now 7 per cent, and for some blacks, the national rate is 16 per cent, while for young blacks, ages 16 through 26, the rates have risen above the terrifying 40 per cent level.

We can not fight unemployment using the pitifully inadequate legislation passed in the 93rd Congress.

We need at a minimum a million federally created jobs . . . jobs designed for the unskilled, the semi-skilled, the formerly working poor and other such groups.

On Wednesday, January 16, I had breakfast with 100 ministers from all over the country, under auspices of Congressman Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.) We met to plan strategies for enacting a "Jobs Now Bill."

In addition, I am supporting a piece of legislation which another black congressman, John Conyers (D-Mich.), plans to introduce.

The Conyers Bill, in essence would create a government service office, looking for work.

We must pass these kinds of legislation or else we must pay an awful price in terms of crime; individual and group frustration; and violence for these are spawns that nourished by large scale unemployment.

A second top priority for the Congress should be to put an end, once and for all to the abuse of police power.

This shows itself in domestic spying, police infiltration of citizen groups, the keeping of dossiers on political figures and other similar acts which we must move with dispatch to end domestic spying, surveillance and infiltration, when no criminal act has been committed.

We must end such abuses by the C.I.A., the F.B.I. and the Baltimore City Police Department.

## A little about a lot — by Madeline W. Murphy

### The uses of the Devil

The king can do no wrong, so it seems In the latest revelation about Governor Marvin Mandel and his friends, Irv Kovens, and wife, along with other anonymous travellers to the sunny shores of Jamaica.

"Was it a door prize he won? No? Oh, he was a guest of the V.P. from Steuart Petroleum who won a door prize in Philly.

"Doesn't Steuart Petroleum need the governor's agreement to build an oil refinery in St. Mary's County?"

"No?

"Oh, I see, the Governor's against it.

"But with an $818 free trip, plus room and board won't he change his mind?

It would seem that in addition to a special Senate investigation into the affairs and actions of Commissioner of Police Donald D. Pomerleau and the Inspectional Services Division, a full scale State Senate investigation centered around the Governor's activities should be launched.

Angry resolutions against the Governor, calypso ditties, are not enough.

That is, if the State Senate isn't too tied up with its vested interests with Mandel, to begin to serve the people who elected it.

Which brings to mind the latest development with Senator Clarence Blount, and his meteoric ascendancy to majority whip in the State Senate.

Allying himself with bossism, the identical philosophy of Mandel, that the ends justify the means, he speaks publicly about doing business with the devil, if the devil can deliver to his constituency.

This kind of political expediency breeds strong arm tactics, a la Richard M. Nixon, where not only does one screw one's enemies and reward his friends, but even friends sway and shift with personal fortunes.

They, too, become expendable. And constituencies become handy excuses for inaction.

Now is this what black peopls elect blacks for?

When does an elected black politician work for change within the system, (so often his promise).

When does he or she become a statesman by heeding the voices for change from his or her constituency, and at the same time have the courage and integrity to speak out in a principled way even in the face of criticism from that constituency because he or she is right?

We have few proven black members of the State legislature like Delegates Lena King Lee and Walter R. Dean, all too few, who are not tempted to travel the road of cold political practicality and questionable popularity.

Moreover, Senator Blount's vote for Senator Malkus, long a rank segregationist, even though his position as pro tem has been described by Blount's as "ceremonious," keeps the mantle of acceptance and respectability upon Malkus' shoulders long past the time when he should be seriously considered fit to be a senator.

Alas "you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours" paraphrases the devil.

Agnew, Anderson and Alton; Mitchell, Magruder and Kalmbach; Haldeman, Erlichman, Dean and Mardian too, along with 50 other persons and corporations believed that ole devil Nixon would deliver, and so he did, but at what price to them, to you and me?

Too bad, for when one pays the piper he must dance to his tune and there is really no credit consumer law strong enough to stop "piper Mandel" from demanding and harassing until he gets his bugaloo.

For, the deeper he gets into trouble, the more exhorbitant will become those demands, against principle, against constituency, against all.

Such are the uses of the devil.

### The AFRO stands for

- Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts.
- Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.
- Extensive and meaningful black political power.
- Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.
- Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.
- Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems.
- A black owned and operated taxicab company.
- A black owned and operated bank.
- A black president of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.
- Black cabinet officirs with meaningful responsibility on the staff of the Mayor of Baltimore and the Governor of Maryland.
- University status for Morgan State College.



## AFRO readers RAP

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 300 words in length. Address to "AFRO Readers Rap," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

### About our schools-- a principal's views

Dear AFRO:

At the start of this New Year, we in public education of the Baltimore City School System should be highly encouraged at events over the last few weeks.

There were visits to various secondary schools by Dr. Eugene Scott and if only 40 per cent of the things reported by teachers and principals are true, there is an urgent need for a critical look at our schools and some changes to stem this negative tide.

We have a new composition of members on the Board of School Commissioners and this should remove the petty bickering and division from the Board.

Parents have demonstrated great concerns about our schools and the conditions within. These and other events should help to improve our schools and the educational process.

In all candor, one has to admit that we have been doing many things wrong in our schools but we have also been doing many things right.

There are no simple answers to the numerous problems we face, nor can the blame be placed in any one area.

Parents, school personnel, politicians, and the community at large, must shoulder some of the blame for the ills which affect our schools.

After many years in this system, there are some basic needs in our schools which will not solve all of our problems but will start our schools on the road to a better education for all our children.

These needs will not cost large sums of money but only the will to do what is best for the vast majority of our students.

1. We need to establish rules of behavior and high standards of achievement in each of our schools. More than this, we must make these known to all and demand that all obey these rules and strive to attain these standards to the best of their abilities.

2. We need to do a better job of grade placement according to the ability levels of our students so that they may compete and find some degree of success every day in school.

Today thousands of our students are misplaced and they cannot compete on an equal basis. They become frustrated and start to cut classes or hook school.

3. We need to do a better job of training our teachers in fundamental instruction so they can do a more effective job in their classrooms. This is also true of school Principals, and all other school personnel.

4. We need to advise many parents who are highly critical of every act by a school with students, that they, too, are responsible and accountable for the behavior and achievement of their children.

5. We need to do a better job of selecting textbooks and materials which are within the ability ranges of our students and reflect some topics and stories within their experiences.

There are numberous schools in Baltimore which are doing an outstanding job educating young people and have student bodies who would bring gredit to any generation.

The staffs and student bodies in these schools should be congratulated and all citizens would do well to say, "Thanks for your efforts."

All of our schools will show improvement if we have the courage to address ourselves to the five basic needs listed above and make them a vital part in every school.

ISAIAH E. WHITE,
(Principal,
Calvert Educational Center.)

### On police spying

Dear AFRO: Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run, of the Religious Society of Friends, at its business meeting on January 2, 1975, directed that letters be sent to you and to the press protesting the practice of undercover police surveillance of religious and political activists and compilation of dossiers, now being disclosed by the newspapers.

The great threat to freedom comes from the agency with the greatest power, that is, the state; the use of police power requires the most meticulous control.

Indiscriminate grouping of all political activists into the category of "potentially violent" threatens the sincere efforts of citizens exercising their rights of free assembly and freedom of speech to confront problems that arise in our society.

It is admittedly difficult to draw a line between legitimate investigation and misuse of police power, but making this distinction is an essential responsibility of government.

If Police Commissioner Pomerleau directed or knowingly tolerated the surveillance of religious and political activists, he should of course be removed from office.

If this activity was carried on without his knowledge, what failures of leadership and administration are responsible?

We urge positive action to assure that in the future only the rightful duties of the police force be carried out.

ELIZABETH H. FETTER,
(Clerk, Baltimore Monthly
Meeting of Friends,
Stony Run.)

### Mr. Swisher

Dear AFRO:

I have been reading the editorial page of the AFRO which I have been buying twice a week for over 30 years. I notice your recent invitations to the new state's attorney, William Swisher, to give his viewpoints so we black citizens can know where he stands now that he has been elected.

Has he talked to the AFRO yet? Has the AFRO arranged an interview? When will we hear from our new state's attorney in the columns of the AFRO?

When our neighbor, Milton Allen was state's attorney, we could read about his plans in the AFRO, as well as other papers. What's wrong with Mr. Swisher? Doesn't he know over half of the people in this city are black? —

—Mrs. F. G. Z.

(Editor's note: This reader, a city employee, asked that her name be deleted. We have no positive answers to the questions raised here. We have invited State's Attorney Swisher, we'd be happy, to air his views in the columns of the AFRO. Maybe he's too busy learning the office to respond to our invitation. We won't give up. Keep reading us, we'll try to spotlight Mr. Swisher soon.)

### Thanks, thanks

Dear AFRO:

The year 1974 has passed into oblivion and to those of us that survive we have many things to be thankful for and many people to thank.

One of the nicest persons I met in "74" was the Rev. M. H. Coleman, pastor of Unity Christian Temple 1626 Druid Hill Ave.

Mrs. Coleman and her members came into Carver Nursing Home laden with gifts for all patients.

As the cart was rolled down each hallway they sang with great joy and the halls rang with beautiful music.

I encouraged the patients to sing along, the response was wonderful.

My personal thanks goes to the persons and agencies who helped me to make life more enjoyable for others in 1974: — Food Fair, Inc., Arena Playhouse Inc., the Rev. Vernon Dobson, Kidney Foundation of Md., J. J. Brill Co., Children's Theatre Inc. the AFRO's Mrs. Santa, Provident Hospital and the Rev. Melvin Swann family.

(Mrs.) MABLE BROOKS.

## 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. 24, 1920)
(From the Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

## Mrs. Shushu starts New Year with 4 new babies

Mrs. Shushu, the Siamese cat owned by the Burketts, (John and Josephine) of the 2600 block Rosyln Ave., gave birth to 4 kittens on New Year's Day. All are doing well.

Mrs. Burkett told the AFRO the babies weighed approximately ½ lb. when born and were all white. Now their ears and faces are beginning to darken, and their eyes are still closed.

The newborns are still nursing their mother and sleep in a box and blanket in the Burkett's clothes closet.

"Shushu has been dating a Siamese who has the same markings, but he is much larger, so I know the kittens are going to be beautiful." Mrs. Burkett remarked.

The Burketts have two daughters, Lorraine 18, a nursing student, and Janice 24, who discovered that the kittens had been born.

"We've always liked cats. They are good pets and we are going to enjoy watching them grow. I will perhaps sell one or two to persons who have requested them but I intend to keep the others," Mrs. Burkett said.

Mr. Burkett is employed as a mechanic and Mrs. Burkett is a nursing assistant.

The Burkett family attends St. Pius Catholic Church at Schroeder St. and Edmondson Ave. in west Baltimore.

NEW YEAR JOY for Mrs. Shushu meant four new babies.

STORY OF VISIT TO SOVIET UNION CONTINUES:

## Part 3—No wonder Pushkin loved Leningrad

By Madeline W. Murphy

(This is the third in a series of four articles by Mrs. Murphy about her recent visit to Russia. Previous articles have told of her trip with a seven-member delegation led by George B. Murphy Jr. Highlight of the 15-day tour was rededication of a mountain range in Kirghizia, named in honor of famed American singer Raul Robeson in 1948. The writer also detailed impressions of Soviet residents of African descent who live in Russia.)

On a dreary rainy morning, after a six hour flight, we returned to Moscow. We were to board the legendary night train to Leningrad that same evening.

Our arrival at a different airport gave us the opportunity to ride through the outskirts of the city through the birch tree forests.

As far as the eye could see, deep within the forest, the white trunks gave the illusion of infinity like the whiteness of snow.

After our hurried trip through so many republics, we felt that it was a time for a party, and the ideal time would be on the train to Leningrad.

After a bit of detective work, gestures, halting German, we finally found supplies for our supper.

Now we knew why everyone carried such over sized pocketbooks and brief cases for the bread was wrapped in a tiny bit of tissue and like the Soviets, we learned that our huge purses so convenient for personal articles, were equally practical when food shopping.

The Red Arrow (Krasnaya Strela), the luxurious overnight train from Moscow to Leningrad, makes the trip in eight hours — 55 minutes by air.

At a regular speed, the train could make the trip in five hours, but it is intentionally slowed from time to time so that passengers can enjoy a full night's rest.

The pullman train slept two to a compartment. It was every bit like a fictional continental train seen in the movies, with oriental carpeting in the rooms and hallways, samovars for tea at the end of corridors and wide crisply curtained windows.

The train glided out of the station exactly at midnight, while piped in music played popular and classical tunes.

The smooth rolling wheels and gentle rock of the train eased us into the deepest peaceful slumber we had experienced since our arrival in the Soviet Union.

Leningrad, the city of Lenin, formerly the capital of Tsarist Russia, once St. Petersburg, then Petrograd, is the loveliest city I have ever seen.

Of Leningrad, Alexander Pushkin wrote, "I love you Peter! Great creation, your stately aspect, perfect ranks. The Neva River's undulation, the granite vestments of its banks."

As the northern most metropolis of the world, the climate is cooler, the days longer, since the sun does not set until 10 p.m.

This city, built upon a swamp, requires 600 bridges to connect its glorious palaces and gilded towers.

The majestic Winter Palace, now the State Hermitage Museum, faces a square which harked back to the storming of the palace at the time of the October Revolution when cadets, even middle-class girls, waited for the renowned ship, Aurora, to signal them to begin the revolution.

Hermitage means "Hermit's place" and it got its name during the reign of Catherine the Great because she vowed that its treasures should only be seen by the mice and her!

It houses the world's greatest art collection, the world's largest collection of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, with some 2½ million works all told.

Some 3 million people visit during the year. It has been calculated that if one spent ten minutes in front of each work, it would take nine years to see everything.

The enormous wealth of the nobility is now the property of the people. On our tour of the Hermitage, where royal jewels of Catherine the Great are displayed, one can see the pride of the elderly bemedaled women who guard the rooms, who gently caution from time to time, not to lean on the cases or touch them, always with a smile.

There are many other attractions, entertainment spanning diverse interest, from circus to ballet.

We, not unlike regular tourists, visited the circus on our first evening in Leningrad.

The high point was the hockey game played between two teams of five Kodiak bears showing great dexterity and ferocity.

Known as much for ballet as Moscow, we were fortunate, during our last evening to attend "Gayeneh" by Aram Khatchetourian, in which the famous "Dance of the Sabers" gave a resounding finale to the patriotic folk ballet, steeped in native folk lore and idiom, about cotton pickers on a collective farm in Soviet Armenia.

ALEXANDER PUSHKIN — "It is deplorable we are taught so little about him in the USA" says accompanying article.

Play bills of the American company of "Porgy and Bess," though prominently displayed on foyer walls, indicated interest in American music although that particular musical does not give an accurate picture of blacks in America.

Our hostess, Tanya Zhukova, who spoke flawless English, is an offical at the Leningrad Friendship House.

She knew the prima ballerina who was married to one of her co-workers.

She took us back stage to meet the whole company.

They greeted us with applause and we in turn applauded them, for they had offered us quite an entertaining evening.

It was a strange sensation, however, to be greeted with such warmth, when we were merely visiting "firemen"!

The square in which the ballet theatre was situated was a half block's walk from the Hotel Europa where we stayed.

The entrance to the square was dominated by an imposing statue of Alexander Pushkin. Behind it was a beautiful park and the Pushkin Drama Theatre.

As we walked in the twilight of the late summer evening, Tanya turned to wave, interrupting our conversation.

"Who are you waving to?" we asked.

"Ah," she smiled, "I was saying good-night to Pushkin!"

We were indeed in the land of the genius and Russia's premier poet, Alexander Pushkin, grandson of African, Abraham Hannibal.

Here in Leningrad, as in all sections of the Soviet Union, he is revered as the earliest revolutionary, and the greatest influence in Russian literature.

We toured Pushkin Vilage, formerly Tsars Village, where as a young man Pushkin attended the Lyceum (secondary school) that faced the Church of Catherine the Great; however now the church is the museum honoring him, where only those manuscripts, pictures and memorabilia, which he saw with his own eyes are displayed.

Many of the manuscripts are illustrated by him, self portraits, in profile; a scene or animal; or sketches of close friends.

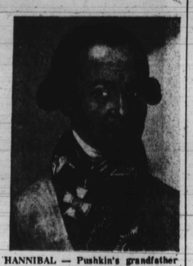
He was very ashamed of his appearance, for he considered himself ugly.

Few paintings of Pushkin exist, yet a marble bust, a rare, replica of his African feature graces the entrance to the museum in Pushkin Village.

Pushkin's maternal grandfather Abraham Hannibal became a servant to Peter the Great, who taught him, baptised him and even offered to name him Peter.

But he rejected the name for Abraham Hannibal.

He first was Peter's valet, then his secretary, and finally was sent to France, where he was trained as a civil engineer.



HANNIBAL — Pushkin's grandfather was half black, his father having been an African.

Upon his return to Russia, he occupied the position of Chief Engineer of Russia, and built numerous fortresses throughout the empire.

His knowledge of mathematics and engineering was phenomenal.

Despite being upperclass, the Pushkin family was the first such family to break away from this background to show concern for the serfs.

Alexander Pushkin lost favor with the regime for this very reason.

At 37, he was killed in a duel protecting the honor of his wife and family. His body was spirited away and he was secretly buried on the grounds of his summer home, where now more than 100,000 Soviets visit his grave during their vacation period.

Pushkin had four children and today 61 descendants live in the USSR, and 61 live in different countries of the world.

Shortly before he died, he seemed to have had a premonition, for he wrote these words: "I am going to die soon, but loving my shadow, please save my manuscripts for yourself.

"And when stormy times should pass, come as a crowd, come sometime to read these manuscripts of mine.

"And listening to these lines, you will say, 'It's him, that is his speech,' and forgetting my grave of sleep, I will rise invisibly among you, to sit and listen to myself."

The long lines of visitors around the museum certainly answer his plea.

As famous and revered as he is in the Soviet Union, it is deplorable that we are taught so little about him in the U.S.A., and have read so few of his works.

More unfortunate is the fact that so few of us are aware of his African heritage.

Thus in the United States, unlike the Soviet Union, black history remains lost, strayed and stolen.

Conclusion next week: 'Slave great grandson in Moscow.')

## If YOU ask ME — by Bettye Moss

One of Baltimore's most eligible bachelors is out of circulation — in fact he has been since Dec. 14.

That's the date Frederick (Freddie) A. Howard and Patricia Gordon of Georgetown, Guyana, tied the knot. He flew to her South American hometown for the pre-Christmas wedding.

The double ring rites were witnessed by her two daughters by a previous marriage, Allison, 14; and Mary, 10.

Mr. Howard is vice president in charge of production for this newspaper and a grandson of founder, John H. Murphy Sr.

In fact, it was his grandma, Martha Elizabeth Howard Murphy, who loaned grandpa the $200 to purchase the four-page church paper 83 years ago which has grown to be the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper chain.

Mr. Howard's first wife, Odessa, died in June, 1970. They had no children.

More love notes: Dr. Lois Young, the opthalmologist (eye specialist), has a sparkler on the right finger which will knock your eye out!

It is the Christmas eve engagement ring given her by Dr. Clarence Beverly, the anesthesiologist.

No date has been set for the wedding, but it will be some time before they embark on a May honeymoon in the Mediterranean.

Many know Lois as the only daughter of the late and famed Dr. Ralph Young, longtime East Baltimore physician and friend to many and Mrs. Addie Young, a devoted wife and mother.

Those who know of Lois' loving attention to her ailing mother in her last years and her equally loving care of her dad in his last days will join this column in wishing her much happiness in her new life.

There is more: The engaged couple is 'thinking about' deserting Baltimore for permanent residence in San Diego.

Oddity: Dr. Beverly and Dr. Young have had parallel professional careers. They were at Howard U. medical school about the same time. When she was an externe at Provident Hospital, he was an intern.

Many may remember Dr. Beverly, who hails from D.C., was one of the first of our doctors to serve his residency at University Hospital here. He is now on the staff at Beth Israel Hospital in Newark. Dr. Young is on the University Hospital faculty.

More People Moving About: The Samuel Blackwells (Pauline) postcard from the Caribbean but will be home frm their cruise by the time you read this. In fact, as soon as they returned this week, Mr. Blackwell entered Hopkins Hospital where he had eye surgery (cataract), on Thursday.

Baltimore born Mrs. Mildred Lynch Mebane and her husband, Floyd, are back in Los Angeles. They had been here visiting relatives, guested at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Leroy and Ruby Lynch.

Here on a sad mission last week: Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Newkirk, (Alice), of Mt. Vernon, N.Y. and their daughter, Lauren.

They guested with her sister and brother-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Dedmond. Mrs. Newkirk and Mrs. Dedmond are sisters of Mrs. Frankie McClain Wilson who was buried here on Saturday.

At the new Morton-Dyett West Funeral Home the array of flowers from Baltimore, N.Y. and her native Nashville, Tenn. attest to the esteem in which Mrs. Wilson was held.

She was the widow of Dr. Edwin Wilson of N.Y. Since moving here three years ago, she had continued to work with young people and with organizations she had served for years, Phi Delta Kappa, American Association of University Women and the flowers showed they remembered.

Thinking - of - you-cards, beverly, who hails from D.C., was one of the first of our doctors to serve his residency at University Hospital here. He is now on the staff at Beth Israel Hospital in Newark. Dr. Young is on the University Hospital faculty.

And do remember Marvin C. Davis, the Community College of Baltimore faculty member. He buried his mother, Mrs. Addie Pearl Davis, on Thursday.

At Faith Baptist Church, where she spent many years as teacher and missionary worker, the floral tributes at the Wednesday evening rites were evidence that people did indeed remember.

Mrs. Davis' death this week at the age of 78 makes three in the immediate family in two years — son, Curtis, and daughter, Pauline Teal, both died in 1972. Another daughter, Marion, who was Marvin's twin, died in 1944. Papa Davis (Emmett Bland) died in 1969.

Pleasant people met this week at the Sunday evening dinner theatre scholarship benefit sponsored by the Baltimore chapter of Chi Delta Mu Fraternity: — Dr. and Mrs. George Miller (Marian). He's with the Department of Agriculture in D.C.

They were guests of the Samuel Owingses and the Eric Whites.

More romance: Spied in the crowd — Dr. Percival Smith and his bride, Claudine, looking just radiant.

Small world department: At intermission, this writer leaned over to say hi to the couple in front and discovered they had been subjects of an item in this column, almost ten years to the date.

They were Dr. and Mrs. Lionel Rose (Ethel).

In 1965, we talked about how helpful and understanding Dr. Rose was when he treated our sick child at Provident Hospital where he was a staff pediatrician (baby doctor).

Today, glad to report some more good news about Dr. Rose and family — Colleagues say he gives devoted service at the Provident Hospital Comprehensive Neighborhood Health Center and also finds time to chair a sickle cell fund effort in our town.

Cuff note: There are four Rose children, Jacqueline, 12, who attends Wild Lake; David, 11, Harper's Choice Middle School; Kevin, 8, Longfellow Elementary, all in Columbia; and Michelle, 5.

People looking good: At the Chi benefit: Mrs. Joan Powell, attractive in red three-piece suit with midriff. She was squired by Dr. Ralph Howard.

Also 'saying something' here: Mrs. Verdine Hawkins, wife of Dr. Irving Hawkins. She wore a silver sweater ensemble with her long skirt.

Caller nominates the brave young woman employed at Murry's Steakhouse at Bloomingdale and North.

When robbers invaded the store on Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 15), she refused to budge and put the whammy on them, held them until police arrived.

Note to Dundalk High School youngsters who called this newspaper on MLK holiday to complain that school officials did not give them a holiday; — Get started now, urge your school board in Anne Arundel County and your state lawmakers to include this holiday in your school schedule.

### Mr. Bumble's prayer

Dear God, may we learn to talk with you about everything that we want to do, whether at work or at play, for we know that you will always guide us in making the right decision.

(Suggested by Mrs. Bernice B. Lewis of Forest Park Ave.)

Share your favorite prayer with the AFRO's Mr. Bumble, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.