I am an American, and as an American, I would speak to America... Frederick Douglass-1817-1895

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)

Patterson report card

Personnel experts caution supervisors who fail to give thought and careful consideration in their appraisals of employees.

They suggest that such evaluations should be free of personal feelings, impartial judgments supported by facts.

'Be square and fair. . .rating with care and thought. . .consider instances typical of his work. . .rating all isolated events, good or bad, that are unusual and might tend to color your evaluation." This is the warning on one major firm's rating sheets.

"Industry learned a long time that one of its biggest headaches was caused by careless supervisors who failed to follow this sage advice. Several lawsuits later, they employed experts to make sure their evaluation processes were objective.

The preliminary School Board evaluation of Superintendent Patterson is a disjointed four-page summary which concludes:

"A review of all categories and the criteria contained therein demonstrate the following general conclusions:

A. There is a substantial problem with weakness in performance in the very important area of relationships between the Superintendent and the Board.

B. An even more serious lack of performance is noted in the area of Staff and Personnel Relationships.

C. Performance in the areas of Community Relationships and Business and Finance attain an adequate level.

D. Educational Leadership is rated slightly above adequate.

E. No substantial deficiency exists in the area of personal qualities with the possible exception of the problems of credibility and authoritarianism.

But there appears to be a conflict in rating when the entire report is reviewed. It shows rating in 52 performance areas.

Thus, he is 'outstanding or 'well above average' in 12 areas, including, "knowledge of professional programs," and "maintaining, inspiring others to highest professional skills."

In 12 other categories, he is 'above average', ranging from, "determines that funds are spent properly," to "organizes a planned program of curriculum" "gains respect of community".

In the "adequate," section, he gains 10 other points, ranging from, "keeps board informed, to 'supports board policy to demonstrates ability to work well with individuals and groups."

In the 'below adequate' are 10, from 'works effectively with public and private agencies, to 'understands his role in administration of board policy."

In the 'well below "category are 8 points, including, 'has harmonious relationship with board,' to, "treats all personnel fairly. .'

If one attempts to assign college marks to this report, the result would come out something like this- 'Outstanding or well above average,' equivalent to A, equals 48 points; 'Above adequate 'or B 36; Adequate or C, 20; Below adequate or D, 10 points; Well below adequate or E, 0 points.

In the 52 areas it seems the superintendent has a total of 24 A's and B's; 10 C's, 11 D's and 8 E's or an average of 114 points, 10 above C point average of 104 points.

If this is cause for dismissal, the School Board supervisors need to share more information with the public than they have so far.

A good supervisor does not ask for dismissal of an employee whom he ranks 'Outstanding' in one section of an evaluation sheet and 'below adequate' on the same subject in another section. What he does is open himself to criticism and perhaps legal action.

It is hoped the School Board will clarify its findings as it proceeds to complete its evaluation and that it will not jump the gun in firing its no. 1 employee before he has had a chance to respond to the ratings.

Some segments of the community have felt this was the "game plan" all along and that the evaluation hearing was simply a smokescreen to 'punish' the first black superintendent who dared bring innovative educational programs and change to benefit Baltimore school children for which he was paid the "unheard of" sum of $50,000 a year.

Police report

Released this week is Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau's 1974 report. It is a 15-page, 8½ by 11 booklet printed on fine grade paper.

A stranger reading this report would gather that the Baltimore Police Department is nearly lily-white.

The first seven pages give charts and pictures of all white officers, the commissioner, the mayor, the governor and three deputies.

On pages 10 and 11, the backs of two black employees are shown. Only front face of black person is slain patrolman Milton Speid on page 15.

This is the department's own report and it confirms previous complaints - the Baltimore City police department is not truly representative of the population it serves.

Today, in 1975 of 2,799 officers only 436 are black, none high enough to be featured in the annual report. Of the 3,451 persons on the force, just 527 are black.

Patrick Murphy, a nationally known police chief addressing the Congressional Black Caucus earlier this month had good advice. He said "that in cities like Baltimore and Washington where the majority population is black, it is "very desirable" to have police departments "more representative."

He suggested "enlightened" police chiefs should take heed. We believe Commissioner Pomerleau is such an "enlightened" person.

An equal opportunity specialist could help him improve his picture book report on the department.

Gov. Mandel judgeships

Maryland's Gov. Marvin Mandel has another opportunity to improve the distressing inequity in the state's predominantly white courts of record.

The 1975 Legislature has created five new Circuit Court judgeships in Baltimore City and 4 counties, and one additional District Court (police) seat for Prince George's County.

The vacancy for Baltimore city is on the Supreme Bench where all but 4, (Cole, Howard, Watts, Hargrove) of the authorized 22 jurists are white. This is poor representation for a city which is over half black.

Except for Baltimore City and Prince George's Judge James Taylor, Maryland has no other black Circuit Court judges among the . . 85 authorized.

On the District Court level, there is a total of 59 judges authorized in the state. Here again, all are white except for Prince George's, Henry P. Johnson, and Baltimore city, where just 4 (Bell, Baylor, Bundy, Murphy) of the 22 judges are black.

Applications for the judgeship vacancies are being accepted now.

In Prince George's and Baltimore city particularly, where political and civic leaders are sensitive to the urgent need for change, there should be active support for black judges.

Interested groups and individuals may send recommendations of prospective candidates to the State Court Administrator, Court of Appeal Building, Annapolis, Md. 21401.

Lawyers interested in appointment should rush a request for questionnaires to the Secretary to the Commission, William H. Adkins, II; State Court Administrator, Court of Appeal Building, Annapolis, Md., 21401, telephone 267-1141.

Fifteen (15) copies of the completed questionnaire form must be returned or delivered so as to reach the State Court Administrator NOW. Deadlines are June 10, 13 and 24.

The racial composition of Maryland's court system presents such an appearance of calculated bias that it could be accused of contributing to a lack of regard for the quality of justice it dispenses.

Those officials, including Gov. Mandel, who are in a position to do something about this indictable situation should not waste this opportunity for an affirmative action appointment.

"Evaluation, shucks, they don't care how good a job he's done. They are only worried about a black man making $50,000..."

A little about a lot ____ by madeline w. murphy

Maze of contradictions-malpractice insurance

Doctors are now being faced with patients who will sue them for malpractice in increasing numbers, whether they perform adequately or not.

Insurance companies, unwilling to bear the brunt of soaring settlements, are pricing themselves out of the market to get out of writing unprofitable malpractice insurance, altogether.

Because there has been such a dramatic drop in the stock market, where investments and cash reserves have been dangerously diminished, it is more profitable for them, and actuarily predictable, to write fire and life insurance.

To becloud the issue, no longer is it only a doctor's expertise, or lack of it, that decides the outcome of malpractice litigation, but whether the patient's condition at the time of operation, masks an unusual complication, or whther oxygen or drugs administered, reveal, belatedly, a deadly or allergic reaction.

(This was the case in 1952, in New York City, when a premature baby was given oxygen, standard operating procedure in those days, that caused blindness.

Two decades later, she settled prematurely for $165,000, when the jury was prepared to award $900,000 in damages. It is alleged that lawyers are now searching for like cases).

Consequently, New York doctors are seeking ways to limit malpractice damage awards, and lawyer's contingency fees; to develop impartial panels that provide expert medical advice to juries, a sharper legal definition of malpractice and a study commission to examine the new malpractice insurance law.

It is interesting, as well as agonizing, to watch the dynamic reactions of doctors, who now, like unions, launch job actions as in N.Y. and Calif., (and threaten it here), when their malpractice insurance runs out.

We see doctors becoming entrepreneurs, forming their own insurance companies; of the adversary, rather than the advocacy relationship, between doctor and patient; and the possibility that all fees to patients will rise markedly to provide the doctors with adequate protection against litigation.

Now the economy, that is weakened like a house of cards, has engulfed doctors, who have so long been aloof from, yet supportive of the conservative trend in the political process.

It is also against this background that drug companies continue pushing drugs at a frantic rate, outpacing the Food and Drug Administration's ability or willingness to test them, to the extent that more malpractice suits will be probable, as the number of human guinea pigs increase.

Yet, at the same time, doctors move toward a more "defensive medicine," as a hedge against suits that will cause patients to be either over-tested, under medicated and maybe a few lucky ones might even escape unnecessary surgery.

Nevertheless, the humanitarian interest embodied in the Hippocratic Oath seems readily expendable.

Inevitably, it is a widening dog-eat-dog system of fighting among ourselves. Now doctors, lawyers, insurance companies and legislators, joining the ranks of white vs. black, union vs. non-union, landlord vs. tenant.

It seems to be a continuation of the great design, encouraged by the free enterprise system, that cares least about the survival of the rank and file, who in the final outcome should be the main consideration of a democratic society.

One answer to this maze of contradictions, however, is the example of the Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in Watts, Calif. where the staff struck for a five per cent raise at the risk of their jobs, and when they got it, put the increase into a fund to provide better community services.

At least, this is a beginning.

Now and then ____ by g. james fleming

The Golden Rule in public affairs

I have been worriedly wondering for the past several days of what Dr. Beryl Williams and David Sloan, both Baltimore City school commissioners, really had in mind when they "broke ranks" and announced how they would vote in the Roland Patterson evaluation — before the evaluation was completed.

What the vote of Dr. Williams and Mr. Sloan is is not important at this instant; but it is very serious business that two otherwise responsible adults violated either written or unwritten rules, mutually agreed upon.

It could not be for the headlines, because they both get ample press attention; it could not be that they were pressured (or were they?), because they would both assert and swear that they are beyond pressure.

Why then, really, did they blurt out, although in formal style, that they would vote in favor of Superintendent Patterson and the way he has conducted the Baltimore school system during the past nearly four years?

It did not help orderly process, either, that in a tit-for-tate attitude, another commissioner, Dr. W. Eugene Scott felt compelled to announce that he would vote against Dr. Patterson.

The three commissioners referred to, and Dr. Patterson himself, all serve on several boards and head projects where they indulge in "closed door" meetings.

That the official evaluation sessions are being conducted behind closed doors, should neither be sin nor surprise. Even Congressman Parren Mitchell, leader of a drive to "evaluate" the school board and to change it into an elective body, must also hold some closed door meetings.

Meetings of this kind may be misused or abused, but they often also are the most efficient ways of conducting business, and the most successful deterrent to behavior meant solely for the galleries.

In other words, the closed door sessions of the Board of School Commissioners, by themselves, do not spell conspiracy, rascality or racism.

In the American political experience, there are three methods of naming school boards:

(1) Appointment by the chief executive of county, state or city;

(2) Appointment by a panel of judges; and

(3) Election by the school district.

All three have been found satisfactory at times, and wanting at other times.

The most used presently are Nos. 1 and 3. Appointment by judges is no longer popular. The members of the Baltimore school board are appointed by the mayor, followed by the confirmation of the City Council. This is the law at present.

At this point in history, however, there is much feeling in some quarters that, "If only we had an elected school board, all our school problems would be over."

But, nearby Washington has an elected school board, as well as a majority of black members on its board and a black school superintendent.

Nevertheless, Washington, too, is going through the same throes of evaluating its superintendent, and the black community, (the majority population in D.C.), is split down the middle, just as it was split about the former superintendent, who was also black.

Meanwhile, in Washington as in Baltimore, everyone agrees that black children can not read, spell or do arithmetic in keeping with their grade classifications.

Whatever the outcome of the Baltimore evaluation, all of us need to take an irrevocable pledge that narrow personalities and partisan politics aside, we shall exert every effort for a school system which gives the educational welfare of our children — all the children of the city — first priority, in words and deeds.

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.

DECEMBER 21, 1929)

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

Mr. Bumble's prayer

'God give my eyes the inner sight, to see the world and men aright; to find the good, the true, the fair, in everybody everywhere.

(This week's prayer submitted by Mrs. Ruth E. Allen, Lakeview Tower Apartments.)

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since this column was written, the Washington school board has voted to dismiss M's Barbara Sizemore, D.C. superintendent of schools. Mrs. Sizemore still has two or three legal levels of appeal at her disposal.

Smile

In 1848, a man refused to accept a letter because there was postage due. The man: Zachary Taylor. The letter: notice that he had been nominated for President.

82 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)

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, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. In addition to stating the question you wanted answered, include your name, address and telephone number.

SPECIAL NOTE: You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections, complain or inquire about AFRO news stories and policies by contacting AFRO-Line by phone or letter.

Weekdays, call 728-8200. Extensions 64 or 50, between the hours 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and talk in person to AFRO-Line service.

Your report will get prompt attention by top management.

Or write, AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203; or drop in to see AFRO-Line at 628 N. Eutaw St.

QUESTION: The article in the May 27 issue of the AFRO entitled, "1,200 attend banquet honoring Morgan alumni" incorrectly stated that 25 Year Service Awards were presented to persons who graduated from Morgan. It should have read "who taught at Morgan". I was one of the recipients. — DR. RUTHE T. SHEFFEY

ANSWER: Thanks for calling this to out attention. The AFRO regrets the error.

QUESTION: I understand that the Enoch Pratt Library will have a used book sale. Can you tell me what books are available and when the sale will be held?

ANSWER: A spokesman from the Pratt Library Reference Department told AFRO-Line that the library has a "Browse and Buy" sale, which is usually announced in the media.

There is no specific time, nor do they know what books will be on sale. She suggests that readers come early on sale days for the best selection.

SPECIAL NOTE: To Mr. Jerome R , of Alto Rd. Please call AFRO-Line, 728-8200 with reference to news tip.

Dear AFRO:
Thank you kindly for the nice article and picture. I was deeply elated to have appeared in the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper "Salute of the Week." I will forever hold this honor in the highest esteem.

REBA C. TERRY
(Chief, Voluntary Service Veterans Administration)

Dear AFRO:
Thanks so very much for your guidance in our publicity for Council 9, Blue Ridge Region Speech Contest, April 12, at the Holiday Inn. Thanks again to your writer, Mrs. Marjorie Green, for the news release.

VIVIAN YOUNG

WHERE TO CALL

BALTIMORE ANSWERS YOU (BAY) — for help in problems with city agencies.— 396-1234 — (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).

CONSUMER PROTECTION — for questionable questionable business practices—383-3700.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND — Resulting from robberies or assaults — 539-5340.

DISASTERS — fires, floods, hurricanes — 467-3005.

EMERGENCY — Housing, heating, light — 234-2413; 234-2172 — after 6 p.m. and weekends.

HOT LINE — 539-5151 for abandoned vehicles, dirty yards, garbage collections, clogged sewers, street repairs, bulky trash pickup.

INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-5211; Transit and Traffic, 396-3049; Drug Abuse Counseling, 396-2720; Job, 383-5468; Legal Aid, 539-5340; Rumor Control, 837-1188; Rape Center, 366-RAPE; Pension Reform, 962-3914.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6061; Greater Homewood, 396-6080; Northwest, 396-0207; Stewart Hill, 396-0207.

POLICE — Emergency, 222-3333; Community Relations, 396-2710.

FIRES — 685-1313

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-1111; Animal Removal, 396-0218; Defective Sidewalk, 396-3168; Food Stamps, 234-2751; Oil Furnace Check, 396-6429; Rats, 396-4418.

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4700.

August 11

Now is the time to get on the books so you can vote for the next mayor and city council persons to represent YOU.

Register to vote NOW at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts. Office open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Applications are also available at all Enoch Pratt Libraries, all Urban Services Agency offices and all major department stores downtown and in the outlying areas.

Next primary election is Sept. 9, 1975. Deadline for new voters to register is August 11, 1975. June 30, 1975 is deadline for candidates to file.

"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

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

Make it official

The writer's name and address must be included in all letters to the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

Those with printed or typed names and initials will not be considered.

All letters MUST be signed.

The AFRO reserves right to edit all letters.

AFRO readers RAP on many issues

School Board relationship with superintendent termed inadequate

Dear AFRO:
The community has not observed or been given any substantiating information regarding the inadequacy of the superintendent's relationship with the Board. However, based upon observation and public knowledge, there is substantiating evidence regarding the board's relationship with Superintendent Patterson.

Dr. Patterson has served under the authority of two different Boards of School Commissioners, from October 1971 to December 1974 under the former Board, and from January 1975 to the present under this Board.

Some members comprised both boards. And, while the board asks questions about the superintendent's relationship with its body, we, the citizens, parents and students ask similar questions about the board's relationship with the superintendent.

Has the board engendered confidence in the superintendent? Is there a climate of mutual respect and trust? Has the board maintained a harmonious relationship with the superintendent?

Let's examine some of the evidences:
— When the superintendent established the reorganization and regionalization of the Baltimore city public school system and appeared before the City Council to defend the proposed budget for the fiscal year, what was the then board president's reaction at a public hearing?

I will tell you! — the then president stated that he had supported the reorganization but he certainly did not feel it would work. He further stated that he had never seen any reorganization work.

These statements the former president made to the City Council at a budgetary hearing. Where was the needed support? Where was confidence engendered?

Where was any exemplification of a harmonious relationship shown by the board?

Already the president appearing in an understood representation of the Board was publicly being negative to an approved change even before it had had a chance to show any effectiveness.

Let's recall the attempted slander created by one of the present board members and the city auditor insinuating that the finances had been improperly handled.

None of the insinuations of malfeasance could be substantiated; and, in fact, when presented with documentation were proven to be false and erroneous. But did the Board member, Mr. Schaefer, apologize publicly for what appeared to be an attempt to prejudice public opinion! Had the public accepted this nonsense without investigation, the posture and integrity of the superintendent would have been irreparably damaged.

Then let's recall the fact that Commissioner Sachs, who still sits on the board, was publicly acclaimed to be the member to write up charges against the superintendent which were never produced, obviously because they were unfounded.

Is this action a display of engendered confidence or a working together in a harmonious relationship? Or, is it a sense of feeling of being treated as if one were a felon and the law enforcement officer was just waiting for one provable mistake to be made?

These are just three of the examples of how poorly the board rates in its relationship with the superintendent.

Fortunately, for the parents and students, our superintencent, Dr. Roland Patterson, has refused to be intimidated.

I make reference to a questionnaire used by the board, does the superintendent interpret and execute the intent of board policy and does the superintendent support board policy and maintain his opposition to matters being discussed until an official decision is reached at which time he subordinates his own views to those of the board?

Although the superintendent disagreed with Fallstaff being established as the Middle School rather than Pimlico, when the board overrode his recommendation, he supported the board decision and vigorously promoted the Fallstaff effort in obtaining the requested staffing and resources.

Inspite of the fact that the board's desegregation of the Board to institute the plan anyway, the superintendent is continuing the implementation of rejected plan.

Dr. Patterson deserves an excellent rating in his relationship with the board because under all adversities and negativisms towards him by the board, he has continued to operate objectively.

By qualifications and by performance, Dr. Patterson is superior to any one on this board insofar as educational programs and the administering of public schools is concerned.

Because he will not bow down in his administration of public schools, even though he must be guided by policy decisions, perhaps is why the board found it possible to report him as inadequate in the area of relationship with the board.

However, as a parent, as a PTA official and a representative of many parents, I feel the board members are disgustingly below adequate in their relationship with the superintendent.

While the rd bases strong soverea opinion this portion of the evaluation, parents are concerned about the education of their young peopl

GRACE A. S
(Editor's note: The writer heads a concerned citizens group).

Municipal peace

Dear AFRO:
At a time when all Baltimoreans are being encouraged to participate in the Bicentennial, the mayor should take a hard look at the appointments he makes to boards, commissions and bureaus.

In Baltimore city, with the black population encroaching on 55 per cent of the total, it seems unthinkable that no more than three black administrative heads have been appointed to lead vital boards, bureaus or commissions.

Of equal concern is the fact that the ratio of the black citizens serving on the boards and commissions does not by any means reflect their numbers in the city.

Even those few that have been appointed seem to have been selected more for their ability to give puppet performances and less for their ability to honestly represent the wishes of their communities.

Genuine and equal participation by all segments of the citizentry is the key to municipal peace and progress.

DR. J. DAVIDSON

Question for Schaefer

Dear AFRO:
According to a published article concerning the Board of School Commissioners' evaluation of Superintendent Roland N. Patterson, he was rated "adequate" or "above" in four out of six categories.

The four categories are 'school finances, community relationships, educational leadership and personal qualities. These would appear to be the most important qualities needed for the position of Superintendent of Education.

My question to Mayor Schaefer is which will benefit the general community more — a competent educational leader or a personality kid?

If my memory serves me correctly, Mayor Schaefer has had a few personality clashes with the City Council.

This only proves that a human being can not be perfect in all aspects.

MRS. C. GRIFFIN

Drive in or out?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are letters from readers who responded to our invitation last week to air their views about a proposed drive-in restaurant to be located on the Mondawmin Shopping Center parking lot. Names have been omitted where requested:)

Let it in

Dear AFRO: Do we have to live here want a drive-in restaurant? Yes, we do! As it is now, we have to drive several blocks to catch a quick bite. Let 'em come in.—J.R.

No never

Dear AFRO: We have enough vandalism and other problems with hangers-on now in our area. I moved here with my family when the children were young. I used to be able to keep the lawn pretty decent, but now it gets harder than ever. I am over 60 years old. My husband is retired. I don't need any more public nuisances nearly at my front door.—MRS. C. F. Z.

Need the jobs

Dear AFRO: A new drive-in restaurant may mean more jobs for our young people, then the young people in the area who want to see it happen ought to work with the planners of this proposed business.

Maybe they could help see that the people in their age group will work with them to keep the neighborhood up. They groups, police community relations, Douglass High student leaders and other people.—JAMES COOKEY.

Have the right

Dear AFRO: On that drive-in they're talking about for Mondawmin center . . . how come there are restaurants and drive-ins in other sections, yet every time they talk about putting one convenient to us the people start protesting?

They assume things will go wrong before they give it a chance. Times are hard now. We need a decent place and I for one would think that whatever is planned for Mondawmin would be a first-rate place.

And I also think that the people who support it will encourage everyone to keep it that way.

I don't eat hamburgers, but I feel people have a right to buy them at a convenient, clean place.—JURIE LEES

Get together

Dear AFRO: Councilman Emerson Julian's re-zoning ordinance to permit the Mondawmin hamburger drive-in, is opposed by Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council and Senator Welcome has said she will work with them to keep it from being built.

Isn't there some middle ground? besides those who favor and those who oppose? Why can't people on both sides meet and see if they can agree on the matter.

I'm not on one side of the other because I live far down in the inner city near the downtown drive-in. J. BEEBER

Salute of week to Miss Rognel 1975

(Readers are invited to submit names of persons to be featured in this column. Address nominations to Salute of Week, Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203).

The spotlight this week is on a 17-year-old Edmondson High School eleventh grader, Miss Charlene Renee Reinhardt.

Because of her impressive dramatic reading of an essay, entitled, "Natural," and her poise and personality, she was picked as "Miss Rognel Heights of 1975."

Her selection came at the annual pageant sponsored by the Rognel Heights Recreation Center Mothers' Auxiliary. Theme of the event was "Young, Gifted and Black."

Mrs. Loretta Daniel, pageant director, saluted the contestants with, "You Are So Beautiful." They were just that as they escorted their mothers to the stage and pinned them with corsages.

1975 WINNER of Rognel Heights talent pageant, 17-year-old Charlene R. Reinhardt, shown with her mother, Mrs. Mildred Rhinehart.

(AFRO Staff Photo by Benjamin Murphy, Phillips PA)

The 1975 pageant winner is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reinhardt (Mildred) of Wicklow Rd. Mom is a teacher and dad is a salesman. Her grandmother is Mrs. Pauline Reinhardt. She has a brother, Cephas Rice of Winston Salem, N.C. and two sisters, Chandra, 9, a student at Rognel Heights Elementary and Cherea, 2.

Miss Reinhardt likes to swim, read and model. She is a graduate of a modeling school in Towson and attends Central Baptist Church.

Since Miss Reinhardt took top honors, she has been selected for the AFRO's special salute. Because other contestants displayed unusual talent, this column's 'honorable mention goes to them.

They include:

Runner-up, Miss Amber Turner, who sang "With A Child's Heart." She is also 17 years of age and an Edmondson student.

"Miss Personality" was Miss Michelle Haynie, 14, and a 9th grade student at Rock Glen Junior High School. She sang and dramatized, "Love Is What Makes the World Go Round."

Miss Yvette Cain, from Edmondson, sang, "Yesterday." She won the title, "Miss Talent."

The interpretive dancer, Dara Lee, 16, an 11th grader at Western High, received the "Miss Community Support" gift from the Rognel Heights Association, Inc. Mrs. Betty Bonnet made the presentation.

Other contestants were Debra Lann, 16, 9th grader at Rock Glen Jr. High and Belinda Merritt, 17, 11th grader at Northwestern.

Miss Lann did a striking performance of the Clown. When she was asked if she had three wishes what would they be, she answered, "That all the blind could see, that all the deaf could hear and that she would live a long life.

Miss Merritt danced to "That's the Way of the World." She also modeled a beige pants suit during the "Today's Look" feature of the pageant.

Miss Antonia Wilson performed the interpretive dance which helped her win last year's title.

Escort for the contestants during the "Sophisticated Flair" was Daniel White.

Wade Carver was crownbearer, and Wanda Cutchember was the flower girl during the coronation.

Ushers were Francine Crowder, Michelle Hedgepeth and Cheniel Ferguson.

Hostesses included Donna Skates, Carolyn Edwards, Terry Randall, Barbara Stevenson, Danita Robinson and Arvis Harris.

Other members of the Pageant Committee were Mesdames Bertha Carver and Evonee Woods, co-directors. Also, Mesdames Ethel White, Mary Lee and Pauline Reinhardt.

John Rhames is the director of the center. His staff includes Morris Fogle, Artis Wright, Charles Reinhardt, Newton Scott and Miss Sharon Grant.

Miss Grant directed the Rognel Heights Dancers, who performed during the pageant.

Eugene Daniel, Eric Pride and Ms. Gloria Waters were in charge of photography and set.

Lighting was by Daniel White and Samuel Wade.

Ms. Mary Lee, Georgia Crowder and Georgette Crowder handled the wardrobe.

Music was provided by Ms. Shirley Watson, paino; David Spriggs, drums; Bobby "Wa Wa" LeGrande, bass guitar.

Pageant judges were Mesdames Fannie Moragne, director of Performing Arts, Bureau of Recreation; Willia Bland, director of Flair Studios; Gertrude Steele, administrative assistant, AFRO; Marie Smallwood, Rognel Heights Association, Inc.

And James Grant, supervisor, District 8, Bureau of Recreation; Lawrence Parker, owner LTD Men's Store; Alvin Payne, scout master for Rognel Heights community.

Dear Jan:
I am 21, married and separated. He only worked when he felt like it. He was on drugs, heavy, and I got tired of paying the bills by myself. He has his own place and I have mine now.

We are friends and that's the way I want it. He wants me back, but I know what will happen when he gets tired and quits.

My real problem now is I've fallen for a man, 25, who's in jail doing 7-10 years. I go to see him and we write each day.

The men where I work say he is "sweet" but he is what I have been looking for and he makes me feel like me and I can be myself around him.

I have a 2-year-old daughter who loves him and he loves her very much. I told him I could wait. Help Jan.

Mixed Up

Dear Mixed Up:
My advice to you would be to cool down this whole situation for the sake of your child. She's got one father, off and on drugs, and you want to take up with a dude in jail. First things first. Get help from Legal Aid in securing a divorce or you might end up very dead. Call the Health and Welfare Referral Service, 752-4146 for free help with your family problems. You need help to understand why you are so carried away with a man who is "sweet" and lies to you.

Dear Jan:
I'm 20 years old, a high school graduate with a business diploma which is not doing me any good. So far I've worked as a receptionist, dietary aide, and nursing aide. But right now I'm out of work.

I apply for jobs, but I either don't have any experience or not enough experience. No training, or not enough training.

It's always one thing or another. So could you please help me with some advice on getting a job I like and I am capable of doing.

V.D.

Dear V.D.:
Go to Community College of Baltimore or your nearest Evening High School. Ask about scholarship aid and talk to a counselor about career planning.

Study the summer school ads in this newspaper. Then, put on your walking shoes and visit the nearest Enoch Pratt Library and ask for books on careers.

Try to select a career you would like to follow and then find out what extra courses you need to get the job.

To tide you over, place an ad in this newspaper to do day's work. The pay is good and many families are looking for housekeepers and nurses for their small children.

If YOU ask ME ____ by bettye m. moss

Orchids to Arena Players' officials for bringing to Baltimore Actress Esther Rolle to receive a special Performing Arts Award.

Miss Rolle stars on the weekly CBS-TV show, 'Good Times.' Just as she gives out words of wisdom to her TV children, Jay Jay et al, shared out some gems when she accepted the Baltimore honors.

The tenth awards ceremony Friday evening attracted nearly 500 at Blue Crest North. Orchids are due Arena board chairperson, Camilla Sherrard; Arena Playhouse president, Sam Wilson; and manager-director Irv Turner, and other staff members and volunteers.

Scallops to Baltimore city housing chief, Robert C. Embry, for telling that audience he was sorry he hadn't heard much about Arena, because there hadn't been much in the dailies about them.

Yes, Bob Embry, we yelled this newspaper ("AFRO"-"AFRO"), chronicles their activities regularly.

Here are some highlights of Miss Rolle's remarks to her Baltimore audience:

I am not a politician, don't want to be one. You ain't no actress and maybe you don't want to be one; but, if each of us does our job with diligence, we gonna be there before you can say "Jack Rabbit."

Each of us is most important in the phase of work that we have undertaken for our life and no one of us is more important than the other.

The important thing is have I done the best with the job given me? Am I not the least bit worried about the other person in his profession and that person shouldn't be worried about me. (laughter and applause)

If I am a ditch digger, let me be the best ditch digger in the world and I don't care what you say, the best surgeon in the world can't dig no ditch like I can. (applause)

I can't operate on human bodies like he can, but he can't dig no ditch like I can.

If I'm a good cook, and I am the best cook, I am the best cook ever, because I am tops in my field and you are the tops in yours.

So, let's stop this nonsense of looking down at a person's profession. (applause).

So, the next time you see a domestic or a man in what we call a menial job, take your hat off and say "Thank you" because that's what brought you where you are today. (applause)

Grad News: Mrs. Inez Byrd of Braddish Ave., mother and former night club entertainer, has completed four years of undergraduate work at Coppin State College she received a Bachelor of Science degree.

She has three youngsters, Marlene, Darlen and Curtis Byrd, Jr., two of whom are June graduates.

Mrs. Bryd is a member of John Wesley Methodist Church. She tutors children with learning disabilities and is active in other community functions which involve children.

Good news about students: At Villa-Julie College in Stevensville, Md., Melvin Freeman, a freshman, won the Elizabeth McWethy Award for Excellence in drama.

He is the son of Mrs. Martha E. Freeman of Duvall Ave.

Good grad news: Sandra Antionette Wilson is a grad of prestigious Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. She received a B.A. in political science and economics.

She is a Western High grad and daughter of Mrs. Anne C. Wilson of Forest Pk., Ave., and the late William L. Wilson 2nd.

Note from University of Pittsburgh advises doctorate has been conferred on Arthur D. Allen. That makes two Ph.D's in the family. His wife is Dr. Madge Hibler Allen, a former Morgan instructor, now registrar at Norfolk State where her husband also teaches.

Unusually lovely wedding ceremony was the one Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Shaw of Bell Ave., had on Saturday for their daughter Larae Alita.

She became Mrs. Robert R. Croxton at St. James Episcopal Church.

Happiest person present, next to the bride's proud parents — Robert Croxton, father of the bridegroom ('He's never given a minute's trouble,' he smiled proudly).

Many remember the bridegroom's mother, Ruth Croxton. She founded Ruth J's Boutique, still operated by her husband.

Cuff note: The newlyweds honeymooned at Playboy in Jamaica. Out-of-sight, the wedding reception music by the Sherman Lewis' Orchestra.

Vacation note: The recently retired Roland Hensons (Anita), are back from a vacation in Florida.

They visited with longtime friend, Elizabeth Talley in Miami and Thelma and Cecil Wall in Rivera Beach. They also enjoyed Disneyworld.

★'S AND YOU

Aries (March 21-April 19) You're going to be involved with clubs, organizations. You may feel restricted. You also will understand responsibility, commitment, obligations. Swim with the tide.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Friendship can be formed that means something of value. Exchange ideas, hopes wishes and aspirations. Give of yourself and you also will receive.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Emphasis now is on goals, career, ambitions, your relationship with professional superior. Make adjustments. Diplomacy winsat home, too.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Now is time to make long-range plans, special studies and significant correspondence. Journey could be in picture. Be selective. Perfect techniques. Avoid self-deceptions.

Leo (July 23-August 22) Get down to serious business. Enjoy creative challenge. Deal with one who could control budgets. Show that you are capable of handling additional responsibility — and funds.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) Lie low. Do more listening than asserting. Get legal clearances. Find out what others plan. Accent is on public relations, patience, partnership and marriage.

Libra (September 23-October 22) Avoid extremes. Fellow worker or one who shares interests has something of value to offer. Highlight creativity, pioneering instinct, willingness to accept new ideas.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) Favorable moon aspect coincides with creativity, children, sweeping changes. Your instincts respond — your timing improves. Love is very much in current scheme of events.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) Emphasis is on solidity, experience, residence and security. Family is involved with long-range project. Game-playing should be overall outline plans and make a commitment.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) Emphasis on short journey, communications from relative, remodeling activity. Be specific on any requests. Make meanings, intentions clear.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) Exchange of ideas can result in profit. Restless individual acts on impulse, but means well. Be patient. Probe beneath surface indications.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) Be a self-starter. Take initiatives where new projects are concerned. Your intuitive intellect, basic judgment carry through.