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

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
Editor-Publisher (1888-1967) (1922-1967)

Genocide--1975 style

If Baltimore City superintendent Roland N. Patterson is fired, this will be another indication of the trend here in the U.S.—to decrease and to discredit black male leadership.

Another word for it is genocide, Webster defines this as, "the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political or cultural group."

This destruction of our leadership is nothing new to black Americans. They have seen it time and time again.

As it rears its head in this year 1975, on the eve of America's bicentennial, it should be cause for great concern by all black people, provided they understand what it's all about.

Right here in Baltimore, the Patterson incident is just part of the "game plan". Earlier this year, there was the firing of the City Jail deputy warden Walter S. Lewis, now awaiting a hearing on charges preferred by the white warden, Gordon C. Kamka.

Mr. Lewis, second in command at the jail, has a long record of service in the community and was previously a 22-year veteran in the police department before he assumed his position in October, 1973.

As in the Patterson case, the facts surrounding his service are still in dispute.

Alert Baltimoreans should recall the past and present efforts to remove Paul L. Chester, the first black clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, and the disbarment proceedings against two black lawyers who dared defend the poor, Tucker Dearing and Paul Cockrell.

We hope that schers in Baltimore who are predominantly black, will remember that they have not given very strong vocal support to the man who followed the community's mandate and in three years turned the city school system around so it is equipped to provide quality education for all children.

Lest they be sitting smug in their seats thinking all will be well for them should the Patterson firing become final, here is a caution:

If the present genocidal trend continues, there will be a whole lot of black principals, administrators, and teachers who will be replaced by whites.

The 25th St. school headquarters and even the regional superintendents' offices now fully integrated, will likely become lily-white.

And before you know it, suburbia will be moving back into the city because "the plan" calls for a change in the standards for admission to high schools which is designed to control large black enrollment.

The trend will spread to other areas where black persons are presently in positions of leadership—the Health Department and the Department of Social Services, for example are already on the books.

We would suggest that AFRO readers drive around the city, take a look at the massive building program in the inner harbor, and the displacement of black families for mass transit and other new structures and homes for whites.

Then, perhaps, they'll get the message and understand the need now for black Baltimoreans and others concerned to speak out against the Patterson charade and the School Board's order to him to resign or be fired.

If Dr. Patterson is removed as superintendent, it won't be long before every other black professional in the city will find his or her head on the block.

The 7-2 vote

The school board 7-2 vote to oust Superintendent Roland Patterson without a legal hearing smacks of the worst kind of discrimination and is a violation of his constitutional rights.

We would hope that Dr. Patterson could take full advantage of the hearing process and demand the board specify at a public hearing the shortcomings it has claimed to have found in his administration.

The public deserves the specifics in itemized fashion so that these can be analyzed along with Dr. Patterson's response.

Of course, it is logical to presume that the board's case will not save Dr. Patterson but it should indicate to the public in a more satisfactory manner why it was so set on firing him in the first place.

As it is now, many people feel it was a case of the mayor who appoints the board being able to have it use its control over the superintendent.

Politics will never be admitted in this case but it simply goes without saying that the mayor expects someone in a top echelon school post with whom he can feel a close relationship.

He so indicated when he selected people to serve on the school board.

But most important we think is the demand the examples of Dr. Patterson's failures to meet the board's criteria be put on the table in specific terms for rebuttal and public information.

The shoddy preliminary evaluation which ranked Dr. Patterson an excellent administrator at one point and then below average in another is not our idea of specifics. It smacks of discrimination.

Security guards

The quick arrest of longtime public servant, James M. Griffin, while protesting last Monday's School Board meeting is another argument against arming school guards.

In any public gathering these days one is likely to have to witness a citizen lodging a protest. That is all Mr. Griffin did.

For this non-violent action, he was manhandled, arrested and charged with disturbing the peace.

The photos we have seen of this arrest by security guards are another argument against arming them. We shudder to think what might have happened had they had firearms.

And of course we have some concern about their arrest of this newspaper's 21-year-old photographer as he snapped pictures of the Griffin arrest. He too was handcuffed and put in a cell at Northern police station.

Who gave the orders to arrest former school commissioner Griffin and the AFRO photographer?

These questions will be answered when their cases are aired next week.

Welcome, Billingsleys

Dr. Andrew P. Billingsley, 48, has been on the job as president of Morgan State College since June 1.

He brings to the northeast Baltimore City college a wealth of experience and a reputation as a scholar and administrator.

The community of Morgan College (soon to be a university as of July 1) should see some exciting days as it moves ahead under this new president.

The community generally will also want to welcome Mrs. Billingsley (Amy Tate Billingsley) who at 38 has herself achieved in a number of areas.

Like her husband, she is a scholar and an author and has to her credit over ten years as a researcher and a consultant in public education.

Welcome, Billingsleys.

Dad loves me

An AFRO inquiring reporter visited Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School No. 11 at Eutaw and McMechen in the heart of the Baltimore inner city.

The assignment: to talk with third and fourth graders about their fathers and why they loved them.

Here are some of the responses from the children who are seven and eight years old:

"He loves me," "he's nice to me," "he takes me places," "he doesn't beat us when we are wrong, he explains to us," "he buys me toys," "he gives me money," "he reads me stories every night."

In these times when the family structure is threatened, it is refreshing to hear this kind of assessment by children.

This is our way of reminding our readers that Sunday, June 15, is Father's Day.

"Thank goodness, those two did it for us."

News item. Two black school board members move to oust city's first black superintendent without giving him a hearing. Mayor Schaefer, who appointed them, remains silent, releases balloons to signal advent of summer activities downtown.

A little about a lot——*by madeline w. murphy*

Are they following orders?

After the Coalition of Civil Rights Organizations caused a 100 per cent black increase on boards and commissions in the city, notably on the Board of School Commissioners, in 1968, inherent in the move was a demand for a more equitable representation for the black community, from representatives suggested by the black community.

Consequently, black persons on the Board are primarily there to do the bidding of the black community, their constituency, who fought to get them there, not the political power structure.

And when William Donald Schaefer speaks of or rather hides behind the "autonomy" of the Board of School Commissioners, and its decisions in this latest outrage against Dr. Roland Patterson, he chooses to ignore the fact that even though there are duties and responsibilities to be performed without political interference from the Mayor and the City Council, the Commissioners are in fact there to represent the interests of the citizens and therefore should respond to them.

But political interference is the order of the day, notwithstanding the Mayor's studied innocence.

An illustration of actual political influence over the Commission was revealed in 1968.

The Coalition was told by former Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro III, that Ms. Maren Parring could not be removed because the political machine of the "Silent" 6th District would not stand for it, and that it would be political suicide for D'Alesandro.

One must believe even now, seven years later, that Mayor Schaefer holds the same invisible rein over the board, otherwise he would not have publicly chided David Sloan and Dr. Beryl Williams for releasing their careful, yet favorable evaluation of Dr. Patterson.

Can it be that black commissioners, now ready to vote against Patterson, (Dr. Eugene Scott in particular), are really following orders from Schaefer, who ultimately decides how much autonomy the board members can actually exercise?

For it has not been unusual for WDS to hold frequent, secret meetings with the total board, or caucus with a few to orchestrate moves that have evolved into the strategy that has undermined Dr. Patterson.

Now that the Mayoral campaign is heating up, knowing WDS's style, he's surely conniving under cover, counting his votes, promising here, threatening there, throwing a tantrum to control the outcome of the Commission's deliberations.

The fact that last year's coup was totally disastrous may shed some light, also, upon the mysterious disintegration of black militant forces in the black community — an enviable maneuver, reminiscent of the CIA.

Moreover, with the majority of the black commissioners having just recently been appointed, having no experiencial basis for evaluating the performance of Dr. Patterson, (as one of my friends asked), why evaluate the school superintendent so urgently.

Heads of other departments, go their incompetent ways without improving the health of indigent people, without quelling the rising death rates, without correcting the inequalities in hiring, etc., etc.?

But rumor has it that Schaefer wants Patterson's head upon a platter by June 30, the last day for filing for Mayor, a shrewd move that would appease his last stronghold of political support in the city — the white racist anti-busing advocates in the first, third and sixth districts.

Against this background, one can only admire Dr. Patterson's resolve, his integrity, his ability to hold firm under pressure, while the niggling, harrassment, the nit-picking reduce the Board of School Commissioners to an unrepresentative, authoritarian, insensitive, irresponsible group of puppets.

Their only concern seems to be for their ego, rather than the innumerable change that their own evaluation documents, that Dr. Patterson has brought to the system of education while, despite cuts in the budgets, has kept the schools solvent.

Should this debacle be fulfilled, any person appointed to the superintendency, following Dr. Patterson, will certainly be hamstrung — a yes man'or woman — totally prostituted by political forces that grow more and more anxious, not only about quality education for blacks, but also more indifferent to the survival of a relevant, responsive system of public education in Baltimore city.

Now and then——*by g. james fleming*

What to expect in Patterson affair

There will undoubtedly be much haggling, many moves and countermoves and some lawsuits during the next several days and weeks of Baltimore School Commissioners versus Roland N. Patterson.

There may even be violence, a last resort which this column hopes will not come to pass.

Superintendent Patterson, through his lawyer, has already declared that he will not resign, "under any circumstances."

This means that, if he is "fired" on 24, as promised by the board, he will probably seek an injunction from the courts, to stop the board from removing him from office.

If Dr. Patterson persists in occupying his office, after being fired, it is to be expected that the board will also turn to the courts in barring him from school property.

This is prescribed remedy, by law.

What is not predictable are the tactics of those, both organized and unorganized, supporting one side or the other. At this point in time, these groups are largely supporters of the superintendent.

One spokesman for such a group has already promised (more correctly, predicted) "violence" if the superintendent is dropped.

At a recent school board meeting, one black anti-Patterson board member was jostled and pushed around, and called an "uncle Tom" by attenders outwardly sympathetic to Dr. Patterson.

Indeed, there have been sparks and heat from both sides.

It was irritating and insulting procedure for the president of the School Commissioners to give Dr. Patterson's lawyer only one and one-half (1½) days in which to reply to the charges summarized against his client.

Certainly, it appears to be premature judgement for the board to threaten to fire the superintendent before he has answered the bill of particulars drawn up against him.

But, we cannot agree with those who call the board "racist" — a 9-member board with a 5-4 majority of blacks. Another name will have to be found.

Whether Dr. Patterson remains or goes as superintendent of the Baltimore city public schools, this column still believes he is a good superintendent — and the school board's evaluation of him, to date, has helped to shape our opinion.

He is not perfect, because no man or woman can achieve this distinction these days in a major city school system, and Dr. Patterson may have been endowed with more than his share of abrasiveness (or fear converted) in dealing with authority and press.

He was also bound to run into trouble with co-peers and personnel since his commitment and obligation included "turning the school system around."

On the other hand, according to the school board's own evaluation, he is "(Outstanding or Well Above Average," (the board's words) in 12 areas, including:

1. Keeping the board informed of all aspects of the school program;
2. Exemplifying skills of a master teacher and inspiring others to higher professional standards;
3. Earning respect and standing among professional colleagues;
4. Devoting his time and energy to his job;
5. Using English effectively, clearly and concisely;
6. Thinking well on his feet;
7. Speaking well in front of large and small audiences;
8. Maintaining his professional development by reading, attending conferences, etc.

To repeat, in all these areas, Dr. Patterson is rated as "Outstanding or Well Above Adequate,"

In another 12 categories, the superintendent is identified as "Above Adequate," including:

1. Giving professional advice to the board on items requiring board action;
2. Interpreting and executing the policy of the board;
3. Refraining from criticism of individual and group members of the board;
4. Organizing a planned program of curriculum evaluation and improvement;
5. Evaluating financial needs and determining that funds are spent wisely;
6. Maintaining high standards of ethics, honesty, and integrity in all personal and professional matters.

Altogether, of the total of 52 points on which he was evaluated, Dr. Patterson was rated "adequate" and above on 34 items — and this column believes that he was "adequate" and better on the more important items.

Under the Baltimore city charter, it may well be that the school board did not need to go through the present evaluation ritual, in order to drop its superintendent. Or, the board might have relied on the "contract" which Dr. Patterson once produced, and which runs out in October, we believe. The board's earlier, botched first steps, however, compelled it to take the later formal route.

For the sake of all concerned, it is to be regretted that this confrontation between the Board of School Commissioners and Roland N. Patterson could not have been resolved without all the disruption, bitterness and strong-headedness so far demonstrated.

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)

Washington

by

parren j. mitchell

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

President Ford's veto of the 5.3 billion dollar jobs Bill (H.R. 4481) was a disgrace.

Even more disgraceful was the failure of the United States House of Representatives to override the President's veto of the Jobs Bill.

I get sick to my stomach when I saw Republican Congressmen and Southern Democrats cheering and congratulating themselves over having denied people jobs.

These Congressmen may not know it, but they are constantly adding on to the frustration of citizens and every group has its toleration level for frustration.

It is absurd to think that nine million unemployed people are going to take the action of the President and the Congress without reacting in some fashion.

By the time you read this column, the President will have vetoed the Emergency Housing Bill, H.R. 4485.

It would provide a choice of three assistance programs for middle-income home buyers: a shallow subsidy program with an initial rate of 6 per cent to be phased upward to the market rate over a 6-year period; a permanent 7 per cent mortgage interest rate; and a $1,500 cash grant to be applied to the down payment on a newly constructed home.

Owners of existing homes faced with the possibility of foreclosure due to adverse economic conditions would be eligible for HUD loan assistance of up to $250 a month for up to two years.

The Bill had been strengthened in the Senate-House Conference Committee (I served as one of the Conferees).

It was strengthened to provide funds for the continuation of the 312 Housing Rehabilitation Program, funds for the 235 and 236 Housing Programs; and funds for Public Housing.

It was a good bill which would have been especially beneficial to Blacks because we have been hit hardest by the recession-depression.

The Emergency Housing Bill passed the House by a vote of 235 for to 155 against.

The President will veto the bill. Based upon the failure to override the President's veto the jobs bill, it is most unlikely that the Congress will override Ford's veto of the housing bill.

The latest failure in housing becomes one more heavy load for Blacks to bear.

If we want to buy a home, first we face the possibility of redlining, and, therefore, the particular difficulty of getting mortgage loans.

Second, if we have started purchasing a home, and become the victim of unemployment because of the recession-depression, foreclosure on the mortgage will happen more often if black people are involved than will happen if whites are involved.

Third, if we do lose our home, the chances of getting a decent family unit elsewhere are reduced because the President has vetoed a bill which would fund Public Housing, 312 Housing, etc.

About 200 years ago, in France, a despotic King and his Royal family lived in utter luxury while French peasants were pleading and demanding bread because they had none, the French Queen stated, "let them eat cake." She was that far removed from the real hurts and needs of the masses of the people.

Apparently, President Ford and some members of the Congress are equally far removed from the hurts and the needs of the masses.

Marie Antionette's remark about letting them eat cake was shortly followed by the French Revolution.

The insensitivity and indifference shown by President Ford and the Congress may well be followed by mass protests and demonstrations on a national scale. Something has to give.

Smile

A Columbia, N.C. rural carrier solved the problem of how to keep his car going thru flood waters up to its hub caps. He put 800 pounds of concrete in his trunk, raising the front of the car enough to keep the engine and distributor dry.

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

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.

"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

AFRO readers RAP

Blames School Board

Dear AFRO:

No amount of logic, humanity or common sense is expected to change the game plan of the School Board in the firing of Superintendent Roland N. Patterson.

The decision was made when Donald Schaefer changed the composition of the board last summer.

The sole criterion for stacking the School Board deck was to get rid of the superintendent. No other criterion was apparent in the majority of his appointees, neither did Schaefer offer any.

All the noise about evaluation of performance of the superintendent and what is in the best interest of the public school system in Baltimore is after the fact.

Now, the average decent and respectable citizen would object to this outrageous maneuver of the School Board, Schaefer and the invisible but well known forces behind him.

Many have voiced their objections on, legal, educational and religious grounds. Obviously, this facade violates due process, is an insult to education, and it is just not right.

Perhaps, what is not so obvious to the perpetrators and those who are willing to stand by, is that this gross act of injustice destroys the work ethics of workers, undercuts the faith of young people in the system and further weakens the foundation of the whole society.

Workers work best when they perceive that there is reward for job performance.

Youngsters support the system when they perceive that the system is fair.

All elements of the social order get along together when the general welfare supersedes special interests.

Ironically, those who have the most to gain in maintaining the present political, economic and judicial systems in this country are doing the most to destroy it.

There is no better example of this self destruction than both the decision to move against Dr. Patterson and the manner of executing that horrendous decision.

The Watergate that erupted in Washington almost a year ago has arrived in Baltimore, via Annapolis.

The deck that was stacked in the appointment of the School Board is but one of the many decks that have been stacked by the Schaefer Administration.

I see similar happenings in employment, transportation, housing, law enforcement and other aspects of our local government.

CLEVELAND A. CHANDLER (Ph.D.
President,
Social Science Research, Inc.)

Insult to citizens

Dear AFRO:

The incident which occurred at the Board of School Commissioners audience hearing on Tuesday, June 3, 1975, was an insult to the black community as well as the citizens of Baltimore city.

When a speaker, Mrs. Grace Hines, was giving her presentation and was continually interrupted by the President of the Board, Norman Ramsey, who decided the time limit would be five minutes instead of the usual seven minutes allotted speakers.

The citizens urged Mrs. Hines to continue with her presentation and the speaker which was to follow her presentation informed Mr. Ramsey that he relinquished his time to Mrs. Hines. (This speaker's name was the Rev. Aaron S. Powell who was also a Black speaker.

His request was denied by Mr. Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey still denied Mrs. Hines the courtesy of completing her presentation simply because she was getting to the "nitty gritty" of the problems at hand and making them known to citizens in the audience.

As a result of Mr. Ramsey's arrogant, rude, discourteous, unexcusable, unforgiveable behavior, the citizens of Baltimore City were deprived of hearing the truth.

This has not only been with these two citizens but also to attorney, Larry Gibson, who is representing Dr. Roland N. Patterson, our superintendent, in his fight for freedom of the black and poor children of the city of Baltimore.

What kind of society are we living in??? I was taught we lived in a democratic society where a person had freedom of speech. Obviously, this does not apply to the citizens of Baltimore city, that is, not the black citizens.

The black citizens of Baltimore city should DEMAND AN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL of Norman Ramsey, president of the Board of School Commissioners. It was because of HIS actions the audience became restless.

In this day and time there is no excuse for a body of people as small as the Board of School Commissioners to have this much power and not be accountable to anyone simply because they are appointed by Mayor Schaefer!

Let it be publicly known here and now — "the alligators are out of the swamp"!! and there is no way in this world, the Mayor, the school board or any other human being can turn us around. (Mrs.) VERA D. JACQUES,
(President Citizens for Civil Rights)

Chides Senators

Dear AFRO:

It was nauseating and embarrassing to read that three black senators from Baltimore City (Senators Blount, Douglass and Welcome) had gone to the "Great White Father," Gov. Marvin Mandel, pleading for a crumb, namely, "Please O Great White Father give Mr. Hyman Pressman, Baltimore city comptroller, a state job so that we can run a black candidate for city comptroller of Baltimore City.

These three senators must have taken leave of their senses to have done such a thing. Did Delegate John Douglas ask them to take such actions? I hope not.

Would intelligent independent persons have taken such a publicized trip? They must be worse representatives than most of us think.

To see grown persons pleading to the governor who paid no attention to them during the General Assembly sessions or at any other time was most disheartening.

It seems to me that those senators could do some constructive things such as:

1. Put on and work diligently in a voters registration drive.
2. Contact their constituents and encourage them to support their candidate, Mr. Douglass.
3. Work prior to elections on some worthwhile community projects
4. Forget their own selfish goals and work for the betterment of the community
5. Set up political organizations free of the political power brokers

Senator Clarence Mitchell deserves commendation for not joining in such a fool-hearted ride.

EUGDNE L. KING SR.
(Chairman
Concerned Black Citizens of
Baltimore County)

Thanks

Dear AFRO

The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and General Assembly of Maryland enacted a law which changed the name of Morgan State College to Morgan State University.

Governor Mandel has signed the bill. Many of us realize that a mere change of name is not adequate to meet the needs of Morgan, the black community, and the general metropolitan area. However, we believe that a major hurdle has been overcome by the change of name.

I believe a major strategy which should be adopted immediately is to send a letter of thanks to the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor for taking the first step.

These letters need not be long and should refer to Senate Bill No. 354 which was passed by the General Assembly.

PERCY V. WILLIAMS
(Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Compensatory, Urban,
and Supplementary Programs)

Jim Griffin, concerned citizen, gives his side of fight for right

Dear AFRO:

The June 2, 1975 morning newspaper (The Sun) was quick to react to one of the statements I made which said that the City Fathers only appear to understand violence. Recent history will support this statement.

Past and present attempts by the black community to get equal treatment in social acceptable ways have only received token attention from the administration of Mayor Schaefer.

Recent examples are:

The School Board has been meeting in secret sessions since January in an attempt to prevent community input in the Dr. Patterson issue.

School commissioners held secret evaluation sessions and have come out recently with a vote to fire Dr. Patterson without having to produce a shread of evidence.

Many concerned citizens and Regional Advisory council members have peacefully and mannerly appealed to the School Board and Mayor Schaefer to open up this process to the public and reveal the facts.

To date we have received a deaf ear and a slap in our faces from both quarters.

Have the Sunpapers made any comments about Mr. Ramsey's, secret School Board sessions? No. Instead, they criticized Dr. Patterson for calling on the community to be involved in his evaluation.

A broad-based community group was involved in the selection process which resulted in Dr. Patterson becoming superintendent of Baltimore City public schools.

The morning newspaper also distorted the valuation summary of Dr. Patterson which the School Board reportedly leaked. This was to have been a preliminary evaluation and immediately the Sun supported the anti-Patterson propaganda.

Prior to the preliminary evaluation report, the Sun allowed news reporters unlimited leeway in criticizing Baltimore school programs.

I have not seen this same kind of emphasis on the manner in which the School Board has stiffed all forms of parent and citizen input.

I have not seen any mention of possible conflict of interest of one of the school board members, Robert Schaefer. Mr. Schaefer is vice president of First National which is currently soliciting for all school teachers' bank accounts while he sits as chairman of the Finance Committee of the School Board.

I have not seen mentioned that Mr. Ramsey is Mayor Schaefer's personal lawyer or that Ramsey represented Mayor Schaefer in the Schoenfield versus Schaefer and Julian cases.

The morning newspaper writers have been silent in Mayor Schaefer's appointment of only big business and industry people as school board members.

They have failed to talk about the lack of representation on the School Board for the poor and black children of this city.

Or another issue, that of the waste disposal, the morning newspaper has not criticized the white city councilmen and women who have literally kicked the black community in the teeth by voting to place the disposal in Ashburton even though public hearings have been held on this issue.

Black people have not been violent when they spoke out against the location of the disposal in their neighborhood. What has being peaceful gotten them?

On the other hand, the only reason why the juvenile curfew bill is being held up in the City Council is because teenagers have threatened the City Fathers with violence this summer.

Other examples could be mentioned, but one thing weighs heavily on this writer's mind — How long is the black community going to sit back and allow the white businessmen to single out our best black leaders, destroy them before our eyes, through black people like Scott, McRae and Marshall?

JAMES M. GRIFFIN
(Editor's note: The writer gave 12 years volunteer service on the Baltimore City school board and was vice president of the board and chairman of the social studies and personnel committees. He is active in Concerned Citizens. He was ejected from the Monday afternoon board meeting after he raised and charged the session was illegally called to oust Superintendent Patterson and the public was denied entrance. He was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. A hearing is set for June 18).

If YOU ask ME——by bettye moss

Recomended reading: If you missed AFRO sports editor Sam Lacy's heart-warming article in our Tuesday edition, please go back and read it.

It is published under the head, "Father's Day Came Early For Him." It is a tremendous article.

This is the 50th reunion year for the Douglass High School Class of 1925. Mrs. Carrie Lee Jackson wrote to relate how many folk are around, but ill, semi ill, aching, etc.

Many members of the class attende the commencement at the Civic Cente last week.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thorgood Marshall, who was a member of the Class of '25, presented diplomas to the graduates.

Mrs. Jackson says it was "happiness" for him to greet the members. It was ol home week at the reception in the Constellation Room of the Civic Center

Mrs. Jackson reported that it took quite a bit of doing to assemble the 192 class of busy citizens, but the im promptu committee managed to contac seventy members in two days. 50 year later is a feat in these busy days!

Hosted by the principal of Douglass Earl Hagan, the following 25 member greeted Justice Marshall:

Mesdames Grace Cole Anderson Margaret Russell Buck, Margaret Whit Ewing, Bertha Tilghman Gwynn, Carri Dorsey Jackson, Bertina Johnson Hill, Davetta Butler King, Fannie Watson Lawson.

Also Mesdames Edith Dorsey Myers, Elaine Stanley Nickens, Catherine Jones Royster, Roberta Scott Roberts, Charlotte Watson Shervington, Anita Short Wheatley, Genevieve Preston Fields, Lillian Garrison Donaldson, Laura Jones Newton and hubby, Harry.

Also Misses Daisy Harris, Essie Hughes, Avonia Seaton; the Vernon Irvens (Catherine); H. Rayner Parkers Olga); Robert Clifton Tarters (Doris); eo Wood, Dr. James Carr.

And three alumni, Mesdames Vernice Matthews, Elizabeth William[illegible] atterson.

Dr. Robert Hill, class president, was unable to attend because of recent amily sadness. Others contacted could ot appear because of illnesses.

Members of Justice Marshall's family resent were his aunt, Mrs. Cyrus W. Marshall who was a member of the lass of '14 and is believed to be the idest graduate present.

Also, his cousins, Edward Marshall, Ir. and Mrs. Leonard Randall, Mr. and Irs. George Carter, Mrs. Charlotte Marshall Perry, Mrs. Marsha Jarrett; nd nephew, Aubrey C. Marshall Jr.

Cuff Note: 264 graduated in the Class f '25 which included students from September, '24 (finished in summer school); February, '25, June, '25 and two-year vocational grads.

A meeting will be held soon to plan for a more formal reunion.

More good news: The degree of Juris Doctor was conferred on Herbert Russell Frisby, Jr., at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. He was one of 15 black law graduates in the class of 157.

Honorary degree Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., executive director, National Urban League.

Present for the ceremony besides his parents were, Russell's grandfather, Dr. Herbert M. Frisby, the artic explorer and historian; Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCabe of Philadelphia, (Elizabeth, who is principal of the Eliza Kane School there) and Mr. McCabe, a retiredteacher is a concert violionist.

Also teir daughter, Janet McCabe, Russell's cousin, who is a music teacher in Philly and aunt, Mrs. Ruth Staples, Philly and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson of Baltimore and Miss Jo Ann Jones, University of Maryland, family friends.

add to Ask Me Good News: On Sunday morning, Dr. James D. Shepphard, son of Mrs. Gladys Shepphard and the late Dr. J. Douglass Shepphard flew to Honolulu where he addressed the Hospital Association of Hawaii in convention there.

He's with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and acting head of the Department of Community Medicine at Howard University School of Medicine.

He and his wife, the former Edna Thompson, live in Chevy Chase, Md. They have two girls, Shelley, 4 and Kathleen, 1.

Hearing about the Honolulu trip gave us a chance to catch up with the Shepphard daughter, Sandra. She's now Mrs. Joseph Rhinehard, wife of the Detroit Dentist.

They are Steven, 18, and Geroge Allen 17. One plans to attend Howard University and the other will go to College in Detroit.

More good news: Two Morgan State College professors, Dr. Richard O. Hope, and Dr. Ester J. Ridley have been named to "Outstanding Educators of America for 1975."

Dr. Hope is chairman of sociology. Dr. Ridley is chairperson of the College's Science Education Department.

This is an open letter to Frank Harris:

Dear AFRO:

My son graduated with you from Edmondson High School and I would like to dedicate this prayer to you. Just reimember son:

God is able. He can operate on you in His own way. He's your doctor, your alin-all in time of need. God is with you, so put your trust in Him and He will carry you through.

God bless you Frank, and your family.

THE JONES FAMILY
(of Lyndhurst St.)

Editor's note: Frank Harris is the 19-year-old Edmondson High student who realized his dream to finish high school despite the fact that doctors say he has a cancerous growth on his right hip and in his right leg. He is now on a new kind of medication and has hopes that both the drug and the Divine are working towards his cure.

tell it to Jan

I am really having a problem and need advice. I am in my early 20's and have four daughters.

I have never been married and I don't drink nor like to go out too much.

About nine months ago I met this man, 5.8., He is a lot older and is very nice and kind to my kids. He has and is still asking me to marry him.

I don't love him and have told him so.

I have done and tried everything I can to love im but I just can't. Please, if you can tell me, how can I get rid of a person I don't want nor love. He seems too dumb to understand these words. Which way should I go? Please send me some kind of advice.

Need Advice Badly

Dear NAB:

If you don't want him, stay out of his way. Be sure you are not saying "no" in a "yes" way. Be positive, say, 'no.' Take your phone off the hook and be out when he calls. Are you sure you won't miss this nice man when he's gone?

Dear Jan:

I am 13 and my sister asks why I hang around with her friends and I said I'm tir of watching the children. I want to go out and have some fun, and they say I can't follow them. They are 15, 16 and 17. They won't let me hang with them. They don't have to treat me that way do they?

TOO YOUNG

Dear Too Young:

You are too young to hang out with your sister and her friends. Where is your mother in all of this? You would be better off if you enroll in your nearest teen center, church club or YWCA. You will make friends your own age and stay out of trouble. Better still, why not volunteer your time at a hospital or home and learn how grateful people are for a helping hand or kind word!

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.

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 728-6200, 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.

In your June 8 edition, your article covering the Charles Burman narcotics trial stated, "Delegate Murphy's appearance at the trial came two days after a film was shown to the jury of him attending Mr. Burman's party." (underlining supplied)

I personally have no objection to your reporting the news of whatever type, but I call to your attention the fact that the party was sponsored by the "Thirty Flats," the same group whose photographs you published in your May 27 edition regarding their summer cruise and raising of money for scholarships.

ARTHUR G. MURPHY SR.
(Editor's note: The writer is a member of the House of Delegates from Baltimore City's 41st District).

QUESTION: I have received a notice to be set out and I have no place for my children and I to go. Can you please help me?

ANSWER: Call Emergency Services, 234-2172. For other numbers, please refer to box below.

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 business practices — 383-3700.
CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND — Resulting from robberies or assaults — 539-5340.
DISASTERS — fires, floods, hurricanes — 467-3905.
EMERGENCY — Housing, heating, light — 234-2172 or 685-6525 — after 6 p.m. and weekends, 396-2726, 396-2625.
HOT LINE — 539-5151 for abandoned vehicles, dirty yards, garbage collections, clogged sewers, street repairs, bulky trash pickup.
INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-3211; Transit and Traffic, 396-3049; Drug Abuse Counseling, 396-2720; Job, 383-5466; Legal Aid, 539-5340; Rumor Control, 837-1188; Rape Center, 366-RAPE; Pensions Reform, 962-3914.
MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-3984; Greater Homewood, 396-6080; Northwest, 396-0207; Steuart 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, 234-2413; Oil Furnace Check, 396-4429; Rats, 396-4418.
WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4700.

Salute of week

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

In the spotlight this week is Ms. Jacqueline D. Fassett, director of Social Work at Sinai Hospital, who has been elected president of the Maryland Chapter, National Association of Social Workers.

In Maryland the NASW represents 1,100 social workers, providing continuing education, professional meetings and developing progressive state legislation in the field.

What are challenges her new position offers Mrs. Fassett?

She says, "One of my prime concerns is firming up the professional social workers position in relation to legislative action and providing needed information about the experience of our patients and clients in relation to public policy."

Mrs. Fassett is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. F. Henry (Clarice) Freeman of New York City. She has two sons, Denham Earl Fassett and Jay Edwin Fassett, both of Baltimore.

For the past five years, Mrs. Fassett has been a member of the State Advisory Committee for U.S. Civil Rights Committee.

She is the past president of the Maryland Chapter of the American Society for Hospital Social Work Directors; member of the Committee on Correction, Md. Conference for Social Work and the newly formed Independent Democratic Alliance in Baltimore County.

Mrs. Fassett is a member of the Heritage United Church of Christ and belongs to Alpha Kappa Kappa Sorority.

MRS. JACQUELINE D. FASSETT
In social work leadership role