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)

Bicentennial concern

July 4 marks the official beginning of the nation's bicentennial celebration.

As part of the formal kickoff, President Ford joins in a spectacular at Fort McHenry in honor of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner in Baltimore Harbor.

The entire bicentennial will be nothing more than a mockery unless all Americans are able to participate fully in the observance.

For this reason the AFRO is concerned about complaints that the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration does not have a sparkling record involving blacks.

The ARBA, which is spearheading much of the 200th anniversary activities, tells the AFRO's Washington bureau representative that it does not keep records to reflect the extent of minority involvement in programs it funds.

Much of that funding, by congressional mandate, goes directly to states.

Our representative did learn that in recent months there has been some improvement in ARBA awards to black groups, in fact, they have run at about 13 per cent. It also was learned that none of the 31 companies licensed to produce bicentennial commemorative products was black.

ARBA has been improving its professional staffing so that now 10 of 141 are black. In 1972 there were only 3 of about 100.

Apparently John W. Warner, ARBA director since March, 1974, is not unaware of the need to see that black citizens share in this significant historic commemoration.

Black citizens want the Bicentennial to truly reflect the growth we've shared and the prospects of even better years ahead. Our concern is that the official directing agency of the celebration places proper emphasis of this aspect of the observance.

Morgan University

This is an historic week for Morgan State, the distinguished northeast Baltimore College.

On Tuesday, July 1, 1975, it officially became a university.

To reach this plateau in its 108-year-old history, the college needed the dedication, the support of many persons in government and the broad community.

The greatest test of the esteem in which Morgan was held came when the 1973 General Assembly approved Senate Bill No. 354, introduced by Morgan alumnae, Verda F. Welcome, state senator from the 40th District.

It had the strong support of all of the 19 other black legislators and was signed into law by Gov. Marvin Mandel on May 15, 1973.

At the convocation today the college assumed its new mantle and welcomed its first trustee board members.

They include six former members of the college's old Board of Visitors and six other citizens who represent a broad spectrum of the community.

We are particularly glad to note that Gov. Mandel's selection of the university's first trustees transcends political lines and appears to be a studied effort to put together a group of people of proven service to the college and to the community.

The board includes former interim president, Thomas P. Fraser. Twice acting president, Dr. Fraser, like former presidents, Dwight O. W. Holmes, Martin D. Jenkins, King V. Cheek, has provided the kind of leadership the college desperately needs, as it moves to become a racially integrated, urban-oriented university.

It is good to know that in this critical, formative period, trustees will include persons like former President Fraser and another longtime Morgan scholar, Dr. G. James Fleming.

As 'fair' Morgan begins its new life of service to the citizens of Baltimore, it will need as Dr. Fraser aptly put it at the faculty retirement banquet on Sunday — "persons of competence, compassion, commitment and common sense."

The trustees Gov. Mandel has picked embody these characteristics. We wish for them, for Morgan's new president, Andrew Billingsley, the added dimension of love as they labor to build Morgan University — believing that it can be effective in lifting the learning levels of students and stimulating them and the community of which it is very much a part.

Cong. Mitchell's message

Dedicated political leader that he is, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell may have gone off hunting in the mayoralty race without having first properly checked his fire power.

But despite what you may hear from people who would be tickled to death to see P.J. go out and get himself clobbered in a citywide race, the congressman has served a significantly useful role in announcing and withdrawing from the contest.

The message P.J. has brought home is that Establishment rhetoric about election-time brotherhood and fair play doesn't mean much unless black people have some leverage — and in politics, that means voters (not just being more than half the population).

Knowing P.J.'s belief in independency, we don't think for a minute that lack of support from certain black political leaders scared him off nor do we buy the line that fear of a defeat got to him; he's been defeated before.

The No. 1 political job for black Baltimore now, and we owe P.J. for making it clear in a way no speech-making could have done it, is to get thousands more voters on the registration books.

Picking a judge

With a many-pronged investigation underway of charges of racial discrimination in the courthouse, Gov. Marvin Mandel has been handed the names of three white lawyers for a Supreme Bench judgeship vacancy.

But the failure of the city judicial selection commission to recommend a black nominee does not mean that Gov. Mandel cannot strike a blow against discrimination when he makes his appointment.

As Judge Joseph C. Howard has explained the problem within the court house, is not merely a question of racial imbalance on the Supreme Bench but also a lack of enthusiasm on the part of many so-called liberal judges to press for better representation of blacks and women in influential positions.

Of the three nominees approved by the commission, as well as by the Baltimore and Maryland bar associations, Joseph H. H. Kaplan strikes the AFRO as a potential judge who would be cognizant of his broad responsibilities as a member of the Supreme Bench.

Although a member of one of the city's top law firms, Kaplan has taken an interest in the legal problems of the poor, has experience in civil rights cases and includes in his background previous service as a member of the State Human Relations Commission.

He has been deeply involved in community service in the inner city. Kaplan is a young man with the kind of standing in the community that would make his a respected voice on the Supreme Bench.

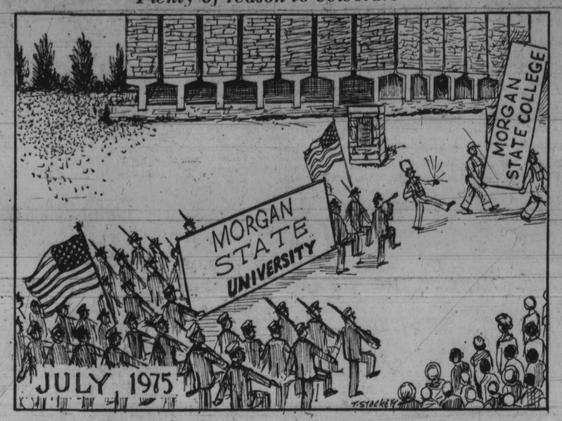
62 years ago

The blow aimed at our high school curriculum by Commissioner Biggs of the Baltimore Board of School Commissioners is a serious one and steps should be taken by the leading men of this city to ward it off.

It may be true that our high school is costing a little more per capita, than that of the white high school, but there is absolutely no reason why the curriculum should be any whit lower than that of other schools of the same character.

(John H. Murphy Sr., editor-publisher, April, 1913)

Plenty of reason to celebrate



Now and then — by g. james fleming

Eyes on Community College of Baltimore

Many things are affected by the untimely retirement of Dr. William V. Lockwood from the Community College of Baltimore, where his last position was that of vice-president of the soon-to-be-opened Harbor Campus.

First of all, the whole community is saddened by the continued illness of the brilliant educator—holder of all the necessary degrees for his profession.

Next, his retirement may mean that the presidency of CCB will slip from the black community when the present, highly esteemed Dr. Harry Bard reaches retirement age.

With Dr. Lockwood in the harness, it would be more difficult to ignore a black aspirant as he would be a formidable candidate, both because of his training and background and his intimate knowledge of CCB where he has served since 1964 on several levels.

Cocktail and political talk has been going on for some time as to who will succeed Dr. Bard.

Many people recall that when there was a vacancy for the chairmanship of the CCB board a few years ago, a quasi sleight of hand gave the position to a white newcomer to the city, thus ignoring and by-passing the black vice-chairman.

The interim successor to Dr. Lockwood is Clarence Blount, state senator and also associate professor of political science at CCB.

A most suitable person for the interim post. No one knows, however, if Senator Blount wants the fulltime administrative chores which may force him to leave the Senate where he has achieved so much power and leadership.

Neither does anyone know whether the CCB vice-presidency requires a doctoral degree. The degree matter could be resolved, however, because of Blount's other qualifications, but it is difficult to see the senator leaving the General Assembly.

For those interested in winning more prestigious positions for black people in Baltimore, it is worth watching what happens to the permanent filling of the Harbor Campus vice-presidency and to the eventual presidency of CCB.

Really, it calls for MORE than watching.

AFTER VIETNAM—It has been a long time since this column has dealt with Vietnam and America's loss of face there.

The intervening weeks have not been pretty ones.

The South Vietnamese people at home are suffering the very rule by North Viet Nam they had fought so desperately and suffered so much, to escape.

The majority of South Vietnamese refugees find themselves still in "refugee camps," with no glowing hopes of speedy absorption into their "foster" countries.

Both at home and abroad, these uprooted people are still suffering from years of malnutrition, and of minimal medical care, and from present-day breakup of families and loneliness.

On the American side, we (the nation) have to show for over four years of warfare little or nothing to be proud of.

We were first condemned for waging the war, so far away from our boundaries and with so little reason, and for interfering in Vietnamese internal affairs.

This condemnation even led our own people to "take to the streets" in open protest.

Now, we are condemned for "running out" on the South Vietnamese people and government, leaving them to the oppressions of the occupying victor.

Most of all, nearly all of our allies, Asian and non-Asian, are questioning whether their alliances with the USA are worth any more than scraps of paper; whether our word is our bond.

Frightfully, there are signs everywhere that this nation is no longer a world power—or a super-power, in terms of a few years ago.

Worst of all, our domestic economic conditions compound all our ills.

As in past centuries, will old-fashioned American luck, pluck and hard work again pull us out of our present nosedive?

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Independence a rare commodity

Independence in politics is a rare commodity these days.

Especially so, when political organizations spread summer job patronage for youth to club members, ignoring the needs of the total constituency. Especially so, when black political organizations fashion themselves, like the old white political bosses, determining the choice of councilmanic candidates upon someone, even an unknown, whom they can all agree upon, regardless of his lack of a track record in previous elections.

It is, therefore, heartening to see in the Fifth Councilmanic District that Democrat, Norman V. A. Reeves, has filed, independently, without being beholden, as he says, to a few, when 8,400 people voted for him in the last election, without fear or favor.

It is refreshing, also, to hear him say he wouldn't be able to vote against his conscience, nor the goodwill of the community to satisfy demands of any such political alliances.

To put it succinctly, people who have given him a great deal of support should not expect him to give unique treatment to the political bosses, black or white, at the people's expense.

Moreover, he says in being independent, he can represent the black community, listen to the white community, and use his own native intelligence, resources and judgement to make the final decisions.

Not since Congressman P. J. Mitchell have we heard such highly principled promises.

Not since "P J's" track record in Congress, that has exemplified adherence to the high road of statesmanship, do we have renewed hope that this kind of voice will soon be heard as a challenge to the patronage ridden, conflict-of-interest-prone city council chambers.

Education and crime are part of Norman Reeves's main concern. As the principal of an innovative prep school in East Baltimore, he believes he will be able to boost education, and as civil rights advocate, be able to detect and expose racism, no matter how many layers of sugar coating encase it.

Mr. Reeves is concerned that crime, though touted as the number one problem in the city, is being patched up with stupidity like the Curfew Law, when there needs to be a humanizing of police protection, foot patrolmen, who relate to people, rather than luxuriating in air-conditioned, insulated patrol cars, speeding through neighborhoods.

Moreover, the anacronism, as he sees it, is that these same civil servants, are in large numbers, taxpayers in Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties and make no investment in a city they purport to serve.

Somewhere along the line, Norman V. A. Reeves feels there should be a relationship between those earning our tax dollars, and those who pay taxes, so that those who live in the city will get preferential treatment in hiring. He feels this prerequisite should go for all city departments, not just the boards and commissions governing them.

It does seem ridiculous to decry the shrinking tax base, when the Mayor, President and members of the City Council allow a large portion of our taxes to slip quietly into the suburbs at night, some in city-owned cars, widening the white noose!

Being independent is hazardous, but a rare commodity indeed.

A column of Choice

By Marion Banfield

With all the racial fears that are being generated with HEW's directive to have white and black children learn in the same classroom, a creature from outer space would have a hard time understanding what all the hatred meant.

As a matter of fact, millions of us down on earth really don't understand why we do so much hating. All we know is that we have been taught to hate.

We can look back and remember when government in Washington taught some of us to hate the Japanese, the Chinese, the North Koreans, the North Vietnamese, the Russians.

We can see that our feelings toward other groups of people, the majority of whom we will never see, are turned on and off by propaganda from newspapers, radio, TV, speeches and sermons.

That same turning off and on of emotions applies to sending white and black children to school. We find it difficult to deal with facts.

Neither black nor white have learned to sit together, talk about our fears, hopes, and expectations.

Citizens need to face facts of living in Baltimore. Some of our schools, particularly where many economically stressed children attend, have some problems which create tensions.

Poor whites and poor blacks are more direct in using their fists when they get angry. They are more prone to express verbally their dislike of adults or peers in hurting, obscene language.

Their expectations for future life are less apt to include visions of educational success.

These children are less likely to go to school knowing some of the fundamentals of our culture, such as colors, words, ability to follow directions.

These students do not strive for scholastic excellence to the extent that more middle class oriented children perform.

Like it or not, our educational system is taxed so as to produce a middle class, citizen. Middle class is in the sense of being able to read and understand our national vocabulary far beyond elementary school level.

Our citizens are expected to develop self-control in interpersonal relationships so that we exhibit anger more with words, with avoidance of contact and certainly not with knives, chains, guns or any weapon.

TV, movies, magazines and newspapers help to teach us dress codes and standards of personal cleanliness. There sometimes is class difference in style. We all use the soap and deodorants.

The curse of drug use knows no boundaries of race or class. It simply varies in its intensity from school to school.

No parent wants her or his offspring physically abused. Middle class parents, black or white, may be more adamant against this problem.

Whereas, all parents want basic reading and arithmetic skills for pupils, middle class parents are more conscious of educational needs for success according to their standards.

They do not settle for mere survival. They have no intention of having their children struggling with problems of poverty.

We blacks have been described as inferior for so long that some of us consciously and subconsciously see ourselves as inferior in mentality as well as in political and economic power.

This poor self-image and self-hatred is a major problem for which educators and parents must plan strategy or else continue to see dollars fail to improve the educational level of black students.

A choice is for religious leaders to bring black and white citizens together to plan a September, 1975 school attendance for black and white together with some of that love and brotherhood and understanding they talk about on Sunday mornings.

Another choice is for black and white civic groups to meet each other and talk logically about September so that unethical, exploiting politicians won't get into office on the battle cries of racial prejudice.

Getting voters to panic on race means that the politician doesn't have to deal with other relevant issues affecting our daily lives.

Still another choice is to tune in to Morgan College's program on black history on Channel 11 on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8 to 9:30 a.m. It's worth the effort.

A final related choice is to remember that forgetting historical facts or ignorance of cultural facts is a necessary basis to prejudice.

OTHER VOICES SAY

Kivie Kaplan's passing great loss to America

(From the Chicago New Crusader)

Kivie Kaplan, retired Boston millionaire industrialist who took the leadership in recruiting more than 50,000 Life Members for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and who became its president in 1966, is dead.

Long live Kivie Kaplan and the faith he generated in the universal and eternal oneness of man.

Mr. Kaplan died with his shoes on, flying from the one service-to-humanity meeting in Washington to another in New York City. He preferred it that way.

Although he had worn a pacemaker since his heart attack, he refused to slow down. He was always on the go for the NAACP and Jewish causes.

In March, for example, he went from Safety Harbor, Fla. to St. Petersburg and worked up an NAACP Life Membership dinner for 103 people and got 58 of them to become life members.

From there, Mr. Kaplan drove 256 miles to Thomasville, Ga., to meet with NAACP officers and board members there. Then on to Macon, 157 miles away, for another NAACP meeting.

This is the way it was for Mr. Kaplan since 1953, when the Boston Branch succeeded in getting him elected to the National NAACP Board at a time when the organization was struggling to raise funds to continue the school desegregation suits.

Immediately, he joined in the fund raising as chairman of the Life Membership Committee.

There were only 88 paid-up Life Members, and 133 subscribers. Under his leadership, the number increased to 53,000, making such memberships a prime source of revenue for the NAACP.

Nine years ago Mr. Kaplan became national president of the NAACP, but never stopped recruiting life members.

His passing is a great loss to America and especially black America whose cause he carried in large measure on his broad shoulders.

Not only did he raise millions for the civil rights movement, but also provided innovative ideas and program direction as well as stimulation and inspiration for the long struggle.

Kivie Kaplan's shoes will be extremely hard to fill.

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).

"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

tell it to Jan

Dear Jan:

I just learned that my father is going out with one of my mother's close friends. The girls in my friendship club were talking about it in the cafeteria, and I overheard them.

When I started asking questions, not one of them would give me any answers. I am embarrassed and hurt.

I know in this so-called open society we live in I shouldn't be upset, but I am. I love my parents very much, and I like the so-called friend of my mother's too. I am 16 and still in high school. Do you think I am foolish?

HURT

Dear HURT:

Don't spend your time worrying about idle gossip. People who mouth rumors often do so to hurt others. Sometimes, they're just jealous.

It could be that your dad is not seeing the lady at all, but some evil minds have made up the junk. Hold your head high and go about your business.

Might also be a good idea to change your so-called "friends." With "friends" like them, you don't need any enemies.

Dear Jan:

My parents have decided to go up to a resort to work this summer. I must go to my aunt's in the country. I am 16, going on 17, and I have a steady boyfriend.

I will not be able to see him until the end of the summer, because he has no way to visit me and it is too far any way. I think it is unfair for my parents to make me leave town all summer. I just know my boyfriend won't be around when I get back in the fall. Please help.

UNHAPPY

Dear Unhappy:

Sit down and talk with your parents and tell them what you've written me. Maybe they can arrange a couple of weekends to invite your friend and some others to join you and them for a weekend breather.

If this is not possible, remember they are working so you and your brother can have things in the fall.

Try and make the best of the situation. If it turns out your boyfriend is not around in the fall, so be it, maybe he wasn't worth your time in the first place.

No tennis lessons

Dear AFRO:

My husband and I made arrangements to take tennis lessons offered by a tennis store, in Pikesville.

They informed us that they had two locations for giving their lessons, one at their Timonium store and the other at the Mercantile Club on Greenspring Ave.

We chose to take lessons at the Mercantile Club which is located in the black community. We then got in touch with the instructor and made arrangements for Tuesday evening lessons at 6:30 p.m.

Our first lesson was fine and we returned the second week and received our lesson.

After the second lesson, the instructor told us that there was a problem in that the Mercantile Club members had the right to request tennis lessons from him anytime as long as they gave a 72-hour notice.

This, therefore, meant that our instructor could not keep a definite lesson time with us, because he would never know from week to week if any club member would request lessons from him.

He works all day at the Mercantile Club giving lessons to the club members and in the evenings he gives tennis lessons for the store, (evidently the store has made an agreement with the club to use their facilities for lessons arranged through the store).

Our instructor did say he was sorry about this and offered to continue giving us lessons at any public facility where we would be willing to meet him. We agreed to meet him at the Greenspring Junior High School tennis courts.

Our instructor then decided to level with us and admitted that this whole thing was being done because my husband and I were black.

We gather members of the club became offended by our presence. We were advised our instructor was told that tournaments were going on at our instruction time and we would, therefore, have to cancel out.

In addition, our instructor indicated to us that he talked about the situation to the store manager, which let us know that the store owner was aware that he was making tennis lesson arrangements with a facility that didn't want any blacks.

This incident of course was very insulting and serves as just another reminder of the real feelings that our liberal white friends have for black people.

HARRIETTE and JEROME BANNISTER

(Editor's note: The AFRO talked with the manager and president of the tennis firm and the instructor. The manager of the Mercantile Club told the AFRO the club does not discriminate.

(All persons interviewed by the AFRO advised there was no racial discrimination involved. The president of the firm said it has a contract with the club which provides the instructor give lessons for members only, but may teach outsiders if there is free time.

(Further, he said, the Bannisters (writers of the above letter), "would have been affected whether they were black, white or green. It wasn't this . . . It was they wanted him to stop teaching outside people . . ."

(All spokesmen expressed dismay at the implications of discrimination and stated they would like to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of all).

Critics Choice hailed

Dear AFRO:

The Critics Choice and Baltimore 88 are citizens of concern who deserve credit for their outstanding efforts for the children at William Pinderhughes School.

This is what Concerned Citizens are all about — any and all citizens who are interested and working for the betterwelfare of the children, quality education, social and economic justice.

Efforts of concerned citizens are a united effort and all black citizens are supporting those concerned citizens who are working to improve conditions in Baltimore.

GRACE HINES

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer co-chairs Concerned Black Citizens. Reference is to a children's day held last Sunday for neighborhood children on the William Pinderhughes Elementary School Playground under auspices of the Critics Choice, a lounge located near the school. The lounge was formerly known as the Wagon Wheel. It is located at 1202 Laurens St.)

(Another reader who failed to sign his name credited Mrs. Bernardine Cook for her efforts in helping to coordinate the program which entertained children and provided them with gifts and food, some of which was supplied by area merchants).

Thanks Baltimore

Dear AFRO:

The officers and members of Woman Power, Inc. are gratified that final federal approval has been granted to construct a $92.35 million group of buildings for the Social Security Complex in downtown Baltimore.

Woman Power and its grass roots community helpers accept the thanks for Mayor William Donald Schaefer and Housing Commissioner Robert C. Embry Jr. for assisting in making that dream a reality.

When former Commissioner Robert Ball of S.W.A. suggested that the politicians and elected officials were the only voices heard in favor of the Social Security Complex in downtown Baltimore, Woman Power, Inc. decided to initiate, stimulate, educate and activate public response to the need for such a facility.

Dr. Delores C. Hunt, at that time, Executive Director of Woman Power, Inc., activated "Citizens Alert-Write In for the Social Security Complex in Downtown Baltimore." Thousands of cards and letters were sent to Mr. Ball from private citizens, community organizations, fraternities, sororities, service organizations, social clubs and church groups indicating interest and concern for the complex.

Woman Power thanks Mayor William Donald Schaefer, Walter S. Orlinsky and Mrs. Joan Bereska for their encouragement. Praise goes to the City Council for passing a resolution in favor of the complex. Special thanks go to Senators Mathias and Beall and to Congressmen Mitchell and Sarbanes.

But the greatest bouquet of appreciation and thanks go to the thousands of individuals who took the time to write the communications, exepted the energy to mail them and interested others in doing likewise.

Woman Power's motto: "Each one reach one — each one teach one" was exemplified in its recent project to locate the Social Security Complex downtown Baltimore.

Thank you — citizens of Baltimore.

Editor's note: this letter was signed by
VICTORINE Q. ADAMS,
(Research Director,
Woman Power, Inc.)
and
VERA LE CATO,
(Executive Director,
Woman Power, Inc.)

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.

Smile

If something isn't done about food prices soon, eating will become a spectator sport.

Salute of the week

(Editor's note: 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)

Thirty years of dedicated service in the Baltimore City Health Department is the record of Mrs. Dorothy W. Wiggins, a public health nurse.

The Halethorpe resident is in the spotlight this week, because she recently retired and already is formulating plans to volunteer her services after she takes a well-deserved vacation.

MRS. DOROTHY W. WIGGINS

"I plan to travel quite a bit and after I rest, do some volunteer work in the neighborhood Senior Citizens' groups," she explained.

A native of Charlottesville, Va., Mrs. Wiggins is married to a local businessman, William J. Wiggins.

Mrs. Wiggins is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie (Carrie) Wayts. Her father is a retired landscaper. He lives in Charlottesville. So do a sister, Mrs. Carrie Walker, nutrition technician, and brother Luther Wayts, caterer.

Mrs. Wiggins is noted as a person who is "highly dedicated" to her profession and to community service. She began as a staff nurse in 1944, has worked in Health Department clinics, served as school nurse and also made home visits for a variety of health services.

She is a graduate of Whittaker Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Newport News, Va. and the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond.

She also worked as staff member in the Department of Hospitals, New York City and the Baltimore City Hospitals.

This week's honoree is active in a number of health and civic groups — the American Nurse's Association; Bureau of Recreation and Parks, Baltimore County; NAACP; YWCA and the Halethorpe Civic League which awarded her its Community Service citation for unselfish service.

Mrs. Wiggins serves on the Usher Board and belongs to the Flower Guild and Canvass Committee at Enon Baptist Church in Baltimore.

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

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.

QUESTION: I would like to know how to go about getting a repossessed city home or apartment. I have had an application with the Housing Authority since August, 1971. They had a vacancy once in Fairfield, but I didn't accept it because of transportation problems.

I would like to have a three-bedroom home where my children and I can settle down peacefully and which I could afford on my Social Service grant. Please help.

MRS. N. D.

ANSWER: A Housing Authority spokesman advised AFRO Line you are speaking of the LUV program (Leased, Used and Vacant Housing). There are three different housing programs. One may enter into contractural relationship with the landlord; the other homes are refurbished and we rented them; and then there are houses leased from landlords.

The spokesman told AFRO Line you make the same type of application that you make for regular public housing, but this will have to be done at 222 E. Saratoga St. Call first for appointment, 685-7100.

There is a long waiting list, AFRO Line learned, so when our reader was offered Fairfield Homes, in all probability that was the only vacancy at that time.

Three, four and five bedroom units are still at a premium.

QUESTION: I was employed as a data control clerk by the Mayor's Office of Manpower Resources from December, 1973 to December, 1974 and was terminated supposedly for not complying to rules for taking sick leave.

I filed a complaint with the State of Maryland Human Relation Commission alleging religious discrimination and the Commission ruled out religious discrimination found that I had been treated more harshly than other employees.

Please help me in my plight for justice. — MRS. H. R.

ANSWER: A spokesman at the Maryland Human Relations Commission advised AFRO-Line that it can't give out any information regarding your case.

They state that you have a copy of their findings and suggest you share them with us. Let AFRO-Line hear from you.

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 685-0525 — After 6 p.m. and weekends, 396-2726, 396-2053.

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

INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-5215; 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, 962-3614.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6084; 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, 396-3186; Food Stamps, 234-2751, 234-2413; Oil Furnace Check, 396-1429; Rats, 396-4415.

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4700.

*'S AND YOU

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have a lot on your mind and should try to sort out things and proceed in an organized way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Accept the advice of trusted friends; it will help you to solve a delicate question.

CANCER (June 21-July 20): Good prospects and you can now face some difficult problems. Explain yourself more clearly.

LEO (July 21-Aug. 22): Things move slowly and not quite as they should, be tactful with your supervisor.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Good prospects for visits and journeys. Progress can be made over agreements on important projects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Some doubts—act with more decision and catch up on left over jobs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are enterprising to the point of being aggressive. But you will succeed—though perhaps not without some heated arguments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Important people will assist you and you should visit people to make useful contacts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may meet important people willing to help you. Don't neglect your family.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are rather depressed, but don't worry too much about minor difficulties.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Today you are in top form and should be able to tackle a lot. Get yourself well organized.

If YOU ask ME — by bettye moss

Happiness is joining members of the Bennett family whenever they gather for a reunion.

It was so on Sunday. It was Mrs. Susie Bennett Reed's birthday. Her sister, Mrs. Anna Bennett, joined with family friends, Mrs. Mary Miles and her daughters, Florence Miles and Sylvia Plunk to honor her.

The affair was at the Miles' Old Frederick Rd. home out Catonsville way.

Of course, many members of Sharp St. Methodist Church were there, since the Bennetts are longtime members. (Many remember the Bennett brother, Charles, who died last year).

The honoree's son, Charles Jackson, flew in from Mesa, Arizona, where he's with American Air Lines.

And, of course, there was the warmth and fellowship you experience when you rub shoulders with genuine folks like the Bennetts and their friends . . . not to mention the variety of tasty dishes.

Guests gathered on the spacious Miles lawn and dined at umbrella tables . . . because the weather man stopped the rain in time for the festivities.

Old friends spied here: Mr. and Mrs. William Cley (Theresa) of Copley Rd.

Chatting with him gave this writer an opportunity to recall it was in this column several years back that we made a true prediction.

The Cley daughter — Brenda — is indeed making a mark for herself.

She was — in 1960 — the first black girl to finish the U. of Md. Medical School. Remember?

Today, she is Dr. Brenda Cley, a board specialist in cardiology at D.C. General Hospital in Washington.

In private life, she is Mrs. Alfred Washington, wife of the government health director.

There are three youngsters, Kay, 8; William, 5; and Jeffrey, 2.

More old friends met: Police Sgt. William Stanley and Mrs. Stanley, (the former Estelle Larkins), also longtime Sharp St. members.

Cuff note: Sgt. Stanley formerly served on the STOP squad, is now with community relations at Southwestern District.

More people being kind. On Sunday evening at Morgan State, a number of well-wishers gathered for the annual retirement dinner saluting "212 years of sterling service" by 14 faculty and staff members.

It was a black tie event in the comfy McKeldin College Center (if you haven't been in this new building, do go and see for yourself).

Tribute to the honorees was by Dr. Thomas P. Fraser, the beloved interim (twice) president, who noted "it is a privilege to thank each of you for your contribution to Morgan. You have helped bring it to the forefront of great American colleges. We sincerely appreciate your outstanding contributions to this great cause . . ."

There were more thank yous from the new president, Dr. Andrew Billingsley; the vice president, Academic Affairs, Horace Judson; Dr. Robert Johnson, who was toastmaster; the Rev. Howard L. Cornish, who offered prayers; and Miss Margaret Lindsey, who gave the musical tributes (accompanied by Ms. Elizabeth Day).

And, then there were expressions from the honorees who modestly acknowledged the accolades.

Honorees were:

Mrs. Irene Watson and Mrs. Amber Taylor, Library; James Murphy, director of Off-Campus Housing; Dr. Alexander Walker, political science; Sam Legg, counselor;

Also, Dr. Bredahl Peterson, history; and Irving White, Mrs. Siner Gibbs, Andrew Gibbs and Frank Stokes, maintenance.

Military transferees are Major Lovie M. Pearson and LTC John H. Branch.

Leaving for other posts, Donald Young, post office; and Ethel Stewart, Center For Continuing Education.

Professor Legg, counselor and advisor to overseas students, joined the Morgan faculty in 1961.

During that period he was in contact with 240 foreign students; more than 150 of them were Africans who were eligible for the Carl Murphy Scholarship Fund.

Grad note: Among Baltimore area graduates last month at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. was Michael David Belfield, son of Mrs. Jessye Belfield of Myrtle Ave.

He majored in sociology, served on the college Student Union Board and was active in student government. He finished Edmondson High in 1971. AFRO readers may recall he wrote a teen column for this newspaper while in high school. Michael plans graduate study in the fall.

Recent grads from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa. include: Kay L. Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Davis of Bentalou St.

She was a member of the touring choir and in the cast of several musical productions.

More good news: People are still talking about the unique art work done by students at Alexander Hamilton School No. 145.

It was on display at Baltimore Museum of Art. The budding young artists are: Jackie Robinson, Veronica Vines and Vivian Williams. Their teacher was Ms. L. Rogers. T. C. Hamilton is principal.

Get well cards to Ms. Philathea Hall, well-known civic worker and good neighbor. She's in Bon Secours Hospital.

Friends will share with her her hopes that doctors will let her out in time to chair the city committee for black history exhibit scheduled for Carroll Mansion on July 13.

And, plenty of sunshine, please to a brave teenager, Rona Ammons at Children's Hospital, 3826 Greenspring Ave.

Miss Ammons, a U. of Pa. sophomore, was injured several weeks ago when she fell from her dorm window. She has been confined to bed ever since, but thank goodness she is much improved.

Doctors forecast she'll be able to walk again before too long. Keep her spirits up with get well cards and couple them with happy birthday wishes too. She was 20 years old on July 1.

For Dr. Patterson

Dear AFRO:

There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Roland N. Patterson is among the top educators in this country. Everyone who has worked with him, read about him or seen him on television can attest to this fact.

The fate of our young people rests on good education. With so much turmoil, good education in Baltimore city is at stake. We need to ask ourselves the questions of whether we want mediocre education or the best for our children.

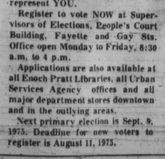
If I had to answer the question, I would say that we want nothing short of excellence, which is what Dr. Patterson stands for. He has and will continue to demand and expect top quality education for the children of Baltimore city.

There are those who are going to find fault with Dr. Patterson, but no one is perfect. We all have our faults, but when a person has accomplished the goals for which he was hired, I don't know what people can expect. Perhaps at this time a full exploration of the educational area is needed.

Being an educator, I know what it's like to expect excellence and use all of your energy to obtain it. Dr. Patterson has worked tirelessly with the school population and community to help the children of this great city. How can we afford not to give him our full support?

MYRA A. HARRIS
Assistant Principal
Guilford Avenue
Elementary School No. 32.

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.

5 JUL 5