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

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 12, 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)

John Douglass charges against City Fathers

Del. John W. Douglass makes some serious charges against Mayor Schaefer and Comptroller Hyman Pressman in connection with that $52 million surplus the city has.

Douglass, a candidate for comptroller who has gained the reputation of a knowledgeable financial figure in the state legislature, charges that Baltimore's accounting system does not meet requirements of Maryland law and that a fraud has been pulled on the public and taxpayers.

Douglass says that if Pressman was doing his job the city would have had a better idea how much money would be in the till and instead of having a surplus Baltimore City's hard-pressed taxpayers could have had a tax cut.

It is true that politicians make every effort to have things look rosy financially during an election year and although it is questionable, a degree of it is to be expected and we imagine state officials to whom Baltimore always goes begging, are willing to tolerate a bit of election-year shenanigans.

But somebody ought to know and share with the public what the true financial picture of Baltimore City is and there should be a comptroller who uses up-dated accounting methods.

We don't just need a comptroller who claims to be watching out for stealing, for if he isn't sure how much money is due in the till, there's no way for him to tell whether some is being stolen.

The AFRO also likes Douglass' emphasis on a comptroller who is as concerned about eliminating waste and making every dollar count as he is about playing watchdog.

Pressman seems to have no answers for his late and incomplete financial reports; nor, as was widely noted during the recent hearings for Supt. Roland Patterson, does his auditing force insist that various reports it makes be clarified for public consumption.

Baltimore's future depends to a large extent on the kind of respect its residents and other Marylanders have in the people who are responsible for its financial health.

Baltimoreans and state assembly people who know John Douglass have confidence in him. More thought should be given to this crucial office and the city's future before Primary Election Day on Sept. 9.

Morgan trustee head

When Morgan State University trustees held their first business meeting this week, the person chairing the meeting was Enolia Pettigrew McMillan.

The veteran educator, who is also president of the Baltimore branch NAACP, was the unanimous choice of the other trustees who elected her at the organizational meeting earlier this month. She becomes the first woman chairperson in the school's 113-year history.

Mrs. McMillan has a number of other firsts to her credit, and by reason of her training and experience is well equipped to handle any job she undertakes.

Older Baltimoreans may remember this honor graduate of Howard University 'dared' to institute suit in the courts to compel Maryland to pay colored and white teachers the same salary.

That action in 1934 eliminated dual salary schedules which had always existed.

Even though that court action cost her a chance to teach in the Baltimore city schools—in those days if you defied the system you were punished—she went on to teach in the county and eventually returned to the city system.

She retired in September, 1968 after 40 years, 27 in the county and 13 in the city.

In addition to her classroom experience, Mrs. McMillan has demonstrated the kind of leadership ability which caused others to select her to lead them.

It was so in 1936, when she was elected president of the Maryland Teachers' Association, and served for four years, when that body joined with the NAACP in the court fight for equalization of teachers' salaries.

(In fact, her findings on teacher inequities, contained in her master's thesis at Columbia University, were used as a basis for the suit.)

It was true in 1939, when she was elected regional president of the American Teachers' Association (Md., Wash., Pa., N.Y.)

Again in 1941, when she organized the Maryland State branch of the NAACP and served as president.

At Calvary Baptist Church, where she has been a member 53 years, she was the first woman trustee. Other groups like Planned Parenthood and Urban League, have depended on her advice through the years.

Two years ago, when Gov. Mandel picked citizens to serve on the Rosenberg Commission — structure of education — Mrs. McMillan was an energetic member. That committee recommended university status for Morgan.

Mrs. McMillan's latest assignment as trustee as Morgan begins the transition, to university is further recognition of her past achievements and her ability.

More important, as Morgan grapples with the problems of funding its new programs and implementing its new course offerings, it will face many hidden agenda items — government bureaucracy et al.

It will need at the helm of its first independent governing board an individual who is committed to the black community.

Trustee Chairlady McMillan has paid her dues in this area. We wish her and her fellow trustees smooth sailing.

What AFRO stands for

Periodically — as times change, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN revises its guidelines. They usually appear on the editorial page under the head, 'This AFRO stands for.'

Because one of the objectives university status for Morgan College was achieved on July 1 — it is time for revision again.

An addition, the editors, for obvious reasons, have revived the black majority on the Baltimore city school board issue.

Here it is — the AFRO stands for a responsible, independent black majority on the Baltimore city school board, and a black president of that board.

A new plank is added this week.

The AFRO stands for black elected officials to share in top offices in the city and state government.

All-white administrators in a city which is over half black, is unacceptable and indefensible. The same is true of the governor's cabinet.

Here are other points in the AFRO plank:

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts.

Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state, itself, including colleges and universities.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems.

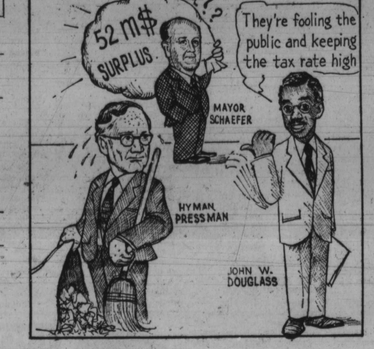
AFRO credo

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 presented 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).



Washington — by parren j. mitchell

Talent warehoused behind bars

(Mr. Mitchell represents Md.'s Seventh District in the U.S. House of Representatives. This week's column is by Clarence T. Bishop, Senior Legislative Assistant, in his Washington Office. Mr. Bishop is a graduate of Morgan State University, and has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Policy Analysis).

Given the number and variety of problems that face our nation today, especially our cities, we can not afford to waste a drop of talent that could be channeled into meaningful solutions.

On a recent visit to the Maryland Correctional Facility located at Jessup, it became shockingly apparent that we are indeed wasting tremendous amounts of talent by failing to develop adequate reforms in our prison and criminal justice systems.

Much more unfortunately, most of this talent waste is black.

During this visit to "The Cut," I was fortunate enough to meet, and later learn to know through correspondence, one of the thousands of beautiful strong black brothers whose potential positive contributions to society are being warehoused behind bars, as a result of one mistake on his part and years of insensitivity on ours.

This brother is Rufus Leon Samuels.

This brother is only an example.

Rufus Samuels wants his story told. His plight, again only an example, needs to be shared with the larger community. Therefore, with his permission, part of what he has experienced, as written by him, follows:

"I was raised on Druid Hill Avenue.

"I do not want to take you through a lot of rehabilitation jive. Simply because this jail did not rehabilitate me. I was young and wild when I committed the crime that I was found guilty of.

"Luckily, nobody was killed or impaired seriously. I entered here with a chip on my shoulder but I started getting my mind together because after being in here, I realized that I was not a hard core criminal. With ages comes wisdom.

" . . . I matured and I wanted to do something with my life. So far I have succeeded in gaining my education and becoming a first class welder. I have very little influence and the Judge refused to reduce my sentence even though he is aware of my achievements. As it stands now, by me being just another poor black inmate.

"The whole family has suffered since I have been away and I am now striving to get back into the mainstream of society so that I can build a life for my wife and children.

"The problems are identical to all problems that my brothers face daily while confined. But understand that I have worked diligently to prove that I can be an asset to society and my people.

"I know that the State will have me under their jurisdiction for most of my life. But I feel that if they cannot parole me for whatever reasons they may come up with they should place me in the camp system where I can work, finish my education, and be able to reconstruct my family.

"Once I am on work release I will be able to support my family. I will be able to pay my own way through school. But my main problem is, I don't know anyone, I don't know the right people whose recommendation will be respected by the Parole Board.

"No need to lie, it's who you know in the system; if you know somebody then something can be done. If you do not know anyone then you receive the same cold shoulder treatment irregardless of your accomplishments or achievements.

"I need help and I am not afraid nor ashamed to ask for it. If you can help me in any way, shape or form, please do not hesitate to do so because everything you do in my behalf will be very much appreciated not only by me but also appreciated by my family and friends.

"Sometimes jails work in the reverse, instead of creating criminals they often show the intelligent man that animals like being caged and even they object at times; a man with common sense will open not only his eyes but also his mind once he enters an environment of this type."

Rufus Leon Samuels is currently serving a 55-year sentence.

Except by the grace of God, any one of us could be Rufus Samuels. When will we learn?

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Not worth the paper!

Critical results of the poll conducted by The Sun in cooperation with the Maryland State Bar Association, Johns Hopkins University and Sidney Hollander Associates, 400 replies out of 700 queries — affirm the accelerating racist tone that has permeated Baltimore politics recently — a direct relationship to black Baltimore's rise in political victories, power and movement toward more equitable administration of justice.

(Note: No black persons were on the Bar Association committee to even formulate the survey questions.)

The survey was based upon the opinions of lawyers who have appeared before judges of the Supreme Bench more than five times within 12 months.

Fifty-nine per cent found Judge Joseph C. Howard "displayed religious, racial or ethnic bias 'frequently' or 'sometimes'."

What a coincidence that these findings appear precisely at the moment Judge Howard has been forthrightly exercising judicial discretion in the sticky issues of due process that resulted in delaying the School Board's actions to oust School Superintendent Roland N. Patterson.

It comes at a time when Judge Howard will soon release a voluminous report documenting racism in hiring in the various court clerk offices; and when a former City Council candidate has proferred charges against him before the Judicial Disabilities Commission.

Around most of the watering places and social gatherings of black Baltimoreans, one hears the confirmation that Judge Howard must be doing a helluva good job, if criticism of him stems from the majority of his white peers and the white press!

To us, life was ever thus.

Rather, in a society where black people get multiple sentences in this supposedly enlightened age — life plus ten years; death plus 25—one must question the ethnic, racial and religious biases ofttimes inherent in excessively punitive sentences; the dual standards that make black judges acceptable, and on what basis that acceptability is measured.

The overwhelmingly white lawyers who were polled, would naturally resent a fearless, independent black judge who would expect and demand excellence in preparation and presentation of cases; who would demand common decency in handling black defendants — not calling them by their first names, treating them with respect, not like animals and guaranteeing them their basic rights.

They would obviously vent the full venom of their racism and revenge to reply anonymously on questionaires where they could neither prove, nor substantiate their opinions.

In addition, one must question the competence of many lawyers to assess the performance of judges when just recently even the president of the American Bar Association abhorred the lack of trial expertise, as well as ability to prepare briefs on the part of a substantial percentage of lawyers practicing before the major courts in this country.

Also, in a recent judicial conference, one panelist, a white woman law professor, raised the specter that all too many law students are unable to read, write or articulate, and she wasn't talking about blacks!

Moreover, an unscientific poll should not merit front page coverage, nor editorial comment.

Superficial methods of measuring a judge's performance give no indication of his academic accomplishments, his publications, his opportunities to train other judges, nationally; how often he has been reversed; how many times in sentencing he has expressed the antipathy of a prosperous, merchant-class, minority community.

Against this background, a fair analysis of the sentencing review panel might give a clearer picture of the caliber of judges serving on the Supreme Bench.

The unusual timeliness of the poll results illustrates what a few of us realize, the establishment's fear of black political power and a bold method of wrecking it. (Judge Howard was never appointed by the governor, but elected by the people of Baltimore!)

There is indeed a great deal wrong with the methods of choosing judges in this state. Yet, the choices in the main are made by a very political Governor whose political debts and racial preferences, with few exceptions, are the sole arbiter of judicial caliber.

The legislative movement toward appointment will ultimately rule out (as in the case of the District Court) Supreme Bench judicial elections.

Control over the Judicial Selections Committee and State Senate, where favors are swapped, will be the Governor's private domain, without regard to the equitable administration of justice.

Conducting a survey of this kind is merely an exercise in unchallenged power to persuade and force us into an undemocratic system where only value acceptability over quality; personal preference and comfort over fairness, and is not even worth the paper it's printed on.

Now and then — by g. james fleming

'Same-name' old political trick

It's an old political trick for a political boss to oppose a strong candidate by entering a little known non-candidate into the race — a non-candidate bearing the same name as the real and serious candidate.

It has happened in the past in Baltimore. It is happening again right now.

A real, serious candidate is Norman V. A. Reeves, aspirant for City Council from the 5th Councilmanic District.

Mr. Reeves, principal of the Ralph Young Junior High, is widely known, has long been active in public affairs, and made a good showing in the 5th councilmanic race four years ago. He has a full-going campaign organization, running as a full-fledged campaign.

Out of nowhere, last week, came James Reeves, an unemployed truck driver with no known past active interest or involvement in politics.

To hear James Reeves speak, he is a legitimate candidate, has paid his filing fees and has time to run for office because he is unemployed.

The actual situation is different, from all appearances. So Judge Joseph C. Howard believes.

James Reeves has been placed in the councilmanic race as a spoiler. It is the hope of some political bosses that he will attract enough primary votes away from Norman V. A. Reeves, the real candidate, and that the boss' candidate will win.

In the current 5th District race, there are two serious black candidates, Norman Reeves and John Wood, a lawyer and assistant state's attorney. There are also two white incumbents seeking reelection.

If the black vote can be split three or more ways, the primary election, (Sept. 9), may end with no black candidate nominated.

The real purpose of James Reeves running (whether he knows it or not) is to split the black vote and keep the 5th District delegation in City Council all-white.

This column does not know what position the appeals courts will take. This we do know: James Reeves is a mischievous candidate — really a non-candidate, being used and manipulated against even his own best interests.

It's too late in the day to tolerate spoilers.

It is to be hoped that the higher courts will uphold Judge Howard's decision against the James Reeves candidacy.

FOR SUPREME BENCH — As of this week, there are a total of 22 judges on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore. Only four of these are black, as we mentioned last week.

Soon, there will be a vacancy, as Chief Judge Dulany Foster steps down into retirement.

This vacancy ought to be filled by a black lawyer, in order to give more recognition to the over 50 per cent black community.

But, Governor Mandel may not make a black appointment unless the Black Legislative Caucus makes its position known.

This holds true, also, for such political leaders as Senator Verda Welcome and Senator Clarence Blount, and for the Monumental Bar Association, the professional organization of black lawyers.

As of now, this column knows of no declared aspirant for the Supreme Bench vacancy, and could get no leads from the political "pros" of the city over the weekend.

It may be that the political power-brokers are holding their silence but are "boring from within."

It is important that black people do not lose out on this vacancy for the court; that the governor not be put in a position where he can say that no names were placed before him.

Isn't this vacancy business worthy of the attention of the Black Legislative Caucus— even though the formal recommendation must be made to the governor by a judicial commission?

Smile

Last words of famous men are not always remembered. Like Noah Webster's — they're symology, symotic and symurgy.

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)

Salute of the week

(Ed's note: Readers are invited to nominate persons to be featured in this column. Write Salute of Week, care of Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.)

In the spotlight this week is Ernest E. King, who describes himself as 'a lover of animals,' and who is thrilled over his recent promotion.

He has been named to the newly created post of Animal Facilities Supervisor in Sinai Hospital's expanding animal research facility. He sees his job as having 'a beautiful future," and "lots of opportunities."

Before joining the Sinai staff, Mr. King was at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He is one of only a few animal facilities supervisors to be certified by the American Association for Animal Laboratory Science.

He received on the job training at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington.

In his new post, Mr. King will have administrative and clinical responsibility for the animal colony. He will work in conjunction with the medical staff and animal care committee of Sinai. The National Institutes of Health recently awarded Sinai a $90,000 facilities grant, to renovate their animal research facility.

When completed, in an expected eight months, the facility will serve as a research and teaching center for doctors throughout the city. Animal research at Sinai has already led to the development of the nuclear pacemaker and standby automatic defibrilator.

Mr. King who is 28 and single, is the son of Mrs. Richard (Viola) King of East Baltimore.

His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lester (Maggie), Parker with whom he lives.

His paternal grandparents are Pinkie and Gerald King in N. C.

He has six sisters, Mrs. Margaret Singleton; and Misses Ernestine, Mildred, Barbara Jean, Beverly and Linda King. One brother, James Edward King.

Mr. King is a member of New Baptist Church on E. Biddle St.

ERNEST E. KING
In new post at Sinai Hospital

Home improvement

Dear AFRO:

Many black homeowners who purchased home improvements and aluminum sidings are now out of work and unable to make payments for their work.

Many paid exorbitant prices for their home improvements and were charged skyhigh interest rates by the banks and 2nd mortgage companies.

Some of these homeowners may even lose their homes when the 2nd mortgage companies foreclose on them.

The salesmen who sold the homeowners their improvements lied to them by telling them that if the homeowners lost their jobs the banks and mortgage companies would hold up on their demands for payments.

I urge all black homeowners to think twice before buying any home improvement now because nobody knows how long the recession will last.

If you do intend to buy home improvements, get at least three estimates before signing a contract and make sure everything the salesman promises you is put down in writing.

S. J. HARRIS

(Editor's Note): If you have a complaint that you were overcharged or treated unfairly in making your home improvements, get in touch with the Consumer Protection Division, 383-3700.

New sewer charge

Dear AFRO:

There is widespread misinformation as to the expected impact on the residents of Baltimore city of the proposed sewer service charge increase.

(Editor's note: Enacted in June, this increase will show on October bills.)

Typically, the increase amounts to much less than many persons fear. As you know the present sewer service is a 70 per cent surcharge on the water bill. Bill 1881 would increase the surcharge to 100 per cent.

Most households are serviced by a ¾" water meter. For 1978, the ¾" meters in the City delivered an average of 78,000 gallons to the typical City household.

The combined water and sewer charge for the average metered household was $64.65 per year of which $37.44 was for water and $26.21 for sewer service.

The increase proposed by Bill 1881 to keep the sanitary system self-supporting would amount to $1.36 per year for the typical house — an increase of $2.82 per quarterly three-month billing period.

There are about 37,000 water accounts which have not yet had meters installed (conversions are taking place over a period of years) and still have flat rates.

Of these accounts 32,000 are row houses ranging in width from 12 feet to sixteen feet. Analysis of these flat rates reveals that they will bear yearly increases ranging from $4.89 for a 12 foot house to a high of $9.15 for a sixteen foot house.

The bill raises city revenue in the amount of $2,100,000 for the next fiscal year; if it is not passed the tax rate would have to be increased by seven cents for the 1976 fiscal year.

Because the $2.1 million represents receipts for only three calendar quarters during the 1976 fiscal year, the real value of the surcharge increase for a twelve month period is about $3 million; if the bill is not enacted there would be a need for an additional property tax rise of three cents (making a total of ten cents) for the ensuing year.

To protect our credit we must honor the commitment made to bond holders and underwriters that the water and sewer system will be self-supporting; to use the general property tax to subsidize the system risks a downgrading of our bonds; this would increase the interest cost on all the City's future borrowings.

The Treasurer's Office estimates this might add as much as $750,000 per year to debt service costs paid by property taxes.

Another advantage of the sewer service charge increase is that the charge is applied to all water users, including those who are not subject to property tax, e.g., federal and state governmental installation, hospitals, universities, and many other tax-exempt facilities.

Further, except for the diminishing number of flat-rate accounts, the charge is borne in relationship to the use of water and sewer systems — thus a restaurant or a hotel, both heavy water users, would pay much more than an office building even though their assessed values might be the same.

JANET L. HOFFMAN
(Fiscal Advisor for Baltimore City)

God's help

Dear AFRO:

I read that 250 experts gave 250 answers on What the World is Coming To.

Not one of these mentioned that God is a jealous God, but that he is fair, kind, wise and a just God.

Nor did they mention that leaders of the world have forgotten about God that is why there is so much hate, injustice, corruption, and killing in the world today and not enough love, faith and trust in God.

Until there is, there will be no peace on earth. We must ask for God to help.

LOTTIE B. HICKS

Fall, never!

In your July 8, 1975 edition are these words: "Tribute to Jackson Black leader—Lillie M. Jackson—1889-1975."

I would have preferred to see "Tribute to an old warrior gone to rest."

I feel that a woman of Dr. Jackson's character might stumble very badly at times, but fall, never!

I do thank you for publishing those wonderful pictures of her lifetime.

MRS. MARY DESHIELDS

Clean block

Dear AFRO:

This is to once again congratulate you and wish you well on your 41st Annual AFRO Clean Block Campaign.

Your diligence and commitment to this very worth while activity through the years continues to make each campaign more successful than the last.

My husband and I wish to contribute $30.00 to the fund this year. Again, congratulations and best wishes!

MR. AND MRS. LEONARD COX

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 the right to edit all letters.

Dear Jan,

I am 20 and I live with this man, 31. I have lived with him for three years. When we were just going together he was so nice and now he is not the same. He started running the street with other women. I found out about it and now I look at him and don't see the man I loved.

Everytime I pack to leave him he says, please don't leave because he loves me very much. He says he has never stopped loving me but when I needed him and was in love with him he always said get out. I am done with you. Now, He is worried.

The man, I was going with before him, says he loves me. We have so much fun with each other.

I know now he has always loved me and I love him very much, but I can't see him too much because when I go out and come back in he wants to fight. What can I do? I don't say anything to him.

PLEASE HELP

Dear PH:

Pack up and leave. You are going to end up very dead if you continue to go with your old boy friend while living with this man. He suspects and just wants to fight at this stage. Make a clean break. Don't hang around 'bud' mouthing him because of his women. And by all means, don't throw up in his face you've found another man. And, for goodness sake, don't fall for his 'I still love you routine. He wants his cake and you too and three years is too long to put up with this kind of situation.

An opinion — by lindia a. brown

Cry the river you've sold your dedicated brothers down

Dear AFRO:

A minister of the gospel, I am not. A vocal critic of the people, by the people and for the people, I am not. But, a disenchanted, realistic, black citizen of this unfortunate and God-forsaken society, I am.

Just what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

This letter is in reference to the article, "A Message To My People," with the underlying title, "No black citizens have made it," written by the Rev. Otis P. Moyd in the Friday, July 19 edition of the AFRO.

I feel, as a black Christian, that it is never too late to speak to this issue for it goes without question, that the church must persistently take a stand on the actions of the powers-that-be.

The Rev. Mr. Moyd's dissertation honestly, humbly and fervently brought thenmaked truth to the fore.

To the brothers and sisters who inadvertently find themselves in the situation of which he speaks, those who have received tokenism advancements, those who have been dominated into silence while wilfully neglecting to serve, those who have suddenly and misguidedly forgotten from whence they have come, let me placidly share a suggestion with you: —

The very next affair you attend, whether it be sacred or secular, and you're aware that the Negro National Anthem will be sung, be sure to carry a box of Kleenex, when you get to the verse that says:

"God of our weary years, God of our silent tears. -

Thou who has brought us thus far on our way,

Thou who hast by thy might, led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places our God, where we met Thee,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,

Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand

True to our God, true to our native land.

That's when you will use your Kleenex . . . Gracefully stuff one portion of the box of 'phony handkerchiefs' in your mouths to muffle the words, just as you have muffled the lives of some of our dedicated brothers.

Then, use the other portion in unadulterated shame by "crying yourselves a river" . . . yes, a river just about the same length and width of the one you've so avariciously caused some other vocal brothers to be sold down.

Remember; without God, you'd never have made it either.

LYDIA A. BROWN

Indian neighbors ask your help

Dear AFRO: Since the dawn of American history, American Indians have been subjected to "divide and conquer" techniques and devices of various kinds. Proming less than one half of one per cent of the total population today, they are widely separated, geographically.

While other ethnic groups have increased many times over in number, original American are scarcely any larger numerically today than they were at the approach of Columbus in 1492.

This should tell us something — and it does if we will but listen.

First, there was the legalistic approach of the Federal Government which split us down the middle, making of those Indians who went to war against the United States "wards," which could also be interpreted as glorified prisoners-of-war.

While other former foes have been freely forgiven, and lavishly rehabilitated, All American Indians are viewed by far too many Americans as enemies and aliens in their own native land, even after all these many years.

The Federal Government makes a sharp distinction between what it calls "Federally recognized Indians" and those who never opposed it or who fought on its side.

Until the Nixon administration, it ignored these non-reservation Indians and actually encouraged prejudice against them by "Federally recognized" tribes.

This has been the most lavish "divide and conquer" technique of all, and continues to be very effective even to this present day.

In essence, it is the most flagrant example of discrimination ever practiced by the Federal Government, however legal.

The Congress of the United States itself became guilty of discrimination against the Lumbee Indians on June 7, 1956.

It wrote into "An Act Relating To The Lumbee Indians of North Carolina," a stipulation that nothing in the Act was to be construed as making the Lumbees eligible for "any services performed for Indians because of their status as Indians."

In short, we have the U.S. Congress admitting that we are American Indians in one breath and denying us any privileges as Indians in the next. If that makes sense or morality, I don't know what those terms mean. Congress really put its own foot in its own mouth that time!

There are other dividing circumstances. The necessity of earning a living has driven many of our people from their native habitat in Robeson County, N.C., to industrial centers in various parts of the nation. The largest of these groups is in Baltimore, where some 4,000 Indians reside, counting Lumbees alone.

In addition, there are at least ten other groups represented here, though in much smaller numbers.

Sometimes, some strange ironies emerge from these migratory conditions.

For example, the 4,000 Lumbees of Baltimore can not attend their own university, chartered originally as a college for Lumbees by the Lumbees themselves, without paying out-of-state tuition fees.

Whatever the legality of the matter, these things not be. Lumbees of Baltimore ought to be allowed to attend their own university without paying higher fees than other Lumbees.

If it takes the enactment of special legislation to make this possible, I personally say, so be it.

We have had too many things that divide our people and make them unequal already.

I believe every influential Lumbee should rush to the aid of his brothers in this most important matter.

And so should all influential friends of the Lumbees.

It seems inconceivable to me that one can be a friend of Robeson Lumbees without also being a friend of Baltimore Lumbees.

Let's all work together to iron out these inter-Indian inequities! Our only hope of ballot-box strength lies in UNITEDNESS! And the same is true in other areas, as well.

Lew Barton
(Teacher-Historian American Indian Study Center)

If YOU ask ME — by bettye moss

People saying and doing nice things about and for others department: Am indebted to Al Johns on the Chicago Citizen Newspaper, for these kind words he wrote about some Baltimore good-neighbors on his recent visit:

The NAACP held its national convention in Washington, D.C. this past weekend at the Park Sheraton hotel. . . . As you walked in the lobby, what do you see?? Chicago people, many working in other cities now. . . .

It was like old home week, parties on every floor . . . but all the time, I kept thinking about Baltimore where I had an apartment for the week. . . .

It wasn't the apartment I wanted to go to — Lucille Harris' house on West Saratoga St. in the heart of the Baltimore housing projects was where I really wanted to be. . . .

Lucille is a little on the heavy side with twinkles in her eyes and when she laughs, the whole world laughs with her. . . . She has nine children and not a lean one among them, Lucille's also one of the world's best cooks. . . .

I went to Baltimore to be best man at the wedding of Ms. Corrine Faucett, 65 years old and Rev. George Wharton, 70 years. . . .

After a whirlwind courtship that lasted 27 years, they felt they were compatible and decided to get married. . . .

Mother Faucett called and wanted me to give her away (I called her mother for over 20 years). . . . That soon changed after friends and relatives got there. . . . It was a "Ma and pee" group . . . I ended up holding the ring and taking pictures. . . .

(Editor's note: The newlywed Rev. and Mrs. Wharton are now in their new Madison Ave. apartment. Many may remember him when he served as associate minister at Gillis Memorial Church.)

It was a great night . . . I ended up at Lucille's house in the wee hours of the morning eating crab cakes, chicken and baked fish and sleeping on the couch. . . . I woke smelling pancakes bacon and eggs cooking. . . .

I reached for my coat with my diet pills, vitamin pills and list of things not to eat . . . The hell with it; you only live once. . . . During the day we must have had 'beef stew, collard greens, bar-b-q ribs, steaks, lamb stewing on the chicken salad. . . .

While eating, Lucille had told me about the little money she had come into and the thing she had dreamed about for years coming true, "owning a set of lawn furniture."

The table with the umbrella and four chairs set out the back door where she could sit and watch her children play baseball. . . . So we have to chain it down at night . . . Ain't nothing wrong with that!!!

BLANCHE CALLOWAY

The couch with two chairs and the glass top table sat at the front door, where family, friends and neighbors could sit and watch the cars and people go by. . . .

Didn't make no difference if the furniture did sit mostly in the project walkway, the neighbors liked it and shared in the Harris' new found wealth.

They even nicknamed them "The Jeffersons" after the TV series. . . .

After watching Lucille cook, clean and wash clothes, always with a smile and sturdy hand, I wondered if this couldn't be one of the greatest black women of my time. . . . We might not have much, but we're rich with love for one another."

Special prayers, please, for Dr. Robert C. Ford, the retired teacher. He flew home Monday from abroad without his wife of over 50 years.

She died unexpectedly on Sunday while they were vacationing in Europe. They were on a cruise in Spain.

Because she died abroad, Dr. Ford says, he has no word yet when her remains will be returned to the States. 'It seems like an eternity' he confided.

Many knew Mrs. Ford (Goldie), as the longtime teacher. She was 71. Cards to the family at their Ivy Ave. home in Morgan Park.

Glad you're better cards to Mrs. Blanche Calloway at 3302 Hillen Rd., here in her native Baltimore. She had been hospitalized for a spell.

Many know Blanche as the veteran and world-famed orchestra leader and entertainer and a member of the famous Calloway musical family. Brother, Cab, also world-famed, lives in N.Y. Sister (Bernice-Mrs. Clarence Monroe), lives here in Baltimore.

Cheer, please to another good neighbor, Mrs. Verry M. Jones in Sinai Hospital. She is the longtime Sharon Baptist member and mother of Mrs. Ruth Pratt (The Delta president and school administrator.)

Glad-you're better hellos to William (Bill Morton) of Liberty Heights Ave.

He's the friendly moving man and Masonic leader, who is recuperating at home after a stay in Provident.

Congratulations to Michael Mack, 22, a junior at Coppin. He won a 1975 Cadillac in the bowling tournament in Mountainside, N.J. on Wednesday.

He is the son of Mrs. Delores Mack of E. Lafayette Ave., and attends Faith Baptist Church.

People moving out: Mrs. Art Parker (Linda), and their daughter, Jamita, are visiting in Syracuse, N.Y., with friend, Julia Everett.

Many know Mr. Parker as the area sales rep for R.J. Reynolds (Salem, More and Winston). The Mrs. holds a teaching post at Hazelwood Elementary.

Rates us

Dear AFRO:

It is a good column in the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, Page 21, "All That Jazz," by Bob Matthews. (July 5, 1975)

"For The Record," by Frederick I. Douglas-Good. Comedy Writer-Good.

Page 19, "Minneapolis Teen", by Eloise Richardson-Good.

Page 9, "Tribute to Duke Ellington in Dance," by Zelma Cole Brown-Good.

Good Photos by Benjamin M. Phillips.

Soul is an Old Thing, by Cynthia Grandison-Good.

"Douglas Memorial Men's Choir photo," by Cynthia Grandison-Good. Good ads on these Pages.— SIGNORO PRIMO FURENTINO LANCI

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.

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, Extension 56 or 58, between the hours 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and talk in person with 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: My sister came to visit me and I took her to see our famous Lexington Market. I was so embarrassed when we went to the rest room.

It was HOT and like a cesspool. The stench hit you in the face when you opened the door. The floors were unbearable. There was no tissue, no soap or towels.

Can't something be done to correct this situation? We had to go across the street to a bar and use their restroom.

It seems to me an attendant could clean this public restroom periodically since so many use it daily.

MRS. L. M.

ANSWER: AFRO-Line made repeated calls to the manager of Lexington Market without results. The situation has been reported to the Health Department and a spokesman there assured AFRO-Line the situation will be investigated.

The spokeman added that any such complaints should be made to the Health Department by calling 396-4524 and immediate attention will be given to all cases.

QUESTION: Is there a difference between aspirin and anacin? — Mrs. D. M.

ANSWER: Dr. Samuel R. Owings Jr., a physician at Provident Hospital Comprehensive Center, explained to AFRO-Line that aspirin consists of one compound while anacin includes aspirin and two other pain relievers.

Dear AFRO:

Our thanks to the staff of the AFRO for a warm and informative tour. All the girls of Girl Scout Troop 1548 of Grace Methodist Church enjoyed their visit.

MRS. BARBARA WHEELER

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 — 659-5340.

DISASTERS — fires, floods, hurricanes — 467-9005.

EMERGENCY — Housing, heating, light — 234-2172 or 685-6525 — after 6 p.m. and weekends, 396-2726, 396-2683.

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, 396-2726; Job, 383-5448; Legal Aid, 539-5349; Rumor Control, 837-1188; Rape Center, 366-RAPE; Pension Reform, 962-3914.

MAYOR'S ACTION LINE — Govans, 396-6084; Greater Homewood, 396-6080; Northwest, 396-0267; Stuart Hill, 396-6267.

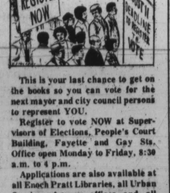
POLICE — emergency, 222-3333; Community Relations, 396-2710.

FIRES — 685-1313.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-1111; Animal Removal, 396-0151; Defective Sidewalk, 396-2168; Food Stamps, 234-2751, 234-2413; Oil Furnace Check, 396-4429; Rats, 396-4419.

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4700.

August 11



This is your last chance 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.

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