Conaway urges probe of insurance firm

Frank Conaway has called on Thomas Hatem, State Insurance commissioner, to investigate the hiring practices of Diaryland Insurance Co. to see if the new city based insurance company's hiring practices are discriminatory.

Stating that the company's rates, in most cases are cheaper, Mr. Conaway stated the practice is in violation of state laws as well as creating a situation that might lead to increases in premiums next year.

"... I find that they are not appointing agents in the inner city of Baltimore. The results are that black and white agents that do business predominantly in Baltimore City cannot offer their clients this better coverage at a lower premium.

"The ultimate result will be that Diaryland will spin off from MAIF, the better high risk business leaving MAIF, with most of the inner city business that has greater claims," Mr. Conaway stated.

Concerned Citizens form fund for Dr. Patterson

The first goal of the citizens Legal Defense Fund is to obtain funds for Dr. Roland N. Patterson's case against the Board of School Commissioners.

Although, the objective of the fund is to provide assistance for the legal defense of minority people, it will first be used to help defray the increasing legal costs for Dr. Patterson.

The goal will extend through Oct. 31. Thus far, it has, been established that the cost of litigation would be $20,000.

Persons interested in making donations should send them to Concerned Citizens/Citizens Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 11845, Baltimore 21207. Please make checks or money order payable to Citizens Legal Defense Fund.

Presently, $9,000 is needed for Dr. Patterson's attorneys to obtain copies of recordings from the dismissal hearings. Judge Joseph H. Young denied a motion by Attorney Larry S. Gibson, asking that the city pay the costs.

* * *

Concerned Citizens who is sponsoring the defense fund, points out that the city did pay the costs for the defense of Dr. [illegible] missioner Donald D. Pomerleau [illegible] Dr. Emerson R. [illegible] City Councilman.

The Board of Directors is comprised of the Rev. John R. Bryant, the Rev. Vernon Dobson, James M. Griffin, Mrs. Grace A. Hines, the Rev. William E. Johnson, Mrs. Joan N. Parker, Dr. Andrew Perrin, Dr. Oakley Saunders, Mrs. Helen L. Smith and the Rev. Alfred C D. Vaughn.

Concerned citizens for black political progress

The Concerned Citizens for Black Political Progress endorses the candidacy of Norman V.A. Reeves for City Council from the Fifth District in the Sept. 9 primary.

James Griffin, a spokesman, told the AFRO: "We feel that Mr. Reeves' long and broad range of involvement in civic affairs eminently qualifies him for CONCERNED CITIZENS the City Council. He has earned the right to represent the people of the 5th District in dealing with the concerns he has so persistently articulated.

"As a civic leader, Mr. Reeves' record is remarkable for the variety of situations and conditions in which he has brought to bear the pressure of concerned citizenry on the resolution of community problems."

Mr. Griffin added: "He has participated in almost every major civic activity that has affected the community in the past 15 years, including leadership in civil rights demonstrations for open public accommodations, active sunoprt of the Peace Movement, the fight against 1-95, and the political breakthroughs of 1968, and 1970, which gained significant representation for the Black community in the political arena.

"To this extent he represents a new breed of politician at the local level — one who emerges out of the crucible of the community struggle and whose moral sensibilities and desire for change have been honed by numerous battles against the status quo and the established order to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

In previous elections, Concerned Citizens for Black Political Progress has supported the candidacy of candidates that they felt deserved and needed community support. They included Judge Joseph Howard, Congressman Parren Mitchell, former State's Attorney Milton Allen, and Delegate Walter Dean.

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Warning on animal bites

Dr. David R. Berzon, Public Health Veterinarian for the Baltimore City Health Department has issued a warning that animal bites are likely to increase during the late summer months.

Last year there were a total of 5,810 animal bites reported, 79 of which were by wild animals. Many of these animal bites occur in the late summer months when the temperature is high and animals have a tendency to be short tempered.

The Bureau of Animal Control has listed some rules to follow to avoid being bitten by an animal.

1. Do not excite pet dogs by racing them on hot days.
2. Do not handle animals any more than necessary.
3. Let pets alone while they are feeding.
4. Animals with new born offspring are very protective of their young. Be careful!
5. Let sleeping animals alone.
6. Keep your face away from animals.

Wild animal bites occur because there is more opportunity for contact between people and wild animals during the picnicking or camping season. Dr. Berzon has also issued some rules that can help avoid wild animal bites.

1. Don't feed wild animals. You may find they have an appetite you can't satisfy and hungry animals can become aggressive.
2. Don't pet or play with wild animals or try to keep them as pets.
3. Don't try to render assistance to a wild animal no matter how docile he may seem. The fact that a wild animal is docile is usually an indication that the animal is sick and could pass its disease to whoever touches it.

If bitten by any animal, the Health Department or the Police Department in the area of your residence should be notified. In Baltimore City the telephone number for animal bites is 396-4442.

2 men guilty of kidnapping Big Head Brother's children

Arthur O. Burrell Jr., 33 and his 28-year-old brother Ronnie Burrell were convicted in Criminal Court Aug. 13, of kidnapping the children of Bernard J. Lee (Big Head Brother) last March 29.

Criminal Court Judge Harry Cole will impose sentence on Sept. 2. Leslie Stein, assistant state's attorney, told the court the brothers abducted the two children near Grove Park Elementary School in the 5500 block Kennison Ave.

Court records state the brothers telephone Mrs. Mamie Lee the children's grandmother and demanded $100,000 and threaten to kill the children.

The children were released near their home March 22. The Burrell brothers surrendered to the police.

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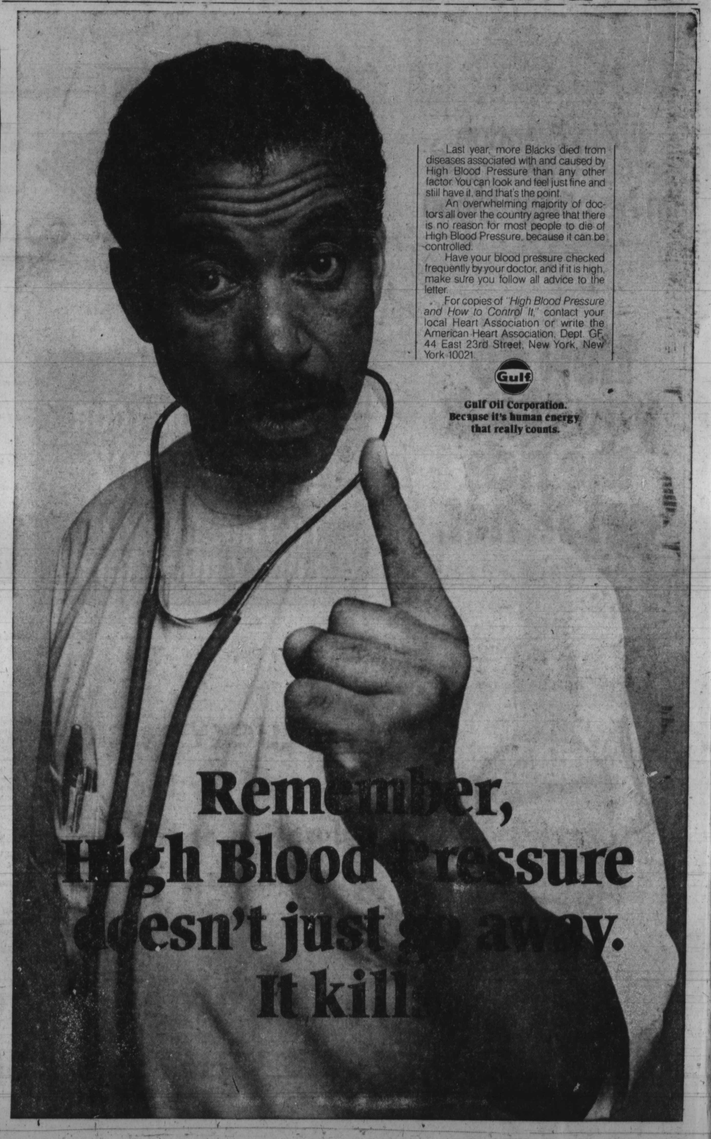

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"You say you want a 'Lassie' pose?" (photo by Robert M. Matthews IV)

3,000 bitten during 'dog days'

By B. Dundi Holt

Baltimore City Health Department officials told the AFRO this week that anywhere from 3,000 to 3-500 persons have been bitten by dogs during the current "Dog Days" period.

Dr. David R. Berzon, public health veterinarian and head of animal control, emphasizes that this figure is only of reported animal bites and that the number of unknown bites suffered daily couldn't even be estimated.

* * *

The AFRO received a call a few weeks back from a gentleman in the Cherry Hill section of the city who said that he had been attacked by many dogs within one week.

The man hysterically reported the area to be swarming with stray four-leggers who pounced upon innocent people without provocation.

Our inquiring reporter-photographer took his nerve pills and ventured over into the South Baltimore community to see what was going on.

* * *

Unfortunately for the fate of this story but fortunately for our photographer — the situation was not quite as bad as our informant would have us believe.

There were definitely plenty of dogs to be found, but "they weren't bitting."

Also, as most of the animals were chained in yards or simply too hot to move, the picture of stray dogs seemed less than exciting.

Although they were found to be quite photogenic, the animals tended to shy away from the camera or discourage the photographer from any notions he had of getting close-up shots.

"Look fella, I may be small, but I'm wiry!" (photo by Robert Matthews)

The message came through loud and clear via shifting brown eyes and subtle growls. "These are dog days, fella. Don't try messing with me."

One pet owner and lover told the AFRO, "Summer is the time when a lot of dogs get tired of their diets and want people over for dinner.

"With the price of foods these days, its nice to be invited to a meal, but not when you are the entree."

That is the way most dogs seem to behave during the summer, according to Dr. Berzon.

He told the AFRO, "Dogs have shown that they traditionally don't like to be bothered in the summer.

"When they're hot, they act just like some people do when they get old."

The months June through August are known as the worst period for relations between man and his best friend.

On the average, dog bites increase two or three times over the months of November through February.

This is the low point of the year as there are only 700 to 1,000 bites reported.

The AFRO joins with the health department in urging citizens to keep their pets off the streets and to provide them with an adequate supply of water daily.

It is suggested that a pan be made available throughout the day, changing water at least twice daily.

Remember, be kind to your pets. After all, they are human, too.

WELFARE RIGHTS WEEK

The Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization announces the week of Aug. 25 thru 30 as Fund Raising Week for Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization. This will be highlighted with a Radio-Drive on Aug. 30th form 7 a.m. to midnight. If you wish to make a pledge, please call: 233-4700, 362-8875, 366-1400 or 947-1245.

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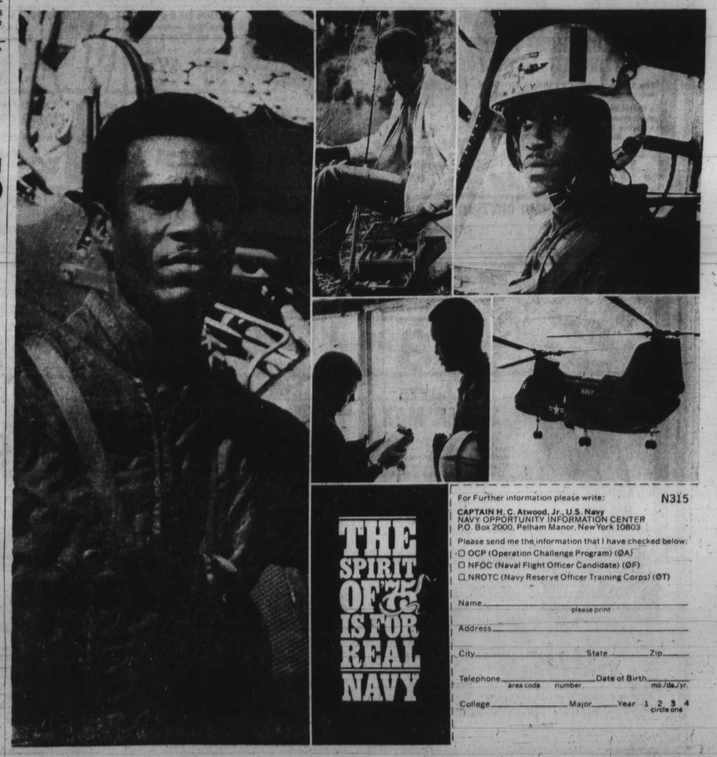
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