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)

A little about a lot

Vote and flex your muscles

By Madeline W. Murphy

There is not enough space to extol the virtues of many of the new black candidates in the Councilmanic race this year.

However, I shall write about a few who have caught my attention.

In the case of Norman V. A. Reeves, 5th District Democrat, it is necessary to point out that we cannot afford to split the vote between unknown candidates and Mr. Reeves, if we wish to increase our representation to the Council in the 5th, for the first time in history.

Here is a perfect chance to single shoot — vote only for one — Norman V. A. Reeves, to increase his chance of winning.

This is a tactic that should be used wherever there are one or two candidates preferred over others, especially if all others are white. Remember, you don't have to vote for all three.

—

Also, we cannot overlook Walter Brooks, former Northeast Community Corporation chairman, CORE activist, in the 2nd District.

He is a refreshing Democrat who should break the kind of machine controlled politics that has dominated the 2nd District.

It is my belief, that younger candidates have more enthusiasm, endurance, commitment and imagination than their older counterparts.

Therefore, in that regard in the 4th District, Democrats Michael Mitchell (attorney), and John D. Jeffries (labor unionist), are excellent candidates who will provide the populous 4th District with more vocal, youthful, resourceful and progressive leadership.

Now to the 6th. Frank Pettaway, the only visible black running in the 6th, will have an uphill fight, mainly because of the low registration among blacks. Although his background is quite community oriented, I was amazed to see that he had a white woman treasurer.

But be that as it may, the 6th sorely needs a black councilman, and if blacks in the 6th realize that the Primary Election is the most important election, they will turn out in larger numbers to break the white racist machine dominated stranglehold in the 6th District.

John Douglass is far more palatable and a better candidate than Hyman Pressman ever was. So, as the Democratic candidate for Comptroller, he is our only salvation.

Finally, black Republicans outrank whites almost two to one in Baltimore City. There is no reason, therefore, for them to vote for a white mayoral candidate when they have Claudette Chandler as their choice for mayor of Baltimore City.

As a maverick, she has revealed the duplicity of the methods used to select candidates by the Republican Committee, and the feeble campaign launched by her opponent indicates he's just there to keep the two party system alive.

At long last, Claudette Chandler offers a platform for humane treatment of Baltimore citizens over property interests — a rare attitude for a Republican candidate!

—

Judge Joseph C. Howard's report on racism in the courthouse points up one glaring omission — election of court clerks over appointment and with this report the legislature has a perfect whip to beat down this obvious solution.

Unless we fight to keep court clerkships on the ballot and out of the appointive powers of the governor, all the reforms and remedies to change racism in the court house will merely be studies and re-arrangements.

We must be more vigilant at this next session of the General Assembly to make sure that this is not done.

We need no new laws, nor constitutional amendments, to change the structure of the court clerks' offices at the very time blacks are able to win the clerkships, that is with the total support of the bench and bar associations. The lack of support of the three clerkship candidates last election perpetuates this racism.

Reform usually means — keep blacks out at any cost, while corruption and inequities go rolling along for whites only.

But first things first: VOTE SEPTEMBER 9 — EVERYONE! It is time that black Baltimore flexes its huge political muscle and makes it voice heard.

Top of Primary ticket

Mayor Schaefer, in his plodding, often stubborn manner, has managed during his first term in office to keep Baltimore from sliding backwards in a number of ways. As an ethnic group, we never expected too much from him so his so-so performance on race relations was no shocker.

Schaefer's shortcomings are not so drastic that we fear Baltimore will not survive another four years under his leadership. Because there is no realistic alternative in the Democratic Primary and because his developing political instincts hopefully will prevail upon him soon to give the total community a better shake, AFRO readers are encouraged to vote Schaefer for mayor.

From Walter Orlinsky we expected much more. As one of the three top Baltimore officials it was expected that his would be the major voice there on behalf of involvement at every level of all citizens in city opportunities and challenges.

He has been a woeful disappointment and in his case AFRO readers do have a choice. In fact, they have an alternative in the Democratic Primary and, if not successful then, another shot in the general election.

Frank Conaway is a successful young businessman who has sought to speak to some of the pertinent issues. He is our choice for president of the City Council.

The race for comptroller is the one which has caught the public interest, and we think for good reason.

We feel the voters recognize they have the opportunity Tuesday to retire lifetime clowner Hyman Pressman, a relic no longer capable of adequately operating the significant office he holds, in favor of a man of talent and integrity who is better attuned to modern-day, big-city financial requirements.

That man is Del. John Douglass, a challenger who has shown he would be a much more effective comptroller than the incumbent. In addition to his training, Del. Douglass has made the kind of impression on white and black state officials who work with him that forecasts improvements if he is elected.

The incumbent is incredibly naive in complaining that support for Douglass by the city's dailies is racist. He seems to think a lily-white arrangement at the top is just fine. Having been elected to a post does not assure life-time occupancy and under our democratic system, electing a better man, as Douglass is, is how the game is played.

All jobs and opportunities in Baltimore must be open to every qualified citizen. The voters of this city have as great a responsibility is seeing to it that black citizens share in the top leadership as other city officials and supervisors have in effecting affirmative action in their areas of authority.

When Baltimore's voters defeated State's Attorney Milton B. Allen for a lesser qualified white man they made the kind of mistake that should not be repeated. Douglass is more qualified than the incumbent and should be elected.

If Douglass' own community gives him the strong support he deserves on Tuesday, he will be the next comptroller.

The AFRO strongly urges its readers to turn out and to vote for John Douglass as comptroller.

In the Republican Primary for mayor, top black GOPers are touting John Thonsen over Mrs. Claudette Chandler as a stronger general election running mate for the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, who will be going for president of the City Council.

In this selection, an extremely tough one, the AFRO goes with Thonsen in the hope his primary win will assure a stiffer November challenge.

Now and then

Bodies don't count: only votes count

By G. James Fleming

Next Tuesday, Sept. 9, is an important day for Baltimoreans. It is Primary Election Day — the day when the political parties nominate their candidates for the several electoral offices in the city.

It is more than just a nomination day in Baltimore, however, because the candidates nominated in the Democratic Primary usually are the candidates ultimately elected, due to the predominantly one-party status of the city.

Too many voters ignor the Primary, as if it were not significant, when indeed, it is very important, even crucial.

—

At this writing, it appears that nothing can stop Mayor William Donald Schaefer from being renominated and, later, re-elected.

But, there are black candidates running for the office of President of City Council and City Comptroller.

Whether these two candidates win or not, it is politically and racially necessary that they receive a heavy vote.

Such a heavy vote will send a message to the powers-that-be — a message second only to actual election.

The black candidates are:

John W. Douglass, for City Comptroller.

Frank M. Conaway, for President of City Council.

—

Douglass is challenging the incumbent, Hyman Pressman. One of the topmost members of the House of Delegates, Douglass is chairman of the Joint Committee on Budget and Audit.

He is active in the Legislative Black Caucus. He has all the makings of an efficient comptroller.

To those who believe that the city's over 52 per cent black population deserves representation on the top levels of city government, Tuesday should mean a vote for John Douglass: Lever 3-A.

—

Frank Conaway, a out-spoken former member of the House of Delegates and a successful insurance broker, is chal nging one as young and ambitious a politician as himself, Walter Orlinsky, incumbent president of City Council.

Whichever way this race goes, it will highlight, more than ever, the feelings of white ethnics that they, like blacks, need a slice of the upper governmental pie.

From the point of view of training (Morgan State), and experience, Conaway is fit material for the presidency of City Council. His Lever number is 2-A.

Not only are the candidacies of John Douglass and Frank Conaway at stake, black solidarity also is at stake.

It is senseless to talk of the 56 per cent black population, if black voters are only 30 per cent of the total vote on Primary Day.

An overwhelming turnout of voters is also required in the district elections, especially in the Fifth District, if the latter district is to send its first black resident to City Council, and if the other candidates are to know that they are accountable to the mass of the people and not to a single boss or organization.

—

HAILE SELASSIE — The recently departed Lion of Judah, imperial emperor of Ethiopia for 57 years, and once idol of his people, was behind the times as a ruler.

Or, it may be that he was entrapped by the strong, landed feudal lords around him who would not have stood for the social and economic modernization of their historic country.

Haile Selassie, nevertheless, cannot be erased from history.

Despite defeat for a time by Mussolini's Fascist forces, he was able to cause his country to rise again, through his wise alliances, and continue as the oldest independent nation in Africa.

Despite the feudalism that beset the national socio-economic system, he sent increasingly large numbers of his young people abroad for higher education, at the same time improving higher education at home (Indeed, it is some of his more highly educated military men who brought about the downfall of Selassie!).

—

One of the mysteries of life is how Haile Selassie could travel all over the world and live over five years in Great Britain, and not be bitten by the bug of change, not be convinced that his people would not remain forever poor unschooled, and oppressed, under political monarchy and economic oligarchy.

Perhaps, this myopia should not be anymore surprising, however, than the blindness of the European powers who believed that it would keep black Africa forever under their colonial dominance, or the backwardness of the American southern plantation owners and slave-traders who had the idea they could keep black Americans forever in slavery.

—

Haile Selassie always threw his influence on the side of world order and world peace, and in support of the democracies.

His voice was a powerful one in the League of Nations, even if his admonitions were ignored. He was also a mighty cathylist for African unity and highly respected as an elder statesman.

Haile Selassie is dead but Ethiopia and her people still live. It was easy to depose him.

It was easy to see him wither away and die. Not so today and tomorrow.

Now it is up to the better-schooled and more broadly experienced young men, who are now in power, to show the world that they cannot only rule, but that they can uplift and strengthen their people; that they can convert the world's highest illiteracy into increasing literacy; that they can bring irrigation to parched lands; that they can build schools and hospitals; that they can share power increasingly with the rank and file of their people; and that they can accomplish all these, and more, with a minimum of brother killing brother.

For Haile Selassie, "May he rest in peace."

Memo for voters in Tuesday primary

Voters in the Tuesday, September 9 Primary will nominate Democratic and Republican candidates to run in the November 4 General Election for offices of Mayor, City Council President, Comptroller and to fill 18 City Council seats in 6 districts.

Politicians have already predicted there is likely to be a light vote. Maybe so. But black voters who constitute a majority in a substantial number of the 302 precincts cannot afford to stay away from the polls.

There is ample time to vote. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Other reminder: Independents can vote in November. They can not vote in the Primary Election. However, independents can urge their neighbors who are registered Democrats or Republicans to vote and provide assistance at the polls.

AFRO BALLOT

The AFRO ballot published in this edition is printed as a guide to readers who may take it into the polls with them.

Know your polling place in advance of election day. A list of precinct voters appears in this edition of the AFRO.

If you are uncertain where you are to vote, you can find out by calling 396-5551 or 396-5570 the office of Supervisors of Elections in the Peoples' Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts. If you have not voted recently and you want to be sure your name is on the books, visit your polling place ahead of time.

A list of precinct voters is already outside and you can check yourself out.

AFRO PRECINCTS

There are 100 precincts where the registered voters are 98 to 100 per cent black. The AFRO will tally them.

First class citizenship demands that the people register and vote in the Primary, first, because this is the contest which nominates or picks the candidates for the General Election.

Voters in AFRO precincts want an orderly government where public officials are not for sale, where neighborhoods are free from rats and crime, where police are firm but respectful, where laws are impartially enforced and where they decide who will represent them on city boards and commissions and in public offices.

Voters in AFRO precincts can not afford to stay at home on election day.

AFRO SLATE

The AFRO suggests that voters study the candidates closely, listen to their campaign speeches, read their pledges and, if possible, question them about their platform.

A good citizen does not sell his vote. If he does, he is as bad as a corrupt officeholder.

Remember you can take your AFRO ballot into the polls with you. It has no allegiance to any political boss.

Madison Ave. YWCA

On March 4, 1945, the structure at 1912 Madison Ave. was dedicated and named the Madison Ave. Branch Young Women's Christian Association.

That day represented two years of sacrificial work by black women of the community who raised $75,000 in cash, an un-heard of accomplishment in the history of Baltimore.

The Metropolitan Board of Directors contributed $25,000 and the $100,000 campaign was termed a success.

The YW was able to move to the "uptown" Madison Ave. location from the 12-room house at 1200 Druid Hill Ave., where it had its early beginnings.

The YW began operation in 1895, holding its first meetings in the old Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church, later moving to a house on W. Biddle St., which it had to vacate to make way for the first Provident Hospital. It was incorporated in 1896.

In all its 80-year history, the YWCA branch has had but two permanent homes — the Druid Hill Ave. site from (1901-1944) and the present Madison Ave. Center, (1944 until today) Sept., 1975.

What we have said here is just a capsule of the rich history of the YWCA in Baltimore. How it has spent eight decades serving the women and girls in Baltimore is richly recorded in its archives and in the contributions of women to this community.

What occasions this recital is notice that the Madison Ave. YWCA is considering closing up shop because of lack of support; underutilization of its facilities and a drastic decrease in membership.

In its pioneer days, the YW faced similar crises. At a 1948 Founder's Day celebration, the late Frances L. Murphy, one of seven co-founders, recalled the time in the 'Gay Nineties,' when the adult membership gave of their personal funds to keep the doors open.

The YW survived that critical period and many more, but it was able to recover because its programs were relevant to the times.

Can a YWCA still offer a service to an urban community? Is the closing of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA in Washington an omen of things to come here in Baltimore?

Can and should the YWCA remain in business? Is there need for a home away from home for young women . . . a community-based meeting place for young and old?

These and other questions will be discussed at public meetings. This week, as the YW grapples with the problem of staying in business, it has invited community input.

The next meeting is at the Center on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. All who have used the center, all members and former members, all who have fond memories of this great Baltimore institution, or an opinion, are urged to attend.

Chief Judge Sodaro

Can the judiciary itself correct inequities in the Baltimore City Courthouse without intervention from federal authorities?

Can men of good will right the wrongs of the past, the present?

These were the challenges in the devastating report issued last week by Supreme Bench Judge Joseph C. Howard.

His 42-page document supported his June charges that the Baltimore Courthouse is a "bastion of discrimination based on race and sex."

His figures proved rank discrimination. The Supreme Bench supervises a predominantly white male staff.

Of 772 jobs, 642 or 83 per cent are held by whites, only 129 of whom are women.

But, now, maybe there is some hope. New Supreme Bench Chief Judge Anselm Sodaro has gotten off to a good start. On Friday, Governor Mandel named him to succeed Dulany Foster who retired.

On Wednesday, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy picked him as administrative judge.

Immediately, Judge Sodaro showed he was sensitive to the need to integrate the responsible jobs in the courthouse.

He broke precedent when he selected Judge Howard himself to preside over the 12-judge Criminal Court system where he will advise the grand jury and chair the Criminal Court Committee.

And, he selected Judge Robert B. Watts to serve on the four-member personnel committee with Judges James W. Murphy, Paul Dorf, and J. Harold Grady. No black judges have ever sat on this powerful committee which has contributed to the past unequal employment opportunities detailed in the Howard report.

Associates of Judge Sodaro view him as a sensitive person of high integrity. At age 65, he is eligible to serve five more years on the Bench before mandatory retirement.

His first steps toward change indicate maybe the judiciary itself can heal the breach which has developed in the community and indeed make the courthouse a true hall of justice.

If this be so, it will be a feather in the cap of Chief Judge Sodaro who is a welcome replacement for Judge Foster who failed to recognize the problem.

It is a credit to Judge Howard that he had the courage to expose the cancer in the Baltimore Courthouse.

The entire community will be watching Judge Sodaro as he meets the challenge of the Howard report and the concerns of the community.

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).

58 years ago

A Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN editorial of Sept. 8, 1917, had the following suggestion:

Have any colored men been called into consultation or place! on any committee that are to work for the amenation of more territory to Baltimore? We have not heard of any.

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday.

—

If you don't exercise your right to suffrage at the primaries next Tuesday, don't go around complaining that "the bosses have the party under their control. Your chance to emancipate yourself is at the polls and if you fail to do so then you will not deserve.

(Editor's note: Fifty-eight years ago, the AFRO subscription rate was 40 cents for 3 months; 50 cents, six months; and $1 for a year. The founder, John H. Murphy Sr., was editor-publisher.)

Your vote is the one that counts

Prayer of the Week

Lighten the burdens of those who find them heavy.

Brighten the spirits of those who find it physically more difficult to see.

Broaden the way and level the incline for those whose legs no longer obey their directions to walk.

Be near to children and to those who are sick in body, mind or in their souls.

Walk closest to those who have only a short way yet to walk.

Throughout our lives, may we always find evidence of Thy love, always feel Thy presence, always know that Thou art near. AMEN

(From the papers of Carl Murphy, 1889-1967)

Make it official

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

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

All letters MUST be signed.

The AFRO reserves the right to edit all letters.

Fiscal scapegoats

Dear AFRO:

I, too, am vehemently opposed to the President's intention on stifling federal and military pay raises. Why must government workers continually bare the burden for the administrations federal deficits?

Why must we always be the fiscal scapegoats in the fight against inflation? We, too, must survive, be it an inflationary period or not.

I would like to make a plea to the persons in the House and Senate, the President's Pay Advisory Committee, the Civil Service Commission, the Office of Management and Budget, federal and military employees associations, especially to the A.F.G.E., and to all federal and military employees to vindicatively embark upon lobbying for the 8.66 per cent increase.

Scrutinization of past pay raises leads me to believe that we, government workers, are, in part, responsible for the diminutive pay raises that we receive.

We have not, and do not, make our congresspersons and constitutents cognizant of our feelings, need alone other agencies and offices.

Injustices such as this can not and must not be tolerated.

Government workers must not allow Presidents to continually make us their scapegoats for their administrations failures.

There is no better time than the present for everyone to speak up and be heard. Let's write to our leaders, let's speak with our constituents, let's fight for our survival. MARVIN L. CHEATHAM SR.

Birthdays

Dear AFRO:

I would like to wish happy birthday to my sister, Pauline Tompkin, who was born August 23, 1927, she lives at 424 Wilson St., who has been a reader of the AFRO for over twenty years. Happy Birthday.

I would like to wish my cousin Anna Robinson, who was born August 16, 1920, She lives at The Jewish Convalescene Home on Pall Mall Rd., who has been an AFRO reader for ten years. ANNA RUCKER

Editor's note: The above letter was occasioned by our request that readers born during our birthday month let us hear from them. We were 83 on August 13. Happy birthday to this AFRO-reading family.)

City helps Clean Block

Dear AFRO:

Enclosed is the promised check in the amount of $1,000.00. Unfortunately, we could not provide the amount we have contributed in the past due to rather severe fiscal restraints. However, please be assured that our interest in the AFRO Clean Block Campaign is as great or greater than ever before.

On behalf of Mr. Lenwood M. Ivey, Executive Director and the entire Urban Services Agency, I wish the AFRO endless success in your Cean Block endeavor this year.

The Baltimore AFRO AMERICAN has certainly made a tremendous contribution to this city! MRS. ELVA J. EDWARDS, (Associate Director, Urban Services Agency.)

Transportation

Dear AFRO:

Transportation is one of Baltimore's major problems.

I live in Charles Village, where the residential streets, particularly St. Paul and Calvert Sts., are transformed into expressways during the rush hour.

Residents are not permitted to park in front of their houses or apartments during peak hours and must circle the neighborhood looking for a parking space.

Neighborhood children attending Robert Poole Junior High as part of the school desegregation plan are required to take three different buses because the city lacks adequate public transportation. MARY JANE LUPTON

Integration

Dear AFRO:

There are amongst us, some, who are slow to change some opposed to a natural progression of the human condition, people who have let themselves be swayed by parochial thinking, with groups and cults and clans, not conducive to modern demands.

Some were opposed to all things that could benefit mankind against the railroad, the telephone, the automobile, or electricity but after awhile, their resistance dwindles and evaporates and American progress pokes along at snails pace.

But we are white taxpayers; some splinter groups profess; we want only the best for our children, consider that and we too are taxpayers, who just happen to be black demanding justice and equality for our children, consider that!

And I am optimistic that our school system shall prevail, the specifies of the law have been clearly defined, I tell myself that my children have nothing to fear or bigotry and hatred, might just destroy us all. Paul D. McAllister, 2228 Callow Ave., Balto., Md. 21217

My Dreams

By Regina McGill

Oh, tell me where is this so-called promised land where slaves are unchained and not still not free . . . still bound by that invisible umbilical cord to poverty and deprivation?

Oh, say can you see, that mothers still cry for children unfed, fathers unemployed, laws maladministered.

I have a dream also, Martin, that my children and their children will be free at last but how can that be when prejudice still lies in the minds of those who hold the "key like" some hereditary disease passed from generation to generation?

Here, money talks for those who have and the 'have-nots' voices go unheard in the din of a thousand Watergates, but life still goes on and so do the injustices of mankind.

You have a dream when you were alive, Brother Martin, but America so vainly in love of her powers and herself has turned them into nightmares.

Smile

Romance today is a problem. If women fall all over you, you don't know whether it's your appeal or their shoes.

John Douglass and Arthur Ashe

Dear AFRO:

The other day, while cleaning out some old newspapers, I ran across and reread an interesting column from earlier in the summer by Joseph Kraft.

Kraft was impressed by tennis player Arthur Ashe's victory over Jimmy Connors - considered a notable upset back in July, you will remember.

He drew an interesting lesson from this: the triumph of hard working, single-minded intelligence and dogged determination against a flashy loud-mouth with an explosive reputation.

The thinking man versus the gaudy showboat.

It occurred to me that this same battle is being fought out here in Baltimore this fall with Arthur Ashe becoming John Douglass and Jimmy Connors, aging quickly, becoming Hyman Pressman.

And that is the choice we are asked to make on September 9 - the cautious, determined, and rather unexciting thinking man - Douglass - or the gaudy loudmouth with an opinion on every matter outside of his own field and no particular qualifications within that field - Hyman Pressman.

No one should vote in this election on the basis of oratory or exciting razzle dazzle. We are going to decide who best to put in charge of watching over the taxpayers' money - our own money.

We are not voting for a black candidate versus a white candidate. We are voting to choose between a qualified financial expert with serious and highly qualifying experience in State fiscal affairs and an incumbent party back who has never seriously pretended that he knew what he has doing as City Comptroller.

It occurs to me that John Douglass isn't so much a black candidate for Comptroller as he is a candidate for Comptroller who is black.

This fact is a hopeful measure of how far our society has come in the past decade. No longer does a Black politician have to echo the clarion call of blackness in order to be seriously considered. Now, he can be an expert in matters far removed from Black History or civil rights advocacy.

Now, it is possible for a John Douglass - a bonafide expert on fiscal affairs - to be a candidate on the entire basis of his expertise.

And I ask for his election not because he is a black man and we so desperately need a black officeholder, but rather because he is a financial expert - calm, thoughtful, businesslike and intelligent - and that is what is needed for the office he wants to fill.

The Arthur Ashes and John Douglasses of this world may not be quite so flashy, but in the last analysis, the fact that the world is still a liveable place is much more their doing than it is the doing of the flashy loudmouths who so often oppose them. RUTH CHANDLER.

..."If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean's majestic waves without the awful roar of the waters."
Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

'S AND YOU

SCORPIO Oct. 24 Nov. 22. AVOID those who waste time and energy; you will need all yours for an ambitious new venture. You get a flattering social invitation. Color red.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 22. YOU seem to have a knack of pouring oil on troubled waters. Extra care taken over your appearance will be worthwhile. Color black.

—

CAPRICORN Dec. 23-Jan. 20. A CHANCE to enhance your standing. Stepping into the limelight is a new experience, but you love it. Color brown.

—

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 19. RELATIONS with others call for tact and genuine friendliness. You can make good headway socially. Luck signs later in the week. Color yellow.

—

PISCES Feb. 20-Mar. 20. SPECIAL luck will ease financial situation. You'll be surprised at the economies you make. Health reports reassuring. Color pink.

—

ARIES, Mar. 21-April 20. SPEAK up for yourself and you'll gain, respect. You earn credit for co-operation. Color cranberry.

—

TAURUS April 21-May 21. BE MODEST in social expectations. In romance you may find yourself thinking along more serious lines. Home problems are solved with tact. Color orange.

—

GEMINI May 22-June 21. GUIDANCE from another will keep you from doing a foolish thing. The early week is extra busy, but you make excellent progress. Color gold.

—

CANCER June 22-July 23. DUTIES may occupy the time you had hoped to spend more pleasantly. Mid-week news restores your good humor. Color green.

—

LEO July 24-Aug. 23. MONEY matters rule. An important decision means better progress. Weekend socially attractive. Color blue.

If you ask ME ... by bettye moss

In this television age when the dinnertime commercial is likely to tell you about the convenience of the newest feminine tampon, what in the heck is all the fuss about Mrs. Betty Ford's frank comments on some of today's problems?

Could it be there has been so much reaction because she is the wife of the President of the U.S., and there hasn't been much frankness out of the White House in recent years?

Actually, Betty Ford's honest answers were like a fresh breath of air.

Morley Safer started things on his CBS TV '60-Minute' interview when he asked the First Lady a hypothetical question about her daughter, Susan, 18.

—

The provocative August 10 interview went like this:

Q — "What if daughter, Susan, came to you and said, 'Mother, I'm having an affair?'"

A — "Well, I wouldn't be surprised. I think she's a perfectly normal human BEING LIKE ALL young girls.

"If she wanted to continue, I would certainly counsel her and advise her on the subject.

"And I'd want to know pretty much about the young man that she was planning to have the affair with — whether it was a worthwhile encounter or whether it was going to be one of those . . . She's pretty young to start affairs.

Q — But, nevertheless old enough?

A — Oh, Yes, she's a big girl.

—

At another point in the interview, Betty Ford had this comment on premarital affairs:—

"I think there's a complete freedom among young people now. And, in some cases, I'm not so sure that, perhaps, there would be less divorce . . ."

On other subjects: —

Drugs: — Mrs. Ford said she is confident her children are not much interested in drugs, because of their moral upbringing, although, she said, "I'm, sure they've all probably tried marijuana."

Asked whether she might have tried it herself had it been popular when she was young, Mrs. Ford admitted she "probably" would have, from curiosity.

She compared such experimentation to "your first beer or your first cigarette."

—

On rights:—The First Lady predicted the equal rights amendment to the constitution might be ratified by next year and said she is pressing the President to appoint a woman to the supreme court.

Abortion:—the supreme court's decision to legalize abortion was "the best thing in the world . . . a great, great decision."

Women's Lib.: — Asked whether she sometimes found the more strident women's liberation advocates "a little bit hard to take," Mrs. Ford said she did.

She added: "I'm not the type that's going to burn my bra or do something like that."

This column's comment: "Right on, Betty Ford.

We've read and re-read your comments and it is mystery to us how so many pious readers could misunderstand.

Nowhere did you say you favored premarital sex or drugs.

What you did indicate is that you are not burying your head in the sand and ignoring today's crucial problems . . . sex, drugs et al.

And certainly, there's not a parent in the United States who can afford to be smug and satisfied about these controversial issues.

Betty Ford was candid enough to realize sex, drugs, temptations and urges can affect young people whether they live in the White House or in the slums. She told it like it is.

Cuff note: With a First Lady like this, in the White House perhaps we can move faster along the path to full employment for all, for greater recognition of the rights of the little man or woman struggling up the economic ladder . . . and black women in the President's cabinet too. Right on, Betty?

The AFRO stands for

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

Black elected officials to share in top offices in the city and state government.

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

Black judges on all benches of the city and state court system.

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.

Dear Jan:

Sometimes I can't figure parents. My mother is the kind of person who is always worrying about if I am safe and if I drive carefully and whether I will finish college.

The other day she overheard a friend talk to me about staying at my boyfriend's apartment, but she didn't say a word. I can't figure that out. Can you? Oh, by the way, I am 19, going on 20 and make good marks in college. Confused.

Dear Confused:

Maybe your friend shocked dear ole mom, or maybe she's figured that after rearing all five of you to this point, she's done the best she can and by now you know right from wrong. Do YOU?

Dear Jan:

Most of the people who write you for help seem to be females. I am 19, going on 20, and sometimes the gals get me confused.

I like a lot of girls and I am not ready to settle down with bills and diapers. I want to see some of the world and get prepared for a good job. How can I make some of these scheming females understand we guys have goals too?—Ambitious

Dear Ambitious:

Keep dating many gals and when they start the 'marry me' ritual, be frank and firm. If they won't listen, hunt for greener pastures where there is respect for a decent guy's ambitions. Good luck!

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 — 363-2700.

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

DISASTERS — fires, floods, hurricanes — 467-9905.

EMERGENCY — Housing, heating, light — 234-2172 or 65-0525 — 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, 396-5211; Transit and Traffic, 396-3049; Drug Abuse Counseling, 396-2720; Job, 383-5468; Legal Aid, 539-5340; Rumor Control, 837-1188; Rape Center, 366-RAPE; Pension Reform, 962-3014.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6084; Greater Homewood, 396-6080; Northwest, 396-0207; Stuart Hill, 396-0207.

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

FIRES — 685-1313.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-2111; Animal Removal, 396-0218; Defective Sidewalk, 396-3168; Food Stamps, 234-2751, 234-2413; Oil Furnace Check, 396-4429; Rats, 396-4416.

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION—233-4700.

—

82 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the AFRO-AMERICAN population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition, should be classed with the enemy." (From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

AFRO-Line is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be.

All you have to do is write a post card to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1837, Baltimore, Md. in addition to stating the question you want 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 64 or 50, 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.

QUESTION: A rain pipe from the property next door has come loose and is in my yard. My mother fell over it and broke her hand. I would like to contact the owner because there are other things which needs to be fixed. How do I go about finding out who owns the property? — M. B.

ANSWER: Call Property Location, 396-3531.

—

QUESTION: I notice that Center Stage, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Opera, the Maryland Ballet, the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Peale Museum have received funds from Public Service Employment (PSE) which will enable them to hire additional staff members. I did not see the Arena Players mentioned. Why not? What can be done now? — S. R.

ANSWER: Mrs. Phyllis Cooper of the Office of Manpower Resources told AFRO-Line:

"The positions that were allocated were requested by the various cultural groups. The National Endowment for the Arts apparently had sent a great many of the theatre and arts groups information about the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act which is administered through our office in Baltimore City and in the metropolitan area.

"I do not know if any request was received from the Arena Players. I would assume that if it had been, it would have been filled. The requests for positions were actually received from the agencies. They were not initiated by us.

"I believe that very recently Mrs. Sherrard (of Arena Players) wrote a letter about the jobs. I would not be in a position to tell you whether or not there is still funding available, but these positions have been requested by the Arena Players and I am sure that if funds are available they will be allocated."

—

QUESTION:—I wait tables in a club. Do I have to report the tips I receive to the owner and to Internal Revenue?—G. R.

ANSWER:—Internal Revenue advises AFRO Line that all tip income is subject to tax and must be reported on your return.

If you receive $20 or more in tips for a month working for one employer, you must report that income to your employer by the 10th day of the following month.

Such amounts of tips are subject to withholding of income tax and social security tax.

To report tips to your employer, use Form 4070 (available from the nearest IRS office) or submit a report with your name and address, your employer's name and address, your social security number, the month covered, and your signature and the date.

For your own records, use Form 4070A to record the written reports to your employer.

Both Form 4070 and Form 4070A are contained in IRS Document 5635.

—

Question: I had some marital difficulties and now my employer has been ordered by the court to deduct money from my salary to meet my debts. Is the amount he takes out part of my income?—J. R.

Answer: Internal Revenue advises AFRO Line that amounts of attached or garnisheed salary are income and must be reported on your tax return.

The amounts are credited to you even though you do not have physical possession of them. So you have to consider them income. The answer is, "yes."

QUESTION: I do not understand about the circuit breaker tax credit. What does it mean? I am 61, am I eligible?—R. D.

ANSWER: It is a tax credit program passed by the 1975 Md. General Assembly to provide relief for low and moderate income citizens who might have difficult paying the real property tax.

Any homeowner who has passed his 60th birthday as of July 1, 1975, is eligible, provided he does not own property or have assets worth over $150,000.

The tax credit is figured on the highest tax liability based on your income. For example, if your income is $8,000, the maximum liability is 4 per cent. This is all you must pay. The difference between this and your tax bill, if the bill is greater, use your tax credit.

6 SEP 6