OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

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May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful and magnify our Father which is in Heaven.
CARL MURPHY (1889-1967) Editor-Publisher (1922-1967)

PAGE 4 JUNE 26, 1976

Is Ali really ready?

It is hard to imagine exactly what it will be like in the ring on Friday when world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali goes up against Japanese pro wrestler Antonio Inoki in something billed as the World's "Martial Arts Championship."

Of all the weird things Ali has been involved in over his colorful and controversial career, this one has the potential of being the most interesting.

Surely Ali and his handlers have taken precautions to guarantee that this money-making venture will end without harm to the boxing champ. But can anyone really be certain what will happen when two big men with egos and large followings start trading punches, karate chops, kicks, uppercuts and wrestling holds?

Inoki, who has been working out with a former lightweight boxing champion, Guts Ishimatsu, has been a bit moody in the days before the martial arts exhibition.

Ali, who took to Japan his own grappling expert, Freddie Blassie, known as a pretty rugged customer, has been visiting camera shops, signing autographs and acting as if the show's script is to his liking.

Manager Angelo Dundee has been saying his man Ali is in "fantastic shape." He also seemed to be looking past the 33-year-old wrestler to future boxing dates with Ken Norton or George Foreman.

Probably the only way Ali would get hurt in this clash between boxer and grappler would be for something to go wrong with the way it's been planned. One thing Ali is concerned about where his fans are involved is in putting on a good show.

For Ali to look good without causing Inoki to lose his cool could prove to be the loose string in the set-up.

But then we could be all wet about the potential danger involved. For all we know this thing may be more wrestling than boxing — if you get what we mean.

At any rate, we don't expect Muhammad Ali to come home with his arm in a sling and walking with a crutch. Knowing him though, we do expect to hear a lot of grunts and groans from him as he goes about the pleasant business of building his bank account in friendly Tokyo.

And, oh yes, you can read all about the outcome on Sports Editor Sam Lacy's pages.

Mute Morgan

As a result of some dismissals and demotions at Morgan State University the institution's trustees have ordered a grievance procedure be put into effect for unclassified employes.

It is, belatedly, a good move.

However, unclassified employes at institutions where there are such procedures also lose their jobs. And with the recent Supreme Court ruling relative to public employes, such a procedure won't necessarily prevent the loss of jobs in the future. But at the least the result could be a better public understanding of how its business is being conducted.

Charges of racial discrimination against Morgan officials, if they ever are aired, probably will lend some insight to the kinds of employe relations problems faced by the university's leadership.

President Andrew Billingsley has been aboard at Morgan long enough now to have some idea where his strong and weak situations lie. He also must know now what leadership demands he must respond to if Morgan University is to meet its challenge to the community.

We don't like it when the state's chief lawyer encourages public figures in responsible positions to clam up when controversial developments leave questions hanging in the air.

The AFRO has to feel that Dr. Billingsley has justification for the actions he has taken, especially since both the trusted board and attorney general have supported him.

Because the university has stood mute in face of the charges against Ali, all we can do is have a feeling.

Morgan State University's roots go deep in this community. Its supporters are strong enough to overlook shortcomings and errors. But we doubt that standing mute behind legalese is the best way for any public institution, including Morgan State University, to enhance its image.

Church-college aid

For the long haul, we're not yet ready to dance in the streets over the Supreme Court's ruling that goes further than anything in the past to okay grants of state monies to church-operated institutions of higher learning.

If five of the justices say there is no excessive entanglement and that such state aid does not result in support of religion, then that decision becomes the law of the land for now.

Even if the Maryland formula of giving church-related colleges 15 per cent of the amount it provides for the education of each student in a public college, that is going to encourage attendance at church-sponsored institutions while limiting funds, if only to a slight degree, for the pressing needs of public colleges.

The obvious response to that kind of argument is that no matter how many additional students enroll in church-related institutions, the 15 per cent formula, if it stays at that level, is going to save the state considerable money.

But there are at least two other viewpoints involving these expenditures and whether or not they add to real savings worthy of the claim.

The first consideration is that additional church-related colleges, some without the character of those now on the scene, could mushroom into existence to take advantage of the new financial windfall — thus increasing drastically the cost of tax support to nonpublic institutions, none of which presently is funded adequately.

Worst than just the potential for proliferation, because many of the segregated schools of the country that popped up as result of the 1954 desegregation ruling are church-related, among those new church-backed "colleges" are bound to be the seggie academy off-shoots.

Many states have supported the new segregated secondary schools in one fashion or another. There is no reason to doubt that this support would be forth coming if segregated (although they'd deny it) church-related colleges rush onto the scene.

Until it is clearer how this new Supreme Court decision will impact upon the higher education picture in Maryland and elsewhere, we are simply going to keep our dancing shoes in the rack — and keep our fingers crossed.

No 'good' reason

"There is no good reason," toned President Ford, "why we cannot wipe out the vestiges of discrimination in America, achieve quality education for our children and at the same time minimize the massive busing of our children."

No, there is no "good" reason why this can't be done over a reasonably short period of time but there are reasons why we are not making better progress in this direction.

One reason is people like Gerald Ford, the veto specialist and promoter of racial disharmony through the creation of non-feasible anti-busing proposals designed to win votes.

There was not one worthwhile word of criticism for school boards that fail to uphold the laws on desegregation as Ford prattled on: "A few of our courts have wandered so far into the school busing controversy that they are practically running our local school boards."

If President Ford is interested in discovering the major reason for the continuation of racial discrimination in this country he might start off by looking in his White House mirror. People like Ford are the culprits.

I'm still the greatest, I can even fly

Washington report

Full-equal employment is urgent challenge

By Parren J. Mitchell
(Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.)

For many years, I have been shouting the need for full and equal employment at every opportunity.

Last fall, a job plan was jointly proposed by Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, and me. This plan would provide temporary jobs for nearly 800,000 youths this summer. That plan was approved by the House Budget Committee Oct. 29, 1975.

This spring, in my supplemental views which are a part of the House Budget Resolution, I expressed my concerns insofar as unemployment is concerned by stating: "As chairman of the Task Force on Human Resources, I am concerned with the structural problems of poverty and unemployment."

I am pleased that a key industrial leader has expressed a similar concern. Reginald H. Jones, chairman and chief executive officer of the General Electric Company, recently stated before the Joint Economic Committee at a Conference on Full Employment in Washington, D.C., that "there is no more urgent challenge facing the country today than the challenge of getting people back to work, and assuring plenty of good job opportunities in the years ahead for our expanding labor force." Jones further stated that "there are deep and disturbing structural problems that threaten to make high unemployment a chronic sickness in our society — especially among young people and minorities."

At the General Electric Company, Mr. Jones' concerns for equal employment opportunity are reflected in the level of minority and women participation in the workforce.

Despite a reduction in employment resulting from the economic slowdown, the company's equal opportunity employment record continued to improve in categories representing upward mobility. While total employment dropped 14.5 per cent, the number of women managers increased 11.4 per cent from 522 to 698 and women professionals increased 4.1 per cent from 2,492 to 2,594.

Minority managers increased by 7 per cent from 804 to 860, and minority professionals increased from 2,130 to 2,144.

Locally, GE's major appliance facility in Columbia, Md., employs a workforce comprised of over 30 per cent minority employees from the Greater Baltimore area.

These minority employees, are in all types of production and administrative positions, including unit managers, production supervisors, employee relations, production specialists, assemblers, material handlers and maintenance, etc. While the economic slowdown reduced the employment size of the Columbia facility by approximately 50 per cent the percentage of minorities employed there has remained constant at over 30 per cent.

Because the Columbia facility pursued active equal employment opportunity at the beginning and throughout its five-year existence, minorities and women have comparable seniority rights to other members of the workforce. Thus, they were not victimized by the "last hired, first fired" or laid-off concept.

It's about time that more industrial and civic leaders become concerned about the urgent challenge that faces America. And, it's also about time these same leaders translate their concerns into positive actions and results.

Now and then — by g. james fleming

Jimmy Carter as a fast learner

Apparently, Jimmy Carter can learn in a hurry. He had to, or he would not have made it so fast from unknown peanut farmer, to not too well known governor, to near-president.

When and as he reaches the White House, he will have to continue his fast-learning, more particularly in the foreign affairs matters. This is the area in which the Georgia governor has had least exposure and least experience. This is also the area in which the Constitution and the system gave him almost a monopoly of responsibility and initiatives.

More important, foreign affairs is also the spot which permits the fewest missteps. It is a tinderbox.

Gov. Carter should be getting somewhat of a start, because of the time he has had, between the end of primaries and the convention, to "bone up" a bit on his weak points.

Of course, no president takes office knowing everything. No one is equally strong in affairs foreign and domestic, military and civilian, economic and humanitarian. One is extremely lucky if he is not grossly ignorant in any field.

A president, of course, will be surrounded by "experts" and other advisers who can help him, from the vice - president and cabinet members down.

Reports have it that Gov. Carter has been studying for some time a list of 14 persons considered potential for his vice-presidency. He must also have a list of potential cabinet members. In most years, a presidential candidate must be hunting delegates right up to the last pre-convention minute and cannot withdraw, even for a brief moment, to take the long view (The foreign affairs matters. This is the area in which the Georgia governor has had least exposure and least experience. This is also the area in which the Constitution and the system gave him almost a monopoly of responsibility and initiatives. fortunate).

Nothing written, so far, must be taken to mean that there will be no fighting in the approaching Democratic nominating convention, or that there will be no wheeling and dealing. Neither can anyone guarantee, absolutely, Mr. Carter's nomination. Sometimes, there are slips between the cup and the lip.

Times have really changed, when one recognizes that Gov. Carter is sliding to nomination with almost no opposition from black Democrats — at least, no widescale opposition. Even Lyndon B. Johnson did not enjoy any such tolerance in his first bid for the presidency.

Instead, blacks appear to feel that it is time for real healing between North and South, and that a deep - South candidate and president will be a meaningful symbol of such healing.

Then, too, Carter has convinced black Georgians, through deeds, that he can be trusted in the White House, so far as blacks are concerned. Beyond such hope, it is a matter of keeping fingers crossed.

Besides his list of potential vice presidents and cabinet members, Gov. Carter must also have his list of potential key people — the presidential aides who can order doors barred or doors opened, and those who interpret the meaning of the howls from the different power bases.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Carter does not feel that "I know black people" just because he is a Southerner. There is more to it than that.

Both the president-aspirant and his advisers — white and black — need to know that blacks are anxious over more than the high, prestigious positions that make the headlines. Such positions are important, but blacks also need a larger share of the thousands of jobs in the public sector, or which should be created in the public sector, and which are supported, in whole or in part, with public funds.

There are still too many lillywhite spots in the economy of the nation. There is still too much unemployment.

And, if Carter needs to be learning, so should Ronald Reagan be approaching the presidency in a learning mood. And, it is not too late for President Ford.

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Healing thyself, motivating others

This column concluded last week with the admonition that we should end scapegoating between home, church and school and begin self-examination about the responsibilities of parenthood.

To continue this train of thought we must also examine the roles of each institution, the home, the church and the school and how they interrelate and cannot be viewed as separate entities, if we wish to reverse the trend of poorly educated and undisciplined adolescents.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson of Operation PUSH recently proclaimed that special hours be set aside in all black homes every night, where children would have to concentrate upon homework and nothing else.

Yet no provision or understanding is given of those homes where there is no order, no quiet place, no enlightened encouragement, nor climate in which to do this work.

And even if this time were ideally put to good use at home, would the teachers, rather than re-hash and revise old lesson plans, develop a credibility in the eyes of the students?

How often in the classroom has the teacher taught non-stop material unmindful of the needs of the students, of what the student is ready, willing and able to learn? With insensitive I've-got-mine-you've-got-yours-to-get hostility?

And although there are numerous churches spread throughout the inner city, how many of them have developed after-school study programs, monitored by retired teachers and cooperative parents to not only provide a supervised welcoming atmosphere, but the nucleus for coalitions, alliances, that bring about changes in curriculum, attitudes and the oftimes autonomous dictatorship of many school administrations?

It is not enough to bemoan the fact that times have changed, that things ain't like they used to be. This is the end result of the very isolation of our lives. We have developed this copelessness because we have shut out the world from fear and in a sense with a destructive selfishness.

So long as there continue to be baptismal pledges, confirmation classes, the tradition of God-parenthood, sanctioned by church organizations, there will also remain the responsibility we all have one to the other as surrogate parents, toward the children in our neighborhoods and church families.

We must cut doors between the social rooms of our lives. Make the connection between church, home and school in order to save our children, develop their potential like the Chinese who yearn to walk in the footsteps of their elders.

Indeed, the past is prologue. The personal past, if you recall, had us walk with care and discretion through our neighborhoods. We never knew when some surrogate mother would be watching and telling our parents of some prankish misdeed, or worse.

Permissiveness today? Not really, it is more likely that we have abandoned our pledges, have become bullied by a few hooligans and given up too quickly too easily; failing to try, try again; unwilling to find a new method, a new form, a new vehicle through which we can communicate.

A story was told by a young lieutenant who complained to his captain that his rookie charges were too dumb to learn to read and write.

The captain suggested that maybe this was because the lieutenant hadn't found the method to motivate them to learn, because the captain was convinced they were able.

And as the scriptures exhort: "Physician, heal thyself." Perhaps with all the resources within the black community that have helped us survive, we might look inward and respond to the similar command, "Parent, teacher, preacher, 'heal thyself'"

Register to vote

Register now so you can vote in the General Election on Nov. 2, 1976

Oct. 4 is the last day to register in time for the Nov. 2 election.

The Supervisors of Elections office is located in the People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Streets.

You may also register by mail.

Savage actions in South Africa

By Dr. Samuel L. Banks

As one views the savage, reprehensible and odious actions of the South African government perpetrated against the Bantu students, one is reminded of the stirring challenge issued by Oginga Odinga in relation to Kenya in 1968:

Every year that passes swells the throng of those who will not put up with the policies of our government as they are now operated. School-leavers become the unemployed and the unemployed become the bitter men of the streets. The jobless, the frustrated, the peasants starving on the land, will endure much hardship, but how much more and for how long? . . . For our cause is the cause of the people of Kenya and so much triumph, however, long and hard the struggle.

While Odinga was writing about repressive conditions in Kenya, in the early 1960s the principles he enunciated have a refreshing and compelling pertinence to the bestiality and egregious acts of violence in the Soweto Township.

A number of conditions are prominent in the Soweto tragedy:

1. The alleged Republic of South Africa is a closed society that is firmly committed to the tyranny of a minority based on color. No thought is given, in spite of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's recent visit to Africa, declaring an "unrelenting opposition" to minority population, to the freedom of the Bantu population. The Bantus constitute most of South Africa's population.

2. Flagrant disregard of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The government of South Africa through its grotesque and detestable actions had made a monumental mockery of the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights.

3. It provides an opportunity for our nation to exert its moral and corporate leadership to protect human life in South Africa.

There must not be another Conspiracy of Silence that resulted in the liquidation of over six million Jews during the Hitler regime. Black Americans, to be sure, should be in the forefront of this effort to save our brothers and sisters in Africa.

The entrenched, blatant and rampant contempt that the government of South Africa has for human life must be made to yield to the bar of world opinion and the universal quest of human kind for social justice and freedom.

It is clear that the idea of freedom burns in South Africa, and it will not be deterred.

(Dr. Banks is Coordinator of Social Studies, Baltimore City Schools).

AFRO credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

- Whether it has kept faith with the common people:
- Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their lives assured:
- Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody:
- Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

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

"I am a man of peace; God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace."
Hungarian Freedom Fighter Kossuth

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

A-5 JUNE 26, 1976

Streets full of holes

Dear AFRO:

I am writing about a subject not often (if ever) discussed. That subject is the condition of our roads and streets.

For instance, the two main streets leading in and out of Baltimore, Route 40 West (Franklin Street) and Route 40 East (Mulberry Street) are full of large holes and bumps. It causes damage to many cars.

Some of the holes will force you into other lanes which is a great danger.

There are always signs out saying, "your highway taxes at work." But where are they going?

We need to fix streets up all over Baltimore so that we who are paying taxes will not have to get a car lined up or a muffler fixed so often.

So let's get on the ball with our taxes.

Charles A. Muse

Talent in prisons

Dear AFRO:

I am presently incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Training Center in Hagerstown. I receive an edition of your paper twice a week. I enjoy reading the AFRO because it gives me deep pride to know blacks are advancing in our society in the important positions that were once occupied only by whites.

I also realize our blacks who are obtaining these important positions lack the spirit to help other blacks in their struggle. I realize too, that we must also help ourselves in the struggle.

There are a lot of blacks in our prisons and institutions who are very talented in many fields, as for instance, art, poetry, basketball, some have the potential of writing novels and many more fields, but need strong support and advice from others on the outside.

This happens to be my first incarceration and I have come to realize you learn from your mistakes. I did not finish school, but I achieved a G.E.D. in Job Corps.

I am presently in the Nation of Islam being taught wisdom and understanding of myself and of others. The Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad is teaching blacks who want to be taught wisdom of self, love, peace, truth and understanding.

We are not being taught to hate the liberals and racists of our society, as many blacks believe the Nation of Islam is all about. The Nation of Islam just wants to wake blacks up to the babyfied condition our people are in today.

I would like for all blacks to be aware of the master plan now in affect in these United States for the containment and control of blacks. That master plan is in the competent hands of the liberal white leaders. They are the indispensable agents of the white race, their mastery of the base emotion and sophisticated analysis of black psychology that permits them to project a merciful sympathetic image.

I am 21 years old and I feel concern for the welfare of my people.

In your next edition would you print an article so that the people in society will know the inmates in our jails are concerned for their welfare and to help us in our struggle?

Steven Addison

Those City Jail fans

Dear AFRO:

The article that appeared in Friday's AFRO-AMERICAN: "Fans cool inmates off at City Jail," ruffled many feathers, especially those of the inmate population. And, most definitely the feathers of the Inmates Council — a body of 22 inmates elected to represent the interests of the 1,718 inmates at City Jail.

As president of this self-governing group, I personally feel that Deputy Herbert B. Parker was out of line in turning away the reporters of the AFRO, placing "a roadblock of red tape and bureaucracy" in your path.

When in fact, Warden Gordon C. Kamka, in his own words stated, "the press can visit at any time."

These words were stated at one of the Inmates Council's regular monthly meetings, to discuss problems around the jail, with key administration staff and supervisors. Therefore, we (Inmates Council) can not understand why the AFRO was spurned by Deputy Warden Herbert B. Parker.

There's nothing here to hide, at least the public would think; the Council too, when it's their tax dollars allocated each fiscal year for the upkeep of City Jail and for paying salaries of those who work here.

The AFRO has every right to come into this institution—and any other newspaper which reports to the public about the conditions of jails their monies are paying for, for that matter. Lou Azrael visited City Jail without any "red tape" but he was invited personally by the warden, and because he is "an old friend" of the warden. The Sun Newspaper has been in here on many occasions and written stories about City Jail. We ask, why not the AFRO?

Getting back to something I said earlier in this article about There's nothing here to hide. There isn't.

Unless it's the fact that steel is welded over the windows on the third floor in the South Building preventing proper ventilation. Unless it's the fact that steel is welded over four windows on R-West Section where 33 inmates are housed — one with asthma problems who suffered an attack around 7:45 p.m. on June 12 from the stuffy air that can not possibly circulate because two of the windows are permanently sealed.

"There's nothing to hide?"

The Inmates Council has tried to get this steel removed. But deputy Herbert B. Parker (again?) said that "it's necessary for security reasons."

How about for human living conditions and reasons? And for the sake of having fresh circulating air for the residents having to be housed in this area "during two straight days of hot, sweltering weather?"

Now about the supposed "keeping the inmates cool with big fans installed throughout the jail since spring."

On each section of City Jail there are top and bottom tiers, East and West. On each section there are two fans: at the beginning of each bottom tiers.

On each section there are no fans on the top tiers or at the end of these tiers. How are inmates in the middle and at the ends of tiers to cool? They aren't during two straight days of hot, sweltering weather." Neither will they be cooled during the next two straight months, nor have they been cooled during hot days before fans were placed around the jail.

Two years ago, there were four fans per section: front and back, top and bottom of all tiers. What's happened to them?

Rather than turning AFRO reporters away from the jail, Deputy Parker, the inmate population and the Inmates Council sure would appreciate an answer to this question and some solutions to the problems voiced in this article.

Charles R. Randolph,
President
Inmates Council — BCJ

Pride in Cherry Hill

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of the Cherry Hill residents, staff and the membership of Professionals United to Serve Cherry Hill (PUSCH), I wish to extend to you our sincere thanks for the excellent news coverage of our Cherry Hill Day Parade and Community Beautification on May 14.

The pride and excitement displayed by the parade participants and the community residents upon reading your interesting news articles is an indication of their sense of achievement which has brought much satisfaction to Alvin Steele, Mrs. Dorothy Sneed, as well as the members of PUSCH.

You may be interested to know also, that as a result of your news stories, several other resident neighbors have inquired about applications to compete in the AFRO Clean Block activities.

We are all very grateful to you for your keen interest and skillful reporting of the special Cherry Hill Day activities and our Block Beautification efforts.

Barbara B. Dungee
Chairman, PUSCH

Young beat — by larry young

Are we our brothers' keeper? (Part I)

(Mr. Young, 26, is the youngest member of the House of Delegates. He represents Baltimore City's 38th District, which encompasses the inner city).

"To live is not to live for oneself alone; Let us help one another."

Wednesday last week I visited one of the state's facilities administered under the Mental Hygiene Administration-State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, that facility being Crownsville Hospital Center. This visit was made in my capacity as a member of Maryland's Humane Practices Commission.

During the 1971 session of the General Assembly (I was not a member at that time), a Senate joint resolution was passed which called for the formation of the Humane Practices Commission to investigate and oversee the treatment, care and the condition of patients in hospitals for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded.

Persons serving on the commission are: Sen. Rosalie S. Abrams, chairperson; Sen. John J. Bishop, Richard P. Depkin, Bruce G. Eberwein, Paul V. Lemkau, M.D.; Delegate Lorraine Sheehan and yours truly.

HPC will issue its third annual report in October of this year. However, much of what was included in the second report published by HPC on Oct. 31, 1975, has yet to be achieved. A striking general statement that hits the reader states, "It is the belief of the Humane Practices Commission that the state of Maryland is programmed for failure in its provision of care for mentally ill and mentally retarded citizens. Efforts to treat and-or rehabilitate those who are either mentally ill or mentally retarded are ineffective."

This writer, after considerable debate more with himself than with anyone else, will not put emphasis on placing the blame on personalities. I don't want to get caught up in that. I would rather present other factors.

Now, I will acknowledge that conditions are intolerable in many of Maryland's institutions. There is supportive evidence of inefficiency and ineffective programming.

And make no bones about it, the lack of money is a great problem. But alone more money will not solve the vast problems. I am told that there is a lack of organization, but re-organization alone will not solve the problem.

What is required? First, let's pray that the new commissioner of the Mental Hygiene Administration will exemplify leadership and a true commitment to the development of adequate services and delivery of adequate care.

Thoughts that come to my mind after visiting Crownsville: There are Maryland residents there who have been in the institution for as long as 30 years. Some are put in these institutions to be completely unequivocally forgotten. Many of the institutions have a hard time getting persons to volunteer. I understand that in certain wards, a person might volunteer and within a week or so decide not to return to that particular assignment.

A disturbing feeling that I experienced as I was walking about in one ward was an uptightness and a desire to hasten the conclusion of the tour. Oh, how easy it is to be concerned about planning a vacation weekend, attending an affair or just socializing with friends. Maybe on some rainy night I just want to walk; then too, I just might want to pick up the phone and talk to an old friend.

One can easily take these things for granted, and yet I've come to know people who sit in chairs more than eight hours a day, staring out windows; persons who need help to the bathroom each and every time they must go, to be fed their daily meals, who will probably never experience even a third of what many of us would call the "good life."

And yet we often forget that they are our brothers, too.

Do you know who the real heroes are? Those state employees, the health assistants who are paid at a starting salary which is approximately $6,100. The salary scales create obstacles for our brothers and sisters in these institutions. The health assistant, who spends more time with the residents than any other person in the institution, is recruited at a very low-level salary, as you can see.

One thing the 1977 legislature can do is agree with HPC's recommendation which proposes that classification and pay rates be upgraded for those employees, and a career ladder be developed to provide upward mobility for the direct - care employee.

Next week, Part 2 will discuss the recent report by the American Psychiatric Association and we will propose two or three recommendations of our own. In the meantime, meditate on this thought: "Jesus throws down the dividing prejudices of nationality and teaches universal love without distinction of race, merit or rank — a man's neighbor is everyone that needs help."

For your information, the following names, addresses and telephone numbers are being made available: Commissioner, Mental Hygiene Administration, 201 W. Preston St., Baltimore, 21201, Tel. 383-2714; George Mck. Phillips, M.D., Crownsville Hospital Center, Crownsville, 21032, Tel. 647-5200; Albert A. Kurland, M.D., Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, Catonsville, 21228, Tel. 744-8700; Robert Sauer, M.D., Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center, Jessup, 20794, Tel. 799-1700; Roger Olson, Ph.D., Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents — Baltimore, 605 Chapel Gate Road, Baltimore, 21229, Tel. 455-7151; John M. Hamilton, M.D., Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, 21228, Tel. 455-7181; Albert A. Dowdell, M.S.W., Inner City Community Mental Health Center, 25 S. Calvert St., Baltimore, 21202, Tel. 383-2121; Frederick Pokrass, M.D., Springfield Hospital Center, Sykesville, 21784, Tel. 795-2100.

Salute of the Week

(NOTE: AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons or organizations for this column. Send your entries to Salute of the Week, P.O.B.1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203).

In the spotlight this week is one of the busiest women in Cherry Hill, Mrs. Gwendolyn Alice Johnson.

This vivacious, dedicated, civic worker is coordinator of the Cherry Hill Mini Bus Service which provides transportation for approximately 300 persons per week to and from clinics and doctors' offices.

Shephard H. Burge Jr., president of the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council, said, "Mrs. Johnson has been a very valuable person for the past 3½ years. She knows just how to relate to senior citizens and therefore has been a tremendous help to the Mini Bus program."

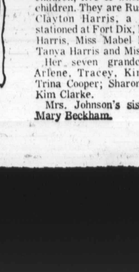
She is also site manager for Cherry Hill Eating Together where 90 senior citizens daily are served nutritious lunches and taught arts and crafts. They are also given help with services such as securing grants, food stamps, etc.

Miss Patricia Thornes, director of Eating Together in Baltimore told the AFRO: "Mrs. Johnson is Cherry Hill Eating Together. She has built a beautiful program there. Her special love for senior citizens and children is shown at her site. She even has a four-year-old volunteer who sets the napkins on the table every day. She could be a beautiful instrument to work throughout the city but she loves her Cherry Hill people and will not leave them."

This energetic woman finds time to be active in community affairs, something which has been a part of her life since 1944.

Our honoree, whose primary interest is senior citizens, cheerfully and readily volunteers her services whenever and wherever there is a need to strengthen the community. These energies and participation usually extend beyond a normal day's work.

Currently, Mrs. Johnson is president of the Baltimore Council of Elders, vice president of the Cherry Hill Community Council, commissioner for the Walter Carter Mental Health and Retardation Program, parent representative of



MRS. GWENDOLYN JOHNSON

the PTA of School No. 180 and secretary of public schools, Region No. 9.

She is an executive board member of the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council, Inc. and serves on the boards of Mental Health Retardation, Cherry Hill Community Credit, Inc.; Cherry Hill Homes Advisory Council, Legal Aid Society, Provident Hospital Community Health, Eastside Community Committee, Inc.; Regional Advisory Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Advisory Board of the Urban Services Agency East-West.

In addition Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Communications Committee for South Baltimore General Hospital, the Ambulatory Services for University Hospital, the National Council of the Black Aged, the Cherry Hill Resident Improvement Guild, the Citizens Participation Union, Region III; NAACP and a delegate to the Inner-City Credit Union Federation.

For three consecutive years she has received the Community Action Merit Award and the Eastside Community Committee Award.

Other awards and citations include Mary Weiss Award; Bon Bons, Inc. Woman of the Year Award; Baltimore City Public Schools Certificate of Merit and Unsung Heroes Award.

Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Sixth District Association of Democratic Clubs, Inc. and sought to be elected to the Central Committee for the Sixth District in 1974.

A member of Saint Veronica's Church, she works with Our Ladies Sodality, where according to Sister Helen, "She has shown deep concern and interest in the work of her church and her community. She has dedicated her time and talents to the interest and well being of others."

Father Bane added, "As a member of the Parish Council Mrs. Johnson has assisted us in planning programs for our senior citizen Sisters who look forward to their visits to Cherry Hill. It is a great gift to be able to bring joy and happiness to our elderly who deserve the best and Gwen does this very successfully."

A native Baltimorean, Mrs. Johnson is the daughter of Mrs. Louise Johnson of New York City and the late Paul Johnson.

She and her husband Jack, a mechanic, are the parents of six children, five of whom are foster children. They are Russell Cooper, Clayton Harris, a serviceman stationed at Fort Dix, N.J.; George Harris, Miss Mabel Harris, Miss Tanya Harris and Miss Inez Scott.

Her seven grandchildren are Arlene, Tracey, Kimberly and Trina Cooper; Sharon, Angel and Kim Clarke.

Mrs. Johnson's sister is Mrs. Mary Beckham.

Nowadays — by bill riley

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

AFRO-Line is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems. You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections and complain and inquire about AFRO news stories and policies.

You need only to write a postcard to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address, and telephone number.

QUESTION: Last March I was interviewed for a job at the new multi-purpose building in Cherry Hill with the understanding that I would have the job when the building opened. The building has now been open for two months and the man at Urban Services Agency who interviewed me has been giving me the run-around. I gave up my old job for this one so that I could be closer to my home. Please help me to find out what is going on.

J. A.

ANSWER: AFRO Line spoke to Alvin Steele, the director of the Urban Services Agency in Cherry Hill, who said:

"Your reader called our office with the same complaint. We explained to her that the application was not handled by a member of our staff; but by a member of the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council which was responsible for the distribution of the applications and interviewing the applicants. She was then referred to a member of that council, Mrs. Gwendolyn Johnson."

A call to Mrs. Johnson revealed: "She claimed she had a letter which stated she had been accepted for the job. After reading the letter I found that it did not state she had been accepted, only that she was to come in for an interview. I then referred her to the analyst of the multi-purpose building, Albert Atkins."

A subsequent call was made to Mr. Atkins who stated that he had not heard from you yet.

QUESTION: I have received my refund check from the Internal Revenue Service. Is it necessary that I keep all my records now?

M.B.

ANSWER: The office of the Internal Revenue Service informed AFRO Line:

"You must keep any records which support an item of income or deduction for at least three years from the date the return is filed or two years from the date the tax is paid. Copies of tax returns should be included with these records. They may be helpful when filling out new ones."

Astrology

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — The deep, dark secret that caused you so much anticipation has been revealed. It is harmless, so stop being afraid.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Strive for quality now. Quantity will come after you have had more experience.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Follow your own intuition. You will find that your affairs will be handled with much more ease.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Look into various ways to supplement your income. Then be willing to do the necessary work.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — You learn more if you listen. Take a low profile for a while and let others be the leader.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Double check your receipts. A legal situation could be prevented.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — A conflict is in the making. Avoid it by sidestepping the issues until you are better prepared.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't accept promises for your valuable trade in. An Aquarian figures prominently.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Numerous changes are in the making for your life. Fear not. You are ready for them.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Make every effort to do your job well. Rewards and fringe benefits depend on your performance.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Meditate a while to be sure you will know how to speak on an upcoming controversial subject.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — The fact that you are restless does not mean that you should be reckless. Make things easier for yourself.

Give your child a double choice at mealtime: something or nothing