I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. — 1929-1968.

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr. 1892-1922. 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)

Hostages and the press

There is no simple answer to how the press or any other institution should react or respond when frustrated or sick fellowmen cry out for help as Anthony P. Griffin did Monday at Mondawmin Mall.

Griffin's decision to take hostages, including his own wife and children, in the Department of Social Services, not only was wrong but he gambled by putting in danger the lives of those he loved most and on behalf of whom he claimed to be acting with his back against the wall.

Lt. Col. James H. Watkins and other policemen showed professionalism in waiting and talking Griffin into freeing his hostages and surrendering. They had valuable cooperation from ministers and others.

But back to the question of to whom a man like Griffin can turn, and how various institutions can or should respond. It is a tough one.

The would-be experts with the easy answers suggest these instances of hostage-holding are being encouraged by press attention. Griffin's first request was for a press conference he never got.

But in Griffin's case, and every other major hostage incident on which we are informed, the surviving kidnaper ends up in jail. They know that going in.

What that suggests is that people are becoming sufficiently frustrated over various issues that they stand ready to have their public fling then go on to jail.

It also is quite possible that people like Griffin — rent behind, gas and electric off, a wife and eight children depending on him and an $80 a week job — reach a point called end-of-the line time.

At that point, some go rob banks or stores. Some turn on their families in a violent way. Some call the press.

But the press is not the only organizations that react.

Note how foods, clothing, funds and other assistances were made available to Griffin's family after he went and broke the law.

And think how many other Griffins are out there with their backs against the wall — rents behind, heat and lights off, no jobs and families depending on them.

It may be true that in some way the press has encouraged frustrated or sick people to seek attention through the media.

The question properly can be raised though as to whether such people first had reached the point when some desperate act definitely had been decided upon and press attention served them both as an outlet and — deep in their hearts — hopefully, as a valve to prevent final destruction of themselves or others.

One of the growing societal ills is the suicide rate — and its victims don't wait around to be encouraged by press attention.

With or without press attention, the murder rate has grown over the years. Wife beating and child abuse, without major press treatment, have continued to increase.

Another interesting thought is that the press never stopped covering college protests and radical violence during the Vietnam war — but these did not continue as major threats after the war ended, suggesting they were more anti-war than pro-press attention.

Of course the press is not entirely blameless, just as other elements of society are not.

So maybe before the would-be experts, including some of those who list themselves as experts by training, go too far in making a whipping boy of the media they might well examine broader societal causes.

Crying out to the press may be the way frustrated and sick people can invite the public to listen and look at the shape of things from their vantage point.

A sad case

Even defense attorney William H. Murphy Jr., agreed the Charles A. Hopkins case was a sad one after his trial work resulted in Hopkins' being found innocent by reason of insanity in the killing last April 13 of City Councilman Dominic M. Leone and the wounding of two other persons.

Murphy did not side-step the racial issue in defending Hopkins, a defendant he insisted would not have been tried had his victim not been a white city official.

Prosecutor Leslie A. Stein contended Murphy employed "a rank appeal to racism" in his jury argument.

Then there was the outburst by Leone's son, Dominic Jr., in which he demanded to know, "How many whites have to die before they realize?"

Public officials, including the mayor let loose a volley of critical comments suggesting something wrong had happened, thus under cutting respect for law.

Hopkins now has been returned to Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital for a minimum of 90 days, during which time psychiatrists — who could not agree on whether he was insane at the time of the shooting — will determine if Hopkins is a danger to himself or society.

While there is little likelihood Hopkins will be a free man any time in the near future, that possibility exists. He can try for his freedom once every year. Meanwhile, there is a rush to change the insanity law.

From beginning to ending this indeed has been an extremely sad case.

Kick in the teeth

The Frontiers Club has added its voice to those requesting that State's Attorney William A. Swisher permit assistant prosecutor Susan B. Handwerger to resume following housing cases through the appeals procedure.

Assistant State's Attorney Handwerger has been impressive as the staffer handling Housing Court cases since September in 1975.

Swisher recently pulled her off the appeals aspect of the cases, contending that office and staff efficiency would be better served with other attorneys handling cases that reached the appeals level.

Others believe that Atty. Handwerger's familiarity with the cases and her proven interest in housing code enforcement, makes her retention at the appeals level crucial.

Effective enforcement of the Housing Code's provisions against violations is necessary.

What Swisher claims he wants to do is admirable under most circumstances, but in the instance of this assistant it is obvious that he will enhance his office operation by responding to the appeals he has received from community leaders and organizations such as the Frontiers Club.

What people think of Swisher's office is important.

You may be right but we don't like his being innocent due to insanity

Washington report — Battleground overview for the 95th Congress

By Rep. Parren J. Mitchell

Black elected officials cannot isolate their legislative efforts to a narrow, limited area. The problems of blacks are so manifold and of such magnitude, those who represent us in various legislative bodies must be prepared to fight on many fronts, to wage several battles simultaneously.

I thought you would be interested in the details of some of the battles in which I am now engaged. The following are but a few, but it is important to note that each of the following has significant, far-reaching impact on the lives of blacks.

SPENDING PRIORITIES CHANGE

Representative Mitchell and staff aides are presently in the process of drafting a "Budget Transfer Amendment" to be offered to the 1978 Federal Budget.

The amendment would shift close to $15 billion from the defense spending categories to the various human need-human resource programs.

The Mitchell effort is already being applauded by a wide range of national and local organizations which advocate a change in national concern from "militarism" to seriously bettering the quality of life for millions of disadvantaged citizens.

DEATH PENALTY

"The law as embodied in the Judeo-Christian ethic is very clear, it is only four words. 'Thou Shalt Not Kill' and that Law, in my opinion, does not exempt the states, it does not give to the body politic the right to kill," said Congressman Mitchell as he co-sponsored a Bill, H. R. 3880, to abolish the death penalty under all laws of the United States.

Congressman Robert Drinan, the chief sponsor, and Congressman Mitchell are joined by 10 members of Congress in this legislative effort to abolish the death penalty.

PUBLIC WORKS

Congressman Mitchell has secured initial approval by the full Senate and the full House of an Amendment to the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act Amendments, H. R. 11, which would mandate a 10 per cent minority set aside of the $4 billion in direct federal grants for local public works projects.

The Mitchell Amendment to the Public Works Bill is precedent-setting as a legislative directive to aid minority business.

Mitchell labels the action "the only sensible way . . . to begin to develop a viable economic system for minorities in this country, with the ultimate result being that we are going to eventually be able to pull down deficits in spending . . . and end certain programs which merely support survival programs for people who do not contribute to the economy."

Senator Edward Brooke, R-Mass. initiated similar action in the Senate.

MINORITY ENTERPRISE

Congressman Mitchell is currently pressing for Committee hearings prior to the August Congressional recess on the Minority Enterprise Act of 1977, H. R. 567.

This Bill, which is the cornerstone of Mitchell's legislative program for the 95th Congress, launches the most comprehensive attack ever on several key problems of minority enterprise, i.e., capital and operational finance as well as access to contracting and subcontracting opportunities.

With more than 50 Congressional co-sponsors of H.R. 567, from both parties, Mitchell emphasizes the importance of the bill by stating:

"As a matter of survival, minority groups are being forced to seek control of a greater part of America's economic activity. Chronic minority unemployment will never be removed without strong, viable minority business.

"The nation's economic plight is unalterably tied to its unemployed masses. Social and political parity will never be achieved without economic parity.

"Economic parity, therefore, is a must and the Minority Enterprise Act is a vehicle to move in that direction."

POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Congressman Mitchell is the primary sponsor of H. R. 2722, the Postal Employees' Representation Bill. The bill is designed to rectify a congressional omission in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which the Postal Service and the national craft unions have chosen to exploit.

When approved by the Congress, Mitchell's legislation will largely affect the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, a majority black union with a membership of over 25,000 workers, which has been denied "legitimacy" by the Postal Service.

HEALTH

In addition to being a strong advocate of National Health Insurance, Congressman Mitchell has chosen to focus attention on an often overlooked and little known disease called "Vitiligo" (pronounced vit-ill-igo) which afflicts primarily darker skinned people.

Now and then — by g. james fleming

May they (all three) rest in peace

Three recent deaths impress on us how it takes all kinds of people to make up the world.

Fannie Lou Hamer, by her untimely death, reminds us of the countless number of forgotten heroes and heroines of the 1960s' Freedom Movement. There are many thousands of them and she was perhaps Forgotten Hero No. One.

Some Freedom Fighters have been elected to Congress or to high state and local offices. Several have picked up honorary degrees. Others have been featured frequently in the media. A few have become wealthy by writing books. Some have had schools named after them. But, those forgotten have been just that—forgotten, except by a small handful of ardent disciples.

Fanny Lou Hamer was a household name during the 1960s when she was being fired from her share-cropping job, when she was being police-whipped and jailed. She had not been mentioned lately, however, until her death last week.

It is quite possible that she was recalled at the 1976 Democratic National Convention in New York, when a thoroughly integrated Mississippi delegation helped to nominate Jimmy Carter for the presidency of the United States.

So different a delegation from that of 1964—a highpoint year in Fanny Lou Hamer's life. For the most part, however, and in most places, those who enjoy great political recognition in the South had almost forgotten the Fighting Lady of Mississippi.

Just so, too, everywhere, Americans have forgotten those, black and white, who were drowned or assassinated, those who were brutalized and then jailed, or brutalized in jail; those whose churches were burned down, and those who were maimed for life.

Fannie Lou Hamer, founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, has been remembered (her praises sung by high and low), in death. May she rest in peace.

Alfred P. Ramsey, who also died last week, was a quiet but effective crusader for his fellowman in our city. He was one of those white persons who makes it difficult, indeed impossible, for blacks to indict all whites for the sins of a few.

In recent days, Mr. Ramsey was active mostly as a member of the Board of Regents of Morgan State University and chairman of its Committee on Budget and Finance. He was an ace of a chairman, as might be expected from one who had spent over 50 years in the upper echelons of corporate business, as a lawyer, and as a supporter of civic causes.

Longer than most of his fellow-industrialists, he had been a contender for fair employment practices (for lowering the employment bars against blacks). He served on committees of the Urban League and the National Conference of Christian and Jews; he was a friend of the NAACP; and he promoted and underwrote several youth projects.

Alfred Ramsey did not politicize his interest in minority groups or exploit his involvement for personal reward. Nevertheless, he was always "in there pitching" and on the right side. May he rest in peace.

James H. (Jack) Pollack exuded an image different from the other two. He was a "politician" and made no apologies for so being. He was often sworn at as a "political boss." He was criticized as one wielding political power for ulterior ends. He was considered, for years, as the chief stumbling block to black political ascendancy.

As might be expected, there were also thousands of people who swore by him, who credited him with helping the needy and the suffering, feeding the hungry, and keeping his word.

—

A Baltimore mayor once said to this writer that "Jack Pollack is the man that all the best people turn to when they are in trouble and, after they get his help, the next day they call him 'a dirty politician.' "

Pollack was a massive operator and those who mourned him at his funeral rites last week represented the many facets of Greater Baltimore. For all that he was or imagined to be, this much stands out. He was a politician-leader, acted like a political "pro", and leaves many lessons for all those who want to move "Up Front" politically.

Even if, wishfully, he were "last of a line" (also said of Chicago's Mayor Daley), he will be remembered as an exemplar of how the classic political character behaves. May he rest in peace.

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Not a ripple on Black Press' 150th year

The 150th anniversary of the black press came and went without a ripple where few if any people in the black (or white) community were aware that this celebration marked a very significant example of black survival as well as achievement.

Were it not for the black press, few if any black people would have become journalists, would have been welcomed into the editorial pages (only 2.2 per cent) of white dailies.

Had there not been the push, pressure and banner headlines that decried white racism, the momentum might not have been sufficiently strong to support and propel the civil rights movement, from dream to reality.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (a black organization), met to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the black press last week in Washington with speeches by Vice President Mondale, Ambassador to the U.N. Andrew Young, among others; with a banquet at the National Press Club (which only a few years ago denied blacks membership) where the head table was top-heavy with famous blacks like the Hon. Thurgood Marshall, Rep. Louis Stokes, Alex Haley, John H. Johnson, editor and publisher of Jet and Ebony Magazines and Jay Saunders Redding.

Earlier in the day, impressive ceremonies were held at the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, to enshrine Samuel Cornish, John B. Russwurm, Frederick Douglass, Phillip Bell and Martin R. Delaney in the Gallery of Distinguished Newspaper Publishers at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center of Howard University, "on the occasion of the Sesquicentenary of the Founding of the Black Press in the United States." Dr. Michael Winston, director of the Research Center, presided.

But coverage locally, even in the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN was not commensurate with the importance of the occasion. And perhaps, the story of how a black newspaper, the Rama Horn, was founded in 1847, might somehow underscore the importance of this event.

According to Dr. Lionel C. Barrow Jr., dean of Howard University School of Communications, the New York Sun (a penny paper) in 1846 printed editorials proposing the curbing of black voting rights in New York State. A black man, Willis Hodges, wrote a reply which was printed only when he agreed to pay $15 and run it as an ad.

Even then, the article was modified. When Hodges protested, he was told, "The Sun shines for all white men and not for colored men."

Further, the Sun suggested that if he wanted the Afro-American cause advocated he should found his own paper. And so he did.

And even today, although the white press hires blacks to write about blacks, it is still quite selective about what it prints in regard to the black community. Even then, it is tempted to slant news to fit a preconceived stereotype that will maintain the status quo.

For example, mentally deranged Charles Hopkins and frustrated Anthony Griffin represent the extremes of the 40 per cent black males in the inner city, who are daily hamstrung by unemployment, rising prices and starving families.

Yet, there is no crusading spirit in the white press that attempts to expose the insensitivity, the unresponsiveness of a white racist system, that exacerbates anti-social behavior, nor does the white press seem to care.

And it is precisely because of this callous unconcern that the black press must survive and prevail not only to interpret cause and effect, but also to pressure for positive change in this society.

Dr. Carlton Goodlett, President of the NNPA, editor-publisher of the Sun Reporter chain reminds us that "Racism, the endemic sickness of our society is being completely ignored by the white press." And he exhorts that "The black press must marshall the intellectual genius, the fortitude and the mass strength of 25 million blacks against the inequities which are ingrained in the fiber and substance of the American political and economic system . . . the black press and black leadership must develop a new black ideology which will free both the black masses and even the nation from the ravages of racism."

He asks, "With blacks distributed over the vast American landscape, concentrated in their black city - states, who will unify them ideologically? who will send the alarm to man the defenses?"

"Of course," he replies, "the only solely black-owned communications medium, the black press!"

But ultimately it will be with continued black community input that prods and encourages the black press that will fulfill this noble goal.

And lest we flag in our zeal, Dr. Goodlett concludes, "Let us be continually challenged by the prophetic words of Frederick Douglass, one of the giants among black publishers, who set the stage for the Black Press's unending struggle for human freedom and human dignity and a just society: 'He who wants progress without agitation is like the man who wants crops without plowing the ground, who wants the rain without the thunder and lightning, the ocean without the awful roll of its many waters.' "

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Cherry Hill Center, 2492 Giles Road, here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the Pratt staff. Titles are available at Most Pratt agencies.

ALL IS WELL, by Julius Lester. An engrossing autobiography.

TO SIR, WITH LOVE, by Edward Braithwaite. When he taught in the slums of London, Edward Braithwaite faced indifference, distrust, and prejudice from his class of white teen-agers.

JUBILEE, by Margaret Walker. Civil War novel with a slave as heroine.

AFRO Credo

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

Whether it has kept faith with the common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

DECEMBER 24, 1920

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

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

Hungarian Freedom Fighter Kossuth

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

WEAA interviewer hit

Dear AFRO:

I am writing in response to the broadcast on Radio WEAA featuring Ms. Nikki Giovanni.

I'm not a college graduate or a reporter, but I do have sense enough to realize that the way in which Mr. Mfum's took out of context and picked apart Ms. Giovanni's oratory was insulting, not only to Ms. Giovanni, but to his own intelligence as well.

It appears to me that in order to become a reporter or interviewer, one has to be objective and willing to let his or her guest explain those questions that have been put before them.

The fact that Idi Amin and Ian Smith are both murderers and are both responsible for the destruction of thousands of our African brethren had less impact on Mr. Mfum's as did the statement concerning the "black male-white female relationship!

Ms. Giovanni was speaking figuratively! If one cares for another human being, it should not matter what the color of his skin is.

What was said that, "If a person seeks out another simply because he or she is white, or red, or yellow, or black then, the relationship is wrong."

Seek out a person because there exists a "common denominator" between the two of you, because both of you are human and that both of you genuinely care for each other and not because it gives your ego a boost by saying, "I've got a white woman," or whatever color he or she may be.

The fact that there are black women with families on welfare with the names of their husbands listed on the Probation Department's docket as "deserters" seems not to be fully recognized by Mr. Mfum's.

Ms. Giovanni did not state that all black men desert their families. The reprimand was meant for those men who have, or for those men who might be contemplating desertion.

In other words, "If the shoe fits, wear it!"

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Ms. Giovanni stated that, "If a man is responsible for bringing new life into the world then, he should be man enough to assume half the responsibility of that new life, regardless of whether or not he chooses to continue the relationship with the female!"

The comments that Ms. Giovanni made were not at all difficult to understand. They were about life as in Nikki Giovanni. In order to understand life, one has to be understanding and receptive to one's self as well as being understanding and receptive to our brothers and sisters.

We have to strive for higher learning, not only on an academic platform but on a spiritual level as well.

I think that when the culmination of these two entities transcends and becomes a true part of one's self, then, and only then, can we begin to communicate with each other in this "real" world.

CATHY SENIOR CRAWFORD
(Arena Player)

Pollack was no friend

Dear AFRO:

Political boss Jack Pollack passed on the other day, but like Jesus once said, "Let the dead bury the dead." Nobody has knocked brother Jack Pollack, but I hope that I am able to do so.

When Senator Bilbo died in 1946, I remarked to my father how delighted I was. He was shocked at my un-Christian-like behavior. The misery that the senator wrought made him an outstanding candidate for the undertakers. I don't know if we could call the senator a political boss.

I do know that Mr. Pollack was a so-called political boss who bought votes, rigged elections and set the ground rules for what city policies were to be.

Jack saw that City Hall would keep the black man in his place and vigorously worked toward that goal.

—

This man tried desperately to keep a black man out of the state Senate, and Senator Harry Cole barely won when wisely he called for a recount.

While politics had a stranglehold on the Fourth District, and the boss pulled the strings and manipulated the most of us.

I will not indict boss Jack for the love of his religion, or his race or the love of money, but the black people of Maryland paid heavily for the price of his success.

As citizens and taxpayers, the corruption and dirty tricks cost us billions which we could not afford.

I have no quiet eulogy to respond to the passing of James H. (Jack) Pollack, for he was no friend of mine. And for the boys in the back room, we now know where you are and who you are.

So my father objected to my pleasure upon the demise of Senator Bilbo; if he were alive he would insist that I say something kindly about Jack Pollack, probably the most notorious political terror of all times.

PAUL D. MCALLISTER

Our history coming out

Dear AFRO:

Since we are emotionally involved in our past and present history, we have the tendency to over-intellectualize our personal accounts to some extent.

However, we as social inhabitants of this society, comment on our emotional introspections too indirectly because of certain segments of incomplete facts about different accounts we read from books or other reference resources.

This is to mention that Alex Haley's complete personal account on his ancestors gave remarkable enlightenment as to the past conditions of human bondage our forefaults suffered under the iron hand of oppression from the system of white supremacy, which deprived us of our birthright and distorted our forefaults' minds with falsehoods about their inheritance and all our beautiful history about our ancient gifts.

It stands to reason that certain writers are still searching for further historical facts about our roots and the differences of accounts involving our ancient history. It is important that we search ourselves truthfully for personal roots on the life of our ancient forefaults to justify our resources of existence on certain accounts.

It is in my opinion that "Roots" was a forerunner for our children to understand the systems of slave-trading and how the white race mistreated our forefaults and reflected disgrace and humiliation toward our people.

The veil of history will always be the scales of justice to measure our self-beliefs and keep us with a free conscience to understand the ills of history through books, films, writers and self-supporting facts to help us identify with our true history regardless if it's from the film, "Roots," Afro-American history, or any of the great Afro-writers in our present time, adding more resources to our ancient roots.

LINDA A. WILLIAMS-BEY
Congress for Moorish Brotherhood

Caucus wins praise

Dear AFRO:

The Executive Committee of the Baltimore Civic Interest Group wishes to formally extend its warmest congratulations to the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus for its vigorous efforts in defeating the consolidation of Baltimore City Courts Bill (H.B. 697- S. B. 355) in the General Assembly's Session of March 11.

The black community is fully aware of your struggle in delaying the implementation of this highly controversial bill.

For it to be imposed on the black citizens of Baltimore, at this time, would be unfair and leaning in the direction of political isolation for blacks.

The struggle for equal share of the leadership in government positions is ours to merit.

We thank each of your members again for a job well done, and may God bless you in the continued struggle for victory, as we approach Campaign Time '78.

Irvin Conway, Chairman
Baltimore Civic Interest Group

Some glossed over what Pollack was

By Don and Val Hymes

When Jack Pollack died the other day in Baltimore, it made hardly a ripple outside of his home district.

People who have followed Maryland politics for only 10 or 15 years may never even have heard of the man, but they ought to be aware that a great deal of what Maryland is today—its political institutions and especially its leaders — owe a lot to him.

The cast at his funeral certainly showed that: a governor, 16 judges, two comptrollers, the attorney general and state's attorney, and a host of legislators, councilmen and functionaries of all levels.

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For a man whose only public office was a member of the State Athletic Commission, for a one-time prize fighter who settled in the insurance business after a couple of brushes with the law, this was the ultimate tribute. But it was no surprise; Jack Pollack had been, pure and simple, the classic political boss.

The cliches abounded on his death: "End of an era." "Last of his breed." "There will never be another Pollack."

It was, perhaps, all that could be said about a man who had outlived his own role and whose death at 78 may leave a personal void, but not a political one.

"What happens after Pollack?" mused Baltimore Sen. Rosalie S. Abrams. "I think after Pollack has already happened."

There was time, though, when James H. Pollack was one of the most important men in the state. Anyone who sought statewide office had to reckon with his iron-fisted control of the Fourth District of Baltimore.

He was credited with putting Herbert R. O'Conor and William Preston Lane into the governor's office, and then ousting Lane with Republican Theodore R. McKeldin when the Democratic incumbent displeased him.

He did it with the most basic political technique: he did favors for anyone who could vote. When people went to the polls, he explained, they remembered services done for them. If enough voters were in his debt, he reasoned, he could call the turns.

So he got potholes fixed and traffic lights installed— nothing was too trivial for his attention — and mostly he got people jobs. The more votes he delivered, the more patronage flowed his way, especially early in the McKeldin and Tawes administrations.

It was, in fact, the uproar over an especially overstuffed "green bag" that led to Pollack's eventual fall from grace in 1963.

As his influence waned with the governor's and mayor's offices, so did his leverage with the voters. And as reapportionment began to diminish the importance of a single Baltimore district, Pollack slipped into relative obscurity.

He did perform, so to speak, a final encore in 1974, showing that his craftiness, if not his power, remained. He helped elect a minor party figure, William Swisher, city state's attorney in one of the most curious campaigns in decades.

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But only a month ago, his old friend, Marvin Mandel, rebuffed Pollack, who wanted his young grandson, James H. Dorf, named to a vacant seat in the House of Delegates. Mandel chose instead another 21-year-old, an unknown named David B. Shapiro, who had to hurriedly change his registration to qualify.

Pollack's gesture was understandable. What better legacy for a political boss to leave a grandchild than a political office? But Pollack did not call the shots any more, and the entire episode had comic opera overtones.

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At his funeral, though long-time admirers recalled Pollack in his heyday and made no apologies for what he was. Former Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro Jr. remarked that there are advantages to having a boss in charge: "You get more efficient government that way," Governor Mandel shrugged off the word "bossism" as a product of the media. "I like to call it leadership," he said.

Whatever we call it, we probably have seen the last of it. The Sasscers and the Dorseys and the Pollacks are gone now, and perhaps the only vestige of that era still on the scene is Mandel himself, who became a master of the Pollack technique of building a power base with favors.

Nobody knows how many chips Mandel will be able to cash in when he leaves office. Maybe his trial will uncover some of them. But his is no doubt the last power base of that kind that will be built in this state.

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Thankfully, the early contenders for his seat have neither the inclination nor the opportunity to follow suit. Walter Orlinsky, who grew up in the Pollack milieu, is nevertheless a loner; Louis Goldstein and Francis Burch have established images and records to promote; Ted Venetoulis relies on personality; and Steny Hoyer, who has shown quite an ability to build an organization — dare we call it a machine — still operates out in the open.

The days are gone when somebody can "deliver" a city, or a district or even a precinct. The voters are too informed now, and the government is too open to permit buying votes with favors or jobs.

In his lifetime, smiling Jack Pollack, a devoted family man, a generous man who never smoked, drank or gambled and loved children and animals, symbolized the seamy side of Maryland politics.

And now, it appears, his death is symbolic too.

Findings of medical poll interesting

A new Louis Harris survey of 600 Chicago families found them already "well informed about what they should eat and what they should avoid to reduce their chances of getting heart disease, stroke and other diseases," as well as on the need to quit smoking, to relax and to exercise more.

Yet people prefer to ignore their own knowledge and trust to medical miracles, the pollsters concluded.

Chicago's Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center commissioned the poll, according to Medical World News. It set out how best to expand its outpatient preventive care department.

Expecting to learn that patients would become healthier if they know more about causes of disease and how to find a good doctor, the hospital instead found Chicagoans generally knowledgeable about health and nutrition.

Their opinions about good diet indicate that fully 81 per cent felt well educated about nutrition, yet 82 per cent felt most Americans "eat too much of some kinds of food and not enough of others."

Some 40 per cent felt they would be healthier if they ate more whole-grain bread, fish, and fruit, and less white bread, coffee, butter, salt, sugar and soft drinks.

People also knew the benefit of regular exercise, yet only 38 per cent of those polled had a regular program. Despite the established hazards of smoking, 42 per cent still had the habit.

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Even more important, says Dr. LeRoy P. Levitt, the hospital's vice president for medical affairs, "The study indicates the kind of magic-making people attribute to the physicians."

Most know at least some of the warning signs for heart attack or cancer, but they grossly underestimate the lethality of these diseases.

For example, fully a third of people questioned thought 60 per cent of lung cancer patients survive, though only 10 per cent do. "The public thinks we can fix anything now," says Dr. Levitt.

NOWADAYS

"NOTHING TOO UNUSUAL. WAS FIRED AGAIN TODAY. WHAT KIND OF DAY DID YOU HAVE?"

Salute of the week

(AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons or organizations to be used in this column. Write Salute of the Week, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203).

Mrs. Eva Rozzell was recently presented the "Worker of the Year" award by the Baltimore Goodwill Industry for her determination to rise above her handicaps, one who had the type of courage to learn to walk again, and to learn new skills crucial to rebuilding self-sufficiency and pride.

A Baltimorean, she is the daughter of Mrs. Essie B. Green and the late Thomas E. Banks.

Mrs. Rozzell attended Douglass High School in the 1940's. She left school to find employment, and years later, while working for a New Jersey insurance company, was involved in a serious accident which left her unable to walk or talk.

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Mrs. Rozzell still recalls how difficult it was to learn to walk again, but the many months of hospitalization and treatment for brain damage instilled in her the determination to keep trying.

Time and time again, she would practice taking a few steps, only to fall and try once more. It was a proud day in May of 1970 when she no longer needed to hold onto her mother's arm, and could use, instead, a tripod.

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Later, while living at a halfway house, Mrs. Rozzell met a Goodwill adjustment counselor who was confident she could progress at Goodwill.

She soon entered a training program in the Industrial Services Department, where she learned to pack and assemble parts for the Western Electric Corporation. She was eager to develop skills, and soon became adept at quality control.

After months in work adjustment and training programs at Goodwill, Mrs. Rozzell was placed in her present job sorting coupons as a clerk in the office service department at McCormick and Company.

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Our honoree's husband is Eugene Rozzell. She has two grown children, Mrs. Lorna Denise Hall and Douglass H. Brown Jr.

She attends the City Temple Baptist Church, where the Rev. William W. Payne is minister. Her favorite past-time is working on leather.

Mrs. Rozzell has two sisters and one brother in California, Mrs. Thelma Brady, Mrs. Irene Utley and Joseph. Two other brothers are John of New York and Thomas of Baltimore.

MRS. EVA ROZZELL

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: Recently I used the Gay Street ramp to the new Falls way overpass. It was dark and unfortunately I had traveled that route before because the red and white cans that are placed there have no reflectors and, worse than that, there is a large metal piece that extends about two yards into the lane with no lights.

This can be extremely dangerous. It could ruin the top of a car and more than that it could decapitate the driver.

ANSWER: AFRO Line called Transit and Traffic. The spokesman told AFRO-Line, "They are planning on putting lights up there. As of that is still under construction."

He could not quite picture the hazardous metal piece of which you speak but he promised to have someone take a look at it.

QUESTION: Who recorded "Sweet Georgia Brown" first? I seem to recall that it was either Noble Sissle or Eubie Blake.—D. S.

ANSWER: According to the Enoch Pratt Library Reference Department, both are wrong. They say:

"Sweet Georgia Brown" words and music by Ben Burnie, Maceo Pinkard and Kenneth Casey, 1925.

It was introduced and popularized by Ben Burnie and His Orchestra and then it became the theme song for the Harlem Globe Trotters. The music makes a good background for their pregame exhibition of agility and the handling and passing of a basketball. The recording by Brother Bones was used on the sund track of the motion picture, "The Harlem Globetrotters", in 1951.

Where to call

COMPLAINTS

Of discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability or tension in your community, call COMMUNITY REALATIONS COMMISSION — 396-3141 or 396-3150

— of questionable business practices, CONSUMER PROTECTION, 383-3656

— on food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, radiological products, call FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION — 462-4499.

— Discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodation, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION — 396-3680

— about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 383-2574

EMERGENCIES

AMBULANCE — 396-1111

FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-2313

POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-333

HOUSING, HEATING, LIGHT — 234-2172 or 234-2413

SERVICE

ANIMAL REMOVAL — 396-0218

CRIMINAL INJURIES resulting from robberies or assaults — 322-5000

DEFECTIVE SIDEWALKS — 396-3168

DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL — 383-2720

FOOD STAMPS — 234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2768

STARS AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — After you have reached an understanding with one much younger, you'll have a pleasant surprise. You will find you have not lost control.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Areas which appear to be a failure will prove most successful.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — You will realize fully that honesty is the best policy. When you do, you will also have greater peace of mind.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Work hard to develop your talent. You will be called upon in the very near future.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Grin and bear the inconveniences that you suffer now. There are brighter days ahead.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Feeling old is only a state of mind. If you think young, your attitude of well-being will also increase.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — A gesture of thoughtfulness to someone you love will give them a much needed lift.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — A special time should be set aside for your chores. You will not feel pressured for time.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You will be introduced to an artist you admire greatly. Read more about this person. Your conversation will flow much more smoothly.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — You can achieve top rating. Begin with tempering your sharp-spoken manner.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Oftimes when trying to please everyone, you end up pleasing no one. Be your own self. Let others do their own thing and don't let their actions intringe upon your freedom.

PISCES "The Fishes" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Learn to let others do the talking. Popularity increases when you are a good listener.