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., 1865-1937. 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)

No more 'dropping a dime'

In street parlance, "dropping a dime" means going to a pay phone and rather sneakily calling the cops to inform on someone you know has done wrong.

Well, with the increase of pay phones rates in Maryland to 15 cents this week, another phrase must be relegated to slang's trash can.

We just wish we knew who to call to drop "one last dime" on the phone company and the Public Service Commission (PSC) for hiking the rates.

Our recollection of the PSC hearings is that the Chesapeake and Potomac telephone behemoth made no convincing case for needing this cost increase.

Originally the C and P had asked for $82.3 million which even the even the complaint PSC found hard to stomach. They granted the utility company's request for $19.1 million additional yearly income but balked at the higher figure.

Neither is there relief for folks affluent enough to afford residential phones. Their bills will be 25 cents a month higher also.

But for the poor, who in this state are mostly black, that extra nickel at the pay phone booth will hurt and hurt hard.

Lawyers representing the people say they have come to no decision as to whether to appeal the nickel increase in pay phone charges.

We would hope they would and appeal soon. A dime, especially for an emergency call, is hard to come by if you're poor. To have to scrounge for another coin in time of stress just seems too much to ask of our people.

As we said we wish we knew who to call to drop a dime on the phone company for doing low-income people wrong.

But utility companies seem always just beyond the consumer's grasp.

Another dream plan

On our news pages you will find an article "Dream City plan may be our nightmare."

We urge you to read it.

It seems the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) have asked an out of town public relations firm to help them sell a fresh approach to the revitalization of Baltimore.

We are for anything which improves the quality of life for all of our citizens.

What was unveiled Tuesday, however, leaves us more than slightly confused.

What COC and GBC want to do, apparently, is a two year international image building program for Baltimore.

Balti-MORE Than You Know is the kick-off slogan. It seems a slick phrase but whether it will bring the world's corporations rushing into our town to set up factories, offices and spread cash and jobs around is doubtful.

Civic leaders involved are anxious to get going on Balti-MORE Than You Know and estimate it will cost over $2 million to carry off over two years.

They want city, state and county governments to pitch in some of the money. Business will kick in 50 per cent, which we thought generous, and the city, 15 per cent. The rest of this money is to come from surrounding areas.

Well the first catch is nobody much involved in city, county or state business seem to know where any money for Balti-MORE Than You Know might be found.

No one had any hard answers to simple questions put to them by AFRO reporters: such as:

—What are you going to do about the high unemployment rates among the majority black population of the city?

—What have you planned in the way of revitalization of deteriorated neighborhoods?

—What voice or role will black citizens have in this dream planning process?

Simple enough questions, we thought, but the closest we came to any answers was that BaltiMOPE Than You Know was roughly modeled on the Atlanta rebuilding plan.

Well, we decided to see just how hotsy-totsy the Atlanta development program was coming along.

A phone call to that Southern metropolis revealed that the Atlanta plan has been moving along just splendidly over the last 17 years.

One catch however: the unemployment rate among the city's young black male population 17 years after the Atlanta plan began, is 32 per cent.

Baltimore, which has no plan, has a current unemployment rate of 36 per cent for our young men.

Which proves nothing much, except, you can throw up as many lovely skyscrapers as you want and the real problems of an urban complex will remain exactly the same.

It is this essential socio-economic-cultural fact that planners never seem to want to deal with in constructing their perfect cities.

We will, however, encourage anything COC or GBC can do to enhance the lives of all citizens and will not begin sounding too many negatives.

The hard fact, though, is that a city is people and unless you begin where they are, nothing much will get done.

That grand jury report

We are glad that so august a body as Baltimore's Grand Jury affirms the position this newspaper takes regarding penal reform and the specific issue of rehabilitation of prisoners.

As we commented during the furor over the Continental Can prison site, the answer is not more facilities, but a coherent system of rehabilitation. Most young black males commit crimes because of poverty and most are quickly rounded up and penned into prisons which serve little else except as crime schools. Which in turn, sets up a merry-go-round. In jail. Get out. No job. Steal. Back in jail.

Obviously, warehousing black men serves no one well. The swelling prison enrollments contradict the premise that punishment deters crimes.

The Baltimore Grand Jury recommends that criminal justice money be spent not not on more prisons, but on crime prevention, rehabilitation and jobs.

Prevention, retraining and useful work must be the cornerstone upon which our penal reforms must be based.

Warehousing young black men, it should be obvious, proves nothing except, it keeps a lot of potentially good citizens from ever developing their strengths.

We recommend everyone study the Grand Jury's findings.

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Clifton Center, 2001 North Wolfe Street, here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the Pratt staff. Titles are available at most Pratt agencies.

. . . AND BID HIM SONG, by David G. DuBois. Being a black American Muslim in Egypt in the 60s.

THE BLACK EAGLE, by John P. Nugent. The international adventures of the first black licensed pilot.

EAT OF ME: I AM THE SAVIOR, by Arnold Kemp. A novel of the Christ fixation of the black ghetto.

TO REACH A DREAM, by Nathan C. J. Heard. The get-rich-quick scheme of Bart Enos.

"You mean we can't raise enough for a local call?"

Young beat Hughes asks feds help

By Larry Young

(Mr. Young is a member of the House of Delegates. He represents Baltimore's 38th District).

Maryland Transportation Secretary Harry R. Hughes has asked the federal government to help minority contractors secure the bonding they need to quality for state transportation contract awards.

In a letter to U.S. Transportation Secretary Brock Adams, Secretary Hughes said that although Maryland has been breaking down larger transportation improvement projects into jobs more within the capability of smaller firms, minority contractors still face "an unfair cycle of circumstances."

What Secretary Hughes called "unfair" is the frequent inability of minority contractors to obtain performance bonding (which guarantees a job will be completed as agreed), and payment bonding (which guarantees payment to all subcontractors, suppliers and employees). Both kinds of bonding are required for state and federal-aid projects.

"Qualified minority contractors often are refused bonding because they operate small companies and lack extensive experience," Secretary Hughes said. "And, for want of bonding, minority contractors are not gaining experience. It is a vicious circle that must be broken."

Secretary Hughes said Maryland's rail rehabilitation and small airport improvements "could be successfully completed by minority firms, if performance bonding and payment bonding were available."

He concluded that the cycle of bonding and work experience cannot be overcome at the State level and asked Secretary Adams to "consider this problem and ways in which the U.S. Department of Transportation might provide a solution."

Secretary Hughes has sent to me a copy of the letter he sent to Secretary Brock Adams.

"Dear Secretary Adams:

"The Maryland Department of Transportation has constructively attempted to implement both federal and state requirements for affirmative action and has encouraged the participation of minority firms and contractors in state transportation projects.

"Too often otherwise qualified minority firms are unable to obtain performance bonding and payment bonds due to their small size and lack of extensive previous experience. Not being able to obtain performance bonding prevents the firm from obtaining the necessary jobs which would provide the necessary experience. In effect, an unfair cycle of circumstances

"At this time our rural highway and urban transportation improvement programs are now incorporating smaller and low-capital intensive projects. In addition, our rail rehabilitation work and small airport improvements could be successfully completed by a minority firm if Performance Bonding and Payment Bonding were available.

"At present we are not able to overcome this problem at the state level. I am therefore, requesting that you consider this problem and ways which the U.S. Department of Transportation and its units might provide a solution. I would be pleased to discuss the matter with you in more detail and work with you towards a solution.

"Sincerely, Harry R. Hughes."

I suggest we write U.S. Senators Charles Mathias and Paul Sarbanes, the Maryland House Congressional Delegation and President Jimmy Carter. Let's follow the lead that Secretary Hughes has taken. Write your senators at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; and write your representative at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Now and then — by g. james fleming

Supporting revived 'City College'

We are living in the 1970s, not the 1950s and earlier. This column hopes, therefore, that the Baltimore black community will support the report calling for reestablishing "City College" as a high school with emphasis on academic achievement, with respect for the classics, and especially welcoming to those students who have shown that they want to work hard, climb high and tackle what others call "the impossible."

Welcoming also to those students whose parents follow their children, by their interest, to school and to students who may be "naturally" equipped for the challenges of an extra-demanding high school.

When blacks rallied against pre-1950 City College, it was the only resort they had against an institution which had been historically lily-white, and with Baltimore having no provision in its school system for black young people who also were willing and able to submit themselves to a curriculum such as that of City College.

But, the Baltimore of the 1970s and beyond can insure that the retooled City College will be a different kind of a creature, because Baltimore itself is different, and for the better.

Blacks are in the majority on the Board of School Commissioners, the school superintendent is black, there are blacks in the City Council, and the state legislature and, most important of all, the majority of the city's population is black, with increasing numbers becoming registered voters. In a few years Baltimore can elect a black mayor, if it really chooses to do so.

We deeply and honestly believe that a new City College will not discriminate against black students because of their race or color, or the previous condition of their grandparents. Most Baltimoreans, black and white, will see to it that it does not. Notably, it will now be against the law to discriminate because of race, religion, national origin, physical handicap, or sex.

We also believe, as deeply and as honestly, that there are black young men and women, in the 1970s and for the future, who can "take on" City College or any other high school especially tailored for the academically highly-motivated and for the extra hardworking.

These kinds of teenagers are proving every day and every year that they ask for no favors and need none. They are in some of the most prestigious and exacting high and "prep" schools of this and other cities.

There are many more like them, who cannot afford to enter these private and expensive schools. City College, revived, will allow such bright and gifted young people to have the same highest-level education as those whose parents can afford it at Friends, Gilman, Boys' Latin, Bryn Mawr and at nearly every northeastern prep school.

Those who are against a university-directed, academic-centered City College high school at the present time, are really saying that they have no confidence or faith in the fact that there are black young people with the mental equipment and the motivation for a high school such as City College.

This column does not agree. As to motivation, if large numbers of our children are under-motivated, it is up to all of us to work on them, and with them, starting from the cradle. Our elementary school teachers must help, too, as so many have always done.

We have not used the word "elitist" to describe a renewed City College, because "elitist" has become a profane word to some cynics. This we know, however, that no people can reach their heights without educating to the highest their best minds. It is just as much of a social sin to waste our most mentally exciting young people, as it would be to neglect the masses of people, of whom most of us are members.

Schools appealing to special talents are not really unusual. Famed "Poly" and Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School are premier examples; Carver is another. There are other high schools in the United States at those interested in the sea and to those who feel called to the health fields. On the college level there are all kinds of specialized institutions.

City College, and perhaps two similar high schools, would be specialized schools for those who feel fit for a stiff, classical curriculum, those who may not mind "wasting time" on German, Russian, Latin and the "dead" languages; those who are eager for the higher mathematics and for English, English, English.

By the way, watch for those protesters against a revived City College who, however, send their own children to parochial schools and to the most prestigious high schools in the several states.

As for this column and its writer, we cast our vote for the revival of City College.

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Birth control, an anti-poverty weapon

When one talks about birth control, one cannot ignore the impact of Malthus's warning to limit population, that population when unchecked increases in geometric progression while subsistence increases in arithmetic ratio.

His was the precursor of Darwin's survival of the fittest theory, the underlying motivation in the 20th century for population control.

Consequently, the obvious targts, the plentiful guinea pigs for this kind of social engineering are the poor, the black, the so-called disadvantaged.

Therefore, this writer was surprised to read a few weeks back, an article in a Sunday supplement that extolled the 50th anniversary of Planned Parenthood without mentioning its pioneering efforts in the black community. Until . . . she realized that this deliberate omission made it all the more obvious that Planned Parenthood's mission has been to help social Darwinism prevail.

Also by not mentioning its first branch at the Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian Church, that serviced about five hundred married women, there would be no need to explain the station wagon without doctor or nurse that cruised the black neighborhoods dispensing contraceptives willy-nilly, nor its forerunner "Operation Red Riding Hood" where volunteers went from door to door, basket in hand giving out free samples of contraceptives without interview or examination.

Moreover, one of Planned Parenthood's greatest fiascos was its use of a foam that though touted to be reliable, was fifth on the scale of effectiveness. But because its manufacturer had given several million dollars worth to the national family planning group as a tax write-off, Planned Parenthood actively dispensed it without batting an eye. And many people accepting the freebies soon became unsuspecting mothers. Better they should have used it for hand lotion!

Further, another revealing gamble was conspicuously absent in the article: Planned Parenthood's silence about the hormone loaded PILL, whose side effects were discovered in Massachusetts many years ago, but under pressure from family planning, a warning could not be published in an American medical journal.

Only those doctors who subscribed to the British medical journal were forewarned about increased association of The Pill with cancer, heart disease, internal bleeding in the head that simulated stroke. But The Pill, with a warning, is still being manufactured and dispensed.

Also history of The Pill is rife with experimentation although not exclusively in Third World countries and the Caribbean, among darker peoples. Considering the anxiety and convoluted reasoning shown in the 60s by some middle class white board members of Planned Parenthood, that their program was the answer to high taxes, blacks are the prime target population in Baltimore. We are the competitors for goods and services, jobs, the people the racist scapegoats dub "tax eaters," so we and our issue are expendable.

Against this background, in reporting on the White House Conference on Food and Nutrition in 1969, Sam Yette in his book The Choice, revealed a genocidal recommendation by a medical panel . . . making birth control information and devices available to any and all girls over the age of 13 who requested them with or without the approval of parents.

(And right in Baltimore in the 60s, Planned Parenthood, in cooperation with a black national organization, and Johns Hopkins Hospital, operated an experimental program on West Baltimore Street that not only aggressively offered contraceptives to young black girls from 13 years old, but also provided sterilization in many cases where the girls had had no previous sexual experience.

(This program of sterilization to this day is alleged to be in operation at University and Johns Hopkins Hospitals).

And when Fannie Lou Hamer heard that the conference was being asked to support additional recommendations including mandatory abortion for any such unmarried girl found to be pregnant and within the first three months of that pregnancy; mandatory sterilization of any such girl giving birth out of wedlock for a second time, failing to see how these recommendations were relevant to feeding the hungry, Ms. Hamer forced the medical panel to drop them.

But Yette concluded that the tentative failure by no means obscured from the poor a clear attitude which the government would seek to implement as law and policy: the solution to the hunger problem would not be more food to feed the hungry, but fewer hungry persons to be fed.

Therefore, it will be interesting to follow Jimmy Carter's recommendations to revamp the welfare system to see if survival of the fittest is still the prevailing notion, while the spoils of price supports, farm subsidies, incentives to oil cartels and such other ad nauseum welfare, will continue to go to the victorious rich.

As some Brookingsnite in the Office of Economic Opportunity once suggested, however, birth control may still be the most efficient, cost effective anti-poverty measure yet devised. But what price to poor, and blacks?

Poet's corner

Feel the hand groping within your mind!
Forever searching, feeling,
Trying to find out what is?
What is? What is? Why? Why?

Forever wanting to know what can be done
How can I help? How can I help?
Where am I? Where am I?

I feel as if I am traveling in space and time
Far different from the drummers in this world
Called by some future destination yet to be found.
To feel lost, alone, distant.
Perhaps here I exist only in a dream
For I hear the cry from afar
Of a dream that has not been dreamed.
I feel a power unlike the power of this world
A source yet to be found
Yet to be understood by this present world.
Mind reach!
Mind go!
Mind find the destiny
That is thine!

SANDRA MASON

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

Should both parents work

Dear AFRO:

There has been much said about the need for both parents to work in order to make ends meet. An extensive amount of energy has been expended to collect the divine statistics to prove this point.

Too bad a like amount of energy was not expended on identifying the number of women now in the labor force because they see "to find themselves," or because they want the luxury of a two family income or because they just got bored of being a housewife.

As far as I am concerned, a much better solution for those marginal families that find it necessary for the wife to work, is to increase the earning capacity of the husband. Increase the minimum wage for such heads of households to $5.00 per hour if necessary to keep mom at home.

Imagine the savings and other benefits to the country if such a move was realized. We could expect a reduction in the employment statistics, less traffic congestion, less crime, upgrading in our children's level of educational achievement, less gas consumption and the list goes on.

The statistics that suggest most women work due to the high cost of living just doesn't sit right with me.

In any event, the visible evidence of having mom in the work force is much greater than having her at home. I say let's help pop to better care for his family by increasing the minimum wage per hour for heads of households of marginal families.

You may have noticed that I deliberately left out singles, couples living together and such.

You may have guessed also that this is because I place a premium on the American family.

JOHN A. WHEELER

Police and park peace

Dear AFRO:

I am a believer in peace and happiness. I believe in law and order to the extent that the law does not abuse the order. This fact being that the representatives of the law are undecided in which direction they wish to travel, or which course they want to take as a law and order representative.

It is the law that people can not congregate on the corner, or people can not congregate in the middle of the block, as a group. So we turn to the public park as a source of entertainment and group relaxation or pleasure. There, we have to be harassed by those who supposedly represent law and order, as this seems to be their method of peace-keeping.

Where do we go to enjoy ourselves, to enjoy self-expression and fulfillment?

I have, on four or five occasions visited the public park and seen the police harassing people. I don't mean they did so by physical means, but rather so mentally in order to upset one's mental frame of mind or state of well-being.

Riding around in cruisers, on horseback, mini cycles or what have you seems to upset the brothers and sisters. It is apparently done as a show of force.

I don't think we should be stopped from doing our thing, that of free expression, in an orderly manner. We abide by the law and clear the street corners. So we go to the park, still no peace. To me this is a form of slavery in modern times.

Why can't we have a little peace on the plantation? The plantation has turned to what we know as the parks. I have worked three or four of these plantations (parks).

Must Mr. Pomeroian (the white slave master) instruct his overseers, (the police) to shake up the slaves on the plantation (the city)?

There are some untold stories about the parks. Some say from where you come you shall return. This is what I believe, but there is yet a change to come in the system.

JACK McCOY

Too much law

Dear AFRO:

I'm not suggesting anarchy, but there is something dangerously frightening about a society having too much law.

How would we know who is poor if there were not a law to define it? Up to $4,500 income "qualifies" a family to be on welfare. If laws "make" poverty, other laws can eradicate poverty.

We simply change the ground rules, the figure and bingo! — we have gotten rid of poverty. Never mind that recipients under the new law are no longer considered poor but still without food, clothing and shelter. We have outlawed poverty!

Maybe we deserve this kind of treatment. Aren't we the suckers who "go for" patterned, flowered toilet paper? If that is the limit of our mentality, we deserve what is dished out to us.

R. J. SMALL

Memories of Webb funeral

Dear AFRO:

The articles in the Magazine Section of the April 23 and 26, 1977 editions of your newspaper entitled, "The Day They Buried Chick Webb," brought back some very vivid memories.

I arrived at the Waters AME Church about 30 minutes before the funeral was scheduled to begin. I learned that the crowd started gathering at the church early that morning. The funeral was set for 12 noon.

Boy Scouts were assigned to escort the members of the Chick Webb band into the church as they arrived. The band members could easily be identified because they were all dressed alike. They were wearing tan gabardine suits. As luck would have it, I was also wearing a tan gabardine suit—just like the ones the fellows in the Chick Webb band were wearing.

As I tried to squeeze through the crowd to get a little closer to the church, to my surprise, a Boy Scout came over and took me by the arm and escorted me into the church and seated me up front with the members of the band.

As I entered the church, I ran into Gene Krupa (a protege of Chick Webb) along with his vocalist, Anita O'Day standing in the vestibule. Krupa was appearing at a local theater.

The funeral was very sad. Ella Fitzgerald, vocalist with the Chick Webb band, wept as she sang "My Buddy." She was accompanied by Taft Jordan, lead trumpet player with the band. Jordan also wept.

Peg Leg Bates, the tap dancer, became a grief stricken figure during the funeral, he passed out. He had to be carried out of the church. Some 10,000 persons waited outside the church while the funeral was in progress. They wanted to get a glimpse of the cut of town celebrities.

While they were waiting, a very hard rain came. Not one person moved. Many of the women's dresses which got soaked in the rain drew up above their knees after they dried out.

After the funeral was over, I returned to Rosalie's Restaurant in South Baltimore where I worked as a bus boy. From time to time, I spent much of my tips in the nickelodeon playing the Ella Fitzgerald-Chick Webb record, "A Ticket A Tasket, I Lost My Yellow Basket."

In those days, you could put 10 cents in a nickelodeon and see the performers on a screen while their record played.

TROY BRADLEY,
Assembly Delegate
40th Legislative District

Poet's corner

Dream

Let us all take a little walk
Let us have a little talk.
Together.
Yes, together.
Get together to be . . .
Well. . . . . together, Yeah together
So, let us all take a walk
And let us all have a talk
Sometimes
About nothing strange and no place far.

WILLIAM D. SMITH, JR.

Pen and Mind

My pen hesitates
Not keeping pace with my hurried mind
Which has already said a thousand times
I love you.
My pen hesitates
And the ink dries
And my mind has said again a thousand times
I love you.

DOROTHY G. ALNER

Hampstead principal sets the record straight

Mrs. Magdalene B. Fennell (Rice), principal of Hampstead Hill Junior High School No. 43, in the multi-ethnic community in its area at 101 S. Ellwood St., takes exception to a daily newspaper's story. Here is a letter she has written to the Evening Sun editor who she says has refused her reply:

I have been advised not to respond to articles in The Evening Sun, but I am compelled to defend the teachers of Hampstead, the majority of whom are hard-working, dedicated persons; my administrative assistants who have handled in various and creative ways thousands of referrals this year and the students, most of whom are serious about getting an education.

I defend my custodial staff, whose members struggle to keep the building clean despite illness and injuries, unfilled vacancies, delayed action on repairs and too few workers to maintain a 7-story building with more than eighty classrooms.

I defend all of them against the unfair, inaccurate picture of Hampstead Hill Junior High School as presented by Patrick Gilbert and other writers in The Sun series on junior high schools. Hampstead is a large junior high school with a complex physical plant. Like its counterparts in other areas, it has a multitude of problems: poor attendance, disruptive students and low achievement levels of a significant number of pupils. But, it is not the Blackboard Jungle described in the negative, sensational article in The Sun, Monday, April 25.

The contention of Gilbert and colleagues that problems began only after I became the principal is ridiculous! Back issues of The Sun confirm that teachers and parents complained about conditions long before I came. In fact, the previous principal, referred to in the article as the "legend" of Highlandtown, retired because he found it increasingly difficult to deal with the myriad of problems confronting the school—a population zoned out that wanted in—a population zoned in that wanted out—sit-ins, renovation of the physical plant and other disruptions.

Gilbert did a striking antithesis between Lombard and Hampstead, the only two junior highs singled out for special articles. A comparison of the two schools is hardly fair.

The population of Hampstead is 2,618. Lombard is 1,300. Hampstead is on shifts; Lombard is not. Lombard is a modern facility, built as a unit school; Hampstead is 70 years old and even stories high, without a campus or playground.

The School Board limited the enrollment of Lombard; Lombard is neighborhood. Hampstead is overcrowded; the School Board did not limit its enrollment. Nearly $ half million was funneled into Lombard to provide resources. Hampstead received no grants.

When I took over Hampstead, Mr. Hammond had just been placed on suspension. Large numbers of black students who resented the school, had been zoned in. Numerous teachers, assigned by their principals, had been involuntarily transferred and were resentful. Renovation of the building was incomplete and only two lavatories were servicing a population of 2,800.

Thanks to a dedicated staff and a fine security force, we came through without serious disruptions. So far this year we have done the same. Teachers at Hampstead are hard-working and dedicated. Performance is outstanding. The superior test results talk with these teachers. Many of them have told me they did not see Mr. Gilbert during his four-day visit.

A few teachers are dissatisfied with Hampstead's students and have not accepted the large numbers of low ability, unmotivated students (most of whom are black) zoned into the school. They feel the solution to behavior problems exhibited by the students lies in permanent removal from school, suspension for minor offenses.

NO PROBLEM HERE — The interracial 9th Grade Mathematics class, under teacher Mrs. Arlene Butka shows a quiet, working group of Hampstead Hill Junior High pupils.

The failure of these few to accept the students has made it impossible for them to fulfill the first responsibility of a teacher - namely, to establish and maintain order in his-her classroom.

And the students, dogged by poor self images, rejection and few successful experiences, have acted-out their frustrations. One of the oldest methods of compensating for one's own inadequacies is to shift the blame to someone else.

In an effort to identify disruptive students that teachers maintained had not been disciplined, I conducted a study last month. Teachers were asked to name students they felt should be removed and proposed for suspension.

The results of the survey are interesting. Thirty-five teachers out of 125 responded.

The results are as follows:

Total names submitted — 168.

Total names mentioned only once — 139.

Total names mentioned by 2 different teachers — 32.

Total names mentioned by 3 different teachers — 3.

Total names mentioned by 4 different teachers — 2.

Total names mentioned by 5 different teachers — 1.

These figures clearly show the majority of teachers do not feel that the pupils are incorrigible. They have confidence in their ability and the administration to handle behavior problems.

Gilbert presented Hampstead as the worst school in Baltimore (which it is not) and completely ignored many positive activities developed, implemented and functioning under guidance of dedicated staff:

Instructional grouping, now being used by many teachers in all of the disciplines; two very fine career education programs, Project Go and the McCormick Program, influencing career education on the national level.

Parent involvement on the 7th grade level; a large PTA group that introduced students at School No. 43 four days a week; a peer counseling program operated by the Guidance Department; a program staffed by volunteers to reduce lateness; an enrichment class begun to meet the needs of gifted students; an award-winning band and a good choir.

A newspaper, The Lantern, published by the students; an Honor Roll of the names of 289 students with grades of 80 or above in all subjects; intramural sports and modern dance; a Student Safety Patrol of daily valuable service; a Student Council encouraging a program for pupils for excellence in conduct, attendance, and scholarship.

The students have raised thousands of dollars to supplement the inadequate budget.

For myself, I need no defense. When compared with the horrifying conditions I found upon my arrival, the progress of the school under my leadership speaks for itself.

The statement attributed to "many" teachers that I have retreated into my office rather than deal with problems of discipline is a blatant lie.

Many days I work 10 and 12 hours, walking the length and breadth of this large building, meeting students on stairways, in the halls, in classrooms and in lavatories, correcting them and disciplining them when they misbehave or violate school regulations.

My race and sex have played no small part in generating what appears to be an organized campaign of character assassination.

I close by again issuing an invitation to all parents and other persons to visit and see for themselves that "Hampstead is going Up, not Under." — Magdalene B. Fennel (Rice), Principal

NOWADAYS

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: If a person has a store and is licensed to sell Md. state lottery tickets, can a person working in this store go to another job and sell tickets? Doesn't the owner of the other job have to be licensed to sell lottery tickets?

I called Internal Revenue and they have no jurisdiction over this. I also called the Maryland State Lottery, but no one has been able to give me a satisfactory answer. I thought perhaps the newspaper would be able to find out for me. — M. S.

ANSWER: A spokesman at the Maryland Lottery Agency told AFRO Line:

"The lottery law specifically states that the tickets must be sold through a licensed agent at that location."

QUESTION: Are there any modeling schools in the inner city. There are several listed, but they are too far out. I can only get there by riding a bus. — J. D.

ANSWER: A call to the Mass Transit Authority (MTA) revealed that there is bus service to each of the schools listed. Call MTA at 539-5000 for bus information to your desired destination.

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, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203).

"I was kind of scared, but after hearing the women to plead for someone to get the children, I got up enough nerve to go in. I had to go through some heavy smoke on the first floor in order to get to the children, but I was able to get them out safely."

Kevin Miller, 18, is speaking of an incident which occurred on his way to school. There was a fire in the 700 block of Saratoga St., which the fire department confirmed.

A spokesman there said when they arrived everyone was out of the building with the exception of a woman who had to be brought from

KEVIN MILLER

the smoke-filled building by ladder.

Kevin is one of 10 children and attends Southern High School. His parents are Ruth and James Miller. For his bravery he certainly deserves community recognition.

Simple crime tips

(Reprinted from "How To Make Crime More Trouble Than It's Worth," a joint program of the Maryland Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice and the Department of Public Safety and Correction Services).

You can prevent burglary by making your home a tough target. There are three things the burglar worries about: delay in getting into your home or apartment, being forced to work where he can be observed and having to make noise in the process.

Make your doors secure. All doors that open to the outside are potential points of entry for the burglar. Those that have hinges should be solid wood or metal clad. The best type of lock for your exterior doors is the deadbolt.

An auxiliary deadbolt with a cylinder throw provides good security. If your door is solid, a single lock is adequate. It is operated by a key from the outside and a thumb turn from the inside.

If your door has glass panels or windows, use a double cylinder lock. It is operated by a key from either side of the door.

A surface mounted rim lock also offers good security. It is virtually impossible to pry open.

If your door hinges are located on the outside of the door, non removable hinge pins can be purchased commercially. Or, you can prevent your door from being removed even if the hinge pins have been taken out.

Sliding doors are particularly vulnerable. The sliding door panel may be secured with a good lock, preferably a deadlock that is key operated from the outside. In addition you can use a Charley bar to brace the door closed.

Don't forget to secure, a lock is only useful when it is locked. So lock up every time you go out, even if only for a few minutes.

STARS AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — Your gentle persuasion and personality will enable you to influence others. Favors will be granted if you avoid confrontations.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Conserve your energies. You will need them to aid you in solving problems with your mate or companion.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Your new found romance is becoming quite serious which may lead to marriage. It is left to you to lay the proper foundation.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Allow your compassion for others to lead you. Others' indescretions and criticisms should not sway you.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-August 23) — Complaints are not in order. Continue to work within the present structure until you at least have one foot on the ground.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (August 24-Sept. 23) — Decisions made now can be altered at a future date. However, it is always good to be cautious.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) You have in mind a specific goal. Work directly towards it. Avoid cutting corners.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — A companion for whom you only have friendly intuitions feels you are romantically interested. Develop a straight forward approach to this matter.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — A letter may serve the same purpose as a trip to visit a relative. Give more thought to the finance involved.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — The position you have in mind will require more study and training. It will do well to make inquiries as to the school best suited for your needs.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Your opinions conflict with the majority of your associates. The time is not appropriate to voice them.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Nothing can be gained by losing your temper. Understand others before attempting to judge them.