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., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO - AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc.

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

Contradictions at Lake Clifton

Jimmy Hicks, formerly of this newspaper and now editor of the august New York Amsterdam News, once wrote in these columns that experience taught him to be wary of black folk that white folk praised too often and at great length.

This may or may not be an appropriate preface to the curious situation in which Boyse Mosley, principal of Lake Clifton High School, and new Region Four Department of Education superintendent, finds himself.

As we can understand it the young black woman designated as valedictorian of the Lake Clifton High Class of 1977, felt so strongly about Mosley's posture as principal of her school that she made his administration the subject of her commencement day speech.

The student, Donna Stewart, is bright, no question of that, meriting highest honors and will be entering Bucknell in Fall. She claims not to be radical. But fed up with her principal she is and the mildest expression she could find for Mosley was "dictator."

Now we hardly know what to make of this. While media locally has adopted the new Region Four superintendent as its darling for this season.

In our news columns we have described Mosley as "controversial," "dynamic" which admittedly may be journalistic laziness on our part. We base such definitions on Mosley's insistence on discipline, a return to "basics" in the classroom, whatever that may mean, and his general demeanor as a youngish educator very much on the rise.

Whatever Mosley is doing it has captured the imagination of daily media which does not necessarily make what he is doing all that correct.

On the other hand, we would be derelict in our duty if we did not pause and reflect on the curious events of last week's commencement at Lake Clifton.

We have to wonder why black parents and students responded to Miss Stewart's critical remarks with a standing ovation and why white participants in the proceedings lapsed into stony silence.

We have to wonder about all this in light of daily media's glowing accounts of Mosley's facility as a school administrator.

For his own part, Mosley discounts the episode graciously as just a "conflict of personalities."

But we also have to weigh this against Miss Stewart's allegation that her principal said, in effect do your damndest, the press is on my side.

What press? Which press?

Contradictions abound. There is the issue of Miss Stewart's first amendment rights which a thwarted speech, no matter how whacky or inappropriate, places in jeopardy.

There is, further, the question of a public servant's relationship with the Fourth Estate.

And there is finally strong evidence that there is a dichotomy of some sort between the educator and some of the people he is pledged to serve. No matter what daily media reports!

We are confident, however, that Mosley will do whatever healing needs be done because his skills in breaching this temporary schism will have direct bearing on how effectively he carries out the larger responsibility of the Fourth District superintendency.

For the moment, however, we will keep Jimmy Hicks' cautionary at the ready.

And since there is usually fire where there is smoke, the only commitment we shall presently make is to the observable fact that Superintendent-designate Mosley "dresses swell."

Can this be charm city?

Washington report
Is justice blind?

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

It has been seven years since police gunfire took the lives of students at Mississippi's Jackson State College campus.

Millions of words have been written about the incident, the students and their families, the policemen who fired the weapons and the Nixon Administration's policies that indirectly led to the confrontation between the students and the police.

But to date, no one has been convicted of wrongdoing nor have the extensive legal efforts of the victims' families resulted in successful judgements against the policemen, the state of Mississippi or any of its public officials.

Worse, however, is the law which allowed the students' assailants to remain guiltless remains unchanged.

The emergence of the Burger Court and the maintenance of a lily white federal judiciary in Maryland and throughout the Fourth Circuit, of which Maryland is a member, has made it almost impossible for poor people to receive justice when their civil rights are violated by agencies and departments of city and state governments.

As a result of the courts closing its doors to those powerless and poor individuals, I was compelled to introduce in the House of Representatives, The Civil Rights Improvement Act of 1977, H. R. 4514, which is an attempt to once again give powerless and poor people a forum to address their grievances. Senators Charles McC. Mathias Jr., R-Md. and Edward Brooke, R-Mass. have introduced an identical bill in the Senate, identified as S. 35.

The primary purpose of H. R. 4514 is to insure the continued vitality of The Civil Rights Act of 1871, which has been a principal tool in this nation's efforts to fulfill its commitment to the protection of the civil rights and liberties of the American people.

During the 1950s and 1960s the Supreme Court opened the doors of the federal courts to those Americans most in need of judicial relief — the poor, minorities, the advocates of unpopular causes and the victims of official misconduct.

And the most important vehicle employed by these litigants was The Civil Rights Act of 1871.

More recently, however, in a series of decisions, the Supreme Court has substantially narrowed the scope of Section 1 of The Civil Rights Act of 1871, which is to resolve the problems associated with affording more complete protection to basic civil rights.

The Civil Rights Improvement Act of 1977 is designed to prevent future court decisions such as Burton v. Walter (The Jackson State Case), where the court denied payment of money damages to the aggrieved parents because they could not identify the individual policeman who did the actual firing.

The enactment of H. R. 4514 would permit persons involved in future incidents to bring suits against states, municipalities and all political units and governmental agencies and thus hold them liable, under appropriate limited circumstances.

Other features of The Civil Rights Improvement Act of 1977 include:

— Providing that a person's reputation is protected by the due process clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution;

Subjecting a prosecutor to liability for withholding and suppressing evidence which would aid in a not guilty verdict for a defendant who doesn't have the same resources available for discovering facts the prosecutor's office has at its disposal, ie, federal and state law enforcement agencies;

— Providing that a case may be removed from a state court prior to exhaustion of state remedies and

— Providing limited circumstances when a federal court can intervene in a pending state criminal proceeding.

Now and then — by g. james fleming

Millennium not yet here

Every so often — too often — there is a glowing reminder the millennium is not here for blacks, women and Spanish-speaking peoples. Both under law and outside of law we see attempts and actions to turn the clock back, to have things remain as they have been.

Three front-page "leads," in three different metropolitan newspapers, tell the latest sad story:

(A) — "The Supreme Court yesterday upheld seniority systems that perpetuate discrimination against blacks, Hispanics and women. The court acted in a case involving the unionized over-the-road trucking industry and in a separate case involving airline stewardesses."

(B) — "The Supreme Court yesterday sharply curbed the ability of minority groups and women to obtain relief for past job discrimination by upholding the legality of all seniority systems that were established before the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act."

The opening paragraph in the third paper read:

(C) — "The Supreme Court ruled today that seniority systems that perpetuate the effects of past racial discrimination, placing blacks at a disadvantage to whites in the competition for better jobs and other benefits, are not necessarily illegal."

There, in three different renditions, is "the law of the land," as handed down by the highest court of the land.

To black and Chicano working men and to women, the decision means those groups denied employment in certain job categories before 1965, must wait another generation before they can benefit from the privileges and protections of seniority.

The decision also means blacks, women and the Hispanic minorities are still relegated to being "last hired and first fired."

All branches of construction, the different areas of machine technology, shipbuilding, the postal service and several other strongholds of organized labor are kept close-doored and lily-white, or preferentially lily-white and male.

All unions and their related employers have to prove is that, at the time their seniority systems were agreed upon, there was no "intent" to discriminate.

Such proof will satisfy the law, as long as a Nixon-Ford majority calls the signals on the Supreme Court, but it is no proof at all to those men and women who have experienced the seniority system and the discriminatory employment patterns of which seniority has been an integral part.

Several lower federal courts and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have previously decided just the opposite, and there was forceful dissent on the court by Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall and Associate Justice William J. Brennan Jr. The seniority system as it now stands won, however, 7 to 2.

The Supreme Court's refusal to recognize and approve the principle of "retroactive seniority" means settlements made in recent years, favorable to blacks, women and Hispanic workers, will come to an end. There may even be challenge as to whether these "affirmative action" agreements were legal in the first place.

The most notable of these "settlements" was with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, in which the company was required to pay some of its black and women employees over $5,000,000 to satisfy promotions which they had been denied in former years, based solely on their race or sex.

If the court holds to its present majority thinking and apply it in all instances, minority groups and women will soon lose all, or mostly all, of what they had won on paper. The Civil Rights gains of the 1960s will evaporate.

When minority groups realize they cannot depend on the law, they may again — out of frustration — take matters in their own hands.

Our night at the opera

Whatever your feelings about "classical" or "Western" or "Europe-derived" music, the Morgan State University Chorus' participation in the new opera, "The Last Voyage of Edgar Allen Poe," (at the Mechanic this week) provided the strength of the production's success.

MSU choral director Nathan Carter's preparation of his young singers was superb. They were superb. Mr. Carter and the MSU administration are to be complimented for recognizing a cultural opportunity when they see one and then delivering on said opportunity with an excellence that most certainly makes a strong case that the Morgan music department is becoming one of the strongest in the nation.

Opera-lovers are in agreement that the Poe epic by composer Argento is an important milestone in American music and the MSU role in making it so does all of us residents in Maryland proud.

Again, congratulations.

A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

Urban studies checks, balances, accountability

By Madeline W. Murphy and Howard P. Rawlings
(This is the third of a three-part series of articles on the Center for Urban Affairs at Morgan State University, written in collaboration with Howard P. Rawlings. This article deals with research efforts, budget and recommendations).

We reported in the previous article the 1972 Annual Report of the Center for Urban Affairs, Morgan State University, is the latest and most complete report available since there were no other reports from 1972 through 1975.

In the 1972 report, Morgan's Urban Studies Institute delineated its grant supported projects, staff activities, community extension, research and related activities for the ensuing year.

And of its two self-sustained projects, "The Cherry Hill Community" is illustrative of a research effort cited as a significant model for other communities, since it was considered "a microcosm of other black areas of comparable size that had similar socio-economic characteristics." Yet it was also a prime example of a badly aborted project.

As far back as 1964, this writer had been frustrated by the inability of community efforts to fulfill needs — to become included in the poverty program — because of wrong information and highly exaggerated figures of population size, welfare recipients, educational attainment, recreation needs and political activism.

In June 1965, Urban Studies, with the help of my church-sponsored volunteers, did a random sampling of 327 dwellings completed by July. Coding the data was completed by September. An analysis of the data and writing the report remained to be done.

But as late as the 1972 Annual Report, with the work still unfinished, we were promised "the final report concerning Cherry Hill would be published in July" with the cautionary hedge. "However, due to certain problems in assessing the data, a late fall date has been set for publication and distribution of the report."

No amount of nagging nor letters made the report forthcoming. And even with the new figures of the 1970 census that would have helped update the material, the report was never completed, even though it was heralded as "a benchmark for other studies of this nature."

In discussing the center, Dr. Favor suggested we look at other urban centers like Hopkins in assessing the effectiveness of institutions that provide community services.

In a cursory glance, we found the Center for Metro Planning and Research at Johns Hopkins through grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, was preparing a recreation study; also a population study with the mayor's office and Dr. Wolman. It had worked on charter revision and after the 1970 census, issued "Census Notes" on population, race, housing, age composition, as well as dependency ratios in Maryland and sub areas, in a joint release with the Baltimore Department of Planning financed in part through a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

According to Dr. Martin D. Jenkins' pamphlet, Guidelines for Institutional Self-Study of Involvement in Urban Affairs: "Many aspects of an urban affairs program can be undertaken at little cost."

For example, conferences can be held that would involve the resources of the total community. Collection of data would create an urban library, providing valuable information in one central location. To encourage the urban affairs enthusiasm engendered at the beginning of the program, research activities by the dean and other faculty members, voluntary student and faculty participation as resource persons on critical community problems at school board meetings, utility rate hearings, before City Council and State Legislature, other forums concerned with community problems would make significant impact.

However, armed with the quote of Dr. Jenkins on limited funds he also cautions: "Significant urban involvement will require substantial funding."

Yet during peak years of the Center for Urban Affairs, from '72 through '75, total expenditures amounted to $1,540,501, and of that the state appropriated 63 per cent ($976,467); for three years the Ford Foundation appropriated 30 per cent ($462,116). There is no evidence any other Urban Affairs program in public institutions had been funded at that level. Yet for that amount of money, what has been generated from MSU's Urban Affairs center?

Requests to the president, the dean, the vice pres. of Academic Affairs, the library have not provided reports, position papers, pamphlets of conferences or other information that would shed light upon the institute's activities during this period.

Nevertheless, the movement of funds between FY 1964 and 1976 out of the program, either to the state as reversion or transfer of funds to the college in the amount of $245,221, averaged over $20,000 per year. But according to the First (sic) Annual Report of 1976, Dr. Favor comments that "many of the shortcomings can be attributed to the tight financial situation that makes it impossible to acquire necessary leadership personnel in two critical areas of research and extension." Further, "the Urban Studies Institute . . . is still without a full time director" but at the same time from the budget of the previous year, $22,383 was transferred to the General Fund.

And, though these three articles have only covered the surface of our inquiry into the Center for Urban Studies, we list the following recommendations:

The Urban Affairs Center establish a library;

A cross temporal longitudinal study of the black community of metropolitan Baltimore, like the DuBois "Philadelphia Negro" be done;

The Board of Regents of MSU look into the unusually high turnover of young and talented black faculty members and review the graduate program to begin a Ph.D. program;

It require a self-study of the involvement of the total university in urban affairs patterned after the Jenkins pamphlet, to evaluate the center's effectiveness and

President Andrew Billingsley be responsible for establishing a climate within the center where solutions to the problems of black people will not be suspected of bias and subjectivity, where there will be freedom for people of all political persuasions to coalesce for the maximum strength needed to make change within the black community.

Finally, we welcome our readers' reactions to these articles.

Black municipal workers and the Mayor's obligation

Mayor Schaefer has incurred the wrath of the powerful AFL-CIO labor apparatus with his handling of the municipal employee crisis.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) is accusing His Honor of every wrong under the sun.

Clowning around with the city budget and fudging on property taxes while city workers are being laid off are principal AFSCME accusations regarding the way Schaefer is going about things for Fiscal Year 77-78.

Our concern is that black municipal workers are affected most sorely and in greatest numbers by staff cutbacks.

AFSCME, in recent press statements, makes a strong case that Schaefer has indeed enough money tucked away here and there to meet city payrolls.

We urge the Mayor do just that: pay the little people first, then worry about having Baltimore changed into some marvelous Disneyland (which nobody visits after dark — talk about unsound economics!) later on.

Most black municipal employees live in the city and are solid citizens and pay their own way. They are not to be spited.

The 5th district vacancy

Perhaps Councilpersons Waxter and Caplan are the statesmen we hoped they would be regarding the Fifth District councilmanic seat vacated by now — Judge Allen Spector.

We could hardly believe our eyes when our reporters brought word that some Fifth district politicos were seriously thinking of putting one or another of their wives in the empty chair.

Nice women, no doubt, but considering the racial composition of the district and the need for a broad-based Council, logic and necessity inform us that a black leader from the Fifth need fill out Spector's unfinished term.

Latest news bulletins suggested that Councilpersons Waxter and Caplan are inclined to our view and will implement same.

The next few days in the always heady politics of the Fifth District should be quite eventful.

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 perserved 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 comprise.

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

Another view of welfare

Dear AFRO:
How do we control the problem of the welfare cycle? Let's look at the category, Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC).

Recipients of AFDC receive such grants for the care of their children and not necessarily themselves. In a sense, then, AFDC parents are employed by the government to see to the welfare of the child in the home.

I draw the conclusion that such care involves personal cleanliness, adequate nutrition, proper schooling and conformity to society's laws and customs.

Providing parents perform the job for which they are employed, we would expect the children to develop into mature, responsible and productive citizens.

And, once the children have matured and gone on their way, society can further invest in the parent to help him or her adjust to a new life. The welfare problem has been solved.

Day care then is not necessarily the answer, nor more money, nor abortion. The answer lies in the fostering of the idea that welfare is a temporary situation.

The answer lies in a formula that shows a relationship of the amount of aid a mother receives to the type of care a child receives.

Or put it another way, the parent who receives AFDC and who sends a child to school dirty, or whose child is failing in school, or is constantly getting in trouble, that parent is not doing his or her job or what they are being paid for.

I ask you, what happens to people who are employed but fail to work?
JOHN A. WHEELER

Passing on smiles

Dear AFRO:
If you can start the day with a smile and get just one person to smile back at you, you have not wasted the day.

I boarded a bus one day not too long ago and seated across from me was a lady who looked so forlorn and alone that I smiled at her to try to tell her she had a friend.

Weakly, she tried to smile back and as she did so, I slyly winked my eye and she giggled. I got off at the next stop and thought no more about it.

A few days later I was standing at my stop when a lady came up to me with her hand extended and a broad smile on her face.

"You probably don't remember me, but I will always remember you as the one person who saved my sanity, and I will never forget you," she said.

I guess I seemed puzzled and she explained.

"Maybe you don't remember smiling at me but that smile helped me more than I can say," she said.

"You see, that day we were on the same bus and I was on my way to make funeral arrangements for my aunt, who was the only mother I had known. I just felt that I couldn't make it.

"You gave me a laugh. Each time the tears would start, I could see your smile, your impish grin and that quick little wink and somehow I made it," the woman said.

I was extremely touched.

"What can I do in return?" she asked.

"Pass it on. Someone else may need it," I said.

She squeezed my hand and continued on her way.
BERNICE BURTON

AFRO's aid to UNCF

Dear AFRO:
I would like to thank you for the wonderful article you wrote about the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and our 1977 fund-raising drive. Since the publication of your article, we have had a marked improvement in corporate support.

Although we have no way of proving the article started this recent drive of donations from corporations, we at the UNCF office are sure the article had a positive influence on the corporations. We are hoping the article has a chain reaction and encourages more of the corporations to donate to our cause.

Again I would like to say thanks for the needed publicity and the public awakeness that your article provided for us.
RUFUS A. WATKINS
DC-MD Area Director

Bitterness at Lake Clifton

Dear AFRO:
I am writing concerning an award my brother was cheated out of at Lake Clifton High School.

My brother, Jack Parjam, does excellent sewing. He has made numerous garments for teachers and students alike. He even stitched (as part of a team) a pillow presented to Mayor Schaefer on January 29, 1977.

He was involved in sewing during and after school since first attending Lake Clifton.

Nearing graduation he was led to believe he would receive an award as outstanding vocational education graduate.

When the award was given, his name was somehow removed and another recently arrived white student was granted the award.

This is grossly unfair. How do you explain to a 19-year-old that effort and merit do not count?

Now his memories of high school days will be of bitterness and resentment.

Needless to say, his friends and family are upset.

Something smells!
(Mrs.) GLADYS BROADY

Simple crime prevention tips

When you are out, use caution and stay alert. It could mean the difference between a pleasant trip and a nightmare. Here are 25 ways to make yourself street-wise.

1. Try to arrange to have a companion with you when you are walking.
2. Plan your route. Use well-lit streets.
3. Walk on the curbside away from the buildings where an assailant could conceal himself.
4. Don't stray away from a well-traveled path or take short cuts through alleys.
5. Don't have "one drink too many." Street criminals look for victims whose defenses may be impaired by alcohol.
6. If you think you are being followed by someone on foot, change directions or head for a store or a group of people.
7. If you are on foot and think you are being followed by someone in a car, change directions, cross to the opposite side of the street or head the opposite way on a one-way street.
8. If a driver stops to ask directions, don't get too close to the car and risk being pulled in.
9. When shopping, don't carry or flash large sums of cash.
10. Women should carry purses close in to their bodies, with a hand on a clasp, if possible. Purses should not be dangled.
11. Consider carrying a shoulder bag. It's harder for a purse snatcher to grab.
12. When carrying arms full of packages women should tuck purses in between the packages and the body.
13. Carry your keys in your pocket, so if your purse is taken you won't lose them.
14. Never leave purses on store counters or on the floor in a rest room.
15. Be alert for suspicious looking persons when you enter a public restroom.
16. Men should carry their wallet in an inside jacket pocket or a front pocket.
17. Beware of a person who crowds you in an elevator or group of people. He may be a pickpocket.
18. Don't hitchhike. You have no way of knowing who is going to pick you up or what their intentions are.
19. Carry enough small change in your pocket to enable you to make an emergency phone call.
20. When using the bus or other public transportation, sit near the driver if there aren't many passengers.
21. If a friend takes you home, or you take a taxi, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside before they leave.
22. Have your keys ready so you can get in the door with a minimum of fuss.
23. Don't get on an elevator alone with suspicious looking persons.
24. Don't go to the laundry room or laundromat alone.
25. Weapons, including those you may improvise, can be turned against you. Learn your self-defense techniques well. Practice them until you are well trained in their use, concentrate on your natural defenses.

Young beat — by larry young

A conversation with C.M.M. III

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

Every now and then it is good to pause and reflect to allow one's mind to roam. And so it was that I had such a moment.

We had just left a neighborhood association meeting, one of the many we have attended over the past three years as political brothers. After we both had exited, I sat in my car and thought about all that had happened in just ten or twelve years and how you were so instrumental in giving me a start.

Folk have always assumed that P.J. gave me my political start. Admittedly, P.J. is my political mentor, but you, sir, have been my political brother. Our association goes back more than ten years when I was a young lad coming to help young Del. Mitchell run for the State Senate.

Then, in 1974, you broke with tradition and asked me at the age of twenty-four to join your team as a candidate for the House of Delegates. I have often felt that pressure must have been twofold, and as your word has always been your bond, you stood steadfast and gave a young man a chance.

Over the past three years I have spoken at fund-raisers and receptions for other folk who are interested in running for elected offices around the country. I have campaigned for the election or re-election for some of the best-known political folk and I have often received praise for my ability to deliver a political speech and campaign enthusiasm.

I have had a good teacher, and I join those who have called you the best campaigner in our state.

A few weeks after the primary election, the closeness of my election gave us reason to go to the election board and watch the count of the votes. Along with two friends, who else was there? You. The next step was the counting of the votes on the machine. Who was to appear there early that morning going from machine to machine? You.

Some have said I felt comfortable from the start in performing my legislative duties, and I often repeat I was your legislative intern for four years and thus it was a matter of shifting gears.

There are a few folk who will always try to stir up trouble. They look at the fact that in three years I have obtained the subcommittee chairmanship of the City Delegation-Health; that I have started my own political organization called the Citizens Democratic Action Organization (CDAO) which is the sister organization of the Peoples Democratic Action Organization.

These same folk are unaware we discussed my establishing a political base for my future aspirations and that you serve as honorary president of CDAO.

They see my being the general chairman of the Maryland Black Leadership Conference as yet another sign of striking an independent course. And there are other distortions of every dimension.

I could easily use the next few sentences praising the accomplishments of our legislative team and attack those who try to divide us. I do not choose to do that.

I could list the many activities over the past three years that demonstrate the keen interest we both have in upgrading the quality of life of our constituents. Having described these, I could put my pen down without writing another word.

If one was to ask what my political philosophy is, I would have to say it comes from a background I share with you — the people are the source of governmental power, the authority of the people is to be extended rather than restricted and, as elected officials, we have an obligation to actively seek to remove obstacles that block individual achievement, obstacles emanating from race, sex and economic condition.

So, Mitch, I want to thank you. I want to ask God to extend his blessing on you and your family.

I want to assure you I intend to be part of your team in 1978 as we both seek re-election, and if there is any doubt, let all know our friendship, respect and longtime association have been tried and proven, and for my part, are not to be negotiable for political expediency.

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: I am a widowed mother with five children. We were evicted from our home and we have been sleeping here in the homes of neighbors on our street.

I was wondering if the AFRO could help me.

I have a job now, but I won't be paid until after three weeks. I have found an apartment, but the woman wants $20 today.

I did go to the Social Services office this morning and they said I would receive a check one day this week.

I called City Temple Baptist Church and was told they were out of funds. However, they could give me a place to stay, but I would have to separate the children.

Because I don't want my boys mixed up with strangers, I had to refuse.

ANSWER: A spokesman at Department of Social Services told AFRO Line:

Your reader evidently met eligibility for assistance for the entire family on the basis that she is asking for funds to help her so she can go to work to support her family. Unless she has a very good job, she is most likely eligible to be supplemented.

They are probably speeding up her regular assistance check because she has a job to go to. She will also get food stamps and a medical care card.

If she is in danger of losing the apartment, she should return to the worker and tell her so, and the worker will make arrangements to deliver her check rather than mail it.

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Lafayette Square Center, 1510 West Lafayette Ave., here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the library staff. Titles are available at most Pratt agencies.

THE RELUCTANT RAPIST, by Ed Bullins. The story of the education of Steve Benson in the ways of women and the world.

FLIGHT TO CANADA, by Ishmael Reed. Satire on slavery following the escape of three slaves infected with Dysathesia Aethiopica, the disease that makes blacks run away.

WHEN RAIN CLOUDS GATHER, by Bessie Head. The villagers of Golema Mmidi, in Botswana find that political independence does not change many realities.

SO, NOTHING IS FOREVER, by Adrienne Jones. The struggle of three young blacks to remain together as a family is enhanced by their white grandmother.

HUE AND CRY, by James A. McPherson. A collection of short stories about all kinds of people.

Who's a "minority?"

Dear AFRO:
The continued reference to our "poor, blacks, minority" is baffling.

If we don't know who is poor, the law tells us: up to $4,500 income "qualifies" a family to be on welfare. And anyone may be poor - regardless of race, creed or color. We are very democratic about that!

Blacks are blacks. No problem here.

But "minority" - to whom does this refer? Certainly not blacks, who represent about half of Baltimore's million population. What constitutes a minority number? Then does this refer to Chinese, for example, in our midst? Maybe "minority" refers to the wealthy. Here, too, we are democratic - anyone, except the poor, may be wealthy, regardless of race, creed or color.
B. J. SMALL

Salute of the week

(AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons or organizations to be used in this column).

"My parents died when I was quite young and I used to cook around the house for the rest of the family. This was the beginning of my career."

They are the words of Raleigh Gray who recently retired as hospital chef for St. Agnes Hospital after 22 years service.

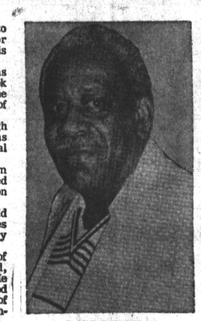
Although Mr. Gray is seldom seen, he has virtually touched every patient admitted to Bon Secours.

At a special celebration held recently, more than 100 employees and friends joined the dietary department to honor Mr. Gray.

Mrs. Alice Anderson, director of the dietary department said, "Raleigh was an excellent cook. He seasoned very well. He was a good teacher and did a very good job of training the other cooks and employes in his area.

"The staff respected him. He was always willing to help others and set high standards for himself and the staff," she said.

Mr. Gray, who resides in West Baltimore, is a native of Kilmarnock, Va. He is married to the former Miss Bertha King and they have six children, Houston, Raleigh, Clifton, David, Larry and Karen.


RALEIGH GRAY

The retired chef has four sisters, Miss Louise Gray and Mrs. Mamie Griffin of Baltimore; Mrs. Rachel Wiggins and Mrs. Ruth Bean of Virginia. His brother, Lloyd Gray, lives in Baltimore.

He is a member of City Temple Baptist Church.

Poet's corner

Suicide

Does anyone love me
Or is it just my imagination?
Can somebody tell me why
I am full of so much frustration?
People make it so difficult
For me to understand.
And, they are never around
When I need a helping hand.
It seems to me
That people just don't care,
But I can always call on God,
Because I know he is there.
It is hard for me to face reality
I try to
But I just don't have the ability,
I am always alone
No matter how I feel.
Right now I am starting
To get dizzy from these pills.
My time is running short
And I have so much to say.
I wish someone
Would ask me to stay.
As I stumble about
Trying to find a chair,
I realize that my body
Is beginning to feel lighter than air.
Once I am gone
There is no coming back.
What a shame!
They'll probably say
I died of a heart attack.
My sight is starting to leave me
And also the atmosphere
I have no feeling in my legs
And I can't even hear.
This must be it
Because I can't go on anymore.
So good-bye cruel world
The world which I adore.
MAURICE BRIGGS

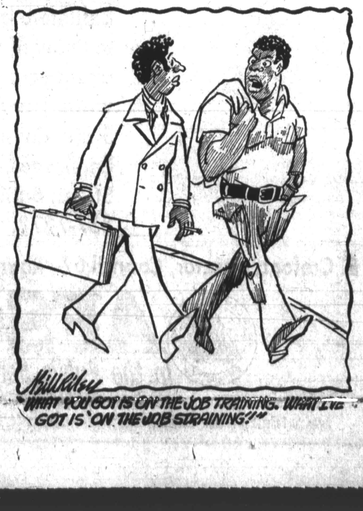
Where to call

COMPLAINTS
Of discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability or tension in your community, call COMMUNITY RELATIONS 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 — 383-3680 — about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — 383-2374

EMERGENCIES
AMBULANCE — 396-1111
FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-1313
POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-3333
HOUSING, HEATING, LIGHT — 234-2172 or 234-2412

SERVICE
ANIMAL REMOVAL — 396-0218
CRIMINAL INJURIES resulting from robberies or assaults — 523-5000
DEFECTIVE SIDEWALKS — 396-3168
DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL — 383-2720
FOOD STAMPS — 234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2763
LEGAL AID — 539-5340
PENSION REFORM — 962-3914
RAPE — 366-7273
RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1183
SEWERAGE PROBLEMS — 396-0232
TRANSIT AND TRAFFIC — 396-3049
VACANT HOUSE — 396-4176
WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4791

NOWADAYS



A'S AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — A friend has some valuable information to offer you. Take advantage of it.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Settle the issues at hand and forget the past. There will be time enough for new plans.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Now is the time to try to get a great deal accomplished. However, do not bite off more than you can chew.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Your life will be brighter with a little more humor and more optimism. Start giving this some thought today.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Check your budget carefully. You may find that you will be able to afford a change of scenery for a while.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — There is nothing wrong with improvement and modernization, but you must be [illegible]. If you don't like the offer, turn it down.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Attack your new project knowing that you will succeed. Show your gratitude to those who help you along the way.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Take advantage of your present team while the going is good. It will not last forever.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your energy coupled with enthusiasm from friends shouldn't cause you to go overboard. First you must get your plans straight and set up guidelines.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — There is a great deal of gossip going around. Listen, but make no contributions.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Your present pressures are a challenge to you. Even though it seems hard now, you will make the right decision.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Past grievances are your worst enemy. Forget the past and project the future.