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., 1846-1925. 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)

Dr. Favor's rebuttal

As we were confident he would, Dr. Homer E. Favor, dean of Morgan State University's School of Urban Studies, has come forward with a hearty rebuttal of reports in this newspaper on the Center for Urban Affairs, a university institute under his stewardship.

The report on Morgan's Center for Urban Affairs was composed by Madeline Murphy, a regular columnist collaborating on this occasion with Howard "Pete" Rawlings.

As far as we can tell Ms. Murphy and Rawlings were wondering aloud about the center's role and by-products thereof.

That Dr. Favor takes violent exception with them is obvious.

His full statement appears in this edition. A view supportive of his own by Rev. Vernon Dobson is also published herein.

The dean's countering statement is vintage-Favor, tough, unsparing, straight-as-an-arrow. It is reassuring that the educator has taken none of his flair for advocacy, if indeed that was a doubt in any minds.

After studying Dr. Favor's heated response, however, we must admit that we know no more about the Center for Urban Affairs now than we did when Murphy-Rawlings first raised the issues.

The question still goes begging but we fondly expect the dean to publicly detail for all interested citizens the center's on-going programs and contemporary concerns.

We can see, also, from Dr. Favor's response that he and Murphy-Rawlings are no strangers to each other. There is much "history" between them, some of which you and we will never know, and not all of this history is negative, no matter their present disagreement.

Unlike the dean we feel it to be downright healthy that the center's mission be questioned in open forum on these pages.

The printed word, it is our admitted bias, has specificity to recommend it and while the forum for debate Dr. Favor favors her buddy Reverend Dobson's TV show, (is no doubt a class act) we would view it as unfortunate that so important an institution as the center be the subject of argument over a medium which relates to our community only as much as Federal Communications Commission regulations force it to. Which of course is the only reason Reverend Dobson is permitted a talk show to begin with.

To avoid the very divisiveness the dean professes to abhor we feel this newspaper to be the appropriate platform from which black thought is best presented.

Last week we passed along a reminder that the AFRO was to be considered not only a news medium but "home" to all brothers and sisters.

We stated further that our pages are open to all points of view, that we had no favorites and that we would be challenging assumptions even as we sought to heal and unify our community.

This must have all passed by the dean for he not only questions our right to publish what we feel is in the public interest, but would have us do things the way we did things a generation ago, or at least the way he thinks we did things a generation ago.

Dr. Favor questions the "new" leadership of this newspaper and speculates about how our late, great leader would have handled the question of the Center for Urban Affairs.

We will not try to freeze time as the dean would have things. So we will not indulge in speculation. We do know that Dr. Carl Murphy was an architect of much that is now Morgan State University and always insisted upon excellence in all things regarding this college he so mightily helped to grow.

Similarily do we insist on excellence for MSU.

A final clarification, since Dr. Favor raises the question. It may come as a surprise to him but in these times when an AFRO writer, be it Madeline Murphy or whomsoever is wrong in our editorial judgement, we will come down as hard on her as we will come down on anyone else.

We have no favorites these days except the people and the greater community interest as we see it.

Understood?

"You deserve a break today" whether you want one or not

Now and then by g. james fleming

Message is clear for the 5th

Message Is Clear For 5th

The message is clear. There will be no black City Council members from the Fifth Councilmanic District through altruism, or a spirit of sharing, or goodwill politics.

Again, as in the past, all three members from the Fifth are white. When Alan Spector was elevated to a District Court judgeship, there was great opportunity for the remaining two Fifth District members to unite behind a black candidate, for instance, behind Kenneth Wilson, vice-president for advertising of the AFRO-AMERICAN, or behind Earl Banks, presently director of athletics at Morgan State University.

More important, there was the opportunity for the powers-that-be (the real king-makers) to insist on a black replacement. None of these options was taken. From the point of view of the black community, it was and is "politics as usual." Others might have harsher labelling.

"Politics as usual" means the dominant political practice, where white-black interests are concerned, is NOT to share "the goodies" so blacks benefit; NOT to back blacks as candidates unless compelled to and NOT to recognize numbers in population or in registered voters.

None of this is sin. It is political reality. Pointing to numbers alone means nothing, politically, unless those claiming the numbers can and do organize such numbers into immediate political clout or into frightening political threat.

So, the message is clear. If blacks in the Fifth District are to obtain representation in the Baltimore City Council, they will have to organize their registered voters and in other ways prepare for the next City Council primary. They will have to raise money — not pennies. They will have to field a limited number of candidates and not waste their substance on an abundance of "pip-squeaks who have no chance of winning.

Black voters and their leaders in the Fifth District will have to outsmart their opponents, especially the political bosses.

Unfortunately perhaps, but necessarily, they will have to wage a campaign to gain BLACK representation for the District. They will have to push increased registration of blacks and their increased turnout for the primary and for the general election.

Blacks organizing to wrest some representation for their group is also "politics as usual." It is exactly what any other ethnic group in the USA would do, once it found itself more than one-half the population of its district or city. Indeed, most other groups demand representation when they are about one-third of the population.

With three members to be elected from the Fifth, at least one should be black. And, in the present state of "practical politics," only blacks can insure this kind of split or shared representation.

If the Fifth District continues sending an all-white delegation to City Council, it will be due to the short-sightedness of the powers-that-be and-or the self-satisfaction of blacks with things as they are. Blacks must always face the question of whether they are satisfied with the crumbs they are now picking up.

The message is clear as it has always been clear. No group already in power will move to share its power with another group, unless it is to the advantage of the first group to do so.

Expressed another way, in love affairs, war and politics, no one is given anything on a silver platter. It must be fought for; it has to be taken. In all these categories, aleinism is the least used of all known instrumentalities. Power and threatened use of power, at the voting machine as elsewhere, is the only language power-holders and power-wielders understand. This cliche stands true: "You can't beat something with nothing."

It must not be forgotten that there is now a majority of blacks in Baltimore City (and some counts show a majority of black registered voters). It cannot be expecting too much to work for more black representation in City Council, beginning with the Fifth District, and similar increased representation in all other areas of our governmental life.

Simple crime prevention tips

If you have taken the security measures recommended to make your home a bad bet for burglars, then you've made it tough on other types of intruders as well. Here are 15 ways to be even safer.

1. Keep emergency numbers such as those for the police and the fire department near, or on, the phone.

2. Always keep your doors locked when at home.

3. Install a peephole in the door so you can see callers without opening the door.

24. A security chain is also a good idea. It enables you to receive small deliveries without opening the door all the way. Don't stand directly behind the opening, though. You could be grabbed by someone reaching in.

5. Never let a stranger in. Don't be embarrassed to insist on proper identification from any caller. If he can't show it or you're still suspicious after seeing it, call the organization or company he represents for verification.

6. If you let someone in by mistake, pretend you are not alone. For example, a husband or friend elsewhere in the house.

7. If you are female and live alone, don't put your first name on a mail box or in the phone book. Just your first initial.

8. If a stranger asks to use the phone, don't let him in. Offer to place the call for him.

9. Never give out information over the phone indicating who is or is not at home, or when they are expected back. Make sure children and babysitters know this rule, too.

10. Make sure you have a lock on your bedroom door.

11. Consider installing a telephone in the bedroom, since it enables you to call for help if you wake up and hear an intruder in your home.

12. Always keep window shades and curtains drawn at night.

13. Never change clothes in front of a window.

14. Vary your daily routine of coming and going. Many attacks are planned.

15. Plan in advance your potential routes of escape should an intruder or fire make it necessary.

In spite of all you do to protect yourself, something could happen.

If your home has been burglarized, do not enter it. Call police from a neighbor's residence and wait for them to arrive.

If you believe there is an intruder in your home, do not confront him. He may be armed and his actions unpredictable. Don't risk being harmed. Call police.

If you are confronted by an armed criminal, do not resist. You could be harmed. Be observant and get a good description.

If you're attacked by an unarmed assailant, you may be able to fight back, but consider the decision carefully. If your attacker didn't think he could handle you, he wouldn't have tried in the first place. If you are carrying a whistle, use it if you can. Or scream. Noise is a good defense if people are around to hear.

If you are raped, do not change clothes, bathe or apply medication., even douche is the least used of all known instrumentalities. Physical evidence will be important in prosecuting your attacker. Call police or a rape crisis center for assistance.

Most importantly, call police if your witness a crime being committed or see suspicious activity.

A little about a lot by madeline w. murphy

Repression's just around the corner

We had better not rest too easily upon our laurels while gleefully gloating over the presidency of Jimmy Earl Carter, because evidence of a repressive government still lingers from the Ford-Nixon imperial presidency.

Take for an example the fundamentalist movement of some in California to develop a Christian Business Directory, narrowing their economic involvement with only those who have found Christ.

Then the latest effort on the part of Dade County Floridians to hound those whom God protects, making a legislative assault that denies gay rights, when for all intents and purpose, if it were left up to a referendum, civil rights for blacks and women would also hit the dust.

Then there is also the American Nazi Party, composed of disenchanted middle class whites who feel cheated by the rich and exploited by the welfare poor and black, another fertile ground for ignorance, hate and worse still, pogroms.

And so a new bill that would legalize many of the worst crimes of Watergate and the McCarthy period must be carefully monitored and defeated to stem this tide of fascism.

Known as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D., Mass., and our ole buddies from Dixie's heartland, Senators James O. Eastland, D.-Miss. and Strom Thurmond, D.-S.C., Senate Bill 1566 would allow government surveillance in order to gather information far beyond suspected criminal activity.

It would permit groups of U.S. citizens to be classified as "agents of a foreign power." Tapping phones without evidence of criminal behavior and phones of friends, with the sanction of Attorney General Griffin Bell, would be standard operating procedure. This would even include ninety-day unwarranted taps to test "capability of equipment."

According to Esther Herst, Washington coordinator of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, the bill would bring the U.S. "closer than we care to come to a society run by secret police agencies."

Ms. Herst warns that "S. 1566 would give the first legislative sanction to wiretapping solely for the purposes of gathering information."

To further escalate the invasion of privacy, this bill would require landlords, telephone companies and custodians to cooperate fully with government agents conducting surveillance by giving the agents all information, facilities or technical assistance necessary.

A seven judge panel, appointed by the Chief Justice, would approve applications by U.S. intelligence agencies who want to spy on "a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power for the purpose of obtaining foreign intelligence information." Definitions of foreign powers or agents are so vague, so overly broad that this bill would legalize practically anything intelligence agencies would want to do.

Because under this bill, a foreign power is not only a foreign government, but also a "faction of a foreign nation" (whatever that may mean), a "foreign based political organization," or "an entity directed and controlled by a foreign government or governments."

Therefore, this could include national liberation movements, the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations, the United Nations, OPEC, or even foreign student associations.

The erosion of rights is all too evident in the fact that no crime has to be committed, no documents stolen, no secret or classified material involved. It would only be up to the particular intelligence agency on the case merely to convince the seven judge panel that this vague definition applies to the organization on which they want to spy.

When I read of this and another repressive measure that is also under the aegis of Sen. Kennedy — S. 1437, the rewritten version of S. 1 — I recalled the surveillance of the Baltimore Police Department during the heyday of the Black United Front, and realized that the elements that would suppress dissent, are also the elements that would welcome a repressive right wing society.

This movement finds fertile ground in ultra-fundamentalist groups like those of Anita Bryant, the American Nazi Party, the Ku Klux Klan and many other groups parading to be religious, that narrowly interpret both the Bible and Constitution of the U.S.

And so we are required to bolster the faltering democracy under which we survive by raising our voices in outrage to the President, the Congress, particularly our own representatives by phone, telegram or visit so that our rights, hard won at best, shall not be slowly and surreptiously eroded.

This applies to teachers, preachers, workers, jurists, lawyers, students, doctors, as well as the masses, who lazily accept the status quo either out of ignorance or fear; who become willing dupes, soothed by a Southern drawl, that speaks skillfully about human rights with forked tongue.

Who's what in media?

Soon we are given to understand, some 200 newspaperpersons are expected in town for a conference.

All we know is that most in this body are black journalists who work for the white press.

This may not be the best organizing premise we have stumbled across of late but then it is not the worst, either. It is at least on a par with Democrats for Nixon within recent memory.

We cannot figure out if these brothers and sisters are assembling to recreate the ghetto they have fled, (NBC-Harlem, CBS-Watts) celebrating said escape or coming together, as Don Rickles might say, because "I get so lonely."

In any event some of our friends in this undertaking have asked us to assume a role.

Just what that role might be is presently unclear, when we figure it out we will pass it along to you and to our brethren on the other side of the communications street.

The McDonald's affair

As the McDonald's in Mondawmin (now Metro Plaza) controversy has mounted we have accordingly presented the differing points of view.

We headlined Senator Welcome and her proponents picketing William L. Adams and his advocates. Mr. Adams got hopping mad with us for what he deemed was our thwarting community economic development. Or at least his economic development.

When we gave Adams' side of it some said we had turned against the beleagured Mondawmin-area homeowners.

We have sensed all along that the Mondawmin issue was a Catch-22 proposition.

Whether a fast food operation strengthens or destroys a neighborhood may have been the original issue, but as thoughtful citizens must know by now, McDonald Mondawmin is currently a raging political struggle for control of the city's Northwest sector.

As such it is proving to be a Gettysburg for politicians, homeowners and entrepreneurs alike.

A lot of folks, even some of the current winners, are going to be ground up like hamburger in the electoral aftermath of the McDonald's affair.

Helping his honor

Our mayor does not want for enthusiasm about our city no matter what else anyone thinks of him.

Therefore while we may wonder about his lending the full weight of his office to the strengthening of the Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) — our theory being that mayors and NAACP branches are oil and water — we have to pragmatically consider that Mr. Schaefer's efforts on behalf of the NAACP will credit us over the long stretch.

The mayor and the municipal apparatus he heads are committed to helping make the upcoming NAACP Unity Ball this fall a rousing success. Monies derived will go toward revitalizing the branch's programs. This is the pay-off that must follow. Mr. Schaefer, as honorary chairman and chief spark plug, has in this matter every right to expect everyone's full support.

The Baltimore NAACP is an institution that must continually move forward.

Poet's Corner

Farewell to Farrah

Hey little black boy wonder
Say goodbye
Say no thanks
Say farewell
To Farrah
She has unfamiliar muscles
And no conscience for a soul
Her glue
It melts into hot like wax
And burns to kiss
Hey little black boy
Don't shame your momma's Queen dignity
She needs your admiration
Little black boy
Your sister's watchin'
And she cries at your confusion
She mistakes it for hate
Go to her
Little black boy
Say hello
Say rich ebony girl wonder
I love you
And today I said
Goodbye
No thanks
And farewell
To Farrah

Terry Edmonds

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 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

Dr. Favor replies

Dear AFRO:

I am appalled over the utterly dishonest editorial cartoon appearing in the June 17 edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS. An unwarranted attack by journalists without portfolios or education devoid of credentials would not have appeared in the AFRO under Dr. Carl Murphy's inspired leadership.

After all, this newspaper had become a unifying voice in the quest to heal a broken community and to lift a disparaged people. The gross misstatements of fact and the determination to present a biased picture resulted in my refusal initially to dignify the three Murphy-Rawlings articles with a reply of any type.

When policy lends credence to the shabby and irresponsible reporting of these two individuals, however, I must raise the question as to the present owners' stewardship over the rich legacy of this venerable historic institution.

There really was no need for me to view the antics of these two journalists as being personal because of their having enjoyed my support and undergirding in their hours of need or, in at least one instance, that of a loved one who was under some semblance of a cloud.

In the case of Mr. Rawlings I have not even shared with the broader public his actions which border on the dichotomous as a self-appointed and self-anointed leader of black educators.

Over the years, I have been sympathetic to his struggle to garner a terminal degree in his field and have experienced pain over his inability to achieve tenure and status at a four-year institution. Perhaps his current stint at a two-year community college will be more rewarding.

Nevertheless, Mr. Rawlings' objectivity towards any black institution would have to be adjudged questionable in light of his response to an appeal by me to teach a part-time course at Morgan some years ago, at which time he stated that he would think of no condition under which he would teach at Morgan.

I hope that this most recent assault appearing in the AFRO is not a part of the effort, either by design or out of ignorance, to destroy black higher education institutions in this state. But, it insults the intelligence to believe that this is merely coincidental because Mr. Rawlings, one of the "worthies" attacking Morgan, is also understood to support the merger of UMES with Salisbury State.

Additionally, he is reported to have voiced strong opposition to the according of university status to Morgan State during the early stages of deliberations.

Finally, in this regard, Mr. Rawlings reputedly expended considerable energy over the years in supporting the metropolitan university concept which relegates urban black colleges to subordinate roles.

It is indeed unfortunate that Mrs. Murphy did not indicate that there was no contractual relationship between her group in Cherry Hill and Morgan State. She knows full well who received the modest $350 and why.

I might point out that the Institute invested much more of its own resources in the project. Reliance upon Mr. Rawlings for misleading and useless information regarding budget, personnel, and productivity affords her no real excuse for this debauchery.

Mr. Rawlings had at his disposal extensive information regarding the role of Urban Studies officials in publishing the Honorable Joseph C. Howard, Jr.'s treatises on justice. I personally showed him textual and prefatory references in two of the most significant contemporary books on housing and urban problems.

A host of other materials substantiating the scholarly outputs of the center were discussed with him and he had to be told which repositories held them despite the allegation of his being one of the newspaper's "worthies."

He was advised by vice-president Judson to review library holdings for pertinent public information. His reaction was to misquote him in a most pejorative sense.

It is indeed ironic that this happened after Dr. Judson, not long ago at an Annapolis meeting, prevented Mr. Rawlings from being called on the carpet by the staff of the State Board for Higher Education, for alleged misstatements of fact in an earlier Murphy-Rawlings column on Higher Education and was thanked profusely by Mr. Rawlings for doing so.

At most any other time, he would seek inputs from The Honorable Farren J. Mitchell whose office is constantly in consultation with this school and who has publicly avowed that outputs provided are a source of strength to his daily congressional struggle.

For some reason, Mr. Rawlings did not view this as necessary. Moreover, contrary to the diabolical implications of the articles and the editorial cartoon, the Ford Foundation's highly positive assessment of the program along with its invitation to request additional funding were shared with Mr. Rawlings.

The editors have promised to shed illumination on the subject opened by these two "worthies." The public should know that Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Rawlings have refused invitations from the Rev. Vernon N. Dobson to provide such light through an open discussion on television.

I would not like to believe that Mrs. Murphy's position as a journalist is secured solely by her status as a board member.

If this height of irresponsibility continues, however, the source of entrenchment would become legitimate question. I might add that the penchant for inaccuracy is not a requisite for being "daring."

Suffice it to say, The AFRO that I have long revered and loved would not suggest that the Hopkins Center is without support of the order of magnitude of Morgan State's without the facts.

Neither would the AFRO of yesteryear allege that turnover is a problem when only one person has been terminated in 14 years. It is indeed hard to believe that the AFRO would misinterpret the interdisciplinary aspects of the program as did the Murphy-Rawlings article.

Its interfacing budgets have been viewed by the Kelmer Commission and other competent observers as one of the program's strong points. Apparently, this financial arrangement is beyond the ken of the "worthies" understanding.

Finally, the AFRO of old would examine the organization's productivity in all three fields, i.e., instruction, research, and extension before embarking upon a journalistic crusade.

If memory serves me right had the program been weighed in the balance and found wanting, Dr. Carl would have placed a call in his own inimitable way to begin the process of correcting the defect.

I am concerned that his life's work remains an inspiration to generations yet unborn. Hopefully, there are some still in roles of leadership at The AFRO who share this concern and will see that the editorial pages edify the meritorious and the momentous rather than the mundane and the miniscule.

Homer E. Favor
Dean
School of Urban Studies
and Human Development
Morgan State University

Commends AFRO

Dear AFRO:

I am extremely pleased to note the approach made by the AFRO-AMERICAN regarding William L. Adams. To recognize Mr. Adams in his receipt of an honorary degree from Morris Brown University I believe is a commendable effort on your part.

As your article in the May 28, 1977 AFRO-AMERICAN indicated, Mr. Adams has been "good copy" for the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN. In this regard, I believe it both timely and appropriate to reevaluate Mr. Adams' contribution to the Baltimore community where he has made the contribution for which Morris Brown has given him honor. Over the many years [illegible] development, great men and women are neglected recognition in their own home towns or in the areas where they make the greatest contribution.

Would it not be unique, since you have recognized the contribution that Mr. Adams has made, that a Coppin State College, a Morgan State University, a Johns Hopkins University or a University of Maryland also gave him appropriate recognition for his contribution to the economic development and survival of Baltimore City?

DR. HARVEY WEBB JR.
Executive Director
Comfort Care
[illegible]

Young beat by larry young

Housing workshop

This Saturday, June 25, at 9 a.m., it will be my pleasure to host a housing workshop at the Greater Model Community Recreation Center, located on the corner of Saratoga St. at Arlington Ave. It promises to be a very exciting day. You are invited to attend and bring your neighbor.

Here's just a glimpse of what type of issues will be discussed: rights of renters vs. rights of landlords; housing programs offered — HCD, eviction program, etc.; present housing legislations; fire prevention; zoning laws and their effect on residents and business and local housing codes violation and inspection.

We will have some of Baltimore's finest housing experts on hand as panelists and resource persons. Our guest speaker is the prominent Assistant States Attorney Ms. Susan Handwerger. Ms. Handwerger has won the heart of the many folk in our city who wanted to see the city crack down on those landlords who have consistently ignored housing codes.

We will have a demonstration about smoke detectors and other materials will be distributed that will be helpful.

Why a housing workshop?

There is a critical shortage of adequate, affordable housing in the U.S. In 1970, a study by the Joint Center for Urban Studies in Cambridge, Mass., estimated that some 13 million low and moderate income families suffered "a housing problem"—in other words, they lived in physically deteriorated, overcrowded or overpriced housing.

Prior to that study, a Presidential Commission on Urban Housing (known as the Kaiser Commission) issued a report, A Decent Home (1968), which claimed that in order to meet the nation's housing needs, some 26 million new units would have to be built between 1968 and 1978. Six million of these units should be subsidized by the federal government, the report declared.

Since the Commission's report was issued, the housing situation in the U.S. has deteriorated.

Private construction has come to a near-standstill, while in 1972 the Nixon administration placed a moratorium on the construction of subsidized low and moderate income housing. The number of non-subsidized housing starts has hit a 30-year low. The Washington Post (March 23, 1975) reports that the number of housing starts in the Washington metropolitan area in February 1975 was the lowest it has been since 1946 when the area's population was only one-third what it is now. This pattern is not unique to the Washington area, but is being repeated throughout the nation.

These facts add up to a dismal total: Not only will the already inadequately housed remain in that situation, but millions of American families will join their ranks.

Although the federal government's posture since the days of the New Deal has been to provide every family with a "decent home," the nation is now moving away from, rather than toward, this goal. Despite three pieces of major housing legislation (the Housing and Urban Development Acts of 1949 and 1968 and the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974), the creation of a cabinet level agency to deal with federal housing problems (the Department of Housing and Urban Development) and innumerable studies of housing problems and how they can be solved, urban blight, deserted inner city cores, abandoned central business districts and ever-deteriorating housing stock have been the upshot of the last 30 years of federal policy making.

Continuing decay of the urban environment means that the tens of millions of Americans, especially the poor, must live in unhealthy, unsafe and degrading conditions.

Solutions to this problem can only be found through an examination of the system which has created this condition; urban activists may find that analysis of housing problems from an environmentalist viewpoint may pinpoint new areas of action while environmentalists may find that the study of non-traditional ecological problems makes their work more meaningful.

In many instances, areas of concern are complementary, if not the same, and solutions would result in both improved living conditions for urban dwellers and a healthier urban community for all citizens.

Where can displaced, ill-housed urban dwellers turn for help? The federal government, despite some past efforts to provide low and moderate income subsidized housing, has nearly abandoned its role as a houser and most local and state governments are too hard-hit financially to fill this gap.

As the poor and inadequately housed turn to neighborhood and municipal governing bodies, they frequently experience frustration, rejection and a sense of abandonment. One need only look at the urban areas of our nation to see the prevailing inadequacy of decent, sanitary housing in spite of promises and intentions to the contrary which the Federal Housing and Development Act of 1949 asserted, with reiteration in the Housing and Development Act of 1968 and again in the Housing and Community Act of 1974.

In cities across the country, people have been organizing, trying to find new ways to save their communities. Fighting a battle to save one building will not necessarily win the campaign to create a liveable city. Preservationists in growing numbers agree that it is not just "historic" neighborhoods that need to be saved from the urban demolition derby—it's neighborhoods that generate a sense of belonging and which contain the amenities (a favorite word of urban planners) that make life in the city bearable—corner stores, a trusty shoe maker or dry cleaner, a bar where friends can congregate.

In short, all the pleasantries that are now endangered in modern cities and wholly extinct in modern suburbs.

Morgan prexy thanks AFRO

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for the very splendid coverage your paper gave to the events leading up to the performance of Dominick Argento's opera, "The Voyage of Edgar Allan Poe."

Your treatment of this major cultural event for our city, and especially the manner in which you were able to highlight the participation of Morgan State University and the outstanding contribution of our very fine choir, under the inspired leadership of Professor Nathan Carter, all led to make our efforts of intercultural cooperation a success.

ANDREW BULLOCK SLEY
President
Morgan State University

Agrees with Rawlings

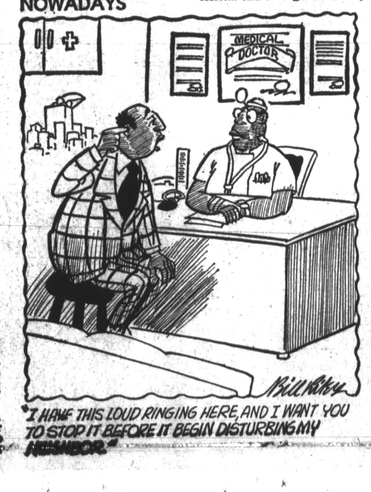
Dear AFRO:

After reading the article written by Howard Rawlings several weeks ago I must agree with him that we cannot afford to lose the Constant Care Health Center.

I am very much aware of the struggles this center has had with trying to relocate in the same immediate area. I have referred several buildings to the director but, there seemed to always be some kind of problem. It is quite understandable that the center would need all of the services under one roof. They have outgrown the present site.

I trust that after reading the article in your paper that someone will come forward with an offer for a larger building. I would suggest that the group take a look at some of these vacant schools in northwest Baltimore.

MABLE BROOKS



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).

Robert M. Jackson Jr. was awarded the Silver Bear at a recent Recognition Dinner of Boy Scouts of America for the Trailblazer District of Baltimore. This is the highest distinction conferred upon an adult in scouting.

Mr. Jackson, who has been involved with scouting off and on for 40 years, has served as scoutmaster for seven years and holds two presidential citations. At present he is Boy scoutmaster of Troop 916 sponsored by the First United Church, Apostolic, The Rev. Dr. Monroe Saunders is pastor.

Son of the late Monroe and Carrie Anderson Jackson, the honoree grew up in West Baltimore, graduated with honors from both Douglass High School, Class of 1942 and the Army Administration School in Fort Lee, Va. in 1943.

During his ten years in the army, Mr. Jackson served in World War II and the Korean War. He was honorably discharged with the rank of battalion sergeant-major.

Mr. Jackson, a senior letter carrier in Towson, has been with the post office for 28 years and has received the superior U.S. government Post Office citation.

In addition to being scoutmaster at his church, Mr. Jackson is a member of the deacon board, sings on the choir and plays the violin.

His wife, the former Miss Gladys Lewis, is a mezzo soprano. While, he was in the service they traveled as a team and they continue to play and sing.

The Jacksons have four children: Reuben, Rupert, Dwight and Carletta and four grandchildren.

ROBERT JACKSON, JR.

Britton, Christopher, Cordella and Tara.

Andrew Anderson Jackson is his brother.

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Waverly Branch, 400 E. 33rd St., here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the library staff. Titles are available at most Pratt agencies.

BLACK ROCOCÓ, by Ron Kurz. A movie theatre moves from pornography to "blaxploitation" featuring the day of the Superfuke.

THE RIVER FLOWS BACKWARD, by Kathlyn Gay, Ben Barnes narrates his story in black talk about life and human values.

WHAT WE MUST SEE, By Orde Coombs. A compilation of short stories by young black story tellers.

THE ALMOST YEAR, by Florence Randall. A black girl goes to live with a white family and strange things begin to happen.

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, 383-6656 — on food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, radiological products, call FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION — 462-4499

Smile

"You, a policeman? What made you join the force?"

"When I was a salesman, I always wanted to get into a business where the customer is always wrong."

AFRO-Line

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: Please give me the history of the Mason and Dixon Line. — M. D.

ANSWER: According to the World Book Encyclopedia:

"The Mason and Dixon line is a straight east and west boundary that separates the states of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

"Before the war between the states broke out, an imaginary westward lengthening of this line came to be thought as the boundaries between the free states and the slave states.

"People now think of this line as the boundary between the north and the south.

"In 1700 a boundary quarrel arose between Pennsylvania and Maryland. The states agreed to settle the dispute by having the land surveyed.

"They called in two English surveyors, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, surveyed the land between the years 1763 and 1767. The line was named after them.

"The surveyors set up milestones to mark the boundaries. Over the years souvenir hunters removed many of the stones and used them as door steps and curb stones.

"Authorities finally recovered many of them, however, and so were able to replace nearly all of the stolen markers.

"From time to time the dispute arose as to exactly where to locate the line. Surveys made in 1849 to 1900 showed that there was no important error in this line.

"The line had been made at the parallel of 39 degrees 43' 26.3" north latitude."

QUESTION: Trees on the property next door to me are growing up on my front porch. I had to put up a partition to try to prevent this but to no avail.

The trees in the back are growing so that they have covered my dining room window. We cut them down ourselves last year.

I have complained to the owner. He came out and looked around and promised to have them cut down. It has not been done. — I. B.

ANSWER: The owner told AFRO Line that he had sent someone out to do the job and was sure it had been done. He promised to send someone else out right away.

Stars and You

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) Take a closer look at your budget. Avoid those who will use a sob story to get next to you.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — Take out time to improve your health. It is well to socialize but there are other things that take priority.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Your desire to move ahead will be accomplished soon. Use discretion when choosing persons with whom you share plans.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Seek out good friends who will give you advice. Beware of so-called friends, who can cause trouble.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23) — Get an early start so that progress in your career will be much quicker. Involvement in civic affairs will help.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — This is a good time to investigate new projects. Your newest acquaintance will help a great deal.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Do not allow yourself to be rushed into setting routine affairs straight. Try to work at a better method.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It will be wise for you to attempt to understand your co-workers better. Relinquish your pride temporarily and approach them first.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You need not try to impress folk with lavish parties. What counts is that you do your best on the job.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan 20) — The fact that you are braced for what is intended will not lessen the impact it will have on you. Make a point now to discuss matters which disturb you.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Have a long talk with your loved one. It could pave the way to a brighter future.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — Handle monetary matters in an intelligent manner. If a larger income is what you see, be [illegible]