OPINION

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Fourth District rift

Sen. Verda Welcome and William L. Adams, the eternal political power broker, have come to yet another turn in the road which finds them unable to walk forward in harmony.

We find it a predictable election-year phenomenon and not at all exasperating — or is it just that we have gotten used to the Welcome-Adams dynamics as has everyone else and look forward to them along with the opening Orioles games, spring rain and cherry-flavored snowballs?

This time these long-time antagonists find themselves at odds over the Democratic slate for the 40th district in the primary election this September.

As senior elected official in this district and ruling force of the Fourth District Democratic Organization, Senator Welcome feels she can decide the slate for her district and, as a news story in this edition details, has picked her running mates.

Adams' associates Lloyal Randolph and Kenneth Webster, both incumbent delegates to the State Assembly, have been dropped by Senator Welcome which leaves William L. and his Metro Democrats very much up the river.

The Metro team must thus field its own slate but a candidate strong enough to challenge Welcome is hard, if not well nigh impossible to come by, it is the consensus of knowledgeable polls.

There are seldom any real issues dividing Adams and Welcome. Real in that they impact on masses of black people.

Their most recent parting of the ways was the McDonald's in Mondawmin affair. Willie wanted hamburgers sold in the shopping center, Verda did not because some of her constituents objected, result: round 80.

The issue has always been who is going to run the politics of the 40th legislative district and the politics of the fourth councilmanic district, Adams or Welcome.

What historically has transpired is that Welcome controls much of it, Adams some and nobody all.

While this does not bode well for black political unity in the strictest monolithic sense, it has kept this community's politics at a high level of creative tension for a good many years.

So once again these two strong personalities step into the ring. Verda? Willie? Or both?

Both is our conclusion. Until younger leadership ascends, that is.

Bay College tragedy

It is a major tragedy, an educational calamity if you will, that the innovative and promising Bay College experiment must die a most undignified death.

This special two-year academic institution was specifically designed to help those urban young people and adults develop college-level skills who otherwise because of prior schooling or income level might never have such an opportunity.

Bay College, understandably, was predominantly black and - or foreign born in its student population.

Its closing means that those students who had the least chance now have no chance at all.

Why did Bay College close a week before graduation?

Lousy administration and lack of administralve monitoring by the college's board of trustees is the most apparent conclusion.

As a result, we feel, the school's monies were dissipated to the point operations were impossible to continue.

The students?

Their welfare is our chief concern. We feel trustee board chairman Sidney Kaplan and his members must make every effort to ensure that each Bay College student is placed in an on-going college-level program at whatever cost and whatever added expense to whatever is left of Bay.

To dash hopes, to effect no contingency plan for the students of Bay, would be exceedingly cruel and irresponsible.

We are sure Bay's governors would not want this to be the final legacy.

Lawmakers review

As is AFRO custom after the General Assembly adjourns each year we allow space for black political leadership of that body to report to the people on accomplishments, setbacks and other pertinent data of the session.

This year is no exception. We are pleased to report that Sen. Clarence Blount and other legislators again have provided us with a comprehensive summary of the 1978 General Assembly's workings.

It will appear on our Comment pages next Friday, May 5.

Child care chaos

There is an unending, extremely critical need for quality child care programs in this city.

Working parents, rich, poor, middle, ought have available to them child development centers of the highest standards where they can be assured that their children are cared for, enriched and stimulated to learn and grow while breadwinners do what they have to do.

Quality child care ought to be high on our city government's list of priorities, if not for reasons of family need, a base for economic considerations. Even in an economic recession such as we are presently experiencing there are job opportunities that many parents, especially mothers, could avail themselves of if freed from around the clock child maintenance.

The more folks working the more money circulates.

Which is some of the reason why we find the Department of Human Resources juggling or fumbling with its child care budget no laughing matter.

Child care resources are woefully inadequate and for DHR to say on one hand it has a surplus and on the other to discover a $212,000 deficit in this area is most regrettable.

We join Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke and child care leaders in asking DHR to straighten out this mess forthwith.

Let's begin our war on crime!

Dear AFRO:

I am ready to work to make this a safe city for all citizens.

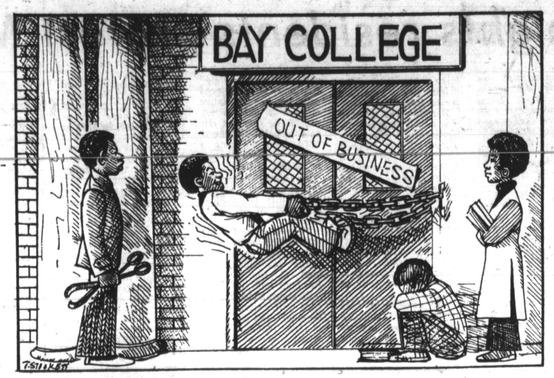
You can count on my time, ideas and energy.

Name .....

Organization .....

Address .....

Phone .....



A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy

The recent investigation into allegations of fiscal mismanagement and personnel problems in the office of the clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Randall Carroll, should indicate to the black community in general, and the black law students in particular that this affair has turned into a convenient political football.

Last year the black law students, disgruntled over the operation of the Court of Common Pleas, sent a letter to the Supreme Bench outlining grievances against that court's desire to appoint Carroll, over the nominee of the Legislative Black Caucus. At which time they alleged the same problems now investigated by the Supreme Bench.

The fact that the Supreme Bench is launching its investigation — which the black law students forewarned them of — in an election year may well mean that the First and Sixth District machines, still smarting over Paul Chester's breakthrough, the first black to be elected as court clerk in 1970, are mounting an effort to reclaim the Common Pleas office for one of their own.

What better time to discredit Carroll, whether the allegations are true or false, than now? What better time to deepen the schism in the black community to divide, conquer and gain the spoils of a victorious election of a white replacement than this year?

We don't learn our lessons too well.

Righteous indignation, writing letters, protesting are merely forerunners to action. Action, which is provided by a system that elects its representation, should be taken by the black law students in their fielding a candidate of their own.

Although hindsight may be 20-20 vision, this writer recalls, that at the time black law students were protesting Carroll's appointment, they were advised and encouraged to begin raising money and choosing a candidate to replace Carroll.

We may hear over and over that the judiciary is above politics, but practically speaking this is not the case.

We should be disabused of that notion especially with the recent Monument City Bar Association press conference where it protested that no black replacement was sent to the governor by the Judicial Selections Commission for a replacement of Judge Solomon Baylor in District Court.

Until we sustain the codrage to field candidates, raise money for them, work to win, no number of press conferences, protests, indignant letter writing will change the status quo. This goes not only for court clerkships, but also for judicial candidates on the Supreme Bench, Courts of Special Appeals and Appeals.

Just as the law was changed to no longer elect District Court judges, so in the not too distant future will it be changed for court clerks, the Supreme Bench, Courts of Special Appeals and Appeals.

Because once we have become a threat, in the case of Paul Chester, elected Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, when we elected Milton Allen, states attorney, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, congressman from the Seventh District, William H. Murphy Sr., the first to challenge the sitting judge principle, and an overwhelming number of black candidates to the state legislature, the rules must be changed in a racist society to not only keep us out of the competition, but to deny us equal representation.

A rare treat is in store for us on April 30, when freedom fighter and native Baltimorean, William C. Taylor, the man who led the early struggles for jobs, equality, peace and human rights, will appear at the Parish Hall of the Unitarian Church, North Charles at Hamilton Street from 4 to 8 p.m. Brother Taylor will look back upon 50 years he has spent combating all forms of injustice, racism, exploitation and oppression. Admission is $1.50 for the unemployed. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday will be a busy day, since Rep. Parren J. Mitchell will also be holding his Annual Open House, with music, door prizes, snacks and drinks, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. at 1902 N. Ellamont St.

But with a little maneuvering, both worthwhile affairs can be attended easily.

A brief note on Right to Lifers, who have mounted a campaign on narrow religious lines against abortion — 73 percent Catholic. Although I have written many times that abortion for black people, in a most imperfect time in our history, is genocidal, I also wonder whether Right to Lifers will go that second mile to make life worthwhile for all those unborns they are attempting to save.

It would be great to hear their plans, know their program after these unwanted children are born.

LETTERS

Animal cruelty

Dear AFRO:

A few days ago, I heard that the Baltimore City Pound will hold an animal for five days. If the animal is not claimed it is turned over to schools and laboratories for experimental use.

I later found out this was Baltimore City Council Bill No 1561 and was sponsored by City Council President Walter Orlinsky.

After all the cruel, uncaring acts attributed to the Baltimore City Pound and backed by Mayor Schaefer, they come up with another gem to push us farther back into the dark ages of human kindness and understanding.

Only this thing has been introduced by a man who wants to be Governor. I should shudder at the idea!

What does it take to give our fellow creatures a chance on this earth? I'm beginning to think it will take the destruction on mankind to get things back in order and let nature take over to turn things right again.

I'm teaching my grandchildren to respect their fellow creatures on this earth, but unless many, many others do the same, there won't be many of them around.

The pound should be taken over and run by private citizens that care about the problem and subsidized, but not run, by the city, whose track record for pro-animal programs we have seen to be worse than diplorable.

I ask your support in opposing such a bill and ask your readers to speak out against such cruelty.

I beseech you, in the name of those that can't speak, not to let this bill be passed and subject these animals to this torment and torture.

I thank you for your help and the help of your readers toward this end.

ROBERT L. BURNS

Praise

Dear AFRO:

Congratulations to the whole AFRO staff. The Friday, April 21 publication is just wonderful. I read it all.

I was wondering what happened to Mrs. Madeline Murphy. I missed her picture and "A Little About A lot." But I see she was on vacation.

R. M. DAVIS

Boycott?

Dear AFRO:

Much has been said about the influx of Oriental "Moms and Pops" in black communities. Some seek a boycott of these neighborhood food stores.

I seek the answers to such questions as (1) Do federal, state and city agencies prevent blacks or other minorities from opening such businesses? (2) Have blacks or other minorities tried and failed in such businesses? (3) Is this influx related in any way with the Oriental influences on steel, TV and radio sales and-or parts, wigs and clothing in this country? (4) Who is really responsible for this apparently successful influx of aliens in black communities? (5) Do these persons vote?

Before the riots, Caucasians seemed to control the "Moms and Pops" plus the rental housing in black neighborhoods.

Now most of these areas lack such necessities as pharmacies, shoe repair shops, movies, candy stores, decent restaurants and other much-needed entities.

What is the alternative to the Oriental "Moms and Pops" or other Oriental businesses?

Should we organize car pools or purchase mini-buses to carry our people to black supermarkets? Or should we ask some of our elected officials as to why we even have to talk about boycott of aliens, Oriental or not?

Most of those who I have heard talk boycott of corner stores don't have one within a mile of their home.

Give me some alternatives. Give me some hard and truthful facts about this problem. Then join me in an effective and peaceful boycott of certain corner stores, steel products, TVs, radios and clothing.

CHARLES R. CURTIS JR.

Reporting on racism

Dear AFRO:

This is to thank you for bringing my ordeal of racism to the people of Baltimore and surrounding Washington ("2 black men. 2 firing, April 8, 1978).

I think it's about time the people really see how these big companies operate and how they use racial tactics to get rid of a man that has spoken out to protest his manhood.

No date has been set for the arbitration hearing as of yet, but I hope that it will soon. My children are caught up in this and they are not old enough to know what racism is all about.

This is the way the system is geared, to disrupt your livelihood.

Then you are asked why you don't adabt to the system. This is a joke that we as blck people have to endure through a lifetime.

Perhaps now that Congress has passed these civil rights bills they may be enforced.

I would like to express the concern that if federal monies are put into places that violate minorities' rights, then this would mean that the same government will uphold the racist dealings that we as blacks have to be subjected to.

They took away my job and replaced it with a Written apology for a racial slur. This should tell people how little the white mancares for human feelings.

Again, thank you for a story well reported.

And I hope that someone else who has any knowledge of this type of goings-on reports it and saves the hassels I had to go through and the price one has to pay for racism here in this world where man is thought to be free.

JOHM MCGEE JR.

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL

Telephone privacy

Unquestionably, the telephone is a very, very useful piece of equipment. In our business, public, and personal lives it has become, in fact, an indispensable item. However, although "every cloud has a silver lining," some silver linings have clouds.

The telephone tremendously increases our access to others. Of course, the converse is also true in that it increases others' access to us. By combining the telephone, the tape recorder, and the computer, businesses are now able to reach inside our homes at any hour of the day or night with commercial solicitations or so - called "junk calls."

No one is safe from junk calls. Non - published telephone numbers won't help. The computer can be programmed to call every number in a particular exchange from, for example, ABC-0000 to ABC-9999. Some machines can be turned on, left unattended and make up to 1,000 calls per day. This process includes dialing the telephone number, playing a taped sales pitch, and recording your order — and other "appropriate" remarks one may choose to make. Even hanging up the telephone receiver may not help. The taped sales pitch can be made to play almost any length of time and out - going calls cannot be made until the tape has finished playing completely.

It is easy to see that besides the obvious intrusions into the privacy of our homes, such systems could tie up a home telephone line needed for an absolute emergency.

So many citizens have expressed disgust and pointed out the danger about junk calls either from human solicitors, automated call systems, or a combination of both, that the Congress is moving to stop unsolicited commercial calls.

I am co - sponsoring the "Telephone Privacy Act," H.R. 12218, introduced and authored by Congressman Les Aspin from Wisconsin. The Telephone Privacy Act, quoting Congressman Aspin, has the following four main points:

"First, it requires that telephone companies give subscribers the opportunity at least once a year to indicate if they do not wish to receive unsolicited telephone calls.

"Second, any firm wishing to make such calls would need to obtain the list of subscribers who have hung 'No Solicitors' signs on their phones and would need to purge those numbers from their calling lists.

"Third, violators would be subject to a fine of up to $1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days for each violation. Because a firm trying to comply with the law might make periodic honest errors, the Bill provides that no prosecution may begin until the 10th complaint against a single firm in a single year has been received by the local U.S. Attorney.

CURRENT COMMENT

G. JAMES FLEMING

NOW AND THEN: Mercy-Douglass remembered

By G. James Fleming

While Mayor Rizzo of Philadelphia makes one kind of headline, other news is being made in West Philadelphia where the name of the Mercy-Douglass Hospital is being carried forward into history.

Closed five years ago, the merged hospital, which was founded in 1903, represented a giant effort by blacks to provide for themselves health services they could not obtain adequately elsewhere.

In 1973, some Philadelphians held that a black-owned hospital was no longer needed, since black physicians now have opportunities for bedside and surgical experience in all other hospitals in the city. The hospital and name "Mercy-Douglass" seemed lost forever.

There were some others, however, who said "The name of Mercy-Douglass must never die." These optimists were largely officials and other staff people of the local anti-poverty program.

They organized; they made studies of how Mercy-Douglass might serve in a new day; they accepted as first priority some form of health delivery institution; and, finally, they decided on the first project: a nursing home.

There were many frustrations for the new 17-member board of directors, mostly financial. As a corporation, they had no track record. But, after countless tries, too complicated to cover here, they were able to put together a package that secured, first, short-term funding from local banks and, later, long-term financing from Prudential Life Insurance Co.

Along the way, the state of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development helped to facilitate things, but not without some smart and ingenious footwork (and brainwork) by the new corporation.

The result now stands at Chestnut and 46th Sts. — an automated nursing home; every room with outside exposure; every room generous in dimensions; everything built for safety. It is sparkling. And there is something about a nursing home that was designed to be a nursing home!

By name, this is the Mercy-Douglass Human Services Center Inc. (MDHSC), erected at a cost of $3.5 millions.

In the words of James J. Wilson, president of the corporation and former executive director of the anti-poverty programs, MDHSC "has been designed to provide a system of human services of high priority to those segments of a target population that most urgently need the service."

He contineued: "The system should work to provide services of optimum quality, in a manner which takes costs and efficiency into proper account . . . to provide 'the best for the most.' "

Other primary goals and dreams of MDHSC is to become a model of an improved health care system that other communities may benefit from, and, eventually to furnish lifetime care for those who have reached the evening of their lives. In other words, a service of shelter, medical backup and food in a complex of buildings.

Opened only last November, the new Mercy-Douglass sees another of its roles as "stressing the work and training ethic as opposed to the welfare ethic." To this end the center is also engaged in planning an educational program to produce young men and women for the health field.

The one individual given most credit for saving the name and purpose of Mercy Douglass Hospital in such concrete form, is Earl Gray Roberts, then director of the Philadelphia anti-poverty program, but now deceased. His widow, Mrs. Janet Roberts, continues in his footsteps as a member of the community-based, non-profit corporation.

Wilson, a graduate in accounting from St. Joseph College, is considered the sparkplug of the project.

Two plusses stand out in the evolution of the Mercy-Douglass Human Services Center. First, the men and women running the Philadelphia anti-poverty program could dream — and they dreamed of something new, good and serviceable to arise out of the ashes of the defunct hospital.

Next, and quite important, the key anti-poverty personnel had become accustomed to planning; to handling big money; to drawing up proposals for grants and to dealing with those who run the various levels of government.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

JUDGE U. THEODORE HAYES retires from the bench on his birthday, June 17, which is the date set for the party. Spain in July is the trip planned by his family.

REV. AND MRS. GOLDSBOROUGH SYLVESTER GAINES of St. Matthews Methodist Church, Turner Station, welcomed their first, a son April 10, who is now Junior.

REV. AND MRS. JOHN HARVEN have an interesting life. He's the Methodist evangelist who travels throughout the Washington Conference.

CHARLES FAGLEY, longtime John Wesley Methodist member, took color photos of that 1,300 guest banquet last Sunday night, excellent pictures.

KENNETH E. SNOWDEN, the Poly science scholar who wrote the prize paper "The 3 - Way Mirror" is one of five finalists to go May 17-20 to the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Monmouth College, Long Beach, N.J. His singular accomplishment came here at the Academy of Sciences' Maryland Junior Science Symposium. What a future he has!

RANDY CARROLL, clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, performed the civil wedding ceremony which joined Cheryl Gregory and Ambassador Salisu Diodj Faye as husband and wife.

The event at the Belvedere came last Saturday and saw 200 guests witnessing the gala romantic event.

The bride, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Nakita Gregory, met her mate when she was working at the U.S. embassy in London. He's the ambassador to London from his Senegal and flew in from London with his staff for wedding, parties and celebrations.

She's Presbyterian (Madison Avenue) and he's Moslim, hence the civil rites. Picturesque guests were the ambassador from Canada and the one to the U.S. from Senegal. What an affair this was!

LT. AND MRS. CORTEZ PURYEAR JR. are in town visiting his mother, Mrs. Geneva Puryear at her Charles Street home which is soooooo quaint with antique iron pots, skillets and the newest object, a flax wheel which dates back over 100 years.

LILLIE JEWEL SEWARD, the Pimlico librarian, excelled all others in a test and gets the new post in the Md. Department of Libraries.

ELIZABETH MCCOMBS resigned her post at Pratt Library. The refined and lovely personality has not announced her next step.

WALTER ROBERT CARR's Night Lifer publication is now a part of Pratt Library's treasured collection. The volumes from 1961 to 1978 are an excellent reference for Pennsylvania Avenue history and other neighborhoods never before printed since he knows the town like not another person.

COPPIN'S HEALTH FAIR this week was a fine community service.

PROVIDENT Community Mental Health Center is now at 2600 Liberty Heights. Phone Director Sunder Devaprasad, 225-2260, for info. The outpatients which number nearly 2,000 daily, were formerly at 1900 Eutaw Place. The 24 - hour Hotline is 383-1023.

AKA Epsilon Omega chapter's Harlem Heyday at Greenspring Jr. Hi April 21 was great. Voices, Inc. Black Theatre relived exciting vaudeville and theatre days of the '20's, a time gone but not forgotten. Wish we could see the fine performance again.

GREAT WHITE HOPE at the Towson U Fine Arts Building is superb, a play you will long remember. Make reservations NOW for the May 4-6 dates by calling 321-2244. Admission is $3 but, you must have reservations. It's better than any play we have ever seen at the Mechanic and it could pack Broadway every night.

MAY 6 - 2-4 p.m., Md. Building, the Zoo, ceremonies marking the completion of restoration, open house reception. Enter at the Hippo Gate.

CALL Waxter Center, 396-1322, for information on Legal Services for the Elderly, a much needed project.

MAY 3 is the Md. Conference of Social Concern's 74 meeting, noon to 2 p.m. at the Hookins Sheraton, B'Way and Orleans.

MAY 6 is the St. Mary's Seminary Ecumenical Invitation Day, 5400 Roland Ave., featuring lectures and slide presentations.

APRIL 28 and 29 (Saturday) mark the black legislators' convo at MSU. Dinner speaker tonight is Dr. Andrew Billingsley. Cong. P. J. Mitchell speaks Saturday. Hosts are members of the National Caucus of Black State Legislators Region III. (Pa., Del., Md., Va., W. Va.) NCBSL officers are Del. Larry Young, coordinator; Sen. Clarence Mitchell III, national treasurer. Sponsor is the MSU Political Science Dept.

MAY 5 the Fred Ben Dance Co. appears at Coppin at 8 p.m.

MAY 9 is World Communications Day with buffet and cocktails at the Catholic Center, 320 Cathedral, 5:30 to 8 p.m. RSVP, 727-7777.

OPER 60 folks can get Social Security benefits questions answered by calling Waxter, 396-1341.

MAY 5 spring festival at U of B features sea food, chicken, beer, wine, fashion shows by the Black Student Union, arts and crafts, dance groups and bands.

TNT Festival brings artists here from Europe, Africa to the Mt. Vernon - Mt. Royal area of downtown. Call 837-1930 for info.

C and P Tel. Co. has political action committees so that voluntary contributions can be made to candidates and groups, state, local and federal, "to support the political process in the open, organized way."

ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

City pavements, country roads plus 'Something to Keep You Warm'

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

Dr. Hammond is dean of graduate studies, Maryland Institute, College of Art.

Hence, in order to achieve all these things we must look at our differences, our so-called strange or "typical" ways and understand them in their African framework. The darkness of our skins has been preserved all these centuries in places far from our original African origins to remind us of who and what we are.

To be African, in any and all sense, is good, is positive, is greatness, is in fact, a glorious celebration of our survival in the new world.

The question now remains how do people begin to learn about themselves given our peculiar situation?

The answer in part rests with the responsibility of the black artist to his people. The black visual artist should and MUST be the keeper of positive, corrective images for black people. We can no longer entrust this task to others. Time is precious because as each day passes many black lives are lost on the streets and in our own homes.

Roland L. Freeman is a man who is committed to this cause. His exhibitions of photographs are very special. They record the life styles of black people in three different areas — Baltimore, Chicago and rural Mississippi.

In each case the viewer is able to identify immediately with the subjects in the picture — we are them and they are us. Most of all they reveal to the viewer that contrary to all popular belief, slavery did not destroy us completely. The photographs clearly show rich and strong link with the cultural heritage of Africa.

The amazing textural and tonal quality of the pictures help one to understand the complexities of black life in America. Freeman states that the photographs exhibited represent part of a 10 year personal project to document the traditional life styles of blacks in this country.

Most familiar to Baltimoreans is Freeman's series on the "Arabs" or the black fruit and vegetable vendors of the street. How many times has the significance of this unique set of people been taken for granted? How many blacks realize that this is one of the only cities in the United States where one can find such a phenomenon? Have you ever stopped to look at how the wagons and horses are decorated or taken notice of the "songs" that are sung to announce the presence of the Arabs in your block? This is a living tradition which must be observed now before another part of ourselves is lost.

This exhibition is lovingly supported by a display of quilts made by black women in Mississippi. The title of this show, "Something to Keep You Warm," makes you wonder if the eight beautiful examples don't in fact belong on a wall for all to see. But then, that would not be African because beauty and function go hand in hand to form the basis of the art of black people whether they are in the new world or the homelands of the African continent.

The designs of the quilts are traditionally American and do not reflect the African inspiration of the women artists of rural Mississippi Folk Life Project.

The exhibition, sponsored by Antioch College, located at 1106 N. Charles St., can be seen between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be on view until May 1.

A catalogue of the exhibition is available and worth the investment. For more information, call the school at 621-2038.

Not too long ago I mentioned in this column what a positive thing it was to have native Baltimoreans return and share their achievements. This is a vitally important process in the growth and development of a city on the move.

More importantly, blacks need constantly to be enlightened regarding the accomplishments and contributions of their brothers and sisters.

In this case, Roland L. Freeman returns to this city with a very precious visual gift which will be here for too short a time to be fully appreciated.

To be specific, David Allen Frisby III, director of Antioch College, describes Freeman as "a black photographer who has dedicated his professional life to field research and artistic documentation of black folklore and the essence of black life in the farmlands and the city streets of today."

Freeman is basically a self-taught photographer who was influenced by many of the great black photographers, especially Gordon Parks during the 60s.

Over the past 10 years he has exhibited widely both nationally and abroad. On at least three separate occasions he has won the highly prized National Endowment of the Humanities Award. In 1970 he was the first photographer to receive such an award.

It is to the shame of Baltimore City that he has not had more exposure and acclaim in his own hometown. Hopefully this next show will be in a more convenient location and for a longer period of time.

Recently the energy of this paper, as well as many other concerned persons and organizations, has turned attention to the outrageous numbers of crimes committed by blacks against blacks.

Truly, if nothing else is addressed during the remaining period of this decade, then nothing else is worth considering in terms of positive alternatives for the survival of blacks in this country. We are literally killing ourselves off in a state of pathological frustration and misunderstanding of who and what we are in this world.

African-Americans need to cast off the stereotypes, myths and lies concerning our human existence. Black people of African descent need to understand that our color is a rare precious jewel to be protected and preserved. People of the darker color must learn to like, first, themselves as individuals, then each other as people and finally, collectively as a representative body of the great civilizations of Africa.

MORE LETTERS

People problems

Dear AFRO:

A Baltimore woman has been charged with 34 counts of cruelty to animals. Police found 50 cats and dogs in the two-story house which contained only an old sofa. She slept on the floor with the animals.

She will no doubt be found guilty and punished. But she is not the culprit! The real culprits are those who abandoned the animals.

The woman, a compassionate, well-intentioned soul, shouldered the responsibility of caring for too many. She is "guilty" of taking on more than she could handle. She denied herself so she could give to the unfortunate animals, but it was too much.

As an animal lover, I would have humanely destroyed them, put them out of their misery. (There are times when it is necessary to be cruel to be kind). It takes guts to do that — I know this only too well. But she is not lucky enough to have that strength and I feel sorry for her.

No one person can cope with all the cruelty to animals which irresponsible people cause. These cowardly people abandon their animals when they tire of them, when they need medical attention, when it starts to hit them in their pocket books. They let them have litter after litter, aggravating an already bad situation.

There just are not enough people to properly assume and care for the overwhelming number of cats and dogs, the unwanted animals that are forced to lead miserable lives and horrible deaths.

There is no law which says a person must have a cat or dog, but in the name of common decency one should know the responsibilities that go with having a living creature (proper food, shelter, veterinary care, etc.). If one cannot properly provide these, he should not have an animal.

The real culprits are irresponsible people. But in this case, as in all such cases, they are not apprehended — they go scot-free because we do not have the means of getting them.

Perhaps if reporting these people were easier, if the authorities would entertain complaints and reports, we could eradicate them.

You see, we really don't have animal problems — we have irresponsible people problems!

B. J. SMALL
Nova Road
Baltimore, Md. 21207

Those recreation cuts

Dear AFRO:

This letter is prompted by Clarence Hunter's article of April 1, 1978, regarding the cuts in recreational programs.

It is interesting to note that the proposed cuts include: cutting back 12 recreational programs; lay - off of 50 employees; eliminating police patrols at vital areas, i.e. swimming pools; eliminating summer playground programs; halting activities at swimming pools earlier than usual; avoiding filling vacancies and requiring little league teams to pay umpires and referees.

However, there was no indication that the Department is creating a position of principal supervisor for municipal sports which, heretofore, has had a senior supervisor in charge.

The present senior supervisor will be an administrative supervisor assisting the assistant superintendent (a newly created position.)

There is at present a principal supervisor on staff whose previous duties are being dissolved and the new position has not yet been clearly stated.

In addition, a new position (top level) is being created for the senior citizens programs within the realms of the Park and Recreation Department.

Our questions to you and the Park Department is how is it possible to create positions at a higher level and cut out lower level positions and needed services for the citizens of Baltimore, including paying senior and principal supervisors salaries for persons whose jobs are not clearly defined.

The Citizens of Baltimore who pay the taxes want answers.

Concerned Citizens

Powerless Relations Commission?

Dear AFRO:

I am one of 400 cases waiting for a public hearing at the state Human Relations Commission of Maryland.

It appears that, except for recent cases, the majority of cases are due for a big surprise.

The power of the commission to award monetary damages is gone. The possibility of job reinstatement and clearing of references remain in a nebulous condition.

However, there is no assurance of the time element concerning the hearing of cases. It may take years before cases are heard.

One should be informed of "1984"

— the agency should state its meaning to all whose files are unresolved, as well as relating to the novices reporting discrimination cases.

Let us help solve this dilemma. The business community of Maryland has been a powerful force in restraining the power of the Human Relations Commission.

Ms. RUTH PESSIN

Justice?

Dear AFRO:

Samuel F. Yette's column of April 11 mentions concentration camps for Japanese-Americans during World War II, but has Mr. Yette ever talked to an unwed mother about the horrible conditions years back in our maternity homes?

Pregenant females were at forced labor to earn their keep, unable to consult a doctor when in pain, and served subnormal diet when the nuns running the home who took solemn vows of "poverty" ate very well.

To have fallen in love unwisely was far, far less a danger of the community at war than the Japanese.

Has an unwed mother who was gressly abused and mistreated ever sued the church which prohibited marriage with certain non - believers? Religion has committed some heinous crimes.

As for the letter from Thomas Broderick of Bethesda on abortions, has he any idea that black women die far more frequently in childbirth? Judicious use of birth control, sterilization, abortion actually improves health.

On page 32 of your April 11 issue there is an article about increasing depressive states worldwide. Women who are not abused with overbearing births suffer less breakdowns.

Jobs and benefits which belong to blacks are being given to illegeal aliens from Mexico who did not serve in Vietnam, like blacks did.

Catholic bishops ignore the blacks except for the abortion issue, but want the illegal aliens who are Catholic to take over black benefits.

If that's justice I'm the devil.

R.C.
Name withheld on request

AFRO invites letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.