Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The police commissioner

At a marathon City Council hearing enemies and friends of Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau testified for and against his continuing in the job another six years.

None could say that he has not been an efficient law enforcement aganeey administrator.

But many voices, most notably the Mitchell family, had serious doubts a u has his own notions about patriotism, dissent and diveramt political viewpoints. His tend to the ultra-conservative.

For black people fighting for their survival in a hostile land Pomerleau's views on politics and who are enemies of the state are not the proper views.

This newspaper has, since the reality of Pomerleau's future in his job, came closer to decision, raised another question which does not take all that much to do with the present commissioner.

We have asked and continue ask if it is not now time to have a black man or woman as our top law enforcement officer.

The city's black population is now the majority population and so sensitive and issue as public safety and law enforcement ought to reflect this city's leadership's sensitivity to this face of our existence.

New realities require new solutions.

We do not see that the Commissioner has moved quickly enough to improve the racial balances necessary to his police force's being reflective of the ethnic realities of this city.

The Commissioner, with much courage, has given us more high ranking black officers than ever, commendable, but the rank-in-file troops are still too preponderantly white, non-city residents and as such still too hostile and insensitive to the needs of our community.

New realties require new solutions. Donald Pomerleau has brought local law enforcement a goodly way — someone else could bring us even further along.

Reorganization

For more than a year now the campaign for reorganization of government has been a number one topic. This newspaper has said it before, and after close observation of what is being proposed, we again say the major provisions of the current government reorganization and reform proposals represent a crucial threat to black Americans.

Briefly, their major thrust is to argue that the current laws governing Federal service personnel protections and the government's ability to function effectively to do the public's business are outmoded and inadequate, and need to be changed or "reformed." This really represents a veiled threat to the affirmative action legislation of the 1960s and early 1970s, and to a certain extent is the same kind of thrust now jeopardizing the educational field via the Bakke case.

The big need is not really for new laws, but for enforcement of current laws and strengthened protection for those who enforce them, the so-called "whistle - blowers." Residents of the District of Columbia who are Federal employees should be greatly concerned about the emphasis the White House is putting on reorganization of the government rather than real reform of the civil service system.

During his campaign, President Carter promised to improve delivery of government services. He has elected to attempt to do that by reorganizing the government as he did with the Georgia state government. As top manager of the system, he has the right to decide to reorganize where that seems necessary. On that, we have no complaint.

However, the Congress, particularly the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee in its report of Dec. 30, 1976 on merit abuses in the Civil Service system under previous administrations, has strongly called for reform of the system — not reorganization. This reform, it has been suggested, should start with those key Civil Service Commission officials who have been found by Congress to have violated their own merit and promotion system.

The real problem with the current government reorganization effort is that from the start it has involved those officials in the CSC who have already violated the law, and who should be "reformed" out of the system.

CSC has repeatedly been found guilty of violating the merit system and its own EEO system. Even its own EEO director has charged it with discrimination against its own employees. The need, therefore is for reform along with reorganization, or instead of reorganization.

This is a serious economic issue with the District of Columbia because those who are being hurt most by reorganizations and downgradings in the various departme s and agencies are the lower graded minority employees who work for the largest employer — the Federal government.

The so - called "Lyle Report" which reportedly is now being "protected" by the White House could shed some revealing light on the full dimensions of these issues. This report, as we understand it, contains a great deal of material disclosing how agency officials allegedly participated in cover - ups, perjury, document destruction and a number of other civil service abuses which became the focus of congressional scrutiny in the wake of Watergate.

It is time to release the "Lyle Report" so that reorganization will also include reform, or more specifically eliminate the potential for repetition of the abuses outlined in the report. It may well be that reform instead of reorganization will be the important need.

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy

Band together against duplicity

How paradoxical all the high flown commencement day speeches, intertwined with hope, promise and great expectations for the future.

And at the other end of the spectrum, the doom of a steady reduction of jobs (1,000 in local education within the next year only one of many kinds of positions affected by inflation and budget cuts).

And yet, colleges and universities keep turning out people who are specialists, or generalists, or merely exotic exponents of rare major interests.

We perhaps have reached a point of diminishing returns, no longer fitting the pattern to the cloth.

The square peg, inexorably tries to accommodate the circle, without ever knowing its incompatible shape shall never make it.

And this event is merely part and parcel of a greater dilemma faced by the Carter administration in solving this problem, fraught with social unrest, discontent and disappointment in campaign promises made but never kept.

What to do?

If we look closely at charges and countercharges in the global struggle over the riches of Africa, a light may dawn as to what the great solution might be.

For there are two major objectives with which the administration must wrestle: how to stem the tide of inflation without making the 5 percent who control 65 percent of this nation's wealth angry, then reluctant to cooperate; that the second objective, how Carter can get re - elected will not be sullied by desertion of these mighty honchose to the enemy — Republican — camp.

Just as those in power claimed a decade or more ago that we were invited into Vietnam, then 20 or more years before into Korea, so now the Soviets and Cubans make the same claims in Angola, Ethiopa and most hot spots in Africa.

Whether ours is a more honorable claim than theirs, history will tell, although our defeats in Korea and Vietnam should be prologue. But how convenient that these claims have been re - kindled in our - intransigent attitude toward detente; our publicizing Red China's frequent prophesies of war between the USSR and the United States.

And how frightening that all these events inspire exhortations to construct the neutron bomb and ready ourselves to make war not love, all in the name of peace.

Would not this then give us the convenient short term remedies for our major problems of beefing up the economy while insuring the re - election of an incumbent president in the midst of full blown war?

Not forgetting those recent graduates either, whose ambitions and talents might thus be redirected to do service for God, country, mother and apple pie — remember Rap Brown's statement that violence is an American as apple pie?)

It is likely that the draft will be revived and enlistments into the Army, Navy, Marines, Peace Corps, CIA, AID, U.S. Information Service, whatever our outreach, will make war inevitable.

What is so devastating is that the controlled media parasitically reiterates this warmongering and complicity, to the extent that even today's learned yet naive graduates join hands with the less educated who cry "Amen" to these dissemblings, without raising a protesting voice.

With even one small voice crying in the wilderness, we shall again set upon a course of destruction, of maiming, of killing to save those whose greed and inhumanity would premit it, without giving service just goods while getting enormous profits.

Oddly there are no Woodards's and Bernstein's to uncover the fraud of these more important cover - ups.

It is time for those graduates, those soothsayers, those so - called liberals to join forces against this forthcoming doom.

For our narcissistic pursuits must be put aside, as we look at our world as it is, then band together with those forces who see this duplicity, who need our help to reveal it and stamp it out.

LETTERS

Unity and community self-help

Dear AFRO:

There are brothers and sisters walking around feeling hostility towards the Oriental people because the Orientals are taking advantage of the many vacant businesses that were once occupied by Jewish people.

There are also people walking around talking about how there is no money in the Bilalian Afro-American communities. Brothers and sisters that's a myth!

Look at the money we waste on foolishness when we could use that money for our survival as a people and our communities.

The people that are spreading these myths are subconsciously brainwashing us into spending our monies outside our communities, this makes their communities richer and richer while our communities get poorer and poorer.

We are commiting economic suicide.

I know that there are brothers and sisters living in our communities that are business minded. I also know that we'll support any business who has the whole community, a businessman with good fair prices, good fresh food, fair employment and a businessman's code visible to the public.

Let's remove the hostility from within our hearts and replace it with understanding and unity. We must encourage internal spending, we must establish trust and honesty among our Oriental merchants and especially our Bilalian Afro-American merchants.

Let's self-help our way out of high unemployment!!

KENNETH T. RAGIN

Nervy politicians

Dear AFRO:

The East Baltimore politicians have a nerve sending out re-election campaign letters now and taking credit for stopping the prison at East Biddle Street and changing it to Fort Armistead.

Everyone knows that they were the cause of the prison in the first place. The whole country knows that the Concerned Citizens of East Baltimore are credited with stopping the prison.

The fight is not over because the mayor has received the bill signed by the governor. The mayor has had it for about two weeks and hasn't signed it.

Why don't the politicians use their stationery to send letters to the mayor or talk him into signing the Armistead bill?

This is not campaign time for the citizens. The politicians don't seem to have any power to help their constituents who fought so hard to bring about the prison change.

Their actions lead people to believe they agree with what the mayor is doing.

The nerve of them asking to be re-elected.

JIMMIE HODGES

Reading and writing

Advance reports about the latest reading and other achievement tests for Baltimore city public school pupils are in a phase-dreadful news.

We will report these results forthwith but until then suffice it to say that we are all blind if we do not see that our public schools simply are not producing children who can read and write.

This is our greatest tragedy, our greatest priority. An illiterate population is a non-functioning citizenry.

We must move quickly to correct this educational failure and fast.

Does he steal angels?

Dear AFRO:

I felt a need to express my concern regarding the new assistant assigned to the Maryland Penitentiary hospital and clinic, Palloline priest Guido John Carcich.

If a person will steal $2.2 million of respectable folks' money, using a white collar and little hungry kids, he won't hesitate to steal from criminals — maybe he will write a book soon and speak out about prison condition!

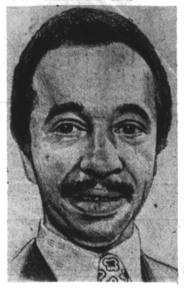
By working here he can learn first hand how bad prison condition are:

Federal Judge Blair recently ruled " . . . offend contemporary standards of human decency and they constitute cruel and unusual punishment," in reference to the over crowding here at the penitentiary.

Although we have had over 70 major assaults reported in the past 10 months, none have resulted in death, thanks to the angels in the hospital.

KEMRY M. HUGHES

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL



The action on South Africa

Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

On Friday, June 2, the House of Representatives debated the Export-Import Act of 1975. The bill included a section which would have denied the Union of South Africa from borrowing from the Export-Import Bank.

Rep. Evans introduced a compromise amendment, which would allow South Africa to borrow from the bank. I opposed the Evans amendment. The following is a transcript of a part of the debate:

"Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. Mr. Chairman. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

"(Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

"Mr. MITCHELL of Maryland. Mr. Chairman and my colleagues, it is with a great deal of regret that I rise in opposition to the amendment of the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. EVANS).

"My concern with the amendment is that the structure of the government and law in South Africa is so repressive and so heinous that it is brutal that even if Forster leaves, whoever comes in must operate under that totally terrible and repressive law.

"I honestly do not believe that, given the apparent attitude of the Forster government, given the structure of the law, we are going to see any discernible changes occur, even with the benefit of the gentleman's amendment. I am going to oppose it, but I do so reluctantly.

"Let me cite to the members very briefly some of the parts of law in South Africa. Members are familiar with the Internal Security Act of 1950, known as the 'Suppression of Communism Act,' It defines Communism — and this is important — as any doctrine which aims at bringing about any political, industrial, social, or economic change within the republic.

"That is communism under the South African law. This act, this Internal Security Act of 1950, permits the Minister of Justice to deter offenders from holding public office and to impose banning on them. I am convinced, my dear colleague, Mr. EVANS, that your amendment, no matter how well-intentioned it is, if it is going up against that kind of law, it is going to be relatively meaningless.

"Let me cite for the members of the Public Safety Act of 1953, which allows the government to declare a state of emergency and thus to assume emergency powers such as arrest without warrant and detention — detention incommunicado — to counter actons or threatened actions which would endanger public safety.

"I submit that the gentleman's well-intentioned amendment and the intent of this House becomes meaningless in the face of that kind of law.

"Let me cite another law, the general law amendment of 1963. It provides for arrest without warrant, detention incommunicado and without trial of political detainees for successive 90-day periods — not one, but successive 90-day periods. In 1964 the act was amended to provide for the imprisonment under the same terms of reluctant witnesses. The courts of South Africa have no power to intercede on behalf of persons detained under the act.

"Finally, let me cite one other provision of law in South Africa, because I think if we deal with the structure of the law, we will see how puny and ineffective our attempt is today.

"The Terrorism Act No. 83 of 1967 created the offense of terrorism. Under section six of this act, persons charged with terrorism are subject to incommunicado in depth, deterrent detention without warrant, without charge or trial. Conviction under the Terrorism Act carries with it a mandatory minimum sentence of five years, or the maximum sentence of death.

G. JAMES FLEMING: NOW AND THEN

Wilkins and J. Edgar Hoover

By G. James Fleming

Before the general public writes off and condemns Roy Wilkins for allegedly trying to help eliminate Martin Luther King Jr., as the great civil rights leader, it is necessary to examine the source of the allegations and the circumstances.

In the sketchy reports at this writing, J. Edgar Hoover, late ruling head of the FBI, left a memorandum showing that there was once a conference between him and Wilkins, at which it was discussed how Dr. King could be deposed from his leadership role. One might read more into the memo, as to how and to what extent such deposing might have gone.

This column does not know whether the Hoover memo is a true or complete summary of the conference; neither do we know whether Wilkins wrote his version of the meeting. At first, also we did not know who initiated the conference, but Wilkins has admitted going to the FBI, on behalf of Dr. King.

Speaking for the retired executive director of the NAACP, his wife explained, in part: "He did meet with Mr. DeLoach (assistant FBI director) for the purpose of asking the FBI to lay off of Dr. King. He asked for the meeting after a newspaper reporter had told him that the FBI was leaking derogatory stories about Dr. King to the press."

There is where the matter rests. There is room, however, for much rumination.

This everyone must know: There is always jealousy among leaders, whether they be civil rights or political; whether they be white or black; whether they be women fighting for new freedoms or whether they be spokesmen for God. Sometimes, members of the same family turn against each other.

The different brands and variations of Christianity are a particularly striking example of how "leaders" and their followers have turned against each other.

It should not be surprising that, at some time, modern-day leaders, such as Dr. King, would or might, think Wilkins and A. Philip Randolph as men "of the old school;" nor that these older leaders would regard the new breed as "not knowing what they are doing" or, at the most, of being "too radical." Even a W. E. B. DuBois could not stomach Marcus Garvey.

The NAACP, especially, has an institutional structure to protect, and a constituency to conserve.

As fox-like a man as was J. Edgar Hoover, it is not too difficult to imagine his seeing how he could "divide and conquer" by appealing to the sense of proprietorship of the NAACP and even to the vanity and fears of Wilkins.

To what extent Wilkins only listened, we do not know; what commitments he really made, we do not know; how ready he was to do the FBI's dirty work, we do not know. None of this do we know as yet.

It is to be regretted that Wilkins allowed himself to be sucked into the alleged confrontation, perhaps a trap, with Hoover. The rank and file members of the NAACP could have told Wilkins that the historically vengeful, manipulative and anti-black head of the FBI would only want to "use" him, to set him against another black; to divide black unity.

Roy Wilkins is too smart to have fallen for that. In other days, he knew that Hoover could not be trusted; that he "meant black folks no good."

On the other hand, just to confer with Hoover, of itself, does not constitute treason. It would be surprising if NAACP officials had not formerly sat down with the head of the FBI or his aides many times down the years.

Members of the NAACP must continue to "hold the faith" and to support the organization. Black people, now more than ever, must wage battle against all — man and matters — which would divide them; which would make them suspicious of each other.

There is room for more than one kind of organization or one type of leadership among blacks, as among Americans in general. And, it must not be forgotten that, during the lifetime of Dr. King, he had the full support of the NAACP, as an organization; he and Roy Wilkins were both among the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington; and both of them served time in Alabama jails.

FOR ALL WE KNOW: ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver City Editor

RACE HATRED is another Baltimore sickness which makes Baltimore air as bad as it is reported to be from pollen and pollution.

Former U.S. President Ford will be surrounded by police and FBI and Secret Service next week when he comes to a Republican banquet at Martin's West.

CONG. PARREN J. MITCHELL received "I'm going to kill you" threats Tuesday night after a TV program on the Commissioner Pomerleau issue.

Police and FBI agents checked his home on Madison Avenue every half hour until dawn Wednesday. The Wednesday 5 p.m. City Council meeting was heavy with plain clothesmen and secret service.

THE WORD "nigger" which we thought had almost disappeared was heard often the whole week. The hatred of blood-thirsty racists today fills the air with something foul and the smell of death.

IN CONTRAST, last Sunday an interracial group honored one black and one white citizen at brunch at the Woodholme Country Club in Pikesville.

That beautiful occasion topped the day which later witnessed all races gathering at the Lillie Mae Jackson Museum on Eutaw Place.

HONORED at the Woodholme Country Club affair was Morgan's Gallery of Art director, James E. Lewis. Saluting him was the prestigious Artists Equity Association.

Mrs. Sayde Sklar, wife of Judge Albert Sklar, and president, presided. The elegant occasion cited Lewis for his supportive role in furthering the arts in the community and his sensitive leadership through the arts at Morgan. Lewis' sculpture of the Black Soldier stands in the plaza between the Court House and the Old Post Office downtown and is viewed with admiration by thousands.

He received the plaque and citation from Dr. Lincoln Johnson. The other recipient, Kenneth Kahn, executive director of the Maryland Arts Council, received his award from Dr. Theodore Kiliske.

Artists Equity, a national group based in Washington, is tops in the U.S. Its Visual Arts Conference is set for June 17 in Philly. Gilda Ellis, national president, was among those in the interracial audience. Mr. Lewis' wife, mother and children and scores of their friends were a beautiful sight to see as were Dr. G. James Fleming, Morgan board president and wife, the Clarence Monroes. It was splendid, an example of races in harmony.

PETE RAWLINGS, the CCB Math prof, will receive applause Sunday at the Hilton Inn Pikesville dinner party held in his honor by a group of friends. The tribute cites him as a strong, effective, experienced community leader. Pete has two AFRO Honor Roll plaques, one for his leadership as a person and the other as chairman of the Black Coalition of the University of Maryland in 1972. Now he's running for the House of Delegates and has a good chance for election.

SEN. CLARENCE M. MITCHELL III is one of the guests expected at the fete for Sen. Homer White at Finnegan's Rainbow in Ocean City Sunday. Last week Sen. Mitchell was in Chicago for the executive board confab of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. He is national treasurer. Del. Larry Young is member of the board. Rep. Matthew McNealy of Detroit is president.

OUR CARL CHESTER MATTHEWS, grandson of the late Dr. Carl Murphy and son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Vashti Murphy) Matthews is now an honor grad of CCB. His sister, Bonnie, our advertising exec, was graduated from Morgan a few days before.

ANTOINETTE DUREN has a coveted Goucher College scholarship and will major in foreign languages. Proud are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Levy Duren of Holmes Avenue.

WARDELL RICHARDSON, principal of Douglass Hi adult evening school and other important people presented Mayor Schaefer with a diploma Wednesday.

DON'T DIE or plan a wedding until the Baptist ministers return late Saturday from the week-long conference at Hampton, Va. Drs. A. C. D. Vaughn and George Crawley are officials and among the local clergy attending the 1,000-member confab.

COMMON CAUSE'S monthly meeting June 12 is set for 8 p.m. at 917 Jamieson Rd., Lutherville.

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL June 12-18 brings thousands to town for around-the-clock festivities. The National Black Theatre of New York and groups from Europe and Asia arrive tonight, Friday. See you there at Mt. Vernon Place.

HOWARD MURPHY, AFRO comptroller, finished Brown University in 1923 and last week returned for the 55th Class Reunion along with 65 other school mates. Let us tell you next week about the fabulous events and most of all the fight the black and white students are waging against racism in South Africa. This is a story to end all stories.

READ HOW FORD, IBM and Texaco provide capital and technology to South Africa in exchange for big profits. Mr. Murphy's revelation of what's happening in the Ivy League colleges today is amazing. (NEXT WEEK)

LOUIS WILLIAMS of Murphy Homes distinguished himself and brought honor to his community at the commencement of Joseph C. Briscoe High School.

Williams has resided at Murphy Homes since 1970, moved in with his family at age eleven. He attended P.S. No. 19, and P.S. No. 182. In 1973 he started P.S. No. 451 and remained there throughout his junior and senior years of high school.

Louis showed early signs of becoming a noteworthy figure on the basketball court. A player to be reckoned with, he played basketball in and around Murphy Homes. He is well liked and respected by area residents and fellow students. Among certificates and honors Louis received is a certificate for punctuality and perfect attendance. He also received a full scholarship to Dundalk Community College. He is the son of Mrs. Laura Williams, an outstanding Murphy Homes resident.

MAINSTREAM: Adolescents, drugs and goals

MARION BANFIELD

Mrs. Banfield is district director of Family Children's Society. She also hosts "Metro" which appears on WJZ-TV at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays.

James Fishel is counselor at the Addict Referral and Counsel Service. I had seen a videotape of him leading a discussion of adolescents who had been involved in use of marijuana and other popular drugs.

Six of the young people, three boys and three girls, agreed to talk with me so that I could write this article. They ranged in age from 14 to 17, were intelligent, articulate students attending local schools. They answered questions frankly.

When asked why they had become pleasure drug users, they spoke of the pleasurable "high" from reefer (marijuana). They said that hard drugs were not popular among black young users. They wanted no part of heroine or cocaine.

Some had gotten started on a dare. "Trying to be big like your friends!" was a reason.

There was much agreement that drugs were an escape from serious home problems. This was one way of getting relaxed and temporarily forgetting family hassles.

They could remember their first experience. One boy had destructive family relationships and grabbed at drugs as he was about to be sent away to an institution. There was still much sadness in the face of this very young survivor.

A girl had gone to a party and taken part as the "reefer" was passed around. The group felt that "contact" from a room full of smoke would also affect the brain.

Some felt that peer pressure was to share pleasure. They could also understand that their peers who were deeply involved with drugs were often anxious to drag other young people into the drug culture.

It was easy to talk about rejecting, immature, irresponsible parents of one of my families. Their advice to students who have to cope with the anger brought on by parent behavior was to find someone with whom they could talk freely about home problems. Friends, relatives or professionals were relevant.

Although talking with parents was a suggestion, they realized that parents tend not to listen. The next suggestion was to try to understand the background of parent behavior.

Rather than venting hostility on other people, it was suggested that the angered boy or girl think about a few things.

1. You are not your mother or father, the mean relative or guardian. So you don't have to be like the person or persons who cause you pain. Reject the "poison message" that you're no good.

2. If you are the older or eldest child, give strength to your siblings by not using drugs as a cop out or any other self - destructive way of dealing with anger.

3. Separate yourself from the source of pain by becoming less dependent. Get a job. Save money to become self - supporting.

4. Pray.

5. Set life goals for yourself. Recognize the need for education. Don't let peers tempt you from achieving in school.

6. Make up your own mind about what is right and wrong. Then stick to your decisions.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT AGING: Dr. Matthew TAYBACK

Hearing loss

Hearing is important to living life to its fullest. Yet millions of Americans hear only the sounds of silence. They suffer from uncorrected hearing loss.

Hearing loss is invisible. It isn't fatal. It is usually painless. It is always silent. But it is our nation's number one handicapping disability. And it can affect anyone, at any time: No one is immune — your neighbors, friends, your family — not even you.

Statistics on hearing loss are impressive. More people suffer from hearing handicaps than from heart disease, blindness, cancer, tuberculosis, venereal disease and multiple sclerosis combined.

According to a United States Public Health survey, 14.5 million Americans — that is one out of every 15 of us — suffer from some degree of hearing loss. Almost half of all those needing help are over 65.

The number of hearing impaired has increased as a result of longevity, recent German measle epidemics and powerful drug usage to combat other illnesses. Increasing noise pollution, however, is believed to be a major cause of hearing loss.

To understand hearing loss, it helps first to know how the ear works and how we hear. The outer ear channels sound waves from the air around you inward through the external auditory canal. The auditory canal ends at a tightly stretched membrane, the eardrum.

Beyond the eardrum, in the middle ear chamber, are three tiny, linked bones call the malleus (hammer), incus (anvil) and stapes (stirrup). The outer bone, the malleus, is attached to the eardrum. The inner bone, the stapes, ends in a footplate which fits onto the oval window, an opening in the wall of the bone housing the inner ear. The center bone, the incus, connects the malleus and the stapes so that when one moves they all move.

Your inner ear is filled with fluid, and the lower portion terminates in a delicate, spiral structure that is shaped like a snail. It is called the cochlea.

Inside the cochlea is an arrangement of thousands of tiny specialized cells, each of which is equipped with many microscopic hairs. These hairs are immersed in the fluid which fills the cochlea.

The movement of the fluid causes the hairs immersed in it to move. The movement stimulates the attached cell to send a tiny impulse along the fibers of the auditory nerve to the brain. In the brain, the impulse is translated into the sensation you know as sound.

Generally, there are two types of hearing loss. In a conductive hearing loss, the problem lies in the outer or inner ear. Conductive hearing problems can be caused by a number of things: wax may be blocking the ear canal; the tissue lining the middle ear may be infected; the eardrum may be punctured; or the tiny bones in the middle of the ear may not move properly.

Fortunately, many conductive hearing problems can often be treated successfully by medical or surgical measures.

"Nerve" hearing loss is generally not correctable and hence is the type most commonly offset by use of a hearing aid. Here the problem is in the inner ear and is the result of damage to the hair cells, never fibers or both.

There are many causes of nerve hearing loss including illnesses accompanied by high fever, birth defects, drugs, long-term exposure to noise, head injuries and the aging process itself.

Hearing loss due to aging is called presbycusis.

Some warning signs of hearing loss are: (1) Shouting in conversation, (2) Turning the radio or television on too loud, (3) Asking people to repeat, (4) Favoring one ear, (5) Withdrawing from social contact, (6) Straining to hear, (7) Misunderstanding conversations, (8) Ignoring sounds if not facing their source, (9) Slurring your speech and (1) Ringing or buzzing in the ear.

If you suspect a hearing loss, the first step is to consult your family physician. If your family doctor cannot help you with your hearing problem, he may refer you to an ear specialist. The ear specialist, called an otologist or otolaryngologist, is a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of hearing problems. He will seek to determine the cause of your hearing problem and may be able to help you through medical or surgical treatment.

Your doctor or the ear specialist might also refer you to an audiologist. The audiologist is trained to measure hearing and to help rehabilitate and counsel people with a hearing loss. If the audiologist's tests indicate that a hearing aid may benefit you, he may help you select the type of aid you need and then refer you to a hearing aid dealer.

Remember, medical evaluation of your hearing should always be the first step in selecting and purchasing a hearing aid.

MORE LETTERS

Morgan's highest ranking female grad

Dear AFRO:

I am writing in regard to an article that was published in the May 23 issue of the AFRO-AMERICAN. The article dealt with the Morgan State Universit commencement exercises which were held May 21.

You mentioned the names and averages of the top three students in the class.

I am the third student and my average was printed incorrectly. The article has my average printed as 3.382 when in reality it is 3.832 . . .

LORRAINE FIELDS

Garrison thanks the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

We would like to express to you our sincere appreciation in helping Garrison Junior High make its Report Card Days for the 1977-1978 school year a success.

Moreover, we were pleased to greet many parents this school year because of your cooperation.

Again, many thanks to you from the Garrison faculty and staff for the fine contribution that you made.

GERALDINE B. COLEMAN, Principal

Food for thought

Dear AFRO:

I am writing to you about offering breakfast to city school students in the morning because a lot of students have to leave their homes in the morning with no breakfast.

About the time they get to school they feel they could use something to eat.

REGINALD JOHNSON