OPINION

founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

The unthinkable

Readers praise us for our position in the Col. James H. Watkins affair, that a man is innocent until proven guilty, and at the same time readers wonder where we will come out if by any chance charges against this veteran police officer are sustained.

The same philosophy that presently guides us would of course prevail. We would insist that any public servant who violates his or her trust to citizens be punished to the full extent of the law.

This presently is the unthinkable as regards Colonel Watkins.

Our memory is that Capt. Dennis Mello, another high - ranking black officer was recently pilloried and was vindicated only after a drawn - out trial that exhausted this officer's monies and damaged his good name. He was a political target.

Whether the Watkins affair is similar is something we will soon discover in the courtroom drama down the road. In the meantime we want it clearly understood that nothing less than justice and the truth will satisfy us — whatever road must be traveled to get there.

School teachers

We care dearly about the many promising young teachers who would be out of jobs if the School Board's proposed cutbacks are effected. The system may lose forever, people committed to helping our children prepare for successful lives.

We may just lose some ineffective teachers also, school officials are careful to assure us. They of course will not be missed.

But we have no sense that a unilateral cutback of untenured teachers is a desirable thing. You might get rid of some lousy teachers and you just might be casting aside brilliance as well.

To our mind the question to put to school officials before any cutting is done is just how the Department of Education's bureaucracy allowed teachers who end up rated "unsatisfactory" to enter our public schools in the first place.

Or is that question too obvious an inquiry?

On this same subject a lot of the fear and uncertainty besetting Baltimore city teachers about their job status or future with this school system must be seen as their own fault.

For two years now teachers have been divided about what union should represent them. As a consequence they have no bargaining agent to officially protect their job and career - related interests.

So long as the teachers are unorganized, the School Board can move forward with all manner of Draconian personnel actions without challenge or chance of being turned around.

We have no idea what labor organization would best serve their interests and obviously neither do our local educators, otherwise they would presently have official negotiators working with the School Board to ensure teachers' rights.

We do not know quite how to account for this apathy — the best face we can put on it — but the past has instructed us that a vital teachers' force — organized and committed to not only teachers' rights but students and parents' rights is absolutely necessary to keep school boards from running amuck and serving the city fathers rather than the people.

Gifted children

The Gifted and Talented Elementary education program (GATE) almost got wiped out as the Department of Education sought to cut its costs to meet the Mayor's budget cut - off point.

Parents' protests saved the GATE project which is designed to aid extremely bright pupils.

We hold that bright kids should have as many chances to develop their full potential as dumb kids and in this city, as in any other community, there are plenty in both categories.

GATE will operate another year, hopefully, but from our lay vantage point, we humbly suggest that GATE could do with a strong reappraisal, perhaps restructuring.

We know intelligence must be stimulated and challenged and for the best and brightest to best achieve they cannot be completely dumped in with slow learners. This bores the smarties and frustrates the slow. No one is well served.

In some communities, however, gifted child programs soon turn elitist, almost fascistic. "Our kids are the greatest" becomes an ego trip for parents and inspires some overzealousness to keep GATE's as an expensive appendage to normal public school programs.

For black children, GATE holds a double danger. Poorly managed it separates bright kids, often natural leaders, from their ethnic brothers and sisters.

We above all hardly need to encourage class and caste gaps. We need all the unity we can get.

Not that Baltimore's GATE has turned elitist as yet. It is an ever present danger, however, and some community dialogue ought to be developed before the Department of Education closes GATE or continues it as a part of its instructional program.

We cannot help but recall that two of the brightest black Americans James Baldwin, Malcolm X Shabazz, never finished junior high school, or that world statesman Winston Churchill was considered a numskull until he was into his twenties.

Final intelligence is not measurable except as men and women finally achieve.

'Du' Burns challenge

For years City Council Vice President Clarence "Du" Burns has been telling anyone willing to listen to him that he has little use for this newspaper and does not need its support for his various campaigns.

Now, he's added a touch of vindictiveness as he goes about telling various audiences that the AFRO indeed is among the black businesses of Baltimore, if, as he puts it, one can call the AFRO a business.

Whether or not Du wants to consider the AFRO a business while he's out boasting about all the things he takes credit for having done in East Baltimore, more objective observers, such as Black Enterprise Magazine, continue to rank the AFRO among the top 100 black - owned firms in the nation.

Du Burns says he doesn't need the AFRO in order to be elected president of the City Council.

The AFRO doesn't think he can make it without this newspaper's support.

Next year the elections will tell the story. The AFRO's guess is that someone who considers this newspaper a full - fledged business whose editorial support is worth seeking will be elected president of the City Council of Baltimore in 1979.

My point as a black man is this: Mr. Mitchell as far as I've read and heard usually reflects the attitudes of most black Baltimoreans. If this is indeed a fact, how come blacks did not make it known on a large scale that they objected to Pomerleau?

Or is one to believe blacks want Pomerleau as Commissioner?

I have no proof but if the police commissioner indulged in illegal activities I am willing to bet they were directed chiefly against blacks.

Why do we black people continue to allow people who don't have our interest at heart to govern us?

Why do we continue to let people we don't approve of hold powerful positions when we comprise a great part of this city's population?

Is it that we don't care?

We allow boards comprised of a few people (more of them white) appoint at will. Usually black representation on these boards and commissions is sadly disproportionate to the city's population.

Yet these councils and boards have the power to appoint offices that have profound effect on blacks. Do their decisions reflect black wishes? I think not.

I see these commissions and boards are not giving consideration to the wants of the people. Their meetings quite frequently are closed to the public.

They are appointing people to offices which will affect my daily life. They decide ways to spend my hard - earned tax dollars.

I have to say, I just have to pay. The City Council does not appear to be reflective of public desires. How can a few politicans and businessman decide to build a prison where they think is best when the majority of the people don't want it?

How can these same few people decide to turn the Inner Harbor into a market place if the people don't want it?

How can a Council oblivious to public opinion appoint a Police Commissioner if the majority of people don't want it?

They can do it because people allow them to do so.

Blacks should have questioned Pomerleau's confirmation after hearing Mitchell if they never had before.

Brothers and sisters, we had better unify to get fair representation on these boards, councils and commissions or subject them to more scrutiny.

Stop accepting the white man's decision with which you disagree. Offtimes board decisions use your tax dollars to force unwanted conditions on you.

Pomerleau has another term. Let's see what happens.

I hope we don't regret. We didn't protest.

R. THOMAS

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

If not, PRINT in ink the following information
Application for Voter Registration will be sent to you.

FULL NAME _____ APT. _____
RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____ COUNTY _____
POST OFFICE _____ ZIP _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____ SIGN YOUR FULL NAME _____

BALTIMORE CITY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
FAYETTE & GAY STS.
BALTIMORE, Md. 21202

ALL OTHERS MAIL TO:
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
210 MAIN STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY The AFRO-AMERICAN

Charm City for whom Jay?

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy

Little attention is being paid to the effort of the House of Representatives to codify national criminal laws in its deliberation of Senate Bill 1437.

January saw the Senate in a 72 to 15 vote pass S. 1437, a bill that would usher in a police state.

Senate Bill 1437 deals harshly with demonstrations, "the presumption of innocence in a court of law, and so fetters the right of free speech and Fourth Amendment guarantees already grossly eroded by the Burger court.

It would raise to a level of hysteria, a climate of fear, even unmatched by the abuses of power in the latter days of the Nixon administration.

We often bandy about the word democracy. Some use it to describe this country and often to shame political groups, individuals, institutions into following the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

But we are not honest in our assessment of the kind of government under which we really live.

Civics classes in schools teach the lie; ministers in pulpits preach the lie; orators steaming full speed in their sway of audiences — "this gre-at democracy of ours" — compound the delusion that democracy does, indeed, reign supreme.

What we must do, they exhort, is make it work!

No matter that we are hampered by special interest groups who repeat Watergate corruption. No matter that there is racism, sexism, growing gaps between the haves and have-nots, inflation, recession, unemployment, the whole gamut.

What these wild-eyed optimists or demagogues, or both continually trumpet is democracy, democracy, democracy ... like the beat of Hitler's drums.

When the bureaucratic wheels get stuck; when redress of grievances is non-existent; when the poor and black, so often not even tried, languish in jails that grow larger and fuller, there's a ready apologia that democracy is slow and takes time, but "justice will prevail."

All the code words, like the Pavlovian dog, have us salivating at the tinkle of these "bells" expecting truth, justice and liberty.

What we have, however, is not democracy, but oligarchy — "a form of government in which supreme power is restricted to a few."

When we look at the way we are victimized by gasoline and fuel prices, electric power, phone services; mass transit, food and housing prices, and then look at the few who profit from and control these necessities in our lives, we should become rudely awakened to the power of this octopus that squeezes our life blood.

The arms race is a sterling example of the power of a few war lords whose contracts for planes, munitions, all the ancillary services that the war machine requires, all the disproportionate taxes poured into these rapacious merchants of death, for more and more quickly obsolete machines, guns, planes, ICBM's — the whole schemer, and we need guess no more as to who is in control of us drones in society.

Under S.1437 this article could not even be written, yet even now some dossier will become better because of this warning and prophecy.

Beware, however, that we are all on a precipice, whether we speak, write, act, or play dumb. All have parts in this drama to become informers, to be used as object lessons, moreover, to be totally controlled.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark in his recent comment on "Reforming Federal Law" concludes with this warning without even mentioning democracy:

"A climate of fear fostered by a continuum of war through every generation, assassinations that destroy leadership, international political terrorism and an unproven belief in a steady increase in violent crime — fear enhanced by Watergate and S.1 (S.1 was the predecessor of S.1437) itself — have conditioned us not to expect much freedom; indeed, to oppose it.

"Liberty can wait. Right now, we want security. But the kind of security we want emotionally is the kind we must reject by reason, because it carries too high a price: the surrender of our liberties, the creation of a police state."

Write your congressman today for details about this heinous piece of legislation — S.1437 — and stop it now.

Meanwhile, rah, rah, for the Fourth of July — 1984?

Rah, rah for the Fourth!

LETTERS

Calling for fair representation

Dear AFRO:

Black people, by now you know Donald Pomerleau has been confirmed by the majority of the members of the City Council for another term as Police Commissioner.

Weeks previous to his confirmation various people were televised giving reasons why Pomerleau should not have been confirmed for another term.

Several accusations were leveled, one of which was illegal bugging and - or illegal wiretaps. When confronted with these accusations Pomerleau said something to the effect that if his illegal activities kept the peace he would do them again.

This appears to me as an admission of his illegal activities. Some charges were made and an investigation into the Commissioner's activity was supposed to have been started. During this period a new state's attorney took office and the investigation never left the ground. Why?

Rep. Parren Mitchell took the stand that Pomerleau should not be confirmed to another term as Commissioner.

I have no proof but if the police commissioner indulged in illegal activities I am willing to bet they were directed chiefly against blacks.

Why do we black people continue to allow people who don't have our interest at heart to govern us?

Why do we continue to let people we don't approve of hold powerful positions when we comprise a great part of this city's population?

Is it that we don't care?

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R. THOMAS

Douglass' record incorrect?

Dear AFRO:

The letter written by Jimmie Hodges ("Bellamy," AFRO AMERICAN, June 10, 1978) in reference to nervy politicians in East Baltimore mentioned no politician's name.

The fact that Sen. (Robert) Douglass (45th District) responded to the letter shows guilt (Baltimore AFRO - AMERICAN, June 24, 1978). The record he gave was incorrect.

He failed to tell that Dels. (Charles) Krysiak and (Kenneth) Webster introduced the prison bill.

West Baltimore politicians showed their power by pulling out on the second reading of the bill and causing a failure of the bill. Their strategy of waiting on the third reading caused the bill to pass with more votes than were needed—credit has to go to them.

Sen. Douglass and other politicians had already made the deal for the prison with Gov. Mandel.

He said he is boss of East Baltimore so therefore he is responsible for the prison.

If the Concerned Citizens of East Baltimore hadn't taken up the fight, the prison would be at Continental Can right now.

HILLARY GOLDBERG

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.

ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

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

African art is everyday life

The Walter's Art Gallery currently has an interesting exhibition of objects from the Yaruba people of Nigeria in West Africa.

The Yaruba represent a vast nation of millions of people with an extremely complex and highly developed social, political and religious system which requires the creation and use of a wide variety of objects for their daily use.

The objects in western terms are called "Art". In Africa there is no such a word or concept.

One of the most difficult exhibitions to hang in a museum is a display of objects from Africa. Since these objects were not made just for the sake of art, the museum becomes an alien environment to hang such pieces of work.

"Nigeria — Art and Everyday Life", which opened June 16 to the public, provides us with an opportunity to view the "art" objects as separate statements.

On the other hand the installation does not, however, permit the real essence or vitality of these powerful forms of human expression.

There are several things which could have been done to enhance the visual display besides the fine photographs and attaching discriptive panels.

The addition of fresh green plants would have helped considerably. As the exhibition is currently presented one sees African concepts in a traditionally western, formal and rather sliced environment.

Movement is absolutely essential to understanding these objects on display. In their natural environment they are seen and used in a wide variety of acts and activities. They are used in rituals, dances and for processions. Therefore at least one of the objects should have been placed on some type of revolving platform.

There are 110 pieces of work on exhibition which are creations in wood, ivory, leather and cast metal. The pieces are divided and displayed by their function such as The House, Divination and Ceremonies, Religious Societies, Alter and Shrine and for the Person.

Photographs help to show how these pieces are actually used and towards the end of the exhibition a short, but well presented slide show helps the viewer learn something of African life in Nigeria.

Some of the more outstanding pieces are the bronze cast staffs used as part of the religious societies. Often the staffs are made in pairs of male and female. They are very delicate in detail and project a powerful image of strength and even magic.

Equally skillful is an incomplete Epa mask. The Epa cult places its emphasis on "increase in generals and population (people) in particular."

The top surviving part of the mask is composed of a single large seated female with a baby on her lap and surrounded by many other attending figures. A highly skillful piece, one that certainly should have been put on a revolving platform, because it is a dance mask and all the carving should be visible.

A highlight of this exhibition was a lecture by Dr. Robert Ferris Thompson, of Yale University on "Women in Yaruba Art." The lecture was fairly well attended but should have had a larger black audience to hear the information which is crucial to our heritage. Thompson was like a fountain of knowledge and experience which he willingly shared.

His slides were excellent and the film he shot in Africa is something every black artist and those interested in the arts should have seen.

The only hitch in the lecture was the poor projector on which Dr. Thompson's slides were presented. They were slow coming on and off the screen and in various places they literally began to burn up before our eyes. One would think that a museum of this caliber would have been more time and care to prevent such things from happening.

The exhibition will continue until July 9. There is a small, well - priced catalog available and well worth the investment.

Go see, learn for yourself — an exhibition which should not be missed.

G. JAMES FLEMING

NOW AND THEN

Lee, Mitchell and miracles

By G. James Fleming

It will take a near - miracle to turn back Blair Lee III from winning the Democratic nomination for governor of Maryland in the September primary.

To date, he has won — announced or unannounced — the endorsement of all the Democratic organizations in the Baltimore black community.

In addition, Blair Lee is the incumbent governor, after years as lieutenant governor and state senator and he expects the support of his home region, the Washington counties. This combination is too much to beat, except for a miracle by one of his opponents.

Most notable, for the acting governor, is the fact that he has already "pulled" a neat trick in winning the endorsement of Rep. Parren Mitchell — the first time that the popular Congressman has endorsed a candidate for governor.

Although the Mitchell camp has been talking a great deal about "major commitments" from the governor (too much orating, this column feels), the Lee - Mitchell exchange was a victory for the governor.

As things now stand, no other Democratic candidate has the support Blair Lee has garnered.

It must be remembered, however, that no politician can stop running until the last vote is counted.

It was thought at first, in black political circles, that Blair Lee — and — Steny H. Hoyer (the latter once a gubernatorial aspirant) would have difficulty finding support; many said that Baltimoreans, regardless of race, did not know Lee or Hoyer well enough, and vice - versa.

It is turning out, however, that neither geography nor longtime exposure, alone, will help or hurt a candidate.

One of the surprises of the race for governor is that Bill Burch is not "setting the world on fire" anymore than he is. The Palottine Case, the polls show, did not hurt him that much. Somehow, if this column hears a right, he will have a difficult struggle in Baltimore City.

Burch must not be written off, however. He has pulled many a miracle in the past; his office has outreaches in all parts of the state; and, in his favor, the mass of voters does not always follow the orders of their "leaders."

Walter Orlinsky, president of Baltimore City Council, must not be counted out of the winning. He has the advantage of being actively involved in city matters and may attract even some of those who had planned to support Mayor Schaefer for governor.

While Orlinsky will pull greatly in the city, however, all prognosticators agree that he has little pull outside the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Dark horses for governor are Ted (Theodore G.) Venetoulis, executive of Baltimore County, and Harry Hughes, former state secretary of transportation. Neither of these aspirants will appreciate this designation of "dark horse" for they are both serious in wanting to take over the governor's office and both see themselves having a program. From the point of view of miracles, they are not out of the race.

This column does not see either Venetoulis or Hughes making much impact on Baltimore City, although both have many contacts and friends here, and both will undoubtedly have campaign organizations of some activity.

With special reference to Venetoulis, the historic racial practices of most parts of his county, are a milestone around his neck.

According to the Black Legislative Caucus, Steny Hoyer, now candidate for lieutent governor with Blair Lee, has a very good record, as state senator, president of the senate, and as acting governor. He is seen as adding real strength to the Lee - Hoyer ticket.

REGISTER AND VOTE — Regardless of who are at the top of the several tickets, it will take registered voters to nominate the "best" candidates and, later, to elect them.

Therefore, it is not too early to urge our readers (1) to register to vote, if they are not now registered, (2) to vote in the primary on Sept. 12, and (3) to vote in the general election next November.

It is also most important that we send to Annapolis, to the General Assembly, the most capable and dedicated set of legislators we have ever elected. Both the state and Baltimore need them and stand to benefit.

The key to everything in this election year is a living, aware, citizen, able and willing to vote, and registered in order to vote.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

BAPTISTS assembled at the Martin's West banquet Monday night were next door to the retirement fete given Wellington "Ducky" Ross by fellow workers.

They lively occasion saluted "Ducky" as guest of honor and one of the most popular of all in the Baltimore and state educational system. He's the adult education specialist for the Md. state department.

Welcome to the lively and beautiful occasion was by Dan Saccagnini, special assistant to Senator Charles McC Mathias. Dr. Howard L. Cornish director emeritus, Morgan Christian Center, gave invocation. After dinner speakers were Dr. T. K. Muellen, assistant state superintedent of education; Mrs. Thelma Cornish, state coordinator of adult education and William Sykes, vice president of the state department of education.

Also, Dr. Richard Bateman, director of Social Services Administration; Marvin Davis, Community College of Baltimore director of personnel and Ms. Karen Rose, "Ducky's" daughter.

HIGH HONORS — At its recent monthly membership meeting and dinner at the Belvedere Hotel, Printing Industries of Maryland, Inc. presented its annual George K. Horn Awards in recognition of outstanding work by the top printing vocational students at Carver Vocational - Technical High School and Mergenthaler Vocational - Technical High School. This year, the awards were made to Robert Branch, Carver, and Marcia L. Price, Mergenthaler. Each winner was presented a framed certificate of excellence as well as a $50 United States Savings Bond.

AIM HIGH CHORUS, INC. presented in recital at Union Baptist last Sunday the talented tenor John E. Batts. William Wright, founder and director of the noted Town Choir, as dapper as ever, was chairman of the 4 p.m. event in the beautiful church. H. Allen Spangler was accompanist.

Batts, a St. Louis teacher, was presented by Mrs. Mary West Miller and received a standing ovation.

Especially wondrous were Batts' presentation of Purcell's Passing by, Puccini's Elucevan Le Stelle and If With All Your Hearts, from Mendelssohn's Elijah. Greatest applause came with his Negro Spirituals, There is a Balm in Gilead; Honor, Honor and Ride on King Jesus.

Mrs. Odessia Gross is Alm High president, William —W. Wright, promoter, Rev. Vernon Dobson, host minister.

UNION BAPTIST, center of high community activity, will be the scene July 9 when Brother Elliott Adamson gives his trial sermon to determine his eligibility to become a licensed minister. The 5 p.m. event is announced by Rev. Willie E. Ray.

CONGRATULATIONS go to new Police Department high ranking officers, Lts. Bessie Norris and Elmer Dennis and of course, my banquet buddy, Lt. Melvin Freeman, who goes from Southern to CID.

LT. NORRIS the first in history to become a shift commander and she goes from downtown headquarters to Northwestern where she has complete control beginning midnight Friday, a uniformed commander.

Lt. Norris was a sergeant four years and first in the Narco Squad history to supervise a squad of men. Before Wednesday she had been a sergeant eight years total.

PRETTY AS A PICTURE, Lt. Norris headed the committee for the Vanguard Justice Society dinner dance last week and frocked all in white like a princess supervised the plush affair at MSU's McKeldin Center.

Wednesday night, she was present at the retirement ball until 2 a.m. for Sgt. William Burke, at Holiday Inn.

SMART, too, she has an associate degree in business administration; associate degree in criminal law, bachelor's degree in criminal Justice and short only 12 credits toward a master's degree in criminal justice.

VISITORS for her elevation to lieutenant were her daughter, her mother, Mrs. Alice Collins, McBee; S.C.; her four sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Blue, McBee; Florence Griffin, Anne Reed and Maggie Carter, all of Baltimore and her only brother, Howard Rogers and wife Louise.

BIRTHDAY gifts and cards still coming in include flowers from my only baby nephew, John Elyette Pickett; Ruth Russell and Francis Bill Burch, the attorney general, both of whom are my neighbors; pals Cathy Dietwich and hubby Jim who is a 47th district delegate candidate; American Joe, the 47th district delegate who is real classy; my family, Marsha and grandbabies in Hawaii; Rev. and Mrs. A.C.D. Vaughn and kids and his mother: my birthday buddies; Dr. and Mrs. Harold Carter, special dinner guests Geneva Puryear, Werner Jordan, Judges Sol Baylor and Robert Bell, Col. Mike Lorenzo, the Arnold Jolivets, Pete Rawlings, Attorney Dwight Pettit, the Curtis Wrenns, the Burch children, Rev. Bill Johnson the Norman Brailleys and the Sam Redd family.

INVITATIONS are out for the Greenspring Valley Country Club and Ocean City holiday weekend.

LARGEST CROWD ever is the one due July 30 at the 6 p.m. Civic Center call to Christ by Rev. Harold Carter's New Shiloh Baptist Church. The 500 voice choir will sing. Get tickets now for the crusade of the year at the Fremont and Lanvale church.

JULY 16 marks the Progressive Baptist kick - off rally at Greater New Hope Baptist Church, 2700 W. North, 7:30 p.m. Rev. Leonard Hicks is pastor.

MONDAY, June 30 is Saundra E. Banks fund raiser for her campaign for clerk of the Court of Common Pleas. Brices Hilltop Inn, $15, from 6 to 9 p.m. Let's all go.

MARION BANFIELD

Owen's self-image

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

My marvelous secretary, Ms. Christine Richardson, comes from a family where children are precious.

Through the years, her nephews have come to help her with some office routine. Whenever they come to Family and Children's Society, they are sure of warmth and appreciation.

One of the nephews, Owen Keith Monroe, age 10, was typing happily. If what he typed could come from inner feelings of children, there would not be massive low test scores.

Owen's attitude is shared by his cousins. Self - appreciation is a family pattern.

Owen typed: "Owen Keith Monroe, is a super student and he works very hard. Owen has little problems in controlling himself sometimes, but 98 percent of the time he is OK. He is best in math and science so you can work him extra in those subjects. Owen has high I.Q.

"Owen is worth 2.8 million dollars "Owen is a credit to his race. . ."

Now, if parents and teachers could keep Owen's self - image as a goal for more of our boys, we could guarantee a vast improvement in academic achievement.

We could also guarantee fewer black males in prison.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT AGING

Dr. Matthew TAYBACK

Legislative developments

Some rather historic legislative developments affecting the elderly of Maryland were passed by the 1978 Maryland General Assembly.

Before detailing this legislation and how it affects our senior citizens, it is well to remember that legislation is of no value to the individual unless he becomes familiar with the various statues enacted and how they impact on him.

These, then, are the major legislative actions of this year's General Assembly which affect senior citizens.

The senior citizen property owner is now the beneficiary of a higher property tax credit in the form of the "circuit breaker" law. The maximum tax credit on an individual's property is now up to $900, whereas previously the credit was limited to $750.

In addition, certain formula changes in the law also provide a benefit by reducing the obligation of the senior citizen to pay property taxes.

I would recommend to Maryland's senior citizens that they take a trip to much the local office on aging or local department of assessments to obtain detailed information on the statute changes.

In regard to income tax, two measures have been enacted which effect our elderly population.

Senior citizens now have the opportunity to itemize deductions on their state income tax forms even though a standard deduction was claimed on the federal tax form.

Another measure allows senior citizens who have no earned income in addition to Social Security benefits to deduct the total of the two up to the maximum Social Security benefit possible under the Social Security system.

Older citizens will benefit from this provision for the 1978 tax year. I would advise our senior citizens to be in touch with their local office on aging or state income tax division in this regard.

There are two important pieces of legislation connected with medical care.

The eligibility levels for Medicaid coverage have been raised from $1800 to $2300 for an individual and from $2300 to $2800 for a couple. This is effective July 1, 1979 and anyone affected should contact the local department of social services, the agency responsible for eligibility determination.

A new medical care program which will begin on Jan. 1, 1979 is the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program. The program will benefit the individual in the income range of $2300 to $8300 and couples in the range of $2800 to $3800.

This program provides assistance in paying for legend drugs prescribed by a physician. The individual will be required to pay one dollar for the prescribed drug and the state will absorb the cost of the remainder.

As an aside, I would like to remind our senior citizens to request their physicians to prescribe generic drugs rather than brand name products as generic drugs are less expensive and when available serve the same purpose.

Federal legislation is also a concern for our senior citizens. In Congress, HR 12255, the so-called "Brademas bill" is being considered in regard to the Older Americans Act. This bill is a positive, striking example of helpful legislation - particularly in providing services for the frail and disabled elderly so that institutionalization can be avoided.

Senior citizens can help to assure the passage of this bill by contacting their federal legislators regarding HR 12255.

Appreciation

Dear AFRO:

We were most appreciative of the publicity given by the AFRO - AMERICAN to the retirement luncheon of Master U. Theodore Hayes.

All of the comments we have heard about the program are excellent, and I am sure that the article helped to bring in more people for the occasion.

Master Hayes also expressed to us how much he enjoyed reading the article and how appreciative he was of your work in getting this article published.

Again, our sincere thanks for your help regarding the retirement luncheon of Master U. Theodore Hayes.

JOHN F. O'GRADY
Master, Circuit Court
of Baltimore City

MORE LETTERS

'Furious' with the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

I have never in my life written to a newspaper. But the coverage and critical analysis that you poured on such a beautiful and progressive gentleman such as Julius Ceasar Hope had me scrambling for pen and paper.

I have been reading the AFRO for eight years and am probably one of your major detractors amidst all of my friends and relatives who, without a doubt, enjoy reading it also.

I thought, or should liked to have thought, I perceived a little more mettle in your coverage of seriously controversial spokesmen but you pulled the blanks out on me, for real.

A lot of us men here at Maryland Correctional Training Center were perplexed, dismayed and righteously furious at the way you handled that precious brotherman and the fact that you didn't even bother to cover up why you did it.

All he spoke was the plain truth. What's wrong with that?

Hell yeah, all we do is party, disco — ad infinitum — and we are still not far removed from the grave conditions of 30 years ago.

Perhaps the good brother stepped on some personal prover bial corns at the crowded ("1,000 persons or more") NAACP Unity Ball who would have preferred he "spare the lash and obstruct the sun" — especially since we had company.

With much emphasis, the truth is never, mind you, NEVER "out of context", nor has it ever been "inappropriate" — solid.

Andy (Young) does it — from an international forum at that! So how is it that this relatively obscure man gets the "third degree" treatment when he only voices the opinions and conclusions quite a few of the younger people in the community, such as myself, subscribe to?

The black man is the black man's enemy. I don't know where some of you people have been.

We're not a bunch of Super - Duper Everything - Guys like a lot of people would like to think.

We're full of blood, hamburgers and Coca - Cola — not to mention brains, protoplasm and all that other stuff.

Perhaps you have some kind of inside information of which I am not aware that encouraged you to give Rev. Hope the tommy - gun treatment—solid.

But that doesn't give you an excuse to run a wobbly vacillating ship.

M. M. BENINBEN—BELLA

Bakke supremacy

Dear AFRO:

Allan P. Bakke, a white applicant to the University of California Medical School at Davis, claimed he was denied admission "solely because he is white." His alleged proof was that non - whites with grades lower than his were admitted while he was not.

The following facts, however, contradict his charge of "reverse discrimination:"

1. Grades are not the only criteria for admission to medical school. Other criteria which influence admission are the medical potential of the applicant, his age, and the social and economic influence of the applicant, to mention a few. Bakke's age was a factor in his rejection. Yet, such criteria as these — the truly discriminatory criteria — have not been attacked by the "Bakkes" of America.

2. Bakke was rejected not only by the U. of C. but also by 12 other medical schools allegedly. Why, then, would the U. of C. not have legitimate reasons for rejecting him?

3. Both non - white and white applicants, rejected with Bakke, had better grades than did Bakke.

4. Some of the whites who were admitted also had lower grades than did Bakke. How then did Bakke feel he was denied admission solely because of his race?

5. The University of California allegedly conspired with Bakke to bring suit against itself. Thus, the suit was obviously not Bakke's idea.

Still further, how could Bakke know the grades of those non - whites who were admitted unless the school itself gave him such information? This itself is a violation of the law of confidentiality.

Thus Bakke's "indignation" was obviously not self - inspired. But why would the U. of C. seek to be sued for its own "affirmative action" program? And why the underhandedly, when the university itself started the program and could have simply ended the program [illegible]? The reason [illegible] "affirmative action" all over the country, and not just at the University of California.

Sad to say, there's no need to ask why the media for the most part failed to bring this more complete Bakke story to the public.

Frank G. Newton,
Atlanta University

Opposition to moving School of Social Work

Dear AFRO:

The proposal to shift the University of Maryland School of Social Work to Baltimore County must be opposed.

A major focus of the school is the urban poor. To place the school in the county would place it out of reach of the professionals who serve the poor and the poor who need services from trained and competent professionals.

Further, the placement of the school in Baltimore County would take it out of the professional complex of downtown Baltimore that it currently serves, the people of Baltimore. Social work is an important adjunct to the Schools of Law, Medicine, Dental, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

The school is in the process of developing a combination law and social work degree, and is also developing joint courses with the school of medicine.

The transfer of the School of Social Work to the county would give the impression that the University of Maryland is downgrading its commitment to the continued vitalization of Baltimore City and reneging on its commitment to the poor and disadvantaged.

WALTER R. DEAN JR.,
Member, House of Delegates,
41st District, Baltimore City

Kill in the name of the law

Dear AFRO:

How is it to be that the state has decided to kill in the name of the law? Will they overlook the whites as much as our leaders do black youth? How can we as a people contribute to this farce?

Where is equality of justice in this city or state? Article 27, 645A of the Annotated Code of Maryland clearly states a defendant's right to counsel and what do we get? An incompetent person who professes to knowledge of the law. And the prisons and jails fill up with blacks.

We hear "Free South Africa" and yet ignore Afro-Americans. We focus attention on Uganda and ignore our Idi Amins in the ghettos across the country.

Election year is soul searching time but we blacks go to sleep during this period because we lack the courage to think.

We are hopelessly in debt to the dreamers who gave up their lives for a system change. We forgot... I am black and proud because we no longer use our minds but our behinds.

What a shame that we die to equalize the educational system and our children can't even read and write.

EDWARD MO-HICKS BEY

Cherry Hill praises AFRO

Dear AFRO:

Thanks very much for the coverage you gave CHERRY HILL DAY, our first National Park was enjoyed by all the kids. Our Theme: "Cherry Hill's Progressive Community" was by Sherry Lynch, P. S. No 153, Mrs. Natalie Woodson, Principal.

Arnett J. Brown, vice-chairman of PUSCH also chairman of our annual Cherry Hill Day and his staff along with the total community are grateful.

We also received fine support from the Mayor's station in Cherry Hill headed by Shephard H. Burge Jr.

We knew we could count on you.

SARAH J. BUNDY,
President of PUSCH
(People United Serving Cherry Hill)