Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Settling down

The candidates for governor are beginning to settle into the postures they will be maintaining - or trying to from now until the primary.

The decision of Frances "Bill" Burch to drop out was not unexpected and while Walter Orlinsky continues to say the more interesting things he still runs a poor third.

It is Blair - Steny against Ted - Ann. Ann. Anne Stockett is Venetoulis' choice for lieutenant governor which in and of itself is trend - setting.

Many feel the most compelling thing about the upcoming election is not so much which Democrat wins but whether the Republicans, who regard Maryland as an important testing ground, can carry out their strategy successfully.

What is this strategy?

Former President Ford said it straight ahead of Bob his recent visit to Maryland.

Analyzing the 1976 election which saw Jimmy Carter march in on a solid black vote nationally, the Republicans have concluded, (correctly we feel) that if blacks voted for Carter who thus far has delivered on none of his promises to us, blacks will vote for the Republicans if they do anything.

Gerald Ford spelled it out. Republicans must open their ranks and attract more blacks, more women, more constituents who expected much from the Democrats but have received little except rhetoric.

The team of J. Glenn Beall and Arts Allen reflects this new GOP strategy. While Democrats are talking about greater involvement of blacks, Maryland Republicans are showing the voters they are for real by having a black as the number two man on their slate.

The GOP locally, we understand, will also be hammering away at more jobs for the masses of people, not through government funded make work programs, but through the private sector.

The nation's political pundits will be watching our state very carefully this Autumn.

The big news just may be not whether Blair or Ted prevailed but whether the GOP can rise from the ashes of Nixon and reactionary positions to turn things around in Maryland.

It is no secret the Grand Old Party realizes the black vote here is crucial to its ambitions. And knowing the Republicans, when they make up their minds to do something, they certainly have the money necessary to at least try and get things done.

Ted Venetoulis' strategy is not all that much different from that of the Republicans.

To win against the traditional Democratic alignments in Maryland young Theodore has to break many rules.

Thus he is taking his campaign to the people and presenting himself as something of a "populist."

He expects to attract the young, black and white, the suburbanites and the inner city residents as well, and while not writing off the Democratic faithful who kept Mandel and his followers in office over a decade, he is wise enough to know he has to get the new voters and just hope that the older ones will join the bandwagon and turn away from Lee - Hoyer who represent much of the past.

The acting governor is ahead in the polls. We expect his lead to drop or at least for Venetoulis to close the gap in the final weeks of the primary campaign.

But the question mark remains the Republicans who so often in Maryland's political history have been able to come off the mat after being counted out to score a knock - out, witness Teddy McKeldin and Spiro Agnew.

Marylanders will have the opportunity to rewrite the political textbooks this fall and make no mistake about it, the state's black voters hold the balance of power no matter how things go.

Our friendly advice to all thoughtful voters is that they gather all the facts on each candidate and his or her real alliances, debts and positions.

Much is at stake and we deem it foolish to choose sides this early in the contest no matter what politicos decide they will do.

Fast moving game

Our 40th district delegate Kenneth L. Webster is, among other things, irrepressible.

Only a minute ago the powerful Metro Democratic organization decided not to support Webster's bid for re-election although he had been their choice last time out. Earlier Senator Verda Welcome had withdrawn her support.

While disagreeing on most other things Ms. Welcome and the Metros agreed on Webster - nothing doing.

Never to be underestimated Webster has bounced right back and becomes the first black politician, publicly at least, to endorse Ted Venetoulis' bid for the governor's chair.

This is quite interesting. Evidence is that Venetoulis is gaining on the front - runner Blair Lee. Teddy is running a hard "street" campaign and bypassing the traditional leadership, black and white, a la the Kennedys.

Webster who knows the "street" just may know something that his more aloof peers have been sleeping. That's what is happening out there in the grass roots may be at variance with what the boys and girls in the smoke - filled rooms think is going on.

In any event Webster's move puts him in the position of organizing the black community on behalf of Venetoulis.

His fellow delegate Larry Young has much the same role for the Lee - Hoyer forces.

If nothing else this latest development gives both young legislators a chance to prove their vote mobilizing skills in a larger arena.

This is the latest shuffle in a very fast moving game.

Cloud over Swisher

We hear, and the daily press already is in print on the matter, perhaps prematurely, that the State's Attorney's office is now under the scrutiny of a federal grand jury.

Since grand juries seldom probe the "good," folks have done and in the interest of quelling rumors, we suggest that William Swisher state publicly why Federal prosecutors are going over his office's operation with a fine tooth comb.

Swisher, after all, is running for re - election and we think it quite reasonable that a candidate clear up ugly rumors concerning his conduct of office as best he can as soon as he can.

To say nothing, hoping that the election comes, before the grand jury lowers the boom if indeed there is cause for the grand jury to act, is political cynicism in extremes.

Say something, Mr. Swisher!

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

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy

(Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.)

Once upon a time, in a small town, no more than 70,000 souls, during the Depression of the 30s, scores of black men were out of work. The only way they could clothe and feed their families, or pay the rent, was to be numbers runners.

This operation had been begun by two men, both trained in a profession, who also, being black, could not start a business.

So their wives and they began the operation in their kitchen, taking bets from friends and neighbors, using a game called Bolita. But after a while the players grew until they had to find another way of flourishing on all those bets.

So networks of lieutenants and workers were developed in black communities, dotting the city from east to west. So refined was the numbers operation that "pick - up and delivery service" as regular as the postman (in truth following him) made it easy for players to hope that there was indeed a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

The players became adept at reading the racing results. This was the complicated system of choosing numbers from the eight daily races. They knew before the writers sometimes whether they had won or lost.

Usually the runner would be rewarded with a tip from a big hitter, so he would be encouraged not to cheat.

But there were those scurrilous finks who would lie about the number and steal the players' money. This of course led to fights, murders and ultimately the police would become involved.

Now the trick was to pay off the police to look the other way. And since Depression hit everyone working or not, an agreeable detente in most neighborhoods was established.

But as time went on, greed and jealousy took over. The big guys running the game were pressured by the police commissioner, by political bosses as high up as the governor, to make larger pay - offs and contributions to campaigns to keep and insure protection.

On the other hand, the politicos could not easily ignore the power of the network of lieutenants and runners, nor the new liquor stores, cabarets, drug stores, parking lots they had helped to license, so a sweetheart deal was arranged to make one of the numbers kings a councilman; the other head of the state central committee.

"One hand washes the other," they promised.

"You be good to us, we'll be good to you," the numbers barons replied.

Thus to keep power, a vise of fear and patronage was clamped upon the black community. No one ever dared run against the councilman as long as he lived.

Everyone begged both barons for jobs — collecting garbage, janitoring and even getting appointed as school teachers. But even then black teachers were only given one year's tenure. Segregation was profitable!

Both were deputies for the colored. Don't you forget that!

Their corner stores, tobacco and candy shops, replaced those of the immigrants long since buoyed to upward mobility and the suburbs by profits wrenched from an exploited ghetto — still charged high prices and getting inferior merchandise.

Survival of the fittest was the watchword of the numbers barons, who not unlike the immigrants and the robber barons of the 19th and early 20th century, bragged to anyone who would listen, about their bootstrap beginnings, oftimes exhorting that all blacks needed to do was work hard, not beg for anything, and they could also be just like the barons — successful.

How they actually believed their own publicity, evoked the incredulity of the more intelligent population, who only whispered their disgust to loyal friends, since not only did they need their jobs (vindictiveness being the raw retort to criticism) but also they depended heavily upon social acceptance now dictated by the "Bolita Queens," whose lavishly furnished homes were guarded day and night. Their doberman pinscers trained to attack, often attacking them!

Renovations to their houses on - going propositions. Where else could they by - pass the IRS except to stash the money in the walls?

Now though that regime is dead and gone, the rougher, tougher lieutenants have taken over. More diversified in business pursuits, both legal and illegal — some say even dope, where the police commissioner gets his kick - back off the top, under the table. Natch!

But today, the fall guys are the black policemen, (risen high in the ranks) when periodic raids or arrests hoodwink the public into believing crime busting is a serious concern and only blacks are involved in the crimes.

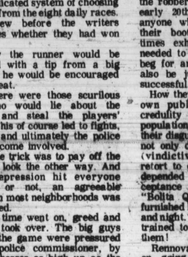
There is no moral to this story. Maybe it's multiple choice. Wherever, the person fits into the maze of involvement: a) It is wrong and corrupt; b) it helps employment; c) it gets blacks into the political process; or d) it bolsters the economy of the black community.

Except that let no one tell people these barons made it on their own. Because the "black tax" of being forced to buy inferior, over - priced goods; of nickel and diming the numbers over decades; has been the useful bounty that has pyramided those "success" stories, (published all too frequently by partners in a corrupt system.) that embellish the lies of "self - made" men.

Thus endeth "Geronimo's" tale.

An adult black "fairy" tale

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL



Truth not only hurts, it's also embarrassing

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

The politically explosive statements made by Andrew Young, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, on July 12, 1978, are still reverberating and, I might add, even more embarrassingly so to the United States.

To believe, much less publicly pronounce, that behind the walls of this nation's jails are perhaps persons whose crimes might be best described as "political", is considered an apostasy.

However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the American people to assail the unjust and inhumane actions of other nations, and, when confronted by her own acts of injustice, appear lividly incredulous.

No one — least of all myself — is suggesting that this nation should have taken a lesser stance in our condemnation of and political reaction to the Soviet trials of Ginsburg and Scharansky. In fact, the U.S.S.R. nor any other nation, including the United states, has the right to try and convict persons solely for their political activities and beliefs.

However, the irony of this whole affair is not the so - called diplomatic contretemps of Ambassador Young, but rather the nauseous hypocrisy of the American public resulting from his ingenuous remarks.

Untold numbers of persons are falsely arrested, tried, convicted and incarcerated each year in America for decidedly political reasons. Not every case is, like the Wilmington 10., a cause celebre.

There are backwater and backwoods' jail houses filled to the brim with a dissident here and a protestor there — all, no doubt, brought before the courts on bona fide charges, but convicted on illegal or nonexistent evidence.

The sad and embarrassing judicial circuses that have taken place here since the 1960s beginning of the Civil Right Movement — and, before that, the Labor Movements of the 20s, 30s and 40s — are part of the American scenario on "political prisoners."

Ambassador Young wasn't incorrect; he was, rather, shockingly too accurate.

I am basically a civil libertarian, though sometimes contemptuous of those actions taken by groups like the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party.

However, even the most noble penchant towards hypocrisy must be held in check if the true and uninhibited exercise of political rights is to be sustained. Such thought, albeit a constitutional guarantee, is not necessarily a practiced reality in many parts of our nation.

For any minority to believe racism has been excised from our police departments, courts of law and penal institutions is naiveté bordering on social unconsciousness. The racism of which I speak gives rise to the formulating of kangaroo courts and legal railroading, still so much a part of the American political conscience.

The fact that such atrocities do not occur everywhere in America is not excusatory; the fact that it occurs at all in a nation exhorting individual freedom and human rights is cause for both alarm and introspection.

America should be proud of Ambassador Young's candidness. It is, on balance, a far greater detriment to one's position to deny the obvious than to demand from others only what you recognize and demand from yourself.

Consequently, let us get on with the worldwide fight for human rights and liberty; however, let us be equally aware that the fight is as much an internal one as it is an external one.

LETTERS

Marion Banfield and welfare exploitation

Dear AFRO:

In the July 22 edition of the AFRO, in the Current Comment section, Marion Banfield said in "Poverty and Anger" that in her 30 years of social work she has never met a woman who was happily satisfied living on public welfare.

Mrs. Banfield should get out among the inner city more often and see how a lot of black women, especially young ones, operate.

They brag about the many parties they attend, how many lottery numbers they have hit or tried to hit, how many new fashions they bought, etc., all off of welfare money.

Mrs. Banfield also gives her readers the impression that every young female who has a kid out of wedlock has been exploited by a male. But only a fool makes the same mistake twice, especially in the cases where there are young black females who have had as many as three children before reaching the age of 21.

The word unemployment is exploited a lot by young females in the inner city on public welfare. A lot of them state that they don't work because they can't find employment.

But the working public knows better than to believe that ignorant crap.

Because back during the late 60s of the Johnson administration when jobs were plentiful a lot of these trifling young females still had no desire to work.

A lot of these young females lay around all day and drink anything that's drinkable, smoke everything that's smokeable and jump into bed with everyone who they think is lovable.

But just as soon as you mention the word work to them they act like they are about ready to die.

KARL S. CROSBY

Candidate Smith thanks the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

Nothing dramatized the need for strong concerned black journalism than your coverage of the fight to preserve the rights of over 100,000 voters for our city.

It was apparent that most of those targeted for elimination were black and poor.

All of the local newspapers were aware of the struggle, but evidently they did not feel that this impending electoral tragedy was worth a single line. If it was given even passing coverage, I nor any member of my staff saw it.

Win or lose, I believe that I and all discerning citizens have a deeper appreciation to the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers for their coverage and interest in broadening democracy.

Thank you for a refresher lesson in what an all but indispensable role you play in the life and struggle for freedom for our people.

PHILLIP SMITH,
Candidate for sheriff of Baltimore City

Stadium parking rip-off

Dear AFRO:

The Baltimore Transportation Authority continues to drain the pleasure from fans who attend the Baltimore Stadium during special events with outrageous parking fines. Additional parking areas should have been made available with the thousands of dollars received from stadium fans.

Enthusiastically, we come out and give support to our team and at the end some are slapped with a parking tickets that costs twice as much as the ticket to the event.

The stadium cannot accommodate 33,054 fans in their parking lots (this total applied on June 30, 1978). Therefore, we are forced to park in undesignated areas which surround the stadium.

The evening I attended the stadium at least 1,000 vehicles were illegally parked. If each vehicle represented a $12 fine, $12,000 is deposited to Baltimore City Transportation Authority for just that evening alone. Just imagine what's consumed over a period of a month.

Where does the money go?

Must we continue to be victims of circumstances?

As a concerned citizen and heavily taxed taxpayer I look forward to affirmative action on behalf of all those who will be plagued by this concoction.

B.A. MITCHELL

Theatrical coverage

Dear AFRO:

We take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful support and coverage you gave to us during the 1977 - 78 season.

It was certainly the most successful season in the history of Center Stage.

It was a year of tremendous growth on both the artistic and community levels.

PETER W. CULMAN
Managing Director

STAN WOJEWODSKI, Jr.
Artistic Director

Thanks

Dear AFRO:

I personally want to thank Mrs. Ida Peters of your staff for taking the time to address the young people of the Urban Journalism Workshop at Coppin sponsored by the Association of Black Media Workers.

Mrs. Peters was entertaining but forceful in making the point that black journalists owe much to the black institutions that return services and profits to the black community.

Thank you for the encouragement and enlightenment and the enthusiasm brought to our young people.

MILDRED FOREHAND,
Association of Black Media Workers

Drive, don't smoke

Dear AFRO:

There ought to be a law against smoking while driving.

Drivers do a bad enough job with two hands, let alone with only one hand.

B. J. SMALL

Orchids to a bus driver

Dear AFRO:

A few days ago I stopped for a red light at Saratoga and Cathedral sts. An MTA bus stopped next to my car.

The bus driver leaned out the window and called to me. I couldn't hear him. He yelled again and once again, I could not distinguish what he was saying.

He got out of the bus and came over to my window. He told me the trim ring on my front tire was about to drop off. Then he walked around my car, took it off and handed it to me.

I looked for the number of the bus but he pulled away before I could get it. If I had, I would be writing this to MTA to commend the bus driver for his courtesy and thoughtfulness.

Most people complain about public transportation — slow service, undependable. And people gripe about bus drivers— surly, discourteous, unfriendly.

But at least one anonymous driver is a special person who took his time to give someone else a hand.

He is to be commended for his thoughtful consideration.

ANGELICA SLADE

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.

NOW AND THEN G. JAMES FLEMING

By G. James Fleming

Dwight Pettit can still win

It is not too late to rally all forces and elect Dwight Pettit as state's attorney for Baltimore City. That is the position once held by Milton Allen, until he was unseated in a racist - tinged campaign some four years ago.

Blacks hold so few upper - level, decision - making jobs in Maryland, or any other state, that they cannot afford to lose any position which they have once captured.

In this state, if blacks do not win representation in Baltimore City, there is little opportunity to win substantial recognition in any of the other jurisdictions, except, lately, in the Washington counties.

It was a whirlwind campaign that sent Milton Allen to the state attorney's office and William Murphy to the Supreme Bench — both without benefit of "organization" support. Blacks of Baltimore, and their friends, can do it again.

On Sept. 12, 1978, in the Democratic Primary, they can nominate DWIGHT PETTIT for state's attorney. That nomination will mean his election in November, if all goes well.

The majority population in Baltimore will have no one but themselves to blame if they let this opportunity slip away from them for a second time.

It is more than Dwight Pettit that is at stake. At stake, also, are whether black Baltimoreans are really serious about getting their share of governmental power; whether they have the guts and are willing to do the necessary organizing; and whether they are ready to pay their way to secure political leverage and political clout.

It is necessary to close ranks, to support Pettit fund - raisers; to register in order to vote; to get our friends to do the same; and then for all of us actually to vote on Sept. 12, 1978.

Despite a late start - up, those who believe that the city's majority population (some 56 percent black) should hold some major positions in the state and city, can mount a "crash" campaign, putting on all the heat, and leaving no stone unturned — almost in the spirit of a religious revival.

It is not necessary to wait to join a formal organization. Every supporter of Dwight - Pettit - for - State's Attorney can start working on his or her own, can start telephoning friends, can send in his contribution, and start talking up DWIGHT PETTIT.

Others can start volunteering for canvassing their neighborhoods, to hold coffee hours and block parties, and to distribute Pettit campaign literature.

If Baltimore had a majority of persons of Lebanese, East Indian, Puerto Rican or Martian background, these groups would elect one of their own as state's attorney. It is not asking, or seeking, or demanding too much when black Baltimore turns to nominating and, later, electing, a state's attorney from their own group — the state's chief prosecutor for their city.

As this column has said in days past, just as white men, of all dispositions, have been preferred, prosecuted and policed blacks and all other people down through the years, just as a nation preaching "human rights" must "move over" and expect minority group constituencies to share in governing, prosecuting, judging and policing, and in all other areas of public life.

One step in this direction, in 1978, is the nomination of A. DWIGHT PETTIT as state's attorney in the Democratic primary, on Sept. 12.

MARION BANFIELD

Mrs. Banfield is district director of Family and Children's Society.

A jail visit

A visit to Baltimore City Jail is one way of finding out about some real problems. When I visited three weeks ago I was saddened, as I always have been, by the predominance of young black men.

Miss Donna Pia Vocci, public information assistant, arranged for me to visit. She explained that Warden Gordon Kampka encourages interested persons to find out about this institution.

In last week's AFRO G. James Fleming wrote about this community's need for volunteers. Well, Baltimore City Jail is one place for individuals and groups to give service.

There is guidance and training for volunteers. Equally important, it is some place where follow guidelines and not venture into relationships and problems beyond set volunteer responsibilities.

James R. Como is the community director of Offender Aid and Restoration at 332-0777. He has trained 150 volunteers of which 60 are active now. Como wants to speak to black groups since there is such dire need for black services.

If a defendant can manage to stay on the street pending trial, this is a better system for most first offenders. Pre - trial supervision could be extended with more volunteer support.

William H. Wall Jr. is the jail bail coordinator. This man should be in demand to address groups about the bail process. Most of us don't understand what bail is all about.

Many families undergo unnecessary financial stress because of ignorance of the bailbond system. He can be reached to explain bailbond to families of defendants at 396 - 5007.

Nathaniel Stewart, Correctional classification supervisor is a dynamic young man who has worked in the jail for eight years. He too needs exposure to groups.

He can discuss the factors behind the high rate of recidivism, some due to racism and harassment, others due to kids who reject authority be it at home or away from their parents.

The public defender system simply cannot give justice because there are far too few lawyers as defenders.

Our young males need to hear Stewart's warning against gold teeth and braids. That's a poor foundation for a decent job.

Stewart's main sermon is "Reading is fundamental!". Our young males who spend more time with books will spend less time in jails.

FOR ALL WE KNOW ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

MRS. ALICE WEST, one of the most treasured of Senior Citizens, retired recently at age 75 but is still active as the vice president of the Council at her residence at 1701 Eutaw Place and projects at the Center at 100 S. Fulton Ave.

BY THE WAY, the center under direction of Mrs. Arline Sims has darling quilts and new handmade items. Each Christmas I buy gifts there, the most miraculous items made by the Senior Citizens.

BACK TO Mrs. West, she will spend late August at the estate of Mrs. Ernestine Hudnell and the late Gordon Aaron Hudnell in Heathville, Va., the great house and vast lands left to Mr. Hudnell when he was a child.

Mr. Hudnell, son of the late Mrs. Alice Hudnell, died June 28, 1978, at the Richmond, Va. Memorial Hospital. In addition to his wife of 34 years, he is survived by one aunt, Mrs. Edna Bea; three brothers and two sisters (in-laws) and many, many friends.

Mr. Hudnell was born in Ophelia, Va. March 3, 1900 and was reared in Ophelia, Va. by his grandparents, Aaron and Rosie Hudnell.

AFTER moving to Baltimore, he joined Trinity Baptist Church and was a trustee there 25 years.

He and Mrs. Hudnell, the former Miss Ernestine Brooks, were married Aug. 6, 1944 and a nicer couple you could never meet.

Mr. Hudnell was a member of the Masonic Mt. Olive Lodge No. 25 Mt. Zion Chapter No. 5, Prince Hall Affiliate.

ALL Baltimoreans who knew the family, may write condolences to Mrs. Ernestine Hudnell, Heathville, Va.

VIRGINIA is the place to be in late summer so therefore, if you're so lucky as to have an invitation, be sure to go to Jim Bunnigy's fabulous country place in King George's County Sunday.

HIS 15 grills will be barbecuing chicken, ribs and steaks and you'll meet most of that illustrious family of which Al Bumbry (Orioles) is a member. Also there will be Mrs. Rachel DePord and son Herby and her mother, Mrs. Lucy Thomas and cousin, the new District Court Commissioner Sylvia Cooper.

SPEAKING OF delicious food, over 100 Baptist ministers enjoyed an especially fine dinner this week at the Lord Baltimore Downtowner as guests of Gov. Lee and running mate Steny Hoyer.

You have no idea how thrilling it is to see such a large group of influential and powerful persons all at one time and those Baptist ministers are just that. As Gov. Lee said, "The best of Baltimore leadership."

IT WAS GOOD to see Col. William (Box) Harris out and around again after his being in the hospital. He's somewhat pale and thin, but the old Box personality shines through. After he rests some more, he'll be OK.

MORE fine food for fine guests will be served at the Aug. 5 affair by the law firm of Bob Dashiell, who by the way is taking on a new member, Attorney P. M. Smith, fulltime Sept. 1.

The firm offices already quite spacious at No. 4 E. Franklin, are expanding over 900 more feet of space and will serve as a model for a TV series on black lawyers.

THE AUG. 5 affair extends up until the wee-hours, if you're planning to go, and is at the country-club like estate of Builder Bob Clay in Laurel, Md., swimming pool, tennis courts and all.

JUNE DASHIELL, Lawyer Bob's wife, is executive director of Infinity Repertory of the Arts Theatre Co. which is producing an original play, "Orphansil" about the life of an inner city black boy.

AUDITIONS for all ages, from six years up, are open Aug. 7 so call June at 433-5011 NOW if you like acting.

T-SHIRT CRAZE has taken over at Union Memorial Hospital with new babies getting ones printed "I was born at Union Memorial." The photo of two new citizens, William Scanlon and Melissa Byrd shows them in the crib talking over the new fad, cute as buttons.

THE COMMUNITY is saturated with Fund Raisers.

Saturday is the Garnette Team's Disco at Cameo Hall, 4711 Harford Rd. for Garnett, Giles, Carrington and Tucker.

SALINA Marriott's affairs are July 30, the French Rivieria, Baker and McKean; Aug. 6 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Alexander (Dolly) Walker, 2335 Montebello Tr.; and Aug. 13 at the fabulous New Giovanchy's, 330 Druid Park Drive.

AUG. 3 is the AKA Epsilon Omega political forum at MSU McKeldin Center, 7:30 p.m.

OUR NEIGHBORS, Mr. and Mrs. William Berry, are moving from Charles Plaza's South Tower to California this weekend. We'll miss this delightful couple but he has a big job and is moving on up.

JULY 30 is Dr. Harold Carter's Crusade at the Civic Center, an event you must not forget.

C AND P TEL. CO. executive George Brown still at his Mondawmin offices but has a new title. He's one of the big guns at C and P. They won't let him slow down although he is improving from a recent bout of illness.

OPENING NIGHT Aug. 1 at the Mechanic Theatre will see me on the front row, proud of my protege Damon Evans who I helped get started. How thoughtful of him to invite me to show and dinner. Also along will be Congressman Parren Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert (Betty) Gray.

JUST like a son to me, Damon is a real keepsake from a long time ago. He and his family are jewels. He has a suite at a downtown hotel which is a dream, living room, study and all that kind of fabulous living.

CONVENTIONS include the National Alliance of Postal Employees at Atlantic City's new International Hotel (the new gambling casino) Aug. 6-12, with Cong. P. J. Mitchell and Atlanta's Mayor Jackson main speakers. An estimated crowd of 8,000 is expected from across the nation.

JULY 30 - Aug. 3 in Washington, some 4,500 physicians will meet to make medical history on pronouncements about health care. Dr. Harold Ramsey of Baltimore is vice president.

LOCAL SIGMAS are in San Francisco's Hilton for their July 20 - Aug. 4 convention. They'll present the first James Weldon Johnson Award in honor of my Fisk U. prof who wrote "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Johnson told our class he intended this song to be the Negro national anthem with the last verse (God of our weary years) to be a prayer. All heads must be bowed as we sing.

DR. ARRIS ALLEN, the Republican running for J. Glenn Beall's lieutenant governor is set to "really put something on the Democrats" as the team seeks support for November. Talk about fire works. And, many a Demo might cross the line and jump on the physician's GOP wagon.

THE MURPHY Homes Ladies Club had lunch in Washington with Cong. Mitchell.

Guests were Hattie Turner, the program director and advisor, Rosemary Jones, Doris Hicks, Mary Johnson, Mary Jones, Goldie Phillips, Bertha Taylor, Hilda Gale, Edna Brown, Louise Wright, Rose Fleming, Janie Smith, Maxine Stephenson, Winifred Bingley, Emma Rice, Shirley Harris, Mildred Lofton, Emma Facon, Frenchsecia Coften, Laura Jackson, Coraine Harold, Annie Lee, Myra S. Jones, Tyreena Norris.

MORE LETTERS

Stick together

Dear AFRO:

These are a few words to my people. We as blacks are not sticking together like we should, because every man is for himself.

Like the Indians, they all stuck together in "The Longest Walk." Why can't we do more things like that for what we believe, instead of sitting home complaining.

I was so happy to see so many blacks helping the Indians, known as red brother, just as they call us their black brother.

The reason for this is we are closer to their culture then any other race there is. Look at Indian and African clothing, dance and the tribal customs.

Every black in the United States may have Indian blood in him so that's why they would rather be around us any day.

But remember during slavery they fought and died for us and now it is time we too help them.

Another thing, why don't we keep in contact with our African sisters and brothers. I listen to little children talking about them like they are jungle people.

They do this because the ignorant while man is trying to keep us from learning our original culture.

I would demand every school in the United States teach African history to us because our pride is dropping.

Why can't we start another party like the Nazis and the KKK? And go against them. The party we could only be for blacks, Indians, Puerto Ricans and Orientals.

So we have to show them we are not afraid of them," so you Blacks, Indians, Puerto Ricans, Orientals and Jews, we better start to get ready for the race war.

GLENN COLEMAN

Faith and prayer

Dear AFRO:

How can the Vice President and some of the Congressmen greet the wife of a Soviet (dissident) with so much warmth and understanding?

And the President promises freedom for West Berlin and at the same time denies the Indians their rights and freedom.

And (he does not) speak out for the injustices in the Wilmington 10 (case) and giving Joan Little more time for breaking and entering than a person gets for murder.

And then wanting Ambassador Andrew Young fired for speaking the truth.

Where is the justice in this U.S. system?

We know the white man makes the laws and he breaks them to suit his purpose.

But he is not greater than God.

So you had better start preaching to blacks to stop killing one another, to start loving, trusting, praying and really believing in God and ask for his help if we are to survive.

Greed, money and power seem to be the way of life.

But this can be turned around with faith and prayer.

MRS. LOTTIE B. HICKS

Killers running free

Dear AFRO:

I am writing concerning the unsolved murders that have taken place in the city of Baltimore.

It seem as if people forget about a person once they have been murdered and yet the killer (s) run free. It's like saying, well, what's the use, you don't see it anymore in the papers.

So they forget or stop showing concern.

Well, I am letting people know that I am still concerned about the unsolved murder of Antonio S. Vaga that took place more than a year ago.

Antonio S. Vaga still loved and missed by his friend Michael.
In memorium of the Antonio.

KILLERS RUN FREE

I wonder how it feels to kill and run free,
To kill someone's love so foolishly.
I wonder how it feels to shoot someone dead and leave them in the cold,
Not caring that the young life you took would never grow old.
I wonder how it feels to be a friend or next of kin, to set up someone to bring their life to an end.
I wonder these things and about the Killers running free,
I wonder because they took a love from me.

My belief is that I am sure that there are lots of people that killers running free has taken their loved ones and they feel it is no use to be concerned because it has been so long and no one has been caught, as of yet.

But if they speak or show more concern maybe the papers and the police force would also be more concerned and perhaps can do more.

Then maybe the killers would no longer run free.

MICHAEL SPRATT

Cherry Hill leadership

Dear AFRO:

I am a very concerned citizen who resides in the "beautiful black" community of Cherry Hill.

Cherry Hill is dying mentally, physically, spiritually. The community of Cherry Hill is dying to the extent that the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council will not take a stand as "leaders" in this community.

The community of Cherry Hill Coordinating Council will not take a stand as "leaders" in this community.

The community of Cherry Hill does not need a group of people who supposedly represent the needs and concerns of our community who in reality have turn their backs on the community.

The time is now for a "new" black progressive movement in the community of Cherry Hill.

Sheppard Burge is the president of the Cherry Hill Coordinating Council and since he is the "bigwheel" then the people of Cherry Hill should hold and "For Real" family affair meeting with the Sheppard Burge and his Coordinating council in the immediate future.

We need "professional" mentalities in our dying community. We do not need "ancient" leaders to use lip service instead of action service.

I am ready, willing, able to confront these "so called" leaders who are destroying our roots, pride, dignity and if you feel within your mind, body, soul, these same feelings then Lets clean up our community.

MRS. CARLEEN MORGAN

Thanks, kids

DEAR AFRO:

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Maryland Chapter, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, to thank all those children from the Baltimore County Public Schools and the Archdiocese of Baltimore Parochial Schools, along with their parents, teachers and sponsors who made the Spring 1978 Multiple Sclerosis READ - A - THON such as tremendous success.

Through their participation and support, they raised over $53,000 for Multiple Sclerosis research both nationally and here at The Johns Hopkins University, and patient service both nationally here in Maryland.

Not only were the students, known as "Mystery Sleuths," helping to solve the Mystery of Multiple Sclerosis, they were also helping themselves by reading over 49,000 books.

Though we cannot thank everyone individually who helped to make the Multiple Sclerosis READ - A - THON such as success, I hope that through this letter they will know how much we appreciate all they have done.

BROOKS ROBINSON,
Multiple Sclerosis READ - a - Thon chairman,
Maryland Chapter,
National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Blessing in disguise

Dear AFRO:

Christ's death upon the cross was in behalf of humanity. They thought they were getting rid of Christ but no, they only exalted Christ more in the eyes of the world and His power over death and the grave.

They did the world a favor and didn't know it.

The same is true of Joseph. His brothers, because of hate, sold him to some travelers. Later, a famine struck the land of Joseph's family.

They went to another seeking substance. And it happened that Joseph had become the overseer of a rich man's possessions. Where they went Joseph Helped them and said, "You thought you did me bad, but God meant it for good."

When they brought the slaves from Africa the slave owners had no idea what meant to the slaves — liberty and political esteem throughout the world, on par with people of other nations.

Yes, God uses the weak to confound the strong and the foolish to confound the wise.

ALBERT TAYLOR

Support Andrew Young

Dear AFRO:

The first Afro - American to ever hold the position of Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, made a statement about the political prisoners held here in America.

Because of this statement Ambassador Young was asked by many to resign. Even some of our honorable congressmen threatened to start impeachment procedures against Ambassador Young if he did not turn in his resignation.

Keep in mind that Congress was not going to impeach Ambassador Young because his statement was false — no! they were angry because an Afro - American spoke out against America's unjust system.

Afro - Americans must begin realizing the necessity for unity.

We've got to let America, especially Caucasian America, know that as long as Ambassador Young and other Bilalian leaders are committed to truth, justice, liberty and peace, the support from Afro - America will grow to 100 percent.

KENNETH RAGIN

AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured:

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

The AFRO-AMERICAN must become a bi-weekly, then a tri-weekly and eventually, when advertising warrants, a daily.

It has always had a loyal constituency, who believe it honest, decent and progressive. It is that kind of newspaper now and I hope it never changes.

From the Dec. 25, 1920 papers of JOHN H. MURPHY SR., founder of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, Aug. 13, 1892.