OPINION

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Bay resignations

Several weeks ago when the full extent of the financial woes and mismanagement rampant at Bay College came to the surface, we said that the ruling body of Bay must be held accountable for anything untoward that happened to this institution.

We recommended that the board of trustees of Bay either roll up its collective sleeves and begin the business of restoring this needed institution or resign in favor of others who were willing to try a rescue operation take command.

Last week Sidney Kaplan, chairman of the Bay board, William L. Adams and Allen Quille, trustees, offered their resignations.

That these three astute businessmen have thrown in the towel have prompted no tears, not from us anyway.

We just hope the remaining trustees: Del. Larry Young, Quentin Lawson, City Councilman Thomas Waxter, Judge Robert Watts and Dr. James A. Priest hang in there and do what must be done.

As to Mr. Kaplan and his two friends, it is just as well that they leave the resurrection of Bay to others.

White re-entry

An ethnic battle raging just below the surface here in Baltimore and in other large cities has to do with the return of the white middle class to the central city.

Some black leaders deplore this development saying that the re-invasion of white families into rehabbed black areas will affect the political gains we have made in the last decade.

Others feel that when whites fled the increasingly black cities they forfeited this turf once and for all. If the central cities are revitalized then it is the black folk who now live there who should benefit.

Still others find the return of affluent whites to the city nothing to worry about since this population, with that since the city provides them with their incomes they should return and carry a substantial part of the municipal tax load.

There are cogent elements in all of these perceptions. What now must begin, it seems to us, is some sort of focused dialogue between those whites willing to return to majority - black areas and the present political and other leadership in these areas.

Additionally blacks are going to have to take a hard look at the financing of city governments.

We cannot have everything, obviously. City services will decrease until new revenues in the form of tax and retail revenues can sustain them.

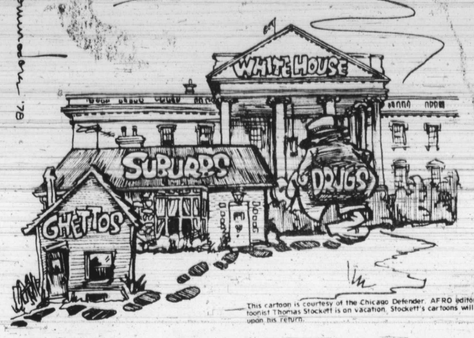
With a 40 percent unemployment rate among our unemployed young people it is apparent that this group is hardly able to finance the sky-rocketing costs of government.

On the other hand if the city fathers could somehow use their collective minds and resources to significantly impact on this jobless rate then a goodly number of central city residents could then assume their share of the responsibility.

In the meantime we must all think very carefully about the return of white families. It is more a question of how a city gets money to be a city than the simplistic argument of who lives next door to you.

We understand the political danger in blacks relocating and dispersing their political strength.

From what we have heard in muffled tones from our leaders thus far this shifting population issue, political redistricting and municipal tax burdens are going to be a part of our rhetoric and programs in the very near future.



This cartoon is courtesy of the Chicago Defender. AFRO editorial cartoonist Thomas Stockett is on vacation. Stockett's cartoons will resume, upon his return.

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy

The amen corner ain't enough!

When Ambassador Andrew Young decided to tell it like it is about political prisoners in the United States, while the United States was clucking over the so-called human rights violation of the USSR, blacks knowingly agreed.

(But the amen corner ain't enough!)

And though we can recount the history of our long suffering persecution in the United States, with Jackson State, Medgar Evers, Angela Davis, the Wilmington 10, the Scottsboro boys, Emmett Till, Eldridge Cleaver, the Black Panther Party, Rap Brown, ad infinitum, we cannot forget the Chicago 7, Kent State, the Berrigans, the plight of the American Indians, nor numerous other instances like the Rosenbergs, whose political beliefs and the prevailing order, caused their incarceration and meaningless deaths.

(But the amen corner ain't enough!)

Andy Young has been inundated with an overkill of lies, recriminations, threats of impeachment and hatred. President Jimmy Carter, showing his true allegiance has also rapped his knuckles to satisfy the power brokers in this country, who, watching inventories pile up; recession set in; depression at the door, would prefer healing up the cold war to destroy detente, and maker war rather than love.

(But the amen corner ain't enough!)

The sinister role played in this tragedy is the immense pressure a small minority in this country brings to bear to inflate the problem of Soviety Jewry, while it squeezes our tax dollars to support Israel in a dangerously precipitous confrontation in the Middle East.

(But the amen corner ain't enough!)

And if one were to examine human rights in Israel, one would also have cause to protest the mistreatment of Arabs, Yemenites, black jews and Palestinians as well as the Israeli leftists who fear a fascist regime.

Further, the demite between Israel and South Africa should reinforce our understanding of Israeli leftists' fears.

(But the amen corner ain't enough!)

Yet even as we look at global alliances, balancing the power toward further imperialism, exploitation and manipulation of black Africa, we cannot help but wonder here at home, how the abuses in human rights towards blacks and other minorities will be obliterated.

(But the amen corner ain't enough!)

Because the American glass house, vulnerable to the stones of accusation from other countries, particularly the Soviets, reveals all too clearly: poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, exorbitant rents, fuel, food, clothing price hikes, as well as utilities anxious, despite their quasi public nature, to bilk and squeeze the shrinking purse dry.

(But the amen corner ain't enough!)

Add to that not only the income disparities between black males and white males, but also the racist determination of Stubborn city officials to continue the freeze on upper level employment of blacks. Baltimore is notorious in this stubborn resolve to keep housing, manpower and all sensitive areas of top management lily-white. (But the amen corner ain't enough!)

For in this year and the next, when we vote for state and city representatives, respectively, we should comb their records, review the quality of their leadership, and make them account for this snail's pace in bringing about a better life for us.

Concern about human rights in all its ramifications should actually make us more selective, more diligent in choosing and electing the best candidates for these offices.

Too many of those who represent us are merely "shuckin' and jivin," spending the first two years in office being patsies and yes-men; the second half of their terms covering their derrieres to run again.

This kind of genocidal shuffling will continue for as long as the electorate — you — looks the other way, discoing, partying, being lazy and gullible, unwilling to study the issues, to make their representatives accountable, to lobby resolutely for the changes that are crying to be accomplished, and supporting with time, talent and money, those who'll do the job.

In truth, People (usually) get the government they deserve.

The amen corner may feel good, but action and involvement does a helluva lot more.

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL

A Cabinet-level Department of Education

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

It is contemplated that, within the next two months, Congress will be considering a plan to consolidate the federal government's widely dispersed education programs into a new Cabinet-level Department of Education.

This department is to contain, amongst many other activities, the Head Start program.

Several pieces of legislation that would establish this department are currently pending before the Congress: House Bills 12236 and 13343 have been referred to the House Committee on Government Operation's — Legislation and National Security Subcommittee; to date, no further action has been reported on H.R. 12236; however, hearings are currently being conducted on Congressman Jack Brooks' H.R. 13343.

I have joined with the members of the Congressional Black Caucus in expressing opposition to the proposed Brooks Bill — the Department of Education and, especially, the inclusion of Head Start within its structure. While many have understood and joined our expressions of concern, still others are wondering why we have taken such a position on this issue.

First of all, it is my feeling that the educatory process is intertwoven with other matters of social concern. When one speaks of educating our children, one is addressing such matters as adequate nutrition, the sufficiency and efficiency of health services delivery; counseling; and, many other social - welfare pursuits.

The creation of a Cabinet - level Department of Education would result in a more fragmented approach to educational policy - making at the federal level with regard to the many interrelated social needs that impact on education.

Further fragmentation may result when the various education programs within the new agency fight against one another for funds.

With respect to the inclusion of the Head Start Program in the Department of Education, my constituent mail indicates a general opposition to this effort. The Head Start program currently serves approximately 400,000 disadvantaged pre - schoolers of all races, in urban and rural areas alike.

Since its beginning in 1965, as part of the Great Society and anti-poverty programs, Head Start has functioned and continues to function as a comprehensive, family - oriented program, providing a model for active parent and community involvement in the learning and growing processes of children.

The inclusion of the Head Start program in a separate Department of Education would inevitably place the control of the program in the hands of public schools. Parental involvement, one of the most essential elements of the existing program, would be very difficult, if not impossible, in many school systems where authority rests in a school board and administration which is generally far removed from individual schools and from parents.

In addition, it has been previously cited that many school systems have not been committed to targeting programs to children who need them most.

Finally, the additional responsibility that the Head Start program would bring to the public schools could result in gross neglect of our most vulnerable children — those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. For these and other reasons, public school control of all Head Start programs has been negatively viewed by many child development experts, parents and civil rights groups.

We must not forget that to this nation's poor and minority communities, Head Start is a very special program. It is the single federal program that seeks to provide comprehensive quality services to needy children at reasonable costs.

Head Start, however, has certainly had its share of confrontations. For several years, many poor and minority communities have successfully resisted attempts to divest them of this program.

It is quite ironic that a Democratic administration would even think of transferring control of Head Start programs from community to a federal agency responsible for education.

It is my feeling that in all probability there will be the establishment of a Cabinet - level Department of Education within the next five years. However, with the continued opposition that has been so strongly exhibited from concerned individuals, the proposal to place the Head Start program within this department may be eliminated. I will continue to oppose both efforts.

LETTERS

Kudos to GATE

Our kudos to the parents of Baltimore and to the Board of School Commissioners for making it possible for the program for gifted children to be continued.

Ever so often it is good to remember that our extra - talented children are important to the nation's future.

Ever so often, we must remember that, while it is necessary to serve the needs of the Johnnies who cannot read, it is also important that we do not penalize the Johnnies who can read (and who can master mathematics).

When we hold back, depress or deflate those who are blessed with superior talents, we are committing a sin. All children (all people) should be permitted to develop, rise and achieve at, and to, their highest potential.

It all begins with parents. They must encourage all their children. They must watch for those children with special plusses. They must seek the help of counsellors and other experts to identify those who may have special talents.

"On the other hand, they must not resort to "Shut Up Your Mouth," or "Don't Do That," or "Keep Still" to those boys and girls who are barely inquiring, curious, investigative and inventive. An overactive or precocious child may be a gifted child; a "well - behaved" child who "never gives us any trouble," may be retarded.

While the average people of the world supply the bulk of its manpower and brains, it is the extra - bright and gifted that we must look for the great inventions, for the scientific breakthroughs, the development of novel ideas, and for the discovery of new worlds.

The spectrum of the gifted, in Baltimore and elsewhere, shows young people of all races, colors and religious and economic backgrounds. Baltimore is to be congratulated for having saved its "Gifted and Talented Education" project — more popularly called the GATE program.

We will not tolerate hatred

Dear AFRO:

In Canada it is against the law for Nazis to exist. Nazis breed hate and the Canadian law provides that the act of inciting hatred is a crime, thus preserving human dignities and rights.

The California state senate passed a bill recently by a 21 to 15 vote prohibiting the wearing of a Nazi uniform in a public place when wearing one is likely to cause a disturbance. The bill fixed a $250 fine and a jail sentence for violations which include a swastika as part of the uniform. The bill was handed over to the state assembly for further action.

The state of New York and the country of West Germany have already outlawed wearing the Nazi uniform in public places.

"If there is one thing we National Socialists (Nazi) are not, it is egualitarians — particularly with respect to race. National Socialism firmly rejects all notions of human equality.

"What we do support is the idea of a united stand by the white peoples of America, Europe, Australia and South Africa against the rising tide of colored subhumanity organized and led by Jewish Bolsheviks." — Matt Koehl, commander World Union of National Socialists (Nazi).

"The goal of National Socialism is and always will be to insure that this world is peopled, not with more Negroid degenerates, but with human beings who increasingly approximate the lordly ideal expressed in the ancient Nordic sagas by the gods and goddesses of Valhalla." — Commander George Lincoln Rockwell.

The Nazi quotes were taken from the June 1978 issue of White Power, the Revolutionary Voice of National Socialism (Nazism) delivered without permission to the home of a Jewish family in Oxon Hill, Md.

In reference to the NBC spring showing of "Holocaust," the paper stated: "School children especially were the targets of this effort to brainwash the white people of the targets of this effort to brainwash the white people of the United United States into believing that the European Nat[illegible] Socialists gassed six million innocent Jews during the World War II. Nazis protested the NBC showing of "Holocaust" in Los Angeles, Florida, Milwaukee, Chicago and Washington, D.C., carrying signs, some of which were: "The Holocaust is a Hoax," "Six million Lies," KSTP Pushes Jews Lies," KSTP is an NBC affiliate.

A "special unit" of the Ku Klux Klan was formed in Baltimore, Md., about seven months ago "with the purpose of engaging in illegal, violent acts" that would be aimed primarily at certain religious groups and prominent black politicians.

A synagogue in Woodmoor (Baltimore County) and Rep. Parren Mitchell's home were proposed targets of this group.

The preceding quote was by Bill Clark, a Maryland State Police spokesman.

The KKK wants to send all blacks to Africa and all Jews to Israel.

How long do we, as people — white, black, red, yellow, Jewish, or gentile, have to be forced to allow this intolerable hatred to go on?

Are Canada and West Germany better countries because they consider the feelings of all its citizens? New York first — the other 49 states and the District of Columbia to quickly follow!!

We will NOT tolerate hatred for Americans by other Americans! Now is the time to act!

This being an election year, let's push to have new legislation passed prohibiting the act of inciting hatred.

Nazism and the KKK both stand for hatred — Let's eradicate hatred in the UNITED States of America NOW !!!

MRS. NADINE SIAMON YOCHELSON

Give Young a medal

Dear AFRO:

Recently, United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young was quoted as having made what some political forces profess to be derogatory statements in reference to political prisoners in the United States.

We are not only political prisoners and tools but economical instruments as well whose misfortunes fatten many pockets at the tax payers' expense.

So we as a people flutter back yards of international essence but fail to peep into our own problems here. A more perfect example of this misfit aspect is the constitutional violation that is being performed against Young.

Whatever happened to the Constitution of the United States?.

Amendment 1 states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; of the right of the people to assemble peaceably and to petititon the government for a redress of grievances."

There are many "stars" in a lot of crowns for criminal convictions that were made only for the sake of keeping locks on someone's job.

The United States does have a high crime rate — white collar and blue collar — and somewhere behind the doors that will be opened people are going to find out the difference between the cola and the un - cola.

Now if you don't deem this as being political, then we are all in big trouble and we need to strengthen our insight, bearing in mind that when we point our finger, the thumb of that same hand points right back at us.

Young should receive a medal for above and beyond his duties, far being just plain human.

ELVIN JACKSON

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

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.

CURRENT COMMENT

NOW AND THEN G. JAMES FLEMING

By G. James Fleming

Requesting a conference

It is not too difficult to line up beside the NAACP, in asking President Carter to call a White House conference on affirmative action.

Such a conference would give the different sectors of the national community opportunity to air, not only their views and emotions, but also to provide the hard evidence available to date, on what affirmative action has really meant and achieved, or failed to achieve. This conference might also put on the record the conditions and circumstances which brought affirmative action into being.

From the point of view of prestige and status, a White House conference would say to all the people that the highest level of government, and the highest representation of the nation, consider affirmative action of topmost importance and concern.

If such a White House conference is mounted with honesty and seriousness, amply financed, and with invitations to discussants and leaders from the world of practical affairs, industry, government and politics, and the social sciences and philosophy, the results should be most clarifying and rewarding.

The nation did not take the problems of children of the aged, and of the handicapped seriously, and legislators were not easily moved, until these areas were highlighted by a series of White House conferences. Affirmative action needs this kind of letting in of the light.

The printed report which should follow such a conference will be useful as an aid in separating fact from fiction. Such a report will be a reference book of unique value.

A people who have become the world's foremost champion of "human rights" should not wince at supporting, monetarily and by way of policy, a national conference on affirmative action.

The proposed conference on affirmative action should not be hurried. There should be time for a competent staff to be assembled; for research papers to be commissioned or discovered; and for conferees to be apportioned, to permit fair representation.

The conference budget should be provided by government. In this way, no one interested group can buy its way into the conference leadership, or have undue influence.

There should be a committee or commission at the head of the conference to which the staff will be responsible.

Indeed, these details are not necessary here. The government has ample experience in conducting such conferences.

Until such a White House conference is called, or whether such a conference is called or not, the major organizations interested in fair employment practices, in equal educational opportunity, in non-discriminatory practices in public accommodation, and related areas, should be doing their own homework — gathering facts and figures, uncovering "experts" in different fields, mastering precedents, and studying the opposition and its arguments, known and projected. There is much more that can and should be done.

The recent Bakke decision is only the tip of the iceberg. Its full legal ramifications are ahead — years ahead. Those concerned, including universities and colleges, must anticipate future cases and structure the advance machinery (mostly brains) in order to be ready for each challenge.

MAINSTREAM: MARION BANFIELD

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

Black women and welfare

This column is a response to Karl S. Crosby's letter to the editor in the July 29 edition of the AFRO.

First, Mr. Crosby needs to understand that I work in Family and Children's Society which is a private agency not geared to financial assistance. Persons come to my agency who have a desire to use professional help in solving their personal problems.

There are women such as Mr. Crosby describes. I have met some of them. There are the unemployables — women whose childhood robbed them of the self - esteem and emotional stability necessary to function as an efficient employee. They cannot get organized enough to even get out of bed at a scheduled time.

Why shouldn't they try the lottery? The rest of us squeeze out a few pennies hoping for luck. The welfare woman is far needier of cash than most of us.

With our lack of education about human sexuality and biological science, it's a wonder there aren't more unplanned pregnancies. Some females are so ignorant, have so little self - pride and understanding, are so emotionally warped that they add significantly to the population of poverty and anger.

I once had a married couple as clients who were an extreme example of warped emotions. The husband was an unstable man who had survived in the streets since age 10.

His parents hadn't married and neither wanted him. His grandmother was a boozing alcoholic.

This man, at 18, married a woman whose mother was retarded and whose father was an alcoholic. Welfare grants kept the 10 children of this couple alive. No one could persuade this emotionally unstable woman to limit her family. Logically, she knows that her children suffered. However, the only time she felt like a woman was when a baby was inside of her.

Our society does not force sterilization.

Traditionally, unemployment and under - employment are chronic plagues of black communities. The working public does not know employment facts. I suspect that many of us accept invite single women refusing jobs.

I know well the women who would use their skills, who would gladly work if there were decent daycare programs for their school - age children.

I take it for granted that Mr. Crosby is so familiar with the lack of facilities for pre- school children, that I don't have to go into details. I would like to emphasize the burden of young mothers trying to attend local colleges with no one to care for their babies. College grants and welfare grants just do not allow money for a baby sitter.

The unloved child who grows up to be the woman seeking a man or a baby to fill her emptiness is a tragedy with no barriers of race, religion, class, age or income.

Welfare grants are society's meager way of helping us to survive in this complicated culture. We do not allow people to sleep in the streets, or to die of starvation in our gutters. We do not withhold meager survival as punishment for offenses to our customs and morals.

Furthermore, many fine, self - respecting intelligent women have survived on welfare grants temporarily.

Black women need education to understand themselves and this society so there will be fewer of the self - destructive females described by a man who has much to learn.

And, as I said before, "I have never met a woman who was happily satisfied living on public welfare."

FOR ALL WE KNOW ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

A SLAVE restaurant in Washington is making a millionare of the owner who serves chitterlings, hog maws, Southern fried chicken, pigs feet and ribs. Persons of all races swarm in to enjoy the service of slave waiters who set the atmosphere.

RECENTLY, we hear, a replica of a church was found in an old safe of rare wood lined with velvet. The work of art, worth thousands, has pear-shaped diamonds, emeralds, silver, platinum and gold, all the property of a black eastside congregation.

OUR LONGTIME PET, Mrs. Mamie F. Spriggs, became 93 years old July 23 and her Metropolitan Methodist Church sang her late husband's favorite hymn in her honor. She was there as she is every Sunday.

She and Mr. Spriggs were wed nearly 60 years and had lived in the same Woodyear St., home nearly 60 years when he died. On their 50th Anniversary they received the AFRO's highest award as the town's First Family.

MRS. SPRIGGS has many grands and great grands among whom is Joseph Leon Clayton, at one time driver of the No. 8 street car, the longest such line in the world which stretched from Towson to Betty and Paul's spacious home, 4401 Forest Park Ave. The gracious couple has entertained other governors and many famous folk in the past and as always, the affairs are super.

MR. LOUISE YOUNG and Mrs. William (Maurice) Toadvine are candidates for Maryland's best dressed ladies. Both wear fabulous frocks and always look smart.

THE WEDDING of the season is set for Aug. 12 when Evelyn Christian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Stokes and Gary Lamont Burke son of Police Sgt. and Mrs. William A. Burke exchange vows at First Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2209 Park Ave.

The reception follows at the Masonic Temple, 1307 Eutaw Place. The couple met at Babson College, Wellesley, Mass. Bridegroom is an accountant with Coopers and Lybrand and transfers this week here from their Boston firm.

THE RECENT retirement party for Sgt. Burke saw the entire family present with members of his Community Relations Division as hosts. Among the co - workers were Lt. Ed Tilghman, Sgt. Marian Crawford, Agent Godwin DeLilly, Lt. Col. James Watkins, Specialist Clarice Brooks, Sr. Clerk Mary Cameron and Administrative Assistant Vera Smith.

Sgt. Burke was head of the department four years, had 28 years service. He was once on the Narco Squad and replaced Bishop Robinson who went on to Education and Training and is now deputy commissioner. Burke was also a Homicide Detective 16 years when he and Furrie Cousins were the crack team.

LOIS TYUS, widow of the NAACP's Randall Tyus, writes good wishes from Hong Kong and a world tour.

ELAINE DAVIS and Raymond Simmons are the smiling personalities at the Quiet Storm Tavern at No. 4 N. Liberty St. Stop in there for lunch and good food or loads of fun at the bar evenings. It's a swell spot near the Civic Center and all downtown hotels.

SISTER REGINALD of the Oblate Sisters of Providence is in New Orleans and Biloxi, Miss. to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gerdes and brother who is the law partner of former Mayor Moon Landrieu. She's the OSP historian.

DON'T FORGET Family Day Sunday on the grounds of Bishop Monroe Saunders' grand campus of the former Samuel Ready School on Rte. 40. Thousands are expected for the all - day picnic and services at 6 p.m.

AFRAM this weekend at the Inner Harbor expects one million persons like the Italian Festival last weekend. Aug. 13 is the German Festival when President Carter will arrive to witness the raising of the first flag in Human Rights, all scheduled to take place in the area of Ken Wilson's Marina at the Inner Harbor.

BAPTIST's favorite lady, Mrs. Helen Benton, will be honored by the Women's Convention Aug. 16. Mrs. Betty Johnson, the gracious secretary to Rev. W. W. Payne, is banquet chairman. Mrs. Benton, also a Masonic Lodge official many, many years, is active in city and Baptist affairs as well.

LT. COL. JAMES WATKINS is to be honored Aug. 26 at an affair in Glen Burnie. Rev. Samuel Belton, Herb Brown and Raymond Haysbert are on the fund raiser committee. All Baltimore will be there at Bill Dodson's.

NOTICE how the town's streets are aglow with flowers and illuminations while steps? That's because Ida Peters and Arnetta Lottier have listed over 10,000 youngsters for the AFRO's Award Winning Clean Block Campaign, the only one of its kind in the nation. Are you helping?

LAWRENCE Parker's Anniversary Show of Stars benefit for the United Negro College Fund kicks off tonight (Friday) at the Inner Harbor Marina at 7:00 p.m.

Many local celebrities will be on hand along with a fantastic fashion show and live entertainment.

The kick - off is the first in a series of events that leads to the "Big One" Jan. 28, 1979 at the Baltimore Civic Center. More about that later.

MORE LETTERS

Praise for Dr. Carter

On Sunday, July 30, we witnessed one of the greatest feats in this century when Dr. Harold A. Carter and the New Shiloh Baptist Church led the city in a crusade "Calling Baltimore to Jesus Christ." There are more lessons to be learned from this event than appear on the surface.

First, it teaches us that people are still hungry for good news in bad times, and that people still have a deep need for that which is spiritual.

It also points out that the black preachers are still the real leaders in the black community.

The thing that made this service such a blessing was it was not a thing to glorify man nor any personality; it was done for the glory of God by a church and their pastor who are determined to live with Christ.

I think it should teach our black political leaders a great lesson also. It should show them that our people are sick and tired of "ego trips" and are now asking for production.

If one calls himself a leader and cannot produce the things that give men dignity then he should get out of the race and pool all of his energies behind whoever is best able to serve in the best interest of black people at this time.

I think the clergy of Baltimore by their support and good job in this direction on Sunday when with the help of many good citizens we said to Dr. and Mrs. Carter, their children and the church family that we think you are doing a good job and we love you.

No matter what others may say, the clergy and church are still the most together group in this town of ours.

DR. A. C. D. VAUGHN

Cherry Hill resident praises Madeline Murphy

Dear AFRO:

I give Mrs. Madeline Murphy all A's. She told it like it is.

I could write a book about Cherry Hill — from 1917 when the street car went under the Hanover Street Bridge to old Shadyside Park.

I got robbed walking from the Park up to Jenkins, just about two blocks. Three men, one white, two blacks took my hat and watch and my lady friend's handbag.

They tried to walk me out in the woods — but I tripped one of them and he fell down. Then I kicked him real hard.

I was younger and strong. I played baseball with the Black Sox Club.

So Cherry Hill has fine people, nice churches and schools.

Rev. Willard Saunders has a very fine church, Christ Temple, started from scratch.

It's a wonder those who criticize can't see the good in Cherry Hill.

Keep up the good work, Mrs. Murphy.

ELDER RILEY M. DAVIS

Suggestions for AFRAM

Dear AFRO:

I hope that the promoters of this year's AFRAM will do more to enhance our race than they have done in the past. I am sure they are aware of the fact that blacks can do more than sing and dance in the streets.

Why can't AFRAM promoters highlight some of the contributions black Americans have made to make this country free and prosperous?

They should highlight the fact that blacks have fought and died for this country in every war from the Civil War to Vietnam. Let it be known that the first person to die for American independence was a black man by the name of Crispus Attucks.

Furthermore, I think that large pictures of some of our "great" black Americans with a short biographical sketch indicating the role they have played in helping America to be what it is today, should be on display at the AFRAM Festival.

TROY BRAILEY
Delegate 40th District

ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY LESLIE KING HAMMOND

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

Recent shows and new galleries

Art exhibitions in the summer tend to be not as exciting or even important simply because the Fall and Spring shows are considered to be prime time in the art world.

But then, this is Baltimore and we are black folks and we have our own time to keep.

One of the strongest and most impressive exhibitions of the season is a one-man showing of acrylic paintings and drawings by Van D. Woodson. The show is installed in the new Gallery 409, located at 409 Charles St. and sponsored by the Urban Services Agency.

The works reflect roughly seven years of work and provide the viewer with a fine opportunity to review the work of a young painter in the early years of his painting career.

Woodson's initial focus is to use the figure as a point of reference from which he uses several methods of expression.

In his own words he describes "these paintings — abstract, naturalistic, sometimes quite real and other times imaginary — have been created over a period of seven years. They are whole within themselves yet their differences are apparent one to another."

The strongest pieces in the show are the paintings completed in 1977 and 1978. The figures show a greater strength of drawing skills and an exciting use of color.

Most of the compositions place the figure boldly in front of the viewer, filling the picture plan. Particularly outstanding are pieces such as "The Graduate," "Dark Princess," and "Midea" which rely heavily on the strong contrast between the figure and the background.

Of exceptional note is the artist's "Self Portrait" which projects confidence and conviction of purpose both in the person and the medium.

Gallery 409 is a unique, bold step for Norman Ross, director of the Cultural Arts Program of the Urban Services Agency.

The newly renovated Charles Street building is exciting for its potential and immediate contribution to the artistic community. The space, which includes small lecture-concert halls on the first and second floor, also has facilities for dressing rooms, piano rooms for lessons and practice plus a large first floor exhibition space for art works.

The only flaw is in the installation of the panels' chrome supporting poles in the main, front room gallery. The very slick and professional design of the rest of the structure makes this room look like a public school exhibit space. A better solution could have been found for such a high class operation.

Gallery is closed on Mondays and open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 6 p.m.

Just up the street at 634 N. Charles another small exhibition of works can be found at the recently opened Green Earth Cafe. While this is not a traditional exhibition space a showing entitled "Natural-Visual-Creations" has been installed in this tastefully designed interior. The works include prints, drawings and watercolors by Camille Blackwell, Janis Cromwell and Roy Harris.

One of the nicest things about this show is that the works are prices in an affordable range from $25 to $250. This exhibition, which opened on July 5 will continue through Aug. 20.

For those of you who have never had the pleasure of eating at the Green Earth Cafe, you're in for a double treat. The hours of the Cafe are Mondays, 11 a.m. - to 9 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The summer activities continue with the opening of another new black gallery, Kromah Gallery opens this Sunday, Aug. 6 from 2 to 9 p.m., with an exhibition of multi-media art works and a plant party.

The exhibition will run until Aug. 31 and is located at 1203 Druid Hill Ave. For more information call 523-0282.

Don't forget AFRAM, the ultimate celebration of the black arts in Baltimore, this Friday and Saturday in the Inner Harbor. Hope to see you all there.

Any number can lose

Dear AFRO:

This is not a letter of prophesy, or wishful thinking — just a sure bet (seeing how Maryland is a state of betters) that one of Maryland's over - crowded prisons will be next in the news for a prison riot!

Local papers reported of a riot in Illinois prison, Pontiac Correctional Center which resulted in the stabbing deaths of three guards July 22.

What reason will Maryland officials offer when the "time comes"?

One thing is certain, it should NOT be due to overcrowding.

But if it is, the public should remember, Acting Gov. Lee was informed long ago about the over - crowding within the prisons.

As is the case with the lottery, small numbers win more often!

KEMRY HUGHES