Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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That Pettit wager

We find Anton Keating's offer to pay anyone who can prove A. Dwight Pettit's experience as a trial lawyer unamusing.

That Pettit is an able lawyer is self - evident. He enjoys the confidence of his fellow barristers and in fact is president of the city's black bar group.

Keating, also a candidate for the state's attorney's office with Pettit, probably felt the highly publicized bet was a good gimmick — calling attention to his trial experience as contrasted with Pettit's.

We think the issues underlying the states' attorney's post are too serious for horseplay and Keating's wager diverts some from those real issues.

Our sense is that the incumbent state's attorney has had a dismal record of service to our community and he has been less than vigorous in prosecuting law-breakers who menace the community being more politician than concerned prosecutor.

One of the things A. Dwight Pettit has going for him is precisely that he is young, bright and free from any of the past shadows that have unfortunately surrounded our local court and prosecutorial process.

If we were to wager on anything it would be that voters, black voters especially, would welcome new talent in the city's prosecutor's office.

School tests

The idea that close to half of our public school students flunked proficiency tests that were devised by our school system administrators mightily distresses us.

Superintendent Crew says he is not all that disappointed which prompts us to wonder just what strike - out rate would have upset him. Fifty percent? Eighty percent?

Be that as it may we ought to have some clearer sense from the School Board as to what the success rate for students should be.

We veer to the perhaps old - fashioned view that students should be prepared to their full intelligence and learning levels during their public school tenure.

No one test will indicate individual growth and development but proficiency in basic skills — reading, writing, comprehension — is measurable.

While we praise the school system for testing to find out how the students in its charge are doing in these basic areas what we now need to know is the realistic success rate school officials are aiming for.

One hundred percent is the ideal. Is it also the real goal?

New political voices

Historically this newspaper has most often been less than pleased with many of the politicians the very wise and always determined William L. Adams has chosen to embrace for one reason or another.

Our concern has always been whether the candidate embraced was of sufficient individual strength to not "yes" Mr. Adams every step of the way.

Now comes Western Ivey, an articulate challenger to the estimable Verda Welcome, who has forthrightly said that Mr. Adams' endorsement of his candidacy is fine with him, but that he intends to be his own man.

Ivey, no matter who is his backer, is coming on as an interesting candidate. He has interesting ideas about economic self - determination for the Park Heights community and deserves a hearing.

There are several newcomers, like Ivey, who are generating interest.

Our concern is that challengers and incumbents alike reach the AFRO readership.

Our counsel remains — listen carefully to all who would represent you. Whether they be a choice of an Adams or whomsoever. Listen, decide — then vote!

Remembering: Arthur G. Murphy Sr.

The new Arthur G. Murphy Sr. Youth Service Center was formally dedicated Friday, August 25, and its mission as Maryland's first community-based day treatment program for juvenile offenders marks it as fitting commemoration of the late legislator.

Art Murphy, by the example of his achievements as attorney, civil leader and public servant, served as a strong role model for young black and white Baltimoreans during his lifetime.

The shaping of young citizens into constructive citizens had always been a strong concern of Murphy. As politician and moving force in social reform within this state, Del. Murphy had become a leading advocate of community centered treatment for troubled youths.

The Center which will be housed at 1600 W. North Ave., is a permanent testament to the fight Del. Murphy waged on behalf of the youth who will receive its services.

We wish the program well and compliment the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for its initiatives in seeing that Arthur G. Murphy's work and legacy will be continually visible for all to see and benefit by.

Social Security

Thoughts of retirement and Social Security pass hand - in - hand through most people's minds. But, warns the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants, the wise worker will try to avoid total reliance on Social Security for his or her retirement needs.

As an example, the CPA Association points out that the maximum Social Security retirement benefit which a worker and spouse over 65 can draw under current rates is about $700 a month. But that's maximum, and it's rare.

Because benefits are tied to earnings, the CPAs explain, most retired couples actually receive substantially less than $700.

The national average, in fact, is only $433 — and that's for a couple, both of whom are drawing benefits. It should be apparent, therefore, that supplemental income is a necessity for most retired people.

Where can it come from?

If you're not covered by a company pension plan, the CPAs suggest that you consider building a retirement nest egg with an IRA (Individual Retirement Account) or a Keogh plan, with cash value life insurance, or with U.S. Savings Bonds.

The interest from Savings Bonds is exempt from state and local taxes, the CPAs point out, and federal income tax can be deferred until time of redemption.

If you decided on the IRA or Keogh route, remember that there is a 10 percent penalty imposed on funds withdrawn prematurely from either one (except, of course, in cases of death or total disability). In addition, the CPA Association notes, the money withdrawn becomes taxable income.

Therefore, the Maryland CPAs advise, make IRA and Keogh deposits only when they think you're reasonably confident won't be needed until the minimum withdrawal age of 59½.

Part - time employment can also help brighten one's retirement years, both psychologically and financially. This year, a person who is receiving Social Security benefits while working part - time will begin to lose benefits after his earnings exceed $4,000. Next year, the ceiling will rise to $4,500.

Another financial cushion for people over 65 is provided by Medicare. To avoid delay in acquiring Medicare protection, the Maryland CPAs advise people approaching 65 to apply for coverage at least two months before their sixty - fifth birthday. This measure, they say, is very important because many private health insurance policies automatically reduce or terminate coverage when a policyholder becomes 65. Furthermore, the CPAs advise, do not cancel a policy until you are sure Medicare coverage is, in fact, in effect.

Everyone who signs up for Medicare receives hospital coverage, which is funded through the Social Security withholding tax. But medical coverage, which helps pay doctors' bills, is not automatic.

The Maryland CPAs advise that if a Medicare subscriber chooses to receive medical coverage under Medicare, he or she must pay a monthly premium.

Currently, it's $8.20. Since the premium is deducted from Social Security checks, it's a relatively painless payment. Indeed, it's quite modest when compared to private insurance providing comparable coverage.

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy

The old expression, "Put your money where your mouth is" has real meaning when discussing President Jimmy Carter's attitude on human rights, especially as it relates to the United States and the recent criticism of Andrew Young's frank statement about political prisoners in the United States.

This came home recently as the result of a letter received from the Baltimore Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression. The letter speaks eloquently on the subject.

Addressed to President Carter it reads:

"We are writing to respectfully request an appointment with you to discuss a matter of the greatest urgency, the continued incarceration of the eight black workers known as 'the Wilmington 10.'

"As you know on Feb. 1, 1976, the Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. and nine co - workers entered North Carolina prisons. They were sentenced to a combined 282 years on alleged arson and conspiracy charges, growing out of their efforts for equal education on behalf of the black community of the town of Wilmington.

"(The facts of the case are by now well known to millions around the world and it would be presumptuous to restate them for you who, we are sure, are already familiar with them).

"A year after the defendants' incarceration, you came into office speaking of a new direction for our country, and a criminal justice system with the emphasis on 'justice.' We were therefore heartened with your pronouncements, upon assuming office, that support for human rights would be a hallmark of your Presidency. That was nearly a year and a half ago.

"Since then, every prosecution witness against the Wilmington 10 has recanted their trial testimony, telling both the state courts and a federal grand jury that their testimony had been induced by threats and bribery by state and federal officials.

"In addition, other witnesses have come forward who were at the time of trial intimidated by an atmosphere of terror, to say that the defendants were with them in their homes at the time of the alleged arson. These facts, together with defense allegations of some 2,600 trial errors constitute the basis of appeals which have been sitting in federal district court for 29 months without action.

"In addition, the Justice Department has told the public for 14 months that it is investigating the matter. Meanwhile, precious years of dedicated young lives are being lost, not to mention the terrible suffering endured by their devoted families.

"The Governor of North Carolina has abdicated his responsibility in the matter, the federal district court has declined to act in the case for more than two years, the Justice Department appears to be bogged down in its investigation.

"To this day, we have heard nothing from your office in support of the human rights of Rev. Chavis and his co - defendants.

"It is well and good to speak of the human rights of those in other lands but attention must be paid at least equally to those who suffer deprivation of those same rights in our own country. We now appeal to you to bring the moral weight of your office to bear to secure justice in this most important case.

"Scores of newspapers have editorialized for pardons or at least a new trial for the defendants. They have been joined in these appeals by virtually every major Protestant denomination, a number of important trade unions, more than a dozen city councils and the entire range of the civil rights leadership in our country.

"Around the world, heads of state, members of parliaments, prestigious international human rights organizations and church bodies have demonstrated such concern for the Wilmington 10 that a spokesman for the State Department has described the case as 'an embarrassment.'

"It is now past time to end the embarrassment. We ask you to speak out for human rights of the Wilmington 10 as you have done for those you have felt were persecuted in other lands.

"To use these persuasive powers would not violate any principles of federalism. We call upon you to urge a speedy conclusion with a firm deadline set, of the Justice Department investigation. We also ask that the Justice Department submit an amicus curiae brief in support of the defendants.

"Finally we eagerly await your response to our request that a representative delegation from our numbers be given an appointment in your busy schedule to discuss this most urgent matter with you.

Respectfully,"

We would do well to heed the call from the Alliance, by adding our names and our voices to this entreaty, as well as writing individual letters, (by the mail bag) to force President Jimmy Carter to "put his money where his mouth is."

For further information contact Baltimore Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, P.O. Box 7237, Baltimore, Md. 21218.

LETTERS

Insulting art exhibit

Dear AFRO:

As an Afro-American artist struggling for survival in a racist, corporate-art oriented society, I was shocked and dismayed the other day to discover an exhibit of Nazi art presented by the U.S. Army Ordinance Museum, Aberdeen, Md.

Touted as "German War Art of World War II," the exhibit consists of 24 paintings by Nazi artists glorifying Hitler's racist militarism.

The brochure for the exhibit stresses the paintings' "high monetary and high historical value" although Allied agreements reached at Potsdam, Germany in August of 1945 called for the confiscation or destruction of all items of art which might tend to revitalize the Nazi spirit or German militarism.

The brochure claims that the "Historical Division, U.S. Forces European Theater" decided to locate, seize and eventually exhibit the Nazi war art for "historical reasons."

Yet the brochure actually, upon further reading, is quick to reveal its pro - Nazi, white supremacist bias:

"The obviously propagandistic works, which do not represent the best efforts of the German war artists, have not been included in the exhibit. The paintings reveal, by the brilliance of their conception, artistry and color, the spirit of combat, the desolation and the tragedy of war."

These words, paintings and exhibits are an insult to any intelligent person, especially black artists.

The artistic level of the work is highly questionable, the content is pro-Nazi militarism and one can only wonder why our tax dollars are being spent to store, protect and exhibit the works of Nazi propaganda artists. (According to the brochure the exhibit is being made available for temporary loan to public and private organizations for exhibit!)

I have seen no exhibits by Jewish war victims of Nazi terror in Aberdeen or by black soldier artists, only these so-called "historical" Nazi paintings glorifying the Nazi cause.

Signalling a move towards the ultra-right KKK-style racism on the part of the U.S. Army command at Aberdeen, this exhibit must be viewed as alarming and a direct threat not only to the survival of Afro-American artists in this country, but to the survival of all black people.

Let's all remember Auschwitz and Selma, Ala.

JEREMY ROSS

Exercise political muscle

Dear AFRO:

Dwight Pettit needs strong support, both black and white, from Baltimore voters if he plans to successfully unseat the incumbent state's attorney William Swisher.

Machine politics helped to defeat Baltimore's first black state's attorney Milton B. Allen in 1974.

And every honest Baltimore citizen in 1974 saw the dirty slander and favoritism deals that were used to defeat Allen, put down by both political racketeering kingpins, the late James H. "Jack" Pollack and Irv Kovens and their gangs.

Even though Milton Allen was the most highly qualified candidate for re-election at the time, he still could not defeat the Pollack and Kovens machines even though he campaigned the hardest.

William Swisher has not done anything fabulous since taking office in 1974 and any candidate that is backed by a political boss needs to be defeated because he or she is the machine's candidate, not the public's.

Dwight Pettit is not backed by any political boss or machine. He is young with a good background in law and he wants to prove to Baltimore what he can do as a state's attorney if given the chancce.

The black voters here have a chance to prove that they have political muscle and there is such a thing as "black power" in Baltimore by voting wisely this September and defeating any candidate that is backed by a political boss or machine, starting with the Baltimore state's attorney's office.

KARL CROSBY

Appreciation

Dear AFRO:

May we take this opportunity to thank the AFRO for its contribution to the success of the "Miss Inner City Teen Pageant."

The July 23 Pageant proved to be most successful. The contestants were most appreciative for the opportunity given them, for it gave meaning and purpose to their lives.

The event created positive response from the Baltimore community and especially inner city youth. Great talent was discovered among our young people due to the presentation of the pageant.

We look toward a bright and exciting future for our youth. You are to be commended for playing a major role in helping to determine how successful the future will be.

CLEVELAND BRISTER,
executive director,
St. James Teen Centers

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.

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL

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

Legislative interests must be wide-ranging

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

The interest of blacks and the poor are not tied just to Civil Rights legislation, nor employment legislation, nor economic development laws.

Almost every single bill passed by the Congress impacts on the lives of blacks and the poor, negatively or positively, significantly or minimally.

For example, H.R. 13086, a bill to increase the number of Class C Directors of Federal Reserve Banks, if passed, will provide an opportunity to appoint black citizens to this all white male preserve.

A second illustration is found in H.R. 13087, a bill to authorize the issuance of substitute treasury checks. In the past when benefit checks were lost, stolen, defaced or mutilated, the payee had to indemnify the Treasury before a substitute check could be issued. That practice will end with the passage of this bill.

The following is my record of legislative participation during the period of June 12 through June 23, 1978:

Address—

Black Press, William O. Walker.

Bills and resolutions introduced:

American Nazi Party: denounce proposed march in Skokie, Ill., (see H. Con. Res. 649).

Bunche, Ralph J.: issue commemorative stamp in honor of, (see H.R. 13090).

Citizens of the U.S.: secure and protect rights, (see H.R. 13232).

Depository institutions: strengthen supervisory authority of federal agencies, (see H.R. 13088).

Energy source: require FTC to monitor industries which produce supplies from, (see H.R. 13116).

Federal Bank Examination Council: establish, (see H.R. 13088).

Federal Deposit Insurance Act: amend, (see H.R. 13088).

Federal Reserve Banks: increase number of class C directors, (see H.R. 13086, 13148).

Freedom of the press: protect, (see H.R. 13145, 13232).

FTC: require to monitor industries which produce supplies from energy sources, (see H.R. 13116).

International Emergency Economic Powers Act: issue regulations prohibiting investment in South Africa, (see H.R. 13273).

Medicare: benefits for total parenteral nutrition, (TPN) (see H.R. 13198).

National Brotherhood Day: designate, (see H. J. Res. 1018).

National Lupus Week: designate, (see H.J. Res. 973).

Postal Service: reduce rates for private individuals, (see H.R. 13244).

South Africa: issue regulations prohibiting investment, (see H.R. 13273).

Transportation: provide uniform standards for trucks carrying freight interstate, (see H.R. 13154).

Treasury checks: authorize issuance of substitute, (see H.R. 13087, 13122).

Remarks on:

Abortion: federal funds;

Affirmative action programs: quota systems;

Departments of Labor and HEW: making appropriations;

Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1978: enact;

Jenkins, Martin D.: eulogy;

Legislative branch: making appropriations;

Murphy, Arthur G.: eulogy and

Tennessee: mental hospital patient certified as candidate for governor.

Remarks in House relative to:

Congressional Record: revise and extend remarks, H5359, H5572, H5559, H5745.

Musical politics

Mayor Schaefer has announced plans for a musical festival to be held for Baltimore and has selected a steering committee to get cracking on the project.

The mayor's approach is political which is the only way he can go but we take this opportunity to point out to him that he is making the classic mistake of excluding the people responsible for jazz from the process.

CURRENT COMMENT

G. JAMES FLEMING

NOW AND THEN

International Year of the Child

By G. James Fleming

Next year is to be observed as "The International Year of the Child," to bring together the thousands and millions all over the world who are still concerned about children; who want to learn about them; who are interested in the conditions of their birth and their development.

There will undoubtedly be many other angles. Some, for instance, must be the problems of young mothers and poor mothers; the children of fatherless homes; and the health of young children, as seen by both people of medicine and other health experts.

Sponsored by the United Children's Funds and other organizations, "The Year of the Child" will not come too soon or too early. It will come at a time when, in the United States, there is increased evidence of brutalization of children, even babies, by parents and other adults, and when there is seeming escalation of pre - teen and teenage pregnancies. The situation may not be too different in other parts of the world.

A full year, given over to concern and study about children, should be more than "palaver." It should help us in the years following to take better care of children because we shall know more. The year should help us to be more responsible for our children — and other people's children.

One area that should not be overlooked is the education of the children of the masses. No one, anywhere in the world, will argue that we are doing a creditable job in this respect. The rich can pay for education they want for their children, but the middle - class are increasingly strapped financially. The poor are hamstrung by the deadhand of history, including the very inferior educational facilities available to their children.

Many people were not satisfied with the year devoted to the 200th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Just as many were critical of the International Women's Year. Here is an opportunity, out of these past experiences, to make "The Year of the Child" something extra - worthwhile, extra - productive, extra - excellent.

Those segments of the U.S. population which are playing a "catching up" game have a special challenge to us "The Year of the Child" for learning all they can about children, for improving family life, and for identifying the several kinds of agencies dedicated to children and ready to serve them.

Black families and black agencies should not wait for government or UNICEF to initiate all the ideas and all the programs. They should start to be part of the action; indeed, they should start the action.

Black colleges and universities have a special opportunity, in classrooms, institutes, and research laboratories to make a real contribution to "The Year of the Child."

Blacks are often at the tail's end of civic operations because they are too late getting mobilized; they wait on others to call the signals; they are more given to protest against the doors barred to them than to open doors themselves.

Certainly, a people who improved their health through sponsoring "Negro Health Week;" improved their education through "Go-to-High-School — Go-to-College-Week" and "Guide Right Week," and gave an early boost to blacks in business by "Better Negro Business Week," can get behind "The Year of the Child" — their own children, all children.

Nineteen - seventy - nine should also encourage paying honor to children in poetry, song and other forms of music. Can we not use a modern - day children's opera or symphony? What about a group of songs that even children may enjoy singing?

Just a beginning is this column — with best wishes and hopes for a running start in observing "The International Year of the Child."

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

In August, as summer wanes and turns the corner to autumn, men look inward towards the soul. Nature slows down, becomes silent.

It's a good time to read and think. It's almost September.

What does the horoscope say? Leo, the sign of the lion, ended Aug. 21.

Virgo extends from Aug. 22 through Sept. 23 and is the sign of work and service, the symbol of the farmer at harvest time. The threat of work is woven into the entire life of Virgo. All is devoted to the attainment of perfection and the ideal of self-mastery.

Virgo is the sign of health, the state of healthiness and healing the ills of the human being with natural temperate living.

It is humanitarian, pragmatic and scientific. As a lighthouse guides ships, so Virgo shines for mankind.

Predictions are ideal in luck, money, business, home and work.

Reading the news recently the more than 100 cardinals will be locked in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel to begin election of a Pope to succeed Paul VI. Shrouded in secrecy, they have no outside communication until they send white smoke up a small chimney.

Meantime the Catholic world has no leader.

This time the Pope must have long life expectancy and must be someone who can please all mankind in the 21st century when all things will be different.

By the way, the 21st century arrives Jan. 1, 2000 — 22 years from now.

That New Year's eve some will say it's the end of the world.

Celebrations will run from fear to insanity and suicide to events of great joy and expectation.

Fashions will change. What will it be like? Let your imagination go wild.

For now the t-shirt craze has gone to sweaters for cats and dogs at $4.95 plus tax.

Signed "Foxy Doggy" and "Chow Hound," the t-shirts are in red, white, navy, pink, green and powder blue.

Large women are blessed and chosen to be goddesses in a stringbean world. She never worries about girdles or calories.

She thinks big. Big is not only beautiful but healthy.

Skinny women think they are okey because of today's "think-thin trauma." They are on diets, look sad, listless and joyless.

Last but not least, pigs are high on the list of intelligent animals and if encouraged will listen with great appreciation to Mozart.

Another thing in the news — they are blaming everything on sex. Adventures outside the traditional are blamed for disrupting the sanctity of the family, city, state, church and nation and every institution human beings are trying to preserve.

They claim young people's experiments in living have brought them to become irreparable and catastrophic.

Back to home and family all mankind must ultimately fall. When wordly work is done, when the prizes have all been won, when the whole earthly game is completed, all must turn his eyes homeward.

The domestic scene reflects your inner condition. Whether chaotic and confused or calm and happy.

Your present moment in life is a direct result of all your past patterns, needs and desires. Advice is — if you are unsatisfactory, set about it to improve it. If you are happy with it, cement it and make it permanent.

A. Dwight Pettit's campaign platform

By A. Dwight Pettit

I BELIEVE in justice, equality and the rule of law. Our system of criminal justice, to be fair, must balance the interests of society and the individual.

But society must prescribe that all obey the law, and prosecute and punish those who do not. Vigorous and swift prosecution of criminals is imperative to protect society and its values. But our criminal justice system can only expect the respect and support of the people if prosecution for all crime is certain, fair and humane.

These principles serve as the goal of the State's Attorney if he is to make his contribution to criminal justice; if he is to have the respect and support of the people; if he is to carry out the mission of effectively prosecuting criminals, and of serving the interests of the people in law enforcement.

I am the peoples' candidate for State's Attorney because I cannot stand on the sidelines while these great principles of criminal justice continue to erode under the incompetent, mismanaged, and politically influenced administration of the present State's Attorney.

There has been hardly any prosecution of white collar crime. Major white collar crime investigations were dismissed, and no adequate unit has been created to attack the problem.

Our community has not been adequately protected from the recurrent crimes of serious criminals. Prosecutors are allowed to plea bargain the courthouse away and, consequently, criminals either do not go to prison long enough, or do not go at all.

Corrupt public officials are not being investigated and prosecuted. Narcotics flow through our community, ruining our youth and causing crime unimpeded because of ineffective prosecution.

My allegiance is to the people. I will manage an efficient prosecutor's office which will effectively combat crime. My administration will serve the interests of the people, restore the peoples' respect for our system of criminal justice, and make them confident that the community is really protected.

With my broad and diverse background — handling civil suits establishing national legal precedents; handling criminal cases in courts throughout Maryland and in federal courts throughout the country; managing a full staff of attorneys and support personnel in a major government agency — I can give the people a State's Attorney's office which will: prison long enough to safeguard the community.

— Recruit the most talented young lawyers to improve the quality of representation in prosecuting crime. Prosecutors will be hired solely on the basis of work product, qualifications and merit.

— Fight white collar crime by increasing white collar crime prosecutors and investigators by 500 percent, and instituting a policy of seeking stiff sentences for white collar criminals.

— Restrict the use of plea bargaining so that serious criminals are convicted and sent to prison long enough to sageUARD THE COMMUNITY.

— Investigate and prosecute corrupt public officials.

— Halt narcotics trafficking by instituting a strike force including the coordinated efforts of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Since I have no ties to big money, machines, or bosses, I will be an aggressive and independent chief prosecutor who will vigorously prosecute crime — all crime. My loyalties will be to no one but the people, and will be for no cause other than running the most efficient machinery to effectively combat crime.

If you believe as I do in the principles of our criminal justice system, in fairness and equal treatment under the law, in effective prosecution of all crime; if you want an office of qualified, full - time prosecutors, prosecution of white collar crime, restrictions in plea bargaining, prosecution of corruption, an effective assault on narcotics trafficking, then elect me as the next STATE'S Attorney for Baltimore city by pulling lever 18 - B in the September 12 primary election.

MAINSTREAM: MARION BANFIELD

Developing good human relations

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

Can prison serve as more than a place for punishment? Can there be any rehabilitation?

Those of us in the field of mental health would agree that the attitude of clients is fundamental toward any inner change.

We live in an era when technology has multiplied our knowledge, encroached on our culture and existence with tremendous implications.

Increasing also, is a growing awareness of the human potential for change, and for growth. A proliferation of self - help programs, including programs in prisons, are a positive indication of recognition that human behavior can change for better and more efficient functioning.

In Baltimore City Jail is a program called CASH (*Confined Addicts Seeking Help*). Addiction is not limited to drug abusers, but includes addiction to anti - social behavior. With the help of a psychologist prisoners have set up their own therapeutic community.

Only 35 men can participate in the program. There were seven juveniles when I visited. Their quarters looked immaculately clean and neat. They were conducting educational programs, including one on fractions. Above all, Delano Brooks and the other men I met spoke with pride and maturity.

"Our ultimate objective is to modify the behavior of inmates involved, to cause or create an atmosphere where inmates can develop a sense of belonging to something worthwhile."

That is a statement in a written program of this community.

It is encouraging to see that these young men are using their time more constructively in prison than they did outside those walls.

The statement continues, "We believe that in this type environment where trust, truth and honesty exist, an individual can develop the ability to love and grow into a mature worthwhile citizen upon his eventual release."

This statement certainly makes these men sound more normal than many of us have imagined male prisoners to be.

They take responsibility for their behavior as indicated as, "We have therapy groups which are specifically set up to deal with particular hostilities, frustrations, and generally to eradicate situations which develop in penal institutions."

They help inmates to change their self - destructive behavior.

Administration of the jail is consequently in a better position to concern itself with the welfare of inmates. This atmosphere of accepting responsibility for behavior change is evidence of society's development toward improving our relationship with each other.

If jails can develop good human relationship environments, certainly schools can make more of an effort in the area of inter - personal relationships.

Bad relationships interfere with children's learning.

Black Family Affair — poetry of imagery

By Peter Harris
Special to the AFRO

For the sake of the family
You gotta be the source in your own
That goes out and grows
And returns and restores
Each member to the whole

Copyright 1977, Melvin E. Brown

The third annual Black Family Affair was a poem. It knitted, a mosaic of aural, visual and spiritual images, which, in hindsight, taxes the descriptive power of words. It left participants — as they have come to expect — refreshed and tinged, resuscitated and ventilated.

For imaginative purposes, let us first picture Morgan University's McKeldin Center (site for the Aug. 20 event): futuristic design, perched atop a summit at mid-campus, seemingly (thank the ancestors for that elevated crosswalk) suspended in air.

A ship, for a journey into ourselves, which is often another land if we neglect our narrows in pursuit of more secular goodies.

Once off the earth, there was sharing: of talent first of all; the singing group Kalima was especially hospitable. But also of smiles and handshakes in greeting.

The BFA's warmth provided a perfect setting for the many many children among the capacity audience.

Appropriately, the seedling were everywhere — a testament to our collective decision to look forward, to hope. Any analysis of this affair — so respectful of life and the family as a guard of it — must note, indeed, must revel in the children.

There were quiet ones, loud ones, shy ones, bold ones. Brightly drinking the music, handclaps and uninhibited cries of affirmation and agreement exchanged by performers and audience.

Their presence was expected, in fact, mandatory for success of the entire day.

So when 2½-year-old Babatunde Morkinyo Pyne clamored onto the stage to assist the able musicians backing the Olufunmilayo Dancers, he was greeted enthusiastically by onlookers.

Emboldened, he grabbed a long, handmade, homemade reed instrument from its craftsman, Abu the Flutelayer, and blew a mean riff in a delightful spur-of-the-moment jam session.

Sunday was indeed set aside for innovation. For colors too, colors and more colors: jagged, flashing, bursting; and undoubtedly the royal Priestess of Hue was designer of Januwa.

Truly ner conceptions defy gravity.

Peacock headdresses crowning flowing gowns of green and oranges (it is hard to tell where one stopped, the other began). Earth browns, enlivened by light-reflecting amulets, bracelets and earrings.

Butterfly yellows, ingrained in clothing so startling, gasps constituted an entire audience's reaction.

Januwa's clothing best captured the essence of this Black Family poem: life-wear for thriving people. Sun-statements in cloth for those who used the McKeldin Center as a launching pad for a long, introspective trek.

MORE LETTERS

Pleased with decision

Dear AFRO:

The School of Social Work and Community Planning of the University of Maryalnd of Baltimore is especially pleased with the decision of Acting Gov. Lee to move ahead in releasing the already appropriated planning funds for the School of Social Work in Baltimore City.

It is also very gratifying that the new president of the University made a decision to recommend no move for the School and to communicate this to the Governor so that the long delayed building plans can take shape.

During the Spring of 1978 the School of Social Work and Community Planning experienced a very rewarding and positive response from the community against its possible consideration for moving to another campus of the University in Baltimore County.

The School already runs a large undergraduate program on the UMBC campus. We felt that as far as the quality of its program for graduate students at both Masters and Doctoral levels, it was to our best interest and the interest of the total University for us to remain on an interprofessional human services campus and particularly in the city where the students serve a large number of residents in the city of Baltimore.

In response to the information which came out in the media about the possible proposed move, the School experienced an enormous amount of positive affirmation of its value to the city and support for its mission of concern about the preponderance social welfare problems in the city of Baltimore.

To be able now to move ahead to plan a facility for the School is extremely rewarding and we are particularly grateful to Gov. Lee for making this move at this time.

RUTH H. YOUNG, D.S.W. Dean

Rx for the Orioles

Dear AFRO:

On my behalf and for countless local sports men and women, I petition President Hoffberger of the Birds to:

1. Fire Earl Weaver;
2. Bring Frank Robinson back from Rochester to manage here, supported by Brooks Robinson as assistant for public relations;
3. Ask media to refrain from attacking or criticizing former Bird members like Bobby Grich, Reggie Jackson and Paul Blair, etc.
4. Reduce admission prices and pack Memorial Stadium for the remainder of the year;
5. Renew 1979 contracts now;
6. "Go all out" to win '78 Series and
7. Have daily positive thinking seminars for all employees.

HOWARD F. GARLAND

Animal shelter before aquarium

Dear AFRO:

Baltimore will not be best until it has its aquarium. I am for it 100 percent.

The only difference between the administration and me is the timing.

They want it now. I want it immediately AFTER Baltimore has a modern cat-dog shelter equipped with the best of facilities and personnel and a low-cost (free would be better) spaying-neutering program.

B.J. SMALL

Confusing the issue

In some of the efforts of blacks to correct past racial discrimination against them, there are always those who protest that blacks, themselves, are promoting or indulging in racial discrimination.

These protestors accuse blacks and government of practicing "discrimination in reverse." These same voices declare that they, themselves, are "against discrimination," but that they also believe in admission, employment, or promotion "on merit only."

From their frame of reference, blacks and other minorities (including women) are being illegal, immoral and unethical.

Those who proclaim against "discrimination in reverse." are confused or they act confusedly. They consider as sinners those who are simply seeking to correct past wrongs.

Most are indeed, more than confused, because they know full well that there is no way in which women and blacks can submit, for instance, the same "experience" data, equal to that of most white men, when these minority persons have been shut out consistently from obtaining equal experience.

The more important point is however, that most of those in the pro-Bakke camp (in Baltimore, the pro-Swisher camp) would fool the public into believing that correcting or trying to correct past lawlessness, past questionable practices, and past discrimination, are just as sinful as committing the original sins. It is like blaming the psychiatrist for the illness of his patients.

Civil rights laws, fair employment practice legislation, and other laws and programs opening doors to black entrepreneurs where public money is being spent, are not acts of discrimination. Neither are similar laws and regulations opening doors a little wider to place students who seek to enter the same doors that were closed to them for 300 years.

This type of "affirmative action" is but a feeble effort to correct the manifold wrongs of past centuries on every level of our society — both under law and without virtue of law.

You're In
The Know
Because You
Read The
AFRO