OPINION

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The candidates

There have been some years in Baltimore, and the rest of Maryland, when there was little choice in the Democratic and Republican primaries for selecting the candidates for governor. Not so this year.

There is choice at the top of the ticket. This is healthy for democracy, regardless of who finally wins the party primary.

When there is only one candidate sure to win, it is almost certain that a machine or a political boss, is behind him or her. When there is serious competition, there is less chance of a boss - controlled election.

It is good to know that, while Acting Gov. Blair Lee, III, is running ahead of all other Democratic aspirants, behind him is Theodore (Ted) Venetoulis, executive of Baltimore County. Some polls show Venetoulis "neck and neck" with the acting governor.

Harry R. Hughes, a man of much experience as legislator and as commissioner of transportation, has moved forward from a slow start and has won the endorsement of the Sunpapers.

Walter Orlinsky, president of the Baltimore City Council, is considered a serious candidate in some areas, but is held to be only a "stalking horse" for Gov. Lee in other areas.

If this is not his year, 1982 certainly will be. Or, will he be a candidate for mayor next year?

The Republican primary also offers choice, with J. Glenn Beall, so far, out front, with Aris Allen, black Annapolis physician and former legislator, as his running mate for lieutenant governor.

What is true in the gubernatorial race, is also true in the races for attorney general, for state's attorney for Baltimore City, and for most of the contests for the state senate and the House of Delegates.

Not only in Maryland, but in other states, also, especially in their cities, there is choice. We appeal to our readers to vote in large numbers for the candidates best committed to serving the people.

Thank God for work

As Labor Day approaches, we cannot help thinking of the many thousands of Americans who are unemployed — men and women who would like to be working regularly, who would "like to have a job."

We are with them in their concern and in all their protests against a system which reduces them to unemployment insurance or worse.

We are especially alarmed about the high number of teenagers who cannot find legitimate work to do. Baltimore has the highest teenage unemployment rate in the nation.

Right now, however, we salute those people who love work; who get a "kick" out of sending their own sweat; who would rather die than be found idle.

We are not thinking only of those who sit at desks, or teach in stately buildings or those who are secure in the upper ranks of the civil service and the professions.

We are thinking of all people who become ecstatic over the fact that "It's good to have a job."

One of the biggest problems crushing our community is that there are far too few jobs for many who want to work.

On Thursday, Aug. 24, Bethlehem Steel Co. in Baltimore posted a sign in its plant announcing openings for about 100 new workers.

That night and into the morning, between 800 and 1,000 applicants — men and women — crowded the plant's entrance. So much so that the company was forced to postpone the passing out of applications.

This demonstration is the latest answer to those Pharisees who repeat so often that "Those people don't want to work; they prefer welfare to a job."

Ralph Matthews Sr.

As the 1920s began, the late editor - publisher of this newspaper Dr. Carl Murphy was fond of recalling, the Revs. Charles Matthews, a local Methodist clergyman of stature one day came to the AFRO with his second oldest son in tow.

"He wants to be a writer," the minister told the publisher.

"Well, let's see what he can do," the publisher responded.

Thus began one of the most exciting collaborations in the annals of journalism.

With Carl Murphy like a tough, nervy surrogate father spurring him on, Ralph Matthews Sr. quickly became a facile, entertaining and supremely imaginative writer, not to mention first - rate reporter. His first love was show business and he quickly became chronicler of our most talented HIVE DRAMATIZED OUR Ellingtons, Calloways, Waters, Holidays, reported their triumphs, sorrows.

He loved our entertainers, they loved him and this interchange helped him develop on the pages of the AFRO, A COUNTER + MYTHOLOGY THAT BLACKS, SO TERribly under the yoke of the oppressor in those days, desperately needed.

He became New York correspondent for the AFRO when Garveyism was still a strong force in Harlem and this strong wind of black nationalism had its impact on him.

It was a short leap from entertainment editor to roving correspondent for Matthews and soon his byline was on stories from lynch - worn Mississippi or the violent Chicago Southside wherever racism was at its most virulent he sought it out, wrote about it so that black people everywhere knew what was happening to them. Often at the risk of his life.

By now a confidant of Dubois, Robeson, countless African diplomats and emigres, Randolph, Cullen, Wright, Wilkens, when Matthews, in the Forties, assumed the editorship of the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN, he was with George Schuyler of the **Pittsburgh Courier**, the most widely - read black news commentator extent.

There is so much more but suffice it to say that "Matty" was the consumate communicator, able to translate the hopes, dreams and aspirations of black folk the world over through his writing into "news," into "messages" received and perceived by hundreds of thousands of his countrymen, black and white.

He, with others who have gone on, such as the AFRO's brilliant William N. Jones, daring Levi Jolley and stylish Lula Mackey, did so much in concert with Carl Murphy to bring this newspaper to greatness that their contributions are distinctly measurable and at the same time, immeasurable.

What distinguished Matthews and other architects of this golden chapter in black journalism was no one thing, but many things, fearlessness, integrity, outrage at oppression, not to mention supreme talent, qualities all of them shared.

Ralph Matthews Sr., journalist, social commentor, playwright, rebel, romantic, sublime individualist, has one other quality in abundance: high good humor which made him completely unwilling to tolerate pomposity or suffer fools gladly, be they black or white.

"Matty" was his own magic.

A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT: MADELINE MURPHY

By Madeline W. Murphy

Ten or more years ago, I observed a rotund young man, wearing the spectacles of a schoolmaster, who dared, in his booming voice, to ask searching and unsettling questions at a meeting of the many being held while the ghettos were burning.

None of those present was able to answer and indeed his quiet, studied way of getting to the heart of the matter was quite disconcerting, since the old hands already were confident that they knew all the answers.

That man was Howard "Pete" Rawlings.

And now with the opportunistic tie-up between Ted Venetoulis and Kenny Webster, who claims he'll solicit anyone, with Blair Lee having only to his race relations credit the appointment of Judge Harry Cole to the Court of Appeals, and not promising anything more, with Republican Arris Allen convincing himself it's his qualifications, not his blackness, that give him the second place on J. Glenn Beall's ticket, it is refreshing to come across a candidate for the House of Delegates, 40th District, like "Pete" whose limitless qualifications and earnestness give us all hope for an exciting four years to come in Annapolis.

Having written a few articles with Pete, this writer knows him to be thorough (still questioning!), creditable, fair and humane. And though his literature catalogs his achievements, it is the quality of his humaneness that will accrue to the benefit of black folks.

Having seen Pete take over the reigns of the Community Health Council, one can witness his impact: strengthening and enlarging the areas where blacks will benefit from better, more efficient health care; fighting for affirmative action in jobs at that behemoth of a health institution, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Early on, when black teachers and professors were being filtered into white colleges and universities, he was in the forefront, getting black teachers and students to coalesce to splinter the disguising shaft of white institutional racism, that kept them behind or shut them out completely from law, dental, pharmacy and medical schools at the University of Maryland.

Nagging, needling, threatening with facts and figures, Pete has kept his finger on the weakening pulse of black activism and with shear will has helped to resuscitate it.

While others looked out for No. 1 and a safe harbor, Pete, given the leave-be by UMBC because he was too much for them, continued fighting, organizing, listening, learning and spreading his influence, criticism and special expertise to bring about change with the rights and dignity of black people always foremost.

It sounds too good to be true, doesn't it? But it has been this consistent plodding; this astringent, provocative determination that have made his program one to reckon with and his imposing bearish figure a signal to put up or shut up.

Too good to be true

The breadth of his activity for a family man with three growing children, is imposing if you consider the time, energy and effort put into programs that have had a beneficial affect upon the upward mobility of blacks in education and community; in civil rights and health care.

And here he gives thanks to Nina, his understanding and helpful wife, for he also values the equality of women and their important contributions.

And although he has always been an honor student, has won numerous awards, as an intellect, he has not lost his ability to relate to all the people on issues that affect their lives.

It sounds too good to be true that he would decide to run for public office, doesn't it? But it is good to see a shrewd, astute politician like Sen. Verda F. Welcome recognize these qualities in Pete as valued and useful assets in achieving the overall goal of the team for "social and economic justice for ALL people."

Perhaps this is the turning point in politics where men of Pete's caliber will be appreciated and where Baltimoreans will be the recipients of honest, dedicated leadership. Leadership that will finally balance itself against the numbing affects of corruption, opportunism and pure naivete.

Perhaps also leadership like this will blunt the easy familiarity we have gained from this political bankruptcy that has increased our contempt; induced our lethargy and disinterest.

Maybe now is the time that we will find citizens of the 40th District who believe as we do that at long last they will have something, someone, to vote for; who will enthusiastically cast votes for a team that stirs new hope for change in these yearning times.

Though I cannot vote for him (and more's the pity) black people of the 40th will do well to go to the polls Sept. 12, 1978, Primary Election Day, and vote overwhelmingly for "Pete" Rawlings.

They will only give praise in his sterling ability to represent them, in his election when they pull lever 10B, for Howard "Pete" Rawlings, Democrat.

WASHINGTON REPORT: PARREN J. MITCHELL

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

On July 25, 1978, I was both incredulous and deeply saddened when I read that a young mother in Buffalo, N.Y. — allegedly possessed by a "voodoo curse" — fatally stabbed her four children. Nevertheless, I was only temporarily shocked by this incident, for it is certainly no secret that child abuse is ranked amongst the most frequently committed crimes in this country.

In fact, child - battering is cited as the most frequent cause of death in young children, more common than death due to infectious diseases, congenital disorders or accidents. Further, instances of child - battering are being documented in such numbers that noted Pediatricians have come to view it as an epidemic.

In our own State of Maryland, some 2,600 cases of physical and sexual abuse of children were reported in 1977. It is estimated, however, that literally thousands of cases of child abuse throughout the Nation remain unreported annually.

There are numerous Federal programs which offer some form of assistance or services to children. They are categorized under five major headings — "Family and Child Welfare;" "Child Nutrition;" "Children's Health;" "Child Development and Education;" and "Miscellaneous" (programs in which there are a substantial number of children receiving assistance and which are not ordinarily considered "children's programs").

In addition, there have been and continues to be several Federal legislative efforts to address the issue of child abuse. One which quickly comes to mind is Senate Bill 2759, the Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Act, which passed by voice vote in the Senate on August 1, and is currently pending consideration in the House of Representatives as H.R. 12296, the Domestic Violence Assistance Act.

I have been a supporter of such measures as Public Law 95 - 266, "The Child Abuse, Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978," and I will certainly support H.R. 12296.

The Domestic Violence Assistance Act is a proposal to allow the Federal government to follow leadership and concern on the issue of family violence by supporting through small grants, and technical assistance local community groups that work with families troubled by violence. While H.R. 12296 does not affect the several provisions of Civil or Criminal Laws pertaining to assault, it does assist local public agencies or private non - profit groups in their on - going efforts to provide coordinated services, such as temporary shelter, counseling, staff training, public information, hotlines or other activities. The Bill has been designed to limit dependence on Federal support by rewarding local initiatives.

The Domestic Violence Assistance Act is much needed. Its intentions are noteworthy and, hopefully, its implementation will be yet another step in preserving an institution from which our society stems — the family. However, I am concerned that while we focus our attention on domestic violence, we tend to address the outstanding conflicts which may exist between the husband and wife.

All too often, counseling, public information and other programs are geared toward aiding abused spouses, while ignoring the possible presence of child abuse within these families. How many times have we read of "child - snatching," or of parents — unable to iron out marital difference or beset by their insecurities, brutally beating their children.

Further, to elaborate on the bizarre incidences of the starvation, isolation and sexual assaults in which children have been victims is just too sickening. So, in conjunction with our attention of husband - wife disputes, we must not forget to focus on the many mother - child or father - child confrontations which too often lead to physical and - or mental abuse of the minor.

Our children are at the mercy of a society which has been unaware that neglectful and unresponsive to their needs. It is common knowledge that new highways are much more easily constructed than new libraries. Let us remember also that only adults have the power to manipulate monies to the point where there is never enough for such necessities as day care centers or special supplementary reading programs.

Although we are reluctant to admit it, our children do have a plight, a very serious one. We can respond and assist in this plight, or we can destroy our Nation's future. Let us ask ourselves, "In which direction will we choose to go?"

LETTERS

Candidate Gray responds

Dear AFRO:

I first wish to thank the AFRO for allowing my family and I an opportunity to express our ideas and concerns as we totally commit our efforts to the campaign for the House of Delegates in the 42nd Legislative District. For a campaign that is operating on a very small budget, the interview was exposure that I may not have gotten otherwise.

Regretfully, after offering my appreciation for the opportunity to express our ideas and concern as we totally commit our efforts to the campaign for the House of Delegates in the 42nd Legislative District. For a campaign that is operating on a very small budget, the interview was exposure that I may not have gotten otherwise.

Regretfully, after offering my appreciation for the opportunity to have been interviewed by the AFRO, I wish to express my alarm at one paragraph of the article.

You said in part, "some political observers have said Gray was put into the race by the white political power in the district to split the black vote." You added, "Whether that is true or not Gray is serious about his intention about going to Annapolis in January."

Not only is this statement totally false, you are also saying that the statement may or may not be true. It is a very difficult task to campaign for an elected office in a predominantly black district.

It is even more difficult in an area such as the 42nd District. The purpose of any newspaper should be to print truth and not deal in shady, unsubstantiated rumors. The statement also makes very little political sense. When 10 persons are in a race, with two of them being black and three seats are being sought, there is no need to split the black vote.

The newspaper should be telling blacks that there are three votes to be cast for the House of Delegates. They may vote exclusively for the two black candidates, Gary and Scruggs and assure them the opportunity of winning especially since the balance of the votes in the 42nd District will be divided among eight candidates of Jewish and Protestant descent.

It would also make sense that the other eight persons in the race would want the black vote divided but would seek that vote themselves since they will need every vote possible. No one can be that assured of winning, not even the so-called front runners.

I wish to have the AFRO correct this injustice. I am not in the race to divide but to conquer. The campaign is difficult enough without having the suggestion made that I am not a serious, independent candidate. I am an independent candidate who will only be subjected to the will of the people of the 42nd Legislative District.

LARRY J. GRAY SR.

Clearing up sanitation snafu

Dear AFRO:

Mrs. Brewton's letter to the AFRO + American on July 15, 1978 titled "Frustration on Boarman Avenue does indeed demonstrate one citizen's concern in getting a municipal service done.

Two essential points should be noted.

First, problems dealing with trash and debris in a city - owned alley are handled by another city agency, the Division of Sanitation.

Mr. Reginald Scriber, superintendent of inspections, informed Mrs. Brewton of this fact on 7-19 - 78; he also stated at that time that our staff had already followed up on the problem and would continue to monitor the situation.

Secondly, the inspector involved in this matter has been formally reprimanded for the improper way he handled the case. Upon making his initial inspection of 6 - 23 - 78, he should have immediately referred the complaint to the Division of Sanitation for action.

Thus, a fair amount of confusion and misrepresentation occurred due to his careless and incorrect mention of a forthcoming notice.

For the record, let us briefly review what happened. Mrs. Brewton's complaint of 6 - 21 - 78 was followed up by an inspection on 6 - 23 - 78; the inspector did observe trash in the alley and mentioned to Mrs. Brewton the issuance of a 10 - day notice.

Our records indicate that during this time, Mrs. Brewton called Mr. Luke Alexander, Central Office Complaint Officer, who then properly directed the complaint to Mr. Scriber.

On 7 - 17 - 78 the same inspector visited the alley, found the trash and debris removed, and was unable to make contact with MQRS. Brewton.

Unable to reach Mrs. Brewton on 7 - 18 - 78, Mr. Scriber called her again the next day, had the inspector apologize to her by phone for improperly following up on her complaint, and personally apologized to her. He also told her that his staff had reinspected the area, and that she should call him if there were any further problems.

Because of our inspection of 7-17, various notices were issued to nearby residents for high grass, weeds, trash and debris. Also, the alley was apparently cleaned up, with a complaint of 6 - 21 - 78 being immediately referred to the Division of Sanitation.

I personally wish to thank Mrs. Brewton for her dedication and concern in this situation. I feel stories such as her demonstrate some of the misunderstandings that can occur between city agencies and citizens.

Also, I would like to thank all those associated with the AFRO-AMERICAN Clean Block Campaign, in particular, Ms. Ida Peters, coordinator, and Ms. Arnetta Lottier, assistant coordinator, for the fine work they have been going.

M. J. BRODIE,
Department of Housing and Community Development

G. JAMES FLEMING: NOW AND THEN

By G. James Fleming

As a kind of devil's advocate, we ask, If Washington, D.C. (702,000 population) is worthy of two U.S. Senators and two Representatives, why should New York City and Los Angeles not also have direct representation in the Congress?

Not that we are against congressional representation, with voting rights, for the District of Columbia. Instead, we are heartily in favor of such expansion of the "home rule" idea.

But, the District is not a state, in the constitutional sense. We could not help speculating, therefore, about what such jurisdictions as Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles might be thinking or dreaming, or speculating.

And, what about Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam? These three now have a single non - voting Delegate each in the House of Representatives. They can introduce bills, speak, and be members of committees; but they have no vote.

If Washington wins its two voting Senators and two voting Representatives, why should not the "territories" be given at least one vote in the House of Representatives?

While we are in this mood, why should not the people of our outlying areas not also have the right to vote for President and Vice - President of the United States. This right should be given to the people of the Virgin Islands and Guam and, perhaps, American Samoa and some other territories in the Pacific. We are uncertain about Puerto Rico, since it is supposed to be an independent "commonwealth" (a very fuzzy term and a fuzzy status).

To repeat, giving voting representation in Congress to the District of Columbia opens a Pandora's box or, at least, starts thinking as to whether or not other areas deserve similar honors. Perhaps it may be more profitable for New York City and her kind to become a "district" or a "territory" rather than remain just part of a state.

The District of Columbia has a great deal going for it. With its population of more than 700,000, the District is larger than six states. Those little states each have two U.S. Senators and at least one Representative.

It may be interesting to list here these states and their population:

Alaska — 382,000;
Delaware — 582,000;
North Dakota — 643,000;
South Dakota — 686,000;
Vermont — 476,000 and
Wyoming — 390,000.

Giving the District of Columbia "equal" representation with "the several states" will also give greater voice and clout in Congress to black Americans. This is true because the black population of Washington far outdistances the white, due to the "flight" of whites to the Virginia and Maryland suburbs.

With the natural increase of black members of the House of Representatives, and the importance of black voters to southern politicians, the entire Congress should get a lift in the direction of liberalism; certainly in the direction of better mutual respectability and interdependence between the races.

One example of this observation was shown by the sources of the support for the amendment giving Washington full representation in Congress. Many, if not most, of the southern bloc voted "Aye." This was certainly true in the Senate.

There is no iron - clad certainty that the amendment will be ratified. The 50 states have seven years to produce a three - fourths vote for ratification — 38 votes. Anything can happen in that space of time.

This calls for a spirited campaign over the years. This also means that it is up to the black voters and their voter - organizations in the different states to bring the necessary "education" and pressure to bear on their state legislators in order to make the amendment a part of the U.S. Constitution.

Now passed by both houses, the proposal of full - voting rights for the District of Columbia is a victory for Washingtonians, regardless of race, color or religion — a victory won after over 100 years of petition, prayer, and lobbying.

Don't be surprised, however, if this amendment has hard sailing, very similar to the experience of the Equal Rights Amendment.

FOR ALL WE KNOW: ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

HONEST POLITICIANS are NOT wanted by most voters according to a national magazine which cites the padded ballot box they dug up from the Gulf of Mexico in the Lyndon Johnson election. The magazine also predicts a Nixon comeback despite Watergate. Citizens prefer crooks, the publication claims.

HOWEVER, there are some worthwhile persons running in the Maryland race and the voters know it. Barring some underhand doings, they should make it to the finals.

WE CITE a few whose light is hidden under a bushel but should shine soon. They're good guys worthy of consideration.

WALTER FINCH, candidate for attorney general, is a retired Army colonel who served with great honor with the 92nd black Ordnance Division in World War II in the African and Italian campaigns.

Highly qualified with degrees in law, engineering and accounting, he is the only one in the nation ranking high as a patent attorney. Most of all, he's running on his own money, at his own expense. His government, civic and community experience can be rivaled by none. Some 20,000 men in his 92nd Ordnance recall his personality appeal and he still hears from them.

REV. OLIN P. MOYD is an example of a candidate who is pleasant, energetic, forthright and a good businessman as well as a pastor of note nationally. His news releases are perfectly composed and typed, short, crisp and to the point. He's punctual and honest in his approach: an admirable person.

DEL. TROY BRAILEY is loved universally for his kindness and pure down-to-earth dealings with the great and the small. The senior member of the House of Delegates, he is known by everyone he touches as "one honest man".

CONGRESSMAN Parren J. Mitchell has gained national recognition as a man who stands for what's right. His fellow congressmen, although they envy him, always back him "because they know he's right".

And, as far as his record for caring for all people in need, you can't argue with that. He's never turned down an appeal for help as thousands of Baltimoreans know full well.

His opponent, Ed Jack Makowski, has no record of experience in the nation or here in town.

LLOYAL RANDOLPH and John Douglass are the smartest members of the House of Delegates, both effective and well respected.

[illegible] Frank M. [illegible] David Soan are all outstanding representative men.

[illegible] SIS MCCOY, whom we have known many years, is a far better choice than Frank C. Robey, the principal of Patterson High School.

A. DWIGHT PETTIT, candidate for state's attorney, has won many a criminal case and one of the largest in history against the federal government. He's an expert on every phase of the law.

I recall when his opponent was a trial lawyer, a judge on the bench said he was the poorest of all prosecutors. He was taken out of the court room and placed in a little room filing materials.

WILLIAM ALLEN, for Superior Court clerk and Elmer Harris, for Baltimore City Court clerk are the only ones of their race in line for those particular posts and they're qualified, more so than their opponents.

THE LEAGUE of Women Voters has the full list of candidates, qualifications and background. Get their Voters' Guide at any library or bank, free. Study it.

THEN watch for the AFRO SLATE to be published in time to take right straight into the voting booth Sept. 12.

ST. MICHAELS, Md.'s former Mayor James R. Thomas, the relative of Frederick Douglass, presided at the Union Methodist Church services there last Sunday. The AFRO's switchboard lady, Mrs. Celestyne Thompson, was present and describes the memorial service for the late Mrs. Naomi Camper as "simply beautiful".

Miss Nellie Jewett presented a registration desk in Mrs. Camper's memory. Mr. Thomas presented and dedicated a plaque in her honor.

SOMETIME later we will tell you of the glorious history of St. Michaels, the town where Frederick Douglass was a slave. And, we'll tell you of the bakery the Camper sisters had, the one which made the beaten bisquits for Maryland's governors and the banquets held on the Shore for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and other royalty.

St. Michaels' history is one of the most fascinating ever to be written. The Camper sisters revealed much of it to the AFRO many years ago.

WHEN Frederick Douglass returned to the Big House where he was a slave, his old master bowed to him and let him in the front door. No wonder Douglass was then a U.S. ambassador and his name was greater than the white man who once owned him.

FR. JOHN SULLIVAN of the Sulpician Fathers announces the Sept. 9, 10 a.m. blessing of the first statue to a black Catholic woman, that of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange. The event at Old St. Mary's Seminary Chapel, 600 N. Paca Street, marks a milestone in 200 years Catholic history. Archbishop William Borders is the principal celebrant.

SEPT. 9 is the Just Friends Flower Guild fashion show and luncheon, 1 p.m. at Martin's West.

SEPT. 11 is the 12 noon ceremony at the Civic Center for 900 new citizens. This is the largest naturalization event ever held in this state.

TONIGHT, Friday, ends the last of the summer revivals — the Crusade begun by New Shiloh Baptist Church at the Civic Center in July.

All week the noon and evening services have been crowded and you've really missed something if you have not attended.

Rev. A.C.D. Vaughn preached each noon and Rev. Harold Carter each evening. Dr. Carter's revivals will continue this winter to follow up his unprecedented opening that day at the Civic Center.

He attributes his success to the fact that our people in these trying times need something to cling to. From his church's 10 - phone bank, if you're listening, you'll get a call soon. The way New Shiloh spreads the word is miraculous.

OPRAH WINFREY, a celebrated actress and TV personality is the star of the Oct. 15 event to be held at Morgan and sponsored by the Bethel AME Mortgage Committee. Your $12.50 ticket will give you an evening long remembered.

Oprah's performance is "To Make A Poet Black and Bid Her Sing" with Sweet Honey in the Rock, singers. Call Alice King, 653 - 2639.

KWEISI MFUME, the WEAA - AM Radio, Morgan U program director, sends us a sincere thank you for our remembering with sympathy the late Rufus Tate. I was glad to receive the letter and treasure it.

Kweisi said it is good to know in the midst of police corruption and controversy that there are those who lend thought to the humanistic aspect of such a tragedy as his father suffered.

AS YOU HAVE read, Mr. Tate died alone and through no fault of his own far from his home and relatives while being held "in protective custody" in the Watkins case.

The situation brought bitter tears to many Baltimoreans since his family suffered so terribly following the much regretted incident. We still think no good will come to those who took advantage of this man and whisked him away with no consideration for him as a human being. Our thought is how much longer can we stand by and see our own so cruely treated?

MARY CARTER SMITH on an extensive journey in Europe and Africa, is trying to forget the untimely and tragic death of her son who was murdered. Her poems in memory of Ricky, a Morgan grad, are filled with her sorrow. He was her only son.

JIM DIETRICH's political committee polled his downtown district a week ago and published reports that say: Choices for governor list Venetoulis as 71.5 percent; Lee, 26.5 percent and others 2 percent.

And, the poll claims, 78 percent favor the California Proposition 13 type property tax limit of 1 percent of the fair market value of your home. What do you think?

BOB PETTIGREW of Orlando, Fla., his wife Rose and son Bryan, age 5, were guests of her aunt, our own Alice West, in August. Rose is daughter of Mrs. Alice D. Cooper of Pimlico and Bob is son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Allen Pettigrew of Severna Park.

While spending a jolly time with relatives, the family worshipped at Macedonia Baptist and enjoyed many dinner parties and picnics in Baltimore. A splendid family event was at the Dentmore Country Club home of Alice Cooper. Peggy Dorsey, the special analyst at Social Security, Woodlawn, was co - hostess with her mother.

Guests seated at the silver and crystal dinner table included Mrs. West, Ada Schnell, the John Dorseys, the Clarence Dorseys, the William Johnsons and daughters, Crissey and Candice, Anne Tyler and of course the Pettigrews.

Bob is on loan from Martin Merietta Corp.'s Orlando Aerospace Division to hold the post as the 1978 director of the National Alliance of Businessmen jobs program.

The genius that he is, he exceeded the goal of finding jobs for 1,500 disadvantaged persons, 1,000 armed forces veterans and 50 ex - offenders. More than 30 Orlando firms, leaders and government officials backed him up, helped him follow his belief that if you make men productive and able to come back to public life honorably, many social problems are solved.

The story of Bob's successes in his career and dealing with people is contained in a special Orlando newspaper and is indeed inspiring. Our Mrs. West has some fine relatives, we would say.

MORE LETTERS

A message for us from Lewisburg Federal Pen

Dear AFRO:

In response to Marion Banfield's column "Why return to the cell?" in the Aug. 12 edition of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, I'd like to say this:

I am 39 years of age and all too many of those years have been spent in and out of Maryland's penal system and I can safely say that Maryland's penal system is one of the most corrupt in this nation.

The system is geared to bring a man back.

I started out very young. I've been to Boy's Village. From there I graduated to the "Old" reformatory in Hagerstown, to the Maryland House of "Corruption" in Jessup, to the Maryland State Pen, at Forrest Street in Baltimore where I spent nine years and five months.

I'm not bragging and I'm far from proud of the mess I've made of my life. I only mention it because I wish to establish the fact that I'm speaking from experience.

I know Maryland's penal system and I know that unless the system changes, there will be no improvement in the product it produces.

At the moment I am serving a 10-year sentence at the federal prison in Lewisburg, Pa. I have been incarcerated since Oct. 16, 1975. I will be eligible for parole in February 1979.

In the 34 months I've been here, I have acquired my GED diploma, a college diploma in food service management and nearly 5,000 hours in the cooks apprenticeship course.

But even more important, I have become aware of what has been happening to me and other black "street children."

When I left Maryland's penal system, I was filled with hate to such a degree that I was blind to what I was permitting them to do to me.

I have risen above that hate now. Now I am just a very angry man. My anger is directed at myself more than anyone else because I can't comprehend how I could have been so ignorant for so long.

Mrs. Banfield said she is aware of the racism of our police, lawyers, judges and the whole injustice system. Is she really aware? I think she is to a degree but not fully.

One day I would like to sit down and talk to Mrs. Banfield and anyone who is willing to be concerned about our children, especially my young black brothers and sisters who acquire the major part of their education from the streets.

I know what this problems are and I would like to help them deal with (their problems). I don't feel that anyone is better qualified than men.

"Why return to the cell?" There are many answers to Mrs. Banfield's question and I sincerely and sincerely feel that I know the answers now, and one day, I'll share them with everyone who is sincere in the concern for us.

We don't really reject school, family and jobs when we leave these cells. It is we, in many cases, who are rejected. We are driven back to these cells by a society which refuses to practice what it preaches.

We are driven back by a society who refuses to accept the fact that we have paid dearly for our crimes and refuses to permit us to live in peace among them.

Mrs. Banfield may not want to hear this but it's God's truth.

It isn't all society's fault. We are equally to blame as are those who we love so much and claim to love us.

No race on this earth knows as much or feels love as deeply as we black people and what is needed is for us to join hands and pull together. We need to open our hearts and share our love. We need to instill this love in our children.

When one of us stimbles or falls, do not ridicule us for our clumsiness, reach out a helping hand. Encourage those around you to do the same.

A little over a year ago President Carter asked Henry Winkler "The Fonz" to appear before the Crime Commissioners and elaborate on the best policy to prevent crime.

What does "The Fonz" know about us?

If they were really interested in a solution why didn't they ask us?

They decided that stiffer sentencing is the solution. They could never have been more wrong.

In arriving at such a conclusion they created a killing machine in this country because we blacks feel that those stiffer sentences are for us only.

We have every reason to think and believe this because we know that there are whites who committed crimes equally to the ones we committed and in many instances far worse and yet jails throughout this country are overflowing with us.

"Why return to the cell?" There are so many answers to Mrs. Banfield's question and we have the answers:

To the "street children" I say this:

There's a lot to learn out there in the streets and it's exciting — learn it because much of it can be useful. But — don't for any reason deny yourself the proper education.

Don't leave school without GED or high school diploma. You can go to college if you desire and the government will pay the cost. If you feel you have to make the system pay, make them pay where it will be beneficial to you and those you love.

Whatever happened to that old saying "I'm black and I'm proud?" Let's get it together. Let's do something we really be proud of. Let's beat the system. Make them pay. Let's get educated.

We know we can survive this asphalt jungle better than they can. Now let's show them what we can do in their classrooms.

What in Hell do we need with welfare when we can get an education and land jobs that pay more in one week than the welfare gives in one month?

RANDOLPH McCoy SR.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT AGING
Dr. Matthew TAYBACK

Dr. Tayback is state director on aging.

There's one on Smith Island, out in the middle of Chesapeake Bay.

There's one in a newly-renovated building in Salisbury.

Last year alone, 20 were formed elsewhere in Maryland. Soon there will be more, some in surplus school buildings that will be specially converted for the purpose.

"They" are multipurpose senior centers, which have been called investments in the lives of senior citizens, investments that will keep elderly Marylanders well and independent.

The centers vary considerably one from the other. At this point, some are small and offer only a limited range of programs.

Others, however, such as the Waxter Center in Baltimore City, are quite elaborate and provide a vast array of programs and services. As would be expected, most senior centers fallsomewhere in between.

But whatever their size, Maryland's senior centers are community facilities where the elderly can find activities and services keyed precisely to their needs, all under one roof.

For example, information and referralservices are available. So is counseling in such areas as personal finances, employment, Social Security benefits and retirement planning.

Certain legal information is given, too, and there are periodic discussion groups based on consumer issues, federal legislation and other matters of importance to the elderly.

Some centers, in cooperation with localphealth departments, offer such physical check-ups as tests of blood pressure and vision. Visits are often made by medicalspecialists whose expertise most center participants could not afford on their own.

The centers also play important roles as the sites where the Title VII, Nutrition Program's hot lunches are served in friendly, convivial settings.

Staffed as they are by professional directors and program leaders, and offering as they do such a wide range of services and activities, most of Maryland's senior centers are able to provide a form of day-care and thus a treasured degree of independence — for many older citizens whose only alternative would be institutionalization.

The meanings of the state's senior centers was well expressed by an 83-year-old piano teacher who had been forced to give up her career when she became partially blind.

"Why should I go?" she asked when she first heard about the center in her community. "Everyone there is old and crippled. What can they do?"

"Well," she said in answer to her own question, "I went, and I found out, and I've been going ever since. I never will stop as long as they help me aboard the senior center bus!"

In addition to all the things I've mentioned thus far, the State Office on Aging is currently engaged in a project to bring more educational stimulus and pursuit to our senior centers.

In cooperation with the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the State Department of Education, we are developing "visiting" programs of varied nature, including audio-visual presentations and current literature, which will travel the state's senior centers and serve a useful purpose for our elderly population.

Detailed information about the multipurpose center nearest you can be obtained by contacting your local agency on aging or the Maryland Office on Aging, 1004 State Office Building, 301 W. Preston St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

Immunize against measles

Dear AFRO:

Recently, an Associated Press story labled Baltimore City as a high - risk area for measles. A report from End Measles Inc. of Indianapolis (based on statistics several years old) stated that 39 cities, including Baltimore, have a 96 percent chance of having a measles epidemic in the next three years. The group urged more active city immunization programs.

The Baltimore City Health Department in 1977 conducted a massive campaign in cooperation with the Baltimore City Public Schools to immunize 100 percent of Baltimore's seconday school - aged children against measles.

Approximately 35,000 students were immunized against measles during that campaign last year. Special inoculation clinics were held in each health district, and mobile vans provided on - sites immunizations at secondary schools.

This special effort raised the immunization level of the secondary school children to 98 percent, at a level at which an epidemic could occur.

The Baltimore City Health Department's immunization teams are again conducting a drive to immunize all children scheduled to enter school in September. Children will not be allowed to enroll in elementary schools unless immunized against diphtheria, pertussia (whooping cough), tetanus, polio, measles (rubeola), and German measles (rubella).

We estimate that 30,000 children need these shots, and many have already received them by attending the Health Department's free inoculation clinics and special clinics conducted at 29 schools this spring.

Again this year, additional inoculation clinics have been scheduled during August and September. Information about these clinics may be obtained by calling 396 - 4454.

Although we know that Baltimore is not a high - risk measles city, we do want to emphasize the importance of receiving immunizations. Measles can lead to permanent eye, ear and brain damage, bronchial pneumonia, encephalitis, or even death. In preparing children to go back to school, parents should make sure their child is properly immunized.

JOHN B. DE HOFF,
Commissioner of Health

Druid Hill Park

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for your editorial on Druid Hill Park (Aug. 18, 1978) proclaiming it a beauty spot where one can go for seven days during any week and find serenity and a host of nature's attractions.

The short piece caused me to say "Amen!"

Druid Hill Park is indeed an oasis in the inner city of Baltimore.

Equally noteworthy is the history of the successful fight led some years ago by the indomitable Sen. Verda Welcome to maintain the Druid Park area as a park when city forces were out to place the Civic Center on the park site. Remember all of this?

Thank you, Sen. Welcome for your courage and farsightedness in moving to preserve Druid Hill Park as a fun place and a charming place to relax for all the people in Baltimore.

A NATURE LOVER

Reefer madness?

Dear AFRO:

It is no coincidence that about 90 percent of "functionally illiterate" or "marginally literate" high school students have a prior history of regular marijuana use.

Maryland Drug Abuse Research and Treatment Foundation Inc. (M-DART) studies of 13 years indicate the direct cause of this phenomenon to be the "Cannabis Syndrome," the condition that slowly and subtly develops with regular pot smoking.

We know that concentration, attention and recent memory retention spans are diminished and that ability to learn may be severely impaired thereby.

We know further that elementary school pupils who read, write and compute at or near their grade level will, after several years of cannabis use, find either no academic progress made, or in fact, lowered achievement levels. We believe that the build-up of THC in the brain if pot is used at least once weekly is part of the reason for the deterioration of intellect.

Verification of our findings would be relatively simple, but the real problem is that so many educators, counselors, researchers and journalists themselves have this syndrome, and these pot lovers do "magical thinking" where they know, not think, that grass is harmless, therefore refusing to impute any detrimental effects to it. They don't even ask the question.

We agree with the