Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Our History Month

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: I am an American and as an American I would speak to America.

Reading to survive

In the Our World section of today's AFRO we take a look at a growing concern in our community — the need for out kids to have command of the learning tools of this culture.

Reading, even in this computer-video age, is a necessary skill our children must master if they are to move ahead in any positive direction.

Baltimore's reading achievement scores show our children certainly need strengthening in this and other cognitive skills. It is a fact we cannot avoid facing, no matter what rhetoric we display to cover the truth.

No matter your color if you cannot read you cannot comprehend much of this society and you are rendered both spiritually and psychologically dead.

In our first report, local educators and children have some ideas as how to improve our community's level of skills in this fundamental area of knowledge.

We hope their comments are valuable.

America's youngsters of all races are suffering a measurable decline in basic areas of knowledge. We are fast becoming a nation of very bright people who can neither spell, write, count nor speak correctly.

No culture can survive these circumstances for very long and we ought to begin dealing with the present crisis in reading and move from there to the larger issue of excellence in education generally.

Black History Month

Afro-American History Month begins Sunday (Feb. 4) and will continue with celebrations.

It should be no need to suggest here that all of us give particular attention to our heritage, but we do because we have neglected in the past that so few of us know much about our historical past and heroes and heroines. The celebration of Afro-American History Month affords us an opportunity to learn more about ourselves and we should take full advantage of it.

Moreover, this is a good time to initiate a practice of learning a little each day, each week and every month about our illustrious history.

The schools, colleges and the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, are doing their part, but we must, as individuals, take advantage of the libraries and other facilities available to add to our own education on Afro-American History.

The celebration this month must not be overlooked. The knowledge of history provides motivation for the future. The theme for the celebration is "History: Torch of the Future" which is quite appropriate.

All this goofing off

Last summer during a course in drawing from nature, at Maryland Institute, students spent many days at Greenmount Cemetery. Usually they drew for four hours.

They roamed the cemetery spotting unusually bowed trees, and ancient specimens, ideal for their exercises. But the favorite among the trees was the primitive ginko, whose labyrinth of ridges, holes and images often moved one into fantasy.

Everyone tried to find graves of the famous and infamous for the cemetery is a treasure trove of early American history, not to mention present day segregation — but be that as it may.

Because they were required to measure areas 3 inches by 3 inches and reproduce them on 12 by 18 inch pages, it was easy to lose one's place.

Even on the muggiest of days, however, breezes swept through the hills and valleys, cooled perhaps by the mammoth marble tombstones. And if one forgot the morbidity, it was indeed a peaceful place to work and rest — no pun intended.

In addition, at the gatehouse, the rest room facilities were almost sterile. The elderly polite, gentle speaking manager, with his funereal voice, was almost an eerie reminder of the beginnings of horror movies, where one becomes innocently enticed into lord-knows-what macabre adventure.

But luckily nothing untoward nor spooky ever happened and it became a pleasant retreat from the airless, stuffy vaulted classrooms, that confined them on rainy days.

Though there were some visitors, who stopped at the office for their somber business, few funerals occurred while the artists worked on their assignments.

And at noon, workers from the neighboring Department of Social Services, brought their lunches, whiling away a few moments in the sun, dreaming to the accompaniment of the rustling whispering trees, before they returned to their real world problems.

But as if by clockwork around noon, a procession of police cars, at the most four, would be seen, slowly inching, discreetly along the snaking byways, as if they were on an aimless journey, their passengers looking also for a place to escape that teeming outside world.

Now no one can fault policemen for taking a break now and then. But in this instance males and females would congregate in a secluded spot near where the artists worked. No sooner had they parked, their heads would suddenly disappear within the cars.

None of the artists, however, had the nerve to wander across the road to discover what was happening, whether this was an illicit tryst, or whether this was nap time.

They would remain, quietly parked for at least two hours.

And so when the police department and Hyman Pressman complain about not enough policemen to go around; not enough money to pay them well, it makes one wonder why the citizens have to worry about it.

Perhaps, all that is needed is a rearrangement of priorities; a better system of accountability; more policemen on duty at night than in the day; demographic analyses of where the day time action is; how day time hours are spent.

Or finally, like Dominic "Mimi" DiPietro and Mary Pat Clarke suggested in their rare moment of agreement — more foot patrolmen.

Before we jump into Hyman Pressman's election year trick bag and fear campaign about more policemen being better, it would behoove all of us to make notes on these out - of - the way places — like under bridges, in parking lots, shopping malls and behind secluded motels, and of course cemeteries to see if we're getting our money's worth with what we have.

Let's face it, before we open the public purse to reward these public officials, especially when we are exhorted to tighten our monetary belts, hadn't we better check up on all this goofing off, first?

Mrs. Murphy is a commentator on Impact News on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. on WEAA - FM.

That Chinese dinner

Shabby is the most charitable thing we can say about the treatment of the Carter Administration black officials and other black business leaders around the country in connection with the White House dinner for the Chinese vice premier.

As we understand it, only two black guests were in attendance at the historic affair; United Nations' Ambassador Andrew Young and Mrs. Young. And what is more disgusting, the Youngs were last - minute invitees, doubtless only after it was called to the attention of the biggies at the White House that no black representation was on the guest list.

One White House spokesman has called it "an unfortunate goof." It was that and much more. And it typifies more forcefully than anything we know the kind of southern mentality that is obviously giving advice to the president, and guiding the president's social activities.

It is a matter that should concern all of us. Not that we want to simply break bread with white officials but because the United States was officially entertaining the second highest official in China and, the guests, should have been representative of all sectors of the American population.

Black Americans should be represented symbolically as well as practically in all phases of American life, and it is disturbing that the White House should give the Chinese the impression that the only thing black Americans do in this country is sing, dance and play clown - like basketball.

It would have been good to have shown some semblance of the racial composition of American business, political and governmental leaders on this historic occasion. It is indeed "unfortunate" that those responsible for making the guest list at the White House "goofed" on this historic occasion.

For the president's benefit, this is a part of human relations, too!

Trouble at Crownsville

The Crownsville Hospital Center below Baltimore, news comes, has lost its national accreditation and could lose upt to $3.5 million in federal funds because of its continued use of old, deteriorating buildings.

The Joint Committee on the Accreditation of Hospitals has informed the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that these facilities are in such poor repair that they can no longer certify Crownsville.

Earlier studies of conditions at Crownsville centered on its black director, Dr. George McK. Phillips, and attacks on his administration culminated in demands by the so-called experts who compiled the studies that Dr. McK. Phillips be demoted or removed.

The black physician stood his ground throughout all this controversy and refused to step down. That battle has taken its toll however and Dr. McK. Phillips will be retiring in April.

This latest blow to Crownsville's existence is something else again.

We are hopeful that the state moves quickly to take those actions required to restore Crownsville's certification and that it goes ahead with a thorough modernization program for this medical center.

Cultural blindness

It boggles our mind.

Baltimore, "Charm City," the metropolis we "adore" and "The Best."

A city which inspires, in City Hall at least, all sorts of adjectival superlatives in its latest promotional efforts has managed once more to ignore the black majority population which gives Baltimore much of its vitality and richness.

Subject of our wonder is a new free brochure prepared and disseminated by the Baltimore Office of Promotion and Tourism which gives readers 76 days worth of cultural activity in and around our fair city.

Save for the august Arena Players production, initially all of the events listed are for and by other ethnic groups.

Our community has been treated as if in fact, black artists either as a source of cultural events or as participant in anyone else's happenings.

Let the sample "Baltimore Events" as the brochure is titled for the month of February.

Vladimir Spirakov, violinist performs at Goucher College, Feb. 5.

The Peabody Bluegrass Ensemble picks and plucks at Johns Hopkins University Feb. 8.

There is also something called "Dance Integrative" at Goucher on the 24th.

And several Baltimore Symphony performances at odd times throughout this month.

We have no quarrel with artistic performances by anyone and as ever encourage all citizens to enjoy as much culture as is available in Baltimore.

We do question the exclusion of events on-going at Morgan State University and other predominantly black institutions from a calendar prepared using our tax dollars.

Nor do we accept the explanation of the Office of Promotion and Tourism that few black organizations responded to their inquires prior to making of the calendar.

This sort of benign neglect happens too often to be uncalculated.

"Baltimore Events" comes off as an extremely elitist projection of what somebody hopes is the state of "culture" in this city.

The approach ought to be corrected forthwith.

AFRO welcomes 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.

LETTERS

The truth will set you free

Dear AFRO:

I would like to thank the editor of the AFRO - AMERICAN for publishing the many articles written by others and myself questioning the importance and meaning of Jesus Christ. (May the peace and blessings of God be upon him.)

The Christ, or Divine Knowledge, that was embodied within the flesh called Jesus said that the truth would set you free.

Brothers and Sisters, truth is what we need most of all. We don't need money as bad as we need truth. We don't need a new car as bad as we need truth. We don't need welfare as bad as we need truth.

Look at the mass disunity among our people. Only truth can unite us because it was falsehood and still is falsehood that continues to keep us seperated as a people.

Lies about our heritage and culture have made us ashamed of ourselves and our Africa, lies that said Afro - Americans were black - skinned because we were cursed by God and lies that said we were genetically ferior because of our biological make - up.

Yes, brothers and sisters, the Christ knew what he was saying when he said the truth would set you free.

Bilalian Afro - Americans have been mentally enslaved and our spirit to help ourselves and our people has nearly been broken because of these deliberate lies.

Our forefathers and mothers were subjected to these lies after they were forced to come to the shores of America. Once here they were forced to reject their culture and heritage. After severe punishment these scared, bewildered human beings were taught the white Christian way of life.

The white Christian way of life is not the same as the true Christian way of life that Christ taught.

White Christianity promotes the unnatural idea of white supremacy.

Christ didn't teach the love of flesh.

Christ wasn't blessed with divine knowledge because of the color of his skin, wisdom and knowledge made Biggies of him.

White supremacy thrives off of flesh superiority and that Caucasian image with blond hair and blue eyes that has been hanging on the cross has been the lie to the fire of the movement and idea of white supremacy.

Brothers and sisters, look on your walls at that Caucasian image and you'll see your oppressor become your savior. Look throughout your Bible (the one with the pictures) and you'll see that everything that has to do with God and Heaven is white.

The plan of white supremacy is to cripple the minds of Bilalian Afro - Americans with falsehood and false inferior images because they know that in doing so our people would become disunited.

I'm not asking you to turn away from the true teachings of Jesus Christ. I'm only asking you to look at the teachings our people have been subjected to for over 400 years and ask yourselves: Is this the teaching of Christ?

The truth will set our people free from the invisible chain of racial inferiority.

It will also let you see the true Christ and restore our spirit of unity, morality and self - help.

Remove all racial images from worship.

KENNETH T. RAGIN

Winter vacation — 'unnecessary'

Dear AFRO:

I have thought about this question and I disagree with the two - week extended winter vacation for the Baltimore City public schools.

Fuel is not a problem. I feel like Baltimore City is concentrating on saving fuel more than our education.

They know the school rooms are cold so they give us a week off, which only eliminates that problem for one week.

We will probably have to go to school one week longer in the summer or spring when it is so hot we won't be able to concentrate on our subjects because we will be thinking how hot it is and checking our watches for the countdown until the magic hour of 2:30 when classes are dismissed.

While we were out the extra week, we weren't learning math, language, etc. It also makes you forget some of the work you've already learned.

A lot of people feel as though they would rather sit in cold rooms than be out of school.

I feel I can speak for parents, teachers and students that this extra week was unnecessary and the people who make these rules do not have to abide by them.

However, my education comes first and that's why I'd rather be in school.

The fuel is the same as the gas problem that we had. It just was not enough to go around.

Still there was no reason for the absence of that extra week from school.

LAVINIA LIVINGSTON,
Grove Park Elementary School,
Grade six, age 11

Smokers' breath

Dear AFRO:

I cannot prove or disprove the connection between cancer and smoking.

I can prove it causes bad breath. That should discourage smokers.

B. J. SMALL,

'Hughes should have picked a Marylander'

Dear AFRO:

I am deeply disturbed that our new Gov. Hughes did not appoint a black from Maryland.

Did he have to go to Richmond, Va. to get a qualified black for the Director of Personnel position?

Surely there must be ONE qualified black in our state who would meet Hughes' qualifications.

I understand a group of black politicians submitted a list to Gov. Hughes — that obviously he ignored.

I think we blacks must take a second look at our new governor to see if he just picked a "token black" or if he really cares about us. He should have picked someone from Maryland who knows us and what we need.

J. LESLIE CARR

Support for Kamka

Dear AFRO:

As members of the Community Involvement Board for the Baltimore City Jail Work Release Program located on Fulton Avenue, we want to go on record in strong support of Mr. Gordon Kamka and his philosophy of providing alternatives for selected non - dangerous offenders to our present system of warehousing men in large prisons.

Based on our experience both as members of the Board and as neighborhood residents, we can testify that the Center has in no way had a negative impact on our community.

In fact, we have to report a very favorable experience for the past year and a half of its existence.

"Fulton House" as a community based correction center has proven that corrections can be a humanizing process.

FR. DAMIEN NALEPA,
Chairman,
Community Involvement Board

PARREN J. MITCHELL

Patty Hearst, Ben Chavis

All of my adult life I have advocated for and attempted to support those in correctional institutions.

I have done this not because I condone crime, too many of my family members and close friends have been the victims of crime, but because I recognize the appalling inequities in the administration of the system of justice in America.

The release of Patty Hearst spells out these inequities perhaps more graphically then can my pen or my words.

Patty Hearst, offspring of the powerfully rich Hearst family which controls a chain of newspapers and directs public opinion through its entanglements in all of the communications media, was released from prison Thursday, Feb. 1.

Purportedly kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army, she participated in a bank robbery and other criminal activities. For this she was found guilty and sentenced to seven years in a minimum security, country club type of correctional facility.

She was released after serving 22 months of her seven year sentence. President Carter commuted the balance of her sentence, acting upon a recommendation from the U.S. Justice Department.

Rev. Ben Chavis, one of the Wilmington Ten freedom fighters, remains in a North Carolina prison, although the strict prison rules in recent months have been somewhat relaxed, thus permitting him to go outside the prison on occasion.

Long prison terms

He and eight other black men fought back against the viciousness of North Carolina's racism, and because they did they were sentenced to extraordinarily long terms in prison.

Public protest, political pressures, the perseverance of those few who were determined to see justice done brought about the release of eight of the Wilmington Ten, a release under parole supervision.

But there is yet to be a release for Ben Chavis. He was the "bad n—er" and an example had to be made of him. The trial of the William Ten was tainted by serious legal errors made on the part of North Carolina's prosecutors, but those errors were ignored.

Past appeals to the governor of North Carolina and to the U.S. Justice Department fell on deaf ears. The then governor of North Carolina held haughtly that the North Carolina courts were infallible.

I remember talking with Griffen Bell, the U.S. Attorney General, on more than one occasion, and hearing his "assurances" that "we are working on the Wilmington Ten case."

Belatedly, but with an expression of great gratitude to Drew Days, a capable young black man in the Justice Department, the U.S. Department of Justice has now intervened in the case of the Wilmington Ten.

Patty Hearst and the Rev. Ben Chavis. One, Patty, product of a wealthy family, gets a presidential commutation of sentence. The other, black, the rev. Ben Chavis, still awaits his release which will probably be under parole supervision.

Political convenience

The president's advisors may argue that because the Hearst case was a federal offense, the president had the right to intervene, and because the Wilmington Ten case, was tried in the state courts, the Chief Executive had no right to intervene.

That kind of argument reeks of bovine excreta. The president has enormous legal and political power. He did not intervene in the Wilmington Ten case because it was not politically convenient to so do. He did intervene in the Hearst case because it was politically advantageous so to do.

So there it is. How often did Martin Luther King Jr. quote from the poet Carlyle, "Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne"?

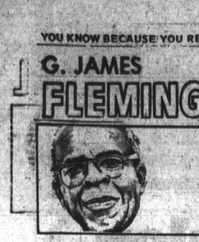
How many times have our dedicated black scholars of the law, Nabrit, Howard, and others pointed out that, despite improvement, the administration of justice in America is weighted against the black and the poor and the "nobodies" in America?

There is pain in my heart when I visit correctional institutions. Pain because I know what cruel circumstances forced far too many inmates into the commission of crimes. Pain, because I know far too many of those incarcerated are truly indeed, the victims of a dual system of justice in America.

Welcome back to free society, Patty. Welcome back to the struggle, brother Ben Chavis.

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

G. JAMES FLEMING



'Death to the Pushers'?

All power to the group of Northwest Baltimore ministers who are banded in the latest drive against drug - selling in our city.

They deserve the support of their fellow - citizens and they ought to make a commitment to continue this campaign. I hope that they are interested in more than winning a few headlines.

Which brings to mind that, not so many years ago, there were signs all over the city saying, "Death to the Pushers." College students and other young people were strident and colorful in asserting that they would put an end to the drug business in Baltimore.

What has happened to these young crusaders? How many pushers have they put to death?

This column is not in favor of lay citizens taking the law into their own hands. I cannot help thinking, however, that there seems to be little sustained commitment, by the "good people" of the city — or any city — to make pushing drugs dangerous business.

When pushers die, they usually die at the hands of fellow - criminals, not because of the wrath of concerned citizens who fear for the future of their children.

It is not only college students who give up in their "drive" to rid the city of the moguls of the drug trade. Government, too, on all levels, has surrendered to the criminals or the "pillars of society" who control the business.

I shudder for our country, in the war between the superpowers, when we cannot even manage our borders effectively enough to keep tons upon tons of dangerous drugs, worth many millions, from entering into our domain.

I anger when I think of all the two - penny offenders in prison, while the owners of fast ships and airplanes which transport drugs to our shores escape arrest, prosecution or punishment.

Is the drug business so powerful and wealthy that it can buy its way free of all law enforcement — or nearly all?

It seems that one of the most demanding human rights campaigns of this country is to save our young thousands destined to lives of drug addiction and the endless crimes that flow from such addiction. Then, we can help other countries to follow our example.

The man on the street, as well as high public officials, believe that the drug traffic could not continue, in the sustained commitment, by the "good people" of the city — or any city — to make pushing drugs dangerous business.

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The man on the street, as well as high public officials, believe that the drug traffic could not continue, in the several American states and territories, if such traffic did not get the nod from persons high in government.

There is strong belief that, just as in the days of Prohibition, those who make big money from drugs, know they can buy "protection."

It is with our younger people that this column is most concerned. There are children, from age 10, who are already victims of "the habit"; there are babies who become addicted before they are born; there are dropouts, from high school and college, who are doomed to a life of "skid row," sometimes leading to jail, time after time.

There is strong opinion, in many reliable sources, that where black people are concerned, drugs are a more deadly enemy than lynching or the slave system.

Drug addiction affects health and life into unborn generations, and it is death both to those who physically die and those victims who are not dead but, for all practical purposes, are not really living.

No community has ever really waged a war against the traffickers in addictive, non - medicinal, illegal drugs. No community has ever supported, or denied support to, a mayoralty candidate based on his ability or commitment to rid his city of pushers.

No candidate for President has ever been made to go on record as to his commitment to keeping deadly, illegal drugs out of the country.

And, brave young people out to remake the world — paint the walls with "Death to the Pushers" and then disappear.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

For All We Know

LAWRENCE PARKER, the businessman who has Parkers LTD. the clothing store on Eutaw Street is not only a highly respected person but also an interesting one.

I PERSONALLY recall when Lawrence was a dynamic leader with the Civic Interest Group, the young Morgan students' club headed by Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III. Those youngsters, barely able to pay their tuition and cafeteria fees at the college, banded together and accomplished what no other kids in the United States ever did.

They were the first to integrate Northwood Shopping Center, the Baltimore 5 and Dime Stores, department store dining rooms and many other places of public accommodation which would not serve black persons even a cup of coffee.

RAIN, SNOW, SLEET, the small group of thin and sometimes hungry college students picketed. It took a long time.

Tony Adona, one of the brave youngsters, died from exposure one day in a sleet storm.

But they kept on picketing until public pressure changed the whole system. Hotels, department stores where YOU AND YOU AND YOU enjoy meals today were opened by that little band of dedicated students.

BALTIMORE'S elite could not vision what the CIG was doing and frowned and said they did not want to eat in 5 and Dime Stores.

They would not contribute any money in the early stages. However, Dr. Lillie Jackson, Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, Dr. Carl Murphy and I chipped in. The young people had to have money for coffee, hot chocolate ... to keep them warm, a hamburger or a hot dog in case they were admitted to the stores to eat.

Pickets in jail

IT IS TRAGIC how the efforts of those mere children of the CIG are forgotten and their sacrifices never recorded. I know because my daughter, Marsha German, was a coordinator, at home every night scheduling the next move and charting the course.

ONE COLD February day we received word at the AFRO that the group was still picketing. I recalled vividly when the phone rang Carl Murphy got in his car to take them money at Northwood Shopping Center. The sleet and snow came down harder and he got out of his car and walked.

The Double T Diner on Route 40, a very nice place to eat now, was the place where the AFRO (me) Sen. Mitchell, Lawrence Parker, Phil Savage, Clarence Logan, Levin West, John Quarles, Walter Dean, Tony Adona and several others were arrested. The lunchroom behind the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis was another place where the pickets were placed in jail — just for wanting equal accommodations. It was a sad day in Maryland.

AND THEN, through the influence of the Mitchells and the AFRO, President J. F. Kennedy built the Kennedy Highway so that the restaurants which would not serve black diplomats on Rte 40 could forget it. Eventually, the major ones who discriminated went of business and the traffic flowed on the new JFK without discrimination.

THAT SMALL CIG group, we can never forget. Sen. Mitchell is now famous as the youngest state senator. Del. Walter Dean is also an influential member of the Maryland General Assembly.

Phil Savage is in a government position of authority in Philadelphia. Rev. Levin West is pastor of a large church in Newark. Marsha German is a assistant to Mayor Frank Fasi in Hawaii and vice president of the NAACP there. John Quarles is an executive with Churchill Distributors in Connecticut. Clarence Logan is in Washington with HUD. Lawrence Carter has long been in his own firm.

We must never forget our heroes.

Cards for Brailey

DEL. TROY BRAILEY who suffered cruel injuries in a mugging the day of his aun't funeral, is still in pain and has soreness that's not easy to bear.

His physician says he will have to take it easy for many a day to come until his fractured ribs heal. He may be able to get out of doors once in a while within the next two or three weeks. Immediately after the occurrence, special police were assigned to watch around his home.

FLOWERS AND CARDS, I have never seen the like! There are many letters from government, state and city officials. Last weekend there were over 400 phone calls, one as far as Puerto Rico. Among the flowers are 15 dish gardens, simply beautiful. Countless baskets of fruit some with cheeses, raisins and delicious tidbits. Visitors galore included the clergy of all races.

ONE LETTER is from a Pen inmate regretting the crime in the streets today and deploring the fact that a kind, good man is the victim.

One call was from a blind man wanting to know what he could do.

A gentlemen who drives a bus stopped me on the street and between hicks and stuttered words said he knew he could not go see Del. Brailey but he wishes him well. He said, "I know my life is not worth much. I wish I could take Troy's place. He does not deserve that kind of treatment."

He admitted he had never known Del. Brailey, has only read about how he insisted that "prisoners' graves have markers on them.

The drunk wept a little between hicks because of the whiskey but he meant well, poor soul.

WORD IS Governor Harry Hughes has become a Born-again Christian and is going through a transition stage. The pressures and responsibilities of public office are staggering but like they say, "The Lord is big enough to take care of it."

Gov. Hughes has promised to clean up Maryland and it's good he has Jesus in his Cabinet. He'll need Him.

THE CONCERNED Citizens of Baltimore, a committee formed to plan for the "Evening with Sam Lacy and Project Survival" met Wednesday in the Board Room at the AFRO. The Committee, chaired by MSU Coach Earl Banks changed its name to The Concerned Citizens of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., because of the tremendous number of people in D.C. Office will chair the Washington Committee. A kickoff press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 27, at the Civic Center.

$$ for Hughes

REV. KELLY JACKSON and his wife Viola are enjoying their trip around the world and last I heard from them they were in Nairobi, Kenya, having a ball.

THE TICKETS FOR Rev. Dr. A. C D Vaughn's 10th anniversary at Grace Memorial Baptist are going fast and if you want to be among the saints who go marching in to the banquet Feb. 26, you better hurry. It's at the Lord Baltimore Hotel with a fine dinner and enjoyable evening. Call 466-7775.

Dr. Vaughn was among those who attended the Mid-Winter Session of the Progressive National Baptists in Orlando, Fla. Jan. 22-25. Others were Dr. and Mrs. Darneal Johnson, Dr. William Johnson, Dr. Walter Thomas, Dr. George Crawley, Mrs. Lucy Talley, Dr. and Mrs. J. Walter Green, Dr. R. Moses Williams and Dr. and Mrs. DeHaven Vaughn, Mappsville, Va.

HURRAH FOR HARRY is the name of the fund-raise the Demos are holding for the new governor March 11 at the Civic Center. Sen. Rosalie Abrams and James Rouse are chairmen.

JUMPING FOR JOY and hardly able to sleep are the youngsters at Gist Elementary School No. 49 who will have as their guest Feb. 20 our only congressman Parren J. Mitchell. Just to see a congressman is indeed a thrill to them and they are already bursting with pride. Mary Carter Smith also speaks there for Black History Month.

We will list as many Black History events as possible next week in this Column. Get notices to me by Wednesday, Feb. 7.

By Marion M. Banfield

The Year of the Child—Part I

In this "Year of the Child" we can take the responsibility of giving support to individual and groups of children.

Even though some of us aren't too sure about how much money really gets to children's causes advertised on television, that is one form of giving that promises a better life.

Clubs and classes can study the effect of infant formulas being fostered in third world areas. We can study the problems caused by companies, organize boycott of products within our own small circle of family members, church members and fellow employees.

Big business responds to boycotts. A few more of us insisting that we get proof that Nestle, Bristol - Myers, Borden and other companies stop using mothers in poor countries for stock holder benefits will save the lives and brain capabilities of millions of babies in the West Indies, Africa and Asia.

This would be a research product well worthy of student time and effort from junior high school through college courses.

Each week I can be sure that young clients will come to Family and Children's Society who will be having school problems. A serious lack is knowledge of multiplication tables.

I propose that individuals and clubs organize time bible clubs in elementary schools. Hold time table contests that would be similar to the old fashioned spelling bee.

Our children need "Spellers Clubs". A place for retired school teachers would be "The Grammarians" with prizes that would stimulate our students to excell in one of our most desperately needed skills - use of native language.

Our churches can seek help in parenting classes from member agencies of Family Service Association of America, from local faculty of high schools and colleges.

It is heartening to see so many of our mothers really making an effort to communicate with these highly intelligent, vitamin rich children who show so much potential for developing brilliant minds.

But reading the Bible just isn't enough.

How wonderful it would be if every elementary teacher would chart the reading growth of pupils so that no child would be lost in the depression of illiteracy.

How much happier parents would be if they geared their child rearing practices toward teaching their children to develop self - discipline, to respect the feelings and rights of other family members. Communication and limit setting can be done without primary focus on punishment.

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

—MORE LETTERS—

It's not all Carter's fault

Dear AFRO:

A lot of backward talk is floating around the black communities nationally stating that the black race should have voted former President Ford back into office instead of Jimmy Carter.

When Ford had the Oval Office briefly, he did what he left over Nixon cabinet neglected the black race altogether.

When the Republicans take office the black race always takes a giant step backwards. Then when the Democrats come in they have to get the blame for everything as if they are supposed to push - button to get everything back to normal.

Carter is currently in that predicament, but the Congress in Washington never takes any of the blame for anything.

For example, tobacco is a poison plant that is killing millions yearly but the tobacco industry is friend to a lot of Congressmen.

The steel and petroleum industries along with a lot of big business companies that neglect black job seekers are also friends to a lot of the Congressmen and they never have to worry about being attacked because of that buddy-buddy relationship that has gone on for years.

It would be great if under the Carter administration all the black leaders in the nation on the city, state and national level could come together in Washington and demand better results from Congress and an end to big business buddy - buddy politics once and for all.

If Sen. Edward Kennedy ever becomes president he is going to be welcomed by the black race into the Oval Office and if the Congress doesn't give him any support he is going to get the blame the way Carter is getting it.

The black race should fight Congress beginning now.

KARL CROSBY

White men — destructive?

Dear AFRO:

Why don't white American men leave us and the rest of the world alone?

Wherever they go there is always war, disease and insanity.

In Israel, Egypt, Guyana, Iran, Africa, South America and anywhere if there is any uprising you can bet your life the American white male is involved.

There must be some type of genetic flaw that causes white men to want to do stupid things, such as stock car racing, skydiving, scaling mountains like goats, chaining themselves in locked trunks, swimming down waterfalls, wrestling alligators and having elephants stomp in their face.

It is not sport or art — only madness. Just like a virus, the white man's destructiveness is spreading — unity is our serum.

A DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
(Name withheld upon request)

Enact eviction bill

Dear AFRO:

On Friday, Jan. 20, 1979, an eviction precipitated near self - destruction for a 39 - year - old, unemployed, male military veteran who resided in the east section of Baltimore City.

This tragedy may not have occurred if former House of Delegate member of the 40th District, Kenneth L. Webster's Rent Eviction Bill had become enacted.

This document would have required the city of Baltimore to provide a vehicle to transport evicted persons' property to a depository and would have allowed such people 30 days to reclaim their possessions.

Perhaps the intent of that legislation could have provided the aforementioned individual enough "psychological relief" to have cooperated with the authorities.

Instead, this man felt compelled to retain parts of the Baltimore City Police Department in advance for nine hours attempting to destroy himself.

In 1978, Sen. Clarence Mitchell III unsuccessfully challenged the bill in the Senate and former Acting - Gov. Blair Lee vetoed the proposed legislation.

It is hoped that Gov. Harry Hughes seriously considers getting this imperative piece of legislation passed and signed to aid evicted people and families during the 1979 General Assembly.

VINCENT O. LEGGETT
DWIGHT E. MILES

The General Assembly: bills introduced by our lawmakers

ANNAPOLIS — With the Maryland General Assembly winding up the third week of its 13-week run, the most controversial issue to reach the House of Delegates or Senate floors is a bill that would lift the freeze on interest rates on home mortgage loans. Although the measure was passed in the Senate, it was opposed by the six black senators.

The proposed constitutional amendment which would give Washington, D.C., full voting rights is expected to be one of the hottest issues the legislators will tackle before the session's end on April 9.

To date, not all of Maryland's 20 black legislators have introduced bills. Those bills introduced thus far focus on consumer protection, rent control, school funding and public assistance.

In the House they are: House Bill No. 7 — Prohibiting spending in certain fiscal years the budget bill would contain a total proposed appropriation not in excess of the previous year's total and submitting it to the voters. (introduced by John Douglass)

HB 11 - STATE LOTTERY — to increase the pay-off odds from $500 on a dollar to $700 on a dollar in the Daily Numbers Game. (by Conaway).

Lottery

HB 12 — STATE LOTTERY — to increase the commission a lottery agent earns on gross sales each week. Currently agents make 5 percent of gross sales and this bill would increase that to 12 percent. (by Conway).

HB 13 — MOTOR VEHICLE INSTALLMENTS SALE AGREEMENT — prohibiting a motor vehicle dealer from receiving a rebate on certain finance charges from a holder of a motor vehicle installment sale agreement. This would prevent car dealers from referring car buyers to certain finance companies and making a profit for the referral. This is known as a "sweetheart contract." (by Conaway).

HB 14 — INTEREST AND USURY — POINTS — repealing the prohibition against the charging of points on a loan. (by Conaway).

HB 15 — INSURANCE AGENTS AND BROKERS GUARANTY FUND — creating an Insurance Agent and Broker Commission and providing for its implementation and operation. (by Conaway).

HB 17 — ELECTIONS — RECALL OF OFFICIALS — providing for the recall of certain elected officials and their successors and submitting this to the voters. (by Conaway).

HB 20 — MARYLAND PROPERTY INSURANCE AVAILABILITY ACT — encouraging insurers to use standard rates where acceptable and to offer additional coverage. (by Dixon).

HB 22 — INSTALLMENT SALES AGREEMENT — prohibiting a dealer in consumer goods from receiving a rebate on certain finance charges from a holder of installment sales agreements. (by Conaway).

HB 23 — MOTION PICTURE-BLIND BIDDING — to prohibit the practice of blind-bidding and providing certain penalties. (by Dixon).

HB 24 — MEMBERS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY-RESIGNATION — prohibiting a senator or delegate from resigning from the General Assembly under any circumstances to accept an appointment to any public office in state, county or municipal government. (Dixon).

HB 26 — ELECTION OF LT. GOVERNOR — eliminating those provisions requiring the governor to designate for lieutenant governor and providing for a separate filing. Presently, the lieutenant governor is selected and runs along with the governor. (by Conaway) Similar legislation has been introduced by Dixon.

HB 30 — COMMERCIAL LAW — providing that lenders may charge a maximum effective rate of simple interest on loans secured by residential real property of 12 percent per annum. (by Conaway).

HB 31 — COMMERCIAL LAW — providing that certain lenders may charge any effective rate of simple interest on loans secured by residential real property. (by Conaway).

HB 32 — CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX — removing certain contingency language concerning the provision of a state debt for a correctional complex to be located at Fort Armistead Park. Unless the state obtains the site by Feb. 16, the Continental Company site will be the alternate choice for the correctional complex. (Douglass).

Education

HB 54 — LANDLORD AND TENANT — prohibiting certain rental increases of residential premises throughout the state. (by Brailey).

HB 58 — PUBLIC EDUCATION — providing for the state assumption of full funding for all public schools in Maryland. This would relieve Baltimore City of its share towards the city school budget. (by Conaway).

HB 61 — MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE RATES — providing that geographical areas may not be a basis of motor vehicle insurance rating. (by Conaway) Similar bills by Dixon.

HB 72 — UNALLOCATED WITHHOLDING TAXES - DISTRIBUTION — providing for the participation provisions of the unallocated withholding taxes between the state, the counties, and Baltimore City. (by Douglass).

HB 81 — MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION AND RESEARCH — prohibiting the practice of conducting medical, physiologic and psychological experimentation or research on inmates in certain institutions. (by Dean).

HB 84 — UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS — providing unemployment compensation for ex-offenders under certain circumstances. (by Dean).

HB 91 — ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - NONRESIDENT DEALER PERMIT — specifying to whom nonresident alcoholic beverage dealer permits may be issued. (by Exum - Prince George's County).

HB 176 — STATE STANDARD OF NEED — requiring the Social Services Administration to promulgate rules and regulations to up-grade the public assistance grant to meet standard of need for aid to families with dependent children. (by Dean and Perkins).

HB 177 — GENERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE — requiring that General Public Assistance payments meet the state standard of need. (by Dean and Perkins).

HB 188 — AGENCY LICENSING PROCEDURES AND REPORTS — certain agencies to eliminate, simplify, combine or modify state permits, approvals, and licenses to the maximum extent possible to reduce the costs and time for government and citizens. (by Young).

Runaways

HB 189 — GENERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYABLES — removing the discretionary participation provision of the general public assistance to employable program. (by Dean and Perkins).

HB 190 — JUVENILE SERVICES - RUNAWAY YOUTH HOMES — requiring the State Department of Juvenile Services to provide assistance and continuing funding of certain youth homes. (by Dean and Perkins).

HB 249 — SOCIAL WORKERS — repealing the provisions of the law concerning licensing of social workers. (by Dean).

HB 267 — FARM PRODUCTS - SALES DIRECTLY TO CUSTOMERS — creating a commission to study and promote ways to encourage sales of farm products directly from farmers to consumers. (by Young).

HB 420 — PUBLIC ASSISTANCE - BLIND PERSON'S GUIDEDOGS — providing certain public assistance to blind persons concerning guidedogs. (by Young)

Alcohol

HB 421 — NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY ASSISTAN