Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Downtown progress

We note with approval Mayor Schaefer's appointment of C. William Pacey as the "lead member of the management team to plan, direct and implement the revitalization of the downtown retail district."

While we would not know Mr. Pacey if we walked into him, we do know he has broad experience in city development projects and is well - connected in the business community.

What we are approving is the appointment. It signals the Mayor's intent to get something going downtown now rather than later when it will probably be too late.

Mr. Pacey will be reporting directly to M. Jay Brodie, commissioner of Housing and Community Development, who in turn reports directly to the mayor.

The new downtown revitalization "lead member" will have as his rebuilding turf the area from Lombard Street on the South, Centre Street on the north and from Liberty Street east to Fremont Avenue west.

Much of this territory embraces high - density black neighborhoods.

We congratulate Mr. Pacey upon his appointment and we remind him at the outset that we fully expect the downtown revitalization team he will head to have a full complement of black employees at all levels, professional, secretarial and lesser positions as well.

That Hall of Fame

It has not surfaced as yet but the "Black Baltimoreans Hall of Fame Exhibit" which opened at Gallery 409 on Charles Street ruffled as many community feathers as it sought to smooth.

Here is the background: the Black Baltimoreans Hall of Fame, which salutes distinguished citizens of our city past and present, was conceived, as we understand, largely by Norman Ross and developed through the eastside based Parents' Club, a strong neighborhood organization.

Handsomely framed photographs represent a cross - section of people who have "made a significant contribution to life in Baltimore."

Well, significance is largely a matter of who is doing the deciding.

And as a result the Black Baltimoreans Hall of Fame has had its staunch defenders and detractors.

This newspaper chose to feature one of the Hall of Famers, businessman William L. Adams, on its front page of our last edition because we thought it manifest news interest that the controversial Mr. Adams had been so honored.

Two principal reactions were a result.

A flood of readers' phone calls praising the display of Mr. Adams. An equal number asking why not someone else?

But even more furious is this correspondence received hardly before the Hall of Fame was unveiled.

"Every time we native Baltimoreans turn around we are told we are not good enough to hold top jobs in this city or anywhere else in Maryland. We get out - of - towner Ophrey's "Roots" on TV and Hughes has to go out of state to get a black jobs director."

Our reader goes on to pinpoint just where some of the Hall of Famers originated.

"Lenwood Ivey was born in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., Henry Parks, Atlanta, Ga., William "Sugar" Cain, D.C.; Martin Jenkins, Terre Haute, Ind.; A. B. Koger, Reedsville, N.C., Sen. Verda Welcome, Lake Lure, N.C."

And so forth.

We find this point of view too parochial for our complete liking for the simple reason that since 1945 there has been at least a 200 percent migration of blacks into Baltimore which means that two - thirds of our present community presently had no connection with this city less than 30 years ago.

But we do support the writer's point that people who compile black, white or any other color Halls of Fame ought to base their presentations on accurate delineations.

"I have no quarrel with Norman Ross, Urban Services or the exhibit. It is just too shallow and omits too many people.

"People you would expect to see would be people like Dr. Willard W. Allen, late great leader of the Prince Hall Masons; Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, the poetess; Warner McQuinn, the law maker; Harry O. Wilson Sr., our first successful black banker; Fannie L. Barber, Llewellyn Wilson, Tom Smith and Harrison N. Weaver.

We guess what this AFRO reader is really saying is — get your facts straight, would - be historians.

Just the same, we enjoyed the Black Hall of Fame and congratulate everyone who participated or was nominated.

If Norman Ross and company seemed to favor whom they wanted to favor we have no quarrel with that. The important thing is the exhibit dramatizes the fact that there is no dearth of significant black Baltimoreans whether born around we told we are not good enough to hold top jobs in this city or anywhere else in Maryland. We get out - of - towner Ophrey's "Roots" on TV and Hughes has to go out of state to get a black jobs director."

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The Sears issue

There is a bit of irony in the recent suit filed against the U.S. government by Sears, Roebuck and Company, and it has left observers of the equal job opportunity movement with conflicting views.

In essence, the Sears suit calls the "affirmative action hiring" practices set up by the various governmental agencies as applied to the private business sector confusing and difficult to follow. They may have a good point in that for years the U.S. government has created confusion in some quarters with all its regulations and paperwork required for private businesses to meet the governmental standards.

These variety of regulations, some conflicting with others, have caused real problems for small businesses, in particular, and, according to the Sears suit, have literally killed any initiative in that direction in the private sector. Sears says the government has prevented it from fulfilling its affirmative action obligations by the differentials in the regulations.

The oddity of all this is that Sears for years has enjoyed the reputation for progressive and generous employment practices, and as the petition complains, has tried to cooperate with government goals and standards. Sears sprinkled its employment rolls with World War II veterans after the war, and has provided employment for numerous women and minorities.

Yet, it complains that the rolls of women and minorities might have been increased if not for the current affirmative action program outlined by the Washington establishment. As pointed out, Sears charges that the government programs are dotted with internal and interagency contractions which literally make it impossible to comply with all the rules.

All of this may seem confusing but many private employers have complained in a similar fashion and perhaps, the suit, no matter what its intentions, may serve to clear up some of the variations in rules and regulations governing affirmative action in the private sector.

It is equally important that something be done along this line in the government itself because there is as much differential in the application of equal employment practices in the various governmental agencies as there are agencies. It is something which must be watched closely with the new reform organization of the old Civil Service Commission which seems headed toward elimination of the equal employment offices in the various agencies.

It took a long time to get any semblance of equal employment in government and this is not the time to rid the civil service of these valuable offices. The real problem is in the interpretation and application of equal employment regulations, such practices which, in many instances, discriminate against the very persons they were designed to help.

One of the major problems has been that the governmental rules stress numbers and percentages but frequently overlook other significant factors which work for or against the hiring or upgrading of employees, especially minority employees.

There has been a perceptual difference among many governmental agencies as to how to promote the affirmative action programs, with many putting more emphasis on numbers rather than goals. If the Sears suit does nothing else but help get the whole affirmative action program cleaned up and helps put the government's own house in order, it will have served a good purpose.

There is one thing, however, which clouds the issue and that is that Sears has been under investigation by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for approximately four years. Sears denies that this had anything to do with the initiation of the suit.

However, if it helps give proper direction to future EEO programs in government and provides a meaningful path for the EEO programs to move along in the private sector all this can be overlooked.

MADELINE MURPHY

Killing the messenger

President Carter's budget proposal hurt the middle income and poor, by cutting back on essential programs like Head Start, while beefing up the inflationary arms race.

While the poor and middle income complain about inflation, they are punished by curtailment of essential programs; by 7 percent ceilings on wages.

But at the same time it is expected that profits for multinational corporations will soar as high as 12 percent — an annual rate increase.

But as always, the poor suffer. This is reminiscent of killing the messenger for bringing bad news to the king.

Projections for future budgets for military spending are conservatively estimated to rise from $148.6 billion in 1981 to $180.4 billion in 1984 — that magic year, that year Orwell proclaimed would reduce us to zombies.

No matter how loudly national black leaders scream; black press people rebuke or cajole; the handwriting is on the wall.

For some are even speculating that Carter hasn't stopped yet in his drive to appease big business, the Pentagon, even if it means higher taxes, lower pay and further curtailment of social services.

As one looked at the thousands of anti - abortionists gathered recently in Washintton, trumpeting about the right to life, hadn't they better be concerned about the complimentary issues of war and poverty; guns or butter that are directly related to the quality of life?

And with whom are we preparing for war, while the president lugubriously intones that we should be the peacemakers of the world?

Perhaps we need enlightenment from our elected representatives about the military establishment and its needs.

For too long have we permitted idiotic war mongering and the production of death machines, by death merchants, to consume our money, talent and time.

And when one considers how President Carter strongly recommended zero based budgeting, where every agency would review and justify all its programs of spending, regardless of previous levels, the question arises where in the Pentagon has this highly touted theory been put into practice?

Phillip Morrison and Paul F. Walker, in their extensively researched article on the arms race, in Scientific American, October 1978, entitled "A New Strategy for Military Spending" pose this question: "How is it possible for a generation, the leaders of the United States have rationalized the creation of such catastrophic forces?"

They reply, "The answer is clearly that no sane leader expects that such weapons will ever be used. His intention is to let them remain unused, as they have been so far, but nonetheless to exploit them in other ways: as a symbol, as a bargaining counter, as a prize of domestic and Pentagon politics and ultimately as a latent threat of massive retaliation against an adversary's military adventures."

They also demonstrate by detailed charts and graphs that the comparisons between the military manpower of the United States and the Soviet Union (excerpting material from Congressional and Department of Defense agencies) "cannot be compared adequately by a simple head count.

"The United States has no border with an estranged power, a much smaller requirement for air defense, a tradition of employing civilians in jobs for which the U.S.S.R. employs 'civilians in uniform' and a strategic force second to none with a fifth the personnel needed by the U.S.S.R."

Their thesis is that "Step by step, in the name of 'realism', the United States has moved from a dangerous situation into one even more dangerous.

"Every step upward in potential damage and in speed of response has added genuine risk, the risk of unreasonable or mistaken leadership, of an error in judgment. Such is the clear history of warfare.

"The spring has been wound tighter and tighter each decade . . . . The risk is that the overwound spring will break, and the nations with it."

And with this mentality of blaming us, the victims, for the problems of the world and the nation, perhaps we had better begin to unwind this spring now, by demonstrating against the horrid 10 percent in military spending, in the President's budget.

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

PARREN J. MITCHELL

Convictions overturned

Judge J. Harold Grady has overturned the two corruption convictions against Lt. Colonel James H. Watkins.

I am glad that he did. In fact, he had no other choice. The States Attorney's office had failed to prove its case and had suppressed evidence favorable to Col. Watkins.

This action by Judge Grady triggered me to think about prosecutions in our day. I suspect that far too many prosecutions are motivated by either the desire for press publicity, or by racial considerations, or as a part of a personal vendetta.

Let me make it abundantly clear from the outset, I do not condone nor accept corruption, wrong doing, criminal behavior, nor any other practice which is injurious to society.

On the other hand, I cannot and will not accept prosecutions shoddily prepared, motivated by political - racial considerations and, or personal vendettas.

Garmatz, Mandel

Former Rep. Edward Garmatz was certainly not a political nor personal friend of mine. As a matter of fact, politically we were light worlds apart.

A disgruntled person fabricated charges against Garmatz, who was brought to trial and found not guilty because the miserable miscreant admitted that he had deliberately lied about Garmatz.

The former Congressman was acquitted but he is still in debt, attempting to pay off the cost of his defense.

Former Gov. Marvin Mandell was certainly no political nor personal friend of mine. Indeed, we were political enemies.

The charges against him were in my opinion, tried in the press and I said so publicly. For so doing, I was charged with selling out to Mandel, or linking up with "The Boys."

Those charges were, of course, nonsensical. The issue was the civil liberties of a person, be that person Adolph Hitler, Attila the Hun or James Eastland of Mississippi.

Mandel's convictions were overturned by an Appeals Court. In my opinion he should not be tried again.

Back to Watkins

Now we come to the case of Watkins. I don't care how you slice it, there was resentment over the fact that he was a high ranking member of the Baltimore City Police Department.

The same kind of racism that led to the attack against Capt. Dennis Mello (who was found not guilty of all charges), in my opinion, triggered the so - called legal action against Watkins.

However, there is something more than racial consideration in the Watkins case. He had filed a suit against a local news outlet for a "libelous," "slanderous" expose against him.

Obviously, had conviction been accomplished in the criminal courts, his civil action against the local news outlet would have, in effect, been rendered null and void.

In the Watkins case, because he had high recognition and respect in the black community, and because he had dared to take on the powerful communications media, a decision was made. Watkins had to go, no matter the price.

Public sentiment

Rumors had flown in the black community about Watkins. Some were in his favor others were not.

My opinions in his case were based upon the thoughts I have spelled out above and by the public sentiment in the black community as expressed to me.

"They are determined not to let a black man get too high up," some said. "I pray Colonel Watkins gets justice because it is clear that charges are being trumped up against him," others said.

"All Watkins had to do was get along with the power and he would not be in the mess," was the comment of some brothers in Lafayette Market.

"What is happening to Colonel Watkins can and will probably happen to every black person who rises too high," commented one brother in a Masonic order.

All of us want to see justice done. All of us want clean government. All of us want to see the best in government. However, none of us should want to see the law used as a weapon against blacks, as a political weapon, nor as a weapon for personal vengeance.

Mr. States Attorney, do not try the Watkins' case again. The first trial almost made a mockery of justice. A second trial would succeed in doing so.

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

LETTERS

Carter has lost 'what little respect we had'

Dear AFRO:

Everybody and his brother (including Karl Crosby, letter to the AFRO Feb. 3) is deliriously analyzing the rapid rises and declines of Jimmy Carter ! Almost all are certain that he is retracing the footsteps of Herbert Hoover. Some are even demanding impeachment.

Many political analysts attribute Jimmy Carter's erratic posture in the polls to his "indecision," "incompetence," "listening to too many advisors, and too few."

William Safire (the Nixon apologist) says, "Mr. Carter reads too many newspapers." The speculation runs amuck, as everyone has his or her own pet theory.

It appears that all opinions relating to the president who "won't tell a lie or make a misleading statement," even those that seem to have blown in with the wind, have some merit.

Even by the skin of his "Pepsodent" grin, Mr. Carter can not gain in stature if he must flee to Camp David or leave our shores to learn what makes him not tick.

Mr. Carter has an unusual practice, a proclivity for speaking in concerned tones, addressing the needs of our citizens; of concern for weaker nations, of minorities and peoples of various colors, etc., and before our confused minds digest every word and encouraging syllable, he finds a new toy with which to play.

He seems to possess a very limited concentration span. He habitually shoots off his mouth before cocking his brain. He discourages and frustrates us with his apparent instability, collapsable backbone and lack of direction. He is frequently the only one aware that he has aided an unfortunate segment of our society.

Mr. Cartes employed every eloquent device to assure us that all who were able and willing to work would not remain unemployed. The Humphrey - Hawkins bill would have assisted in that endeavor.

Mr. Carter ultimately became aware of the bill when only Mr. Hawkins survived and the bill had most of its teeth extracted. He justifiably attached (on television) "the greed, the profiteering, the unconscionable character of the oil industry."

Today he has succumbed to the "unconscionable" and could not care less for the billions it will rip from our paychecks and the life and death struggles it will create for the millions of economically disadvantaged of our nation.

The consumers bill died while Mr. Carter with spade in hand proceeded to praise it. His double - talk while double - digit inflation stares menacingly down our gullets, doubles our doubts about him.

Mr. Carter pledged to decrease military expenditures by five to seven billion dollars, before the American voters lowered those levers. He has actually increased the implements of war by approximately $20 billion since taking office, and is hellbent for more billions to filter from our pocketbooks and wallets, and is creating headlines with nuclear threats.

He has reneged on meaningful solar energy research medical care, and other constructive essentials.

Mr. Carter has the political (common) ability of building us up to an awful let down. He is a leader who has not the ability to lead or fulfill his lofty sounding pledges.

He possesses not the conviction, the depth, the intelligence, the compassion and dedication expected of a leader.

He is notoriously selective in his "human rights" crusade, tapping every Hitlerite on the wrist, while Rosalynn and he extend a welcome hand.

He has lost what little respect we have held for him, by self - imposed amnesia. His staunch supporters, the blacks, poor whites, the little people of America (including myself) to whom he applied for the key to the White House, he has all but forgotten, but is shamelessly kowtowing to those who opposed him, the wealthy, strong and influential.

Obviously, had conviction been accomplished in the criminal courts, his civil action against the local news outlet would have, in effect, been rendered null and void.

Blasting abortion advocates

Dear AFRO:

When I read that our governor proposed to use taxpayers' money to finance abortions I was struck dumb.

Then when I heard on the radio that the governor had attributed his victory to his faith in God — that was the climax.

God does not have anything to do with abortion, as that is the work of the devil.

I was hopeful that one of the candidates would change his perspective on abortion, but since neither one did, I refused to vote for a pro - abortionist.

I should like to have voted for Mr. Beall to give Dr. Allen a chance to become lieutenant governor for this would have been a favorable precedent for our race.

If the Maryland legislators put up a gigantic fight for the anti - abortionists, our Heavenly Father, who is omnipotent, will give them a victory.

"Thou shalt not kill."

No wonder Maryland is called the most corrupt state in the United States.

MISS WILLIE RUTH PAYNE

Praising Nigeria

Dear AFRO:

Nigeria, largest African country, shows signs of throwing off the military dictatorship that has ruled that country for the last 13 years.

The ban on political parties has been lifted and at least six national political parties are preparing to participate in next year's election. This is one of the most hopeful signs of a resurgence of democratic institutions in that country.

So great is Nigeria's leadership in size, income and influence among the nations of Africa that other African nations are likely to follow her example.

It appears that Nigeria is about to adopt a constitutional form of government patterned after that of the United States with a President elected by the people and with legislative bodies like our Senate and House of Representatives.

JOHN L. BERRY

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.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Speculating on new judges

When, as and if Judge Joseph C. Howard moves from the Supreme Bench (a state court) to the federal District Court, two judicial vacancies may occur in Baltimore. Certainly one.

If the governor nominates a present district court judge, to take Howard's place, that will be filling one vacancy. He will then have to fill the vacancy created in the district court, by naming a lawyer to that bench.

This column has not been able to pin down what the black "leaders" and lawyers are thinking or planning, in reference to recommending a successor to Judge Howard. We know, however, that there have been some soundings.

One member of the Legislative Black Caucus told us: "It has come up among us, but nothing definite has happened."

The Monumental Bar Association, which is one of the staunch supporters of Judge Howard, has also taken no action as an organization.

This lack of formal action is not surprising, since Howard must remain where he is until his nomination has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Prior to such confirmation there will most certainly be a public hearing.

There is no scarcity of both judges and lawyers who have the qualifications and the "temperament" for the judiciary.

Robert W. Bell, presently a judge on the Baltimore District Court, is most frequently mentioned for the Supreme Bench. He is a graduate of Morgan State University and the Harvard Law School.

Charles P. Howard's name has also come up often (even for the federal Court of Appeals for the Fourth District). He has held office in the bar associations, is a graduate of the Howard University Law School, and holds the master's degree in international and labor law from New York University.

Larry Gibson, is a graduate of the Howard University Law School and has just returned to the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Law after completing an assignment at the U.S. State Department.

DeHaven Smith, graduate of Virginia Union University and the University of Maryland Law School. Paul A. Smith, graduate of Morgan State University and the University of Maryland Law School.

Archie Williams, graduate of North Carolina Central University and the University of Maryland Law School, and presently a judge of Orphans Court.

We are sure that there are other aspirants whose names will come up in the weeks and months ahead.

Incidentally, no women lawyers have been mentioned in black circles. It seems that experienced women are not interested in starting a new career. The younger women lawyers, on the other hand, according to one veteran, "are not seasoned enough."

In reference to Judge Howard and the hearing for his confirmation, the Monumental Bar Association has already notified Senator Paul S. Sarbanes and Charles McC Mathias that the organization wishes to testify at the hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Sen. Ted Kennedy is chairman.

Monumental Bar will also endorse Judge Shirley Jones of the Supreme Bench, who has also been nominated for a federal district judgeship.

It must not be forgotten, in speaking about judges, that black Baltimore is still under - represented on the courts which serve this city.

It may well be that, with the new vigor in the Monumental Bar Association, under President Edward Smith Jr., and with the cooperation of the Black Legislative Caucus and Gov. Hughes, there will be notable improvement in this area during the next four years.

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

Cultural institutions, community involvement

Probably the most difficult problem for any cultural institution or organization to address is how to get the community involved in their programs.

For many institutions the question has been how far can they or should they extend themselves to provide educational and cultural experiences for the community.

The problem is especially complex when relating this to the black community. Historically, American society has been programmed to believe that black people have been incapable of experiencing, enjoying or even contributing to the fine or high cultural aspects of this country's development.

The propaganda has been so complete that whites not only believe these myths but use it as an excuse not to try harder to involve blacks in their programs, or even recognize the need to include projects or activities which would draw them into the mainstream of that organization's activities.

Believing myths

Blacks, also believing these myths and seeing that no real efforts were being made to include or acknowledge their presence in the cultural aspects of American society, have largely ignored the programs of places such as the Baltimore Museum of Art and The Walters Art Gallery.

Unless the institution or organization was originally designed to specifically address the needs of a special target community, then that group of people who most need the attention of special programs is usually left out or ignored.

Recently, in an effort to be more responsive to the needs of the community, the Walters Art Gallery has started to change the emphasis of the museum's highbrow activities to that of a learning experience.

With the help of a Learning Museum Grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities the Walters will begin to offer series of long term lectures, one of which should be of special interest to the black community.

African, Western art

Professor James E. Lewis, director of the Morgan State University Gallery of Art, will offer a 10 - lecture series on African Art.

"Africa: The Seductive Lover" will be the theme of talks which are free and open to the public. The series will begin on Feb. 15 and continue until May 3.

The lectures will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursdays and while the lectures are free, registration is required.

Anyone seeking more information should contact the Walters at 547 - 9000, extension 25.

Also of special interest are periodic noontime lectures on "Blacks in Classical Antiquity" and "The Image of Blacks in Western Art." These talks are offered as part of the Gallery's regular program and are given by Sedric Ware.

Mr. Ware, a member of the Walters education department is a graduate of Morgan State University and The Johns Hopkins University. A current schedule can be obtained by calling the Walters Art Gallery.

History Month events

February is Black History Month and many organizations added special programs to their schedules this month.

The Afro - American Study Center, located at 12 W. Madison St., is offering a series of Sunday afternoon lectures during this month.

They include: Feb. 11, "The W. A. Benjamin African Cultural Presentation", Feb. 18 "Careers for Blacks in Science and Technology". The panel discussion will be led by John H. Thompson from the National Technical Association.

Feb. 25 is a "Presentation of Herbert M. Frisby Portrait," Afro - American poetry and prose read by Poetess Lucille Clifton.

Celebrating the opening of Black History month, the Enoch Pratt Library has opened an exhibition called "Of the Dawn of Freedom."

The exhibition is located in the George Peabody Department, 17 E. Mount Vernon Place.

There are 65 books and pamphlets, most from the 19th century, which deal with various aspects of the black experience in the United States. Many of the materials have beautiful drawings and illustrations.

Included in the exhibition are also accounts of slavery in the Caribbean and Latin America as well as early Africa experiences. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue and the department will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Gallery 409, part of the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program and located at 409 N. Charles St., is displaying a series of photographic portraits of important Maryland blacks. The display will continue throughout the month.

The Gallery will be open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

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

—MORE LETTERS— Setting the record straight

Dear AFRO:

Recently you published an article relative to the recipients of the Baltimore's Best awards. You credited one of the recipients with being the "Founder of Operation Champ."

I wish to correct the Mayor's Committee of Baltimore's Best on their research.

The author and founder of Operation Champ is the author of this letter.

The recipient of the award was given a paid leave of absence from the Police Department by then Police Commissioner George Gelston to serve as director at the behest of the author of this letter.

His salary, as well as other material costs, were used as part of the "in - kind" services for Operation Champ for Baltimore City.

While I do not take ego trips, on this one I must at least give myself credit for helping the thousands of kids and maybe the City of Baltimore for bringing supplemental recreation and job - related programs to the City.

Hey, don't forget the kids.

CHARLES R. CURTIS JR.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

For All We Know

Eubie Blake's lapel posie and his wife's flowers were from us by courtesy of Clay Florists. Eubie and Noble Sissle used to stay at our Brazil, Ind. home when they were on the vaudeville trail many years ago. There were no hotels open for black citizens in those dark days and the road show had a tough time.

IF YOU liked EUBIE which is certainly nostalgic and colorful, you will LOVE "Storyville" now at Ford's Theatre in Washington. Certainly you should see both and hoepfully "Storyville", a beautiful romance in the bawdy days of Old New Orleans, will come to the Mechanic stage. It's fantastic.

EUBIE and his beautiful wife asked us to be sure to visit them in their New York home and we welcome the occasion soon. One of the greatest moments in life was the annual trip I made to visit Dr. W. E. B. DuBois at his Brooklyn, N.Y. home on Grace Court. Each year at his birthday he sat in his study and drinking champagne, greeted folks from around the globe who fairly worshipped him. They were of all nationalities and ages and we sat at his feet listening to his wisdom. I have photos saved for my grandbabies.

ACROSS the river from the DuBois home was the New York skyline and the Brooklyn Bridge. With its sparkling lights, Dr. DuBois said it is called the Jewel Box. Why he and his wife, Shirley ever left that beautiful old home, I could never imagine.

WAS IT perhaps because New York is filled with prejudice? Is New York really now the "New Mississippi" as some of the Bronx educators we met there recently called it?

The head of the Bronx school board said the black citizens really get kicked around in New York city and state too.

Engineers award

BEL. TROY BRAILEY is getting on Feb. 24 the Engineers Society of Baltimore's highest, the Civic Achievement Award. He is the first black citizen to be given this prestigious and coveted honor from the exclusive white group.

The event is a grand ball and dinner at 9 p.m. at the 11 W. Mount Vernon Place mansion the club occupies.

I HAVE NEVER seen such an exquisite place. It has vast halls, great, high ceiling rooms and a courtyard like that of an old English castle. Really plush.

GODFREY B. Child is president, Richard P. Franke, George M. Leilich, James S. Sramer and Burton Cox Jr. are the other officers.

The award is announced in the February, 1979 Engineers Magazine first published and established in 1927. All their affairs are like something you would only read about and the food is superb. We'll be there with bells on.

R. L. SHAW, sales and marketing executive for the New Jersey General Electric Co. is main speaker for the Feb. 20 Engineers Week dinner meeting and he will speak on "Challenges of the Minority Engineer Past, Present and Future."

The choice of Del. Brailey for the 1979 award was made a month before his tragic injury while he was in the funeral procession to the last rites for his aunt.

Space news

LEON PERRY, our Prince George's County friend, is administrator for the NASA News and invites us to the groundbreaking at Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

The late marks the granting of the largest construction contract to a black firm, the $3,267,000 contract to Fletcher and Sons of Philadelphia.

Herbert Fletcher, owner, will within 18 months put up the Data Processing Center for the Landsat - D spacecraft. Big doings, ain't?

BUT, we'll be attending our Cousin Marie Phillips-Cooke's wedding that day. Arriving at this happy event will be guests from all over the U.S. and we hear there will be nearly 2,000 here. The next day is the dinner for her Murphy family, the Phillips family and the bridegroom's family. With her Mom, Bettye Moss and Dad, A. Paul arranging the wedding weekend it is certain to be the event of the season.

MARIE, a stately and aristocratic young lady, now a minister, was one of my daughter Marsha's bridesmaids. Marsha has sent her from Hawaii a gown fashioned from Samoan fabric, very beautiful.

SATURDAY NIGHT at the Hilton Hotel is the Masjid Muhammad and Sister Clara Muhammad Educational System's dinner dance and fashion show.

IF YOU can, rain, sleet or snow, don't miss this grand occasion. The Temple at 214 Wilson St. is often the spot visited by their famed member (Cassius Clay) Muhammad Ali.

Word is he may appear at this Baltimore fund raiser at the Hilton and don't you be shocked to hear he's missed seeing the world's most popular man.

More on Eubie

WE'RE GLAD we gave Eubie Blake the lapel flowers or else he would have had none. Also thoughtful were the Dunbar H.S. seniors who gave the roses, one for each year of his life.

The eight delighted seniors whom we met at the birthday party are Raymond Wise, Larry Moore, Kevin Swearinger, Cedric Utsey, Alonza Coleman, Vaniessa Stewart, Felicia Crawford and Gwendolyn Warwick.

OUR CLOSE friends, the Victor Frenkils and the Brent Snodgrasses of Bethlehem Steel were our seat buddies at the EUBIE Birthday Night. Other longtime acquaintances dressed in formal attire, furs and tux are almost too numerous to mention. Seems like everyone was there.

It was a brilliant occasion. Most outstanding notes in the [illegible] were the radiant and colorful frocks of the '20's and the songs, "Memories of You" and "Old Dixie Moon". Those Eubie tunes stick in your mind. You can't forget them. Everybody's humming them.

THIS CAST is the Road Show group. The First Team is still on Broadway every night. The musicians are chosen from the [illegible] here and they are ready to take off the show.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH at the Naval Academy has an [illegible] Feb. 11 - 17 at Bancroft Hall. Wallace Terry speaks Feb. 27 at Mahaffey. Professor Samuel P. Massie is in charge of the [illegible] Afro - American Studies Institute. Dr. U Fare Arts Dept. presents "Images and Reflections" and Dr. W. Montague Cobb speaks Feb. 28. Marine Lt. Col. Ed L. Green, a U.S. Navy War College student, spoke Feb. 2.

THE ANNAPOLIS Evening Capitol says Gov. Harry Hughes' promise to bring more openess to the State House in flow of information has not improved from the days of Marvin The Hughes ball is Feb. 9 at the Naval Academy's Dahlgren Hall. The theme is "Lift Off"

GROUNDHOG Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and ducked back in his hole for six weeks of remaining snow and cold. There was a deep snow and ice - marbling subteen weather that day in Pennsylvania where he lives and citizens there say he's never wrong.

THOSE Iranians are still shouting "Death to Carter" in their bone - chilling revolution. Word is their war may spread all around the globe before it's over. Some claim the world economy is soooo bad, war is the only thing that will cure it.

GO TO THE ZOO and see how the animals love the snow. It's a ritual with them, rolling and frolicking.

WESTERN MD. COLLEGE has a lecture "A Look at Black History", Feb. 11 and a 7 p.m. lecture, Black Song" in Baker Chapel. Good!

OUR COMMISSION on Afro American History and Culture, the only such state commission in the nation, is like an umbrella over all Maryland history. Under Director Carroll Greene, its headquarters in the Unit Block West Madison Street is possibly the best museum of black history in the United States. You should see it.

CHECK the calendar here. Each Sunday is a [illegible] day. Pick a date and away the most valuable presentation in the state. All schools and parents should go. That's one marvelous place and it will amaze you with its vast collections of priceless items. There's no way to tell you.

JAMES MASON stars next at the Mechanic (March 13 - 24) in "Forth Heifer" and works his miracles in the byways and backwoods of Britain. The play goes into Boston before coming here.

Carl Rowan speaks

CARL ROWAN said it was la right for Nixon to have some "grub" at the White House and he [illegible] there than whispering in the Chinese at San Clemente. [illegible]

CARL speaks at Western Maryland College, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. Also on the agenda is Black Month speakers [illegible] Congressman Parren J. Mitchell and Mary Carter Smith. They're [illegible] by every school and college in the U.S.

[illegible] Feb. 11 [illegible] a few pennies more [illegible] first, $15 million.

[illegible] Mrs. Hobbs and a staff of antiwar branch does the most thorough job and the window displays are certainly the finest.

UNUSUALLY SLEEPY? You may have narcolepsy, a sleep disorder which brings sleep attacks and abrupt loss of muscle control.

The Baltimore Narcolepsy Group, 3018 Fairfax [illegible] 21208 wants to help you [illegible] support group.

By Marion M. Banfield

The Year of the Child — Part II

The "Year of the Child" can promise children a chance for proper food for body and mind.

Parents are organizing to protest the daily TV formula of sugar coated cereals and daily doses of new and often dangerous toys.

Home economic teachers have tried through the years to make us understand the relationship of food to body development. Maybe the churches can launch a crusade against wasting our money on non - nutritious food while stressing the value of a well - balanced diet.

How about a "Free From Cavities" contest for Sunday School classes? This would mean that families would plan menus that would be nutritious as well as tasty, economical and not wasteful. Children would be encouraged to eat fruit instead of cookies and candy.

Instead of parents complaining about how much fruit was eaten, such habits would be encouraged. Incidentally, that would take off some pounds for both adults and children.

Parenting classes are increasing as we recognize that slapping, belting, iron - cording, cursing, insulting and threatening have produced a set of hostile, rebellious humans lacking the self - discipline and self - respect so basic for survival.

When enough parents recognize that their taxes not union dues, pay teachers and organize to demand that our black children be taught that really will be "The Year of the Child!"

When teachers in public schools respect our children enough to expect excellence, our children's scores will reflect that attitude.

When administrators are held accountable for an atmosphere of mutual respect within their schools, there will be less anger and fear.

When our children learn that helping somebody means that "living will not be in vain", that spiritual will give direction that our children now lack.

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

The General Assembly: bills introduced by our lawmakers

State Senator Clarence M. Mitchell has called for the lessening of penalties for possession of marijuana and redefining of prostitution.

The bills introduced before the Senate this week may face heated debate in committee hearings before they reach the Senate floor.

Other bills introduced in the Senate this week are Senate Bill 198 - APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS — requiring that the Board of license commissioners in Baltimore City be appointed by the Mayor and City Council. (by Welcome)

SB 199 — HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION — providing for a certain real property tax exemption for homestead property and providing for a restriction on application of exemption. (by Blount)

SB 200 — LENDING INSTITUTIONS — prohibiting certain discrimination in housing lending practices by lending institutions and requiring certain standards in underwriting. (by Blount)

SB 340 — CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS — allowing private industry to lease buildings on the grounds of certain state correctional institutions, allowing the employment of selected inmates in these premises. (by Welcome)

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SB 199 — HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION — providing for a certain real property tax exemption for homestead property and providing for a restriction on application of exemption. (by Blount)

SB 200 — LENDING INSTITUTIONS — prohibiting certain discrimination in housing lending practices by lending institutions and reformatory institutions and requiring regular inspections be made. (by Welcome)

SB 357 — ADOPTED PERSONS — permitting adoptees to inspect certain records containing information about their natural parents. (by Mitchell and O'Reilley)

SB 373 — STATE LOTTERY COMMISSION — allowing a member of the commission to serve no more than two terms. (by Welcome)

SB 374 — STATE LOTTERY — requiring information regarding the odds against winning to accompany lottery tickets or shares at the time of sale. (by Welcome)

SB 417 — STATE EMPLOYMENT — providing certain state contractual employees with a certain percent of employment benefits. (by Mitchell)

SB 419 — ELECTION REPORTS — requiring reports due by a certain date to bear a post office meter imprint on or before the required date, and private postage meter imprints not be accepted after the due date. (by Welcome)

SB 139 — PUBLIC ASSISTANCE — providing an additional benefit for blind persons under certain circumstances. (by Mitchell)

SB 140 — INMATES — granting the special leave authority to the warden of the Baltimore City Jail with respect to the Division of Corrections inmates housed there. (by Mitchell)

Smoking areas

SB 457 — SMOKING AREAS — providing for the designation of smoking and nonsmoking areas in public places and places of employment, providing certain penalties and a procedure for enforcement. (by Welcome)

In the House, HB 831 — INCOME TAX - TUITION PAYMENTS — allowing tuition payments as a subtraction from federal adjusted gross income for state income taxes. (by Young)

HB 632 — OFFICE OF CRIME VICTIMS — creating this office and providing for the implementation. (by Young)

Vehicle inspection

HB 633 — STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — providing for student membership. (by Young)

HB 634 — MOTOR VEHICLES INSPECTION — requiring certain annual inspections of certain vehicles at specified times. (by Douglass)

HB 659 — HEALTH MAINTENANCE — providing that these organizations are not required to offer hospitalization benefits for certain persons if those persons are provided services paid for by certain federal funds. (by Young)

HB 660 — HANDICAPPED PERSONS — requiring the state to develop this program for handicapped persons. (by Conaway)

HB 661 — CRIMES AND PUNISHMENT — providing a mandatory life sentence without parole for persons convicted of a violent crime for the third time. (by Conaway)

HB 663 — MOTOR VEHICLE INSTALLMENT SALES AGREEMENT — requiring a motor vehicle dealer to dis