OPINION

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The next step

Community outrage over the looting during the recent blizzard has not abated (as the letters from readers below attest) nor should it or cooler minds.

Stealing is stealing.

In the wake of this senseless destruction and theft of property, however, we must channel our anger into positive directions.

We note with some interest that Mayor Schaefer and some daily press writers are presently at odds over looting and other community issues in the wake of the blizzard.

This is not a time for finger-pointing.

It is a time for stock-taking and sound planning.

Now that we all are calmer, hopefully, we can end our incidental rhetoric and look hard at the fact that some 77.6 percent of burglary-looting related arrests were of young male Baltimoreans in the 18-30 age bracket.

Some 94 percent of those arrested were black.

Some 60.4 percent were unemployed.

And, just as depressing, 68.8 percent had prior arrest records.

Now against the well-meaning rhetoric of "Baltimore Is Best" and "Charm City," against the revitalization of many parts of our city, the physical revitalization that is, we have these kinds of statistics as a corresponding reality.

These young people are in our community and we have to deal with them.

State's Attorney Swisher would shoot them, an attitude that prompted one minister this week to describe said Swisher as "a man captured by evil," a phrase with which we do not quarrel.

Or as City Council Vice President Clarence Burns recommends, we might declare "civil war" against a handicapped element. While we feel Burns has dramatized the problem quite powerfully we would be happier if he were urging us to declare "for" those of our brothers and sisters caught up in criminal activity and anti-social behavior.

Some black people, in some any other kind of people,are beyond redemption.

But most folks are salvageable.

In the wake of the looting which embarrassed so many we all had better begin taking action on some root causes which prompted at least some of the looters, even if their actions are inexcusable.

We still have that massive jobless rate among our young people.

We still have too many ill-housed, ill-clothed, ill-fed.

Anti-social behavior, according to all we can glean from the social scientists, increases as the gap between expectations of a community increases but segments of the population are left out.

There is no question but what some of Mayor Schaefer's programs have brought renewed hope to many citizens.

But much more must be done. The city must re-study its manpower strategies. Obviously they are not working.

The city must redirect more of its resources into the communities which, in essence, are still on the outside of what for some is already "Charm City."

The city must take every conceivable step to ensure that Baltimore will not have what Gunnar Myrdal has described as a "permanent underclass." Which of course means that our housing planning must be "open" rather than closed to those who do not have certain incomes or lifestyles and that our economic development concepts include those presently considered unemployable.

If much greater progress is not made in these two areas—housing and employment, we will be going that lawless minority a rhetoric to accompany their actions, a possibility which helps no one.

LETTERS

Looting

'Lack of concern'

Dear AFRO:

It is very upsetting to see useless people looting in a time of emergency situations.

Baltimore is becoming a beautiful place as far as controlling blight in the city, but these crises create more problems.

It seems that the looters and their supporters think of this as a fun event and it is much too serious to see other people suffer due to the looters' lack of concern for other people, business and themselves.

I am shocked as are many others, mainly in the black community.

How do we address this problem?

MS. MARY WHITEHEAD

'Thanking security guards'

Dear AFRO:

I would like to express an opinion in regards to incidents as of last Monday's looting and near riot.

As to these people, namely security agencies involved with aiding in the protection of property that remained, after the looting had started, whose duty was the same as that of a police officer and whose risks were equally as dangerous.

When thanks were given out for a job well done, no mention was given to any security at all.

I'm sure that guards were verbally abused and their lives threatened for trying to help uphold the law and protect property of others.

Some of them worked around the clock, dedicated to performing their duties.

As always is the case, little or no attention is paid the security officer whose services are vital to small as well as large businesses alike.

The city police ever mentioned is when there is one who himself has become a law breaker. Then all must suffer that embarrassment while the good goes unnoticed.

I am a security officer and proud of it, even though I know that little thanks is ever given but achieving satisfaction for a job well done.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow security officers, regardless of the agencies involved, for a job well done.

SGT. J. S. BRUTON

'Swisher was foolish'

Dear AFRO:

How can an elected official advocate the killing of human beings? It's evident that the people of "Charm City" were deceived and misled into thinking that Mr. Swisher was a man of virtuous sense and moral values.

Mr. Swisher was obviously quite foolish, when he made such an absurd statement so openly.

In most cases, individuals who commit burglaries do not carry weapons. His mere suggestion of property owners shooting individuals, and Mr. Swisher will not prosecute them, would eventually lead to non-violent offenders carrying concealed weapons, and therefore becoming potential dangerous offenders.

A lot of young black people are committing the property crimes. Are you telling the people that the best way to deal with the rising juvenile crime rate is to kill the youth?

In conclusion, I would like to say to "Charm City," Mr. Swisher has been watching too many late night westerns; where else could he have conceived such an idea?

LARRY J. WILSON

'Felt so helpless'

Dear AFRO:

I just had to write to let you know how deeply I appreciate your stand on the issue involving the looting that took place in my hometown during the last snowstorm.

I felt so helpless watching the destruction and I kept searching myself trying to find words to express exactly how I felt about this terrible thing.

You spoke for me and I am deeply grateful. Keep up the good work.

When I saw that the Morning Sun had printed the editorial, I was twice as grateful. Thanks again.

MRS. WALTER (AUDREY) BROWN

'Looted by Agnew'

First of all I want you and your readers to know that I do not condone looting of any kind.

Since Mayor Schaefer elected to do nothing immediately about the terrible prevailing conditions created by the stunning blizzard, these conditions created by the stunning blizzard, these conditions (mountains of snow on the city's main streets) created an ideal situation for opportunist to stun the city of Baltimore by doing that which would seem to be unthinkable (loot in snow).

If the Mayor had offered over-time to some of the city's own employees and temporary employment to remove the snow, there would have been not looting, as every operation necessary to the system would not have been hampered.

This includes transportation, the police department, Fire depatt, ambulance service and any other emergency operations.

In any case this noldback in the key areas aforementioned should not have lasted beyond 24 hours and the same is indicative of the Mayor's poor judgement in handling the situation at hand.

What I am about to write now is directed mainly to Swisher. This entire country was looted by ex-President Nixon, the state of Maryland was looted by Agnew, and countless other state officials, no property owners or taxpayers shot one of them and I can assure you, all of them deserve to be shot more than a petty street looter.

Finally, street looters and their youngest babies (who would be very, very old men and women) could loot for the rest of their lives and whatever they could collectively would not be comparable to what politicans take from the taxpayers in one year.

J.J. JONES

MITCHELL

Looters, losses and louts

No one wants, accepts or condones looting. The act of looting is a violation of law and is punishable by fine or imprisonment. Looters get caught up in a crowd psychology and don't stop to think of the hurt their acts impose on others.

The senior citizen who must have life saving prescriptions filled cannot do so if the stores in the neighborhood have been looted. The mother who wants to buy milk or bread for her young children cannot do so if the stores in her neighborhood have been looted.

Young married couples, who have paid down on furniture, will get neither their furniture nor their money returned if the store has been looted. Looting does impose several problems on citizens who do not loot.

Why the looting? The strident sounds being made by State's Attorney William Swisher and others do not explain why the looting took place.

I am certain I cannot explain why. I can only speculate that small groups of people, made desperate by prolonged unemployment, seized an opportunity to get something.

Crowd psychology

Their activities created a crowd psychology in which those who were employed, those who had never broken the law before, joined in the looting activity.

What we really need to know more about is crowd psychology. Clarence Bishop, a staff member of my Washington office, suggested that what we need is a profile study of the looters, age, employment, prior conflicts with the law, etc. From that perhaps we can learn a bit more about crowd behavior or crowd psychology.

The State's Attorney's Office is spouting out horrendous data about the looters. "Some were rapist, some had extensive criminal records, some were on probation or parole." I don't believe anything that is coming from the prosecutor's office right now.

$40 million losses

Merchants have suffered losses. The city and state administrations are moving quickly and effectively to assist them in re-opening their businesses.

It is estimated that the losses may be as high as $40 million. Let us hope these losses can be made up.

However there are other losses that cannot be made up. Some perfectly decent men and women who were arrested for curfew violations as they returned home from work now have a criminal record and have lost pay on their jobs because they were arrested and detained for curfew violations. These losses cannot be made up.

I am thinking especially about a mature, law abiding man who was arrested and detained for curfew violations as he was attempting to get home from work. He was roughed up and cussed out by the arresting parties. He has suffered a loss of respect for the law.

The black families who are living in white neighborhoods, and are being taunted and threatened as they go about their business with calls of "kill and the n—s" or "all blacks are scum" suffer a loss also.

The snow and indeed the looting brought out the best in some people, most people, I suppose. Some tried to discourage looting, others helped neighbors trapped in their homes or cars, because of the snow, still others shared food and other things with their neighbors.

Clownish people

However, those fateful days of Feb. 19, 20,21, 1979 also brought out the louts. A lout is an awkward, stupid, clownish person. The comic opera scene of the Police Commissioner on horseback was awkward and clownish.

The incendiary words used by Swisher "shoot to kill," etc, are words that would be use d by a lout.

It is indeed stupid to spout off emotionally in a situation which had the potential for an even longer disaster.

The louts called me, "You caused the looting;" "You could have stopped the looting;" "You created the hate that lies behind the looting." Only louts would make such stupid, clownish statements.

It is over for now. I say "for now" only because the potential for the kind of difficulty we faced in Baltimore is still with us.

Jailing the looters and curfew violators will not reduce the potential.

Words from the mouths of city officials which exacerbate racial tensions will not reduce that potential.

Even a sheriff, in a 10 gallon hat, riding his trusted horse through snow banks will not reduce that potential.

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

MADELINE MURPHY

Guilt by association

I'm just a little weary of this heavy guilt trip that has been laid upon the black community over the recent looting during the blizzard of '79.

Sure, I know it is wrong to steal, to go through a carnival plunder that was witnessed recently.

I grieve for the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and wives who have to suffer with, no doubt, heavy sentences that the culprits, with all this illegal merchandise, will have to serve.

But let us not accept guilt by association.

In the mail the other day, for example, we received a letter from the Ford Motor Company about the camshaft on our car. We have been told that we must use some special oil that wasn't mentioned in the manual, otherwise the engine would wear out.

Nowhere did they say that they were at fault for manufacturing the faulty engine, only that now we could have the engine repaired for free, if anything went wrong.

In the same vein the Pinto was revealed to have a gas tank that would explode upon impact from a car going 15 miles an hour. Pinto owners now have to be just as concerned about the front as they are about what's coming too close in the rear.

The Ford Motor Company hasn't accepted guilt by association since it still advertises Ford has a better idea.

In the paper a few weeks ago, there was a scam by an exterminating and carpet cleaning company who disappeared with the down payment.

How many con men spread this guilt by association to reputable companies?

But looting in public buildings, in state capitals, in the White House is going on all the time. Examples: Nixon, with $800,000 plus a year from the taxpayers; the Mandels, the Agnews, the Gandes to name a few.

Who among politicians accepts this guilt by association? (Even though they should).

I remember, as a kid, that you could buy a slice of boloney, an orange, two slices of bread, and a couple of cigarettes for a quarter from the corner store. I wonder what they charge now:

Then if you wanted to furnish your home there was the old $99 living room suits made to matches that was a bait and switch tactic to get you into these corner furniture stores in the ghettoes.

But what you did want was so expensive, so overpriced, probably re-possessed, that by the time you had it half paid for with easy credit and high interest, it was time to buy another set. So the vicious cycle was repeated. . . deeper in debt to the company store!

What store owners like Irv Kovens accept this guilt by association?

It finally boils down to the fact that there would be no profit in inner city neighborhoods if the poor weren't being looted all the time: that larceny in the hearts and deeds of the mighty is mimicked unsuccessfully by the lowly.

Black folks can lament, apologize, wring their hands and scream "hooliganism" from the rooftops, but human nature is human nature in all its raw revelations.

And . . . risk taking in any neighborhood is the very nature of the entrepreneur.

Most importantly, however, Baltimore is 60 percent black. I don't hear the Mayor or any other white politician acknowledge that fact — it might hurt convention business, long before this recent-flotting-because of the aura of fear racism has wrought.

Tom Hayden said it better than I in his book: "Rebellion in Newark," written 12 years ago — that still pertains to day: "White Americans trying to understand with out prejudice the violent events of the last four summers find two themes developed here:

"The first is that the riots are much than 'anti - social behavior. . .' (they are) a logical outgrowth of the failure of the whole society to support racial equality. The second . . . is that Americans have to turn their attention from the law breaking violence of rioters to the original and greater violence of racism which is supported indirectly by the white community as a whole."

I ask, therefore, why has the business community, the big ones, turned its heads during the soaring unemployment in the ghetto? Here are the culprits. This is where the real heavy guilt lies.

These are the ones among us who raise utility prices; who loot our pocket books, raising food prices before our very eyes; who raise rent, gas, and oil prices; who ignore the price guidelines set down by President Carter. Talk about a carnival of plunder and two separate societies lin to steal! accepting by association. God forbid if something isn't done soon, I shudder to think of the coming summer.

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

G. JAMES FLEMING

Looting, snow and things

It was sickening, and to be deplored, seeing pictures of the looting (buglarization) of stores and shops in Baltimore City during the recent snowstorm (the Blizzard of 1979).

The looters were no respectors of race or color. They ransacked the shops of their "brothers" and "sisters," also, as they went on their animalistic rampage. They were grown men and women; they were adolescents and, sadly, they were also pre-teenagers. One, seemingly, was no older than 10.

The loot . were not principally hungry people. They struck some supermarkets, of course; but they chose even more liquor stores and could be seen running away with fifths of Vodka by the armful, and cases of beer. They took, also TV sets and refrigerators.

One of the most succesful furniture and appliance establishments, owned by a "brother," was ransacked.

Over 1,300 places, altogether, were looted; nearly 400 looters were arrested.

Sickening, distressing, embarrassing are the words to describe this display of crime (It was more than just a lark!) amid the suffering of thousands upon thousands of people who were without water, or who could not get to hospitals for treatment or for work; or who were stranded at airports and railroad stations.

No wonder Rep. Parren Mitchell, almost in tears, turned to radio and pleaded to any looters who would listen: "It is wrong, it is wrong, it is wrong what you are doing. You must stop this looting right away. Many babies and senior citizens, many sick people will suffer as you plunder drugstors and food stores. What you are doing is wrong."

There was looting on a lesser scale in some of the nearby Maryland counties and in the District of Columbia; but, there is another side.

It was heartwarming to see, and hear of, the groups of young men and women and pre-teenagers who banded together in different parts of the city, armed with shovels, and who cleaned up the streets in their respective neighborhoods.

These volunteers recognized that some of the off-highway communities were sealed off; no cars could enter and none could leave; no ambulance could have reached a sick person.

In this writer's neighborhood, the anti-snow fighters were led by a young matron. She was like a magnet in attracting others. These volunteers did not work for pay. They would have been insulted if they had been offered remuneration. In the spirit of the barn-raising days, however, some house-holders brought out coffee and "cokes."

This doing right away what the city could do only after several days, was a reminder that there is still usually untapped goodwill and neighborliness around. Indeed, some of the volunteer snow-cleaning groups operated in the same sections where the looters were flouting the law.

When we think of the children looters, we think also of two kinds of families, two kind of parents.

One, parents who are either careless in the upbringing of their children or who are accessories to their breaking the law (How else could a 10-year-old be out of the house looting, in the depth of one of the worst blizzards?).

On the other hand, there are families which set the climate that produces volunteer snow-removers rather than looters.

This is too simple an explanation, we know, and the psychologists and sociologists will have more scientific answers.

While we wait and listen, it is hats off to Mayor William Donald Schaefer on the calm way in which he ordered curfew (He did not panic); for the manner in which he had all departments working together to excavate the city; and for the cooperation he was able to win from Governor Hughes and his executive departments.

An equal salute is also due the thousands of workers —city, state and private — who reported to keep the fires burning, operating the hospitals, patrolling the streets and fighting arson (or answering ambulance calls, for feeding college students, and doing a countless number of other chores, although most businesses and organizations and educational institutions were officially closed.

What I am about to write now is directed mainly to Swisher. This entire country was looted by ex-President Nixon, the state of Maryland was looted by Agnew, and countless other state officials, no property owners or taxpayers shot one of them and I can assure you, all of them deserve to be shot more than a petty street looter.

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J.J. JONES

RALPH MATTHEWS

Malcolm, Captain Joseph, 'Roots' 2

The feeling that I had come to know just about as much of Alex Haley's TV family as I wanted to began to overtake me toward the end of the "Roots I" series.

"Roots 2" seemed to have even more to do with ABC-TV's need to make a few more millions than black America's need to have its agonies since 1609 reduced to the stuff of which soap operas are made.

Still I did lift my solitary embargo of the second 'Roots' series to catch the final episode.

For one thing, the concluding segment of Haley's odyssey promised to address things within our measure. Only Haley himself and the "Roots" producers could measure just how well they had done by the progeny of Kunta Kinte but the closing of this "Roots" talked directly to our times.

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My main interest was Malcolm X and just those years in the early 60s when his legend was made would be captured and passed on to a mass viewing audience.

So I watched anxiously. The camera made an establishing shot of the Temple No. Seven Muslim restaurant. I was thinking that Harlem's Lenox Avenue, at least the block containing the restaurant, was never so darkly lit as shown on my TV screen.

Moving into the restaurant proper I saw some attention to detail. A shaven-headed Muslim, at left, as you entered did resemble Captain Joseph.

AAAHHH!! Captain Joseph. He had to be the most menacing man I have ever met.

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Understand that on every Tuesday evening in 1960 through 1962 I sat in the booth Alex Haley found himself sitting in talking with Malcolm about the politics of Harlem, black America and as he began to travel, the world.

I was editor of a Harlem weekly then and such was Malcolm's impact on Harlem and increasingly, on national affairs, that it seemed quite the prudent thing to do. Better to have Malcolm with you than not.

These were the days when Malcolm could decide to have a street rally Friday morning and at the appointed hour say noon, 125th Street and Seventh Avenue or Lenox would be a sea of black people. Traffic would be re-routed. The route would soon be impassable.

Just how Malcolm and the Nation of Islam, as it was then known, got the people out is still a natural wonder to me but such was his power then.

And Captain Joseph, a short hulking man, was Malcolm's number two. He would always be just inside the restaurant door to the left at the cash register. Always courteous. Always "Yessir, the minister (meaning Malcolm) will be with you shortly."

And always he watched intently as you talked with Malcolm always poised, always alert for anything.

My then wife Rose accompanied me to these informal chats with Malcolm. When we left, walking toward the subway out of earshot, wondering: "That Captain Joseph, what does he think of us?"

His eyes never betrayed anything but we were, after all, infidels, non-believers. Nor did his eyes ever give away how he really felt about Malcolm who was the Nation's superstar. I always felt Joseph disapproved of his leader.

So I gave ABC-TV a brownie point for at least showing a 10-second flash of a body that could have the ominous Captain Joseph.

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Al Freeman, one of my favorite actors, of course realized that Malcolm himself was a supreme actor defying depiction and so essayed the role with dignity and gave us brief flashes of the Minister's extreme sensitivity.

His handling of a typical Malcolm lecture was wonderful. The words were authentic. Malcolm was a master at whipping a crowd into a frenzy about white "devils" and then, using his sharp street humor, calming folks down and getting them to understand that most answers to black people's problems rested with black people themselves.

I have a feeling that Haley worked closely on the Malcolm segments and held the producers to the truth of things because to have presented Malcolm incorrectly would have brought the world down on all involved.

We may not have experienced Haley's family saga directly, though each of us has his own Kunta Kinte, but enough of us were touched by Malcolm to be vigilant to his memory.

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Still the white media myth-makers steered around Malcolm anyway.

Marlon Brando, mumbling his way through the George Lincoln Rockwell part which in essence was a monologue against blacks and Jews, made the American Nazi seem something of a fool but younger viewers will never know, watching the final chapter of Roots, that Rockwell was also assassinated by one of his party members. An important omission.

Younger viewers will know, from "Roots," that Malcolm was a black man who addressed himself to the evils of racism with supreme articulation and that Malcolm as Haley implied, through James Earl Jones, gave him (Haley) the germinal idea to write "Roots" in the first place.

They will also know, from "Roots," that Malcolm was a "bad" black and he dared to talk back. They will also know that black brothers killed Malcolm X for talking back, not to whites as the program's pacing implied, but to Elijah Muhammad, another black man.

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And so no matter how accurately the Malcolm portions were done it is the way the sequences were edited that gives white media another great big laugh on us at our own expense.

It is simple: Malcolm X must be killed over and over again just in case we think about stepping out of line, in case we break "bad."

And the Nazi Rockwells, fools or no, will be with us forever.

The final portion of "Roots" was so slickly done that this reality almost eluded us.

Footnote: It was toward the end of my weekly meetings with Malcolm that I found he already knew everything that our newspaper was doing anyway. Early in the game we hired a talented brother for our staff who later was revealed as a long-time member of the Nation of Islam.

When I told Malcolm we knew one of his lieutenants had infiltrated us, he laughed, I laughed and he said "Brother, I have told you many times that the Nation of Islam is everywhere, it should have been no surprise that we were with you."

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

For All We Know

HELLO from Provident Hospital I'm here a couple days for annual [illegible] still the topic of discussion and Alex Haley is still the most successful writer on the face of the earth. Roots, the book, first place of all writings, is printed in every language on this planet and the screen version is circulated all over the world.

WE WERE PROUD of Damon Evans, my protege, who played the part of Alex Haley when he was in the Coast Guard. Damon is from Baltimore and was a Junior High pupil when I first met him. His grandmother is Mrs. Alice R. Matthews of Glen Burnie. His mother is Mrs. Bertile Matthews of New York.

WE WANTED George Haley and family in Silver Spring last autumn. He is Alex's brother but prefers to be known only as the famous lawyer that he is. He has law offices in D.C. and Philadelphia.

ANOTHER FAMED Baltimore family you all know is the Bumbry clan. Mrs. Lucy Bumbry Thomas of Pimlico had 10 brothers and six sisters. Her brother Charlie Bumbry is the father of the toast of Europe opera star Grace Bumbry who is at Carnegie Hall in March. Al Bumbry of the Orioles is Grace's equally as famous brother.

Jim, Matthew and Lomax Bumbry, Mrs. Lucy's other brothers all reside on the Bumbry lands in King George County, Va. Matthew's son is Rev. George Bumbry, one of the most prominent of ministers in Upper Marlboro.

Nelson Pryor, the father of Mrs. Rachel DeFord Eaton, is brother to Clarence Pryor, the father of that bad movie star, Richard Pryor. Nelson is buried in Arlington Cemetery next to President Kennedy.

His grandchildren are Herbert Eaton, a Lemmel Junior High student and Cecelia DeFord who gets her PhD in May and is on the list to become a U.S. diplomat. She received her master's degree from Harvard.

AND, that brings us to the Bumbry family roots which Cecelia traced this summer back to England. Nelson Jr. and England Pryor (Hill Billy of the Red Rooster) are part of the noted family.

WONDER [illegible] Alex Haley's children today.

SPEAKING OF INTERESTING people, the Dr. Keiffer Mitchell family had distinguished guests the weekend the snow started falling.

Nannette a beautiful Southern us that her youngsters' guests were the Robb children, kids of Lucy Johnson Robb and her husband who is lieutenant governor of Virginia.

Nannett, a beautiful Southern belle, had her hands full with the Mitchell children and the Robbs who were snowbound at the Mitchell home a week.

WHEN WE were there the Sunday the snow began to fall, the Mitchell mansion on St. Paul Street was a winter wonderland, its spacious lawns and trees laden with snow.

With the fireplace a glow, the Sunday evening affair became a picture book story. Special treats were the viewing of Dr. Mitchell's paintings away up stairs on the third floor and the sing-along in the great reception hall with Attorney Juanita Mitchell at the piano. She and her husband Clarence are parents of Dr. Keiffer Mitchell' our host for that evening we shall never forget.

The dinner guest of honor was the Papal ambassador to the United States. City Councilman Michael Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. George Mitchell and their baby were also there.

WE KEPT waiting for Congressman Parren J. Mitchell and Senator Clarence Mitchell who were held up by the snow which as you know turned into the worst blizzard in memory.

THE NEXT TIME the moon come between the earth and the sun for a total eclipse such as we had Feb. 26 will be in 2017, 38 years from now.

When we were kids in Indiana we used to see the eclipse of the sun through small sheets of window glass we smoked up with a candle and we then looked straight at the real thing. It makes you realize instantly "There must be a God somewhere."

EASTER SUNDAY is April 15 and if you recall, the date is calculated thus: Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 21st of March.

LENT always signals the coming of Spring and Easter marks the opening of the most beautiful season of the year. You should see Dr. Keiffer Mitchell's paintings of the season's Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, all done in oils as he watches the seasons change from the dormer windows of his studio in his home. Simply beautiful.

FRIDAY, March 9 from 8 p.m. to 11, the Civic Center will be the scene of the Old Time Religious Salute to Gospel Music with James Cleveland and his singers and other noted groups.

Drs. Vernon Dobson, president; A.C.D. Vaughn and C.C. Alexander are officers of the sponsors, the Baptist Ministers Christian Survival and Pantry Fund.

Dr. Vaughn reminds us that the pantry and closet goods are always available for the needy, not just during disaster or the crises such as the last blizzard. The ministers and their congregations are always ready to serve hamkind.

TICKETS for the Cleveland Gospel Singers are $6 and can be obtained at all Baptist Churches. Harry's Afro Hut, Ticketron and the Civic Center Box Office. The cute little link tickets are printed in raised black ink which sparkles with colors of red, blue, green etc. Really keen.

Hostesses are Aunt Pauline Lewis and Mary Clayburn and all Baptist ministers. More music will come from the Gillis choir and Imani Messengers of Bethel AME and other fine singers of all our churches.

APRIL 6 is the date of the 9th Anniversary Banquet honoring Rev. James B. Gray Jr. pastor of Pleasant Zion Baptist Church, 4317 North Point Blvd. The event takes place at the S and R Banquet Hall, 5662 The Alameda at $15 per person. Join us there.

WHITE BALTIMOREANS soon smoothed over the millions in goods stolen from the Port of Baltimore. And they also proceeded to forget the Octavio Grande scandal. That ripoff Mayor Schaefer slid over by saying Grande is still an OK guy although convicted by the courts.

We wonder why those people want to condemn all the black citizens for the looting during the blizzard? Why don't they keep their head bowed down low when they recall the worst crime ever known to mankind, the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. No black crime has ever exceeded those infamous deeds done by whites. You've got to remember that and face them with their horrible sins. And, they keep on and on and on, never ending.

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

Words are images, too!

So far much of the energy of this column has been devoted to the recognition of the black visual artist. But the black creative community is certainly not without its other areas of artistic expression.

The case for the lack of exposure for the black writer or poet is equally as strong. For while at least a painter or sculptor can place their work on a wall or in the middle of the floor so at least someone can trip over it. It is not so easy for the black writer.

In fact, where can a peom, short story, prose or essays be recognized at all?

Publication opportunities are the major avenue for the writer.

But magazines, journal and books which look far, much less provide opportunities for young, especially black writers are at best few and far between.

It is therefore with great pleasure that Baltimore welcomes the efforts of the newly formed Blackberry Press.

'The Black Review'

Blackberry Press has undertaken a large and much needed service to this community. One of the primary functions of this press is to publish twice a year "The Black Review." The timely introduction of this periodical could not have come soon enough.

The design of "The Black Review" should encourage all writers who have not had any exposure or who would like to share their works with others in the Baltimore community.

The first issue is a modest but ambitious undertaking of approximately 36 pages.

The contents includes the literary contributions of 13 writers. They include Richard A. Rowe, Michael S. Weaver, Linda Joy Burke, Stella Adams, Frank G. Newton, Gilbert H. Richards, Michele Tanner, Dennis R. Bates, Angela Jackson, Peter Harris, Makini Tulinagrue, Carrington Banner and Tamu Moore.

This first Review contains a select but wide range of literary offerings in the area of poetry, prose, short story, essay, book reviews and a section for "news and notes" or opportunities to publish in other organizations.

The published work reflect a freshness of material and new talent not heard from before in the Baltimore scene.

Original art

The magazine is not just limiting its published items to literary selections but is also looking for original art works to print in the journal also.

Any artist who works in the medium of drawing, wood cut silkscreen itching, or another black and white media should send their work to the same address listed above. Be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelop so that your work can be returned.

It is hoped that this is just the start of what will be a long time major publication to the Baltimore creative market.

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

Another offering by Linda Joy Burke called "Enough" is enough to make anyone stop and think a real long minute or even two. The opening lines of the poem describe rather paintedly the intention of the Author's message:

"Am I being right
Bright enough,
Tight enough for you?"

At some point in everyone's life this situation has probably occurred but it is only the poet (poetess) who has the ability to capture these sentiments so skilfully.

Blackberry Press is constantly looking for works by black writers in any of the literary disciplines. Makini Tulinagrue is the editor of this publication and all inquiries should be directed to her attention.

Subscriptions for the Review are five dollars for one year and nine dollars for two years.

Inquiries and subscriptions (which are especially needed to keep the magazine alive) should be directed to The Black Review co Blackberry Press, P.M. Box 9405, Baltimore, Md. 21228.

Rich, vivid

Stella Adams offer a significant selection entitled "Alienation." In this short essay Ms. Adams describes the profound feeling of isolation which is especially acute in today's society.

This very short two paragraph essay is rich and vivid with its painterly images. So much is said and seen with the skillful use of so few images. So much is said and seen with the skillful use of so few words.

By Marion M. Banfield

The Year of the Child — Part IV

Our Board of School Commissioners deserves much praise for going to court to get more money for public education. Let's assume that they will get funds. Let's also assume that parents, administrators, teachers, and the all powerful union will counsel together in behalf of our children.

First, let us raise the salary of Baltimore City teachers to make it attractive to have teachers, which between 8:45 a.m. and 4 p.m. There is no reason why schools can't be in operation 12 months a year.

Teacher vacations can be staggered. A trained corps of competent teacher aides can be scheduled so that teachers can have four to six weeks of vacation. That same corps of teacher aides can be grade level would be placed in specialized programs that would set up atmosphere and curriculum to maximize the pupil's learning capacity.

Private schools offer small classes, longer school days and some schools have an extended day program spanning the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If private schools can adjust to the needs of children and working mothers, the public schools have a greater need to do so.

If we care about our children, a flow of money can bring about a flow of joint concern from home and school.

May new money be used for the welfare of our children!

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

Information for taxpayers

Itemized deductions can help cut taxes

Although income taxes for many of us have been reduced by the zero bracket amount, some people can reduce their taxes even more by itemizing deductions, when their deductions come to more than the zero bracket amount status.

Generally, you will benefit from itemizing deductions if you paid interest and taxes on a home you own, had unusually large uninsured medical and dental expenses during the year, made large charitable contributions, or had a major uninsured casualty loss.

If you decide to itemize, you must attach Schedule A to your Form 1040 to list your deductible expenses.

The decision to itemize should not be a last minute one, because you must keep records of your expenses throughout the year.

These records will help you prepare your return and verify your deductions if the Internal Revenue Service calls you in for an examination.

There are five major categories of itemized deductions: medical and dental expenses, taxes, interest expenses, charitable contributions and miscellaneous deductions.

Medical, dental

Deductible medical and dental expenses include such things as payments to physicians or dentists; payments for hospital services, laboratory fees or x-rays; transportation costs essential to medical care, such as to and from a doctor's office; and payments for eyeglasses, hearing aids and pars, dentures, and crutches.

Total medical and dental expenses are deductible to the extent that they are more than three percent limitation previously income.

Remember if you were reimbursed by insurance or otherwise, you must subtract this amount from your medical expenses.

As part of medical deductions, taxpayers may include payment for certain medicines and drugs as medical expenses to the extent that they are more than one percent of adjusted gross income.

The excess is then subject to the 3 precent limitation previously mentioned.

You may include non-prescription medicines and drugs that are legally obtained. Birth control pills or medically recommended vitamins would be acceptable while toothpaste or facial cosmetics would not be.

Insurance

You may also deduct, without the three precent limitation, one-half of what you paid for medical insurance during the year, or $150, whichever is less. The rest of the payment for medical insurance may be included with your other medical expenses.

The following state or local taxes that you paid during the year are deductible: income tax (including taxes withheld or paid as estimated tax during the year), real property tax, personal property tax, general sales tax, and gasoline tax. Federal taxes are not deductible on your federal income tax return.

Interest

The tax on certain major purchases, such as a car, truck, or boat, or materials purchase to build a new home, generally can be deducted in addition to the amount in the Optional Sales Tax Table.

Personal property taxes that are charged by some states may also be deductible if they are based on the value of the property and assessed annually.

The interest you paid during the year on a debt is deductible if it meets the following tests: it must result from an actual debtor-creditor relationship; the interest must be based on a valid obligation to pay a fixed sum of money; and the debt must be one for which you are legally liable.

Such debts include a car loan, a bank loan, an educational loan, the mortgage on your home, and the "finance charge" paid when you purchase clothing or other items on all installment plan, budget charge account, or credit card.

Generally, you may deduct contributions you paid to any qualified organization established and operated exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or literary purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals; to fraternal organizations if the contributions are used for charitable purposes; to veterans' organizations; to government agencies that will use the gifts exclusively for public purposes.

Donations

If you donate property other than money, your deduction is the fair market value of the property, that is, the amount you could reasonably expect to receive if you were selling the property.

And remember that a contribution is only a contribution at the time of its delivery. Pledges are not contributions until you make payment.

If a contribution results in a personal benefit, only part of it may be deductible. For example, if you buy a $50 ticket for a church benefit which includes a meal worth $15, you can claim only $35 as a charitable contribution.

Miscellaneous deductions include union dues, the cost of safety equipment, tools, and supplies used in your job, subscriptions to professional and trade journals, and expenses incurred in seeking new employment in the same trade or business.

You can also deduct the rent on your safety deposit box if you keep income-producing items in it, such as stocks or bonds.

Taxpayers who hired someone to prepare their 1977 tax return can deduct the cost of the preparer on their 1979 return.

If you plan to itemize deductions, by all means read the tax instructions carefully. You may also wish to use the handy mail-order form in your tax package to request some of the free IRS publications mentioned in the tax instructions.