Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

Founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1865-1922. Published Every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Mm. Carl Murphy (1926-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

Inflated Statistics

It does not win respect for law and order, or for the police, or for overall civil authority to learn that all of the statistics issued during the looting of last February were inflated, exaggerated and incorrect. Some would say biased and stacked, to reflect unfavorably on the black population.

It is understandable that, amid the confusion of a two-foot snowstorm, the looting and the breakdown of civil behavior, it was impossible to be exact as to all details. It appears, however, that the inflation was too high, and that it was all in the direction of making the black community to look extremely crime-disposed.

The picture the nation has in its memory (thanks to television) is something like this, given out in February, contrasted with the real figures: Total damages (Feb.): $20 million. Current figures of the Small Business Administration show damages between $4.5 and $10 million. Places looted (Feb.): 1,400 approx. Latest figure when reply: 374. Number of arrests (Feb.): Over 1,000. Latest figures show only 379.

While the Mayor's office, in February, estimated demands for $10-$40 million in business loan to repair damages, only 128 requests have been received for between $4 million and $4.5 of loans.

We could continue. Whatever statistics we turn to, it is the same—exaggeration, inflation, bias, intentional or not.

Looting and other offenses, in time of widespread catastrophe, are bad enough, without exaggeration. When the inflated figures hurt a group that is already suspicious of "the law" and of "authority," it hurts both the affected group and the society at large.

"Don't believe anything the police says" continues having terrifying meaning to most blacks.

Crisis at the rape crisis center

One of the most positive expressions to come out of the so-called women's rights movement of the Sixties is the concept of rape crisis counseling which in turn grows out of the very powerful national [illegible] movement, program about this vicious crime that the feminists have begun and continues.

Increasingly the general public, law enforcement workers, loved ones, through the feminist and educational campaigns, have a new awareness of and sensitivity to the multiple traumas suffered by women who are rape victims.

Our national mood is swinging away from the stupid and unfeeling notion that the rape victim is somehow half-way to blame for the crime perpetrated against her person.

Rape crisis centers are proliferating because victims of sexual assault are so often mistreated by law enforcement officials and misunderstood by those close to them that often what happens to such victims after they have been assaulted is as degrading as the rape itself.

Assaulted, sexually abused women, it is increasingly recognized, need counseling, sympathetic guidance and emotional support. Rape crisis center counselors are, through their own experiences and sensitivity, able to help rape victims much more expertly than friends, families and well - meaning public safety workers.

With this as background, it makes absolutely no sense to us that the Baltimore Center for Victims of Sexual Assault, formerly known as the Rape Crisis Center, should get itself caught up in an internal political struggle that obviously has some racial or racist undertones.

As a news story in this edition reports, a black woman coordinator of the volunteers who man the rape crisis telephone hotlines has been fired by the center's newly created and predominantly white board of directors.

So far as we can discern, the coordinator was dismissed after five years of unpaid service, for no reasons other than that she had strong ideas about what rape counseling should be and was a hard worker.

Evidently all except three of the 21 counselors who put in their time voluntarily agreed that the coordinator, Doris Terrell, was the center's spiritual and operational leader.

For supporting Ms. Terrell, these workers found themselves also fired by a board which was not on the front lines of the operation but apparently more interested in who was going to run things than in helping rape victims.

To give credit where credit is due, rape crisis counseling is a [illegible] which the predominantly white feminist movement can take full credit.

Women's rights activists like Brownmiller, Greer, and to lesser degree Friedan, have written and spoken eloquently about the horrors of rape.

However, all law enforcement statistics at our disposal, indicate that in America tremendously more numbers of black women are rape victims than are their white counterparts.

Less rapes go unreported in the black community, a reality that is changing fortunately, but even so rape crisis counseling is needed in the black community because that is where most of the victims reside.

We sense that the sexual assault center directors in summarily ridding themselves of Ms. Terrell and any counselors who would follow her perhaps unconsciously were attempting to keep control of a concept, that in all fairness, did begin among white middle class women.

But this takes all of us away from the problems of rape victims into the even darker waters of racial antagonisms and political control for its own sake.

This being so, we do not feel the least bit disturbed that The Baltimore Center for Victims of Sexual Assault has lost its front-line troops.

We feel joy that Ms. Terrell and her team of black and white volunteer counselors have formed their own crisis center, the Rape Counseling Clinic Inc. and will soon be in operation.

We urge all thoughtful citizens of all creeds and colors to support this service organization with time, energy and money so that these dedicated workers can carry on.

To those few remaining black members of the first group's board, we would recommend that they resign.

We would further recommend that any potential public funding from any source be withheld from the original body because its irresponsible and precipitous actions have temporarily left Baltimore without a rape intervention mechanism.

While they engaged in political struggles, at least 21 women each week in Baltimore have called the rape crisis hotline for help.

Help that for two months has seldom been forthcoming.

This is reprehensible.

Cheers for the Orioles

If you haven't looked lately, it may shock you to recognize the American League East Division, what with the Orioles perched at the top of the standings.

That is a considerable achievement, especially when it is brought to light that they are there because they have been holding their own with the acknowledged powers of the leagues — New York, Boston, Milwaukee and California.

Like all the so-called experts, the AFRO and many of its readers were convinced last spring that this would be a matter of "playing out the season" for the Birds, buried as they are in the most formidable division of the league.

But, as of Thursday morning, they were 12-10 in games against the Yankees, Red Sox, Brewers and Angels, all of whom are loaded with players who were made millionaires by free-agent finagling.

It has been five years since any kind of championship has been claimed in summer on 33rd Street, so the 1979 prospect is most refreshing.

Baltimore doesn't expect to win all the time, but it loves and will back with fervor honest and sustained effort. That is why 20,400 supporters will brave treacherous weather as they did Wednesday night, and join us in cheering for our new-found heroes.

5th District squeeze play?

MADELINE

MURPHY

Three in the 6th District

By Madeline W. Murphy

Recently this exchange was overheard in a local super market:

"It's a shame," one woman exclaimed to another, "so many blacks running out here (in the 6th District) for City Council."

"Well," asked the other, "how many seats are there?"

"One," she replied, "Myers's seat."

"Oh no," the other remarked. "We got three seats in City Council from this district."

Non - phased, the woman continued, "Well, anyways it's just going to confuse people."

"How come?"

"I don't know, but it's like they's all for they selves. Ain't nobody goin' to win this way."

The initiator of the conversation was a woman who lived in a neighborhood of low registration and poor voter turn - out and had been dealing in politics for many years. Her uninformed and divisive conversation personified black "leadership" in the 6th. Always one to be recruited by the white bosses to do their bidding.

But since there are three seats up for grabs in the 6th District, energy should be spent by black contenders in taking all the seats, not trying to discourage other black candidates from running.

It has only been 20 years since a few blacks have run in the 6th — a short time to get our political machinery together, given the number who run to the bosses for everything.

We should have learned, however, by past experience that the enemies are not other blacks running, but the incumbents who are bossed and controlled by the racist mentality of the Stonewall Democratic Club and by Sen. Harry McGuirk ("Soft Shoes"). Also, those blacks who are hoodwinked into believing that "Soft Shoes" would support a black candidate openly and honestly.

The first obstacle, however, is money.

Money for mailing, posters, for bumper stickers, telephones, election day ballots and workers. There are those black candidates who would willingly accept money from the powerful machines in exchange for slavery to the bosses.

Those that we do need are candidates who would go directly to the people for support, risking a campaign on a shoe string for their complete independence.

The second obstacle is voter registration and mass voter participation that would give three black candidates in the 6th a better chance of winning.

But the ease of voter registration by mail has been sabotaged, with a constant shortage of voter registration forms at the Supervisor of Elections. This calculated move forces us to revert to car and bus pools.

The bosses who control election day personnel, control voter registration. First they purge the books in black neighborhoods; then they make it hard for blacks to register or re - register.

The third obstacle is election day where votes are stolen in out - of - the way polling places during afternoon hours when voting slacks off.

The fourth obstacle is a recount of votes, especially from late reporting precincts where tallies are changed to support the incumbents.

Any black trying to win election as an independent candidate needs mass support from volunteers for door - to - door canvassing; for watchers and challengers in polling places; for recount talliers at the Supervisor of Elections after election; for fund raisers to cover expenses.

And above all, beginning today, a group of knowledgeable volunteers to educate voters that there is an important Primary election in September for THREE council seats in the 6th District.

If South Baltimoreans are really serious about changing the all white image of Baltimore, despite its 60 percent black population, the time to begin doing something about it is now.

Outlined above, are numerous jobs that must be done to make that uphill climb result in VICTORY for blacks in the political mainstream in the 6th.

Just complaining about our plight won't make change come.

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

PARREN

MITCHELL

The draft controversy

Many of us have become acutely aware of the various existing proposals to reinstitute the military draft.

Within the next few weeks, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees are actively considering alternatives to the existing all - volunteer military.

Votes on both the House and Senate floors regarding Selective Service registration and - or the draft are anticipated during this Congress.

I have joined with many of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives in sending a letter to the President urging him to oppose a resumption of the draft, compulsory national service, and universal registration.

I believe that forcing our nation's young people into voluntary armed services positions can only serve to undermine both a legal and humanistic prohibition against involuntary servitude.

This country's emphasis on a strong defense has been partly responsible for the detracting of ample monetary assistance to other national programs.

Needless to say, the implementation of compulsory draft measures may adversely affect black Americans. Specifically, the high rate of unemployment among black and minority youth may prompt the federal government to direct the compulsory draft expressly toward this group as an alternative to the situation. Sadly enough, our black youth may begin to look toward this compulsory duty as the only way to avoid the devastation and frustration of unemployment.

In conjunction with the concern mentioned above, I believe that there is no guarantee that those black youth who may be subjected to a compulsory draft will not be concentrated in the lower paying, less meaningful, and unsubstantial positions.

Still further, in case of war, there is no guarantee that the number of black casualties will not be disproportionately higher than the total number black participants.

While the aforementioned observations may be alarming, the unquestionable irony is that the proposal for the resumption of the draft and mass registration has come at a time when our country is at peace and no compelling national emergency exists.

The United States currently acquires its military personnel by maintaining an All Volunteer Force (AVF). The proposals to reinstitute the military draft are supposedly in response to certain problems within the AVF.

These so - called problems involve, among other things, the apparent reduction in active duty personnel from 3.5 million in FY 1968 to 2.04 million in December 1978, which is allegedly attributed to the cessation of a compulsory draft program. In addition, authorized active duty strength levels have also been reduced to reflect the changing mission of U.S. forces in the world.

I contend, however, that the proposals to resume the draft represent a drastic response to such problems, particularly in light of the fact that since the draft ended in 1973, the active forces have been able to maintain their manpower strengths to within 1.5 percent of congressionally authorized levels.

In addition, although each of the armed services has had periodic difficulty in meeting recruitment goals since the end of the draft, they have generally been successful in convincing a higher percentage of their personnel to reenlist.

Thus, the interaction of these two factors — recruitment levels and personnel retention — explains the overall success of the active armed forces in meeting their authorized human resources strength levels.

I believe that the armed forces should be encouraged to develop constructive responses toward solving the problems of the All Volunteer Force. Some of the alternatives to abolishing the AVF include: the resumption of Selective Service Registration and the reinstatement of the draft for the reserves and active force. I am not convinced, however, that any of these alternatives offer a solution. I do believe that the proposals to reinstitute the military draft represent an extremist approach to providing for our national defense.

In addition, the return to the draft, particularly in a time when the United States has chosen to earnestly pursue the cause of world peace, cannot fail to raise grave doubts and create new divisions and alienation among this nation's citizenry.

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

LETTERS

Sorority thanks AFRO, blasts daily newspaper

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for the editorial, "Degradation of Black Women," printed in Friday's AFRO.

For your information, attached please find a copy of a letter, which contained signatures of 52 professional women of Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., written to the editor of the Morning Sun.

As of this writing, the letter has not appeared in the Sunpapers nor has an apology been printed as requested.

As black women, we Deltas were as incensed as you.

It is heartening to know that the editorial staff at the AFRO "hears the same drummer" as we.

Dr. GWENDOLYN J. COOKE
Chairperson,
Social and Political Action
Committee

Below is the letter from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to the Sunpapers.

Dear Sir:

J. Pat Carter's photograph of Ms. Mabel Hatfield and those attending her forces this organization to conclude that 1) either the editorship of the Sunpapers is highly insensitive to the image such a picture conveys about black women to its readership or 2) it is in collusion with those who exploit every opportunity available to say to the larger metropolitan community that "See, here's what blacks are like. They are not ready for inclusion or any kind of responsible leadership."

As professional black women we are especially incensed that The Sun's staff could not locate in the files a more appropriate photograph of Ms. Hatfield, especially since she was a noted local jazz singer.

Moreover, despite the nature of Ms. Hatfield's demise, her remains deserve respect and The Sun editorship should have known better.

As mothers and sisters who read the newspapers with our daughters and siblings, we ask you: What do we tell our daughters and siblings when confronted with such a picture of a black woman? Is that the image to which they should aspire? It is one of the identical images conveyed of the black woman in other media mediums.

How can our daughters and siblings but conclude that our moral, spiritual and personal modeling must be suspect? A picture does convey a thousand words!

We respectfully request that the Sunpaper print an apology for printing the picture of the deceased, Ms. Mabel Hatfield.

MRS. LAURA KNIGHT, President
DR. GWENDOLYN J. COOKE
Chairman, Social and
Political Action Committee

MSU president defends caucus

Dear AFRO:

The AFRO is a very strong supporter and advocate for Morgan State University.

Your article in the Friday, May 12 issue on the problems we face in our student housing, provided a valuable service to your readers in calling attention to an area of needed improvement. Your recognition of the efforts which have already been taken to address the problem was commendable.

It is unfortunate, however, that some of the commentary in the article might tend to convey the impression that the legislative black caucus is less than supportive of Morgan and our needs.

This would be grossly misleading, unfair, and untrue. Both as individuals and collectively black caucus members have provided strong and indispensable support for Morgan's university status, and Morgan's annual operating budget once it has been submitted by the executive branch.

More important than their own support, caucus members have been able to help us interpret the needs of Morgan to their colleagues in the city delegation and from other parts of the state especially those who serve on key committees.

The state's policy against providing general funds for student housing is what needs to be changed. This will be an uphill effort, but I am sure and your readers should also be assured that members of the legislative black caucus will be in the forefront of this effort to help Morgan develop a first class physical plant which is indispensable to meeting our university mandate.

ANDREW BILLINGSLEY,
President
Morgan State University

Setting record straight

Dear AFRO:

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was never a student at Booker T. Washington Junior High School No. 130, as stated in your Late City edition of May 19.

Mrs. Frances Male Vessella, a retired Baltimore Probation Department Worker, recalls the Honorable Mr. Marshall as a member of her Douglass High School graduating class of 1925.

Page 182 of the 1979 Hammond Almanac documents the fact that the distinguished jurist, born in Baltimore in 1908, graduated from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1929.

Mr. Marshall never set foot in School No. 130 as a student.

While old Booker T. is marking its 50th anniversary and closing for repairs, in 1979, "Mr. Civil Rights" is marking his golden graduation anniversary from Lincoln.

MRS. LOUISE KERR HINES,
School No. 130, Class of
Feb. 1931

G. JAMES

FLEMING

'Just a Pullman porter'!

By G. James Fleming

Some years ago, just before A. Philip Randolph addressed an assembly at Morgan State University (then College), a student asked the professor in charge: "Can't Morgan do any better than bringing just a Pullman porter to speak to us?"

By the time the assembly was over that student, and several hundred others, knew what kind of a Pullman porter Randolph was: a master of the English language; a person of ideas that encircled the past, his present and the future; a Renaissance man; fighter for human rights; one committed to non - violence.

He was more than these. He was a black man, born in the little town of Crescent, Fla., who held no earned college degree, but who was a David who had taken on the Goliaths of Big Government, Big Industry and Big Labor. He was a David who could stand up against the best minds of the country.

Before he enlisted to help Pullman car employees, these workers had as pay only their tips, for the most part.

As a Socialist, Randolph felt that this condition was disrespectable; that it was modern - day slavery. He was also aroused by the fact that the black pullman sleeping car porters belonged to no real union, but only to a "beneficial" society sponsored by the company. He was well aware of the history of "company unions."

He began an organizing campaign only to find that black "stool pigeons" were among the first to join his brotherhood, their dues paid by the company. But, he overcame these informers and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters grew.

He was offered bribes and big jobs to call off his organizing drive, and once he was sent a signed check, made out to him, but with the amount space blank. He returned it from whence it had come, unendorsed and uncashed, of course.

Worse of all the harassment against Randolph was the readiness of law enforcement officers, including the FBI, to help "the company" to spot the brotherhood out of business. At one point, the FBI warned other government agencies that "A. Randolph is the most dangerous Negro in the United States."

Countless others, in addition to Pullman porters, benefitted from Randolph's life and works. Indeed, all blacks and other workers, today, stand taller and eat better, because of this dedicated man.

He allied himself with every project for political freedom, for economic emancipation, for social welfare, for improved education for the children of the masses.

He loved whites as well as blacks, browns and yellows; he loved Jews and Gentiles, Catholics and Protestants, black Americans and those blacks "not born here." He was a world citizen.

In the spirit of Terrence, that Roman philosopher of African descent, "Anything human was not foreign to him".

Next to his emancipation of sleeping car porters, was his drive for inclusion of blacks in war industry and government during World War II — without discrimination based on race, creed, color or national origin (later expanded to age and sex).

It was a struggle as Big (Bureaucratic) Government, Big Industry and Big Unions joined in finding 1,000 reasons why non - discriminatory employment could not work; why "fair employment" would harm the war effort.

Randolph stood fast, however, and pressed President Roosevelt on issuing an executive order outlawing discrimination against minority group workers. He threatened a "March on Washington" by 50,000 blacks and began organizing to that end.

This writer was with Randolph when the labor leader received long distance calls from two of his friends, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia, both speaking from the White House and both pleading with him to "call off the march". I can hear him now, in that inimitable, polished speech: "But, I can't; my people will not permit me . . ."

The 1941 march eventually was called off, but only after President Roosevelt had issued Executive Order 8802 and had authorized the establishment of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice (FEPC).

A. Philip Randolph always considered the race problem in America "unfinished business." He was deeply grateful, therefore, that he was "around" in 1963 to be one of the sponsors of the historic "March on Washington" of that year, when 250,000 blacks (with about 30,000 whites) did march for civil rights.

Not bad for "just a Pullman porter." Not more than expected from this giant of a human being — A. Philip Randolph.

ELIZABETH M.

OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THANK YOU, my readers, for sending me soooooo much good news. Send some more.

BLACK HISTORY'S ABC'S, the newest book by that literary giant, Earl Koger, is one you should have for your little ones. Get it quick. It's great. The U.S. Headstart Program is grabbing the books up. Write, Earl Koger, P. O. Box 11835, Baltimore, Md., 21207.

THIS ADORABLE BOOK is illustrated by none other than Heavyweight Larry Middleton, the famed B - More boxer and it's a treasure at $1.25, dedicated to the Year of The Child, all in lovely colors and printed by the miraculous Mr. Koger himself. One day soon, we must write about him, a resourceful journalist, enthusiastic, lively and with a never - ending stream of ideas.

BLACK - EYED SUSANS woven by Clean Block ladies and another resourceful person, Ida Peters, and other volunteers are being sold at Mondawmin Friday by Vashti Christmas Fund Raising Committee for Provident Hospital. What a grand idea. And they're selling fast. Wear yours but get it first like everybody in town.

ZERITA SKATES, reading specialist with the Department of Education is Tour Leader along with Betty Wilson, research assistant, Department of Education of 20 persons going to China, June 28 to July 16.

The trip is sponsored by the U.S. - China Peoples Friendship group. There are 100 chapters in the U.S. Last week, Zerita met in New York orientation.

Later this summer I'm going to take this trip. We need to see China, our latest friendly country.

[illegible] open house is June 2. [illegible] can see inside the famous townhouses in the 800 and 900 blocks. Food and items on sale.

BACK YARD FAIR for MS begins May 25, extends through Aug. 20.

TODAY, Friday, 12:30 to 2 p.m. we'll join others at the Jackie Robinson Elementary School, 2516 W. Lombard for Career Day. You all come. Iris C. Williams, principal, is vice - pres. of the Big Sisters, Bettye Moss is president.

THE TAYLOR - HICKS Reunion of even more persons than we mentioned May 19 AFRO are still calling long distance and here in town.

ONE IS Rev. Leonard Hicks, pastor of Greater New Hope Baptist. ANOTHER famous Virginia group is the family of Baseball Great Al Bumbry. Herby Eaton, his mother, Rachel Eaton, Nelson and England Pryor and RICHARD PRYOR the movie star.

WE'LL TELL you more when the clan gets together in November. All relatives should call or write Gettye Shell Graves, 367 - 4767, 3513 Barrington Rd. Baltimore who is getting the tribe of over 3,000 together.

One of the relatives, a well - known Baltimorean, was "set up", snatched from the corner at 11 p.m. one night and left by three robbers minus his diamond ring worth $10,000, his wallet with countless $$ bills and without his clothes. Horrible! Police are looking for a lady who is at the bottom of it.

CARROLL GREENE, the Smithsonian - trained director of the Afro - American History and Culture Commission of Md. is one fantastic person. He has that museum at 12 W. Madison St. simply beautiful and so filled with priceless history.

GET THIS — He has arranged for the showing of the Benjamin Banneker movie in Annapolis tonight Friday, 6 p.m. at the Circle Theatre on State Circle.

THE MAN WHO LOVED THE STARS is the title. Refreshments are 5 to 6 p.m. If you want a delightful evening in Old Annapolis, GO. The affair benefits Banneker - Douglass Museum at Mt. Moriah, that grand old church.

PROBABLY OUR FINEST educator on the scene today is Dr. Samuel Banks who heads all history departments in the Baltimore public schools. A deep thinker and keen observer, he is certainly one to follow in advice. He sees the tone and temper of these days of change and transition. We hope to print many of his informative articles soon.

DYNAMIC PERSONS at Provident Mental Health Center opening: Kitty Broady, Mable Banks, Herman Kahoe, Robert Lee, Rosetta Sands, Del. Larry Young and of course those we admire greatly Thomas Chapman, Irvin Conway, Revs. A.C.D. Vaughn, William Johnson, and our longtime AFRO news personality, Zerita Skates.

MRS. ELNORA LEE, the person who has brought in much, much money for Provident's Mental Center, is mother of five, the most interesting person we know. It is her that the Provident Hospital administrators are naming the $multi - million Mental Health Center. Her eyes sparkled so at the thought. She'll go down in history certainly.

THANKS to Michele McRae and Carroll Henson of the P.R. Dept. at Provident, I was selected to introduce Mrs. Lee at the dedication. I was never as proud as then.

OUR SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTS have been lauded by Supt. Dr. John L. Crew and administrators like Thelma Cox as "The first time in history anything positive and greatly beneficial has been done for the children of the public schools." Isn't that great?

WE HAVE MORE and more coming, all summer. Thanks to the wonderful kids in our schools. We love them.

CRYSTAL ROOM, Fountain Blue, June 14 is the evening the Miles W. Connor Chapter, Va. Union, Univ. has its elegant banquet set for 6 p.m. Good food, lovely entertainment, door prizes. Call 265 - 5937 or 396 - 2509. President Fullwood, that cracker - jack guy, is president.

BY THE WAY he is taking dozens of inner city children to be Mayor Kelly's guests in Ocean City this summer, a full week, all expenses paid. What a trip!

MORE HICKS FAMILY NEWS — The Taylor - Hicks Family Tree is designed by Chere Johnson, granddaughter of John C. Taylor, who is an art major from Western Hi and now attending UMBC on a 4 - year scholarship.

THE PHOTOS OF more and more Taylors were in color and we only print black and white but one missed was that of the Taylor line from Munford and Hattie Taylor: John and Amanda Taylor, Thelma and Hilton Burton, Sallie Robinson, Elsie Taylor, Nancy Gibbs, Edmonia and Vivian Towles and Frank Taylor. We'll be sure to get them first in the next edition of the family in November when 3,000 will be here.

MAYOR SCHAEFER announces the City has a $554,320 grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to set up a Young Adult Conservation Corps to provide employment and work for 108 young adults ages 16 to 23.

The workers will construct camp site areas, build picnic benches, barbecue pits and remodel and repair park equipment.

Fort Smallwood, Druid Hill Park and Madison Square Park are the designated park areas where the program will be operating.

THOSE WHO ride the Tour Bus on Sunday can enjoy live jazz at Girard's for the discount price of $1. The Tour Bus offers a 3 hour daily guided tour of historic and cultural attractions, Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. [illegible] and on Sundays and holidays, from 1:30 until 4:30 p.m.

BUS WILL run on the regular weekday schedule on Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day weekend).

For info.: Office of Promotion and Tourism, 110 W. Baltimore or call 685 - 8839.

OPENING ceremonies of the 10th Maryland Special Olympics Summer Games are at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 9 at Towson State University.

—MORE LETTERS—

Need for political headlines?

Dear AFRO:

Having enjoyed several years of employment with the Baltimore AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers in the fabulous 50s, we were at that time noted for sensational headlines. Why not? This sells newspapers and that is why you are in business.

But currently I notice in this election year the headlines are now political "Fighting City Hall for housing".

Even with a near moratorium on public housing projects, Baltimore's homesteading and rehabilitated homes are far past other cities.

Last week it was the trash in Park Heights, because we all know there is an effort to weed the City [illegible] the 4th District.

I say trash is everybody's business. Call the sanitation department for your regular collections, and keep your immediate yard area clean, as the world - famous "AFRO Clean Block" people always cooperate.

If everyone does their own part in being good citizens, and call their council person, there would be no need for political headlines.

JOHNT. BAILEY

'Grateful'

Dear AFRO:

Who said Baltimore can't support an elegant, cultural event like the Heubleln Rare Wines Tasting?

We showed those skeptics on May 1 and I, for one, am proud as can be of the success of that day's event.

Several people are responsible for its outcome, including our Mrs. Ida Peters. And, to each of these people, I am most grateful. It took a coordinated effort to make it work. I couldn't let this opportunity go by without letting you know my feelings.

PHYLLIS B. BROTMAN,
President
Image Dynamics, Inc.

Booker T. Washington Junior High—a grad remembers past

Louise Kerr Hines

The walls of Booker T. Washington Junior High School No. 130 have echoed the talents of both teachers and pupils since it opened its doors at McCulloh Street and Lafayette Avenue, in April 1929.

Slated to close down for repairs in June, in its 50th year of operation, classes may be resumed in 1981.

To me, the best known alumnus of Booker T. was William "Bill" Kenny, a member of our class, Feb. 31, 1931, the second to graduate from the present location. This popular singer, lead tenor of "The Inkspots" trio, favorites in the '30s, '40s and '50s, died in Vancouver, B.C. in 1978.

Bill's singing talent was "discovered" by the late Mr. Louis H. Murray, Booker T's geography teacher. Investigating the cause of a noisy session in the auditorium during a lunch period, Mr. Murray walked in on a "wild" rendition of "Singing in the Rain," by Bill, his brother, Herb, and a classmate, Titus Hayman.

Martinet that he was, in his usual crisp and decisive, no-nonsense manner, Mr. Murray terminated the performance, quieted the audience, and marched the participants down from the third floor to his second floor classroom. He ordered the pupils to the back of the room, with instructions to "sing, or be sent home," adding, "And, if it's NOT good, you will be sent home anyhow."

The group launched into a more subdued rendition of the same song. Rising above the voices of his companions, Bill's clear falsetto all but electrified Mr. Murray who was well known for his own direction of and participation in amateur theatrical events.

All thoughts of disciplinary action were forgotten when Mr. Murray recognized in Bill Kenny a real talent. Mr. Murray rehearsed with Bill at his home, and gave him advice from which he never deviated, saying, "Find the type of songs you do best and stick with them."

Later Mr. Murray presented Bill Kenny as soloist at School No. 130. The audience responded with resounding applause and pride at having so talented a school mate.

The rest is history.

Bill sang locally at the Royal and Ford Theaters, went on to New York to appear at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem.

He became a member of "The Inkspots," one of the most popular singing groups of the era. The renditions of "If I Didn't Care" and "My Prayer" poured from juke boxes and phonograph machines and were played by groups all over.

Faculty members at Booker T. shared their many talents appearing on programs with and for their pupils.

The late history teacher, Houston Jackson, always a colorful personality, had a fine baritone voice. He offered a dramatic rendition of "On the Road to Mandalay."

Equally dramatic in her vocal offerings was another history teacher, the late Mrs. Lavalette Pratt, while the talented Ethel Waters Henry accompanied herself on the piano in effective renditions of ballads and art songs.

Mrs. Mattie White Alston, physical education teacher, was an accomplished pianist who offered solos on occasion as did our music teachers, the late Miss A. Dulcye Woods and Mrs. Alice Busey Ford.

Other popular soloists were Mesdames Catherine Williams Adams and Edna Jackson Wallace, while Miss Essie Hughes, Latin teacher, was popular as a teller of stories.

Miss Marie Alma Kelly, English teacher and a trained elocutionist, was beloved for her annual readings of "The Other Wise Man," and "The Gift of the Magi" at Christmas time.

The highlight of our Armistice Day programs were centered around the personable Harry Hunt, also an English teacher. He would don his "overseas" Army hat and khaki coat and relate his adventures as a soldier in World War I. He led us in rousing renditions of "Keep the Home Fires Burning," "There's A Long, Long Trail A-winding," ending always with "Over There" and a graphic description of Armistice Day.

Assemblies were also enlivened by the humorous anecdotes of the first principal, the late William Anderson. Mr. Sorrell, head custodian, was sometimes asked to sing on the assembly programs.

Among the talented pupils, I recall Anne Wallace Hall, first as a dancer, then as a soprano soloist. Harriet Brown, Ivery Washington, Titus Hayman and Bill Kenny had lead parts in Booker T's first musical production, "The Paradise of Children," directed by Houston Jackson.

Sharing dancing honors were Beatrice Lindsay Wright, Yvonne Thomas Thompson, Jeannette Day Smith and Madeline Conway. Bill Smith and Albert Wood tap danced their way across the stage in many school productions.

Faithful, talented and dedicated Lucy Holt Bradford and Meredith Birch gave hours of service at Booker T. as assembly pianists, soloists and accompanists. Other competent pianists included Beatrice Carrington and Ruth Greene.

The late Mrs. Yolande DuBois Cullen Williams brought her own brand of glamor and charisma to School No. 130. Her distinguished roots included her father, the famed Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, noted sociologist and author, also editor of the NAACP Crisis magazine. At that time she was married to the prize-winning poet, Countee Cullen.

Mrs. Williams taught English. Along with Messrs. Jackson and Murray, and the late Mrs. Bertha B. Anderson, she directed many school programs.

There was unusual rapport between the pupils and teachers at Booker T. The late P. D. G. Pennington was teacher in charge of the old Frederick Douglass Junior High School at Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street. Some 250 of us trooped into the block-long building at McCulloh Street and Lafayette Avenue in 1929, the Tuesday after Easter.

This was the former home of Western High School. The white all-girl student body of Western moved to a new building on spacious grounds at Gwynns Falls Parkway and Pulaski Street, now the site of the present Douglass High School when it moved from its former location at Carey, Calhoun and Baker Streets.

Mr. Anderson became principal in September 1929. Mr. Pennington went on to teach science at Douglass.

I have named just some of the talented teachers and pupils who shared their talents and make sweet remembering of our days at School No. 130.

Rosa Walker Murray was valedictorian of the February Class of 1931.

Shown on our class picture are:

Decator Grimes, Harrison Shorter, Franklyn Williams, Milton Dugger, Leroy Carroll, Wrighter Chamberlain, Littleton Cosby, Theodore Miller, Franklin Owens, Marsden Brown, Ernest Wilson, Theodore May, Albert Cephas, George Haley;

Margaret Blagmond, Dorothy Wiggins, Sarah Dorsey, Morsell Hines, Yvonne Thomas, Murty Dunton, Rosa Walker, Louise Kerr,

Elizabeth Murphy, Irvin Bryan, Elsie Marks, Margaret Hagans, Viola Thomas, Emily Dabney, Geraldine Wright, Ophella Donoway, Roberta Bostic;

Gwendolyn Nichols, Clarice Holmes, Earline Chase, Carlean Nelson, Evelyn Strand, Arizona LaCruze, Bertha Goines, Dorothy Porter, Elizabeth Johnson, Beatrice Lindsay, Charlotte Wilson, Laura Hughes, Catherine Stanley, Hilda Blackwell and Marie McCracken:

Rendall Walker, Frances Smith, Arma Augustus, Idolia Gilmore, Doris Curtis, Clara Marable, Agnes Caster, Blanche Beverly, Dorothy Roy, Arnetta DeShields, Thelma Ward, Celatine Robertson, Adelita Stevenson, Earline Gooden, Jennie Pratt, Thelma Hughes, Roy Johnson;

Helen Carpenter, Celeste Morton, Pauline Chester, Ida Nixon, Dorothy Brown, Alice Mason, Mildred Burnside, Augusta McKinney, Lucy Holt, Calvin Stevenson, Titus Hayman, Levi Miller, William Kenny, Leonard Richardson, Richard Clayton, Carl Faulkner, Columbus Randolph and Harry Gentt.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Hines is a native Baltimorean and a former AFRO-AMERICAN staff writer.

CLASS OF 1931 — These are the 1931 graduates of Booker T. Washington Junior High School. For a complete list of names, see story.