Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Black Peoples Assembly

We would urge all who can to attend the first meeting of the newly constituted Maryland Black Peoples' Assembly, an organization pulled together largely by Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, 7th District, Md., and a group of concerned volunteers.

Citing the unacceptably high rate of black unemployment, housing conditions and other obstacles in our path, Mitchell feels "we cannot remedy the present situation until and unless our community comes together to rationally and objectively make five year plans designed to achieve specific goals, which will facilitate our thrust towards achieving political, economic and social parity.

"However, we must also address the immediate critical problems which confront black citizens in Maryland," the congressman added.

Those charged with planning the Peoples Assembly assure us that this important conference will differ greatly from local past attempts at bringing black thinkers and doers together, in that by meeting's end plans of action in several areas crucial to the progress of black people will have been formulated.

This is an exciting prospect.

We have urged in our editorial pages for sometime now that our community rise above factionalism and begin to talk about the problems besetting us and work on solutions to those problems with coherence and unity.

Since actions speak louder than words we are hopeful that this assembly will be able to map out a sound course of action.

We do hesitate to agree with the planners' contention, however, that only one such black peoples assembly will be necessary for the next five years.

We would hope that once launched the assembly will have continuity and expand to embrace as many people who want to help get things done as possible.

Our community is very much in need of dynamic new approaches and Congressman Mitchell and associates are taking such bold new steps.

We urge all who can to register and participate in this grass roots assembly on Saturday, June 16, at Morgan State University.

Let your ideas, concerns and energy help this important convocation be one more positive instrument in helping us all survive.

The 5th District

We expect to have much to say as the mayoral and councilmanic election campaigns gain momentum.

We are particularly intrigued by the 5th Councilmanic District where there is a more than passing chance that this area, this time, might elect its first black council person or persons.

Few would argue the point that a black mayor in our city's future depends greatly on how soon there is a black majority on the City Council. Another reason why the 5th is so important.

Regular AFRO readers already know that there is some very complex maneuvering going on in and between the various political organizations operative in the 5th Councilmanic District.

We see this as a normal phenomenon at this stage of the game.

Yet the jockeying is going to have to end quite soon, we sense, if black citizens in the 5th are to have representation by one or more of their numbers in the 1979 city - wide election.

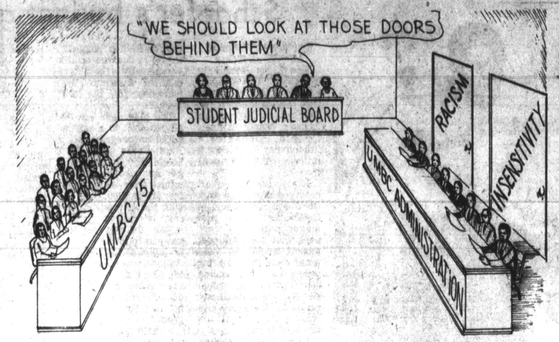
Norman Reeves, Anthony Robinson and Reg Banks are the same and we judge them all men of quality and proven ability.

We urge them to agree on what they can agree on, work together on what they can work together on as quickly as possible.

What all three of these candidates must begin to do if they are to prevail, singly, or collectively, is to begin articulating to 5th District voters and the city as a whole just what they will bring to the job if elected.

The 5th District, particularly in the Park Heights section, has a myriad of social and economic problems and we think residents of the Heights and the 5th in general are going to respond most positively to candidates who address the issues most squarely.

These three aspirants must make themselves heard and felt without too much more publicity lest they be overshadowed by one or more of their numbers in the 1979 city - wide election.



MADELINE MURPHY

New duties, new occasions

Buried in the inner pages of a local daily paper was a short article reporting a sit-in by black students at Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.

The latter day 60's protests for more scholarships, black tenured professors, black admissions officers, the gamut of integrated services were all too familiar.

What is interesting, however, is that not much is printed about the rash of protests by blacks in white institutions across the country.

We hear loudly about our black institutions the moment any alleged irregularities in administration, foundation money and the like are raised. Because, one supposes, blacks are expected to operate in a fish bowl for the approval, scrutiny and reprimands of the white majority. The master-slave snydrome must constantly be reinforced to control our destinies through complete, though not always accurate, news coverage.

Whatever the problem, however, it is not absolutely wrong to seek public review of our institutions to keep the record straight; the administration honest.

The flaw in public soul-searching and airing our dirty linen is that private grudges rarely surface and the administration of the school is usually weakened unnecessarily by wild accusations, unfounded criticisms that never reveal the hidden agenda that is covered by fishing expeditions of this sort.

On the other hand, the silence in the white press about black grievances against white colleges and universities might indicate to us that our engaging in group demonstrations alone is not perceived to be a threat, but is an opportunity to physically and mentally abuse black students.

The problems, for example, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County are long-standing and in comparison to black institutions may well be founded in the overall racist policies of the University of Maryland all these years.

For there have been anti-discrimination suits leveled by black teachers against UMBC from its inception in regard to tenure and promotion.

This frustrating, inhumane response to unfair and racist treatments should teach us something about strategies and changing modes of protest.

College students are in that never-never land of withdrawal from worldly information and pressure more and more. They are unbelievably naive about what kinds of lasting power bring about change in the 70's as compared to the late 60's.

Sit-ins, demonstrations, destruction of property are more easily contained today by infiltration of informers into planning groups, who alert officials about time, place and action.

This puts the repressive forces of security and police on notice to protect property, to beat heads and to keep the status quo.

What black students need today in white institutions are political clubs, that raise their consciousness about how the political system influences, molds and maintains repressive racist policies in state and local institutions.

The institutions, creatures of budgeting controls of the state are directly influenced and manipulated by the state legislature.

This is the pressure point that must become squeezed and pressed by black student political power.

The four short years in college today must mark the beginning of political activism of black students that becomes not only on-going, but permanently part of college life.

Political awareness and activism must be the most important extra-curricular activity. Because, with the right to vote at 18 comes the responsibility of black students to educate others and participate in the process as a unified force.

Historically, every country that has overthrown tyranny and repression; accelerated the awareness of the general populace; has had the university as its spawning ground.

Rather than build on the civil rights drama of the 60's, too many black college students in the 70's have reverted to self-loving, self-saving, self-pleasuring individualism — at all costs — that plays into the hands of those who would control and preserve the existing order.

New duties are now demanded for new and different occasions.

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

PARREN MITCHELL

Gasoline rationing plan

My office has received a substantial number of letters regarding the President's proposed gasoline rationing plan. The greatest proportion of these letters have been expressions of opposition against the proposal.

The President's plan is to be implemented only in the event of a severe gasoline shortage. In addition, if enacted, either house of Congress may vote to terminate the plan within 15 days of its implementation. Still further, the plan could not last more than nine months without renewed Congressional approval.

I certainly recognize the need for tighter conservation efforts with regard to gas supplies. However, I do not feel that the President's proposal offers the most feasible alternative.

First of all, by basing gasoline allocations on the basis of vehicle registration, the plan discriminates against the poor, who generally have only one car per family. Inevitably, families owning several cars will be able to buy greater amounts of gasoline.

In addition, people would be encouraged to buy junk cars, register them, and receive the additional gasoline allocations.

I am further concerned that the Administration has failed to propose stringent regulations on the "white market" of ration coupons, which permit and encourage the purchase and sale of ration coupons on a market, thereby, allowing persons with less need to sell coupons to persons with greater need, or give them away. Such a failure, in effect, allows rationing by price, and further cuts into any attempts to distribute gasoline fairly.

In light of the aforementioned concerns, I am afraid that the President's gasoline rationing plan does not offer a program which would allow the federal government to equitably meet the needs of the American economy and consumer.

The proposed plan is poorly conceived and grossly unfair. More importantly, with the implementation of the plan, the poor will once again have to bear a disproportionate share of the burden.

Perhaps a revision of the plan will shed a different light on my contentions. However, until such time as more substantive changes and definitive evidence are presented, I will continue to oppose the President's gasoline rationing plan.

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

G. JAMES FLEMING

Baltimore on my mind

By G. James Fleming

Not a month goes by that someone does not ask, "Why don't we blacks buy or build some place where we can have our dinner dances and other social affairs, and keep the money in the race?"

There are many answers, perhaps. One is that all black groups may not, or will not, want to have their social affairs at the same place, year after year, even if such a place were the best in the world.

The planned sale of the Hilton Hotel complex has started tongues wagging again, with the same questions and wonderings. There is a new dimension, however, since the buyers of the Hilton are Mid - Easterners, from one of the oil - rich Arab countries. New prejudices are, therefore, added to the questioning.

One snide response might be that "When American blacks control more oil wells — not just two, or three, or 10 — then, perhaps, they (we) too will be buying downtown hotels, office buildings, waterfront resorts, and the like."

More seriously, the sale of the Baltimore Hilton and other such properties is a reminder that we blacks have to give more attention to organizing and managing money; more attention to making money work, both for ourselves and those who entrust their money to us.

Few individuals can buy a Hilton or a Holiday Inn with their own money. But, brains can use the money of other people who invest with us, for the benefit of both the entrepreneur and the investor — brains, honesty and integrity.

JOHN —

DELIGHTFULLY different was the closing meeting of the DuBois Circle the other evening.

Instead of a principal speaker as the feature of the program (as in the past 72 years), those lovely ladies recognized the "International Year of the Child" by presenting a group of school children, in vocal and instrumental music, in the dance, and in dramatics.

It was a capital idea and the young people (from Western High and the Roland Park Junior High) had been rehearsed into a high level of performance.

Nothing against "principal speakers" intended here. Instead, the DuBois Circle had heard several experts talk about the problem of the child all year. This time, however, children themselves had the opportunity to speak for themselves, in different languages.

Mrs. Emma G. Bright, outgoing president, and her team of officers and committees are to be congratulated, as Mrs. Bright also passes the presidential torch to her successor, Mrs. Edna Over Campbell.

BALTIMORE NOW HAS a "food bank" — the Maryland Food Bank — 7,600 square feet of warehouse, ready to receive foodstuff from producers, for the benefit of the 180,000 persons each year who find themselves, at some time, without food. Only Detroit and Phoenix have similar banks.

No individuals can go to the food bank for a meal or for a basket of food. The bank is really a supply station for agencies which serve the hungry directly.

On opening day, recently, 19 agencies had already signed up as charter members; seven are churches; the other 12 are community residences which serve the ill or children.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer cut the ribbon which made the Maryland Food Bank a going concern — ready to receive case loads, partial cases, orders which have been refused — "any of the other goofs which can occur in today's food industry," according to Ann Miller, acting director of the bank and for many years a zealous worker for good causes.

Baltimore and Maryland owe their thanks to the Maryland Food Committee, the Urban Services, the Presbytery of Maryland, and the Miles White Beneficiary Fund, all of which helped the Maryland Food Bank to settle in its headquarters. In addition, Leonard Jed, president of the Leonard Jed Company, paid the rent for the first two months.

Another plus for Baltimore!

The Year of the Child — Part VII

By Marion M. Banfield

"Somebody has got to help me with my son!" was the distressed phone call of a single parent.

Mrs. Jacobs (not her real name) had been divorced eight years ago. Her husband had remarried, was now devoting himself to his new family and offered neither financial nor emotional support to his first wife and the three children she had borne by him.

Henry Jacobs is a 12-year-old boy who was disruptive in the classroom and disrespectful of authority. Although he did A work, teachers would mark him down to a C on report cards because of his behavior. He was gifted in how to make other boys dislike him.

Henry could be depended on to stick out his foot to trip a classmate. His quick hand could give a swift push, quicker than the usual teacher's eye could see. His quick wit could always find a mean remark to insult another youngster.

His smooth brown skin wasn't always tub clean. His jersey was apt to show too many cycles in the washing machine.

Mrs. Jacobs had been on the honor roll in high school. She had rejected college for loe and marriage. Thirteen years after graduation she wears five sizes larger than in June 1965. She lost track of her classmates. She is too depressed to socialize.

She finds Henry a bright, exasperating boy. He spends hours in fantasy about his parents being re-united. A few months ago he found out where his father lived, visited, but was not encouraged to return.

Mrs. Jacobs' love for her children is clouded by the realities of her inability to find employment. She feels that she has no marketable skills, and when she had worked a few years ago, babysitters were not satisfactory. She felt isolated.

At times she wishes she had no children. They always want. The get angry when she canot give. Mrs. Jacobs came to Family and Children's Society because she felt that she might end up in a mental institution if she couldn't get some relief from her feelings of anger and depression.

Through individual and family counseling Mrs. Jacobs can look back at her depression having decided that she will never go back to her husband.

Instead of trying to think up ways to punish Henry, she spends more time talking firmly about her expectations. She also is more realistic about expectations.

Henry and his brothers have sat in family sessions to discuss ways of talking with each other. Each boy is being made to feel responsible for his behavior. There is less acceptance of blaming others.

In this Year of the Child, parenting skills are rightfully stressed as basic to good child care. Schools, mental health clinics, and family counseling agencies are resources available for use in improving relationships. Let's use the resources.

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

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor

STOP BY TODAY, Friday, at Johnston Square Elementary School, 1101 Valley St., to see the Literary Festival Internationale, a fantastic live program and all - day film festival in the Library, all done by teachers and youngsters from Grades 1 through 6.

FOR EXAMPLE, Mrs. Johnnie Brown, has Children Around the World in Room 5 and then Hawaii, paradise of the Pacific in Room P. S. M. Harris; A Day in Brazil and India, Room 114 and Africa, Emerging Continent, C. Dixon. Parents and friends are excited and proud.

YOUR GRADUATES, the folks in your family who are getting diplomas, children and adults, — send ME their photos (black and white glossy) and a small note about each person. We'll try to let everybody in town know how proud you are.

DON'T FORGET — mail photo and information in to me QUICK.

REV. GEORGE CRAWLEY and wife Cora are hosting a fabulous wedding and reception for their daughter Georgene and her hubby - to - be tomorrow Saturday at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Baptist. This affair promises to be THE wedding of the season. You know Goerge and Cora, they are really top shelf. We're taking photos. See you there.

Invitations are prettiest we have seen. Best wishes to the newly weds come from us, to Rev. and Mrs. Leo Cordell Wagner (Georgene and Leo).

RECEPTION FOR Jon Franklin, Pulitzer Prize Winner is at City Hall Jun 13, 5 p.m.

BIRTHDAY PARTY for Sen. Tommy Broadwater is at his Ebony Inn, 53 Sheriff Rd., Fairmont Heights, June 6, 8 p.m. See you there.

MARY AND JOHN EDMONDSON of Forest Garden Ave., are bursting with pride. Their son, Michael graduates from Cardinal Gibbons, then goes to the Naval Academy in July.

Young Edmondson is a member of the National Honor Society and Gibbons track star, had offers from dozens of colleges. His father is a liquor account executive.

THERE ARE MANY honor students graduating among the 9,000 due to finish this month. We'd like to know WHO THEY ARE. Please write us. You've gotta let folks know we have some brilliant stars headed for success in life.

NOTICE OUR SCHOOL SECTIONS? This week's masterpieces are photos and accounts of nearly 2,000 youngsters.

The AFRO is grateful for the many, many letters from 25th Street administrators, teachers, parents and children who tell us this is the first time in history the schools have been presented in photo and story.

WE WILL CONTINUE beginning September and go around the calendar into 1980 until we get them all.

MEANTIME, we want you to know who works behind the AFRO scene to do the job BEFORE the schools get in the paper.

We're grateful to our James Johnson and Douglass Adams, our journeymen compositors; Leon Brown, Mechanical Superintendent; Frederick Howard, V.P. in charge of Production and Glasco Ryales who has managed magically to photograph as many as 40 kids in one photo so you may see each smiling face.

JUNE 9 is the Lithuanian Festival in Center Plaza, the first of the summer - long Showcase of Nations. The French are next on June 16 - 17. Other Ethnic groups follow at Hopkins Plaza.

JUNE 14 is the retirement party at Regency Terrace for Katherine Frisby, principal of Matthew Henson Elem. School. The brilliant administrator is sister - in - law of Explorer Dr. Herbert Frisby who by the way brought Matthew Henson fame as co - discoverer of the North Pole.

PIMLICO JR. High has as its June 10 commencement speaker the man whom every school would like to have, Dr. Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. What a wonderful experience the kids will always remember.

CITY COUNCIL hopeful Margurite Campbell will be salluted at an affair at Martin's Champagne Room June 23. Get your tickets at 17 N. Arlington Ave., c - o Kenneth Oliver, treasurer.

GROUNDBREAKING for the new Hyatt Regency Hotel is June 7 at the future site, Light St., between the McCormick Co. and C and P Tel. Co. It's INVITATIONAL with reception at the World Trade Center's 21st Floor. Real classy.

AUDITIONS June 2, 3, and 9 and 10, Rooms 207 and 209 of the Civic Center, 2 to 9 p.m. are for carpenters, seasmstresses, painters, designers, anyone who has a burning desire to do theatre. Inquire at the CC Passgate on Hopkins Place, or call 685 - 8687.

New York - Baltimorean Jeffrey Cohen, a producer, and Artistic Director John Berry want native Baltimoreans in New York, company. Go, tryout.

JUNE 6 is the honors party by Mayor Schaefer for Dee Snell and Betty August, 2 p.m. at City Hall, an occasion which represents the city's 250th anniversary.

ALL FREE — FUNNY GIRL is the presentation 8 p.m. June 5 at the Inner Harbor Evening Concerts. Bring blankets and beach chairs.

JUNE 1 — Eddie Beres; June 8 - Columbia Big Band, June 15 - Peabody Ragtime Ensemble and "MADE IN BALTIMORE" — June 6 - Merrylanders; June 13 - Jimmy Wells Jazz Quintet; June 20 - Lou Ginsberg Orchestra; June 27 - Joe Clark Jazz Ensemble; July 4 - Fourth at the Fort, Fort McHenry

REV. CARL WASHINGTON'S friends salute him at a grand affair, Downtown Holiday Inn 7 p.m., June 8 soooo don't miss it. He and his wife Minnie and family deserve it, every bit. They're officials of the Maryland Baptist Convention. Mrs. Washington is the vivacious head of the Young People's Division.

JUNE 15, I begin the EST training on a scholarship, a birthday present from my daughter Marsha in Hawaii. This is the crowning moment of a lifetime. You've read about this superb course, the one executives from around the world scramble to get into. I'll tell you about it as it unfolds. I never thought I would be this lucky.

JUNE 27th is the date for the Constant Care Wholestic Health Seminar, a dynamic program designed by Dr. Harvey Webb, that young administrator who is tops in the medical field. It is entitled "Faith, Healing and Guilt".

Included are these workshops not one of us can afford to miss; especially clergymen and educators: Faith Healing, The Work of the Holy Ghost, Guilt and Psychosomatic Medicine, Faith vs. Mind Control, The General Adaptation Syndrome: How the Body Handles Stress and Guilt.

The faculty includes Dr. Mohammad Z. Awad, chairman of the Islam Education Committee; Dr. John Chissell, family practitioner; Deacon Reginald Elliott of the 19th Street Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.; the Rev. Carl Fisher, S. of St. Veronica's Church, Cherry Hill; and Dr. Martin Goins, a family practitioner at Constant Care Community Health Center.

Also Dr. Healy Le Cator, a psychiatrist at Constant Care Community Health Center; Mrs. Dorothy McKinney, Director of Community Food and Nutrition of the United Planning Agency, Washington, D.C.;

Mr. and Mrs. Willie C. Mason of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Samuel Owings, a family practitioner at Constant Care; Bishop Monroe Saunders, pastor of the First United Church of the Apostolic Faith; Dr. Eliza Taylor, Medical Director of Constant Care Community Health Center.

A keynote address by Dr. John Eubanks, professor of Religion at Howard University will give an overview of man's historical striving for peace in the soul and freedom from guilt.

LEON PERRY'S Farewell Party at 394 Harry Truman Drive, Largo, Prince Georges County, Md. is Sat. June 9. He's moving to East St. Louis, Ill. for two years as DEPUTY MAYOR of that town.

From Baltimore go 295 Baltimore Washington Parkway to 695 which is the Beltway; go South as if to Richmond, Exit at 33 - East (aka Central Avenue); ask right hand lane and turn off Central Ave. at Harry Truman Drive. Go 3 - 10ths of a mile to Campus Way. A few yards beyond is the Townhouse Development, "Ridgely". On the right are the Northhampton Apts. Make a left. Leon's Townhouse is the first one.

JUNE 10 is New York City's salute to Dr. Roland Patterson whom they call the nation's No. 1 educator.

JUNE 10 is the Fund Raiser at the Belvedere Hotel by Friends of City Councilman Michael Mitchell. Wine and cheese. Make this one.

MAY 31 was the first salute to a black elected official member and the honoree was Commissioner Grover McCrae, a wonderful affair at the Belvedere Top Shelf.

LAKE CLIFTON'S 700 graduates are among the area's 9,000. This is the largest number and features grads of the nation's largest and No. 1 high school. The June 10 commencement is at the Civic Center, John Mohanfred, principal.

NORTHERN, next highest with 600 grads is set for June 11 at the Civic Center and Mergenthaler, also 600 grads at the Civic Center tonight, Friday at 8. Beautiful.

SHOSHANA CARDIN and Kathleen M. Carter will be honored at a retirement party June 14, 5:30 p.m. at the Quality Inn NW, Parksville. They're both leaving the Maryland Commission for Women.

LETTERS

On honorary degrees

The days seem past when most predominantly black colleges gave their honorary degrees to preachers. Not so, anymore.

Those being honored currently are much more of a mix, and if they are preachers, they are preachers, plus. For instance Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was awarded honorary degrees, near and far, but he was much more than "just a preacher," with apologies to the men and women of the cloth.

The list of honorees at Morgan State University this year is an example. Four persons were honored, two men and two women; two are in literature and the arts, one is in entertainment, and the fourth is a government official. They are: Toni Morrison, novelist; Cicely Tyson, actress; Eubie Blake, playwright, and Robert Embry, undersecretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

At Fisk University, the two recipients of honorary degrees are musicians: Marian Anderson, the world famous contralto; and Alton A. Adams Sr., composer and former conductor of the U.S. Naval Band in the Virgin Islands.

Howard University, which includes a divinity school, gave all five of its honrary degrees to non - divines. The recipients are: Sen. Edward M. Kennedy; Lena Horne, actress of stage and screen; Louis E. Martin, special assistant to the President; Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., for 35 years Washington representative of the NAACP, and Richard Terrell, of General Motors.

Coppin State College is foregoing granting any honorary degrees this year, while Hampton Institute, in modern times, does not award such degrees.

Not a minister is in this limited sample. This need not mean, however, that educational institutions have turned against ministers or the church. It may rather mean that more blacks are now having opportunity to achieve in many other areas besides the church (or education) and that these achievers are coming to the top in the same way that preachers did decades ago.

Praising clergy assistance to Virginia Union University

Dear AFRO:

Because I consider this a personal obligation which I cannot in good conscience disregard I am herewith addressing this communication to the clegy of Baltimore and to their congregations.

I have in mind those pastors who have consistently and generously given support to Virginia Union University, Richmond, Va. Most of them have channelled this support to the University through the Miles West Connor Alumni chapter of Baltimore.

Because these good men have thus directed their efforts the Miles West Connor Chapter has, for the last five or six years, excelled all other alumni groups in financial support of the University.

Indeed, in 1979, monies sent to Virginia Union University by the Miles West Connor Chapter, exceeded the combined efforts of any other 10 alumni groups. Without the support of Baltimore churches this record would have been impossible.

Further, it is on you and your congregations that, for the past four or five years, our chapter has relied for the overflow attendance and financially successful presentation of the Virginia Union University choir in concert at the Woodlawn High School.

What has motivated this over - whelming generosity on the part of our clergy? They recognize the fact that for many decades Virginia Union has been a fountain - head of trained Christian leadership.

Without such leadership from Virginia Union and similar black colleges we as a people would be a little more than debris afloat in the stream of American life.

JEANNETTE SHAMWELL

Rape center board member responds to AFROstory

Dear AFRO:

The AFRO - AMERICAN has been a leading publication addressing issues that mainly concern blacks for 87 years. It has taken firm stands on all forms of racial discrimination. It has also been known for its fairness and a high quality of journalism.

However, the front - page article in the Friday, May 25 edition entitled, "18 Rape Center Counselors Fired for Supporting Black Executive" violated every rule of journalism that the founder, John H. Murphy Sr., advocated. Not only was it full of inaccuracies, but Reporter Clarence Hunter failed to report both sides of the story.

First of all, the headline is misleading. Ms. Doris Terrell may be considered an executive in her paid position as a city employee, but her role with the Center was that of a counselor, board member, steering committee member and volunteer coordinator. These are all volunteer, non - paid positions.

Secondly, in its five year history, the Center has never had as many as 21 counselors. At the February 25 board meeting (the last meeting that Ms. Terrell attended before her dismissal), Ms. Terrell reported that only 15 counselors were currently working with the Center.

Of those 15 at least two were on leaves of absence. Nine counselors resigned from the Center in support of Ms. Terrell. These counselors were not fired. They chose not to respond to Board President Natalie Seltz's request for their commitment. The volunteers of any organization have the right to withdraw their support whenever they wish and for whatever cause. However, the article led readers to believe that the volunteers had no choice.

Another misleading statement, among the many found in this article, alleged that Ms. Terrell's dismissal was racially motivated. The 18 - member board was formed last April to aid in policy - making, public relations, publicity and funding for the Center. By - laws were adopted, as was a formal organizational structure. The steering committee was composed of the officers of the board, the chairpersons of every committee, and the volunteer coordinator who at that time was Ms. Terrell. Over one - third of the board was black and two of those eight members were also steering committee members.

The article states, "Sources said three other black members were removed allegedly because they did not attend the meetings". "This action was taken by the board in October, 1978," said Ms. Linda Audy, incoming president of the board. "It was in no way connected with Dorie dismissal, which took place in March, 1979", she added. The AFRO article also listed Aurora Gardner, a white board member who voluntarily left the center in January, as one of the three blacks removed. Those who were no longer considered to be board members had several unexcused absences from meetings. The new board, scheduled to be installed in June, will again contain one - third black membership.

The reasons for Ms. Terrell's dismissal need to be explained further. According to the letter sent by Ms. Seltz, Ms. Terrell polarized the counselors from the board. "The communication between the board and the counselors was blocked because of Doris," said one remaining counselor who prefers to remain unnamed. "Every counseling meeting centered around what the board was not doing", she added. All counselors were invited to attend board meetings, but very few attended. It was Ms. Terrell's responsibility to act as a liaison between the board and the counselors.

Ms. Terrell also "operated out of the structure of the organization". She performed speaking engagements on behalf of the Center without informing the public relations chairperson. She appointed a committee chairperson, even though she was aware that all chairpeople, according to the Center's by - laws, are nominated by the president of the board, and approved by the board. It should be noted that Ms. Terrell was a board member and was aware of the organizational structure. The third reason given for her dismissal was that Ms. Terrell showed a lack of leadership by not asking for, and assuring from the counselors, submission of statistical information. Dr. Ellen MacKenzie, a biostatistician who volunteers her time with the Center, stressed that statistical information is needed to (1) assist in providing data from which meaningful prevention programs can be formulated; (2) help the counselor collect necessary information about the victim and the assault in an organized fashion and (3) to justify the need for the Center's existence, as well as to document the need expressed by the community to justify funding.

Ms. Terrell, according to Dr. MacKenzie, did not complete statistical forms for any of the victims she counseled, nor did she motivate the counseling staff to acknowledge and assume this responsibility. Finally, Ms. Terrell allowed a newspaper reporter to sit in on a volunteer counselors' meeting without identifying her as such, which could have jeopardized the confidentiality the Center guarantees to their victims.

The article included statements from Joyce Mason and Mary Murphy. These individuals were being trained during the month of March to become volunteers; they were not actually members of the Center at the time of Ms. Terrell's dismissal, they were trainees. They have little knowledge of the board, its members or its functions.

The main discrepancy in the AFRO article was the statement that the Baltimore Center for Victims of Sexual Assault is currently without staff. The hotline is ably manned by 13 individuals, including qualified professional counselors, nurses, social workers and trained volunteer counselors — a calibre of trained individuals not found in the Center in the past. Over the past five years, the Center has used an answering service, but has not been pleased with the results. A change in operational methods by implementing an answering machine has left the Center more responsive to victims on a 24 hour basis. The present system allows the victim to leave a message which is responded to within a few hours. Business calls are returned on the next business day.

The Baltimore Center for Victims of Sexual Assault handles approximately 1,400 calls per year. Of that number, approximately 200 are victim - related calls. Thus, the Center handles four to 10 victim calls per week. Ms. Terrell informed the AFRO that 21 calls per week, or 90 victim calls per month, were going unanswered. If that volume of victims called, only Ms. Terrell is aware of it. Such information has never been shared with the remainder of the Center.

In closing, the Baltimore Center for Victims of Sexual Assault is providing and will continue to provide supportive counseling, information and referral to any individual in crisis related to sexual assault. This service is available by calling 366-RAPE.

As with any other volunteer effort, community support is a necessity. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to work with the Center should contact us at the above - mentioned number.

Ms. FRANCES DRAPER
Member, Board of Directors
Baltimore Center
for Victims of Sexual Assault

Message for anti-abortionists

Dear AFRO:

Mark Twain said all he needed to know about a person was that he was a human being — he couldn't be worse! I recalled that on hearing a pathetic true story:

A 16 - year - old boy worked in a medical school's research laboratory, doing odd jobs, running errands, etc. My friend, a researcher, saw him waiting at the bus stop and offered him a lift home.

The boy directed him to the entrance of an orphanage, saying that was his home.

His explanation: his parents already had nine children when he was born, and did not want him. So he wound up in an orphanage. He does not know his parents — they never visited him.

Anti - abortionists, take note! Think about that when next you protest the pleas of abortionists, when next you stagger under the heavy weight of your signs and placards — and the even heavier weight of your consciences.

HUD. B. J. SMALL

MORE LETTERS

Suggestions to relieve energy crunch

Dear AFRO:

If Maryland's government desires to make a contribution toward relieving the burden of gas consumption on an overall energy crisis, then why aren't we in the gas-a-hol game?

The product is proven to be useful with up to a 20 percent mixture and being tested to see if that can be safely extended. The Western part of our country has been using gas - a - hol for years and at least two major oil companies are marketing the product in Brazil.

With a concern for the usage of government vehicles and the effects on gas consumption, every state, county and municipal vehicle should be using gas-hol-a-hol to test its overall effectiveness.

In addition, the state should assign a number of vehicles to test gas - a - hol with an even greater mixture to discover exactly how great a percentage can be safely mixed and used without damaging the vehicle engine.

The sale of gas-a-hol can be encouraged by reducing or eliminating the road tax, thus making the price of gas - a - hol more competitive. The state of Maryland can also be first to offer some of its vehicles as a test for the new turbo - diesel engines that have been in the news lately. Fifty - five miles per gallon of diesel fuel could go a long way toward helping relieve the gasoline shortage.

The use of gas - a - hol in this country could serve as a boon to farmers or grain producers who are currently receiving farm subsidies for not farming land. Even at a slightly higher price, the economic value would prove significant due to the fact that the entire amount of money involved would remain in this country.

The only reason, in my opinion, that gas - a - hol is not being encouraged in this country is that the raw materials for its production are not controlled by the oil industry.

It is time that the government make more effective efforts to relieve the energy shortage in this country and allow our economy to recover from a grand delusion. With the harbor occupied by oil tankers waiting to be unloaded, it is difficult to believe there is a real gasoline shortage.

Anyone who will try and remember the oil shortage of a few years ago, will also remember that as soon as the price goes up, enough gas will be available. Let's not wait. Let's allow the farmers of America to at least supply 20 percent or more, if possible, of our gasoline needs.

If the price goes up, then 20 percent will be a significant amount to have remain in the American economic system.

The leadership of our state should move forward to better serve the transportation needs of Marylanders as well as to boost the need for farm land to be fully utilized.

This will also serve to encourage farmers not to sell land to foreign investors, for they can make a better living as farmers with another demand for farm products.

LARRY J. GRAY SR.

LESLIE KING HAMMOND

Local artists on parade

May is usually the month of student shows especially since this marks the end of another academic year.

The first student show to open was "A Multi - Medium Experience" at the Kromah Gallery. This a collection of six schools from the Baltimore area.

The works by these young artist represent the fine art programs of Morgan State University, Community College of Baltimore, the Maryland Institute, College of Art, Towson University, Coppin State College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Group shows are always difficult to review since very often it is difficult to center the work around a single theme. Shows such as these provide the viewer with insight into the minds and talents of the young developing artists as well as to view the wide variety of activities and specialties from these very diverse schools.

The works include paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, ceramics and photographs. All the works are for sale and this provides an ideal opportunity to purchase an original work of art and start an art collection at a reasonable price.

The Kromah Gallery is located at 1203 Druid Hill Ave. at the corner of Dolphin. The hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

The next show, which opened Sunday, May 13, comes as the effort from a group of students from one single school.

The Black Art Student Union (BASU) of the Maryland Institute, College of Art has mounted an impressive selection of works at the Gallery 409 located at 409 Charles St.

The works reflect the graduate and undergraduate students from the Maryland Institute. The paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and soft sculpture shown emphasize skills, techniques and talents which are a direct reference to the specialized schools these students attend.

Students who are included in this exhibition are Michael Brown, Januwa Uroja, Kevin Bailey, Luis Flores, Alphonso Scott, Van Woodson, Gary Williams, Annette Purnell, Sheila Scott, Millard Salvison and Denise Freeman. The Gallery hours are Monday - Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information call 837 - 2990 or 276 - 4646.

Also showing this month are the creations of two local artists. Reva Lewie has been for many years an active artist in the Baltimore community. Currently she has an exhibition of 26 of her most recent works at Parlette L. Moore Library Gallery, a handsome space at Coppin State College.

Ms. Lewie has studied at Morgan State University and received her master's of art from New York University. During the past few years she has also studied at Towson State University and the University of Maryland. Presently she is a department head in art in the Baltimore City School System.

Reva Lewie works in a variety of materials to achieve her visual statements. Basically, she considers herself to be a sculptress preferring to work in flat metal constructions. Many of the works now on display demonstrate these interests. Other works include collage, mixed media and acrylic paintings.

Coppin State University is located at 2500 W. North Ave. The Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The strongest and unfortunately the least publisized exhibition is happening at a very small gallery down in South Baltimore. The Fells Point Gallery located at 811 South Broadway is in effect largely sponsored by the Alumni Association of the Maryland Institute.

Soft fiber sculpture of Ida Butler Feull is currently on exhibition. Ms. Feull's work is a rare find in the unique creative expression through the use of yarns, ceramics and feathers.

One of the greatest surprises of this display is that the works are affordable and reasonable. It is suggested that those interested should well take advantage of this opportunity because the quality of materials and design combined with the refreshing creativity of her hangings will surely fetch her much higher prices for her work in the future.

Ida Butler Feull is a product of the Maryland Institute, College of Art having received a Masters of Fine Art Degree and is currently an art specialist in the Baltimore City Public School System.

The Fells Point Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

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

'Illuminating article'

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for the excellent and informative pictorial and narrative coverage of the first Malcolm W. Johnson Scholarship Dinner-Dance in Tuesday's edition of May 8, 1979. We have received many generous and laudatory expressions relative to this activity.

I want to express my personal thanks and commendation on the highly lucid, precise and illuminating article on the scholarship benefit.

The references to our second scholarship winner, Bernard Jorn, a senior at Lake Clifton Senior High School, and Mrs. Blanche Johnson, the wife of the late Malcolm W. Johnson and the family, were poignant and inspirational. All of the participants were buoyed and heartened by the article.

The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN has rendered an outstanding contribution of service to the Baltimore City Public Schools in consistently and unremittingly advocating the necessity of academic excellence for all students.

Again, my thanks and appreciation for your splendid support and cooperation.

SAMUEL L. BANKS,
Coordinator of Social Studies,
K-12, Baltimore City Public Schools

Education campaign

Dear AFRO:

On Dec. 2, 1978, the AFRO published an article about the Carling Brewery profits ending up in South Africa. This was the only article I have seen that speaks out on this.

Why has not more publicity been given to this subject? How much trouble would it be to devote a small campaign to educate our brothers and sisters about the "crime" that some of them are contributing to?

Being the only black newspaper in Baltimore City I would think you guys would really make a big issue of this.

CLIFTON A. TURNER JR.

'Maintaining a nuisance'

Dear AFRO:

The administration of the Maryland Penitentiary should be indicted and criminally charged with maintaining a nuisance house (of Corrections) and for manufactoring and distributing hard core criminals, social rej