Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

Get out the vote

It's relatively simple. What black Baltimore needs to do is pull itself together (maybe next Saturday's black peoples assembly can be the answer) and develop and sustain its ballot box strength.

We are suggesting and would fully support the kinds of massive voter registration drives of the recent past.

As Del. John Douglass has continually stressed, "Every effort to make the vote of the black community felt at the polls, either on particular issues or to elect black candidates has been preceded by months of voter registration activity.

"After having achieved this, exhausted and using manpower, most black organizations have gone home feeling the battle was won."

Mr. Douglass then strongly points out, "little did they know the battle was actually lost and indeed much of their effort was to no avail. For as they were adding black registrants to the books, others were being purged . . ."

With the advent of warm weather getting folks registered should be a priority with our various political and civic organizations.

Just as importantly, keeping them registered requires the kind of tough, thorough planning strategies that Mr. Douglass and others have been advocating.

Developing and sustaining our full voting strength, it seems to us, should be near the very top of the agenda of the Maryland Black Peoples Assembly being convened next Saturday at Morgan State University by Congressman Mitchell and others.

We shall see.

Peace at UMBC

The administration of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has decided to drop charges against 15 black students who recently demonstrated against racism and insensitivity at the area-campus.

It was a wise, if belated, decision. They should not have been charged in the first place.

UMBC has its work cut out for it this summer. Hiring and staffing patterns in the [illegible] administrative positions at this school leave much to be desired when it comes to minority professionals.

Incoming black students report themselves often with no sympathetic ears to hear them, which is understandable, seeing the staffing patterns.

Their consequent failure rate is deplorable.

By Fall we want to see some positive measures in effect.

Newly arrived Chancellor Dorsey is on record as favoring improvements at the university he heads and we are anxious to see how he will bring this to fruition.

The black students who dramatized the UMBC situation are vindicated. They did what they felt they had to do given the circumstances. It is UMBC that is on trial, not its students, and the administration, in recognizing this, has taken a giant [illegible] remediation and reconciliation.

A sour note: we still await some word of apology from UMBC regarding an AFRO staff writer who was manhandled by campus security personnel for no reason other than that he was trying to do his job. That courtesy has not yet been forthcoming.

Shame on the rest of us

Parker Douglass finds the time, energy and love to work as a volunteer in one of our public schools.

Mr. Douglass is 100 years young and regularly goes to the Robert Poole school to share his century of local knowledge and personal wisdom with pupils 88 years his junior.

In telling how Baltimore was Mr. Parker is helping young people get a perspective on life. It is important to understand the past, especially in this age of immediacy, in order to understand the future and Mr. Parker is a city resource of uncommon value.

Our question is that if Mr. Parker can do it where are all the young parents?

Records show that PTA and other school-related organizations are not exactly experiencing growth presently.

Educators say that the only time many parents show up at school is when their kids have done something negative. Then too often parents raise almost as much hell as their kids just finished raising in or around the classroom.

Mr. Douglass is a gracious, giving man.

If he can do it what excuses do the rest of us have for not pitching in and helping our school system work.

The glory is with Mr. Douglass, the shame is with those of us who are slackers.

Peace talks

Verda Welcome and William L. Adams just ought to make peace.

Their political wars over the years have seldom resulted in anything tangible for the voters of West Baltimore.

If they joined forces it would certainly minimize our community's tendency to fight among itself over 10 jelly beans while the big boys walk off with the big goodies.

As senior political leaders they both have a responsibility to develop a process that will still be strong even after they retire and viable enough for younger politicians to build on.

We encourage their reconciliation and congratulate both of them on being able to rise above past sorrows.

If we are to be united these two certainly have major roles to play.

Oil crisis—a reality

It has taken a long time for the general public, particularly in the Washington area, to realize that the much publicized energy crisis is indeed a crisis.

The frequently closed gas stations, the steadily rising cost of gasoline, and the continuous talk of probable gas rationing, however, appears to be doing the job. The inavailability of gasoline and the long waits in the gas station lines have brought the crisis to our doorsteps. At last, the man next door and the woman across the street are beginning to realize that there are problems ahead where the availability of energy to meet our daily needs are concerned.

It is regrettable that things had to reach this point before we understand that the energy crisis is real. We have no desire to add to the concern and worry of motorists and other energy users, but information from the Division of Magnetic Fusion for the U.S. Department of Energy indicates that the future is anything but bright where energy is involved.

The facts issued by the Division of Magnetic Fusion are complex, but some things are crystal clear. A brief summary of some of the facts brought out in a recent study points strongly to the necessity of conserving energy. Six facts, in brief, according to the Division's report, are:

1. In so much as oil in the ground is concerned, we will reach the limits of our productivity by about 1990.

2. Early in the new century we could exhaust all of our petroleum sources and natural gas.

3. For nuclear reaction there is uranium for about 75 years.

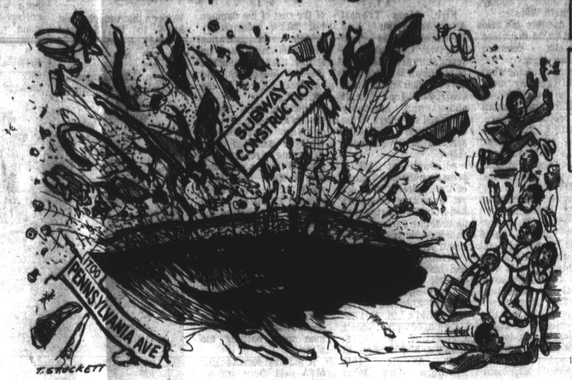
4. If we cannot reduce our consumption fast enough we are going to compete with our allies for precious oil, thus making the crisis a world problem.

5. Schools, churches and other organizations must play a vital role in accurately communicating to people the facts of the oil situation and promoting thoughts about the issues.

6. If we do not discipline ourselves now one of these days smaller nations will gang up on us and throw a monkey wrench into the works.

While we may not become immediately alarmed by these disclosures, they certainly provide some food for thought and awaken the sparkles of concern in all of us. If may be later than we think!

What price 'progress'?



PARREN MITCHELL

Paying for peace

On Thursday, May 30, the House of Representatives voted to authorize funds to support the Israeli - Egyptian Peace Treaty.

The legislation, known as the Special International Security Assistance Act of 1979, H.R. 4035, authorizes $1.47 billion. The authorization will support a total of $4.8 billion in economic and military assistance for Israel and Egypt, of which $1.1 billion will be in the form of grants and loans and $370 million will finance foreign military sales totaling $3.7 billion.

This issue passed the House by a vote of 347 yeas to 26 nays, with one member voting "present." That one member voting present was me and the following is my statement to the Congress spelling out exactly why I took such a position.

"Mr. Chairman, I will say to my colleagues that this is very difficult for me. I came to this Congress as a peace candidate in 1971. At that time I was fully aware of the futility and the insanity of war.

"Some years ago I spoke on this floor and indicated that I might have to leave the Congress at some time in the near future, because I am moving closer and closer to becoming a pacifist.

"I make these remarks only to indicate how intensely I feel about peace. I just do not feel that man is a warlike animal.

"In addition to that, I have always supported foreign aid programs in this House. It has not always been popular [illegible] but I believe that this nation is great enough aid has a position in history when it ought to support the poor nations of the world.

"Mr. Chairman, I share these two ideas with my colleagues, because I face a real dilemma. I am as ecstatic as anyone else in this House about the possibility of lasting peace in the Middle East.

"Yet I have to ask some questions, and I would appreciate it if some members of the committee or some members of the House would answer these questions for me.

"How can I go to the youth in my district, who have now been cut out of summer jobs by both the President's budget and the budget passed by this House, and say that I am going to support this and yet at the same time we cannot tend the money that the youth need for summer jobs?

"I have to go back to my district and confront a whole series of people who have flooded my office with letters based upon the cuts in programs that will take place, because of the budget that this House and the other body passed.

"I admire the effort toward peace. I think our President has been magnificent in moving us to this juncture. I admire the two principals involved in this, Mr. Begin and Mr. Sadat.

"Yet I have to come down to grips with what I have to live with every day when people ask me, 'Why is it that the President took out this program that is needed? Why is it that the Congress took out this program that is needed? Why is it inflationary to try to help out some of our domestic programs?'

"I need answers to these questions. I can sell the peace idea. I think that is salable.

"It is not the legislation. It is the fact that I have to answer the question of the 15 - year - old kid who says, 'What happened to my summer youth job this year? I have to say that the President cut it and the Congress cuts some of these projects in their budget, because the cost was inflationary. And the kid will ask, 'What is the difference between that billion dollars being inflationary and the cost of the summer youth program being inflationary?'"

I raised the questions. There were no real answers. How else could I vote?

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

MADELINE MURPHY

Bad moods, falling barometers

In talking to my brother the other day, he complained of constant headache and pain in his neck. After talking for a while, I suggested that maybe all his ailments could be related to the weather.

He said, "You know, I hadn't even thought of that."

With the [illegible] wet spate of weather we have had recently, it would be interesting to find out how many people found aches and pains in their bodies, in bones and muscles that had heretofore been taken for granted or forgotten.

More interesting would be a study of how many families were on edge with marital disputes, with children restless and mean in school rooms, with teachers harried beyond their wits.

For it has been established in scientific study over the centuries that weather plays an all important part upon the behavior of man.

Riots occur in the most humid and hot periods in underdeveloped countries. Only the cooling monsoons bring relief from blistering heat and parched air.

Crime is more prevalent in August than January, when the heat becomes monotonously oppresive.

In the Life Science Library on Weather, Dr. Clarence A. Mills, professor of experimental medicine at the University of Cincinnati, is quoted as claiming that bad moods and falling barometers go hand in hand.

He suggests that on a day when the humidity is low and the barometer is rising, the average man tends to go about his daily work cheerfully; functions more efficiently and looks upon life with optimism.

"But the same man on a muggy day in August growls at his children, snaps at his fellow workers, is gloomy, sullen and pessimistic.

"Under normal circumstances most people muddle through such weather - induced distress; per[illegible] and sense of humor come to their rescue," he continues.

"But for people whose physical condition is already below par, the oppressive effects of bad weather can tip the balance from marginal health to serious illness. And for people already under emotional stress, it may trigger explosive acts of aggression."

I remember when my father was manager of the swimming pool during the summer months while on vacation from teaching. Not only did extended rainy, muggy weather have an emotional effect upon us, because our daily outlet on hot summer days was cut off, but also jobs dependent upon the pool, like the life guards, custodians, matrons, ended. And my father's salary was stopped after two weeks of bad weather.

So in this regard even the employment picture, during months of leisure are thrown out of kilter. One need only be reminded of the recent Memorial Day week end in Ocean City.

More depressing is the overgrowth of weeds and vines, joyfully choking our plants in the garden and with the mushy ground, pulling them invites the onslaught of pests or root rot — a no - win situation.

But let us hope that the sun has not disappeared forever and that soon there will be a drying out of soggy clothes, damp beds, smelly musty corners of the attic and cellar.

This feeling of futility, of pessimism can't go on forever, now can it?

We need the clearing of the air to bring back a feeling of elation that will make us go about our jobs and live without the erratic ap[illegible] of [illegible] temper's, nagging aches and pains, and howling, moaning dogs.

Oh for the days of Robert Service when he rejoiced in his poem The Spell of the Yukon:

"The summer - now sweeter was ever;
The sunshiny woods all athrill;
The greyling aleap in the river,
The bighorn asleep on the hill.
The strong life that never knows harness;
The wilds where the caribou call;
The freshness, the freedom, the farness —
O God! how I'm stuck in it all."

But, we have yet to welcome spring time. We hope to greet thee soon!

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

LETTERS

WEAA fund drive 'overwhelming success'

Dear AFRO:

WEAA's recent fundraiser proved to have been an overwhelming success with donors coming from every age level. Pledges ranged from 25 cents to $1,000. In two and one - half years, the station has achieved the recognition of being labeled the "popular alternative" serving Morgan and the community at large.

April 26 thru 29 will be a weekend remembered in triumph. From the outset, enthusiasm penetrated WEAA's staff and carried over to a waiting community.

WEAA embarked on a challenge to identify regular listeners for support and found a people with unity and love eager to help. During the drive, community volunteers frequented the station to help man phones and - or relieve their comrades.

Some businesses as well as individuals gave more than money; they donated food and beverages so that workers could refresh themselves. Their goal seemed easier as the weekend identified blacks and whites pulling for the same cause — the firm support of WEAA.

Momentum continued to increase and to reflect a direct impact on prime time television viewers. Calls were logged from all over the Baltimore metropolitan area, surrounding counties, Washington, D.C., Annapolis, the Eastern Shore and Philadelphia. One caller from Alabama, while passing through Baltimore, gave a donation of $25. This is but a small portion of the total effect of the drive.

Morgan alumni checked in representing various graduating classes and challenged members of their perspective classes. It was no doubt that the "Morgan Spirit" prevailed because it was demonstrated by the President, students, staff, faculty and administrators throughout the drive.

It's no surprise that when the Baltimore Orioles were in dutch that a plan to save them was devised. It's no surprise that when WEAA announced its $50,000 goal, the community exemplified the same spirit, but greater. We know that the pledges made by the many supporters will be translated into cash.

AL STEWART,
General Manager WEAA (FM)

Policeman explains why he quit

Dear AFRO:

On May 11 of this year, I, along with another nine-year veteran of the Baltimore City Police Department, resigned from the force.

During my years as a police officer, I made many friends and enjoyed serving the citizens of Baltimore. However, after carefully considering the situation over the past year, I saw no recourse but to look for new employment.

The main source of the problem for me, as well as my former fellow -officers, is the "frills and frivolous" budget of our City Fathers, which has ignored the police department for too long.

It is a matter of public record that our Mayor's budget includes monies spent for the following:

— $500,000 for the construction of "The Pride of Baltimore";

— $250,000 as a subsidy to the Baltimore Orioles;

— $94,000 for public relations for the Baltimore City Public Schools System, and

— $80,000 for the printing of our Mayor's name on work projects' signs within the city.

The above list goes on and on. For example, on their ways to and from work, the officers of the Southeastern District witness daily the Mayor's waste, in the form of his "pyramids of art" on the lawn of City Hospital.

Having been taught that government's fundamental purpose is to serve the basic needs of the citizenry, I propose that His Honor, the Mayor, is sorely out of step with the people's priorities. If his priorities were in proper order, today's fiasco resulting from an undermanned police department would never exist.

Even though I will never return to the force, it is still my conviction that the police must be treated more equitably.

Baltimore will be best only if the Mayor attends to the needs of those who perform the basic and vital functions within this city.

So far, the Mayor has shown no signs of seriously considering the pleas of police officers. Therefore, after my tenured service in the force, this is my reason for resigning.

GEORGE T. LEAGUE

Advice for black leaders

Dear AFRO:

'As a grassroots person who knows practically nothing about the relevant logistics about black life, there are a few things I have discerned and maybe even a few theories that might be realistic.

First of all, I feel that the black leadership in this city is actually afraid of the white power structure.

I feel that those black leaders who vehemently attack the power structure are either physically, economically or politically dealth with.

Secondly, I feel the psychological games that are played by whites on black leaders are really something to behold.

The poor black leaders who may or may not have a sound background in the area of power games suffer a great deal.

Thirdly, I feel that until black leaders begin to trust other and form networks of trust in terms of forming cohesive units of activism then the leaders themselves and the people they are leading both will suffer from this lack of general structure and direction.

In summary I feel that black leaders and their subsequent followers jointly are going to have to work more directly together in order to realizetheir common goals and objectives.

RICHARD CUNNINGHAM

Suggestions for a safe subway

Dear AFRO:

It is hoped Baltimore's subway will have every possible safety feature.

New York subways fail miserably in the matter of safeguards on its platforms.

Crowds waiting for cars push and shove and it is a miracle people are not pushed on to the tracks and killed by oncoming trains.

Adequate secure railings must be installed to protect people.

There will be more than enough crime in the subways — let's not add to the killings by failing to provide this important feature.

B. J. SMALL

G. JAMES FLEMING

Non-sharing in the Fifth

Looking at Baltimore's 5th Councilmanic District, we wish there were no need for all - black political tickets, just as we have fought and deplored all - white tickets.

What is happening in the 5th District, however, is a result of the persistence of an all - white ticket. On the councilmanic level, the powers - that - be have not been willing to share across racial lines. The three incumbent City Council members are all white in a district about 80 percent black.

In the coming primary election, therefore, there will be three black aspirants, running as a joint slate, against the three sitting members. These challengers are:

Earl Banks, athletic director, Morgan State University and much sought after as a master of ceremonies. He is associated with the citywide Metro Democratic Club.

Norman Reeves, popular social worker and educator, who was defeated in the last primary by just a few votes. Reeves is, reportedly, inclined to be an independent but is expected to be endorsed by the Urban Democratic Organization of Delegate Walter Dean, D - 41st, and by the Northwest Democratic Organization of the 5th District.

Anthony Robinson, a relatively newcomer to citywide politics, is backed by the Five and Five Club whose leader is Sen. Clarence Blount, D - 41st.

The three white incumbents are:

Thomas Waxter, son of a highly esteemed family and very popular in the black community.

Mrs. Rochelle Spector, who succeeded her husband.

Ruben Caplan, son of a father who was a veteran politican.

The all - black slate is not totally "sealed and delivered" as to all the individuals. There is not a total meeting of minds.

Talk is that if Norman Reeves does not agree to the all - male coalition, above mentioned ("all for one and one for all"), he will be replaced by Delegate Margaret Murphy on the three - person ticket.

It will take more than blackness, however, for blacks to win a City Council seat from the city's 5th District.

Black candidates will have to sell themselves on the important issues and on their records. They will have to campaign among all the people of the district — black, white and the "others"; they will have to "work" the district, by mounting an old - fashioned registration drive and, later, a campaign to insure a much better - than - usual turnout for both the primary and general elections.

Black politicians of the 5th District may even have to settle for a "deal", wherein one or two blacks will be elected, together with one or two whites. It all depends on which side real power lies.

The notable plus in this latest attempt to win councilmanic recognition for blacks in the 5th District is the fact that there is more unity than usual among blacks.

If the final ticket is as now indicated, there will be a joint ticket representing the Metro, the Five and Five and other Democratic Clubs, including the Vanguard.

Norman Reeves seems to be too smart to want "to go it alone," rather than be part of a coalition. He is also smart enough to know where and how his bread is buttered.

There is much to be said for having Delegate Murphy on the ticket. In addition to her late husband's and her own following, she also attracts a number of other Murphys who vote for her just because she is a Murphy.

Whatever the outcome, it will take more than blackness alone for blacks to win seats in the City Council from Baltimore's 5th District.

By Marion M. Banfield

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

City Editor

BERNARD E. MASON SR. apartments for the elderly was dedicated June 1 at the location of the $8 million project, 2121 Windsor Gardens Lane off Forest Park and 4900 block Windsor Mill Rd. The 238 1-bedroom unit include 24 for the handicapped, a community room, offices, arts and crafts rooms, card room, reception room, medical clinic, air conditioning, balconies, glass doors, peep holes, emergency call systems.

DWIGHT PETTIT, the lawyer, is commencement speaker today Friday at Aberdeen High School where he was graduated 17 years ago as the black student who won suit to integrate the school. Here's one young man who has made many milestones in his life, all to benefit other persons.

GRADUATES and special students who have given me their names to list include STEPHANIE GLADDEN, age 11, daughter of Joan and Charles Gladden and granddaughter of Attorney and Mrs. Tucker (Anne) Dearing, won the Good Citizenship Award at Estaw Marshburn Elementary and received the Loyola Federal $50 cash, gold pin and other treasures. The pretty little girl also won the Proficiency Test Award, the Cafeteria Helper Award and the Orioles raincoat.

MONICA GLADDEN, age 9, is the 1978 and 1979 Spelling Bee Winner and champ that she is, unseated 36 others to reach the top.

DR. MICHAEL KOGER, son of Mrs. Margaret Pigott Koger, finished Meherry Medical College June 27, 1978 and is now on the staff at Franklin Square Hospital.

DR. LINWOOD GRAVES KOGER, Mike's brother, finished Howard U Med. School and is now at Howard U Hospital.

FRANCES DEARING, daughter of Earl Dearing, finished Northwestern Univ. June 10, Sunday.

DAVID DEARING, Earl's son, is in the Justice Department as an attorney. He finished Cornell University.

MARTIN MACKAY PHILLIPS, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. Henry (Layne) Phillips and long time AFRO favorite son, finished Morgan University Cum Laude.

NATALIE FINNEY, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester (Edith) Finney finished Pimlico Jr. High.

RONALD DEAN FINNEY, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester (Edith) Finney, finished Forest Park Senior High.

SIXTH SENIOR HIGH GRADE spanning two generations of Wainwrights-grandchildren and great grandchildren of the late Stephen C. and Martha Phillips Wainwright, were graduated during the month of June, 1979.

FOR THE RECORD they are:

RALPH SAMUEL WAINWRIGHT JR., son of Ralph Samuel Sr. and Ernestine (Tene) Wainwright, from Woodlawn Senior High.

DAVID A. WAINWRIGHT, son of Robert W. and Lillian Wainwright from Cardinal Gibbons High School.

JOHN MICHAEL NOEL WAINWRIGHT, son of George C. Wainwright, from Carver Senior High School.

RACHELLE WAINWRIGHT, daughter of Levin and Naomi Wainwright, from Dunbar Senior High School.

WILLIAM EARL BROWN, son of Elizah and Erma xl. Brown, from Randallstown Senior High School.

GARY V. HINES, son of John III and Pattie Hines, from Southern High School.

WHAT A beautiful list and what wonderful students.

CONGRATULATIONS go to the youngsters and the parents who saw them through. Especially do we congratulate Henry and Laura who have the most ideal family we have ever known, all the kids graduated and doing fine, out in the world on their own but still holding the family and home as dear to them.

SEND ME MORE and MORE and MORE to ELIZABETH M. OLIVER, city editor, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., with black and white photos if possible.

HERE IS ANOTHER TREASURED GRAD:

ANITA L. BOWMAN, Washington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford W. Bowman Sr.: Elected to the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, East Carolina University, Greenville.

She was graduated from McKenley Technical Sr. High in 1975 with honors.

NOW she will be graduating in December with TWO degrees in Music and honors: Music education and Music Therapy and much experience and training mn the organ.

ANITA was active in music while in high school and [illegible] she performed with the American Youth Performers at Kennedy Center in Washington.

ANITA is active in Sunday School and Church and is member of the McKendree Methodist Church of which Rev. Dr. Blabop is the pastor.

ALL THIS GOOD news comes from one of my longtime and best news people, Miss Josephine O. Young of Baltimore.

BY THE WAY, Mrs. Annie Freeman, age 80, mother of Anne Pigott Dearing and widow of the late Dr. Casper Pigott of Baltimore, has returned to her Spokane, Washington home via jet after spending a vacation here with her daughter and son-in-law, Attorney Dearing.

OLD-FASHIONED Cross Street Festival is Saturday and Sunday. See you there all weekend as the oldtime fete goes on until 7 p.m. each day. It's five blocks South of the Science Center and the Harbor in Old South Baltimore.

OLD LEADENHALL BAPTIST CHURCH'S celebration for its being placed on the National Register of Historic Places is at 11 a.m. at the church on Leadenhall St. in South Baltimore, Saturday. Don't miss it.

ALL THE POMP and drama of the USA will be on the scene with Baltimore's fine mounted police and the black police commissioner, Bishop Robinson and the fine black district commanders, among other things to show what a grand occasion this is.

HERE ARE SOME of the descendants of John H. Murphy Sr., AFRO founder, and his wife Martha E. Howard Murphy, we are glad to hear from, thanks to Carroll Greene, the remarkable historian:

HARRIET ELEANOR Howard Jenkins, sister of Frederick, Greenbury and Andrew Howard, daughter of Frederick Howard.

Children of Eleanor Howard Jenkins who is married to Henry Jenkins of Rockville: Frances Virginia Jenkins of Rockville; James Henry Jenkins of Rockville; Leona Elizabeth Jenkins Mordica, wife of Dr. Alfred Mordica of Denver, Colorado.

GEORGE HOWARD, Charles Street, Baltimore, son of Susie Matthews and Jacob Howard, husband of Mrs. Sarah H. Williams Howard and great, great, great grandson of John Eenger Howard.

Three uncles, Johnny, Jimmy and Jacob Howard and aunt, Jennie Howard Ross, George Howard's sister-in-law is our beloved Anita Williams, the staunch and longtime Catholic Church member who was Cardinal Shehan's guest in Rome when he received the Red Beretta.

CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL has joined with many groups and individuals planning for a Black Peoples Assembly Saturday, June 16, 1979 in the Hill Field House on the campus of Morgan State University.

SPEAKERS at the Assembly will be the Honorable Richard Hatcher, Mayor of the City of Gary, Indiana and the Honorable Mickey Leland, Congressman from the 18th District of Texas.

While it is true that the difficulties we as Blacks confront are traceable to failures of the federal government, it is also equally true that much can be done at the local level to remedy the inequities Black citizens of Maryland are forced to live with each day.

REGISTRATION FEE for the Assembly is $5. Delegates who are interested in eating lunch in the Morgan Cafeteria will be charged an additional $3.50.

Checks and money orders for the Assembly should be made out to the Maryland Black Peoples Assembly.

The final date to register by mail for the Assembly is June 11, 1979, and checks and money orders for pre-registration should be mailed to:

Maryland Black Peoples Assembly
c-o Congressman Parren J. Mitchell
P.O. Box 7036
Baltimore, Maryland 21216

IT IS IMPERATIVE that we come together and plan a five-year agenda for Black people in Maryland and I urge you to come out and join me on Sat., June 16 at Morgan, in order that we may significantly improve the quality of life for Black people in Maryland during the next five — Parren J. Mitchell, M.C.

The Year of the Child — Part VIII

Two young fathers were in a parent audience to whom I spoke. I am always glad to see fathers when I meet with a group of parents.

We were discussing "discipline". The trouble with that word is the different definitions. To some the word "punishment" comes to mind. I use it in the sense of training and teaching.

The ultimate success for a child is moving to self - control or inner discipline.

How do you discipline or train a child? I don't accept the constant criticism about "permissiveness" from parents. Perhaps we are having more trouble with inconsistent directions — what's OK today is not OK tomorrow, but is OK the next day. What's OK with mother may not be OK with grandmother.

On the top of the list of troubles with "discipline" is the belief in punishment as the foundation for child rearing. If you don't spank or beat, then surely you have to develop a list of punishments.

I believe that slaps and spanks are rarely necessary. Beatings are inexcusable. Most of the hitting done by adults to children is the adult use of power over a helpless child. Beatings allow adults to get relief for their own anger and frustration.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child", is a familiar quotation. It would be interesting to make a survey of the number of adults in jail, on perpetual welfare rolls, in bottom level unsatisfying jobs whose parents were generous with "the rod".

A child whose body is frequently subjected to adult blows finds it difficult to develop a mind respecting himself or herself. The constant blows are instilling a message, "You are bad".

A person who feels bad, unloved, unworthy of respect cannot be a good citizen.

The two young fathers said they had both been beaten as children and thought that was the way children were disciplined. They were glad to have been exposed to a more positive approach to discipline.

I believe that [illegible] youngsters needs to incorporate a sense of appropriate behavior which allows children to be respected. Discipline is the training of children to enjoy this land of ours.

Discipline which makes our children, particularly our boys, feel unloveable and bad, full of guilt and anger is a tragic interpretation of "spare the rod and spoil the child".

A child who does not love self cannot love others.

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

By Al Sweeney

About weddings and the single male

It's that time of the year for the traditional June weddings.

It appears that this writer has reached that stage in life that he is attending final rites for long standing acquaintances and former associates during the early days of the week.

On the weekends are the wedding receptions for the off - springs of those friends.

I can't help but reflect on how the life - styles of the boy - girl relationships have changed from the 30 - plus years ago when the writer was part of wedding scene.

In those days, when the most exciting thing on television was the Ed Sullivan Show and the pie - in - the - face antics of Milton Berle, the single parent or unwed mother, as they say, were frowned upon.

The idea of couples residing together without a license was abhorrent to the good churchgoing folk, even though such arrangements were common.

Today, the mother without a father and the common - law living arrangements no longer raise eyebrows. Only the few fading fuddy - duddies left from a passing age comment.

And what about the chances of these young people who are taking those "death do us part" vows, these days?

The fact that they prefer to live their lives together in the traditional conventional fashion with all the pomp and ceremony of the ages seem to say something for them.

Those couples who plan their weddings by setting dates, sending out invitations and the staging of elaborate receptions, it would appear have a better chance of making their marriage work than the "quickie" marriages.

The "quickies" involve running off to a justice of the peace in a town say like Elkton, Md. with a bottle of champagne in one hand and the mate in the other.

You'd think that such a marriage wouldn't last.

However, several marriage counselors tell me that taking the nuptial vows either way does not necessarily guarantee a lifetime contract.

It appears that divorces strike at short term and long term marriages. There are many persons who have been wed 20 to 30 years, who have decided to call it quits, in recent years.

While, according to my experts, the bulk of the marriage crashes happen during the first seven years.

Curtis Mitchell, who was one of the town's better criminal lawyers during his life, told me that he disliked handling divorce cases.

"I would never handle a divorce case that was contested in which I knew both parties," he said. "However, I learned one thing about giving a client, seeking a divorce, advise.

"Following the book, I informed a client that she shouldn't give up. She should go back and try to make it. Give your marriage another chance. I trotted out all the lines she had left promising to give it a chance."

"I thought everything was working out until I ran into her about six months later," Mitchell said. "When I asked her, "How are things going?"

She replied: "Fine. I left that dog I was married to. I got another lawyer and I got a divorce. By following your advice, I damn near got killed. So I was determined never to come back to you again."

Bill Gardner, who is keeping the historic law firm of Houston and Houston alive, tells how the divorced mates of some of his clients express eternal hatred after a trial.

It seems that in every divorce plea there are some stock phrases that make the other party to the petition sound like a terrible person. Although, merely the rhetoric of the law, the language is disturbing to the insensitive.

Out of some divorces, I know of couples that have become great friends far more tolerant of each other after the dissolution of their contract then when they lived together.

I know of one woman, formerly married to a professional, who has never accepted the idea that the courts have ended her marriage. She is known to call up social writers and express resentment at items that refer to her successor in marriage as the wife of so - and - so. "I am still his wife," she screams at the writer "and don't you forget it."

In these days of inflation, that old saying that "two can live as cheap as one" is for the birds. It takes two persons with incomes to make it these days.

In this town, where there is a supposed five - to - one female to male ratio, it would appear that the single male would have a field day.

However, it is the married male, who has it made.

As long as he wears the ring, admits that he is married, he doesn't have to face the pressures that the single guy faces.

He has the built in excuse that he has "to go home to his wife," when he wants to evade an issue.

On the other hand, the poor single guy has to evade commitments, has to take his phone off the hook and learn the double talking language of the politician in his relationships.

I admit that I am treating the male - female relationships that result in marriage pretty lightly. I am aware that feeling of depression that comes out of rejection or domestic turmoil can't be tossed off in a cavalier fashion.

But, as long as the twin passions of love and hate motivate the conduct of the sexes we will have marriages and divorces. And with them will come joy and pain.

To the June brides and grooms — good luck! You'll need it!

'Another chapter in city's decay'

Dear AFRO:

Last year, in the hope of revitalizing speciality store operations downtown, Baltimore's two oldest fur retailers merged: Mitchell Furs established in 1902 and Peltz Furs established in 1893.

Almost immediately, the Peltz store at 220 N. Eutaw had to be closed because of the subway construction.

The merged company resolved to continue operations downtown in the old Mitchell building at 225 N. Howard St. The company spent thousands of dollars remodeling the Howard Street store and added a completely new jewely department.

Despite strong promotions, sales continued to sag and two major department stores within one block of the combined Mitchell-Peltz store closed their doors: Stewart's and Hochild's.

While expressing regret at closing his family's flagship store, James Mitchell, president of Mitchell-Peltz, indicated that he felt forced to follow the flight of speciality store operations to the suburbs and particularly Towson.

Thus ended another chapter in the continuing decay of the city's once vital retail district centered at Howard and Lexington Sts.

MS. HARRIET PHILLIPS,
Store Manager,
Mitchell-Peltz and Co.

Money Matters

More than greets the eye

Thousands of publicly - owned companies are currently issuing their annual reports.

According to the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants, these reports are far from being mere albums of bright, four - color photographs of shiny machines, well - packaged products and smiling faces.

In fact, they are important sources of vital information not only for shareholders and potential investors, but also for individuals who are searching for new jobs, looking for new customers, or weighing the benefits of welcoming a company into their community.

For all such people an annual report is a valuable reference tool, one that should be treated as such. Do not, therefore, try to read an annual report as you would a magazine. Learn instead to study it for key data and pay close attention to financial statement footnotes.

The Maryland CPAs point out that an annual report can help you make career decisions by revealing a company's financial position and growth potential. Just turn to the financial highlights section for a clear summary of how the company is performing.

A prospective employee will also want to consult the report's financial summary, which gives comparisons of key financial data over a five - or 10 - year period. Rising sales and controlled expenses give a strong indication that the company is healthy and growing.

The scope of a company's employee benefits programs and the quality of its employee relations are also usually revealed in its annual report. Compare the benefit programs listed with those of other companies and consult the financial statement footnotes to find out whether there are stock option plans for employees or whether the company is involved in lawsuits regarding employee practices.

"If I supply goods or services to a company, will it pay promptly?"

Small business owners who ask that question can turn to the annual report for an indication. Besides revealing the company's general state of health, it will also give an idea of its ability to meet current obligations.

To help you determine that, divide "current assets" by "current liabilities" to get the "current ratio." Do the same for the two prior years. According to the CPA Association, a low or declining ratio may cast doubt on ability to pay debts promptly.

Another simple calculation you can make to help you discover whether a company is too deeply in debt is to figure the ratio of debt to equity. Simply divide "Total Long - Term Debt" by "Total Shareholders' Equity." If the ratio is high, creditors may be in a position to exert significant influences over the company's affairs.

"Will a company's presence be good for my community?"

Here, too, there are several ways an annual report can provide some answers. Financial health indicates the company probably will be a stable presence and an expanding source of employment and careful scrutiny of the report may also show whether the company or its facilities attract visitors to town for meetings and seminars. It can also give an indication of its commitment to community projects and a clean environment.

So, say the Maryland CPAs, to get the true picture of what a company can mean to you, look well beyond the pictures in its annual report.

May we? Yes, we may. We must

Dear AFRO:

Black people may do many things. The helping verb may mean to have permission to. Many people confuse the helping verb may with the helping verb can which means to be able to.

Black people are able to do more now than ever if we will love and believe in ourselves and do for ourselves. However it seems that we are waiting for permission to do that.

Our waiting for someone or something to tell us "yes" we may do reminds me of a game we used to play when I was growing up. The person in charge of the game would tell the players that they could take one giant step. When the player would say, "May I?!" the person in charge would say, "No, you may not; you may take one baby step."

Brothers and sisters, we are not playing that game, and we must remember that life is no game. Furthermore, the only one that has black people taking "baby steps" are we black people ourselves.

The Creator is manifesting to us. Our ancestors and elders have long time gone, given us permission to do. We may and must do what must be done for the survival and positive growth and development of our people.

CHARLES A. DUGGER