Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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More black cops

It is no secret that the Baltimore police department has too few black, women and bilingual police officers.

This lack may soon be remedied. Not because the city fathers have suddenly developed brotherliness but because the city stands to lose millions in federal revenue sharing bucks if Baltimore does not soon clear up its police staffing practices act.

It took successfully pursued court suits by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the Vanguard Justice Society and resultant threats by Federal officials to withhold money to get this city to consider expanding hiring of black and other historically excluded citizens in law enforcement jobs.

Our congratulations to the Alliance and Vanguard for fighting the good fight.

Our sense has always been that a predominantly black police force in a predominantly black city is correct. With proper staffing ratios in the police department much of the racist aspects of local law enforcement would be eliminated forthwith.

Further, the upgrading and promotion of black officers already on the force which has long been delayed, will increase morale and provide us with a larger cadre of leadership that is sensitive to the needs of our community.

If it took the threat of holding up the money to get things moving in our police department, so be it, the important thing is that the force now has a hope of being more representative and sensitive to the population it protects and polices.

Cardinal Baun makes point

"In spite of the reforms of the last decades, the figures show a continuing pattern of misfortune for racial and ethnic minorities. Diminishing resources, limited employment opportunities and dwindling revenues affect them much more than others . . ."

These are the words of William Cardinal Baum, archbishop of Washington, who recently issued a "Pastoral Letter on Racism" following the symposium on "Principles of Catholic Moral Life" held at The Catholic University of America sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington. Cardinal Baum called "the sin of racism" one of the "most serious violations of justice in our community and even in our Church . . ." We agree.

Cardinal Baum's words are most welcomed. They could not have come at a more opportune time as many have been concerned about the lack of deep concern in the Church, as well as other sectors, about the continuous failure to uphold the "pursuit of justice, on earth."

It is no secret that through the work of civil rights organizations, dedicated citizens and aggressive attorneys, the past decade has seen the lowering of racist legislation, and the elimination of many racist laws, but it has not brought about a wholesale change of heart among many people, including some church members.

Too many people speak publicly about fair play, justice and full opportunity for all, but close examination of their actions in private may well reveal a trace of racism in their decisions and habits. Racism is evil and can only be stamped out by a change of day-to-day actions and attitudes on the part of individuals.

It may well be that racist practices have been so deeply ingrained in many of us that we find it difficult to erase overnight. If this country, and, of course, this city, is to grow and prosper, however, it must be done.

Cardinal Baum's leadership in this area certainly is and will be a major step. It is now up to the other administrative executives working under Cardinal Baum's archdiocese and his Catholic followers to work to make the end of racism a reality. It is a hard job but it can be done, and it is good to know that Cardinal Baum is on the right track.

Dr. Henry C. Welcome

Dr. Henry C. Welcome, Baltimore physician who died July 5 at age 72, belonged to that tribe of medical people of whom it may be said that "They loved their patients and were loved by them." Indeed, they were beloved by more than their immediate patients.

Many men and women recall that "We have never heard a derogatory remark about Dr. Welcome." He was more than a practicing physician. He was a Good Samaritan to those in need; he contributed to many movements of goodwill; he could listen to others with patience; he never expressed hate for anyone; he loved Baltimore and the United States, although he was born in Honduras, Central America; he supported the struggles for multi-racial equality.

Dr. Welcome served the sick of Baltimore for more than 40 years. He was a "Rock of Gibraltar" to Provident Hospital; he was a respected surgeon at a number of the other hospitals of the city; he kept medical books and journals open and, as long ago as 1948, passed the rigorous examinations that made him a Fellow of the America College of Surgeons.

In certain areas of the community, Dr. Welcome will be remembered most as an exemplary family man. During the more than 20 years his wife, Sen. Verda F. Welcome, has sat in the General Assembly, he was a bulwark of strength; he encouraged her; he allowed her to have the kind of independence that an active political life demands and, the highest compliment of all, he entered public life himself—as a member of the State Central Committee (40th Legislative District), of the State Board of Ethics, and of the State Board of Higher Education.

Graduate of what is now Dillard University and of Meharry Medical College, Henry Cecil Welcome will long be held high in memory for the Dedication he paid to his profession and the attention to his fellow-man.

A query for the NAACP

Dear AFRO:

Please permit me to use your newspaper to ask the NAACP a question. On May 23, 1979, I called NAACP office to solicit some help in a law suit which I was planning to launch. To my dismay, the NAACP's Secretary answered me in an angry mood that they are not blacks; but "Negroes."

I would appreciate it very much if the NAACP would educate me through the AFRO on the difference between black and Negroes or to put it simply "what does the word Negro mean?"

It is unfortunate that we, the black Africans who are here have suffered undue insults much more from the so-called Negroes than the white men who granted us visas to be here.

All other immigrants coming to this country have a future and love from their various ethnics; but a black African who takes up legal residence in this country does so at his own risk.

This is not the first time the NAACP has discriminated against black Africans. I only hope that God blesses this organization which is fighting white discrimination while it is also giving a reverse discrimination not only to black Africans here, but also to those Americans who identify with the black Africans.

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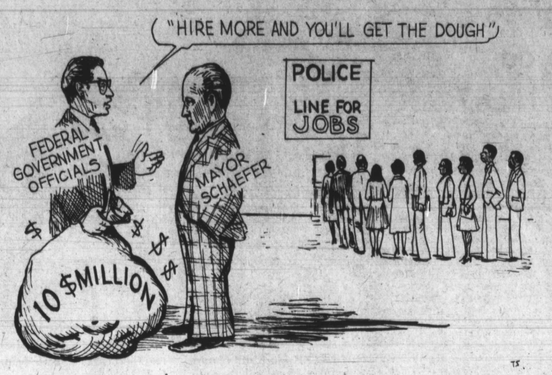

MADELINE MURPHY

Mrs. Murphy is on vacation. This is a re-print of her Jan. 11, 1976 column and is as appropriate now as it was then.

Post Reconstruction vengeance and what to do about it

How does a powerless group of blacks use its balance of power to demand a change in the system?

For in every crucial election since 1960, when John F. Kennedy squeaked through with 50.1 percent of the vote, blacks have been the balance of power.

The national black community at that time voted 68 percent for the winning candidate.

With Humphrey and Nixon in 1968 (Repubilicans 43.4 and Democrats 43.3) the black community voted 85 percent for the losing candidate.

But even with this overwhelming evidence that the black vote is important to the survival of a Democratic presidential candidate, Democratic platforms on the other hand have become more and more racial, anti-welfare, law 'n order oriented and conservative.

And though blacks have little hope of winning presidential candidacy, the use of our balance of power in a unified black effort to rewrite and revise the platforms of the winning Democratic presidential nominee does not seem to be forthcoming.

Why?

According to Ronald Welters writing in the October 1975 issue of Black Scholar: "... the usual run of black politicians can be bought and therefore, susceptible to promises of personal status and rewards . . . that they have adopted a strategy of personal gain tied to tacts of personal loyalties to white politicians, even at the sacrifice of the advancement of the total black community.

Also he suggests that candidates like George McGovern who promised six to seven $ million to be spent on voter registration, reneged mainly because he could take the black politicians and their votes for granted.

In addition, McGovern felt no obligation to run on any of the principles set forth in the watered down Black Declaration and the Black Bill of Rights of the Black Congressional Caucus, that had evolved from the National Black Political Agenda in Gary, Ind.

Walker gives as an alternative a disciplined organized group that determines the outcome of political events by demanding at the Democratic Convention that potential political leaders of the nation commit themselves to a platform that will change the condition of black people in this country.

The weapon to be used: "Voter sanctions which will either deny victory or enhance victory to those who make or do not make commitments or follow through on

Walker further suggests that a "Black Political Party is the instrument through which the national black community might organize itself into the necessary weapon by disciplining its voters."

Recently, in the mails, have been pleas from black activists of long standing that something must be done to alleviate the suffering and oppression of our black brothers and sisters, economically, socially and politically.

It has become self-evident in view of recent elections where post-Reconstruction vengeance has brought about the firing of Roland Patterson; the defeat of Milton Allen, the racist purer than Caesar's wife syndrome in the case of Paul Chester (completely out of character with white political standard operating procedure); rumors of "last hired, first fired" tactics with scores of blacks in HCD and other city agencies by February; with the simultaneous emasculation of the Human Relations Commission and the balk of the governor over desegregating the colleges; that we have no alternative but to drop out of the two political parties that have used us; co-opted us; violated our confidences and their promises.

We can no longer depend upon the few black power brokers who secretly deal us in and out at their whim, who speak for us, ofttimes from the top of their heads, without viable contact with us, grassroots to professional.

Is it any wonder that black voter turnout has decreased?

Isn't it time that all of us develop a relevant agenda and a mechanism that will finally meet our needs and those of the more oppressed, and thus take the heel of the oppressor off all our necks?

Isn't it long overdue that we band together this balance of power in a disciplined structure to gain, after 400 or more years of slavery a monument to our dream to be "free at last?"

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

LETTERS

NAACP prexy blasts anti-busing bill

Dear AFRO:

The Mottl Resolution (H.J. Res. 74) which was petitioned out of the Judiciary Committee of the House without favorable committee action by 218 signers (four of whom were Maylanders), is scheduled to come up on the floor on July 23, 1979.

After 25 years of efforts of partial success in desegregating our nation's schools, this bill would not only put up severe road blocks, but would cause retreats from territory already gained.

The Baltimore Branch of the NAACP urges all citizens to contact their Representatives to secure his vote against this resolution for the following reasons:

(1) It threatens the power of the courts to protect the rights of black children to share in desegregated public education.

(2) It singles out court-ordered busing for (desegregation only) for constitutional prohibition when busing is one convenient, useful and safe tool for remedying illegally segregated schools.

(3) It threatens the independence of our courts.

(4) It could pave the way for a series of constitutional amendments that would deal with the specifics demanded by pressure groups instead of the general philosophy and democratic principles provided by the framers of our constitution.

We are counting on you to supply the only effective power available to us — voter pressure.

ENOLIA McMILLAN,
President,
Baltimore Branch NAACP

Lauding efforts of female prisoners

Dear AFRO:

Infrequently does one hear about the "forgotten" female incarcerated population in the great state of Maryland. A population in great need of advocacy and volunteer groups to support and maintain contact with them as they "do their time."

Such groups' presence at the Maryland Correctional Center for Women in Jessup, Md. would have served a useful purpose on June 25. On this night, graduation exercises convened for some 38 black and white women.

The women were awarded the high school diploma (15) and certificates for completing either the eighth grade or a child development course of study or the MSDE nine month cosmetology course. Completion of the cosmetology course may lead to a beauty operator's license if one passes a state examination.

Two of the six women receiving the cosmetology certificate also passed the state exam with scores above 80 (100 equals a perfect score). Several of the recipients of the high school diplomas were also enrolled in college and maintaining honor roll status.

The program for the graduation had mnay of the elements of a graduation exercise on the "outside." In white or garnet cap and gown the traditional processional to the music of "Pomp and Circumstance" took place. The women also had a speaker for each area of study (i.e. child development, eighth grade certificate, etc).

Showing that they were appreciative of the dedication of the "correctional" teachers' efforts, the graduates made special presentations to two of their teachers: Mrs. Joyce Evans and Mrs. Lucinda Hayes.

The 38 women's achievements could have served as model behavior for their fellow residents. Unfortunately, their peers were not in attendance. Some 20 "outsiders" (Friends, family, volunteers and state employees) witnessed the exercise. It seems as if those in charge of the activity forgot to request permission for the population to be present.

As a result of this experience, there appears to be a need for more sensitivity on the part of correctional staff in allowing the inmate population to share positive experiences as a group, as well as to encourage more volunteerism in the institution.

DR. GWENDOLYN J. COOKE,
Member,
Maryland Advisory Board
for Correction, Parole,
and Probation

Resolution regarding Rhodesian election

Dear AFRO:

The Board of Trustees of Freedom House on May 7 adopted this resolution:

"In the light of a common roll election in which a black prime minister and parliament were elected by majority vote under unviersal suffrage, we urge that the United States lift the sanctions in force on that country and do so in such a manner as will encourage the further democratization of Zimbabwe Rhodesia."

This resolution was reported to the U.S. Congress by Clifford P. Case, chairman of the board of Freedom House and by Bayard Rustin, member of the Board of Trustees, both of whom were in Rhodesia during the election.

JOHN L. BERRY

'Black Attack' or 'Whopper'?

Dear AFRO:

Sometime ago a fast food restaurant had a promotion called "Big Mac Attack."

But it seems here in old Baltimore we are having a "Black Attack" on the City Council.

My published letter to the AFRO of May 12 titled "Political predictions have come true" as if forethought by Jean Dixon. With a large field of at least nine candidates now running in the 4th District, a "Dark Horse" will cause an upset.

I believe this large number of dedicated, civic minded persons, myself included, may help erase the apathy promoted by a daily newspaper.

Their recent editorial, a shame but the truth, emphasized black disunity in the 4th District, and leaped hard on the John Douglass for comptroller financial filing mistake.

Perhaps if enough blacks saw this article and got fighting mad like in the 50s and 60s, this great "Black Attack," would become a "WHOPPER."

JOHN T. BAILEY

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

Energy saving

The new gasoline discount

Looking for a discount on gasoline?

Strange as it may seem today, you can take the equivalent of a 5 percent discount on all of your gasoline purchases—just by avoiding gasoline waste and planning trips more carefully.

The money you save could keep you in tires for the life of the car—or purchase a $30 gift certificate.

You can choose among many steps, for it takes only a few convenient changes to add up to impressive gasoline savings. If you're the average individual, driving a private car in an urban area, you use just over two gallons of gasoline per day. So you would need to save only one-tenth of a gallon daily to Provide what would amount to a 5 percent discount.

Why bother with pennies? The answer is that gasoline costs 5 cents per mile, or more than $600 per year for the average driver, and the price is rising.

Passengers automobiles account for about 31 percent of all the petroleum consumed in the United States, and almost half of the total is imported. And though Americans have cut back the growth rate in overall oil use, their demand for motor gasoline is up substantially.

(Total estimated petroleum demand for the first three months of 1979 was up 1.7 percent from one year ago, but motor gasoline use was up an estimated 4.5 percent.)

This increase in gasoline use comes at a bad time. Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have again raised prices, and oil supplies worldwide are tight.

And because gasoline accounts for about 40 percent of U.S. oil consumption, demand must be reduced to avoid shortages and to meet a commitment to the International Energy Agency to reduce demand for world oil 5 percent projected fourth quarter 1979 levels.

Here are three gasoline-saving tips to help you—and your country—save this essential fuel:

1. Have you had an engine tune-up recently? Do you need one? If your engine is hard to start, hesitates, sputters, idles roughly, or the like—you are losing mileage and should check its condition immediately. You may need to clean and adjust spark plugs and ignition points, replacing if necessary; check timing; and replace air and fuel filter elements.

How much you will save on gasoline consumption will depend on the condition of your engine and how much you drive in the course of a year, but savings could range up to 12 percent on your gasoline bills.

2. Drive at a moderate speed. The most efficient range usually is 35 to 45 miles per hour. On the highway, where you may need to maintain a higher speed, stay at 55 mph.

Most automobiles get about 18 percent better mileage on the highway at 50 than at 65 mph, and 20 percent better mileage at 55 than at 70 mph. You may note that some drivers abuse the speed limit on superhighways, but state police are cracking down on speeders.

3. As some states advertise, "drive Gently." You may have seen such signs on the highways. They mean, first, drive 55. But they also mean keep your eye on traffic ahead, accelerate smoothly, drive at a steady pace, avoid stop-and-go traffic whenever possible, minimize braking, and never tailgate.

Would you like more tips? Write today for the folder, "How to Save Gasoline ... and money." To Energy, Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Like no other primary

Reuben Caplan, veteran city councilman, sparkled politics in Baltimore when he announced that he would not run for re-election from the 5th Councilmanic District. This means that he will not be a candidate in the coming September primary. This means, too, that now there is the best opportunity lately for the Fifth to elect its first black councilman.

Second place, behind Caplan, must go to Thomas B. Mickle, Republican city chairman, who has done what even Theodore R. McKeldin could not do. He has Republican men and women actually contesting for office in every councilmanic district and for the topmost spot on the ticket, that of mayor.

As has been voted by others, this achievement by the Republican party under Mickle, is the most exciting contribution to the two-party principle in Baltimore in more than 30 years.

The third shot in the arm for our city must be credited to the Metro Democratic Organization which is fielding its own tickets or backing certain candidates in nearly all of the districts; present count indicates five out of six. Of course, it continues most active in its home base, the Fourth.

Altogether, 40 blacks have filed for candicacy in the September primary. Unless any of them withdraw by July 29, their names (as reported in last week's AFRO) will be on the primary ballot.

Citywide, there are four black aspirants for mayor, but most eyes are turned to the contest for city comptroller, in which Delegate John W. Douglass is again challenging Herman Pressman. If blacks mount a spirited campaign for this latter post, it is felt the city is ready for a change in the comptroller's office.

Not only do the 5th District Democrats have their first opportunity to elect a black city city councilman; they may elect two councilmen, if . . . This is the district where the Republicans may also pull a surprise.

Whether the GOP wins a single seat, or not, in the general election, however, Tom Mickle will make his footnote in history for giving new life to a Republicanism in the city which sometimes seemed to be on its last legs.

Similarly, Metro must be saluted for putting its money and prestige in districts where there is the highest risk in back candidates.

Metro's point of view seems to be that black voters must be presented black candidates for whom they can vote, until they get in the habit of voting for such candidates. Black candidates are also important for bargaining purposes.

In the 2nd and 4th Councilmanic districts, no surprises are expected, racially speaking. In the Fourth, the sparks will be exchanged between Metro (under William L. Adams) and the Fourth Democratic Organization (under Sen. Verda Welcome). In the Fourth, three incumbents are being challenged by 10 aspirants who feel they can do better.

The 3rd District will be making another effort to win direct representation for its black population. It will take more than black votes, however, as was shown when Phyllis Douglass was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1976, and when Louise G. Murphy was elected to the State Central Committee in 1978.

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It was expected that there might be "a hot time in the old town" in the Democratic race for president of the City Council. But, Delegate Frank M. Conaway, an avowed candidate for several months, has decided to leave Walter S. Orlinsky unchallenged—not a politically unwise decision.

Much cocktail talk complains that "Baltimore ought to have a black mayor, just like Washington, or Cleveland, or Los Angeles, or Gary, or Atlanta, or . . ." But the black power brokers do not feel that "the time is ripe." Perhaps in 1983, is the cocktail hope.

The most talk is not about a black mayor, however. The talk everywhere is about getting more blacks to register, and getting more of those registered to vote.

Of course, it takes more than votes to capture political status and power. It takes organization and power, in addition to votes or the right to vote.

At least, for now, we off our hat to Reuben Caplan who has done his part to give the 5th District more representation in City Council.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

THE FIRST black woman member of the Maryland State Parole Commission has been named and awaits Gov. Hughes' signature of the official papers. She is Ms. Marjorie Jennings of Baltimore who has been administrative assistant to the Parole Commission nine years.

Ms. Jennings joins the other two black members of the 7-member panel, Jasper Clay and Isaiah Larkins, at $30,000 a year.

WHO WILL TAKE THE PLACE of the late Dr. Henry C. Welcome on the 40th Senatorial District State Central Committee?

Former City Councilwoman Mary B. Adams, the chairman, says nothing will be done immediately. She states she will call a meeting soon to receive recommendations and "we will move from there." This statement should settle a lot of talk, rumors and worry, worry, worry.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY, this is the flavor of the Provident Hospital Gift Shop costume jewelry show and sale set for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 19 - 20 - 21, 11 a.m., to 7:45 p.m. each day.

VIVACIOUS Jesse Rose, the buyer, has stocked some fabulous pieces which would normally sell for up to $50 anywhere else. You'll never believe it until you see for yourself, her fantastic jewels are going for under $5, at 20 to 70 percent reduction. Good pieces that will not tarnish and will look like the "real thing" for years.

AVAILABLE AT THE Christmas in July sale are rings, bracelets, nacklaces combs, stickpins, whatever a lady or a gentleman needs in jewelry. AND, there are the usual items Jesse has selected herself, gifts galore, men and women's sleep and lounge wear, handbags, perfumes, notions live plants, children's toys, baby items and the best of everything to rival and gift shop in town. . . at half the price. SEE YOU THERE.

THURSDAY was Dorothy Chambers' Open House at Northwestern Senior High Summer School with parents, principals and teachers assembled in a delightful conference with the kids. The youngsters let it all hand out with great pride as they showed off their accomplishments on the 3-week A Course Orientation Program. The principals were there to meet the parents and children who will start studying regularly in September. Dorothy, regularly at Fairmount Hill, is the summer principal.

FREDERICK A. BAILEY, the guy we have always voted as "Most likely to succeed" is in a fine new post, in management at Chesapeake Life. He was, as you recall, an assistant vice-president for 12 years at Maryland National Bank.

Then, in the meantime, he was financial manager for Urban Service Neighborhood Transportation Division.

FRED received a bachelors degree from Antioch College in June and of course made an admirable record. His wife, Vivan, a West Baltimore Middle School teacher, us working on her masters degree at Morgan.

Son, Kenity is a senior at Mount Saint Jo. Michael is an insurance salesman and Lydia, their talented daughter, finished the noted New York Parsons School of Design in June. She'll be in Europe this winter but is now teaching art in the Mayor's Neighborhood Summer Program. A fine family, is it not so?

GET WELL wishes should go to Mrs. Christine Anderson, the longtime beautician who has been ill for some time. She has been away from her Whitelock Street shop for a while, In fact, it is closed. Christine was for many years Sen. Welcome's appointee on the Maryland Beauticians Board.

TUESDAY is the date set by the Oblate Sisters for their Press Conference and breakfast. The 8:30 a.m. event at Saint Frances Academy is also sponsored by the Restoration Plus Building Program Committee.

Sister Reginald issued the invitations to the press with an RSVP so that the breakfast (really delicious) can be prepared.

Allen Quille is chairman of the Restoration Plus effort; Sister Mary Paul Lee is executive secretary and Sister Reginald, Project Director.

Here are the other officials:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Beverly Carroll, Sr. M. of Good Counsel, Mr. Thomas J. D'Alesandro III, Mrs. Betty Glascoe, Vivian Iglehart, M.D., Edward J. McNeal, Lydell Mitchell, Sr. M. Brenda Motte, Herbert R. O'Conor Jr., Charles G. Tildon Jr. Samuel Wintk,

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Victorine Q. Adams, Councilwoman, Most Rev. William D. Borders, D.D., Archbishop of Baltimore, Clarence H. Burns, Councilman, Ms. Mary Pat Clarke, Council Woman, Hon. J. Joseph Curran Jr., Maryland State Senate, The Hon. Louis L. Goldstein, Comprtoller of the Treasury, Sr. Marie Infanta Gonzales, Superior General, Oblate Sisters of Providence, Nathan Irby, Councilman, Julian L. Lapides, Councilman, Blair Lee III Former Acting Governor, Babara Mikulski, U.S. House of Representatives, Most Rev. P. Francis Murphy, Auxiliary Bishop, Very Rev. Mathew O'Rourke, S.S.J., Superior Genera, Josephite Fathers, Donald D. Pomerleau, Police Commissioner, Paul S. Sarbanes, United States Senate, William Donald Schaefer, Mayor Most Rev. J. Francis Stafford, D.D. Auxiliary Bishop and Ms. Jacquelyn J. Watts.

Straight Talk About Aging

Crime—a recurring problem

By Dr. Matthew Tayback

Crime, ranging from robbery and assault to con games, increasingly is affecting our elderly citizens. It is true that, statistically, the elderly are less likely to be victimized by crime than other segments of our population.

But it is also true that the aftermath of the criminal activity is more long-ranging relative to the elderly—those living on fixed incomes feel the loss of even five dollars in a mugging; those suffering a broken arm take longer to heal.

The subject of crime was an agenda item at the June Commission on Aging meeting. The Commission is the advisory body for the Office on Aging.

Discussed at the meeting were methods in which the criminal justice system might be able to cope more efficiently with juvenile offenders. Older people have been traditionally preyed upon by juveniles, especially in the inner city, and this victimization remains a problem.

Certainly a by-product of juvenile crime is the increased isolation of the elderly caused by such crime. Why should the elderly be made to stay behind locked doors, afraid to go outside and to live in fear?

These questions were examined in detail by the Commission and will also be discussed in August at a meeting of the United Seniors of Maryland, the umbrella group of senior citizen organizations in Maryland.

The findings and recommendations of these two bodies will be incorporated into proposed legislation for the consideration of the Maryland General Assembly in the 1980 session.

Increasingly, police departments, both locally and nationally, are becoming more receptive to the needs of the elderly. This receptivity includes visits by police officials to organization meetings to lecture on criminal deterrents and the training of police officers on enhanced communication with older people.

This kind of recognition can only improve our elderly citizens' knowledge of crime. Knowledge such as realizing that most criminals who prey on the elderly are opportunists who only strike when they feel they can get away quickly by victimizing the unwary.

One solution to such activity, then, is to be wary; to deny such opportunity. For example, if you're taking a walk or going to the store, plan your route in advance. Tell it to a neighbor or friend. Carry a whistle and never flash large amounts of money. Don't let valuable objects, such as a purse, rest on the front of seat of your car with the window open.

If you are attacked by a determined robber, let him have your property without a struggle unless he attacks you physically—in which case you must try to escape or attract help.

Being alert is the key to denying a criminal opportunity. Being alert is not being fearful — rather, always being "on guard."

Remember, there are many specific measures one can take for protection. For instance, women should carry a purse snugly against the front of the body, clasp inward. A would-be purse snatcher would have to confront you face-to-face, something few of them like to do.

The Commission on Aging was presented with four recommendations relating to changes in the judicial approach to controlling juvenile assaults on the elderly.

These included:

1. Lowering the age from 18 to 16 for trial as an adult.

2. Publishing the names and addresses of juveniles and their parents after the third offense.

3. Increase parental liability from $5,000 to $10,000.

4. Suspend driver's license for one year if vehicle used in crime.

The Commission will consider these proposed remedies in detail when it meets following the summer recess.

Dr. Tayback is state director on aging.

'Black Macho and the Myth of Superwoman'

Michele Wallace's boobytrap—Part I

"Black Macho and the Myth of Superwoman,"
Dial Press, 1978, $7.95
By Adimv Khary

Divide and conquer is an old and often very effective tactic.

If internal tensions and problems in the oppressed community can be aggravated they will be so weakened from fighting within the group that the real enemy will face a weak disunified foe.

I am not saying that Michele Wallace created the very real tensions between black men and women. Her emergency, however, in the national arena, touted as the new intellectual heavyweight and ballyhooed by white feminists as author of the book for the '80s was promoted to fire dissension among black people.

Whether Michele Wallace was a conscious participant or acting, as the black bourceisie often does, without serious forethought and insight, I do not know.

The book is a mixture so strange and lacking in historical foundation and social perception, I feel the only reason it has been printed and promoted is to once again attack black self-concept.

"Black Macho and the Myth of Superwoman" is neither a history book nor a sociological analysis.

Ms. Wallace throws in enough quotes from statistical studies and scholarly works to give the book the appearance of being scholarly. Her casual attacks on the civil rights movement cast suspicion on her allegiance to and identification with the black community.

She claims that the restlessness of black female civil rights workers promoted the black power movement because it was a way to silence female unrest.

Michele Wallace

The black power movement emerged from a number of factors. The civil rights movement was based on morality and law but by 1968 the laws had been passed and America's microscopic mality dissipated over Vietnam.

Another factor that prompted the development of black power was the failure of the strategies and tactics of the civil rights movement in the north.

Martin Luther King's Chicago campaign was a failure. The emerging majorities and near majorities in the urban north and urban south made black power a realistic political strategy.

Ms. Wallace does not see this or if she does it is not mentioned in her book. Ms. Wallace prefers to ignore the cultural, political, psychological weapons utilized against black people and concentrates on a sexual perspective.

Ms. Wallace claims to be a feminist and she explains what that means by saying that being a black feminist means she feels that "black men could stand substantial improvement."

She never defines or discusses what the women's liberation movement means to black people. Again she glides over what should be crucial points in her book. Does this mean that her book is aimed at the growing audience of feminist readers in the white community that know well the ides of feminism, rather than her poor unaware sisters who according to the author need an infusion of feminist thought?

The feminist theorists point out some problems in male-female relations among people around the world. Ms. Wallace makes none of these points in her book because she is too concerned with ranting about black men being too interested in dating white woman.

She acts as though the majority of black men were chasing white women while savagely criticizing black women. This is an obvious lie but perhaps "Black Macho. . . was written to begrudgingly reassure white women that they are still the most desirable women in America.

It would also seem that this book is not an attempt to rebuild bridges where they have broken down between black women and men but rather a bitter distortion of the cause and consequence of the problem.

How to beat the high cost of dying

"I think it's high time to end the secrecy, suspicion and confusion surrounding the cost of funerals."

Leroy O. Dyett, a Baltimore funeral director with a 25-year track record, was commenting on the often-heard, blanket accusation that members of his profession are nothing more than "insensitive, greedy, callous exploiters of misery."

Dyett, who directs the Leroy O. Dyett Funeral Home at 4600 Liberty Heights Ave., is doing more than talk about his concern.

He has published a pamphlet which answers just about "All you should know about the cost of funerals, but were afraid to ask."

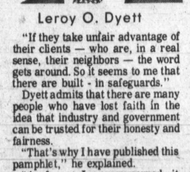
Answers to 16 key questions on the cost of funerals are contained in this booklet.

Specifically, the pamphlet deals with some of the constant demands by consumer groups and the Federal Trade Commission, that funeral directors be more accountable to their clients.

"Sure," Dyett conceded, "some members of my profession do not play the game according to the rules but they represent a small minority."

The funeral director added, however, that more government rules and red tape are not the answer.

"Let's face it," he said, "funeral directors are members of their respective communities and they are businessmen and women engaged in a competitive business.



Leroy O. Dyett

"If they take unfair advantage of their clients — who are, in a real sense, their neighbors — the word gets around. So it seems to me that there are built-in safeguards."

Dyett admits that there are many people who have lost faith in the idea that industry and government can be trusted for their honesty and fairness.

"That's why I have published this pamphlet," he explained.

"As far as I am concerned, it represents complete disclosure of the legitimate costs of funerals and I believe that it will be to the advantage of all families to acquaint themselves with the information provided by the pamphlet."

Dyett said anyone can obtain a copy of the pamphlet by contacting his office in the 4600 block Liberty Heights Ave.

Among the questions answered in the pamphlet are:

Q: What did the "average total-adult funeral" selected in the past few years cost?

A: According to the National Funeral Directors Association study, Americans paid $1,285 in 1975, $1,348 in 1976, and $1,412 in 1977. When "all services conducted" are considered (including children, welfare-adult and partial-adult), the average amount paid was $1,306.

Q: What about the cost of burial in a cemetery?

A: In most cemeteries the cost of an individual grave ranges from about $200 to $700. Costs of opening and closing the grave generally range from about $150 to $400.

Q: Why do many cemeteries require an interment receptacle into which the casketed body is placed?

A: To keep maintenance costs down by preventing the sinking of graves.

Q: What are the basic costs for a monument or marker?

A: Bronze markers start in price at about $175 and granite markers at about $225. Granite monuments begin at about $250. The cost of either can run considerably higher depending upon the size, material, design and craftsmanship of the monument.

Q: What costs are associated with purchasing space in a mausoleum?

A: Individual crypts in indoor mausolea start at about $900. Outside garden crypts start at about $700.

Q: What was the local cost of funerals last year?

A: The fees for a complete funeral service and casket selection were as follows:

600 to 800 funerals cost $1,100
400 to 600 funerals cost $1,200
300 to 400 funerals cost $1,400
200 to 300 funerals cost $1,800
100 to 200 funerals cost $2,100
under 100 funerals cost over $2,500

Answers to these and other questions are fully explained in the pamphlet, which, the funeral director said, should ease the doubts and anxieties that survivors often encounter at the death of a loved one.

"I am aware of the fact that death and funerals are highly sensitive and personal matters," Dyett pointed out, adding:

"But they are inevitable issues with which we must all eventually deal. It seems to me that the more knowledgeable we are about these issues, the easier it will be for the survivors."

Dyett was recently appointed a member of the state Funeral Directors Commission by Gov. Harry R. Hughes and he said that gives him an opportunity to protect the interest of consumers at a time when they are most vulnerable.

Dyett is a member of the executive board, Central YMCA; the Businessmen's League, a 33rd degree Mason, and member of both the Mount Moriah Baptist and Emmanuel C. C. Churches.

White grad compliments MSU

Dear AFRO:

On Sunday, May 20, I accomplished something I thought I could never do. I received a bachelor's degree — but it took me nearly 20 years. Ha! you say, most people do it in four. True, but in night school it takes a little longer.

I feel the night school student doesn't receive the redit he or she deserves. One who works all day is usually tired, wants to go home and relax. But, to grab a quick supper (or skip it) and go on to another two to three hours of thought-provoking activity takes a little something extra!

Graduating was nly my first thrill of May 20! The second one was graduating from Morgan State University. Again, you say big deal! But I am white. I probably learned as much from that experience as I did in the classroom.

For instance, you don't have to be of the same color to be kind to your fellow human beings. The staff and students at Morgan treated me great.

When I was out sick, another student mailed me the lecture notes I missed and told of an upcoming test. The faculty in the anthropology sociology department as well as others were top notch!

In addition, the staff in the Financial Aid Department helped to keep those tuition bills as low as possible. (Try supporting a family today and pay for books and tuition pus gas to go to school!)

Of course, the final thrill of May 20 was the ceremony. To see and hear such famous people as Eubie Blake and Cicely Tyson was beautiful, especially when Miss Tyson's thanks for an honorary degree was done with a portrayal of Jane Pittman.

One also could not forget the conclusion of graduation with the Morgan chorus singing "I Don't Feel Noways Tired." No wonder they have won so many awards!

Thanks Morgan!

DAVID W. JONES