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
Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

The Douglass campaign

Assembly Delegate John Douglass ran against Hyman Pressman for the Office of City Comptroller in 1975 and lost by a 2 to one margin.

In the years since then Delegate Douglass has been working tightly to reverse these results when he goes up against Pressman again this fall.

It is difficult to unseat an incumbent ordinarily and when the incumbent is an office holder who very skillfully and shrewdly has positioned himself a city "living institution" as Pressman has, the battle is that much tougher.

Veteran political observers now worry that the Douglass effort this time is not becoming visible enough fast enough.

If Douglass is to win, it is felt strongly, he is not only going to have to campaign hard in the usual sense but also must tie his efforts in with the various voter registration and education drives being launched this summer by such organizations as the NAACP.

In a city - wide election, the only hope that black candidates presently have is that many additional voters be added to the lists and then come Election Day be motivated to get out and vote.

We are supportive of Delegate Douglass' candidacy and would hope that his campaign moves into high gear.

Hyman Pressman, whatever else you may say, has been an effective office - holder.

Only a ferocious all - out effort could topple him and thus far the Douglass forces have been low - key.

An added requisite for Douglass is the support of organized labor and we sense that some of our brothers and sisters in the labor movement have been dragging their feet on endorsements of the Douglass bid.

We would like them to commit themselves at once so that we can at least know if city wide unity Delegate Douglass needs if he is to win is in anyway going to be a reality.

More black cops

We fully support the Baltimore City police department's stepped - up campaign of recruitment and appointment of black law enforcement personnel.

We have said before that while it took a court decision to get the administration moving on a real affirmative action program, the more positive thing is that something is at last getting done.

More black officers in a majority - black city will do much to ease police - community relations.

If Detroit's experience indicates a possible trend then more black officers will also mean less crime. Detroit, we understand, now has a 45 percent black police force and the crime rate has dropped resultingly.

A third positive aspect of an increase in local enforcement workers from our community is that it means more income within our community. While police pay is far from what it should be, it is stable income and the more families that can see one or more of their numbers thus gainfully employed portends good for the city.

The plusses of increased hiring of blacks by the police department are therefore manifold: improved community relations, crime reduction and prevention and economic growth.

It may have come late and under pressure but it is happening.

Police promotions

Increased hiring of blacks for the police force is a good thing.

The department must now move to ensure that the many veteran black police officers, many long passed over for promotions and other benefits befitting their service, are given all career advantages other officers have historically had almost without asking.

While it is fine to bring in a large number of new officers the police department, as the court decision notes, must equitably and quickly compensate veteran black officers as well.

This is not only fair but eminently sensible for a city which is justifiably proud of its progress in human and group relationships.

AFRAM - big weekend

Every year negative thinkers get nervous about this city's AFRAM Expo — the mammoth festival celebration of black life, culture and accomplishment. They try and "wish up" trouble.

And every year AFRAM weekend comes and goes peacefully with no more than the normal amount of trouble associated with huge crowds of folk milling about in a festive environment.

This year AFRAM Expo '79 will be held at Rash Field in the Inner Harbor, this Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29, from noon until 9 p.m.

It is presented under the auspices of the Urban Services Agency.

We urge all to attend and celebrate black life.

And let all who attend celebrate with love and peace.

Two good appointments

Two recent appointments to public office deserve a salute, both representative of many more men and women who are available for the many commissions and boards in our city and state governments.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer chose well when he named Carl M. Adair, civic activist, businessman and educator, to the Baltimore Planning Commission.

Indeed, the mayor does more than give Republican representation to the board. Mr. Adair brings a generally well - trained mind and more. He has shown administration and planning skills as dean of students at Coppin State College and in his successful ownership and operation of several businesses in the city. In addition, he knows Baltimore in its many facets — geographical, economic, social and political.

Gov. Harry R. Hughes, a few days earlier, named Dr. LeMoyne M. Matthews to the Board of Education of Baltimore County. Dr. Matthews is a professor of social work and assistant dean of continuing education, at Morgan State University, and former director of the university's well known program in social work.

Her marriage of social work, education and administration should serve her well as a member of the Baltimore County education board. In addition, she has lived in Catonsville for more than 17 years and is mother of three children, all of whom attended county schools, through their junior high school years.

Dr. Matthews is presently a member of the board of the Florence Crittenton Services and the House of Ruth. In the past she has served the Greater Baltimore Health and Welfare Council and the Governor's Committee on Social Welfare Council.

These two appointments should not be the usual kind of political recognition. They should evolve into being choices most fruitful for the future of Baltimore City and its neighbor, Baltimore County.

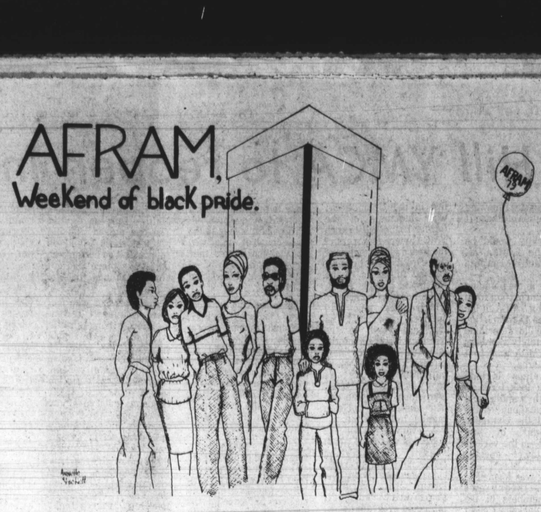
Fasting would save billions

Dear AFRO:

We heard the "Sermon OFF the mount" and I want to cooperate, so I wrote to President Carter suggesting we all fast one day a week (Everyone but the poor who already suffer more than enough.)

The savings will run to the billions of dollars. And we will be healthier, a fringe benefit.

B. J. SMALL



Madeline

MURPHY

Crumbs from Pharoah's table

I looked at "Moses the Law Giver" on television last Sunday and the closing episode showed how the tribes of Israel, in lamenting over their discomfort wandering through the desert to the Promised Land, longed for the good ole days in Egypt. They were willing to return to a life as sub - humans so anxious were they for the crumbs from Phanraoh's table.

Long forgotten were the miracles that brought them together through untold hardship. Now the miracles were denigrated as flukes, luck, coincidences. God didn't have a thing to do with it.

And while I looked, I thought how mankind has not changed. How fickle is loyalty. How ungrateful people are. But most of all how willingly they would return to servitude.

Thus, after reading about the new "Godfather" of black politics in Baltimore in a Sunday newspaper — Raymond V. Haysbert, president of Parks Sausage and mover, shaker in the 4th District Metro Democratic Organization — how could comparisons escape one?

For example, a few months ago, Cherry Hill was targeted for this leadership with the formation of a kind of "Metro - South", a 6th District organization that would be headed by former mayoral aide, and 6th District City Council candidate, Marguerite Campbell.

There was a hue and cry in Cherry Hill that no one had been notified, none of the leaders had been included in this new foray into the community (certainly not this writer). Not even had the previous leadership been consulted.

The tentacles of management, manipulation and control seemed all too evident. But there was this caretaker attitude that was most distressing. Because, even though the void might have been present in this and other communities, what effort was made even to find out why? More cynically, what is the hidden agenda of those who wish to fill the void laterally?

Then, what use will be made of this power, without input from those who have a vested interest in political change in their own community?

Further, how suddenly, when political questions were being asked or ideas propounded, the muted response became the familiar refrain: "Have you talked with Haysbert?"

It is not too hard to harken back to the days of Tom Smith, where nothing happened for or in the black community without Smith's seal of approval.

And I wonder now are we willing to surrender our independence, no matter how fragmented as the arrogant charge, our choices of candidates; our ability to maneuver with our separate community clout for that illusive unity (predictable in an election year) that seems so urgently important to a boss figure?

Is dealing, and delivering autocratic rule the only way? Must we be corralled like a bunch of sheep only to be delivered to the slaughter house on Holliday Street, with the excuse that the void in black leadership had to be filled by one who rudely snatches the crown as head honcho? I think not.

But there are those among us who are comfortable like the disillusioned Israelites, with a king figure like Pharaoh who would direct every area of their lives, who need only to command and forgetting their old loyalty, old principles, the followers, newly loyal would compromise their lives away.

Most significant in this new role is the great amount of publicity attached to the phenomenon. It smacks suspiciously, from the white press point of view anyway of the "Good Negro Keeping Seal of Approval".

Moreover, will this newly found leadership act as spoiler at the whim of the "Pharaoh" in tight races for Council as in the 5th District, where one candidate remains unduly inactive sans signs, sans campaign hoopla, sans everything? This, perhaps, to divide while the white candidates get re - elected as blacks split their votes.

Democracy dies when our inaction kills it. So if we are vigilant and if we exercise our vote independently enough, we might yet find a light for democracy at the end of the tunnel.

Lest we forget however, the parasites that feed upon the back of the hippo have easily been gobbled up by the hovering birds.

And finally, Lord Acton's warning that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, should give us pause before we pledge allegiance to such spurious and self appointed leadership.

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

LETTERS

Candidate McDonough blasts Mayor Schaefer

Dear AFRO:

It has come to my attention that the budget for the Legal Aid Bureau was slashed considerably by the incumbent mayor as a reprisal against the bureau for its involvement in certain public interest litigation regarding the deplorable housing situation in Baltimore City.

Indeed, the hallmarks of the incumbent's administration for the past eight years have been his spending priorities which ignore the basic needs of the people of Baltimore and his penchant for retaliatory action against those who question his inappropriate priorities.

In my campaign for the Democratic nomination for mayor of Baltimore City, I have made a commitment to reorder those priorities so as to provide for the basic needs of the people first.

Agencies such as the Legal Aid Bureau should be encouraged to maintain the necessary pressure on government to ensure that government is responding to the needs of the people.

Ample funds and other support must be provided to the Legal Aid Bureau so that it can provide quality legal services to the city's poor; adequate support for the bureau serves not only to provide such legal representation to the poor but also to spur the city government to provide meaningful services in basic areas such as housing, education, public safety and health in accordance with the requirements of law.

The McDonough administration will both reorder the spending priorities — so that people take precedence over pet building projects and insiders who benefit from such projects — and eliminate the practice of retaliating against those agencies and individuals who act or speak out on behalf of the currently "forgotten Baltimore".

PATRICK L. McDONOUGH,
Delegate, 46th District, Maryland
General Assembly

Economic aid to Vietnam

I would like to express my growing outrage at the treatment of the people of Vietnam, Cambodia and Lagos at the hands of the leadership of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and to note my concern that the policies of this leadership, in context, threaten world peace.

Since December of last year the Vietnamese leadership has used of order 150,000 troops to overthrow the legitimate government of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) and to occupy that country. There appear to have been atrocities and looting of the national art treasures at the Angkor temples as a result of this action, which Vietnamese Vice-Premier Vo Nguyen Giap recently termed "a victory in the patriotic war on our country's southwestern border."

Secondly, while one could identify the United States government as the source of many of Vietnam's problems in 1975 and shortly thereafter, after four years the United States can hardly be blamed for the Vietnamese leadership's recent racist policies in the governance of its country.

Its anti-Chinese actions have now caused an escalation of the exodus of refugees from the area, creating a serious international crisis. In this matter, further, Hanoi has practiced what can only be regarded as extortion from persons sent out to sea to drown.

Finally, in order to gain material support for these actions, the Hanoi authorities have caused increased political and economic dependence of the country upon the Soviet Union. Among other things, the latter has thereby gained at least some increased access to the strategic port of Cam Ranh Bay, its control of which could seriously undermine international stability.

Many Americans, myself included, basicly acted in international solidarity with the people of Vietnam, Cambodia and Lagos in opposing United States Involvement in the area in the 1960s and early 1970s. Whatever role the present Vietnamese leadership played then, today it is behaving as an international outlaw comparable to the authorities of Nazi Germany or of today's South Africa, and the people under its yoke still need our support.

Therefore, in my opinion economic aid to Vietnam should be opposed, countries and organizations should reject any recognition of its client regime in Cambodia, and all appropriate pressure should be brought to bear to demand that these outrages cease.

E. F. BEALL
Takoma Park, Md.

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

Cooking, dishwashing, conservation

Cooking energy savers

Use cold water rather than hot to operate your food disposer. This saves the energy needed to heat the water recommended for the appliance and aids in getting rid of grease. Grease solidifies in cold water and can be ground up and washed away.

Install an aerator in your kitchen sink faucet. By reducing the amount of water in the flow, you use less hot water and save the energy that would have been required to heat it. The flow pressure is hardly noticeable.

If you need to purchase a gas oven or range, look for one with an automatic electronic ignition system instead of pilot lights. You'll save an average of up to a third of your gas use—41 percent in the oven and 53 percent on the top burners.

If you have a gas stove, make sure the pilot light is burning efficiently — with a blue flame. A yellowish flame indicates an adjustment is needed.

— never boil water in open pan. Water will come to a boil faster and use less energy in a kettle or covered pan.

— Keep range-top burners and reflects clean. They will reflect the heat better, and you will save energy.

— Match the size of the pan to the heating element. More heat will get to the pan ; less will be lost to surrounding air.

— If you cook with electricity, get in the habit of turning off the burners several minutes before the allotted cooking time. The heating element will stay hot long enough to finish the cooking for you without using more electricity. The same principle applies to oven-cooking.

— When using the oven, make the most of the heat from that single source. Cook as many foods as you can at one time. Prepare dishes that can be stored or frozen for later use or make all oven-cooked meals.

— Watch the clock or use a timer; don't continually open the oven door to check food. Every time you open the door heat escapes and your cooking takes more energy.

Use small electric pans or ovens for small meals rather than the kitchen range or oven. They use less energy.

— Use pressure cookers and microwave ovens if you have them. They can save energy by reducing cooking time.

— When cooking with a gas rangetop burner, use moderate flame settings to conserve gas.

— When you have a choice, use the range top rather than the oven.

Dishwasing energy savers

The average dishwasher uses 14 gallons of hot water per load. Use it energy efficiently.

— Be sure your dishwasher is full, but not overloaded, when you turn it on.

— When buying a dishwasher, look for a model with air-power and or over night dry settings. These features automatically turn off the dishwasher after the rinse cycle. This can save you up to 10 percent of your total dishwashing energy costs.

— Let your dishes air dry. If you don't have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse. Prop the door open a little and the dishes will dry faster.

— Don't use the "rinse hold" on your machine. It uses 3 to 7 gallons of hot water each time you use it.

— Scrape dishes before loading them into the dishwasher so you won't have to rinse them. If they need rinsing use cold water.

How to save electricity before it comes to you

During late afternoon and early evening hours the load on the nation's electrical systems usually reaches its peak. To meet the heavy demand, electric utilities often must use backup generating equipment that is not energy efficient.

— Try to use energy-intensive appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers, and electric ovens in the early morning or late evening hours to help reduce that peakload.

Refrigerator Freezer Energy savers

Don I keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures 38 F to 40 for the fresh food compartment of the refrigerator. 5 F for the freezer section. (If you have a separate freezer for long term storage it should be kept at 0 F, however.)

— If you're buying a refrigerator, it's energy economical to buy one with a power-saver switch. Most refrigerators have heating elements in their walls or doors to prevent "sweating" on the outside. In most climates the heating element does not need to be working all the time.

The power-saver switch turns off the heating element. By using it, you could save about 18 percent in refrigerator energy costs.

— Consider buying refrigerators and freezers that have to be defrosted manually. Although they take more effort to defrost these appliances use less energy than those that defrost automatically.

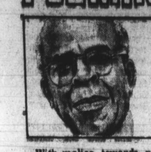
— Regularly defrost manual-defrost refrigerators and freezers. Frost buildup increases the amount of energy needed to keep the engine running. Never allow frost to build up more than one-quarter of an inch.

— Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a piece of paper or a dollar bill so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can pull the paper or bill out easily the latch may need adjustment or the seal may need replacing.

G. JAMES

FLEMING

Time for John Douglass



With malice towards none, we believe 1979 is the year for Delegate John W. Douglass Jr. to be elected city comptroller. This can be achieved by all voters casting their ballot for him in the Democratic Primary on Sept. 11.

Why is this year so important? This year, 1979, is different from other recent years because, after 1979, blacks may not be a majority in the city again. At least, for a long time!

If you have been following the real estate promotion, the downtown construction, and the forecast for longterm gasoline shortage, you already know that the people who find Baltimore City, during the past 20 years are returning. They are being wooed back. The rents and prices for the new housing are geared to bring them back.

In a very few years, what is now the black inner - city, "the ghetto," scorned and looked down upon, will not be black and it will not be looked down upon anymore.

More important, politically, the new inhabitants, or the returned migrants, will be white and, history shows that, by and large, the mass of white voters will vote white whenever there is a choice. In addition, these returned city dwellers have to their credit that they will register to vote, and they will vote.

Those, black and white, who are interested in having a black elected public official among the top floor of City Hall, cannot say "we'll start him four years from now." Four years from now will be too late. Blacks, black voters and their friends will not have the numbers to do so.

That is why Sept. 11, 1979, is so important. It is this year or, perhaps, never again — because, unless there is a substantial bloc of black voters, citywide, a black citywide candidate will not be elected.

Why John Douglass this year?

Because John Douglass, by education, experience and the record, is eminently qualified to be city comptroller.

During his 10 years in the House of Delegates, his specialty has been government finance. Presently, he is chairman of the Joint Budget and Finance Committee and oversees a staff of 115 finance experts.

This year he played a key role in bringing $60 million of state aid to Baltimore City; sponsored legislation requiring evaluation of all federally - funded programs before state assumption of the cost; and sponsored legislation to bring Baltimore $5 million to help maintain city services.

John Douglass has been leader in the campaign to give Baltimore City jobs to residents of Baltimore and made a study of the impact that the city's 9,000 non-resident employees has on the city's economy and its tax rate. He has also made a study of "Black Employment in Maryland State Government."

As a member of the Board of Estimates, after his election as comptroller, he will help to decide how the city's over $1.4 billion budget is allocated, how it is spent, and who employs.

Originally trained as a chemist at Lincoln University (Pa.) and Johns Hopkins (master's in physical science), he taught at Morgan State University for two years and then entered business, before he tried his hand in electoral politics.

He was born in Princess Anne, Md., was graduated from high school in Chester, Pa., where his parents still live, and he is the father of an 8 - month - old son, John David.

John Douglass has not gone unnoticed.

John H. Briscoe, speaker of the House of Delegates in 1975, said: "John has the talent. He is quiet, but effective — a very capable legislator."

The Baltimore Magazine, in 1978, called him "one of the most intelligent men in the General Assembly; hard - working, dedicated and sincere."

The Evening Sun, in 1975, wrote: "On the most concrete issue, personal ability to manage the comptroller's office, Mr. Douglass clearly seems to be Mr. Pressman's superior both by natural endowment and by hard training."

The AFRO, editorially and in other commentary, has endorsed Delegate Douglass on several occasions. In 1975, the AFRO said: Delegate John Douglass is eminently qualified to serve in the citywide office of comptroller of Baltimore."

We think that Baltimore, citywide, is ready to vote for John Douglass for city comptroller. All of us can help bring this about. If not in 1979, perhaps never.

ELIZABETH M.

OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

City Editor

ST. GEORGE CROSS has started an aggressive campaign against Comptroller Hyman Pressman. His theme is "26 years of Hyman Pressman is too much for any citizen to bear."

He says Pressman has become so backwatered in safeguarding the rights of the people, that now he is selling cars . . instead of finding jobs and housing and working for affirmative action among city employees.

St. George says people must realize that after 26 years Pressman is washed up. "He is a Municipal Watchdog who has lost both his bark and his bite."

STATE representatives of the Republican Party met in St. Michaels, Md. last weekend and decided to make Baltimore city a target city in the upcoming elections.

For the first time in memory, the GOPs will field a complete slate of candidates for every office in the Primary and the General Elections.

Sam A. Culotta, formerly assistant to the late Gov. McKeldin, is the GOP City Committee's candidate for mayor.

St. George Crosse is endorsed by the GOP City Committee for Comptroller.

MANY EYES are focused on the 4th District where the GOP is fielding a ticket which could produce winners if no Black Democrats are elected in the Demo Primary.

CARL ADAIR who has run well before leads the GOP candidates in the 5th District. A lot of credit must be given Thomas Mickle the new City Republican chairman, Christopher West and others who made up a search committee and inspired the great outpouring of GOP candidates. It seems as though there is a rebirth of GOPs in Baltimore City.

Osborne Payne has the McDonalds' franchise for the new location at Franklin and Greene Sts. across from the new Social Security Building, a gold mine. He will break ground soon.

Payne has other McDonald locations at North and Charles; Broadway and North; Liberty Rd. and Northern Pkwy. He closed his place at the location across from Lexington Market because of the subway.

A quiet unassuming gentlemen, he is agraduate of Virginia Union University and a strong supporter of the Baltimore Alumni Chapter, of which Harlow Fulbright is president.

Mr. and Mrs. Payne have a beautiful solar heated home in Columbia. The driveway heats up in frigid weather. If Mr. Payne is upstairs shaving and the weather is cold he can push a button and the car starts up in the garage.

Never flamboyant, Mr. Payne does not boast of his unusual accomplishments and you never heard a word about it.

George Miner is now in the export-import business and is going to Africa. A longtime aide of Congressman Parren Mitchell, he is no longer connected.

Hush your mouth. Don't say a word but everybody is talking about the United Missionary Baptist Convention of Maryland negotiating to buy Emerald Gardens.

If all goes well, the group will move the Baptist Center and School of Religion from the Baltimore McCullon and Mosher location to Emerald Gardens.

The old location was purchased in 1941 when the late Dr. George A. Crawley Sr. was president. His son, Dr. George A. Crawley Jr. is now one of the distinguished faculty members, along with other Ph. D. holders such as Wentanomah Carter and her husband, Dr. Harold Carter.

Dr. Matthew Silver is the present UMBC president.

Dr. A. C. D. Vaughn and Dr. Lawnor Swinson are co - ghairmen of the new site location committee.

The Baptist Center has always been famous because it is the UMBC headquarters and because it is their school of religion from which many famed pastors have been graduated.

Remember, Dr. William Tebsenll, the first dean pastor of Gospel Tabernacle Baptist which he moved from the 1200 block of Saratoga Street to the present location on Walbrook.

The late Dr. John Tilley, another immortal, who pastored New Metropolitan Baptist, was best known for leading the NAACP membership drive under Dr. Lillie M. Jackson. He was also a dean at the Baptist Center, was in all the Marches on Washington, and the dean at Shaw University.

Another famous pastor was the late Dr. Vernon Johns, a contemporary of Dr. Mordecai Johnson. He pastored Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., was first to take the city officials to court on segregation. He was one of the first black graduates of Oberlin College.

Dr. Johnson was the Absolute first to be listed in "the great sermons of the year." This honor came to him in 1935.

Among those living instructors who have served the Center is Dr. James L. Moore, who came first to Baltimore to serve on the Baptist Center faculty just before his call to Sharon Baptist Church.

At present, Dr. Eddie R. Wilson, pastor of historic Leadenhall Baptist is director of the School of Religion.

Mrs. Betty Johnson is president of the Women's Convention and Mrs. Minnie Washington is director of the Young People's department.

By Marion M. Banfield

Year of the Child — Part XII

Incest is a word scarcely heard 20 years ago. Now that we are becoming more aware of children and families we face the tragedy of incest more frankly.

Mrs. Regina Bernard, chief of Protective Services Division of Baltimore City Department of Social Services, spoke to a staff meeting at Family and Children's Society.

We were all distressed at the lack of commitment to protect children from the abuse or neglect of parents and guardians. In fact, Mrs. Bernard simply highlighted another phase of our failure to give our children an opportunity to grow up without being traumatized by our adult emotions and actions.

In this state of elaborate highways, enormous buildings, high income taxes, the legislative concern for children is a dismal political game.

Here in Baltimore City where the plight of children is a frightening attack on the spirit of survival, we get less money appropriated than do affluent counties.

As educators, physicians, social workers, neighbors and family members see reports of child abuse, there is no appropriate increase in services for children. This applies to both black and white children.

Money paid to foster parents is ridiculously low. It costs much more to institutionalize children. We do not have enough foster homes, decent institutions or decent community group homes to offer shelter and care to our own children.

As I speak of children, I also mean teenagers. We are finding an increasing number of teenage girls being sexually molested by fathers, step - fathers or boyfriends of their mothers. It would be interesting to really know how many of our teenage pregnancies were due to incest.

The Department of Social Services Child Abuse and Neglect can be reached at 234-2235. You can get help in determining whether there is a case of child abuse or neglect.

The Communication Division of the Protective Division has speakers for groups made available through Mrs. Eva Austin at 234-2001 or 2002.

If we take more responsibility for our children, we will find out what support Mrs. Bernard's team needs to save our children.

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

Money Matters

Are you drowning in debt?

These days, family debt can ease into the red without anyone's noticing it — until disaster threatens.

That is why you ought to take time periodically to calculate the percentage of your income that's going to service your family's debts.

If, warns the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants, that percentage reaches the point where it looks as though you may have trouble catching up, it's time to change spending patterns — and soon.

What are some of the warning signs that you're overextended, borrowing beyond your ability to repay promptly?

One the Maryland CPAs say, is this: finding it necessary to renew a loan before the previous one has been paid off. This practice of rolling over loans is expensive because interest on the unpaid balance is added to the renewal loan, thus sharply raising the effective interest rate.

Another sure indication that you have borrowed your way into a financial bind is any tendency to buy on credit what you formerly paid for with cash.

And yet another is the practice of paying, month after month, only the required minimum amount on revolving charge accounts.

When such symptoms develop, it's up to you to cut back on borrowing. Don't wait for creditors to do it for you!

There are debt counseling services that will advise you if you've sunk over your head into a bog of debt. They'll help you cut back, consolidate your obligations, establish stretched-out repayment schedules and otherwise dig out.

But, the CPAs say, the debt counselor's most effective tool is one you can use yourself, before it's too late. The tool in question is a pair of scissors, mercilessly applied to your credit cards.

There is some advice you have no doubt been hearing lately. It goes like this: don't worry about high interest rates. Borrow as much as you can, because as inflation continues you will be able to repay your obligations with dollars that are worth less.

According to the Maryland CPAs, there may be validity to that advice when it involves borrowing for business or investments, including a home; but it makes no sense when used for vacations or any other product or service purchased strictly for consumption.

So how can you be sure you aren't mismanaging your indebtedness? The surest sign that you are mismanaging is not even knowing how much you owe. A necessary first step in making any move should be to find out where you stand now and that goes for getting your household finances in order, too.

Study the issues, know the candidates

Dear AFRO:

Unfortunately some citizens of Baltimore are still not aware that the City Council election is upon us now. Further, some voters and some who have yet to register do not even know their councilmen.

It is of the utmost importance for every citizen of Baltimore not only to register, but also to become familiar with this all-important election.

There are at present 18 councilmen who are elected from the six districts to make up the total structure of the Council. INn other words, three from eachdistrict serve in office for a total of four years.

Their job has a direct influence on every resident of the city and in some cases, the state. The city councilmen not only are responsible for the city budget, but along with the Mayor, they have an influence even on the air we breathe.

It is the responsibility of every city resident o register now and further to become familiar between now and the election with the issues.

The citizens should be familiar not only with our councilmen, but also with their individual records of voting.

Above all else, everycy citizen must do his homeowrk and find out what his councilmen stand for and what they have done to merit re-election.

Let's face i: unfortunately, some city councilmen should not be re-elected because they have done nothing for their district or the city.

If we as voters fail to take an interest in this councilmatic race, then later on we have no business complaining about poor elected officials. We will receive the type of government that we work toward.

If we study the issues by reading the paper and watching our officials in action on television and at community meetings and expect and demand the most from them, then we will have good representation and as a result, a better city.

John A. Micklos

Cigarette fires could be prevented

At least 2,000 Americans die every year in residential fires caused by cigarettes. Yet, according to an investigation funded by the International Association of Firefighters, Local 55 of Oakland, Calif., most of these deaths could be prevented by existing means that have been suppressed by federal agencies and the tobacco industry.

The American Burn Association (ABA) has made the cigarette/fire issue the top priority project of its Burn Prevention Committee.

The ABA recently passed a resolution supporting "efforts to require that all American-produced cigarettes self-extinguish rapidly."

In the July issue of Mother Jones, magazine, an article called "cigarettes and Sofas," shows that federal agencies that should control cigarette safety have been hamstrung by a Congress heavily influenced by the tobacco industry.

Most American cigarettes are manufactured to burn up to 45 minutes when left unpuffed. If they self-extinguished in four or five minutes, the majority of home fires caused by cigarettes would never start.

Already 19 patents exist for self extinguishing cigarettes, yet the fire safety agencies have been defeated in their attempts to make a limited burn-time mandatory.

Tobacco lobbyists have been condemned to spend years regulating furniture materials, trying to make sure that when a cigarette is carelessly discarded, it will land on a fire-resistant surface.

Where the agencies stand:

— The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which bans dangerous chemicals if they are ingested by mouth ignores harmful chemicals if ingested by inhaling smoke.

— The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), under instruction from Congress, says the cigarette is not a consumer product, not hazardous, not toxic and not even flammable.

— The Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) is so swamped by cataloging the many forms of slow death caused by cigarettes that they cannot get around to studying how cigarettes cause fast death.

So strong is the tobacco lobby's influence that even the National Safety Council refused to support the self-extinguishing cigarette. And the tobacco industry claims that any attempt to regulate cigarettes hurts the smoker's "freedom of choice."

Meanwhile, some attorneys are exploring ways that cigarette manufacturers could be held liable for cigarette-caused fires, if it is proven in court that safe, self-extinguishing cigarettes can be manufactured.

Rev. Moyd sets the record straight

Dear AFRO:

I have just returned from attending a Christian Education Conference in Green Lake, Wis.

My attention has been directed to an article written by Clarence Hunter, which appeared in the July 14, 1979 issue of the AFRO.

It was entitled "Who will replace Dr. Welcome on the Central Committee?"

He quoted a "source" which I believe was deliberately contriving to cause dissension among the ministers.

"Sources said (states Hunter) that Rev. Moyd is planning to offer to deliver the endorsement of the ministers in the area in exchange for an appointment to (Dr. Welcome's) seat". That's false.

I am now stating clearly that I am not a candidate, I will not become a candidate, and I will not accept the nomination to fill the vacancy left on the State Central Committee due to the passing of Dr. Welcome.

The Rev. OLIN P. MOYD

7 doctors from 1 neighborhood

Dear AFRO:

I was very pleased to read in your columns recently about young Dr. Larry B. Perry, a former neighbor who is to begin fellowship training in cardiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

It reminded me that within just three blocks The Evergreen Protective Association area has produced seven medical doctors. Dr. Perry grew up on Calverton Heights. Dr. J. Douglass Shepherd on West Lanvale, Drs. Walter Shervington Jr, Emerson C. Walden Jr., Thomas E. Walden, and Carroll Woodford on Harlem Avenue and Emerson Julian on Arunah Avenue.

Dr. Shepherd is practicing in the Orient, Emerson Walden Jr. is a cardiology fellow at the Cleveland Clinic, Thomas Walden is an LCDR at the Naval Hospital in Oakland, Calif. in radiology, Carroll Woodford is a captain at Fort Meade in orthopedic surgery, and Emerson Julian is a resident in Obgyn in Baltimore.

I don't know which is more of a record the fact that such a small area produced so many young physicians or the fact that Drs. Shepherd, Waldens, and Julian are four sons of three physicians.

All but one are products of the Baltimore public schools and all products of concerned families and a caring community.

The Evergreen Protective Association area is to be congratulated.

CELONIA B. WALDEN

Racial discrimination report from Baltimore Post Office

Dear AFRO:

In the fall of 1977 (October), I sought to make post office employees, public, and some government officials aware of the dual system which existed then and still prevails in the Baltimore Post Office. Once again, I am seeking to alert them of the monster that is running rampat.

As if by design or choice, the Baltimore Post Office Janagement has instituted and effectively achieved a projected preferential pro-white employee image throughout the entire rank and file.

Racial discrimination is practiced openly and used systematically as standard procedure in the areas of hiring, promoting and especially firing.

JManagement has effectively employed what I would ter modern day "Roots" tactics to openly display their apparent desire to maintain their well-established dual standards and procedures in relation to blacks.

Their main weapon is utilizing black against black to do what whites obviously would do, over protecting their own (whites) from black supervision.

However, the Baltimore Post Office is the ideal place for the promotion of the "grin and shuffle" type blacks. As a matter of fact, one black works in close relation with one of the top white officials in a strategic position.

This same top white official is most influential in controlling the Equal Employment Office (EEO) in the Baltimore Post Office.

Finally as long a the Baltimore EEO in the Baltimore Post Office is not under the auspices of the federal government, it is hopeless for most blacks to obtain or gain a fair decision in any racial discrimination charges against management here.

The same can be substantiated by the number of cases that had to be arbitrated outside of the Baltimore EEO office.

H.E. HILL

Meritocrats thank the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

Even at this late date, I would feel somewhat remiss if I didn't extend congratulations to you on the well - written, informative article which appeared inthe "Our World" section of the AFRO - AMERICAN on May 12, 1979, entitled, "Meritocrats Marvelous Roots II Cabaret."

Not only was the "Goodbye Winter Cabaret" described beautifully, but the essence of what the Meritocrats are about was captured in tasteful style.

We sincerely appreciate the publicity, not for our own self - aggrandizement, but because it has assisted us in carrying out our program of promoting fellowship and contributing to worthy causes by educating the public to the fact that we are not just another fun organization.

LLOYD C. MITCHNER,
President,
Meritocrats Inc.

Express yourself—vote!

Dear AFRO:

Elected political representatives play extremely important roles in determining and influencing the legislative decisions and laws within either positively or negatively affect the districts of our communities, our cities, our state and most importantly our own individual valuable lives.

This is why each and every citizen of legal voting age who has enough insight to recognize the concerns and issues of our communities should make definitely vote in the upcoming September election and in all elections.

The candidate elected will be making and influencing decisions which will in some way affect you.

Take stock in yourself by voting to elect the candidate whose views and ideals most reflect the way you feel you should be represented by a political official presenting laws and legislation affecting you, your family and the community in which you live.

Don't underestimate the value of your vote because through it your voice can be heard!

LEON COLEMAN