OPINION

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Our Birds

No one is happier than we are that the week's two biggest stories are positive and warm news.

Nationally, yea internationally, the visit of Pope John Paul II is a news event of great magnitude.

Locally, the Orioles' amazing resurgence and bid to capture the baseball crown, has even the most apathetic sports fans going ga-ga.

We like the way the Orioles have won as a team. They have no one over-powering superstar but instead functions as a collection of skilled and inspired ball players, of all races, creeds and colors.

It is obvious that these men respect each other, elsewise they would not now be World Series bound (if the Los Angeles Angels do not derail them) and that is a lesson in cooperation and team - work that Baltimoreans ought to learn and apply.

More than one commentator has remarked that the Birds, in winning, if they have done nothing else have been an exciting example of brotherhood in action. Successful action!

The Birds represent professional sports at its best. We join all other Baltimoreans in wishing them luck and hope they bring all the marbles back home.

Judge Joseph C. Howard

Our congratulations, our warmest congratulations go out to present Supreme Bench Judge Joseph Howard, soon to be U.S. District Court Judge for Maryland.

His long awaited confirmation by the U.S. Senate finally happened this week and the jurist will assume his new post in the near future.

It is fitting that Joe Howard become the first black Marylander to serve on this prestigious Federal bench.

It is also proper that we extend complimentary congratulations to Sen. Paul Sarbanes for placing Howard's name in nomination in the first place.

Senator Sarbanes could have taken an easier road but he stood behind the Howard nomination. He also showed valor in his selection of Judge Shirley Jones for the other Federal judgeship.

It is no secret that the senator was under very heavy pressure from white legal organizations not to opt for Joe Howard.

As a lawyer, political activist and a jurist Joe Howard has been a champion of human justice. He has dared criticize the court system even after he won election as a judge. He has dared challenge racist traditions within our criminal justice system.

Paul Sarbanes did not make the popular choice with the majority he made the correct choice. Joe Howard will bring integrity, dignity and intelligence to the District bench.

Both men deserve our blessings.

State police problems

Black state troopers have handled their criticism of the state law enforcement agency they serve with great dignity.

They have taken their grievances to their commanding officer, Col. Thomas Smith, in a quiet but determined manner.

The basic complaint of the black law officers is that the state police brass has moved much too slowly in the hiring and promotion of black personnel.

This is hardly news. This newspaper has questioned state police slowness on affirmative action right down the line. Further, we have cooperated with any programs the agency, Colonel Smith heads has implemented by bringing such positive news to public attention.

We also will remind all that it has been just a brief time that our state police have had any black personnel at all. Historically, it has been a lily-white, elitist body.

Some studies have been made under Colonel Smith and for this he is to be complimented.

Much more remains to be done and if the state police leadership will cease being defensive and get on with a more equitable hiring and promotional procedure, the problem is that much nearer solution.

We find it extremely ungentlemanly for our august state police cadre to be bearing down on the black troopers who raised the issues on employment policies within the department in the first place.

To pressure black officers through such obvious and time-worn procedures as "internal investigations" as in the case of Trooper Arthur Porter, head of the black officers coalition, adds no lustre to the Maryland State Police. Nor does it do much for Colonel Smith's claim that his agency has been "fair" to all its workers.

Republicans

St. George Crosse and Carl Adair are perhaps the two best known black Republicans actively doing battle for posts in the upcoming election.

Adair, a popular businessman, will be seeking a 5th District City Council seat.

Crosse will go up against the formidable Hyman Pressman for the office of City Comptroller.

Their work is cut out for them in heavily Democratic Baltimore but miracles have been known to happen.

Many Democratic leaders are currently musing over decisions to break with party and endorse Adair and Crosse on some kind of black unity principle.

Thus far the idea has not solidified.

For our part, both of these men are capable no matter what their party affiliation.

Perhaps their candidacies will give our political leaders an opportunity to test some of their oft-mouthed but seldom implemented ideas about putting black political unity over party affiliation.

The time is fast approaching when such theories will be forced to the test in Baltimore.

Jesse Jackson's 'histrionics'

Dear AFRO:

Is there no end to Rev. Jesse Jackson's brazen histrionic tactics?

It's bad enough we look down on horses (God's creatures, too!) as beasts of burden. Now we see Jackson riding on the shoulders of a Palestinian (a human being!).

I can very well understand the Palestinian being 'carried away with Jackson's words, and wanting to show his appreciation.

But Jackson humiliates the person by riding on him. How degrading and utterly disgusting for a man of the cloth!

But maybe this is the key to the real Jackson and his true concern. Before people go off half - cocked (we all know how dangerous a half-cocked gun can be) and accept his statements as sincere, we should carefully analyze his antics and tactics.

B. J. SMALL

Appreciation

Dear AFRO:

I have just read Mrs. Ida Peters' article on Will Marion Cook in the Sept. 8, 1979 issue of the AFRO, and I had to let you know how very much I appreciate it.

I was entirely unaware of this controversy with Mencken and of Cook's feelings toward Dr. Dett's "Listen to the Lambs" (which, as I remember, won a composition test being held by Schirmer, even if they tried to refuse the honor to Dett when they found out he was black).

This valuable article is one of several of yours which will be cited in my forthcoming bibliography, "The Legacy of Black Music", to be issued by Greenwood Press early next year.

Therein will be an estimated 60,000 books, articles, dissertations and the like which, I hope, will prove a very major stimulus for more research, as well as a more accurate concept of the history.

DOMINIQUE-RENE deLERMA

Madeline MURPHY

'Choose life'

On Oct. 14, a national convocation is being held by the Riverside Church in New York.

Noting that "the United States now has the capacity to kill every person in the world twelve times with its nuclear arsenal" the call to the meeting urges participation of all people who believe they can secure success by joint action.

Putting forth the demand for disarmament are also the National Council of Churches, the United Presbyterian Church, USA. To highlight the move to "Choose Life" pastors and congregations are urged to observe World Order and Peace Sunday, Oct. 21

The convocation will offer workshops on how to use the structures of religious institutions to work toward reversing the arms race.

SALT II, the new strategic arms limitation agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, will put a lid on the numbers of super nuclear weapons that can cross oceans and wipe out cities and all their inhabitants.

This treaty will be explained as to what it can and cannot do; where to apply pressure to get it ratified.

Direct action, political change, economic conversion, militarism and sexism; nuclear waste disposal, how to encounter fear of the Russians in your community and facts that underlie American - Soviet competition in the arms race, are a few of the areas of discussion involving experts.

Over 80 community conferences have been held across the nation to reverse the arms race, but the merchants of war and their satellites in the media, both print and electronic, relegate this issue to the back pages.

Only when a celebrity like Jane Fonda appears, does one get merely a glimpse of the many thousands who are against nuclear power in all its forms.

Further, recent polls show that over 70 percent of the people of our country want the new SALT agreement ratified.

We, however, must be concerned that the threat of nuclear holocaust does not loom larger.

For this country permits 23 million people to live in poverty while the largest military budget in history is passed.

Foremost in the struggle for peace is the full Senate's ratification of the SALT II treaty. It will require 67 Senators to vote "yes".

But we must not let red herrings like the 17 - year residence of 3,000 Soviet troops in Cuba squelch more "yes" votes in the Senate. How many "peace - keeping " forces of like degree do we have all over the world?

Also linkage of ratification of the treaty with human rights in the Soviet Union is an arrogant, hypocritical display by the United States in the face of racism in its own back yard.

What SALT II does is put equal ceilings on the number of strategic missile launchers that the United States and Soviet Union may have, as well as the number of launchers.

It limits new weapons systems and technological improvements.

It states principles for SALT III talks on disarmament.

And in this regard, the World Peace Council, the National Council of Churches have developed a world program for disarmament against militarism and the arms race.

It is the latter part of the treaty, agreeing now to work on SALT III for disarmament, that will set the stage for world order and peace

Without SALT II ratification, we shall be faced with a stepped up development of new terror weapons, the ever increasing danger that one day these will be used resulting in incredible world - wide devastation and destruction.

Recently we have seen a resolution to spend billions of dollars on arms, severely lessening the appropriation to programs for human needs. With inflation, we shall see the beginning of a military dictatorship if we don't call a halt, for how else will the masses of poor and hungry be subdued?

It is up to the people to work hard to convince senators who must ratify this treaty. We must convince the 52 undecided votes in the Senate to ratify the treaty. For it is essential as a first step to end the arms race; to start on the road to real security through mutually agreed upon disarmament.

It is written in Deuteronomy: "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live."

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

Parren MITCHELL

Courtesy is good business

On Aug. 24 I took my television to a repair shop on North Avenue. I could have taken it elsewhere but because I believe so firmly in helping black businesses, I took it there.

The owner assured me I would have it by the following Saturday, Aug. 31. I went to the place of business on that Saturday and was told a part had to be ordered, but that the television would be ready the following week.

I called the following week and was told the television repair had not yet been made. I made numerous calls only to be advised that the set had not yet been repaired.

On Sept. 28 I called again and was advised that the television was ready. On Saturday, Sept. 29, I went to pick up the television but was told by a young man employed there, "we don't take checks."

Feeling furious and frustrated I left the place of business.

Very often I tell audiences that they must support black businesses. Equally often, people in the audience tell me why they would rather not deal with black businesses because (1) the stock is often inadequate; (2) the prices are higher; and (3) they are not treated with simple courtesy.

My response has always been "you may be demanding more from the black business than you do from the white business."

After my experience with the television repair shop, which left a bitter taste in my mouth, I must confess that I had some doubts about my defense of black business against the complaints of black customers.

How should that businessman (or anyother business person) have handled a situation such as mine?

First, you must, as a businessperson, never promise delivery on a particular date unless you are absolutely sure you can make that delivery on time. Customers really get turned off when they believe they are being fooled or lied to by a business owner

Second, if in your business you have trouble with a delivery date, or completing a contract on time, it is just good business to pick up a telephone, call the customer and cheerfully, courteously say words to this effect: "I am so sorry that I can't have your job done on time, (explain why) but I will call you just as soon as it is ready." By so doing, you make your customer feel that you really want to provide good service.

Third, you must establish your prices properly and let all employees know.

When the young man in the television shop told me "we don't take checks," I asked him how much the repair cost was.

His reply was "I don't know, he (the owner) said something about twenty six dollars."

My immediate, admittedly unfair, reaction was "This young man is going to try to beat me out of some money."

Fourth, and last, whatever you do in relationship with a customer always be courteous. There is nothing that will drive your customers away faster or discourage potential customers more quickly than discourteous treatment. For me the rules of business include good management, good service and a heavy emphasis on courtesy.

I still don't have my television. I will get to the bank one day this week so that I will have the change to pay for the television repair.

I shall continue to do business with black businesses, but you can bet your last dollar I shall never do business with that particular TV repair shop again.

Why? It is just a matter of courtesy.

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

LETTERS

Views expressed by columnists or writers of letters to the editor on these pages are their personal opinions and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

Murphy Homes residents thank the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

We want to thank all the AFRO staff who worked with us during the Clean Block Program. Also, all the wonderful people we met at the meeting in September 1979.

We were happy to find our Murphy Homes featured in the AFRO again, not for dope or death, not for misrepresentation this time, but for something wonderful.

Just think, our pictures were in the AFRO holding the American flag, showing how we grow our own food, pretty flowers, talking about our special people, our Clean Block party, our music.

Murphy Homes is indeed a beautiful place in which to live.

We left out one person who really helped us clean at 9 a.m. in the morning until one in the afternoon. She cut lawns, painted and watered the lawn every day. She is a concerned person. She is Cynthia Moore, 18, and a graduate of Southern High School

We want to thank you for bringing out our good points. God bless everyone at the AFRO.

TINA RICE

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of the staff and residents of the George B. Murphy Homes, let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the positive way in which you handled our segment of the AFRO - Clean Block Campaign.

We have all worked together to try and bring back to Murphy Homes the pride and joy of "community living". The struggle has not been an easy one. It's devoted people who help to make our dreams a reality.

Please accept my most humble thanks for the prizes, articles, pictures and most of all outstanding cooperation from the whole newspaper staff that certainly put our community "back on the map" as one composed of concerned human beings learning to live and work together.

MRS. LaVERNE McWHITE
Housing Manager

Tribute to the Orioles

Dear AFRO:

This poem is a tribute to our Baltimore Orioles. They came from a long ways.

The further a person is down, the higher they may rise, it becomes more spectacular, it seems.

Take Jesus Christ, as an example. He was down as far as a man could go. They took His life — thought they did! But He came back, in his resurrection, in behalf of his executors — salvation for their souls.

Truth will reign, after the world is gone. Uphold the truth, it will uphold you, when the world is no more.

May God bless you and your paper.

Cabin in the sky

Thank God for Orioles,
Birds of paradise.
They never say die;
Baseball is brought to life.

They're 'all' for one
And one for all.
Their victory is assured
They're on The Ball!

Homeruns become routine,
From day to day,
When the chips are down,
They'll have it made.

May their spirit live on,
In the heart of us all,
That the citizens in gratitude,
Keep the Birds in Baltimore.

ALBERT TAYLOR

Welfare Rights director raps Sen. Mitchell

Dear AFRO:

A recent decision by The City Housing Administration not to prosecute State Sen. Clarence Mitchell on existing housing code violations is an insult to the citizens of Baltimore.

Senator Mitchell is reported to own 25 properties with numerous violations. Why is he not made to comply with the law?

This situation is even more deplorable when we consider that Mr. Mitchell is purported to be part of the black leadership here in Baltimore.

While Sen. Mitchell should not be judged more harshly because he is a black and a politician at the same time he should not enjoy any special priviledges for the same reasons.

Like any other landlord Sen. Mitchell is responsible for providing his tenants decent, safe and sanitary housing.

Anything less than this visits undue hardships on Sen. Mitchell's tenants and as the landlord has both a legal and a moral responsibility to comply with existing housing laws of this city.

Mr. Mitchell, your name is not enough to put you above the law.

Your tenants and your neighbors deserve better.

BOB CHEEKS,
executive director,
Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization Inc.

Bethel's deeds

Labor Day, 1979 will be a holiday that the unemployed, the poor and the disadvantaged of our Northwest community will long remember, thanks to the Bethel AME Church.

The news article entitled, "Bethel AME Sunrise Service Yields 300 Jobs", in the AFRO - AMERICAN, Sept. 8 issue was of special interest to me, because I have long felt that black churches have neglected many of the needs of their community.

I hope your article will stimulate the consciences of our churches to the point, that such humanitarian deeds of the church will be so natural it does not become news.

CARLEEN THOMAS

G. JAMES FLEMING

Black Women's Agenda

It was not only the latest colorful attire and the most tantalizing hats when some 2,000 black women gathered, a fortnight ago, in the nation's capital.

They came from nearly every state and they came with a purpose, to meet during the "Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend" and to mesh their program into that of the Caucus.

Formally, the women were, and are, "The Black Women's Agenda," (BWA) and they addressed themselves to the issues and problems that affect women in general and black women in particular and especially.

They were politically oriented and at one luncheon honored all black women public officials. And, there were many of these black women officials present — congresswomen, judges, state legislators, and an array of others, federal, state and municipal.

There were seemingly countless young women just starting out as government officials — elected or appointed. One was overwhelmed by the large number of co - ed looking lawyers attached to the gamut of Washington agencies. One could not help feel, if one had lived long enough, that there have been lots oc changes in the nation's capital.

The Black Women's Agenda grew out of the Women's Year Convention, held in Houston in 1977, and its main thrusts are to be supportive of black women public officials, to work for more black women in the higher levels of public life, and to structure an effective lobby to promote the interests of black women.

As Amy Billingsley, Baltimore member of the sponsoring committee put it, "The Black Women's Agenda is doing much to establish a black women's presence in the places that count most in the federal government and in upcoming national, state and local political decisions."

In September 1978, nearly a year after the Women's Year Convention, 43 leaders of black women's organizations and some of their supporters met on Capitol Hill and pledged their support for the aims and programs of what has become the Black Women's Agenda.

The idea must have been a good one and it has spread, as women of other ethnic groups have also started similar organizations or projects. BWA, however, is considered the most developed.

President of the Black Women's Agenda is Elizabeth W. Stone, of the Howard University Law School, "a ball of activity and efficiency," according to one BWAer. Incidentally, heading the Black Congressional Caucus is another woman, Hon. Cardiss Collins of Chicago.

The veteran Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women, was also present and is a member of the board of BWA. All that was missing was Mary McLeod Bethune marching down the aisle — reminder that the present is build on the struggles of the past.

Another happeing of interest in Washington was the swearing - in of Ruth R. Banks, Morgan State University graduate, as director of hearings and appeals of the Department of the Interior. Also a graduate of the Howard University Law School, Ms. Banks is the daughter of a mother who is also a graduate of Morgan and has several blood relatives in Baltimore.

The position to which she was sworn in is another "first" for a woman and for a black person. She presides over several regional offices and has 138 persons under her direction.

It was Morgan's Institute for Political Education that gave Ms. Banks her introduction to the "inside" of government and politics and that assigned her to a summer internship in the office of a Congressman, Carlton Sickles.

Since then, she has been law clerk to two District of Columbia judges; she has engaged in private practice; she has served as an assistant U.S. attorney; and was special assistant to the director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals — the office which she now occupies.

Black women seem to be "in there" in the federal government, in a way their grandmother could not have imagined or dreamed. And no better place to be aware of the change since World War II than the District of Columbia during Congressional Black Caucus Week when the Black Women's Agenda also meets.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor

THIS TIME NEXT WEEK I will be saying hello to you from Saudi Arabia, that land in the Middle East which is between the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

The oil - rich country which is now attracting world attention was known in Old Testament Days as the location of such cities as Nineveh, Babylon, Elam, Damascus and Saba, the city of the Queen of Sheba.

This peninsula which also includes Yemen Arab Republic, was the scene in antiquity of trade routes for frankincense, myrrh, gold, ivory and spices.

Marib was the capital from which the Queen of Sheba ruled from a magnificent throne and the Old Testament says she visited King Solomon in Jerusalem (about 950 B.C.) "with a very great train with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones."

THIS IS ONLY a small part of our journey to the Middle East which lasts three weeks. In our party are seven editors travelling under a grant obtained by the Middle East Institute headquartered in Washington.

Other editors are Harold Gulliver of the Atlanta Constitution; Sid Sheen of the Tulsa Daily World, Paul McKalip of the Tuscan Citizen; Martin Berck of Newsday; C. K. McClatchy of the Sacramento Bee; Robert White of the Mexico Ledger with Lee Dinsmore as Group Leader.

Our visit to these lands of past glories will also include Egypt and such sights as the Nile River, the Suez Canal, Jordan, Palestine, Jordan, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Israel, all beyond my fondest dreams.

THE JOURNEY will be leisurly so that we will not miss anything in these ancient kingdoms which date back long before Christ.

We are going to look at the present situation first hand but we will NOT engage in any political efforts. Just accurate and true reporting on what is visible.

WE WILL be accorded royal treatment of the rulers including Anwar Sadat, whom I met at a White House affair, Israeli Menachem Begin and many other important persons.

WE ARE THE FIRST news team to make such a journey and will carry gifts from our newspapers and our various towns.

I WILL TAKE AFRO bookkets and citations for each leader to hang on the wall of his office, an award from the only black newspaper on the trip.

The Middle East Institute in Washington has us scheduled, under the skillful hands of Linda McConnel, to arrive in D.C. by Oct. 11 and reside in a plush hotel overnight. This is followed the next day by orientation with briefing by the ICA's Robert Persiko, program management officer for Special Projects.

Prior to leaving from Dulles Airport, we will go to the bank for checks. We arrive in New York at JFK Airport exactly a week from today and jet directly to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. By the time you pick up your AFRO, therefore, I will be in the Biblical land.

NEXT WEEKEND will be spent in Jeddah and Riyadh and then we'll be off for Cairo, Egypt. There we'll be met by Ambassador Talcott W. Seelye.

BUT PERHAPS you'd like to know some facts I have gathered in studying briefly about where I'm headed. At this writing, I've only read about the people and all those glorious days of long - ago history.

What's there now, I'll have to do in show - and - tell fashion, in photos and story later, when I return.

SAUDI ARABIA is now flowing with oil money. The market places, twisted narrow streets, side roads with remote villages still have the sheikhs, the dusky skinned men with white turbans and the beggars of old, some of them with monstrous feet, victims of mosquito - borne elephantiasis.

MIXED IN are the new millionaires whose connections with oil have made them like the merchants of 900 B.C. who owned the camel caravans carrying incense, gold and precious jewels and silks.

THERE ARE remnants of these crumbled kingdoms beside every pathway, still there nearly unchanged by the centuries of sand and war.

THE WOMEN dare not show their legs nor arms, so I have been told I must wear long skirts and dresses with sleeves. Some of the women still wear veils.

The temperatures run from blast - furnace heat over sandy wastes and deserts along the peninsula to moderate year - around in the mountains of the interior.

We may literally burn up in the day and when we go to high affairs of state at night, we'll need a coat to keep from freezing.

FOOD and hotels will be of the tinest kind for us we understand but what about the ordinary persons who I am told remain among the poorest on earth?

Spider - web - like, dirt roads we may explore will possibly have dozens of persons squatting alongwide, living life out in almost the exact spot.

Year of the Child, Part XVII — By Marion Banfield

Families should use Enoch Pratt Library

By Marion M. Banfield

One of my favorite institutions in this city is the Enoch Pratt Library. My children were wheeled in a carriage to the old branch No. 1 on Pitcher and Fremont Avenue. Children and grandchildren have used branches and the central building on Cathedral Street.

It bothers me when parents don't see that their children have library cards and make frequent use of that card. The excuse, "She'll lose books!" or "The baby tore up the last book" is a poor excuse for failing to make full use of the free public library.

In this city blacks had to fight for so many basic human rights. It is comforting to know that back in the 1870s when Enoch Pratt wanted to make fuller use of his enormous weather, he envisioned "a free circulating public library open to all citizens regardless of property or color."

The wide selection of services open to us all is really surprising. We kind of take the buildings and books for granted without being fully aware of what the many choices are available to us.

Miss Howard Hubbard, chief of public relations division, encouraged me to contact Ms. Barbara Moody, Children's services specialist. Just those two titles tell you there's much going on.

If you're a parent, how do you answer these questions?

1) Do all of your children from about 4 years old upward use a library card?

2) How often has your child been to a story hour or movie at the library?

3) Do your school age children get librarians to help them with research projects?

4) How many musical or non - musical records have you used?

5) Do you belong to a group in a housing project, day care center, church or club that has used library personnel to help with programs?

6) Have you explored the "Browse and Buy" nook at Central Library or the book sales at branches?

7) Did you use the library to help with a problem in decorating, or caring for a pet, or coping with a family member?

I bet the school system would experience a tremendous upsurge of bright achievers if each family used the Pratt Library.

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

Food for People

Eating Together: 'fun nutrition program'

By Betsy D. Dunklin

Eating Together is much more than a government food program. It is more like a social club for senior citizens.

Every day, 3,500 people gather at 65 locations around the city for a hot meal and recreation ranging from bingo to a trip to New York City. Any city resident who is 60 years or older can participate in Eating Together. In addition, anyone married to such a person, regardless of the spuse's age, can join this fun nutrition program.

The food may not be fancy cuisine, according to Patricia Thomas, Baltimore City Eating Together director, but they provide pretty good "down - home" meals.

Monthly menus are posted at the first of the month at every site. The menu includes ingredients in the food for those on special diets.

Every meal begins with either a soup or salad and includes a hot entree, two vegetables, milk, bread and a dessert. Some meals served are spaghetti, corned beef and cabbage, and sometimes turkey and dressing.

How much does it cost?

"Well, we don't twist anyone's arm," Ms. Thomas said, "but a 50 - cent contribution helps. No one asks for it. You just drop it in a box at the site if you wish."

Each site holds exercise sessions at least three times a week to keep the limbs limber. Less athletic entertainment also is provided. You can play all kinds of card games, even Solataire, as well as other individual and group games.

Site directors plan trips, dancing, singing, ceramics and speakers. In some cases, participants must pay the cost of an activity. Some Eating Together groups use bingo proceeds to pay for a group trip.

Applying to join Eating Together is simple. Call the central office at 396 - 8244. They will take your name, address and phone number and tell you which site is closest to you.

The central office will let the local site director know to expect you and you can fill out an application when you arrive.

If you do not show up, someone will call to see if you had any problems they can help you with. For example, they will help you get a senior citizen bus pass.

Most sites serve people in a two - block radius, but a person can go to any Eating Together location in the City.

This nutrition program for the elderly is funded by the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended. The federal government provides funds for a minimum of one meal a day for senior citizens and their spouses at a gathering site. (This is different from Meals - On - Wheels which brings food to a person's home.) The law requires that activities accompany the meals.

Baltimore City Eating Together receives one - third of the federal funds given to Maryland through this Act. The city budget is $1,313,262. Ms. Thomas said $1 million is spent on food and $300,000 on operational costs.

Ms. Dunklin is a member of the Maryland Food Committee.

MORE LETTERS

Prisoners should be allowed to donate blood

Dear AFRO:

The blizzard of 1979 isolated the Baltimore chapter of the American Red Cross from both prospective donors and the hospitals who were in desperate need of blood. Baltimore's Red Cross blood reserves were alarmingly low, attested to by the numerous pleas for donors through the local news media

Though the purchase of four - wheel drive vehicles to be used during such inclement conditions was mentioned by Mayor Schaefer, there still remains no known guarantee that such a crisis will not reoccur in the future.

An interesting irony to the blood crisis earlier this year is that for the past three years, several self - help groups consisting of men imprisoned at the Maryland Penitentiary have been attempting to re - establish a blood donor program there.

At one time such a program did indeed flourish at the penitentiary, a very conveniently located prison in downtown Baltimore.

In January of 1977, Peter Waine, then President of the Old Town Jaycees at the penitentiary, was interviewed by Joe Krebs of WBAL's Action News at noon.

Waine was responding to Earl Malloy of the Baltimore Chapter of the Red Cross, emphasizing the willingness of the men to donate blood, despite the existing policy of the agency not to accept penitentiary blood donors.

In the same month, Patrick H. Gouker, secretary of the Old Town Jaycees, received a letter from R. Ben Dawson, M.D., director of the Blood Bank Division and Transfusion Service at the University of Maryland Hospital.

Speaking on prison donors and testing for hepatitis, Dr. Dawson stated, "We had some hope for this situation recently when testing for hepatitis viruses was introduced. However, the test only detects one kind of hepatitis virus and now 80 to 90 percent of hepatitis occurring after transfusion is turning out to be not due to the virus which we can detect by testing.

"Therefore, we have not been able to return to using blood donors from our penitentiaries. I look forward to the day when our blood testing will allow us to detect all hepatitis organisms and then we will be able to screen donors successfully and take groups such as yours."

In the continuing saga of these men who cannot donate their blood, the Red Cross does indeed accept blood donors from other prisons within the state as well as advertise for blood donors in the Division of Correction newsletter.

Other issues brought to surface by the men are that while they may not donate blood, employees of the institution may do so at any time.

Other members of self - help groups also feel that careful selective screening of prospective donors will also be effective in assuring maximum potential use of blood, and that when blood is not used in transfusions, plasma can be used for research.

With Baltimore being the home of the prestigious Johns Hopkins Hospital, this could very well be a viable suggestion worthy of consideration.

There are other ironies and twists to this blood problem. A recent independent study showed American medical doctors to have the highest per capita rate of both serum and infectious hepatitis.

Prisoner's families who may need serious operations and cannot afford to buy the needed quantity of blood, may face postponements and cancellations of the operation if blood donors cannot be found on time.

And finally, not only are taxpayers paying for the institutions housing these prisoners, but it is their own blood that must be given to prisoners of the penitentiary during emergencies; another adverse effect of the Red Cross' policy not to accept penitentiary blood.

"Well, it really does seem that taxpayers were actually giving their blood to the government all along, without even being aware of just how far their donations have been stretched.

In the on - going struggle of penitentiary men to re - establish and display their civic responsibilities and strengthening community awareness and harmony, an observing view may be that these men should at least be given such an opportunity.

The benefits to all concerned should be reason enough to at least give the blood donor program another try.

As Dr. Dawson further stated, "Thank you very much for your offer. I will keep your letter on file and anticipate the day when we can take you up on your generous offer."

How much more can a group of people be willing to give?

DAN L. REA

Support for Rev. Crosse

Dear AFRO:

The members of the Baltimore Civic Interest Group give their endorsement to the Rev. St. George I. B. Crosse for comptroller.

We are also calling on the black leadership to give their full support to Rev. Crosse in this race for city comptroller.

There is no good reason why the black leaders in Baltimore cannot come now in support of Rev. Crosse.

We don't want them to wait until the last day to come in support of Rev. Crosse — we want to do it now.

IRVIN CONWAY,
chairman,
Baltimore Civic
Interest Group

Energy saving

Turn down the heat, conserve fuel, money

Don't turn the heat on until you have to. On cool evenings use your fireplace instead and add a blanket at night.

With heating equipment . . .

If you use electric furnace heating, consider a heat pump system. The heat pump uses thermal energy from outside air for both heating and cooling.

Costs for these pumps run from about $2,000 for a whole house unit to about $425 for room size. But they can cut your use of electricity for heating by 30 to 40 percent and also might provide some savings in cooling costs.

If you plan to buy a new gas heating system, ask your gas utility or public service commission about the savings potential of electronic ignition. Ask also about possibilities for retrofitting the system you may already own.

Consider the advantages of a clock thermostat for your heating system. The clock thermostat will turn the heat down for you automatically at a regular hour before you retire and turn it up again before you wake.

While you can easily turn your thermostat back at night and up again in the morning yourself, the convenience of a clock thermostat may be worth the $40 to $90 cost to you.

Consider buying a properly sized furnace that incorporates an automatic flue gas damper. This device reduces the loss of heat when the furnace is off. (Contact your gas utility or oil supplier for guidance.)

Insulate heating ducts in unheated areas.

Don't use your fireplace for supplemental heating when your furnace is on unless you take one of the measures suggested below to lessen the loss of heated air from the house.

The warmth from a fire on the hearth generally doesn't radiate through the house; the heat gain is confined to the room with the fireplace.

And when your furnace is on, too, a considerable amount of heated air from the rest of the house flows into the fireplace and goes wastefully up the chimney. Then the temperature in other rooms of the house goes down, and the furnace uses more fuel to raise it to the level controlled by the thermostat. So you use more fuel, rather than less, when the furnace and fireplace are both going.

Lessen heat loss if you use your fireplace when the furnace is on:

Lower the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees F and 55 degrees F. Some warmed air will still be lost, but the furnace won't have to use as much fuel to heat the rest of the house to these temperatures as it would to raise the heat to 65 degrees F.

Some elderly people may require higher indoor temperatures — above 65 degrees F at all times to avoid a possibly fatal drop in body temperature.

Close all doors and warm air ducts entering the room with the fireplace and open a window near the fireplace about ½ to one inch. Air needed by the fire will be provided through the open window, and the amount of heated air drawn from the rest of the house will be reduced.

If you have a simple open masonry fireplace, consider installing a glass front or a glass screen. This will cut down on the loss of warmed air through the flue.

When the heat is on . . .

Lower your thermostat to 65 degrees F during the day and 55 degrees F at night. You can save on your fuel costs for every degree you reduce the average temperature in your home.

Keep windows near your thermostat tightly closed, otherwise it will keep your furnace working after the rest of the room has reached a comfortable temperature.

Have your oil furnace serviced at least once a year, preferably each summer to take advantage of off-season rates. This simple precaution could save you 10 percent in fuel consumption.

Clean or replace the filter in your forced - air heating system each month.

Check the duct work for air leaks about once a year if you have a forced - air heating system. To do this, feel around the duct joints for escaping air when the fan is on.

Relatively small leaks can be repaired simply by covering holes or cracks with duct tape. More stubborn problems may require caulking as well as taping.

If you have oil heat, have your service man check to see if the firing rate is correct. Chances are it isn't. A recent survey found that 97 percent of the furnaces checked were over - fired.

Don't let cold air seep into your home through the attic access door. Check the door to make sure it is well insulated and weather - stripped, otherwise you'll be wasting fuel to heat that cool air.

Dust or vacuum radiator surfaces frequently. Dust and grime impede the flow of heat. And if the radiators need painting, use flat paint, preferably black. It radiates heat better than glossy

Keep draperies and shades open in sunny windows; close them at night.

For comfort in cooler indoor temperatures, use the best insulation of all — warm clothing.

The human body gives off heat, about 390 Btu's per hour for a man, 330 for a woman. Dressing wisely can help you retain natural heat.

Wear closely woven fabrics. They add at least a half degree in warmth.

For women. Slacks are at least a degree warmer than skirts.

For men and women. A light long - sleeved sweater equals almost 2 degrees in added warmth; a heavy long-sleeved sweater adds about 3.7 degrees; and two lightweight sweaters add about 5 degrees in warmth because the air between them serves as insulation to keep in more body heat.

If every household in the United States lowered its average heating temperatures 6 degrees over a 24 - hour period, we would save more