Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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A fitting tribute

It was an impressive, unforgettable—and meaningful evening.

More than 2,400 persons converged on the cavernous ballroom of the new Baltimore Convention Center. They paid $30.00 each to demonstrate their support and appreciation of one of Baltimore's outstanding men—Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

The remarkable turnout—believed the largest testimonial ever given any Maryland public official in recent times—was cause for the affair's main speaker, Lerone Bennett Jr., to depart from his prepared remarks and give generous recognition to the audience of mostly black people who represented the professionals and non-professionals, the powerful and not so powerful, the young and old.

"This is the most remarkable sight I've ever seen in my life," observed Bennett, the 51-year old senior editor at Ebony Magazine. "This is the most beautiful audience I've ever seen in my whole life. You are beautiful just in terms of sheer numbers."

The AFRO, too, was greatly impressed by the turnout. We thought the elaborate affair a fitting tribute to Congressman Mitchell who has dedicated much of 57 years in the service of righting wrongs in Baltimore and the nation.

Hometowns don't always give their own their due. That's why we were doubly delighted that Baltimore had the good sense to give Congressman Mitchell such a salute.

We were equally pleased by the potential the Mitchell tribute audience symbolized and we came close to shouting a strong, soulful "Amen!" when Bennett called for similar massive black support of important causes to elevate our community.

Not even a Parren J. Mitchell can do it all, Bennett rightly pointed out, underscoring the need for greater black involvement in politics. "Don't ask, where is the Movement?'" Bennett advised. You don't ask this, Bennett said, because "You are where the Movement is."

In other words, the Movement is not going at full steam if each of us is not joining the Parren J. Mitchells in the fight against unemployment, against rising crime in our neighborhoods, against rising prices and against inequitable political representation which remains a disgraceful fact in Baltimore.

The large Mitchell audience was cause for Bennett to see victory in these crucial battles burdening the black community. "If you can keep what you have this night, nothing is going to stop you in this town," he predicted.

The big question before all of us now is whether we will transfer the broad black participation and unity exhibited at the Mitchell testimonial to other important areas of black concern.

This challenge presents us the opportunity to put the real topping on Congressman Mitchell's testimonial cake.

Ripping off the needy

How low can they get?!

That was the AFRO's first reaction when we received the shocking reports this week that Baltimore hustlers, posing as needy persons, are going to giveaway charitable outlets, picking up clothes for the needy—and then selling the second-hand garments to inner-city residents who think they are getting stolen goods and a bargain.

Bob Cheeks, the director of the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization blew the whistle on the crooks this week when he told how they had ripped-off WRO's giveaway outlet and gone on to exploit needy people. Said Cheeks:

"It's a problem in that we're trying to get clothing to people who need it and can't afford to buy it. These are desperate times..." People are being exploited. They're buying things they wouldn't normally buy because they figure it's a once-in-a-lifetime thing. There's a mystery in buying stolen goods; there's an attractiveness in beating the system that's beating on you."

The police should assign a special detail to put these heartless swindlers out of business. We have no sympathy for them. They are crooks and deserve to be treated as nothing more.

At the same time, citizens approached with hot goods should reject them, following the old rule that warns "you can't get something for nothing."

Mrs. Santa needs you

There are always people who say, "you can't." Here at the AFRO we say, "we can."

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa last year raised more than $16,000 and in 1977 more than $21,000. That shows the 'I can' spirit and we know that after AFRO readers look over samples of some of the hundreds of cases appealing for help, they will dig deep and send a check to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa, AFRO Charities, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

Already, we've passed the half way point and at AFRO presstime ordered 400 baskets at $15 each for a total of $6,000.

These baskets contain two chickens, 10 pounds of white potatoes, five pounds of flour, two cans of corn, two cans of peas, two cans of green beans, large box of rice, two cans of soup, five pounds of sugar, two cans of canned milk, box of cake mix, box of cookies, jar of syrup, large box of cereal, two loaves of bread and two boxes of Jello.

Because we purchase our baskets wholesale, money donated to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa fund goes a long way. And, the men of the Maryland National Guard make sure that the baskets get there before Christmas.

Read the AFRO's Mrs. Santa letters in this issue. Remember that Christmas is the birthday of the blessed Christ child and help a needy family today.

Kwanza season

The middle of December marks the middle of the holiday season that traditionally begins with the celebration of Thanksgiving Day. While Christmas and Chanukah, both religious festivals, are the most widely known, an alternative for black people has surfaced during the last decade and is gaining strength.

Kwanza originated in the United States a scant ten years ago, based on African culture and tradition. Its creation is credited to Ron Karenga, who readily admitted a couple of years ago, that the festival was created in an effort to bring blacks closer together.

There will be reams of material published on the feast, and it will be bigger this year than ever before. It is based on the seven days beginning December 26, and continuing through January first.

A candle is lighted each day, along with other symbolic activities. The seven principles of black unity, known as the Nguzo Saba are expressed in the East African language of Kiswahili, and have become an integral part of the Kwanza ritual.

Kwanza advocates no particular religion; consequently, black people of all religious convictions and affiliations can observe it.

The seven days are celebrated in this fashion: On the first day Dec. 26, the candle of Umoja is lit. Umoja means unity.

The second day is devoted to Kujichagulia, which means self-determination.

Ujima is represented on the third day, which means working together and being responsible.

The fourth day symbolizes Ujamaa which means sharing with each other.

Nia is the candle that is lit on the fifth evening, which stresses the need for having a purpose or reason for saying and doing things.

The sixth day is devoted to Kuumba, which means creativity, wherein gifts, usually homemade, are given.

The last day of Kwanza is dedicated to Imani, which means faith.

The exact methods of conforming to the Kwanza traditions are readily available to the interested, and although there is never an attempt to force observance of this holiday season, everyone should be aware of the significance and aims of the celebration.

As over-commercialization inundates the Christian world; Kwanza celebrants say they offer the alternative.

A JOB WELL DONE

DEAR AFRO

Pomerleau responds

We take issue with several points raised in the Opinion entitled "Police Promotions," which appeared in the Dec. 1, 1979, issue of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

The AFRO is well aware of the extensive attempts to hire minority members from the community by this department. The fact is that Judge Kaufman has never expressed, to the Baltimore Police Department, any opinion which would indicate dissatisfaction with the department's policies. He did, however, find that the written test, which had been prepared by the Civil Service Commission, had an adverse effect on blacks. Judge Kaufman further found the 5'7" height requirement for Police Officers as imposed by the Police Department was invalid.

Specifically, the court's findings and conclusions regarding the issue were as follows:

The court held that with respect to claims of sexual discrimination with non-height and weight issues, the Plaintiffs had failed to make out a cause of action under any Federal Statute or the United States Constitution.

With respect to all internal practices and procedures of the Police Department, the Court found no racial discrimination. Specifically, Judge Kaufman found as follows:

a. The Police Department does not discriminate in promotions to Lieutenant, Captain, and the higher exempt promotions;

b. The Police Department does not discriminate in recruitment;

c. The Police Department does not discriminate in transfers and reassignments;

d. The Police Department does not discriminate in initial assignments;

e. The Police Department does not discriminate in officer in charge practices;

f. The Police Department does not discriminate in psychological testing procedures;

g. The Police Department does not discriminate in background investigations;

h. The Police Department does not discriminate in academic requirements.

The other major finding in the case was that the Court said that there was no purposeful discrimination and no specific intent to discriminate with respect to the issue of race on the part of any of the Defendants under Federal law or the United States Constitution. In fact, Judge Kaufman stated "...that the Department has been making bona fide attempts to increase the number of black police officers.

Judge Kaufman ordered the Civil Service Commission to prepare a new sergeant's promotional test. The Civil Service Commission contracted with Management Scientists, Inc. of Philadelphia and a sergeant's test was produced which was monitored by representatives of the Vanguard Justice Society, Inc., and the Civil Service Commission.

The test was taken by one hundred fifty-three (153) black officers. Thirty-three (33) passed this procedure. Of these, fifteen (15) qualified for promotion in accordance with the promotional register standards agreed to by Judge Kaufman. The remaining eighteen (18) of these thrity-three (33) were not qualified, and had they been, the judge would have ordered their promotions, and the department would have promoted them.

Figures in your paper indicate the need for more black officers. We agree and are doing everything possible to attract and retain black people within the department. Presently, 43 percent of the students attending our Education and Training Division Entrance Level Programs are black.

We are constantly recruiting within the black community with the help of its community members and with your continuous assistance, we will establish that promotional base from which blacks and females can ascend the promotional ladder within the Baltimore Police Department.

DONALD L. POMERLEAU

Kudos for Jan

Dear AFRO:

This letter is "way overdue" but I'd still like to express my view. One of my favorite features is "Tell It To Jan." Not knowing whether Jan is male or female," the person is "TOPS." I may not always agree with the decisions Jan make but Jan does not pull any punches and tells it like it is! The column is worth waiting for.

To Jan, I say "DO IT" and keep it coming. If by chance I have any personal problems, I will be sure to write you. ROBB BROWN

Heartwarming

Dear AFRO:

Thanks to you and Ethel Payne on the very heart-warming story entitled "Howard Thurman, 'Ma' Bethune Brighten D.C." (November 20-24). For those of us who have known those two down the years, it was so good to know that Dr. Thurman is so alive.

It is to be hoped that in the years ahead, the black American community can produce so thoughtful a person as Howard Thurman and so constructively activist a person as Mary McLeod Bethune.

G. JAMES FLEMING.

Too few crossed over

Dear AFRO,

The two party system here in Baltimore City is still alive thanks to Rev. St. George Crosse who did outstanding in his bid for City Comptroller of Baltimore. It was too bad that a large number of black voters did not use their right to cross over to Crosse.

I for one think that it is time for black leadership to speak up about the importance in voting for the man and not the party.

Our so-called black leaders did very little to help Rev. St. George Crosse to be the only black elected to one of the top three office in Baltimore City.

It seems that they were more afraid of Mayor Schaefer than they are of the black community.

I want it to be known that I am talking about all of the so called black leadership here in Baltimore.

The people of Baltimore must be aware that our over-all interest comes last to political ambition. To understand what I am talking about just watch the moves that so-called black leaders make or have made.

LEVIN CONWAY

Wishful thinking

Dear AFRO:

Referenceis made to the letter from Patricia Cunningham in your Dec. 8, 1979 edition, titled "Black Men and Women."

In the face of reality within this society, Ms. Cunningham's letter is only wishful thinking. Ms. Cunningham apparently is not awreaware what this society is all about.

Be not deceived, no matter whatever can be thought, racism in this country is very much alive and is extremely healthy, and it is a major Clandestine silent institution which plants its seeds at cradle times, absolute best of racism.

Here are some of the major ingredients used in that (fertilizer)-you are superior-better-to good-you have all the legal rights-power and control-no other race has any legal rights, power or control over you-you are the authority-you are more intelligent-what you say is right-more honest, etc.

Every white person in this country lives under a silent intimidation force that forbids and threatens their own welfare, well being, and livelihood if they get involved with or favor a black in any manner bey ond tokenism and subness.

Most blacks seem to always take the self delusion escape from reality route which creates their own problems, bitterness and disappointments. There is no lasting or permenant escape from truth.

In every society, there is always undisputable silent and visiable evidence of progre$$ and well being here it is ted to be, and it is also much silent and very visiable evidence of no progress and deterioration where it is wanted to be, be it human or otherwise. PAUL SNYDER

Juvenile harassment

Dear AFRO:

As if to say Who cares?, many of our younger citizens continue either consciously or unconsicously to harass our senior citizens. Although few admit it, many of our senior citizens — and even some not so old — are having to live with an ever-increasing juvenile harassment. This means juveniles playing ball until midnight in front of senior citizens' homes without any consideration for them.

Other senior citizens are having to live with or tolerate the noise from many local bars, especially on Fridays and Saturdays. Other senior citizens are having to tolerate hood style gangs in front of their homes. Ask any Senior Citizen and chances are five out of ten will tell you that one of their biggest concerns is juvenile harassment.

Many say there is little that can be done about it. For starters, parents should demand from their children and better yet, teach them consideration for all-especially for our senior citizens, who in many cases have few, if any, protectors. The police department can also help by beg more colzant of ?his matter.

All of us will grow old in time and one day have to fend on our own with reduced relfexes. It is for this reason that we should all take time to inform our misinformed juveniles that Senior Citizens, just like everyone else, have rights. And above all, consideration of all—especially our older citizens—is the mark of a true gentleman or lady. Let's all begin today working to reduce juvenile harassment.

JOHN A. MICKLOS

'David and Goliath'

Dear AFRO:

With the sole exception of one or two of the hardest core spokespeople for the Keep Baltimore Best Committee — practically everyone attributes the victory of Question K to a backlash to dirty tricks overkill.

Their tricks were so dirty that, as a result of some embarrassing media questioning, the first defectors began to very cautiously back off as early as Nov. 2.

But somebody in town apparently wasn't too sensitive to go clear across the country and then to Hawaii to find P.R. firms which had made their reputation as ruthless hired guns for landlord interests. Nor was it any secret that their record of seven kills against rent control referendums — no looses — was the result of a bag of finely honned dirty tricks.

Salon & Associates wasn't hired in ignorance of its methods. It was hired because of its methods. Very successful methods one might add. They had been batting a thousand percent. Why worry about "sensitivities"? Winners don't have to apologize to anyone!

Salon & Associates was exorcised — sent back home on the next stage on Nov. 7 and their sins were expected to leave with them.

In short — the power structure — the ruling class in Baltimore with its Mr. Clean self-image. They hired the crooks.

But does that make the Greater Baltimore Committee (consisting of the Chamber of Commerce and the 100 biggest employers in Baltimore) are crooks too? Certainly no — they are merely businessmen.

So by pulling out all the stops and paying a hired gun to fight dirty for them — they had nothing to loose — and no one would even ask, "who did the hiring?"

A. ROBERT KAUFMAN

Basketball with baseball bat?

By G. James Fleming

If a basketball player comes on the basketball court with a baseball bat, he is woefully out of place, and vice versa."

This was the admonition (as recalled) of A. Leon Higginbotham, U.S. Court of Appeals judge, when he replied to a student's question at the Silver Anniversary observance of Bill of Rights Day at Morgan State University.

The student had asked: "Doesit really matter how a man or woman dresses, or what variation of English he or she speaks, even if the person wants to enter the corporate world?"

Judge Higginbotham expanded his response:

"The world does not permit each one of us to 'do his own thing.' If one wants a place in the corporate world, one may, or will, find that he has to dress as other people dress, in the corporate world, and speak the kind of standard English expected of him."

Taking the New York Stock Exchange of General Motors as examples, he continued:

"Your dashiki won't get you anywhere if you don't also know money and finance, accounting, and the conditions of world markets.

"But, there is more in the world than corporate life," he spoke on. "If you want to be a neurosurgeon, it won't hurt if you don't know your grammar, but you had better be able to read and write English, standard English, to pass your board examinations in anatomy, the nervous syst and other essential medical fields."

This brought Judge Higginbotham, who sits in Philadelphia, to education and excellence.

Eloquently he stressed that "The very fact that slave law made it a crime to teach Blacks to read and write should tell us how important education is. Present-day competition should also challenge us to achieve the highest in education. Excellence is the password."

This phase of thinking led the speaker to turn to his family and the part his father and mother played in helping him "to be where I am today."

"Everytime my mother, a domestic, heard of some educational exhibit, or anything else worthwhile, that her employers' children were being taken to, she saw to it that I was there also."

His father, a laborer, was a stickler for high grades:

"Once when I brought home a report card with five A's and one A-minus, my father questioned, 'Why the A-minus' and he took ay my allowance for the week."

From the advertising of slavery days he found additional challenge for today. Blacks, to counteract the breakup of families in slavery should, and must, work to build and strengthen the black family. "Not only parenting," he frowned, "but by giving love, care and compassion to our children and their mothers."

He made a plea for a campaign against violence, "to counteract the violence taught by the salve system—violence by the system on blacks and the encouragement of ioince by blacks on blacks."

Judge Higginbotham did not only analyze the slave system and its laws. He did not only point to the quality in America which produced a Thomas Jefferson who could write the Declaration of Independence at the same time that he owned slaves. He pointed, also, to those Americans who, as far back as 1688, began protesting human slavery.

The judge, the only person to be invited a second time to give a Bill of Rights Day address at Morgan, drew heavily from his well known volume, "In the matter of Color" (Oxford, 1978). He also referred a number of times to Morgan's Benjamin Quarles, professor emeritus of history, as "my model."

The largely student audience and the judges and lawyers who attended gave Judge Higginbotham several outbursts of approval during his speech and a standing ovation at the conclusion.

MADELINE MURPHY

Non-Smoking Campaign—Myopia in a vacuum

Lately the anti-smoking campaign reached the height of insanity, taking on the aspects of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

It seemed that a man boarded the Commuter shuttle at Washington, enroute to New York with a boarding pass for the non-smoking section. But no seat was available in that section.

Now, anyone who was ridden the shuttle, an economy, no frills, no drinks, flight knows besore she starts that it's also hostility ridden.

What was stewardesses collecting fares, crowded seating, much like a flying bus, there isn't anything to do to calm business jitters, but take a, good smoke or two before meeting the New York "madding crowd." Right?

But as fate would have it, the smoker's were adamant and refused to budge (quite an irrational response to the legally correct demands of the non-smoker).

Nevertheless, a commotion of such proportions ensued that for the safety of crew and passengers, the pilot, like a parent who couldn't restrain his kids, made an emergency landing at Baltimore. So there.

A two hour wait with missed appointments, lost deals—whatever—cooled a few tempers and upon reflection some of those passengers may have realized how childish they had really been.

For the most common mistake smokers make anyway is to believe smoking calms the nerves, when it actually makes the blood sugar rise and suddenly fall with the attendant affect of heightening the jitters.

But with all this hullabaloo about smoking sections on planes, it might be better if airlines copied the policies of LO (Polish) and AEROFLOT (Soviet) airlines, where one whole side of the plane is designated for smokers. In that way the air conditioning disperses the smell and pall of the smoke, obnoxious even to a smoker when it is concentrated in the back of the plane.

Certainly, on that commuter flight, this would have solved what turned out to be a momumental problem.

A puzzling phenomena, however, is that even though non-smokers claim to be in the majority, why is it that no planes and in many public places, as well as social gatherings, smokers ofttimes outnumber non-smokers?

Do smokers like birds of a feather, flock together intentionally?

Do smokers choose friends who smoke over those who don't?

However, being an off again on again smoker makes one ambivalent, and a little resentful of the growing self-righteousness, tyranny, and agrogance of the non-smoker.

Especially when one hears them brag about jogging to work along city streets as they ingest exhaust fumes and all manner of muck in the air. (Not to mention some nonsmokers's preference for pot!)

Their zeal about smokers' health should really be directed toward all the cars and industries which belch forth noxious fumes, asbestos and chemical residues, supposedly more dangerous to smokers.

Think what this also would do in further research on smoking addiction—because that's really what it is—and its psychological connection. Ridicule, restrictions and fear alone won't stop smoking.

While at the same time, with a campaign like this smokers, would become convinced that what kills them (conformed by updated research) is really that nasty little weed and not a deadly combination of air polution and tobacco smoke.

But then in this looking out for number one era, it's a lot safer to scapegoat and villify smokers. They are easily identifiable culprits; easily hounded, managed and manipulated.

What's more, they're already adequately guilt-ridden, what with the Surgeon General's warning. So they make great targets on which to focus all that suppressed rage about a more complicated unmanageable society.

And with the way the world's going anyway, with all that nuclear overkill on the part of the US—by 1995 who'll know or care about the difference anyway?

Put in proper perspective, the non-smokng campaign really suffers from a bad case of myopia—in a vacumm!

Bennett speaks on black unity

The following is an excerpt from the speech presented by Lerone Bennett Jr., noted author and historian, during the banquet Dec. 7 in honor of Rep. Parren Mitchell, D - Md..

"It should be clear by now to almost everyone that the black vote cannot be redeemed and the American dream cannot be saved without a profound structional migration of American society. Without real believers in the tax structure and the relating between the private and public sectors, without a readaptation of values, readaptation of work and redistribution of income.

"The problem before us tonight is not the poor, the problem is the power. And the problem is not the distribution of contraceptives. The problem is the reintroduction of income. "The problem is not the black ghetto, the problem is the white system that created the ghetto and perpetuates it. And if you meet a politician who says he wants to help black people without dealing with that system, call the police right away because he's either a charlatan who needs arresting or a citizen who needs protection from himself. "There's a desparate need at this hour for a deeper involvement by the black middle class and for a deeper commitment by all blacks. There's also a need for a total mobilization of the energies of resources of the black community, black capital, the black church, black politics, black college, all of us must be mobilized for a total struggle for survival and salvation.

"We need new machinery now to guide and challenge our young people. We need new machinery now to wage a war against the drug traffic in black America. If we are serious about freedom in this country, we're going to have to deal with the internal problems of the black community and that includes the problem of black on black crime. It's time for all blacks and black institutions to say that there are no greater uncles anywhere on the face of this earth than the black people who rob, steal, mame, mug anf murder other black people. It's time for all blacks and black institutions to say that men and women who sell hard dope to our children are a greater threat to our existence than all the active and silent supporters of the Ku Klux Klan.

"It is necessary to say this. It is also necessary to blow the whistle on the system that fought millions of blacks with idleness and drugs. A system that systematically robbed millions of its citizens of hope and self esteen A system that systematically produces drugs, pushers and prostitutes. A system that can make work for black men inside prison after they commit crimes but cannot find work for black men outside prison before they commit crimes. It is our historical duty in 1979 as we reflect on the theme of this meeting to figure out ways, create ways we can deal with this system in its totality. ' a new black policy of creating good. We waste too much time in this country we've destroyed too many institutions by endlessly and repeatedly and uselessly fighting over false dichotomies of integration and separation. Our goal, brothers and sisters and friends is neither integration or separation. Our goal is liberation by any means necessary. It's time for us to do what every other American group has done and that is to define our purpose both in terms of blackness and Americaness. In other words, we've got to do what the Jews have done, what the Irish have done. We've got to define and defend our past as blacks while demanding at the same time equal access to all public American traditions.

'Our failure in this country, perhaps our greatest failure is our failure to define a policy of creating blackhood within the context of public integration. And so we find this strange and intolerable confusion over the role of black institutions and black colleges. In fact some black people are so confused that they demand the destruction of all black institutions. Others are so confused that they aren't comfortable being in organizations bearing the word black or Negro And it's very important to note in this connection that no other American group have ever been that confused.

"Other American groups have been raising for their defense and welfare needs since the 19th century. And we have a right, no, we have a duty to begin now the necessary task of organizing the black community for sustained social difference. As Billie Holiday, that great philosopher once said, other people may have funds, the united community may even have a fund, but God bless the group that has a fund of its own. That doesn't mean that we're going to withdraw into the shell and ignore the internal needs of the community. It simply and indisputably means that charity like everything else begins at home."

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT AGING

Help for criminal victims

Dr. Matthew Tayback, State Director on Aging

Recently we discussed the role of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, an agency which provides compensation to victims of violent crime. Senior Citizens should also be aware of other agencies and organizations which serve to either compensate or provide special services to those victimized by either violent or non-violent criminal acts. In the case of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, compensation is limited to those expenses reasonably incurred for medical care or other services necessary as a result of an injury. This means there is no compensation available for the contents of a purse, but medical expenses are paid if the purse - snatch victim is injured. The Board is located at 1123 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201 (Telephone: 522-5000).

In Maryland, many local governments and organizations provide services to criminal victims in addition to the benefits available statewide through the CICB. Many county and city state's Attorney's offices provide victim - witness assistance. The State's Attorney is the official who prosecutes the criminal. The official cannot provide compensating funds for losses but can and often does provide counseling services and free transportation to and from court for victims and witnesses. You can find out about these services by calling your local State's Attorney's office.

In some areas, special services for the elderly victim are available. For example, the Montgomery County Police Department operates a "Crime Prevention for Seniors" office, which provides personal and confidential counseling and assistance for elderly crime victims. The office also offers support and help in obtaining needed services. Montgomery County residents may call Officer Clifford Melton at 840-2585 for more information.

Baltimore's excellent Waxter Center provides extensive services for senior citizens crime victims. The "Victims Assistance" unit at Waxter, directed by Michael LaChance, is a "one-stop" for Older Baltimoreans who are victimized. It helps anyone over 60 who is a street crime victim, has been burglarized or who has been the target of any other criminal act. Victims Assistance at Waxter provides crisis counseling, replacement of stolen medicine, emergency food supplies, transportation and escort to victim-related appointments, replacement of stolen documents, new locks and keys and other related services. The unit is located at 861 Park Avenue at the Waxter Center in Baltimore (telephone: 396-3867).

You have probably noticed that currently no public program makes good on monetary loss that occurs in the criminal act. One suggested way to recover such losses is through personal insurance; another method of recovery is through the criminal prosecution process after the offender has been caught. The victim can request restitution as a condition of probation. However, often the offender has no resources to pay back the damage caused. Likewise, if a civil action is brought for restitution, the defendant often will have no resources to pay such a judgment.

Finally, elderly victims are encouraged to report the crime as soon as possible to ensure the services mentioned can offer protection. Be sure, too, to keep accurate records of all expenses and losses resulting from a crime, both for possessions and medical expenses. These records will be valuable in making a compensation claim, insurance claim or in criminal prosecution.

Carter's competence

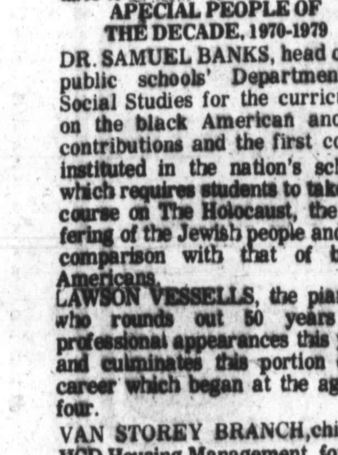
Dear AFRO:

Many of our astigmatic media pundits and some political hopefuls, with their almost daily message that President Carter lacks competence and leadership, are missing a good bet on the new brand of leadership that President Carter has been showing, and with positive results, they would just look around.

In lieu of the traditional florid oratory, erratic body language and soup-it-up-whoop-it-up bombast delivered by Sen. Kennedy and former Gov. Connally, et al, not to mention some of our recent Chief Executives, which has been practically all sound and fury and signifying nothing, President Carter is offering calm, quiet factual reasoning, with an appeal to balance, judgment and evenhanded independent action — a novel approach to politics. The promise of this type of leadership is probably what got him elected in the first place, and he must be doing something right as more people have a better life in this country than ever before. All we need to do is to elect a few more decisive senators and representatives to back him up.

President Carter's critics and opponents thus far seem only to want to do just what he had been doing, but they would like it done with more noise and confusion. Could it be that the electorate, after being handed the rabble-rousing line for most of our political history, is finally wising up and is less willing to be manipulated by preconceived polls, self-werving emotional appeal, and second guessing? Can it be that with our rising literacy (and standard of living) our educational system is actually achieving one of its primary goals — that of equipping "the people" to think for themselves? If this is so, then President Carter will surely not only be renominated but reelected. WELLINGTON S. DOMAS

The 100 special people of the 1970's



By Elizabeth M. Oliver

FOR ALL WE KNOW

HERE TODAY are the last 50 Marylanders to be cited by this columnist as among the 100 Special People of the Decade, the 1970's. In the AFRO'S Friday edition dated Dec. 8 FOR ALL WE KNOW named the first 50 Special People of the Decade. Citations will be given each of the 100 persons at a date to be announced. SPECIAL

APECIAL PEOPLE OF THE DECADE, 1970-1979

DR. SAMUEL BANKS, head of the public schools' Department of Social Studies for the curriculum on the black American and his contributions and the first course instituted in the nation's schools which requires students to take the course on The Holocaust, the suffering of the Jewish people and the comparison with that of black Americans.

LAWSON VESSELLS, the pianist, who rounds out 50 years of professional appearances this year and culminates this portion of a career which began at the age of four.

VAN STOREY BRANCH, chief of HCD Housing Management, for the program which trains welfare recipients in law enforcement and places them in jobs in public housing, government agencies, private industry and businesses and for his efforts in the subsidizing housing program.

BROOKS ROBINSON, former All Star 3rd baseman for the Orioles who finds time to help disadvantaged youths regardless of race, creed or color.

MRS. BETTY HAMBURGER, for her work and legislative efforts for the cause of senior citizens.

DR. HAROLD A. CARTER of New Shiloh Baptist Church for the 1978 Crusade for Christ and the 1979 Crusade to come Dec. 30 which has interested an interracial audience of thousands and brought a greater spirit of brotherhood to Baltimore.

MRS. CATHERINE MUELLER, a former member of the Grand Jury, whose singular efforts put the spotlight on unfair practices of the panel and brought about the necessary reform.

ROBERT CHEEKS, the longtime and valiant fighter for equal rights in the community and especially for his Rent Control struggle leadership which brought a record vote.

GEORGE BROWN, the C and P Telephone executive for community work with the Frontiers and Big Brothers organizations and the charity efforts of his firm.

FREDERICK A. BAILEY, the insurance executive, who was director of the first City Fair attended by 1,400 ,000 and the coordinator of the first Afram in the Bicentennial year, 1976, both sounded as singular accomplishments.

MISS HARRIETT VERNON who heads the Community Board of Directors at the University of Maryland Hospital and has thus given leadership to the cause of needed corrections at the institution.

MISS BONITA CARTWRIGHT the nursing instructor at University Hospital whose valuable book on High Blood Pressure has helped save lives of many patients.

MRS. MARY CLAYBORNE of Radio WWIN whose special community efforts have let the public know of many worthwhile events and for her unselfish participation in inner city events.

MRS. GEORGINE EDGERTON, president of the Mt. Holly Improvement Asso. for her work in police community relations and the Cahill Recreation Center.

MRS. ELIZABETH HARRIS, mother of the late and brave Edmondson Hi student, Frank Harris, who despite her grief over the death of her son has constantly aided others.

DR. CHESTER A. WICKWIRE, the Johns Hopkins University chaplain, who carries out the tutorial program there for inner city children and continues his civil rights efforts after some 20 years.

MRS. WILHEMENIA RHODES, the humanitarian, who rides the bus and walks as she goes about her volunteer work after retirement from C and P and in aiding the needy regardless of race.

SAMUEL T. DANIELS, Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masonic lodge of Maryland for his leadership in register to vote, NAACP and Provident Hospital drives and his establishing Camp Myra for Masonic and underprivileged children.

DR. A.C.D. VAUGHN, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church for his leadership as president of Freedom House as he replaces the late Dr. John R. Peters on civil rights and humanitarians fronts.

DR. ARIS T. ALLEN of Annapolis now a Republican senator in the General Assembly for his valiant fight as the first to run for election as lieutenant governor.

MRS. LILLIAN DANTLEY former principal and elementary area director, who deserves recognition for outstanding church and community work and especially her work with Meals on Wheels.

DR. LOIS YOUNG the physician who replaces her father the late Dr. Ralph Young and follows in his footsteps as humanitarian and physician.

MRS. VERNICE MATTHEWS, former elementary principal who gives outstanding service as a Sunday School teacher at Providence Baptist Church.

MRS. CAROLYN HOLMES, founder of Women Behind the Community (WOBECO) and service in Bethel AME Church and as an educational associate in the Baltimore public schools.

MRS. INEZ M. KENT, president of For-Win-Ash Club for her role in beautifying Baltimore, her garden club efforts and beautification at Provident

MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL V. Batten of Arbutus, married 41 years, who have in 30 years reared over 30 youngsters from the Dept. of Public Welfare, those who needed foster homes.

MRS. RACHEL DEFORD, member of the noted Bumbry family, who has compiled the interesting history of the clan which includes her daughter, a Harvard PhD; Opera Singer Grace Bumbry, the toast of Europe, Al Bumbry, the famed Orioles player and Richard Pryor, the movie star: among others, all descendants from a King George County family.

REV. WILLIAM JOHNSON the Provident Hospital chaplain who provides endless hours of service to comfort ailing and terminally ill patients.

NORMAN BRAILEY whose singular efforts resulted in historic Leadenhall Baptist Church going on the National Register of Historic Places.

JAMES BENNETT, a onetime longshoreman, who successfully established his own businesses after leaving the Port of Baltimore.

REV. JOHN BRYANT, the Bethel AME pastor who has added hundreds of young persons to membership and made the entire community aware of their African heritage through his ministry and from the pulpit.

MRS. CECELIA BRYANT, wife of Rev. John Bryant, whose innovative outreach program has benefitted the needy and whose efforts have brought pride in black women's accomplishments.

BISHOP HARRISON J. BRYANT, who marked his 80th year this year and although in retirement continues civil rights and religious work.

DR. IOLA SMITH the outstanding professor of education at Morgan who has consistently received acclaim from faculty and students

JESSE WEBSTER director of community affairs, WBAL Radio, who has been fully involved in activities affecting minorities and the needy of the community and his sensitive recordings a beacon of hope.

MRS. CLEVELAND (CORDETTE) CHANDLER whose courage to place her hat in the ring for mayor brought her salutations from across the nation although her bid was unsuccessful.

MRS. MARION SJODINE, the educational specialist at Constant Care, for her sensitivity to the exclusion of minorities from full participation in our society and her service at Constant Care for a better quality of life for all.

SIF KING of WBAL-TV for his keen interest in the problems of minorities and the needy and his Maryland Viewpoint program which makes the TV available to expression of viewpoint from the ordinary citizen.

MRS. CATHERINE GROSS in recognition of former leadership in re-writing the entire Social Studies curriculum 1970-72 and her activity in the civic programs in the Ashburton Community.

REV. MARCUS G. WOOD, pastor of Providence Baptist Church, for his continued work in various African countries.

E. BRENT SNODGRASS and his assistant Edward Snowden for their community work as public affairs executives for the Bethlehem Steel Corp. and especially contributions to community efforts.

BROTHER ROY a volunteer and unpaid social worker for his own program of shoes for needy children and his tireless efforts spearheading the cause for civil rights.

MICHAEL W. LEE the exemplary U. of Md. law graduate who became legal clerk to Judge Robert I. H. Hammerman, has now passed the bar in Maryland and Pennsylvania and is named as legal assistant to the City Solicitor Benjamin Brown.

FRANKLIN LEE, the U of Md. senior law student who serves as president of the Baltimore Chapter of Black American Law Students (BALSA) and who has been named before graduation to a post with the Federal Trade Commission in Washington.

DR. GEORGE A. CRAWLEY pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, whose news letter carries history, news, church and community notes to those outside his parish and his collection of priceless antiques inspires the interest of others to preserve their possessions.

FATHER FRANKLIN AND BROTHER MIKE who have beautified the North and Madison community through Clean Block efforts and especially Fr. Franklin's founding and building the new Mahalia Jackson Home for Homeless children.

MRS. PAULINE WELLS LEWIS of Radio WSID for her daily religious services, her inspirational messages and songs and volunteer work in the community.

MRS. JUANITA DELOMBA WILLIAMS for her exemplary race for membership on the Baltimore County Council, a political campaign although unsuccessful which paved the way for more black women candidates.

EARL DEWITT WILLIAMS and his wife who are pioneers in the field of raising fullbred cats and have won first place in shows across the nation.

FORMER DEL. LLOYAL RANDOLPH who served as chief clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Elections and who has maintained a role of community service through the years.

ALAN QUILLE whose outstanding efforts have aided the Oblate Sisters in their project of revitalization in East Baltimore.

OFFICER FULLWOOD in the Police Department's recruitment program has enabled the division to hire more qualified black officers and through his executive leadership with the Baltimore Chapter of Virginia Union University alumni has given high school graduates, scholarships to the college.

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