Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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

The McGee shooting

State's Attorney William Swisher, characteristically, has found no reason to bring any kind of charges against Stephen McCown, the police detective who shot teenager Ja-Wan McGee "mistakenly" in a pizza parlor leaving the youth permanently paralyzed.

The Baltimore City Police Department, however, has decided that there are enough irregularities in the McGee tragedy from a police procedural viewpoint to have Officer McCown face an administrative trial board.

With Swisher's determination that there is nothing inherently wrong with a policeman shooting an unarmed black teen in the back, this is the only avenue of redress currently open to the victim, his family and a community which still burns with outrage.

Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau, in the vacuum left by Swisher is trying to do something. We must point out that the commissioner, once Swisher made his ruling, did not have to do anything.

Police officials have already asked McCown to resign which indicates to us that there would be no departmental bitterness if this officer left the department.

He has refused.

Administrative trial aside, we see no sensible solution for police officials save to fire him.

Federal probe

Ja-Wan McGee's mother is correct in calling for a Justice Department investigation of her son's shooting.

In light of William Swisher's offhanded decision not to put the incident into the prosecutorial process, she is correct in so demanding. The focus of such a probe from a high federal level as we see it however, would move to do more with basic questions as to just how the criminal Justice process is being administered by the current State's Attorney.

We have constantly pointed out Swisher's wrong-headedness and arrogance on issues involving whites and blacks.

This is the thing we would want the Feds to monitor because it is obvious that the local political establishment, whites and all too many blacks, are capable of taking any action about deeply-rooted racist attitudes ingrained in our law enforcement process and out judicial system as well.

Ja-Wan's mother is saying that something stinks in Baltimore and to rid us of this, help must come from outside.

We agree.

Police pay hikes

If this space thus far has dealt with racial injustice and police problems, we now turn to the question of more money for police officers in this city.

Do not be thrown off or confused, even with incidents like the McGee affair troubling all thoughtful citizens, when we say we are in favor of Baltimore City police officers getting higher pay.

We have been studying police personnel statistics and we find some shocking things.

First, trained police officers, black and white, are leaving the force in alarmingly high numbers.

This speaks directly to us.

Our community is beset by crime brought on by economics, social conditions and oppression and, presently we can hardly do with less law enforcement.

We need more police protection and we need officers who are superior by stint of training, education and sensitivity to community needs.

Many of our best police officers are taking jobs in other jurisdictions which pay better salaries.

What is or should be of interest to all taxpayers in this city is that these proficient officers have been trained by the city of Baltimore at a cost of $35,000 per officer.

Then having been made into efficient law officers through out city tax dollars they leave for better paying jobs elsewhere. This is a case of throwing good money down a drain. It is also lousy economics. Why should we pry to improve other cities police forces?

To replace these disappearing officers is difficult because men and women eminently qualified for police work can enter other jobs which pay far more.

We also need many more black officers, male and female, and to get them the city of Baltimore is going to have to raise the entrance salaries for police recruits to $15,000.

This is the only way the city is going to be able to get officers of quality. Young black college-trained job seekers know, even though they are interested in law enforcement careers, that social work, teaching and other disciplines offer better salaries over the longrun.

On these considerations along:

... the need to attract black police officers of highest quality in increasing numbers

... the need to prevent veteran officers from taking police jobs elsewhere because of low salaries in our city ... and the over-riding need in our community to get adequate protection for all the people.

We urge all to give strong thought to a better salary scale for law enforcement personnel.

Of course we would tie in this increase with the stress that Baltimore city residents be hired preferentially and that the police department continue to escalate its minority recruitment efforts.

As the police pay issue increases as a discussion and action item, weigh what we have pointed out here as positives against the many negatives the law enforcement community has brought on itself through racial and community insensitivity.

We want more minority officers, we want all good cops to make more money and we want them to live in and spend their money in our city.

We are as pragmatic about this issue as we can be. We hope you will be also.

"I CAN TELL IT'S HARD TIMES NOW MY HUNGER PANGS BEGIN IN THE A.M. INSTEAD OF THE P.M."

MADELINE MURPHY

Rumpelstiltskin, what next?

This writer over the last eight years has warned, cajoled the voters, accused the mayor and City Council about diversion of funds, bond issues that make no sense in a representative government; about the "gentrification" of Baltimore City in areas like Ridgeley's Delight.

(And what a cruel joke that one is for the new comeback of white middle class voters, with a hill and expressive right in their front yards!)

However, to say "I told you so" is indeed small comfort in the face of recent "shadow government" revelations.

Gut feelings and glimmerings of the pants pocket bookkeeping roguishness of Messrs. Benton, Daley and McHugh make you understand the dwindling voter turnout in mayoral primary and general elections. (Trustees or future trustys?)

Deep down inside everyone who feels her citizenship forcefully, understands the need to participate in the democratic process.

But perhaps those others who don't vote have the feeling that dropping out of this process is a clearer, cleaner way of expressing distaste for the obvious manipulative excursions of a mayor who could care less about a questionable mandate that has shrunk to less than 50 percent of the electorate.

And the City Council that has let itself become more impotent, happily irresponsible, though morally culpable.

It seems all they have been good for is to put their parochial interests above the good and welfare of the total community.

Now with the hue and cry for reform of the City Charter; a demand for hearings over the lament that from one project to another, the taxpayers' money has been lost, strayed, stolen — this from Council President Walter Orlinsky (The self-righteous dropout from secret pre-meetings of the Board of Estimates) —one still wonders if we're putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop.

When I hear of the cussing and fussing in the mayor's office, I recall the Rumpelstiltskin of the Brothers Grimm, when his correct name was finally revealed by the naive princess. "In his rage stamped his right foot into the ground so deep, that he sank up to his waist."

But fairy tales are meant to have happy endings —not so in real life!

Already, the list of those who would succeed William Donald Schaefer is stacked with some of those very sycophants who would soften their criticism, fearing hizzoner's ire, vindictiveness and obstructionism, as they seek his crown.

Because all these Baltimore public relations gimmicks, pandering to business interests at the expense of basic programs, such as education, the ambitions of this dictatorial ruler for the governorship in 1982.

Hence the mayoral race will look like a jamboree at the City Fair with diverse personages from the House of Delegates, Senate, City Council, grabbing for the golden ring.

The use of the phrases "morally culpable" and "sychophants" accurately describe that coterie of Council persons, administrators, so-called community leaders who have fronted for the mayor's bond issues from aquaria to harborplace; from zoning and street changes to rent control, who after the dastardly deeds have been done, either are absent when questions arise about the long range affects upon the city purse; or who rubber stamp any and all actions the mayor takes.

Whom the Gods destroy they first make mad.

Now we must decide if we are to be destroyed. We blacks, who have also been accused of incompetence as justification for Cold Spring's dismal fiscal insolvency. These are Mayor Schaefer's words: "Minorities. Didn't do a good job." Neat diversion, Don, but it just won't work.

Even so, what about the million or more in the Pennington dump debacle?

All his woes pale in comparison, as far as he is concerned with the $480,000 he lost to minorities. Now you see where he stands.

But the mayor's ace in the hole is his cooptation of blacks from all sections of the city. These hapless collaborators who surely will be first in line to testify should a grand jury be called to investigate the legality of these 71 or more quasi-public corporations, corporations cynically developed to circumvent the will of the people; the careful scrutiny of public hearings and open Board of Estimate meetings.

Finally one wonders about the investigative reporting of a daily paper that nailed Mandel to the cross.

With similar revelations, what's next?

PARREN J. MITCHELL

Race and economic policy

Race?

I know somebody is going to scream, what in the world does this have to do with economic policy?

If we look at the statistics on unemployment in this country, if we look at the shrinking of the median family income, black, as opposed to the median family income, white, it is going to be patently obvious that economic policy is related to race. Let me just point out a couple of things that I think are of significance.

I was incredibly struck by a piece of data which I saw recently which says that for 35 years, good times, bad times, prosperity, depression, growth, recession, for 35 years, since the end of World War II, the black rate of unemployment in this country has always been at least twice as high as the white, 35-years-of-that.

That means there is something enormously wrong with our economic policy that will permit a group of people to experience unemployment for 35 years twice as great as that of our white counterparts.

I was an ardent advocate for the Hawkins-Humphrey full employment bill because I was appalled, like others ought to be appalled, or should have been appalled by the persistent nature of unemployment in America, both the structural unemployment and the cyclical unemployment.

In 1979 the unemployment rate for blacks and other minorities over 20 years old was 8.6 percent. The unemployment rate in 1979, at the end of 1979, for whites over 20 was 4.2 percent. The black rate was twice as high as the white rate.

Pay particular attention to the last figure because I think that is a part of the reason why we are never going to fully implement the Hawkins-Humphrey full employment bill.

We are not going to do it based upon race because white male adults have already achieved the goal of low unemployment that was set for 1983, and in this country there is a mood that says, "OK, we have got our people covered; let the rest of them suffer a little bit."

Another statistic. In 1979 unemployment for minority youths 16 through 19 was 34.9 percent, while at the same time the unemployment for white youths 16 through 19 was 13.9 percent. That was 1979. I said earlier that the black rate of unemployment for 35 years has been twice as high as the white rate.

Let us look at 1980. Where are we now? In 1980 when we are talking about employment for white males over 20 years old, the unemployment figure is down to 4.9 percent. That is almost the goal of the Hawkins-Humphrey bill for 1983.

But the rate for black males over 20 is 9.3 percent. The correlation persists year after year after year, as well as at twice the rate.

Look at the rate of youth unemployment. So far this year, ages 16 through 19 for white youths, it is 13.8 percent, but for black youths it is 33 percent, and that is an average.

Question. In Detroit, Mich., the black youth rate of unemployment is 55 percent. If that were white youth rate of unemployment in Detroit, 55 percent, would we be cutting back on jobs and job training programs?

Answer, no, we would not. We would not be doing it, and I am suggesting that our economic policy is tied to race.

We are compounding a problem that has existed lo these many years, and we are doing it in the name of balancing the budget, which is grossly unfair.

And as we are doing it I hope we remember that somewhere down the line we are going to pay a price.

—LETTERS—

How effective is the black caucus?

Dear AFRO:

The General Assembly's Legislative Black Caucus' role of representing poor and black people is questionable.

The resignation of Delegate Troy Brailey, and his accusations in regards to the caucus brings to light a divisiveness that weakens the group's effectiveness as a legislative body.

The disharmony that prevails among this group will subsequently lead to the diversion of purpose — if that is not already the case.

This revealing vexatious situation causes me to be suspicious of this body's capability in the political process. There appears to be disunity and spiritual weakness in the caucus rendering it useless in the struggle for basic needs and desires of black people.

Delegate Brailey's action creates a time for the question as to whether or not this legislative body has the cohesion needed to make positive political strides for its constituency.

The survival and equity of blacks in a white - dominated, indifferent and competitive society has to be a steadfast goal. The effort to reach this goal must be total to overcome strife in the future.

Due to the support of anti-black legislation by black legislators during the recent General Assembly it behooves us to take a hard look at this body. It is because of such politics we need to be a more discerning people about black political dynamics, and less complacent.

We must discontinue black apathy. We must curtail our fragmented interests. They are counter-productive at every level of black existence. We can never acquire equality realistically without a common interest and solidarity in our effort.

No black has ever been so well off that he or she can afford the lifestyle of a strong individualist. No black can afford this luxury in a white - dominated society. To think so is unrealistic and self-defeating.

To enter the struggle for black economic survival and social equity the prerequisites are spiritual strength and unity of purpose and effort. These are especially essential for our black leaders in order to perform effectively in the political process.

Our leaders must grasp these prerequisites and hold them fast. Their personal impact must be the force that influences our leaders' direction and perspective.

We must be concerned continuously. We must strive consistently for the awareness of the political intentions, motivations and actions of black leaders. We must vehemently denounce those who have narrow special interests, are found to be lacking the integrity and dedication needed to promote black interests and desires.

The effectiveness of the Black Caucus depends on its organizing around a common interest. It is time for us to demand that they do so.

It is time to demand that this body be more accountable to the black community.

It is time to insist that the caucus transcend its differences — to quell the disunity that is so detrimental to the future and dignity of poor and black lives.

Is the Black Caucus effective? To be sure there is need of a sober and in-depth look at these black leaders.

AMERICUS ROY

Beware of mail fraud schemes

Dear AFRO:

American consumers lost more than $489 million to mail fraud schemes and misrepresentations made through the U.S. mails over each of the last five years.

Schemes to defraud are becoming more and more sophisticated and wider in scope every year with the victims ranging from major businesses to any citizen who responds to a seemingly legitimate advertisement.

The Postal Service's role in protecting the public from schemes that use the mails is through the enforcement of the Mail Fraud Statute. Postal Inspectors are the investigative and law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service. In addition, the Inspection Service assists with mail order and service problems.

One major step toward combating the ever increasing frauds and swindles that are prevalent today is "Public Awareness." By alerting people to our role in the investigation of such schemes, the public can learn pertinent guidelines to follow to possibly prevent themselves from becoming victimized. They can also learn what to do in the event they have already been deceived by a con artist.

An informed public, in addition to helping themselves, helps the Inspection Service to effectively enforce the Mail Fraud Statute. The more potential fraud schemes we hear about, and the sooner we hear about them, the quicker we are able to take appropriate action against the violators and possibly prevent additional people from falling victim to an ongoing fraud scheme.

In an effort to combat the ever increasing element of fraud through the mails, the Postal Inspection Service has initiated a Consumer Protection Program to educate the public about frauds through the mails.

For more information, contact the Consumer Protection Specialist, T. W. McClure, at P.O.Box 1820, Washington, D.C. 20013 or by telephone at 202-523-2561.

T. J. KOERBER,
Postal Inspector in Charge

Dr. Samuel Banks

Dear AFRO:

After reading the Friday April 5 edition of your paper I feel a comment is in order

One of your readers, like myself criticized Dr. Samuel Banks about his article on Cherry Hill residents.

At the present time, my feelings have not changed and I feel that this article was inappropriate.

In the meantime I have learned of Dr. Banks' contribution to both the eighth and 11th grade students of this city.

He instituted the idea of The Holocaust, which was an excellent idea on his part.

To Dr. Banks, I say — Right On in the Social Studies Department of school education.

ROBB BROWN

Thanking volunteers

Dear AFRO:

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 20-26, I want to thank the members of Baltimore Association for Retarded Citizens' (BARC), dedicated volunteer corps for their generous support.

By sharing their time, talents and energy, they greatly enhance BARC's efforts to help our community's mentally retarded citizens in the quest for dignity and independence.

LISA DUBANSKY,
coordinator of volunteer services
Baltimore Association for Retarded Citizens Inc.

Thanks, AFRO

Dear AFRO:

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the AFRO for its printing of our letter in so prompt a manner. We are encouraged by the AFRO's recognition of the positive nature of the message we have for black people.

Again, thank you and we look forward to further communication with you in the near future.

SISTER DARLENE X,
Public Relations Coordinator,
The Nation of Islam

G. JAMES FLEMING

Grief over Liberia

Those of us who have always had a kindred feeling towards Liberia will long grieve over the recent massacres and assassinations in that West African country, founded by American ex-slaves and "freemen."

Not that we are against change in Liberia. As in the case of so many other nations, there was room —much room —for change; change for the better.

Indeed, it was "change for the better," which had already begun, that set off the sad atavistic rampage —a military coup, if you please.

For it was under President William A. Tolbert Jr., that contesting parties had retrieved the right (perhaps the opportunity) to exist and to field candidates in opposition to the ruling Old Whig Party which had controlled the country for more than 100 years.

In several other ways, President Tolbert had liberalized the system. Indigenous Liberians were given a larger part in the government; the base of public education had been broadened; and the "tone" of those in power had improved.

The "heavy hand" of the past caught up with the Tolbert regime, nevertheless. The president and his inner circle still represented the 5 percent Americo-Liberians who have run the country since 1847, and who have owned most of its wealth.

Tolbert, educated and once president of all the Baptists of the world, represented the elite, the aristocracy, the powerful, regardless of words and gimmicks to the contrary. He and his inner circle wielded personal, economic and military power.

In recent months, when opposition against him became overt, Tolbert, sad to say, reached backward for the old tools — arrests, imprisonments, killings.

The opposition, with a new taste of freedom, struck back, with even more killings and assassinations, arrests and imprisonments, and speedy military trials and executions.

Those Americans who know individual Liberians and who have visited Liberia can only hope that, out of the ashes of the present, Sgt. Samuel Doe, the new chief of state, will be able to build a new nation —a nation more people —serving and where the benefits of government will be shared by all segments of the population; in the case, especially with the indigenous Liberians.

No American can be totally and adamantly against all revolution. After all, we are the beneficiaries of revolution. We do shudder, nevertheless, when we see a little country killing off the best trained of its people; we shudder, also, because there is never guarantee or surety that new regimes mean improved regimes.

Most of all, there is always the hope that internal dissatisfactions and maladjustments can be corrected short of violence. Sometimes, however, there seems no other way out, since the rich and powerful seldom give up, or share, easily or willingly.

Friends of Liberia hope and pray that the blood bath is over and that the black African country —never a colony of any European nation — will take a new lease on life.

As the black community in the United States has learned, black peoples and black institutions suffer most of all where and when there is disunity and self-destruction within the group.

Friends of Liberia, including the United States, at this time, need to stand by our sister republic, in the spirit, at least, that out of present sorrow much good may come.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THE AFRO will be present in the Rose Garden of the White House when Baltimore's Clarence Mitchell Jr. receives the nation's highest award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Watch for the special we do on the 101st Senator, as he is called;

ACCOMPANYING Mr. Mitchell will be members of his family which includes the men who along with him make the only clan in the nation on every level of government.

THEY ARE Cong. Parren J. Mitchell; Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III and City Councilman Michael Bowen Mitchell.

THE WHITE HOUSE will guest a large group this morning Friday when over 50 black ministers and leaders gather for a conference with the President and his advisors. Among those present will be Revs. David Sloan, Theodore C. Jackson and A.C.D. Vaughn. Rev. Walter Thomas reveals he and Rev. Vaughn were called upon to select the distinguished group for the session which begins at 9a.m. and continues through noon and a luncheon.

THE HONORED GUESTS received word by Mailgram from Carter's special assistant, Louis Martin.

DAVID SLAON and his wife Jo Rogers Sloan, the Red Cross exec, are among our favorite people. Dave used to be our City Editor.

HOW TIME PASSES. Now the couple has a grandbaby age 21 months. S- She is cute as a button and has the pretty name of Nicole Rogers. Her father is Jo's son, Donnie Rogers by a former marriage. Mother is Corliss Rogers.

RONNIE who is now out of the service is retiring as a staff sergeant of the Marines and will join his stepfather, Dave, in his law offices in the Ashburton Insurance Co. Building at Liberty Heights and Garrison.

DAVE says that the addition of Ronnie and his family to their household is like having ice cream and cake all the time, they's so happy.

SUNDAY is a great day. At 4 p.m. the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Club, Baltimore Chapter will observe Founders Day at a stellar program at 4 p.m. at Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights. Mrs. Mary Singletary, the national president, is speaker.

HONOREES are Miss Anita Williams, the great Catholic Cha Charities lady and the one whom

Cardinal Shehan sent for to go to Rome when he received the Red Berefta; Mrs. Thelma Cox, the noted l. the Supreme Bench jurist "most likely to succeed" MRS. DELORES L. THORNTON is chairlady and Mrs. Edith M. Thomas, president.

YOUR NEXT best bet for a glorious occasion is the May 25 recognition banquet for Josephine Ora Young, the illustrious ret retired Baltimore County school teacher who has been for many years our greatest NAACP and Freedom House worker.

CALL or write Timothy E Walden, treasurer, 4106 Kathland Ave., Baltimore, 21207 for the $15 each tickets at Martins West, 6:30 p.m.

EDDIE R. WILLIAMS, president, Joint Center for Political Studies, Washington, D.C., is the Commencement speaker at Bowie State College May 17, 10 a.m.

C AND P TEL. CO. will pay you for the phones you have left over when you are moving. That's $4 you can collect if you have any you can not use. Credit will be applied to your bill.

GRACE AND ST. PETERS PARISH has its Auction May 3 at 12:30 p.m. in conjunction with the ir International Celebration and Festival at the school, 707 Park Ave.

TOWSON'S ANNUAL Festival is also Saturday.

AND LO AND BEHOLD, the top one, the Waterfront Traders Fair at Fells Point.

GERTRUDE M PARKER, our longtime AFRO friend, writes us that friends and relatives of Charlotte Elaine Johnson attended tha dedication of the Henry P. Johnson Neighborhood Park at Reicher Street.

The event was in Landover, Md. last Saturday and the lovely park was named for Charlotte's husband.

The Johnsons were the first residents of the community and he th first president of the Royale Gardeners' Civic Asso.

Judge Johnson was graduated from Douglas High in Baltimore and then he attended West Va. State College and received a degree in business administration.

He received a Juris Doctor from American U. On the program fo for the Park Dedication was John B. Bauman Jr. of Prince Georges County Planning Board. And, Senator Tommie Broadwater of the Md. General Assembly; Judge Sylvanie Woods Sr., Harold D Lowber; St Matthews Episcopal Church;

Also, James Clark, Civil Air Patrol and many other distinguished persons.

FROM BALTIMORE were Mrs. Vereta Butler, Mrs. Gertrude Parker, M Mrs Desdemonia Levi, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Levi Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William A. Ross Jr., Elliott Ross, Everett Ross and son and grandaughter and Phillip Roane.

THANKS GERTRUDE. WRite us some more good news soon.

APPLICATIONS are now open for handicapped children who wish to go to Camp Greentop this summer. Call 323-0500 Ext. 61 for information.

PRESIDENT CARTER can rest his nerves and not worry so much. According to the stars, he will again be elected. The horoscope which told him officially last time that he would walk into the White House with no sweat is again telling the same thing.

THE ONE whom the New York Times and all the big media told about after the horoscope of three years ago came out, is Moby Dick who used to write for the AFRO. Moby Dick first came to our attention when AFRO Board Chairman John H. Murphy III visiting Haiti and cousin Marsha German, met the delightful person who has such fantastic powers.

A LONG DISTANCE call received Thursday from Moby Dick through Ma Marsha states that the full Presidential Horoscope is now compi complete and ready for delivery again as the last time.

THE FIRST ONE was delivered to Carter by Baltimore's Dwight Pettit, who was also psychic enough two years ahead of time to claim Carter for president. Attorney Pettit is still in on the front line as a top advisor and he'll take the tapes to Carter again soon.

COPE says 10 million more Americans will be eligible to vote for this year's presidential election than four years ago. Some 100 million will go to the polls. C "salty" and " a fox and the sour grapes" type.

HARD TIMES bring out plenty get-rich schemes and there are lots of Sweepstakes offers in the mail — so much so the Postal authorities can not keep up with them.

One of the worst is the horse races now going strong on Maryland tracks— catching the poor with their small cash by the thousands— all hoping to win some money for rent, food and clothes.

THE KIPLINGER TAX Letter warns that the highest taxes in history are on the way. The letter also tells how you can give employees tax-free pay and how to come out ahead by giving stocks to minors.

IF YOU GET the Kiplinger Letter from 1729 H. St., NW Washington perhaps you can save yourself countless dollars next time.

Year of the Family — By Marion Banfield

Parental roles, responsibilities

By Marion M. Banfield

With "Kramer vs. Kramer" winning the top Academy award, there will be much discussion about parental roles and responsibilities. Like it or not, family structure is changing.

It is particularly difficult and often painful to witness the changing roles of women. On the one hand, teenagers are reproducing babies at an alarming rate. Yet, more mature women, particularly middle class employed women, are very consciously limiting the number of babies they produce.

Those least able to assume the responsibilities of parenthood are going through the biological processes of reproduction. What a sad state of affairs!

Bringing a baby into the world is an important complexity. That is why intelligence and emotional maturity and stability should be the foundation for parenthood.

In "Kramer vs. Kramer" we found that being a mother was not the only role which was satisfying to this caring woman.

Alcoholism, depression and insanity were escapes from that one role in the past. There have always been women who undertook motherhood as a most rewarding experience. Dissatisfaction with that as the primary and all-consuming role is not new. Women are finding less self-destructive ways of coping.

What is new is the outward, verbal, conscious expression of dissatisfaction. There is going to be less hesitancy to leave children with the father either at the "convenience" of the mother or by the court.

What we will need to understand is that the movie mother dearly loved her son. Her husband's self indulgence in his career deprived her of the emotional support she required as a wife, as a person.

No child can fulfill the entire emotional needs of an adult. Since feelings of being dependent upon another person are part of being human, we must also recognize the need for interdependence.

Family members need each other. Family members need to meet emotional needs of another person. We receive love and understanding and acceptance.

For survival in an atmosphere of family stability we give as well as receive. Mr. Kramer gave little until he learned to give to his son.

It took a woman willing to go beyond her own needs for removal of guilt, for great loving of her son for deep understanding and respect to allow the boy to remain in his father's home.

Much of the outrage against the mother will come from women as well as men. Part of the anger will be the emotional need to keep women safely in traditional and often religiously sanctioned roles. Change is abhored and feared.

Nevertheless, changes within the family are constantly evolving.

Mrs. Banfield is director of Family Life Education with Family and Children's Society.

—MORE LETTERS—

Salute to Walk-A-Thon finisher

Dear AFRO:

My name is Happy Mitchell and as an incentive for the pledgers of the March of Dimes Walk - A - Thon to actually send in their money, and for the courageous effort of my cousin Deidre Tibbs, I strongly feel that Deidre should be saluted.

Deidre, 15, and a ninth grader at Lemmel Junior High, was one of the five in my family who walked in the Walk-A-Thon.

But Deidre has Cerebral Palsy. She has had two major operations on her legs; one foot is two inches longer than the other; she walks on her toes and she limps, but she walked the whole 35 kilometers.

And she walked ahead of three of us!

Deedee, her nickname, was one of the team. She took her turn carrying Marine backpack which contained the water canteen, raisins, carrot sticks, M and Ms, oranges, pineapples, grapes, Gator Gum, extra socks, foot powder, toe pads and pledge sheets.

We exchanged shoes among the five of us to ease our sore toes and feet. She also took her turn carrying the radio which we walked to the beat of whatever tune that was playing on V-103.

Many, many times my daughter, little sister and I would look up to see Deedee and my other sister walking about 20 to 25 paces ahead (we all had on outfits of blue and white for visibility among the crowd) and we would run to catch up.

During those times, I would smile to myself and think while looking at my aching legs and feet, if she can make it so can I.

During the last five or six kilometers, I saw Deedee limp more, take off her shoes, then her socks, walk slower, wince and eventually start to lean on my sister or me.

We started asking and then later begging Deedee to take the bus to the finish line.

But Deedee would grit her teeth, frown, and shake her head and say, "No, I'm going on."

And she did!!!!

I'm so proud of her. The March of Dimes helped her to get this far. If the Pledgers live up to their pledges, the March of Dimes can help many more.

HAPPY MITCHELL

Deidre "Deedee" Tibbs
AFRO photo by Mark Gail

Return Walk-A-Thon pledges

Dear AFRO:

It's really difficult to ask for anything more but ...the whole purpose of the March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon is defeated unless all pledges are turned in.

Therefore, we are asking everyone to mail in their pledges as quickly as possible. Those who do so by May 31 will be eligible to win a 19-inch color television set donated to the March of Dimes by Herget and Company. The winner will be selected at random.

And, it's most important to urge walkers not to send cash ...only checks or money orders.

Unfortunately, there were some who walked without securing sponsors so their walking served no purpose whatsoever. Perhaps they registered too late or misunderstood the reason for our Walk-A-Thon.

We sincerely hope they will be kind enough to mail a contribution to the March of Dimes at 15 Charles Plaza, Baltimore, Md. 21201. By doing so, they too can be a part of our battle against Birth Defects.

Our most sincere thanks to you for your tremendous effort and support.

HARRY F. WRIGHT JR.,
president,
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March of Dimes

Good Friday is 'good for everyone'

Dear AFRO:

I would like to direct a few comments to Charles A. Dugger, writer of the article (April 5, 1980) "Good Friday - good for whom?"

To answer laconically yet factually, I would say," good for everybody."

As you know, Good Friday was the day on which Christ suffered, and died on the cross, died with love in His heart, with forgiveness on His mind, and without a trace of resistance. It was the forerunner of His resurrection which He said would result.

In His wisdom, He knew His death was for a purpose — and that purpose was good.

Good for whom? Good for everybody — His enemies, His friends, and all who would one day learn the Truth about Him and subsequently believe in Him.

Most succinctly expressed, Good Friday signified Hope—hope of a better world to be when mankind has learned the lessons which Christ came on earth to teach; hope of eternal life after death for believers in God's word.

All the things Mr. Dugger mentioned: the social, political, and moral backwardness; the failure to recognize the significance of Easter with its accompanying descent into needless debt, the errors of the criminal justice system, the death of blacks by blacks, the lack of unity among citizens and of honor among leaders, the perpetuation of devious means of genocide, the substitution of evil for good—all are examples of failure to comprehend the meaning and forecasting of Good Friday with its corollary, Easter Sunday.

As Mr. Dugger said, "Good Friday is like any other day," except, I must add, it is the day on which we recall how one man, one God-man, gave up His life to the curse of hanging on a tree for the salvation of sinners like you and me.

God loves you, Mr. Dugger, and so do I. DORETHY DeCASSERES LYMAS

Explaining the Cherry Hill boiler blow-up

Dear AFRO:

In the March 14 AFRO, Samuel L. Banks wrote a column about the Cherry Hill boilers. He stated that there was "no rational reason as to why more than 6,000 Baltimoreans should be subjected to no heat for three consecutive days."

In reference to the Cherry Hill situation there was without question a rational reason:

A. A fuel pipe line broke, spraying at least 500 gallons of heating oil inside the boiler room.

B. This oil ignited when it struck hot machinery inside the boiler room.

This oil had to be removed before the problem of repairs could even be attempted. Tenant volunteers called other residents during the night to determine who needed special assistance.

Flyers were sent out to tenants the very next morning to inform tenants of the situation. Management staff worked around the clock to set up a shelter area in one of the schools (No. 163).

Three different work crews worked around the clock and weathered the cold to repair those boilers. Maintenance staff worked around the clock also delivering space heaters, checking stoves and burners.

Tenant representatives met with housing officials to discuss the likelihood of a recurrence of the problem. In my opinion without question we need a new heating system in Cherry Hill. But there are time factor involved.

In the past two years much needed modernization funds have gone into the heating system. Since the fire here at Cherry Hill a lot of new wiring and burners have been added. During the summer months valves and heating zones will be checked to safeguard the possibility of the same problem happening again.

The Cherry Hill episode without question was and is a real problem, but as a tenant for now I'm happy that every effort is being made to clear the air and solve the problem here.

New boilers are one thing; a new heating system is another (to the tune of $10.5 million). The matter of much needed federal assistance should be acted upon. But the "mills of the Gods grind slowly" (City officials).

I would also like to make Mr. Banks aware of the Resident Advisory Board that represents all public housing in Baltimore City. Because of this Resident Advisory Board much needed federal funds are being utilized in Baltimore City public housing; for example, elderly high rise, Somerset Court, intercom systems, storm windows, doors and cabinets. The list goes on.

Yet federal funds are never enough. Tenants have to be more responsible, but that's another story.

I to would also like to salute the very special tenants here in Cherry Hill for their understanding and helping one another in a very unexpected situation. We also would like to thank the management staff, and maintenance supervisor, John Bokman and Phillip Monroe all of the maintenance staff. We also thank the private home residents who offered assistance to our tenants.

Also Southern District Police Station who kept extra police out on patrol!! and a special thanks to Joe Carbo who gave more than his time.

The heating season is almost over and as a resident of Cherry Hill, I do not intend to relax. We will be fully informed of the updating of the system and the needs. There are no miracles performed in Cherry Hill.

Yet I have to say thanks to public housing for a certain amount of comfort, because I remember the nightmares of the slum landlords. Sir, we are in a lot better shape then others (Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, etc.)

LORRAINE JOHNSON,
resident and president of
the Cherry Hill
Improvement Guild