Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Pomerleau decision

Some police officers, black and white, say Stephen McCown should not have been fired for shooting Ja-Wan McGee in the back.

It was a mistake, they say. True, but in some things one mistake is one too many.

Commissioner Pomerleau made the correct decision in firing McCown.

Earlier, a black official had been dismissed from the force for a lesser mistake — roughing up a white fan at Memorial Stadium — an incident recorded by the relentless eye of a television camera.

We did not quarrel with the commissioner's decision then. Some "mistakes" cannot be condoned.

With this tragic case out of the way insofar as the commissioner and the police department is directly concerned, we feel as do others in the community that Mr. Pomerleau would now do well to meet with officials of the NAACP and other organizations vitally concerned about police-community relationships.

Only the foolish would not want police and our communities to develop some understandings that lessen tensions.

Police brutality is just not going to go away unless a measure of civilian control is introduced into our law enforcement mechanism here.

It will do no good for either side in this issue to rant and rave and further accelerate ill will. What is sorely needed is a no-nonsense approach on both sides.

We percieve Pomerleau's immediate problem on the issue of police brutality to be the historic fact that a predominantly white police force in a predominantly black city is a classic mismatch.

Trouble is built into such an imbalance.

Pomerleau did not invent this imbalance and we have seen tangible efforts on the part of his administration to bring more black and other ethnic group officers on to the force.

The fact remains, a goodly number of this city's policeman do not care for the people they serve on reasons of race alone.

The commissioner's job if he is to effect the rapport needed is to accept this as a given fact and proceed from there.

No leader can "order" racism out of his troops but "racism" can be held within restraints through any number of administrative and policy procedures open to a commissioner.

We think the commissioner's decision regarding officer McCown does much to tell the men under his command that you must "think" first, then act.

That is what the professional policeman must do. To be a true professional law officer is to be a "thinking" cop - not one who reacts because of racial or other stimuli.

On the other side of the coin those in our community who see the dangers inherent in an unchecked series of brutality incidents must also face up to the fact that there are some "bad actors" for whom force is the only procedure policeman, black and white, feel they can follow if they are to handle the situation without loss of their own lives or those of innocent people. The true professional uses only that "force" necessary to get the job done.

There is plenty of room for give and take in such a serious matter as community-police relations and now is an extremely appropriate time for the commissioner and the community to get down to cases.

The CCB board

Charles Tildon and the board of the Community College of Baltimore he chairs deserve everyone's heartiest praise.

In voting not to turn over the Lockwood Building and site on CCB's downtown Harbor campus to the mayor for use in commercial development, Chairman Tildon and his fellow board members showed great wisdom and sensitivity to our city's needs.

The Lockwood Building, named for a distinguished local black educator, is a facility in which the minds of a city are trained to make contributions. There can be no greater mission and the CCB mission is to provide education that leads somewhere.

As we keep telling the mayor we do not need umpteen more hotels, shopping bazaars, office buildings as much as we need a generation of young people trained to be productive citizens.

A trained citizen is usually a job-holding citizen. A job-holder has money to spend. That is what then justifies the commercial development.

First things first. Education is the real ladder to Baltimore's greatness.

We are glad CCB's leadership understands this so well.

New leadership

Like most folk sometimes we worry where our new leaders are coming from.

The near loss of a Vernon Jordan heightens our anxiety.

Recent events give us comfort, however, that there are young warriors developing to help us in our continuing struggle for human dignity and full participation in this culture.

In Annapolis this week poor people pitch tents near the State House to dramatize poverty in this state. They are being led by Carl Snowden, an Annapolitan, who has been growing as a community organizer and political strategist.

The Baltimore NAACP's Herb Singleton is not afraid to address the explosive issue of police-community relations or lack of relations to be more accurate.

Daki Napata, Mary Benns, Bobby Cheeks, P.J. Smith are articulating the concerns of our community in such crucial areas as housing, welfare rights and tenants rights.

In the City Council treshman Kweisi Mfume is saying and doing what his Fourth District constituents voted him in to do.

These are all young or youngish people we are listing but they are in the vanguard — they are on the front lines.

It is encouraging enough, we feel, to have many older fighters again picking up their swords to fight the good fight.

Would you agree that some have grown fat and complacent?

Eliminate hunger in U.S.

Dear AFRO:

No woman, man or child should be hungry in this country.

Yet thousands upon thousands are suffering from permanent and irreversible brain damage caused by protein deprivation. The amount of children in the United States suffering from anemia is surprisingly high, and in a number of instances the mean hemoglobin concentration of children from low income backgrounds has been found to be lower than that of rural Pakastani infants.

Too many people kid themselves into believing that the extremes of privation have been eliminated in the United States in the process of becoming the world's wealthiest nation. America has not escaped these extremes.

DR. SHEILA WATERS

Conclusions? African-American

TARGET OF POOR PEOPLE'S CRUSADE is Maryland's State House in Annapolis. See story page one.

MADELINE MURPHY

Tent City only the first

With Baltimore's second highest unemployment rate in the land, Tent City is not a farce nor a meaningless gesture, it is a hard acknowledgement of a bleak condition of black poverty.

Underlying this condition of super high unemployment is the phantom plan and timetable to push disadvantaged blacks out into the suburbs.

First, because there are no jobs. Secondly, because the suburbs rather than being a new frontier, provide an unseen reservation for the sins of commission of instituional and individual racism.

Reservations, as the original Americans have experienced them, are waiting burial grounds filled with internal strife, neglect, self - hatred and despair.

What is even more debilitating about this contrivance and convivance is the helplessness of more affluent blacks who are unable to forestall this doomsday, that also hangs like the sword of Damocles over their heads.

We know historically the last hired is the first fired. We have seen this conundrum spread among our ranks as auto and tire factories close, as mills shut down, as immigrants replace us, accepting lower pay and longer working hours, as the break - down of unionism follows.

We also see at the same time, the divide and rule aspect. It wreaks upon all disadvantaged whites, blacks, Chicanos, Haitians, Cubans, etc., the clawing and trampling that keeps their meager existences for and to themselves. Looking out for number one.

And in the midst of all of this we now have draft registration for young men 19 and 20, the cream of our crop, where the drums of war may soon entice them, now, perhaps as Stevie Wonder noted, accompanied by the more hep, suggestive disco beat.

It wouldn't surprise me if a new disco march has not already been commissioned by the Department of Defense to lure them more easily into the waiting arms of Uncle Sam.

The songs of the Siren, the Pied Piper, Circe, all rolled into one.

But back again to square one.

What, beside presenting demands to the governor, can Tent City do to turn back the inevitable?

Well, we have already seen in the Ja-Wan McGee case, where police action was swift, almost fatal, mass protest though unpopular reversed the imbalance of justice delayed.

Let us be warned, however, the counterface of mounting antagonisms if left unchecked, where white marauders ride into black housing projects like Westport and Cherry Hill, rifles loaded, shooting into bedrooms, into the streets, shall return us to the atrocities of Hitler's Germany.

Yet in the face of this was overheard from a young black womans student: "I 'm a conservative, I don't bother about any of this — it doesn't affect me!"

Is this then the answer to square one? That so long as one isn't bothered about the multiplicity of problems that don't affect the individuals nothing is required of the individual to help the lot of a whole neglected mass of people who are inevitably inter - connected, inter - related?

Like the student, still among us are those newly affluent, or newly powerful, who identify so closely with the enemy that they deny there is racism because looking out for number one is thier purpose for living. And so it seems the time has come for the revival of "teach - ins."

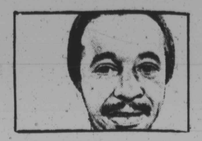
First to review the recent past, then to retell the struggles of the '60's; reenforce self - image, and finally to record indelibly the struggles and sacrifices of our freedom fighters upon our consciousness.

Then we might establish coalitions; develop agendas that strengthen our ranks; help us hang together; fight together, before the nooses of the lynch mobs, the guns of war, seek us out separately.

At this moment, however, Tent City in Annapolis must be only the first of many such protests.

For without such vision, in times like these, the people shall surely perish.

PARREN MITCHELL



Housing and Community Development Act of 1980

This week the House of Representatives debated the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980; H.R. 7262, which reauthorizes the Community Development Block Grant and Urban Development Action Grant programs through Fiscal Year 1983.

It eliminates hold-harmless grant provisions and reauthorizes numerous other rental, homeowner and housing assistance programs in Fiscal Year 1981. And, it establishes a new multifamily rental housing assistant program, amends the Temporary Mortgage Assistance program, increases FHA mortgage limits, revises the Section 701 Comprehensive Planning grant program, and reauthorizes rural housing assistance prigrams in Fiscal Year 1981.

I supported the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, but with some reservation.

While the 1980 bill is a step in that direction, it does not adequately address our real housing needs.

Although this year's authorization provides funding for more than 320,000 units of subsidized housing, it represents a modest increase in assisted housing spread over the next 15 to 30 years.

The subsidized housing figure constitutes a significant cut in the level of assisted housing units in Fiscal Year 1976, the only year in which a 400,000 unit target was met. Furthermore, only 103,558 units will actually result in additions to the housing stock through new construction or substantial rehabilitation under the Section 8 housing program. Approximately 175,000 units will assist tenants in existing housing.

Given the housing scenario for low or moderate income persons, there is a legitimate need for additional housing units. Of the 5.8 million low-income households, 4.6 million renters and 1.6 million owners, the vast majority are paying 50 percent of their income for housing.

During the last 10 years, the number of affordable rental housing units have disappeared. In 1977, the number of renter households with incomes below $4,000 had fallen to 5,815,000 and the number of low rent units had dropped to 2,052,000 which created a gap of almost 4 million units. The net loss of affordable rental housing was 500,000 units annually.

These figures are exacerbated by the existence of physically inadequate housing and the displacement problem. By 1977, approximately 6 million households were living in physically inadequate housing: 2 million elderly; 1.5 million non-elderly; 0.7 million single-parent house-holds with children; and 0.5 million couples with no children.

Twenty percent of these households met the income eligibility criteria for the Section 8 program. But in places like Baltimore where there are presently 13,500 families on the waiting list for Section 8 housing assistance, there are no available units.

In addition, nearly 500,000 households annually are displaced by public or private action as reflected in the Annual Housing Survey. This figure does not include those persons displaced because of deterioration, abandonment, conversion or rental increases.

Therefore, it is safe to assume that more than 1 million households are displaced from year to year. Moreover, since the vacancy rates in most major metropolitan areas are below 1 percent, it has become impossible for low and moderate income persons to find housing.

Earlier this year I introduced legislation, H. R. 6736, which would establish federal policies to assist in eliminating the involuntary displacement of families and individuals from their neighborhoods; assist in minimizing the involuntary displacement of families and individuals from their homes; and provide additional federal assistance to families and individuals involuntarily displaced from their homes.

LETTERS

Democratic convention delegate selection proves blacks are 'politically active'

Dear AFRO:

It is apparent from the June 7 Democratic Caucus Election results for delegates to the Democratic Party's national convention that African-American women understood the process and got out the vote!

In four of the eight congressional districts, African-American women won delegate slots.

In numerical order by congressional district, the winners are:

District 1 — Mrs. Janice E. Pickett, Carter Delegate;

District 3 — Dr. Gwendolyn J. Cooke, Carter Delegate;

District 6 — Ms. Evelyn M. Johnson, Carter Delegate;

District 7 — Ms. Carolyn Stith, Carter Delegate and Ms. Agnes Welch, Carter Delegate.

It is interesting to note that only one of the districts, the 7th, has a predominately African-American voting population.

African-American males didn't do too badly, either. They won delegate seats in two congressional districts. Sen. Tommie Broadwater Jr. won as a Carter delegate in the 5th Congressional District and Councilman Kweisi Mfume and Terry W. Taylor won as Kennedy delegates in the 7th Congressional District.

Among the several African-Americans elected as alternates was Dr. C. Vernon Gray, professor at Morgan State University, Mrs. Vera P. Hall, member of the State Central Committee, 41st District, and Delegate Wendell Phillips of the same district, won at-large delegate slots which was no easy task.

Conclusions? African-Americans are politically active throughout Maryland. Our collective voices can make a difference. All we have to do is to continue to strengthen our already existing network.

You see, there are a few of us who believe in being "part of the solution, not part of the problem."

DR. GWENDOLYN COOKE

Plan to halt prison crowding

Dear AFRO:

Brockbridge Correctional Facility, commonly known as the "Main Camp," was designed and built to house 450 minimum security status prisoners. It presently houses 550 to 575 prisoners.

To accommodate the influx of inmates, double bunks, gun towers and additional correctional officers were hired. All conceivable methods were taken to ensure control, housing and monitoring of the increasing prisoner population.

The lack of ability to obtain services supposedly rendered by counselors, lack of institutional and work release jobs, and inadequate medical services are a result of the increasing prisoner population. The public has seen mandates from the courts, as a result of overcrowding suits filed by prisoners. To rectify existing conditions and situations within this facility, must a suit be initiated before solutions are considered?

The elimination of existing cruel and inhumane conditions of overcrowding at Brockbridge could be accomplished. Brockbridge is housing prisoners, as well as other institutions, pending a six-month-delay parole release date. Normally, available release techniques could be used to eliminate some of the present problems and overcrowding, in relatively short time.

The Parole Commission could undertake a phased development plan, similar to that presently being used by the Division of Corrections. The plan for delayed release parolees would reduce some of the existing problems, within, and lessen the overcrowding.

Not only can this be done at Brockbridge, but at other institutions as well. Implementation of a phased development plan would also reduce inmate frustration, lessen misuse of correctional resources, and decrease periods of confinement.

For many prisoners, a system could be adopted in Maryland. Persons sentenced to imprisonment by the courts, as well as persons whose parole and probation is revoked, would allow a delayed release parolee the privilege of being released.

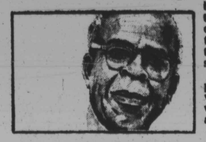
This option is an ideal way to eliminate some of the existing problems, which were the end result of overcrowding at Brockbridge. The plan can be phased in quickly, it is very flexible, and adjustable to meet the needs of the community and the offender.

The problems of overcrowded prisons are serious, and such a release plan should be instituted. It can be implemented without any threat to the community, simply because it is already being practiced in Community Corrections.

LARRY J. WILSON

G. JAMES FLEMING

The dark is vicious



Our great-grandmothers used to say, generations ago, that the cold air is vicious, as they chinked cracks in thier shacks, their cabins or their little houses, "to keep out the cold."

Some undoubtedly also warned that the dark is also vicious or, translated, that the dark was something to fear. Certainly, that was the message that little children received, and most of such little ones grew up "afraid of the dark."

Indeed, darkness does make a difference.

Several times it has come to mind how different might be the political fortunes of Sen. Edward Kennedy if his Chappaquiddick accident had taken place at 11 o'clock in the morning instead of at 11 o'clock at night.

Chappaquiddick would (or might) have blown away long ago if the sun were shining when his car tumbled in the fatal waters in which his woman compaion drowned (a companion wham he was giving a lift home, according to the Kennedy said).

After all, many men and women give a ride to a member of the other sex and there is no question, no cloud, no moral suspicion—ride to work, ride from, ride to or back from church, a lift to school or college, nothing that is not above board in these gestures of neighborliness and chivalry. In fact, ever so often, the government, via TV and radio, urges the citizens to share their cars, to carpool.

Occasionally, an accident does occur and a guest rider sues but, seldom in there an immoral implication. The most we hear about the driver is, "just too bad." That is, if the driving and the accicent took place in the daylight, or if there were more than two persons in the car or, if two, that they were not of opposite sex.

After dark, all kinds of implications are read into a man a woman in a car, or a man and a woman in an isolated, wooded area.

As you have guessed by now, these thoughts have surfaced again because of the recent attempt on the life of Vernon Jordan, executive director of the National Urban League.

Many, many people have forgotten that here is a 44-year-old national figure, a respected spokesman for the black cause, and a real ambassador across the races, who nearly lost his life in a near-assassination, and is still in critical condition.

What these people do remember is that he was in the company of a woman, in an automobile, just before she dropped him off at a motel in Fort Wayne, Ind. Most important in their memory is that it was around 2 o'clock in the morning; in the dark.

If Jordan has been taken from a luncheon speech in mid-afternoon, with the sun shining, there would have been much less ado, perhaps none, about the whole affair.

But, it was not only after dark. The woman driver was white and this fact especially nettled some black women and some white contributors. The report that Jordan had been to Mrs. Coleman's apartment "for coffee and conversation," after his dinner speech, nettled them more.

That Mrs. Coleman, a liberal and member of the local Urban League's board, has been divorced four times, only thickened the mouthings about the Jordan episode.

All of this, or most, because, as in Chappaquiddick, the headline-making shooting took place while it was still dark.

Black women are saying that black men "must use better judgement," that "they must remember that this is still America," that they cannot afford to be "too chivalrous" or "too courteous" where white women are concerned.

Other black women hold white women suspect, anyway, especially in their friendliness (even above-board) towards "the best men of our race."

These admonitions mean that black men must feel forced never to extend a courtesy to a white woman or accept a a courtesy — the usual amenities which anyone may feel moved to offer, without thinking. And, no chivalrous gestures after dark.

Jordan had given a speech to a dinner meeting of the Fort Wayne Urban League. Most speakers do not like to eat immediately before a major speech. It is not unusual, therefore for one acting as host or hostess, or a small group, to invite such a speaker for a snack, a drink, or a cup of coffee after the program. Even more often, someone offers to take the speaker to his hotel or to his train or his plane.

In general, the speaker just wants "to rest my bones" or to catch his transportation. No "monkey business" on the agenda. Often on his mind is whether anybody will remember to take care of him after the function.

The number is beyond count of the times a white host or hostess has taken a black speaker of artist to his next stop (hotel, train or plane) and the number of times a black host or hostess has taken a white speaker or artist to his next stop — sometimes in daylight, sometimes after an evening program.

Nevertheless, prominent men, white and black, must be careful. Black men, of standing, must be especially careful. The darkness is tricky, dangerous and vicious, in the ways pointed out above.

Black men must be especially cautious of the dark when in the company of white women (sometimes of women who look white). This is still the United Sates of America!

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THE TWO BALTIMOREANS we mourn this week were known by literally thousands of persons from all walks of life.

One was Mrs. Adlener Bertha Crawley Wise, a trustee of St. Paul Baptist Church and the sister of its pastor, Dr. George A. Crawley Jr. Her life's story was printed in Tuesday's AFRO. She died June 14 at North Charles Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Last rites were at St. Paul noon June 19 with her brother officiating. We share the sorrow of the family, one of the most respected in Maryland.

THE OTHER deceased mourned by many was a school teacher 43 years, Mrs. Anne Carson Payne, who was found dead at her home at Liberty Hgts. Ave. June 13 at 4:45 p.m.

At first friends feared foul play but Northwestern police and the Medical Examiner determined she sustained a heart attack and fell in the living room against a stereo. Thus the injury to her head.

Last rites June 19 at Bethel AME witnessed hundreds of friends and former coworkers present to recall Anne's great contributions to the community before and after she retired. She was 75.

WORD is that she wrote her own obituary a few years before she died. Hozever, here is the story of her full life as printed in the funeral program.

ANNE CARSON PAYNE was born in Cleveland, N.C. Feb. 13, 1905. Born into a prominent family, her father was one of the founders of the Livingston College in Salisbury, N.C. She was the second oldest child in a fammily of five; born to the late George and Annie Carson. She departed this life June 13, 1980.

After her early education in the South, the family moved to Baltimore. It was here she committees, the Eastside Community Council, which led to her being active sponsor for the annual Blue Ribbon Tea in East Baltimore.

Because of this event, many deprived children were able to attend summer camp.

At one time, 25 Johns Hopkins interns examined her pupils annually because of her involvement with the hospital.

This dynamic principal and her entire school family worked with former Mayor Thomas D' Alesandro Jr. in trying to fight blights in East Baltimore.

ANNE was an active member in the Phi Delta Kappa Sorority and the Pacesetters. She enjoyed playing cards, traveling, and hosting dinner parties. One felt an air of welcome when entering her beautiful, well-appointed home. Good humor, witty remarks, original jokes and comical gestures were a part of her personality.

For many years, she was a devoted member of Bethel AME Church, working with the ushers and the Senior Choir.

Being a proud and determined person, touching many lives, especially those of children, Anne continued to carry on, regardless of illness.

ANNE CARSON PAYNE

Her interest in civic and social activities varied. She was an active member of the For - Win - Ash Garden Club in Ashburton. Upon entering her schools, one could not miss the fragrance of fresh roses and narcissus flowing through corridors.

Some of her other activites included serving on several of the Johns Hopkins Hospital committees, the Eastside Community Council, which led to her being active sponsor for the annual Blue Ribbon Tea in East Baltimore.

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Being a proud and determined person, touching many lives, especially those of children, Anne continued to carry on, regardless of illness.

Therefore, we shall not weep for ANNE. Instead, we shall rejoice in the beautiful memory of a dear friend, a great educator, and humanitarian.

Surviving are two devoted sisters, Georgia Laeuretta Hall, Christine C. Anderson; one uncle, Thomas V. Carson; one aunt Ruth C. Hicks; one nephew, Harry Anderson; one great niece - Lisa Anerson; one brother - in - law, John Henson; one sister - in law, Thelma Carson; one Godson, Warren Barkley Jr., and cousins and friends.

Year of the Family, By Marion Banfield

Plan now for September success

Dear Family Members:

School is over until September. Can you sit together and plan how you will spend your summer?

Some of you plan not to open a book until September. What a terrible waste of learning that would be. What is the Enoch Pratt Library for? Is it for the family across the street?

I have enjoyed meeting some students in the GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Program. Class 703 at Calverton Junior High School was my last group contact.

You would enjoy meeting members of that class. They have to be able to read two years above their grade level or they have to be gifted in their ability to solve math problems, be superior in ability to find logical solutions to a variety of problems. They can also be very talented in music and art.

What I hope is that during the summer some of you will make getting into a GATE class one of your goals.

Mothers and fathers, why not phone Dr. Gwendolyn Cook of GATE to inquire about details at 396-6098.

Since we all cannot be gifted and blessed with outstanding talent, there is a place for everyone. First, we need to quit excusing our failure to read well. The boys in the family would do well to learn in classrooms. The Army, Navy and Marines are not looking for dropouts.

Watch their campaigns. They want high school graduates who can read and comprehend modern scientific information. So if big brother has been cutting classes and planning to use the military service as a catch up point, forget it!

Who in your family can map out trips around town, readings, volunteer services to make a profitable summer? Here is where the family can share ideas and develop a summer program.

Plan now. Follow through. Evaluate Sept. 1.

Sincerely yours,
MARION M. BANFIELD
Mrs. Banfield is director of Family Life Education at Family and Children's Society.

Mel de Rutledge Jr.

Urban America Housing Report

Over the past few years, we have all become much more aware of the amount of water we are using. And yet, despite our awareness and despite the water shortages that various parts of the country have experienced, we continue to waste this limited resource.

With the average family flushing away almost half of all the water it uses, the toilet remains the most inefficient apparatus in the average home.

Money down the drain

Five to seven gallons of water are used each time a toilet (even a modern toilet) is flushed. If you stop to consider the fact that, according to a government study, all it takes to properly flush a toilet is 2.3 to 3 gallons of water, you can appreciate how much is being wasted.

If you own an apartment building in which each family is flushing an average of 135 gallons a day, while it requires only 70 gallons to effectively do the job, you might want to look into ways to use less water, and save yourself some money at the same time.

For the homeowner, water savings can be helpful for more than monetary reasons. If a house is serviced by a septic tank, the waste volume should be kept as low as possible.

By halving the flush volume, an equilibrium in the septic tank can be achieved. This means than that the tank can dispose of wastes without periodic pumping, thus saying the homeowner another expense.

Simple device to save water

The trick, then, is to find a way to reduce, by about half, the amount of water that runs through a toilet. This can be achieved by installing an inexpensive apparatus known as "Little John, in the tank of a toilet.

This water-saving device is made from a special type of plastic and consists of two square flaps that are easily installed on either side of the drain pipe. There are no screws, bolts, or any other installation equipment necessary since the flaps simply wedge into place between the front and back of the tank.

Ordinarily, when a toilet is flushed, all the water goes out of the tank, but with this water-saver which in essence creates two dams around the drain pipe, only the middle section of the tank is emptied and about half the water remains in the flush tank.

The Little John's unique design creates a baffle effect that causes an increase in water energy, so that the flush is actually more powerful even though it uses less water.

Now, you might say, that sounds great, but you have heard that putting bricks in the tank will produce the same effect. So why not use bricks?

Well, you would have to use 11 standard-size bricks ($8\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$) in order to displace the same amount of water that is displaced by one Little John.

In addition, bricks will interfere with the functioning of the toilet, can clog the plumbing unit with debris, and will result in lowering the flush pressure.

...And money

It is estimated that by using a Little John, the average homewner will save up to 20 percent on his annual water bill. For owners of apartment complexes, the news is even better. According to the manufacturer of Little John, the capital investment, which qualifies for the investment tax credit, is returned within four months.

Who uses Little John?

For a starter, Little Johns are used in the White House toilets. In addition, about 400 apartment and commercial building complexes in Washington, D.C. use Little John.

So does the city of St. Petersburg, Fla., along with 300,000 other users in the United States and the Virgin Islands.

The device has been approved by HUD, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the General Administration, and the Department of the Interior.

Save water, save money

—MORE LETTERS—

'Crass, insensitive' stereotype

Dear AFRO:

I am compellled to respond to a letter to the editor which appeared on June 10, 1980 entitled "Blind Leading the Blind". The letter was political by intent, but crass and insensitive in reality.

True, the AFRO-AMERICAN did not write the letter, so it does not necessarily represent the opinion of the paper. However, the AFRO-AMERICAN staff did headline the letter and print it.

How can a paper, dedicated to serving a minority, be so insensitive as to stereotype another minority? Would the AFRO-AMERICAN headline and print material that equated black with evil or that condoned the "Amos and Andy" image?

The blind are a minority in this society. We are fighting discrimination in employment, housing and equal access to opportunity.

Statistics show that over 70 percent of the working age blind population are unemployed or underemployed. We are struggling through the courts and with national and state legislation to secure our civil rights as first-class citizens.

Blindness is a characteristic like the color of one's skin. Our problem is not the lack of sight, but the public's misconception of us.

The public tends to believe that if you are blind you are helpless, stupid, bumbling, etc. For many years the public tended to believe that if you are black you were lazy, shiftless and ate watermelon.

After years of fighting for equal opportunity by getting legislation passed and watchdogging to keep it implemented, black people have broken many of the attitudinal barriers that kept them from enjoying the full benefits of this society on a basis of equality.

The blind are working for the same civil rights of equal access to opportunity and the elimination of stereotypes and attitudinal barriers that keep us from being fully integrated members of society.

By the way, the blind do lead the blind. The 50,000 member National Federation of the Blind, headquartered in Baltimore, is the oldest and largest social action organization composed of the blind speaking for themselves. We are dedicated to the goal of full integration and first-class citizenship for the blind.

This is why we can not understand the insensitivity of the writer of the letter or the lack of mutual concern for civil rights on the part of the AFRO-AMERICAN editorial staff for headlining and promoting discrimination.

WILLIE J. THOMPSON
President,
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Tribute to Esther Lazarus

Dear AFRO:

It is a tribute to the enduring vitality of Esther Lazarus that her death, even at 80 years of age, seems untimely. We are now facing severe cutbacks in our nation's commitment to the poor and disadvantaged.

In these times "Miss Lazarus" — with her energy, sharp mind and indomitable commitment — would have been in the forefront of efforts to protect the rights of people in need.

I first met Miss Lazarus as a young caseworker at the City Department of Public Welfare in 1959. I was impressed and inspired then, and when I became Director of the agency 20 years later, I felt a fundamental responsibility to continue the high standards that she had set for the Department.

Because this nation's welfare programs are so tragically inadequate and administratively unmanageable, every public welfare agency in the country faces a nearly impossible task. Few agencies anywhere cope and yet manage to remain as sensitive to the needs of the poor as the Baltimore City Department of Social Services. A major reason for this, in my view, is the legacy of commitment and the values established by Miss Lazarus.

I believe I can speak for thousands of co-workers and hundreds of thousands of clients, past and present, who mourn her passing but are deeply grateful for the traditions and inspiration she has left behind.

KALMAN R. HETTLEMAN
Secretary,
Department of Human Resources

Glossary of real estate terms

Average (Rate of Return) — The return on an investment calculated by averaging the total cash flow over the years during which the flow is received by the investor.

Balloon Mortgage — A mortgage with periodic installments of principal and interest that do not fully amortize the loan. The balance of the mortgage is due in a lump sum at the end of the term.

Bank, Mutual Savings — State chartered financial institutions that invest mainly in mortgages.

Bankrupt — A person, firm, or corporation, who through, a court proceeding, is relieved from the payment of all debts after the surrender of all assets to a court-appointed trustee, for the protection of creditors.

Base Rent — The minimum fixed guaranteed rent in a commercial property lease.

Basic Rent — The rent charged in a subsidized housing project and computed on the basis of a maximum subsidy.

Betterment — An improvement that increases property value as distinguished from repairs or replacements that simply maintain value.

Try neighborhood flea markets in inner-city

Dear AFRO:

With the coming of spring comes the opening of Saturday and Sunday flea markets at many of the area's drive-in theatres.

As the prices of new goods become out of sight and people have less spendable income, growing numbers of people are buying second-hand items. Others are looking for ways to supplement their incomes by selling their unneeded possessions or becoming flea market merchants.

These flea markets look a bit like Europe after World War II. But the poor in our inner cities are in greatest need of such markets — and even more so as the poor are hit hardest by Carter's austerity program.

However, the drive-in flea markets are all located in surrounding counties making it very difficult for the poor to take advantage of them.

One very humble suggestion to help our growing poor to survive a little longer in this "recession" is for Saturday and Sunday neighborhood flea markets to be tried at our inner city parks and schools.

A. ROBERT KAUFMAN

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