Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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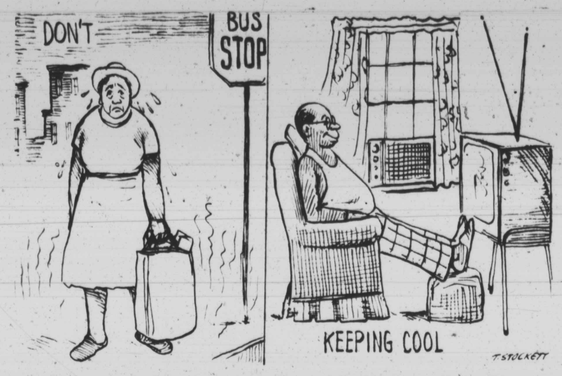

Our Republicans

We are pleased as punch with Dr. Aris Allen in his role as Secretary of the Republican National Convention now winding down in Detroit.

He acquitted himself splendidly as did all of the GOP convention delegates from our community.

First reports indicate that Maryland black Republicans had a strong hand in seeing to it that Dr. Benjamin Hooks, the NAACP executive director, was able to speak to the national Republican body.

Republicans and Democrats need to be eternally reminded that the American dream still eludes most black citizens and we feel Hooks' presence and his gracious reception by the predominantly white Republican (and conservative) delegates certainly did our cause no harm.

For all of its historic connections with the rich and powerful, the Republican Party in honoring Aris Allen at least proves it appreciates longtime workers in GOP struggles.

We keep saying that our progress can be accelerated if the two-party system is strengthened. St. George Crosse, Victor Clark, Maddie Mitchell and other black GOPers are bringing some new vitality to the Grand Old Pary.

We think our community will be better served if we really begin to give ourselves more choices. We are still monolithically Democratic in Maryland. We need to have strong roles in both parties so that we won't always end up with all our eggs in one basket at voting time.

We went all the way with Jimmy Carter and at this time every poll and survey indicates that black Americans are thinking that while Carter made sense in 1976 he is giving us grave pause in 1980. Nothing has improved. So here's a hurrah for the GOPers from our community.

Full count needed

Last week we stressed the urgent necessity of all citizens cooperating with the U. S. Bureau of the Census.

We are in receipt of a communique from Mayor William Donald Schaefer which cogently presents the city's need that every Baltimorean stand up and be counted.

The mayor reminds us that "Baltimore stands to lose millions of dollars presently going to welfare payments, senior citizen programs, recreation activities, employment programs and many other people-oriented programs.

"These cuts could occur if Baltimore does not prove that its population dropped less sharply than claimed by the 1980 census.

"The first returns from the census show the city losing more than 155,000 people in the last ten years, bringing the total population down from 905,759 in 1970 to 750,536 in 1980.

"Since Baltimore receives about $227 each year from the federal government for every man, woman, and child living within its boundaries, the city stands to lose a total of $35 million a year for the next ten years.

"Those who will be hardest hit by the loss of funds are the poor, elderly, and minority populations who depend most heavily on federally supported programs.

"Making matters worse the drop in population could also result in Baltimore's losing some of its elected representatives in Washington and Annapolis. Fewer elected representatives means a weaker voice over the next decade for programs city residents need.

"To prevent these drastic cuts and the loss in representation, the city is mounting a last ditch drive to boost its population count.

"First, it is calling on all residents who were missed in the census to fill out a special short census form. The forms can be obtained from neighborhood multi-purpose centers or by calling 396-1980.

"All residents are asked to fill out a form for every person in their household who was missed in the census. In addition, each person is urged to make sure their neighbors, friends, and relatives were counted.

"Anyone not counted should be noted on the special short census form. All information submitted on the form will go only to the U. S. Census Bureau and will not be used by any other government agency.

"Second, city workers are going to neighborhoods throughout the city to check the U. S. Census Bureau's figures. These workers can be identified by their special Baltimore 1980 Census badges. Any inaccuracies found by the city workers will be used to challenge the U. S. Census Bureau's figures.

"Citizens are asked to cooperate with the city's census checkers even though they may repeat questions previously asked by the U. S. census takers.

"Further information on the census follow-up drive can be obtained by calling 396-1980.

This newspaper's position is that we want every federal and state dollar possible for the people of this city. We need to keep our helping prorgams at full strength.

Stand up and be counted so that we are not shortchanged.

Druid Park adventure

Hundreds of inner city boys are going to have a camping experience in Druid Hill Park this summer.

It is called Camp Concern and it is an idea that we heartily cheer.

Tents are pitched in our largest city park and a new wave of youngsters will spend several days and nights in an outdoor setting from week to week. Camp Concern is fun and games but it has a discipline about it that we find welcome.

The project is under the direction of the Department of Recreation and it has the mayor's full blessing. He is, we hear, as pleased as all get out about this imaginative use of our city's natural resources.

Camp Concern looks like a winner in this long hot summer.

Abortion rights ... a moral issue

Dear AFRO:

Our first concern after the Supreme Court upholding of the Hyde Amendment is for the lives of poor women and for the health of their families. Denial of Medicaid funds for abortion constitutes denial of the constitutional right to choose abortion. The Court's lack of candor about the real effects of the Medicaid cutoff is a warning signal to all U.S. citizens that the poor can be denied equal protection of the law, and that this denial can be couched in the appearance of reason and objectivity.

The temptation to denounce the Court in this instance is very great; however, the impassioned dissenting opinions of Justices Marshall, Brennan, Blackmun and Stevens provide compelling constitutional and moral rebuttals to the majority opinion.

As Catholics committed to social justice and to the Constitutional guarantee of free exercise of religion, we object to the incorporation into law of religious teachings of certain churches. The Hyde Amendment interferes with the free exercise of conscience on the part of indigent women who, having weighed the detrimental frequently life - threatening effects of a pregnancy, seek to obtain an abortion.

As Justice Marshall pointed out, . . . the Hyde Amendment (was) designed to deprive poor and minority women of the constitutional right to choose abortion.

Catholics for a Free Choice endorses and supports the efforts of organized pro - choice advocates nationwide to help all women secure their constitutionally guaranteed rights. Clearly the Court has failed this obligation. Women and men who believe in reproductive freedom will continue to organize, and to elect pro - choice legislators. As in other great human rights struggles of the past, law and public policy will be made responsive to the legitimate needs of the people.

CATHOLICS FOR A FREE CHOICE

MADELINE MURPHY

Mayor's gratuitous remarks

"Without the dedication and cooperation of people like yourself (it could have read 'you people') many of Baltimore's art projects would be impossible."

So wrote Mayor William Donald Schaefer to the AFRO on its coverage of Joan Mondale's visit and more importantly, the dedication of the Reuben Cramer statue of Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Why I don't cease to be amazed at this kind of unwarranted outpouring baffles me. But here's what I mean.

Here in the case of Thurgood Marshall's statue were two brewing controversies in the black community.

First, the way in which the sculptor was chosen, especially when we blacks have several well-qualified sculptors in our community. At least two come to mind: James Lewis at Morgan University and James Reid. Further, it had been rumored that no blacks were even seriously considered to be contenders.

Secondly, many of us were not too pleased with the placement of the statue in the back of the Federal Building. It sort of smacked of that old stereotype of blacks being allowed to go only to Massah's back door.

Further, this major "art project" didn't sit too well with Justice Marshall either, I am told, since he too would have preferred that a black sculptor be awarded the commission. So we, who were not unified, dropped the ball! OK?

But to have the affrontery, in the face of these issues to congratulate the AFRO, was a slap in the face.

Against this background, let us look at the Maryland Institute, College of Art. Because part of the problem is the ignorance of white artists and their fraternity, about our historical achievements in art and in the way in which, consequently, modern art history is taught at the Institute.

Since my daughter graduated from there 14 years ago, modern art history has not included black artists in slides (except recently and then only two) or lectures as having contributed anything to the development of art in this country or abroad.

Out of sight, out of mind, goes the old saying!

Certainly there is a separate course on Afro-American art history taught ably by Dr. Leslie King-Hammond. But that is not sufficient.

One need only peruse art perodicals to glean that there is a blatant racism abroad in white art circles, that refuses to admit or accept the fact that despite all our privations, there is a huge body of work done by innumerable black artists that carries their strains of influence, illumination and development from classism to surrealism; from impressionism to cubism.

The concepts of art among the black art community are as varied and rich as any civilization. Yet, we must print our own catalogs, if we are to be recognized; build our own museums, if we are to be exhibited, raise our voices in protest, if we are to be taken seriously. (Don't hold your breath, however.)

Yet we are copied. Yet our art history too is either lost, strayed or stolen. One need only look at Picasso and others of that period to see the recurring African motifs.

Moreover, I am not satisfied with the excuse that the professor is not competent enough in that field. For in the same way one achieves competency in any field is to first be interested, secondly to research the subject; and then search for slides from those black universities and museums that contain a varied and large body of black artists' works.

Someone said: "Art sees and foresees". Art also can develop a link between two separating societies, one black and one white, where no other vocation or discipline can.

If we are to heal the breach, we should demand to be included in all history books beyond two paragraphs (a la Charles and Mary Beard).

As the largest ethnic minority in this country, we have a rich heritage to share; so many more likenesses with other human beings than differences.

Ignorance, coupled with racism—where one group feels superior to another—exacerbate all our problems, black and white.

Exploiting the AFRO for publicity then praising it merely casts crumbs to a starving people.

Mayor Schaefer must be less truculent about our well-founded criticisms, more sensitive to those frustrations of a black community whose protests are ignored; whose history is rejected; and whose aspirations to move into the mainstream of all facets of life are thwarted—yes, even in the arts projects.

PARREN MITCHELL

Selective Service registration

I have voiced my strong opposition to Selective registration and the draft in this column.

However, over the objections of those I us who oppose registration and the draft, Congress has passed House Joint Resolution 521 and the president has signed it into law.

On Monday morning young men born in 1960 and 1961 must begin registration with their local Selective Service office. The registration period will only be two weeks long.

Below are some questions and answers about the draft.

Q. When and where will registration take place?

A. Registration will occur during a two week period from July 21 to Aug. 2, 1980, at each of the 34,000 classified post offices during regular working hours.

Q. Who is required to register?

A. Those persons born in 1960 will register the week of July 21; those persons born in 1961 will register the week of July 28. In addition, specific registration days have been assigned according to month of birth in orderto avoid long lines at the post offices. People born in January, February, or March should register on Monday; those born in April, May, or June should register on Tuesday; and so on. Beginning in January 1981, young men born in 1962 will register when they turn 18 years of age.

Q. What if I were born in January and can't register on Monday?

A. Go to the post office and register on a different day. Friday and Saturday mornings have specifically been set aside for individuals who can't register on their specific day.

Q. What if I'm traveling away from home?

A. You can register at any post office in the United States, not just a post office in your home.

Q. I heard that 19 and 20-year-olds will register this summer, but I will not turn 19 until this fall. Should I wait until my birthday to register?

A. You should register between July 21 and Aug. 2 along with everyone else who was born in 1960 and 1961. Your year of birth is the determining factor, not your age when registration takes place.

Q. Because of my physical condition (blind, mentally impaired, high blood pressure, etc.), I doubt that the Armed Forces would accept me. Do I have to register?

A. Yes. Your physical condition has no bearing on the requirement to register unless you are confined to an institution. If you are confined to an institution, such as a hospital, penal or mental institution, you must register upon release from such confinement.

Q. Is a sole surviving son required to register?

A. Yes. Regardless of possible entitlement to classification at a later date, the sole surviving son is required to be registered.

Q. Who will carry out the registration?

A. Employees of the U. S. Postal Service will carry out the registration. Neither the Postal Service nor Selective Service will be hiring additional people for the registration. The Selective Service will not be opening up state headquarters or local offices.

Q. How will you register?

A. If you are required to register, go to the nearest U. S. Post Office, pick up a form, fill it in, and hand it to a postal clerk who will check your form with an identification, such as your driver's license.

Q. What information will be requested from me on the registration form?

A. You will need to fill in your name, date of birth, sex, social security number, current and permanent mailing addresses, and phone number.

Q. Can someone else register for me, or can I pick up a registration form and mail it backk later?

A. No to both questions; you must register in person.

Q. What is the penalty for not registering?

A. The maximum penalty for failure to register is a $10,000 fine and or five years in prison.

Other questions will come up. If you cannot get the answers, please feel free to call either of the 7th Congressional District offices, 962-4331 or 962-3223. My staff will do its best to help you.

LETTERS

Leaders should 'get act together'

Dear AFRO:

G. Edames Fleming's recent political commentary is timely and very thoughtful. He has delineated the crucial problems facing black leaders today.

Hopefully, national, state and local leaders have this degree of insight into shortcomings of the current black leadership.

If this leadership does not heed the warnings of Miami, I fear they may lose some credibility with under class and working class blacks who are uninhibited about seeking different "means" of resolving the problems of racism and socio-economic injustice. These problems are imbedded into the very core of American society.

Furthermore, poor blacks don't have to worry about losing government and private funding. In fact, increasingly many of them haven't anything to lose, except perhaps a meager welfare check.

Why? American government in its own findings of what caused the '60s black rebellions stated clearly the racist nature of American society.

Until the disguised hypocrisy, arrogance and insensitivity ends, there will never be any "real peace for blacks and whites in America.

Dr. Martin Luther King in one of his last speeches warned America that it must begin to use its winters "creatively" and solve "the problems of the summer would be extremely "hot."

Weak answers to crucial and sensitive problems may not be tolerated any longer by the poorer segments of the black community. They want action, not reaction.

Where are long range plans, agendas and goals for the future? It is my opinion that black and white "especially white" leaders ought to get their act together.

Poor blacks want answers to their dilemma, not gimmicks and symbolism.

Thank you, AFRO, for your continuous excellent coverage of the current issues facing blacks internationally and locally. Keep up the good work.

CHRISTOPHER J. THOMAS

Schaefer has promoted 'peace, harmony'

Dear AFRO:

Once again we are hearing the prophets of doom claim that many cities, including Baltimore, are on the precipice of riots. This warning that riots similar to those of the summer of '67 are imminent has no real basis—certainly not in Baltimore.

The voices of despair should be advised that in Baltimore riots will not occur because the man at the helm, Mayor William Donald Schaefer, has made it his priority to promote a lasting peace linked with harmony and justice for all in the city of Baltimore.

As Mayor Schaefer has said, "Baltimore is a city for all ethnic groups, young and old, male and female." Let it so remain.

Instead of thinking of riots, let's contemplate this summer the wonders the city has to offer all its people. Let's replace rumors of riots with feelings of understanding and fair play.

Instead of having ill feelings toward others, let's emphasize those assets that unite us.

Baltimore is a thriving metropolis on the move, its people having been given a fresh impetus. New buildings, new parks, new housing developments, new centers for both old and young, new jobs, and most important, a new spirit of vigor and vitality toward the city and its environs have evolved.

No, Baltimore will not have a riot this summer or in the future, and those voices of gloom and despair who preach the possibility of a riot are not only wrong but are doing a disservice to all those who have worked on a positive level to make Baltimore a city for all the people.

Riots will not take place in this city because of the leadership vested in our Mayor, who has a place in his heart for all the people. Above all else, Mayor Schaefer has seen to it that in almost all cases justice has prevailed.

This summer should be a peaceful and pleasurable one in our city of festivals, antique shops, museums, and activities in the Inner Harbor with its new Harborplace.

JOHN A. MICKLOS

Transportation, gas woes

Dear AFRO:

During the past World War II period, private enterprise and government phased out fast, cheap and energy efficient rail and trolley systems —forcing us to buy automobiles.

Then they built expensive highways with our taxes and produced only gas hogs for us to travel in — forcing us to over buy gasoline.

Then the international oil cartel tripled the price of gasoline forcing us to buy smaller cars.

Then the oil companies doubled the price of the small, gas efficient cars —forcing us to buy on credit.

Then they doubled the cost of credit.

Then they added 10 cents a gallon tax on the overpriced gasoline for the overpriced cars forcing us to resort to public transportation.

But the only buses our cities can buy cost twice as much as the older, trolleys, are less energy efficient, less comfortable, more cramped, have fewer seats and are intolerably stuffy and hot when the normally defective air conditioning is acting "normal".

While we can deliver atomic missiles to the Soviet Union — faster than a speeding bullet — the Moscow subway still only costs a nickle.

A. ROBERT KAUFMAN

—The people blast TV, newspaper treatment of blacks

Continued from page 1

has initiated within various communities within the city, and urged the audience to give him feedback on what they think should be covered.

Before the meeting adjourned he and other panel members were bombarded with feedback.

Ralph Matthews, managing editor of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN told the group, "The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN is now in its 88th continuous year of publication and its mission for all of that time has never varied.

"The AFRO collects, reports and interprets news issues and events which either originate in the black community or news which by its very nature has a direct impact on black Americans.

The AFRO is one of the oldest newspapers in this nation. Its operating principle can be summed up in the words of John Russwurm, the editor of Freedom's Journal, the first black newspaper in America. Russwurm, on Freedom Journal's first appearance on March 16, 1827, stated what has been the primary task and challenge of the black press from that time on.

He said, "We wish to plead our own cause, too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentations in things which concern us dearly."

"The media," said Malcolm Potter, station manager of Channel 13, "has a three-fold function to entertain, to inform, and to serve as a forum. The three are not incompatible.

"We are licensed to serve our viewers," he said. "If we don't serve them we won't be in the business." He added that his station has actually lost advertising contracts because it refused to change its programming to suit advertisers.

"None of us is perfect," said Dale Wright, manager of Channel 2, "but we think we've had some success. I'll remind you of our success and you can remind us of our failures."

Following his remarks, Ms. Pugh opened up the forum to questions from the audience, in which was when the fireworks started.

"You say you're doing the best you can to hire qualified blacks," declaimed Dr. Samuel Banks, "... it sounds like a confession to me."

The audience hooted in agreement with his statement, as Banks asked the group of assembled news media to tell how many blacks on their staff were in decision making capacities.

Brietenfeld, stunned the audience when, after attempting to get Banks to delineate his question, told him, "Well, I manage the station, and you can see I'm not black!"

Kern said that one out of every five employees at his station is black.

"We're not counting the ones you have cleaning up there," chimed in a disgruntled member of the audience.

"It sounds pathetic, " Kern admitted, "but, we serve a very broad community." He pointed out that in his area served by Channel 13, blacks only accounted for 20 percent of the population.

Lemmon admitted that there were no blacks in management in the newsrooms of the Evening Sun, and Matthews pointed out that the majority of the AFRO editorial workers were black and female.

Wright said that Channel 2 had "none to date", but added his station was working on it and Malcolm Potter said, "We are trying."

The AFRO's Matthews cautioned that the issue could not simply be how many "individual blacks" will be absorbed by white media but the larger question of how blacks could develop more communications systems that they could own and control and sustain those institutions already here.

"I am not here to participate in a personnel recruitment program for the white media. The black press has seen too much of its talent drained off as it is."

He stated that his concern was with black control of communications institutions.

The next question told the meeting, "We are never going to control your media," The only people who can control the media are those who have the money, and that's not us!"

As this member of the audience spoke more loudly, Cathy Pugh and Stan Stovall, the black Channel 11 newcaster and an NAACP member, began muttering to each other, and then Pugh approached the mike, and told the woman who held the floor to either ask her question or sit down.

"This is an open forum," cried the woman, and others in the room agreed.

" The question is, " said the young white woman, who identified herself as a member of the Communist Worker's Party "how can we change this system concretely?"

representatives for the coverage of the shooting of five members of the Communist Workers Party by Klan members six months ago, then took her seat amidst a chorus of applause.

As Matthews responed to a question from the audience, Tom Ross, an audience member, interrupted harshly and said, "Maybe if you started paying people more you'll have a better paper.

you were talking about. Your product isn't even worth buying."

Once more Stovall and Pugh had to interrupt to protect the panelists

"Your paper isn't even worth supporting," reported Ross. "The ink is all smeary and comes off in my hands. Why don't you all go back to those so-called principles and a semblance of order was restored.

A young woman approached the mike, burst into tears and she began lambasting the panel.

"You will never understand what we feel, never" she wept. She continued for several minutes before sitting down.

"Are you telling us that Harborplace is more important than better housing?" asked a young man. Once more the rumble began rolling through the audience, and the news executives shifted uncomfortably in their chairs.

The next questioner asked the panel to explain why there was a high turnover of black reporters.

Dale Wright said that his station was concerned about quality, and not just personalities.

"We will not put out an inferior product just because a person is black, or white..." he said.

Potter said that in an effort to encourage the longevity of his employees, his station was attempting to sign its personnel to long-term contracts.

A tall, thin man then took the mike, and related how, after being falsely arrested on a purse-snatching charge, he found a story about the incident in the pages of the News American. (The News American had refused to send a representative to the forum).

He launched into a long speech about how the news of the incident had damaged his reputation in his community and asked the panel what they could do to reverse the negative publicity.

As he talked, Stovall, apparently upset with the length of the man's speech, pulled him to one side, while asking the panel to do something to clear the man's record.

"I want to know, are you ready for another Miami here?" asked the next questioner.

Potter responded: "I hope it doesn't happen here, if it does we'll cover it as a news story."

Annie Rogers, former executive director of the Welfare Rights Organization and a member of that group, then took the floor, and joined several earlier speakers from the audience in denouncing the Baltimore media's coverage of Harborplace.

"The bourgeosie blacks you have working for you were there, the mayor was there... But you didn't cover everything," she shouted. She slammed the assembled media for ignoring those who were arrested by city police for demonstrating at the opening of Harborplace, and told them that "there will be no Miami, unless a change doesn't come."

She advocated black control of media, "I've been depressed for years, and nobody is going to change this for us but us," and warned those assembled that if a mediator like the Rev. Jesse Jackson is sent to the black community to pacify blacks, " we're going to kill him."

She concluded by asking the panel, "Are you willing to deal honestly with the issues that concern black folks?"

"I hope we are," said Paul Banker.

"We want a simple yes or no answer," said Dr. Banks emphatically. In response to his demand, the assembled media representatives answered in the affirmative one by one.

After getting a response to his question, a man then proceeded to ask the panel about Harborplace coverage, but was interupted by Stovall.

An argument then ensued, with members of the audience loudly supporting the man and denigrating the efforts of Stovall and Pugh to quiet the questioner.

"It's bad fair that this one person should monopolize this...," added Enolia McMillan, head of the NAACP.

The next questioner asked the panelists why they recruit their black talent from outside the Baltimore area.

"Why must you leave the area to find talent?," he said, "this is an attempt by the media to set up a buffer zone between them and the community. I find that an insult to my community."

Banker described the "rotating scholarship" program the Sun offered to "qualified" minority journalism students, and Kern said that he agreed that it was important to retain local people.

"He ain't saying nothing," interrupted a protester.

Lemmon said that one of the problems he encountered in recruiting black journalists was the fact that "Morgan doesn't have a journalism program, while Potter described the epic of a black man from Johns Hopkins University who worked his way up to a high-level news position with his station.

Wright responded by stating, "There's not an abundance of talent in Baltimore," and asked the crowd to recommend people they felt was qualified to join his staff.

Tom Ross then rose to ask a question. After previously having snarled at Stan Stovall and an AFRO reporter, both blacks, he meekly articulated his question to the white men on the panel with deference.

He made a plea for more public service from the media, and asked why, said, "If you give public service you'll get profits."

The panelists answered his questions by listing their contributions to the area of public service presentations, and girded themselves for the next question.

They then were asked why blacks were not given more choice assignments.

Banker once more presented Curtis Riddle as an example, and pointed out that Riddle had been sent to a county bureau to serve as an editor.

Lemmon stated that he tried to be "color-blind in how we make assignments."

He then added that "We think we're being fair to our black reporters by giving them assignments we think they can handle."

Matthews of the AFRO said that he would like to emphasize that the AFRO alone, of the city's major news organs had fought for the rent control amendment, had seriously questioned the need for Harborplace, had urged that the detective who shot Ja-Wan McGee be fired, had exposed the AHOP program which he said constituted the removal of black families from the central city.

"In essence," he said, "what you have been asking the media to do the AFRO has always done and will continue to do. We will fight in our community's best interest. That is our continued mission."

The AFRO editor then thanked everyone in the audience for their insights and said that while he could not speak for panel members from daily media the AFRO would publish a full account of all that happened during this program.

ANGRY SPEAKER — Annie Rogers, a member of the Welfare Rights Organization, gestures angrily as she makes a point at the NAACP forum held Tuesday night.

Photos by Val Smith-Madden

DISCONCERTED MODERATORS — Cathy Pugh and Stan Stovall buddle to discuss strategy and quell the crowd at the forum as tempers began to flare.

JUST THINKING

Black experience and black survival

By Al Sweeney

WASHINGTON

There is nothing like the Black Experience. As a person who has lived it for many, many years, what else would you expect from me?

If there is anything that an individual learns from the Black Experience, it is the ability to survive. The Black Experience is the history of black folk from the days when they survived the slave ships from Africa and were sold on the auction blocks in the slave centers of this nation.

They have survived miscegenation, escapism and the like.

If one is to believe the prophets, of the day, things are worse than usual. But that has been said many times during the long years of the Black Experience.

Wasn't it Sojourner Truth, who wondered, when Frederick Douglass ticked off the long list of injustices towards blacks during the pre - civil war period; "Is God Dead?"

When Dr. W.E.B. DuBois met with a group of black leaders for the famed Niagara Conference that led to the founding of the NAACP in 1909, segregation was rampant in the land and the principles of civil war had been trampled in the wave of black laws of the South.

Historians say that under President Woodrow Wilson, who led a war to save democracy, the District of Columbia became more segregated than ever. The federal buildings had separate fountains and restrooms, instituted under his administration.

And so the pendulum of racial injustice swung to a new low in the 1920s and 1930s when the KKK flourished, racial lynchings were as common place as a Saturday night killing in an urban center.

Out of the travail came a Charles Houston to fashion a legal attack on racial injustice. With a Walter White at the helm of the NAACP and a Charles Houston the legal architect and a favorable Supreme Court to hear their pleas many of the black laws of the South were eradicated.

With the legal freedom there was no related economic freedom. And once again frustration set in.

It was the kind of frustration that seized blacks after they were granted so - called freedom with the end of the Civil War. Blacks were free; but, as one of the poets wrote, there were more slaves than ever. They were not given economic freedom.

Blacks were promised "forty acres and a mule." They got neither. And thus the beginning of the 'dream deferred."

Let's skip over the obvious. Where are we today?

Blacks in D.C. run the school board, the city hall and the various political parties. But, how?

The school board's activities resemble television's Jeffersons's ; only the comedy is for real. Our city government is headed by a whining leader who has to beg people to respect him because he is black.

Our Black Chamber of Commerce, which should be leading the economic opportunities of the black merchant interests in the nation's capital is in shambles. There is talk about turning back the clock and we have the chutzpah to operate like a "Mom and Pop" outfit.

Black pride that was once a badge of honor has become dispirited.

The black badge of honor is to symbolize non - conformist culture. Women with corn rows, blue jeans on the job or at formal functions, the unkempt beards, mustaches, Afros or cleanheads, rings in their ears, anything to look different, as if color wasn't high visibility enough.

All signs of frustration. It I am to believe the analysts, all manifestations of facades to cover mass fear.

So, our school board foolishly does not want an academic high school. To hell with laboratories to develop egg heads. Let's play the muscle bound.

It appears that someone is doing a job on the minds of the masses, which is responsible for the inept elective office holders of the day.

While I think that I hurl as many typographical darts against the black elitist society as anyone, I really don't believe that there is anything wrong with being a so - called elitist.

There is nothing wrong with living "the good life" or having appreciation for the more aesthetic. We should want to get out of wallowing in the dregs of the environment and to be able to utter words other than "mother" and express one's self without "you know, you know" and "it be's like that".

My quarrel with the Black Porsche and Mercedes set" is that they don't look back and try to help others to enjoy the "good life." It seems that the brothers and sisters in the elitist set have forgotten that someone helped them out of their former morass.

And what has the foregoing to do with this week's effort?

The political polls tell us that the winds of change are bowling the nation. And those of us who have been a part of the Black Experience for many, many years are aware what they could mean.

And that is why our two national organizations loom important in the days ahead. The NAACP, founded in 1909, has been the instrument that has charted the Black Experience over the stormy days.

The Urban League, founded in 1910 by a group of social workers called the National Committee for the Study of Urban Conditions Among Negroes, provided the communications link among the races. Their importance looms mightily in the days ahead.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THE AFRO is your best source of history.

Gertram Merritt, a city school principal started reading the AFRO microfilm at Pratt Library, word for word, from the very first filed 1893 edition and thus traced his roots in one of the most fantastic stories I have ever read.

WE WILL review the Merritt story in coming editions which previews the AFRO's 88th anniversary Aug. 13.

FOR 88 YEARS the AFRO has recorded happenings which added together form history in Baltimore.

We follow the news guidelines, "whatever happens to people from birth to death, joys and sorrows."

DID YOU KNOW that there are three news items EVERYONE wants published. Births, weddings and obituaries are the three. At those times, the individual can "let it all hang out" and be proud. "We want everybody to know," they say.

THE FUNERAL STORY is the main one. After a death, the family gets a chance to reveal how important the deceased person was in life.

THE LAST RITES are the most important and to the extent that the family and the deceased all want a "decent burial" and as many people present as possible at the church and graveside.

THEREFORE, in coming editions, the AFRO will review the "who, how, when and where" of days gone by to show you the great value that this newspaper has been in your life.

HOW WAS IT THEN "way back there"? You can tell us. Write what you remember of Baltimore in the olden days and GIVE US YOUR FAMILY HISTORY.

ALSO, if you are 88 years old or know someone, write to us, FOR ALL WE KNOW, Elizabeth M. Oliver, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St. 21201.

HERE ARE SOME notes from old AFRO's.

The Cab Calloways Sr. celebrated their 20th anniversary at Bethel AME Church when Bishop James A. Handy was there.

John H. Murphy Sr. was called to serve on the Federal Grand Jury.

The Howard-Lincoln football game was called off when the Baltimore Athletic Association refused to rent its pro-league baseball park. Reason assigned was "social equality."

Dr. Marcus Cargill was a member of the City Council from the 11th Ward.

wrote the AFRO a letter concerning the World's Columbia Exposition at Chicago.

George W. Murray was the one black member in the U. S. Congress.

Rev. Frank Williams pastored Perkins Square, the Rev. Alfred Young, John Wesley ME; the Rev. J. C. Allen, First Baptist.

The Lexington Savings Bank, Everett J. Waring president, has $57,000 in deposits.

Warner T. McGuinn was clerk at the Liquor License Board, Lloyd Lowndes was governor of Maryland.

McKinley's chances of election to the U. S. presidency were considered excellent.

Dr. William H. Weaver, pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church was appointed to the board of Industrial Home for Colored Girls at Melvale.

There was a shakeup in the Maryland Mutual Benefit Association, of which Nathaniel Gibson was president and Walker Lewis, treasurer.

The name has since been shortened to Mutual Benefit Society.

William Johnson's Barber Shop was located at 527 Lanvale St.; George P. Douglass dining room at 732 N. Eutaw ; John C. Minnis, ice cream manufacturer, ay 534 W. Biddle St., Dr. J. W. Johnson has a dentist office at 434 Orchard St.

The AFRO announced that the term "Negro" was offensive and would not be used. Its columns thereafter would employ the term "Afro-American or "colored" instead.

WE HAVE already received the life history of Mrs. Addie B. Scranage who was born in 1892, the same year as the AFRO. We will publish it in ajcoming edition.

FROM a famed Virginia family Mrs. Scranage age 88, was the great aunt of Orioles Al Bumbry, Mrs. Rachel Eaton and Court Commissioner Mrs. Sylvia Cooper. Other relatives are England Pryor, Dr. Cecelia DeFord, Nelson Pryor and actor Richard Pryor.

SEND US YOUR Story — For All We Know, Elizabeth M. Oliver, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw Street.