Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Foul ball at Franklin

Americans, of all races and creeds, like to think of themselves as good sports.

In fact no criticism stings in this sports-loving nation so much as rebukes as "he's a bad sport" or "she's a poor loser."

The American athletic system scholastic, amateur or professional, prides itself on instilling in those who play the games we love a supposed sense of fair play.

We are all presumably disciplined to cheer a black Dr. J when he makes one of his patented gravity defying basketball moves or give loud hurrahs for a Terry Bradshaw when he rifles a game-breaking pass. It is the skill we are taught to appreciate, not the skin.

Most Americans, many with racial animosities real and imagined, will, however, brook no racism when our young men and women play the games of our culture.

Now just where this leaves certain white students, players and others at Baltimore County's Franklin High School we do not pretend to know.

As a news story in this edition reports Franklinites engaged in a steady barrage of racial insults directed at black Milford Mill players during a recent baseball game.

This is close to unthinkable.

To delile our "national pastime" as baseballers consider their game, particularly by young fans none of whom was born when Jackie Robinson broke the baseball color barriers some three decades ago staggers our sensibilities. This is worse than bad form.

We await some word of explanation from the County education authorities because if this kind of behavior is either encouraged, sanctioned or tolerated on local playing fields obviously some educators, parents and players have strayed far from the American tradition of sportsmanship and fair play.

We would not like to think that foul play not fair play characterizes Franklin High School.

Innis is out

Many Americans were rooting for Roy Innes, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) last week because he announced to the world that CORE activists had important evidence in the Atlanta slayings.

Even knowing Innis' dubious track record, we think everyone was hoping Innis could succeed where the very strange to us Atlanta police department had failed for so many agonizing months.

If Innis' information could stop the killings, *solve the madness*, then he would certainly be redeemed as a black leader. This was not to be.

Innis raised a nation's hopes on last Wednesday, and cruelly dashed them by Saturday when he disappeared from center stage leaving, according to some news accounts, some unpaid motel bills.

Innis controversial over-seeing of CORE kept him in negative images insofar as the news media was concerned all during the Seventies.

This Atlanta false alarm should ensure that Innes will not be taken seriously or positively in the Eighties as well.

But we will not quite cast Brother Innis completely to the already disenchanted, not just yet.

At this distance nothing seems right about the Atlanta child murders.

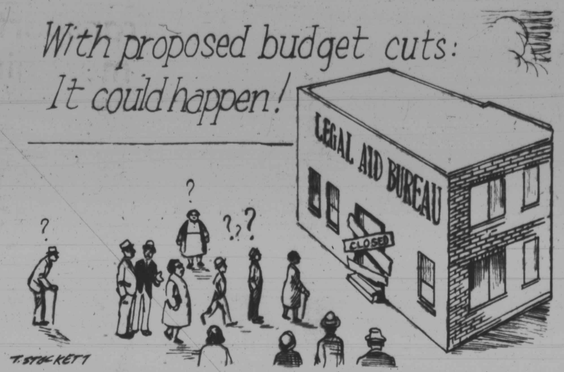
They keep right on happening like clockwork and the Atlanta special homicide task force keeps right on letting the killings continue.

It may be just wishful thinking but, perhaps Roy, for once, was correct in saying he knew who the killers are.

And perhaps he then was persuaded that what he knew was not the truth.

All kinds of games seem to be played in Atlanta and at this point we would not be surprised if the killers are not supposed to be brought to justice.

Maybe somebody forgot to tell Roy this before he went off on his since discredited Sherlocking.



MADELINE MURPHY

Reasoned Straight

By Madeline Murphy

Not long ago, there was a television program called "Scared Straight," that had a tendency to frighten would-be offenders, hopefully enough, to keep them from committing crimes.

Part of its emphasis was conditioned response that would treat crime as some beknighted parents; making a baby touch the fire to keep him from striking matches.

It could be called putting the accent upon the wrong syl-ah-bal.

With the tightening of the economy, with the long hot summer coming; with many more young people on the streets as a result of the narrowing of the CETA program's budgeting; with the hysterical attitude toward the management of the criminal justice system, those in corrections who are trying to do the best thing for offenders, ex-offenders, and juveniles in trouble, are being buffeted with too much acrimony and too little understanding of what is being done by them.

For instance, in the Juvenile Services Administration, two programs are already in operation; the Seven Step Youth Counseling Program and Project Turn Around (like the Scared Straight program), where each program has come through the penal system from inmates who are about their young brothers and sisters, caught in the tangled web of incarceration or probation.

In addition, most recently, a group of college educated inmates at the House of Corrections at Jessup have developed a program called "Reasoned Straight" and have presented it to the Juvenile Services Administration for review and implementation.

In redirecting juveniles toward a straight life, they suggest that this program would not only stem the tide of new incarceration of juveniles but might also reduce the incidence of adult criminality. They reason that youth, having been trained in their program, would understand how a straight life could be of lifelong benefit.

Although they think that the two above-named programs, known as "Seven Steps" and "Project T", are commendable programs, they have particular trouble with the negative aspects of the "Project T."

According to the "Reasoned Straight" proposal, they find that the "Scared Straight" model does not respond to juvenile problems of peer pressure, of youth's misguided concept of manhood, nor does it address itself to the "cool ethic" and the juvenile's conflict between street knowledge and book knowledge.

It is precisely these issues that "Reasoned straight" is designed to combat, through a four-week program, bringing juveniles into the institution and teaching them about the fallacy of street knowledge, about what's good about being bad; about not having to "be a fool to be cool;" and finally letting them discover what they are trying to prove to reverse the negative aspects of their behavior.

So often when we view offenders of all types in the criminal system, we do not learn that they have an empathy for young people who might follow their footsteps and that they desperately wish to re-direct them into positive goals and attitudes.

Already, having learned about the disparity in sentencing of blacks into this seemingly dead-end system, we often write these unfortunates off for fear of being knee - jerk liberals, or even worse, we forget them completely, sighing sighs of relief that they have been taken off the streets.

Rarely, however, do we hear of the gigantic efforts being made by inmates to change the system in a way that "Reasoned Straight" is trying to do.

The main deterrent that keeps this program from being implemented, however, is that there are not enough volunteers who would be able to transport juveniles to the institution for this one night-a-week program. From what I understand, the vans are available.

While the legislature is tightening the pre-release program, while the governor is unhappily being pulled away from his more enlightened attitude toward corrections; while the police commissioner is making media events out of those few who do not tread the straight and narrow, it would behoove us, we who have a larger representation in the criminal justice system, to support programs like "Reasoned Straight" so that crime in our neighborhoods would not continue to spiral.

For all too soon, we too might be prisoners in our own homes, scared senseless, paralyzed with fear, but not supportive of positive efforts to turn this crime wave around... vulnerable, impotent ostriches with our heads in the sand.

Defending Mitchell's MSU actions

Dear AFRO:

It is most unfortunate that the Rev. Herbert O. Edwards found space in your pages to unleash an unwarranted and unsubstantiated attack upon one of the nation's most prestigious individuals, the Honorable Parren J. Mitchell.

I am mindful that a free press requires the printing of the whole range of ideas and notions pertaining to any issue. This knowledge, however, does not provide any excuse for the antics of Mr. Edwards in his vitriolic attack open forum even when attack.

Seldom do members of the clergy differ with their fellows in open forum even when their views and intent are not in consonance with their avowed Biblical underpinnings.

The present case exceeds the bounds of propriety for two reasons. First of all, espousing a religion of convenience and expediency separates the perpetrator from his brethren.

Much has happened at Morgan that is more akin to Mr. Edwards' Good Friday reference than Parren Mitchell's public resignation from the Morgan fund-raiser.

Five years of assault upon people of substance who prove to be literally without blemish has not resulted in a single line from the Rev. Mr. Edwards. Because the metaphor is his, I will leave this trend of thought by reminding him that Easter Sunday always follows Good Friday.

The second reason for expressing dismay and chagrin where Mr. Edwards is concerned has to do with his contributions, vis-a-vis the congressman's, to the well being of these in both the black and broader communities.

By his own admission in his now infamous letter, he "tried to build on the work begun by Mr. Mitchell."

In all the years since that early beginning, I have never heard him accused of achieving even a modicum of success in this effort.

I am not in a position to remark on Mr. Edwards' stewardship since taking up residence at Morgan State University. But it is interesting that nothing earthshaking has been attributed to him since his arrival.

Many in the ministerial community had hoped that under Mr. Edwards' leadership, the undergraduate Religious Studies Department would have experienced enough growth to justify its existence. But if reports reaching my desk are true, this is far from the reality.

It is not necessary to detail, on the other hand, the sustained level of quality contributions made by Mr. Mitchell which inure to the benefit of legions beyond the boundaries of the State of Maryland.

Because of his modesty, few people know that he has contributed personally sums well into the five-figure range to this state's Black colleges.

It is strange that Mr. Edwards' view is so markedly different from that of his fellow faculty members who voted overwhelmingly for the president's removal, from the students who did likewise, and also from the staff that has joined in the repudiation of the president.

It is my hope that this letter serves to clarify the issue in a manner that bespeaks of tenderness.

This is because redemption is always in order, and those of us familiar with the human equation realize that oftentimes, indiscretions beset our paths.

At such times, we, like the Rev. Mr. Edwards, need to know and feel the comfort of being able to return to the fold and continue our quest for salvation.

A. C. D. VAUGHN
President, Baltimore Baptist Clergy in Action

—LETTERS—

Opinions expressed by columnists and in letters to the editor DO NOT necessarily reflect the editorial policy of The AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS. THE MANAGEMENT.

Letters to the editor

We are reminded by the U.S. Postal Service that National Letter writing Week began on April 26 and ends on May 2nd.

In its advisory to us the Postal Service cites the "contribution letters to editors make in influencing public opinion."

The Postal Service also noted that letters to the editor have historically been a part of American humor.

Some years back, for example, a reader wrote to the New York Post, "I read your paper every day. I wish your proofreader did, too."

USPS has some other gems. For instance the reader who reacted to the headline over an article about unemployment in the Tucson, Arizona State which read: "Whom Should Be Laid Off First?"

A reader replied, "The answer is obvious. Whom wrote the headline? Him should be laid off first."

The Baltimore AFRO letters usually contain some of the liveliest, heart-felt and most combative reading in town. The so-called high and mighty and the so-called little folks all get their say in the AFRO as space permits.

We encourage letters to the editor.

We will print no letters that are not signed or do not bear the writer's correct address.

Some very beautiful and stimulating correspondence is cast aside because the writer of same chose anonymity.

We will withhold a letter-writer's name when requested so long as we know who wrote it.

Sometimes a signed letter highlighting a critical issue could cost a correspondent his or her job or other serious harm. We respect the need for confidentiality under these circumstances.

We do not print letters critical of an individual's personal conduct. This is distinct from his or her public conduct.

If a reader thinks a public official is doing a lousy job and states the case succinctly and without personal malice that is within the boundaries. Leaders know criticism come with the job.

For editors the greatest value of letters from readers is to know how folks feel and think about issues, big and small.

What kind of letters do editors like best?

Those that are brief, straight from the shoulder and make readers and editors sit up and take notice either by the information being shared, the humor displayed and the feeling being generated.

Sometimes the sheer audacity of a letter-writer's views is enough to guarantee publication.

Kalman Seigel, who just retired as editor of the New York Times letters to the editor column reports that he received 60,000 letters a year of which only 2,700 made it into print. Because of the constraints of space and the volume of letters received, Seigel said, "Much comment of value must unhappily, even painfully, be bypassed."

But those odds should not discourage people from writing letters to the editors.

Seigel observes "If the democratic dialogue is to be a reality, then every letter in the mailbag makes its contribution."

Keep those cards and letters coming please and by all means sign your name... we will protect you.

Update on MSU budget

Dear AFRO:

Now that the Maryland General Assembly has completed its work, I would like to share with you a brief report and commentary on how Morgan State University faired.

The first thing must be said is, that despite rumblings from certain legislators and threats on the autonomy of Morgan prior to the opening of the legislative session there were no efforts, during the session, to merge or submerge Morgan under the University of Maryland or the state college system.

For this, we have to thank our friends in the legislature, the community and Governor Hughes, himself, whose forthright commitment to the autonomy and integrity of this institution was eloquently expressed in his written and oral communications, both to the legislators and to the Regents.

With respect to the Morgan budget, the General Assembly was in a severe budget-cutting mood. I would like to take this opportunity to again express my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the entire University for the support we received from our friends and supporters in standing up for the Morgan budget.

This year, the staff work on the budget was commendable. We have been told that the budget presentation before the State Board for Higher Education, the governor, and finally before both houses of the General Assembly was most impressive and effective.

Members of the Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate, the student body, the alumni and other community leaders all joined together with us under the leadership of the legislative black caucus in putting forward to the governor and the legislature the financial needs of this University.

Del. Howard Rawlings and Sen. Clarence Blount, who sit on the key appropriation committees, should be especially singled out and commended for their leadership and support.

We express our gratitude for the continued support of all the members of the legislative black caucus.

A group of private citizens, headed by John Murphy, III, President of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, Raymond Haysbert, president of Parks Sausages Company, Mrs. Thelma Cox, assistant superintendent of the Baltimore City public schools, Nathaniel Smith, president of the Maryland State Chapter of the NAACP, were also very helpful to us.

As a consequence, Governor Hughes submitted to the legislature a request for $13.6 million in state general funds. This was one million dollars more than his staff had originally recommended.

Unfortunately, however, the General Assembly set about cutting away at the governor's request for Morgan as it did almost all other budgets.

The staff of the legislature recommended that the Morgan regular operating budget be cut by $480,000. The House of Delegates cut the Morgan budget by $450,000 while the Senate cut it by only $190,000.

In the final analysis, the Joint House - Senate Conference Committee reached a compromise and the operating budget was cut by some $270,000.

A second feature of the budget was the one million dollars the governor requested for Morgan to enable us to purchase much needed science laboratory equipment and deferred maintenance projects.

One committee in the House recommended that the entire one million dollars be cut from the budget. Another committee recommended cutting $250,000 while the Senate Committee originally recommended restoring the entire million.

In the final analysis, both houses of the legislature agreed to cut $250,000 out of this request, leaving $750,000 to purchase science laboratory equipment and deferred maintenance projects.

Thus, our total state general fund appropriation for the operating budget will be in the neighborhood of $13.1 million, representing a reduction of about four percent from the governor's original request.

A third feature of the budget refers to faculty and staff positions which were cut from the budget.

Originally, the staff analyst in the legislature recommended that 30 faculty positions and 19 staff positions be cut from this budget for next year. All our friends and supporters spoke up against these cuts.

As a consequence, in the final analysis, both houses of the legislature agreed to support the governor's budget which will allow us two years to make these faculty and staff cuts rather than doing so in one year.

In other words, we will still have to eliminate these positions from the university, but we will be able to spread them over two years so that next year we will have to give up about half as many faculty and staff positions as had been originally proposed. This will enable us to make a more orderly reduction than was originally recommended.

Finally, with respect to the capital budget, the legislature approved the governor's request for $900,000 to enable us to continue to rebuild our underground steam system.

Indeed, if we proceed carefully in keeping with administrative reorganization and the program personnel reappraisal plans approved by the Regents at their last meeting on March 25, we should be able to move into next year with the capability of making programmatic realignments as well as staff and expenditure reappraisal in ways which will protect the quality of university operations.

With these measures, Morgan can be stronger next year rather than weaker.

For this, I express to all those who have helped us, my profound appreciation.

ANDREW BILLINGSLEY
President
Morgan State University

G. JAMES FLEMING

No time for blacks to be fighting blacks

The present is not the time for blacks to be fighting blacks — unless a matter of the highest principle is involved. Really highest principle. Some matters that absolutely cannot be resolved by the interested parties sitting around a table.

If there was ever a time when black organizations must try very hard not to split into several destructive splinters, largely motivated by personal egocentricism or on even baser grounds, the time is now.

Even black politicians must strive for every effort to unite for strength, rather than for each politician — peacock - like — to feel that he cannot give a little, here and there, for greater strength, a united front, and increased effectiveness.

Bishops and other prelates too, must work to unite their followers. Blacks certainly do not need the avowed representation of God denigrating each other, fractionalizing themselves into diverse denominations and fighting factions (thank heavens there seemingly has been less internecine warfare among the major black denominations lately.)

Black business (excuse the fuzzy term) must also find ways to strengthen the efforts of those black men and women who enter competitive enterprise. There is more need for each to support, the other; there is an urgency for pulling together; and much more endeavor towards imitating those other ethnic groups that have built solid economic bases (ethnic groups which do not approach having the population of black Americans — Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese Business people in our midst should be imitated rather than pestered and harassed.

On a larger scale, blacks in both Africa and the Americas have much to learn, so far as business and industry are concerned, from the people of Israel and Japan.

This call for unity, this call against scattering our strengths in fighting each other, is not new. It has been raised countless times down the years. Most often in the past, however, the oppressions against blacks were so severe and obvious that only fools would have ignored the necessity for unity—for striving towards the maximum unity.

Roy Wilkins, revered and retired executive director of the NAACP, once said, facetiously, in effect, that "Governor Faubus and Governor Wallace were the best friends the NAACP ever had because while they were on their rampage, we had our largest membership and raised the most money in our history."

Neither Faubus nor Wallace are on the rampage these days. Their successors have more refined ways than barring the entrance to school houses or ordering bulldogs against peaceful demonstrators.

The Ku Klux Klan has many fellow-travellers who do not wear sheets and who do not carry arms. They may be only armed with computers.

In Washington, the drive is on to slash and debase the supports to the poor and the developing: poor mothers and their infants; poor students; pioneering black entrepeneurs; poor workers who cannot find a place in the labor market.

Affirmative action has been attacked. Indeed, the spirit of the conservative coalition which elected President Reagan is preeminently opposed to affirmative action in any actor gesture of the government or the private sector.

Even before President Reagan has nominated a single person for the Supreme Court (to be ratified by the new conservative Senate), the signs are very clear that the days of encouraging blacks, of helping them to overcome past legal and economic handicappers, are over. (Some proclaim that "pampering" blacks is over.) Worst of all, it seems that most Americans, by the direction of the financial contributions, are of a mind to "put those Negroes back in their place"—back to 1920, 1930, 1940; perhaps even back to the 1800's.

If the foregoing attempt at analysis is correct, and we believe it is, then the summons to unity and to "close ranks" being raised here and elsewhere must not go unheeded.

Unity, a dedication to promoting unity, does not mean passivity. There is another vital step. There must be action and program to meet the threats against blacks—against black organizations, black colleges, black business, black families, black men, ad infinitum. Threats against vital black survival.

Life will also become increasingly difficult for those, not black, who usually join hands with blacks in crusades for justice and fair play.

In a time as the present, black men and women of strength, skill, and leadership, and their followers, commit sin when they waste their talents fighting other blacks, waging battles of hate refusing negotiation or compromise, refusing to admit that there is more than one side to every problem and promoting only their own, often fratricidal, self-interests.

Tony Brown's Journal

What the psychics say about Atlanta

With the two biggest and best computers in the world, the special Atlanta police task force has turned up a well-filled with composite pictures of the child-killer by psychics.

What the police have found out is that they don't know the race or sex of the killer. However, the psychics are not nearly as modest or cautiouscautious.

For example, in Illinois a psychic recently led a police force to the bodies of five female victims and was instrumental in the capture of the killer. The use of psychics in the Atlanta killings, dating back to July, 1979, is another example.

On a special television program, I was stunned when 67 percent of the people in our two-way QUBE opinion poll said that psychics should be used in police investigations. And on "Is This the Atlanta Killer?" we did just that.

Using methods that some consider— although it seems fewer and fewer—implausible and unconventional, we got an earful and an eyeful from popular psychic Lillian Cosby and Lloyd Strayhern, syndicated numerologist in New York's Big Red newspaper.

Lillian Cosby, who accurately predicted the political demise of former president Richard Nixon, said the killer in Atlanta was a balding, light-skinned black man with light eyes and a friendly mouth.

He works with another man and masquerades as a woman to gain the confidence of the children, she added. His mood swings reminds one of a Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde personality and like Dr. Jekyll, he possesses a technical knowledge of human anatomy.

We put Cosby and world renowned artist Jon Lockard, professor at the University of Michigan's Center for Afro-American and African Studies, together on April 15 before our April 18 taping and filmed Lockard reproducing Cosby's impression of the killer.

The composite rendering was true to Cosby's verbal directions. She added that he was chubby and had a "G" initial or sound in his name. He is a member of a team, she stressed, with a serious problem with his identity and moves about Atlanta's upper echelon with great ease.

Ms. Cosby explains why the killer has not been caught.

"He walks about as a respected citizen of the community so he knows what the police or any authority is going to do. He's right there to hear and see. He moves in their society and that's unfortunate.

"That is one reason why nobody can put his finger on him. There is somebody there in Atlanta who knows who he is."

To entrap the children, Ms. Cosby claims that the murderer masquerades as a woman.

"He seems to make this transition from a male to a female very easily. He's very insecure. He has difficulty defining his own identity. That is one of the problems he has had—he has had this all of his life—his masculine identity."

"It is not racial identity at all, except that he has not had the recognition that he wants and someone who he is close to—whether he's closely related to someone or not—has overshadowed him and that's where the vendetta comes in.

"This person has many mixed emotions and many personalities, like the many faces of Eve, that kind of person, and he is a Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde. He has a very scientific mind," she says.

Although Ms. Cosby says the killer can alter his appearance by wearing a wig, there is more than one person involved in the killings.

Dates that add up to 2, 4, 6 and 9, says numerologist Lloyd Strayhorn, are dangerous for children in Atlanta. Strayhorn, a syndicated columnist for New York's Big Red newspaper, conducted numerological evaluations of the victims and found similarities in their charts.

Cosby claims that the killer's motive is based on a vendetta against a public image or someone who is in public office. The killer is trying to degrade someone who is in a position to help Atlanta and "bring the black image up in policy-making positions."

She says the killer has been on the searches for the missing-murdered children and has also attended some of the funerals.

Ms. Cosby did not feel that the FBI was getting full cooperation in Atlanta, but the FBI is close to breaking the case. She says it will be solved soon. We hope, for the sake of all of us, that she is correct.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, is shown every Sunday on WBAL-TV, channel 11, at 3 p.m.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

For All WeKnow

Mary Carter Smith to attend royal wedding

City Editor

MARY CARTER SMITH who has distinguished herself nationally with her recitations of black literary heritage and folk stories, has yet another milestone in her career, utterly fantastic.

WHEN MAY 9 comes she will journey to Trenton, N.J. as a special guest at a royal wedding, the wedding of His Royal Highness Haile Selassi II, a descendant of Emperor Haile Selassie, the slain Ethiopian ruler and the last emperor on earth.

THE SELASSIES are direct descendants of the Queen of Sheba.

WHEN THE late Haile Selassie was in Washington to attend the funeral services November, 1963 for President John F. Kennedy, he was surrounded by kings and queens and rulers of the world and noted as the most picturesque of all figures.

YOUNG HAILE'S correct title is His Royal Highness Prince Haile Selassie II, Ethnarch and Regent in Diaspora, the Solomonic Throne of Ethiopia.

The bride-to-be is a native of Lambertville, N.J., a graduate of the Sorbonne in Paris and a 12-year teacher of French in the high schools there.

MARY CARTER SMITH went along with her when she took her class to Paris in 1980.

BUT BACK to the wedding.

The invitations are a treasure in themselves as they announce the liturgy of marriage and crowning at a solemn pontifical ceremony at the Holy Trinity Cathedral at 11 a.m. May 9 in Trenton.

His Roya Highness, as you know, is in exile from his native Ethiopia since his father's assassination.

THE BRIDE-TO-BE has become Lady Lillie Elizabeth Trent since the betrothal ceremonies last December. That affair alone was more than the usual America engagement announcement.

LADY ELIZABETH is the daughter of William H. Trent and the late Evelyn N. Trent of Lambertville.

She will wear a gown of spun gold and the royal ermine cape and diamond crown when she exchanges vows with HRH Prince Haile II.

THE PRINCE himself will be decked with the royal jewels and ermine cape and regalia accustomed to a prince of the family of the Lion of Judah, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

A ROYAL RECEPTION immediately follows the wedding and then comes the real glamour.

A GRAND BALL and Cotillion is set for the evening with a royal banquet at 8 p.m. in the hotel ballroom. Some 2,000 guests are expected.

AFRICAN DANCERS are among the many highlights of the ball.

BALTIMORE'S Mary Carter Smith's gown is one-of-a-kind and handmade of eyelet lace imported from Senegal, it is called "A GRAND BUBA."

If has a wide MASIE-type collar. Her earrings and bracelets are made of beads and created by Joyce Scott.

Mary's headpiece is of matching material and called a Gelee.

The bride-to-be holds a "diplome D'etudes superieures" from the Sorbonne in Paris and a BA degree from the College of Wooster, Ohio and MA from Middlebury College, Vermont.

Prior to returning to Lambertville to teach, Ms. Trent worked as a bi-lingual secretary-translator for the Ambassador of Liberia in Paris (4 years) and as a bi-lingual administrative aide for the African - American Institute in Washington, D.C.

By a former marriage, she has one daughter, Evelyn Jackson, presently residing in Lambertville. Evelyn is a 1977 graduate of South Hunterdon Regional High School and has attended Montclair State College. Lady Elizabeth Trent holds membership in several professional organizations: NJEA and NEA (state and national teacher organizations), New Jersey Foreign Language Teachers' Association and the New Jersey Society for French Professors.

She is presently preparing for publication of a book on French-speaking African literature and a travel guide on "le monde francophone."

LORD PRINCE Haile Selassie II, the bridegroom-to-be, is presently employed as a professional administrator with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Prince Haile Selassie holds a B.A. from Rider College and has completed graduate studies at the Princeton Theological Seminary and Rutgers University.

Before accepting the government position, he was a history teacher in the Burlington County schools.

He has also served as a parole officer with the New Jersey Bureau of Paroles and as the State Migrant Labor Coordinator and Spanish Interpreter for New Jersey.

A resident of Mount Holly for many years, Prince Haile Selassie organized the North Burlington County chapter of the NAACP of which he was president, and served as the assistant national director of the NAACP Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services branch.

In 1977 he was elected to the National Credentials Committee of the NAACP Convention in Portland, Oregon.

He has also served as a Manpower (BURLCO) counselor.

Recently ordained as a bishop in the Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Church, Prince Haile Selassie II has done extensive counseling in the Christian community of the Burlington - Trenton area.

A constant champion of civil rights and freedom for all, he founded the World Unity Society for Human Rights (WUSHR) and has continued to work throughout the United States for voter registration drives, political campaigns, and civil liberty actions.

Last year he was awarded the Achievement Award of the Year at the Weeksville School (N.Y.) by Dr. Marguerite Thompson, herself recipient of the United Nations Humanitarian Award for 1979.

HOW BROWN is that gravy????

WAIT, THERE'S MORE.

THE COUPLE'S stationary, invitations and all those little reception cards and banquet and ball and cotillion cards are embossed with gold and deckled-edged in gold.

At the betrothal ceremonies both HRH Elizabeth and HRH Haile Selassie II were knighted in the Order of St. Phillip.

THUS THEY became Lady Lillie Elizabeth Trent and Lord Prince Haile Selassie II.

Scheduled to be among the 2,000 guests are U.S. congressmen, mayors, U.S. officials and scores of famed persons plus scores more of the couple's associates and friends.

EACH ONE of the items in the invitation envelope is engraved with the Lion of Judah!

SPEAKING of roots, history records that the Emperor's family goes back to the dawn of mankind.

AND, the Bible states that Ethiopia shall rule the world. Perhaps HRH Prince Haile Selassie II will return to his own in that fantastic African kingdom.

NEVERTHELESS, he is still royally. Once a prince, always a prince.

WE WILL cover the wedding and all festivities for the AFRO.

BY THE WAY, when the Prince of England and his bride are wed in that country in July, there will be heads of African countries present.

AND, there will be high clergymen (black) of the Church of England.

THAT should rotate your tires and scramble your eggs.

SUNDAY is the date when the representative for the Miss America (Atlantic City in the fall) Coptest will be chosen here.

THE MAYOR will crown the beauty who wins. All is scheduled for the Convention Center at 7:30 P.M. and there will be black beauties on the stage.

DIANA KANE is scheduled as a judge. At present she is working on her copyrighted "Tiny Tots Beauty Pageant."

FIT FOR A QUEEN — Mary Carter Smith's gown to attend the wedding is one-of-a-kind.

RYALES Photo

MORE LETTERS—

AFRO staffers commended

Dear AFRO:

It is a genuine pleasure for me to announce that the National Chapter of the Black Women's Consciousness Raising Association has selected Ms. Pam Widgeon, Ms. Portia Badham and Mark Gail to receive the B.W.C.R.A. Community Service Certificate for their work in the field of journalism.

The awards cermony will be held at the National Conference Saturday, May 2nd 1981, 1 p.m. at the the Community College of Baltimore, Liberty Heights Campus.

Our organization is extremely proud to honor three outstanding individuals who were among the first to report news of the black children murdered in Atlanta, Ga.

There is no doubt, that this Association is extremely proud to honor these three outstanding black newspersons who involved themselves in this issue that so strongly affects black women.

We feel this to be very significant, not only for our own important concerns, but for the general community as well.

Again we are proud of our black reporters and we congratulate them.

LOUISE JOHNSON
National President
BWCRA

Mrs. Mary Conoway, wife of Frank Conoway is in Sinai Hospital for surgery.

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.