Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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

Black police commissioner!

Donald Pomerleau is leaving as this city's police commissioner after 15 often turbulent years.

Named to replace him as interim commissioner until a formal and final appointment of a boss of police is Col. Frank Battaglia, who promptly and wisely picked Col. Bishop Robinson, highest ranking black police officer, as his second in command.

We have no idea how long Commissioner Battaglia intends to serve as interim head of the force.

We do know that Col. Robinson is eminently qualified by his experience, leadership abilities, training and seniority to be appointed police commissioner for the city of Baltimore.

In a city whose majority population is black, and where police-community relations need vast improvement, Colonel Robinson has the skills, sensitivity and political acumen to make an excellent commissioner.

Support for his appointment is strong in our community and we expect Baltimore to decide as other large cities with predominantly black populations have already intelligently decided, the top cop should and must be black at this point in time.

Bishop Robinson is the man for the job.

Tony Brown's Journal

Pulitzergate in black

Part I of this three part series examined the newspaper hoax perpetrated by Janet Cooke that shook the journalism industry.

It analyzed the ramifications of the scandal in relation to other blacks at white dailies, Janet Cooke's motivations and the true reason why the Washington Post management failed to understand how and why the hoax occurred.

Roger Wilkins, a black Washington Star editor who sat on the board that awarded Cooke the prize, believes that her fraudulent story has damaged black journalists across the nation.

However, I believe that you can't color Janet Cooke black because she is classified as such.

A description of Cooke by a national staff reporter at the Post, Herb Denton, explains why Wilkins' faith in her as a "black" reporter was misplaced.

"Probably few things could cause more squirming by this woman who spent so much time denying that there was any significance to the fact that her skin was black who in fact avoided other blacks."

"Race," he quoted her as saying, "accounted for only five percent of what she considered important about a person."

My conclusion was that Janet Cooke skillfully fooled "crusty old white editors," along with one black one, while deceiving herself with a neurotic fantasy of being white.

The Post reinforced her racial needs and expectations by preferring someone with a safe white racial identity who alleges to graduate magna cum laude from Vassar speaking or reading French or Spanish.

I feel a unique involvement in this tragic and humiliating saga because I was the first dean of the School of Communications at Howard University which now trains a significant percentage of the professionally-educated black journalists in this country. And against significant obstacles, I have produced on national television for more than 10 years a series aimed at black America.

Firsthand, I have learned that my product must be more polished and better researched than the norm demands. Insofar as getting appropriate recognition from white institutions, I get very little, and I have come to accept that fact as a part of the reality of being black in white America.

But whether racial justice is present in our society is not the central issue—succeeding without racial justice is.

My reality is that I must overcome this society's racial shortcomings because I owe that which ennobles their faith in our system.

Conversely, my failure to compete, rightly or wrongly, would denigrate all blacks and diminish the chances of others ever getting an opportunity. Janet Cooke failed to comprehend that fact—or simply did not care.

Very few blacks get the chance to succeed in the field of journalism and that is why I find no glee in Janet Cooke's demise or in the problems she created for the newspaper which has done so much to my people—to provide them with a successful role model and to open doors in that field to blacks. Neither do I respect Cooke nor excuse the Post's editorial lapse.

As you can see, my perspective of this journalistic tragedy is very different from the white editor who fears that his credibility is threatened or the black who worries selfishly about his or her personal "newsroom" affirmative action program and how white editors will view blacks in the future.

As an academic dean, I created, borrowing from Frederick Douglass, a simple definition of journalism: "A search for the truth." And although we are incapable of absolute truth, our relative truth has no negative connotations.

Janet Cooke, the fabricator of the misery of black people, the perpetrator of a dishonorable, faked, phony, journalistic fraud, was a racial and personal hoax.

She neither represented blacks in journalism nor blacks in general because she did not want to be one of them.

This was the "warning bell" the Post editorial didn't hear when it "sounded."

Although editors failed to verify the existence of "Jimmy," they were apparently oblivious to what Post executive editor Benjamin Bradlee knew later: "You cannot make a rule that is going to... save you from a pathological liar."

It was not story invention that the skillful hoaxer raised to an art, it was racial denial, another form of lying.

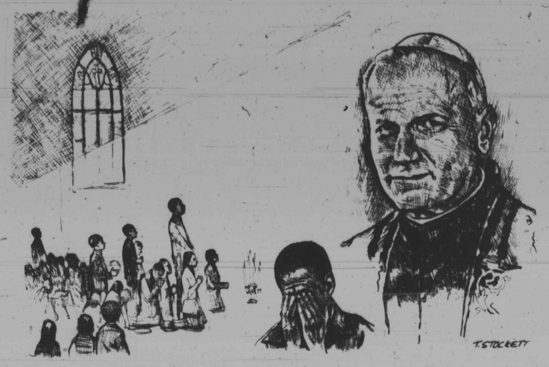
"She was Gucci and Yves St. Laurent," as one editor described her; she also had long "good" hair and a dramatic white dialect.

"And she could write," the ombudsman exclaimed.

These "essential" attributes that have bought her the normally cantankerous editors' blind trust, ultimately at the expense of their own credibility.

As one famous person said, "He who lies down with dogs shall rise with fleas."

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



MADELINE MURPHY

Sordid racist affair

In regard to the sordid affair of Kalman R. Hettleman, secretary of the Department of Human Resources and the prostitute, everyone has missed the point, including the judge who gave him unsupervised probation with the mandate to do a year long study of lead poisoning (?); and the governor who didn't even chastise him, but rather treated him with the condolences of one who had just lost a loved one, or as a prodigal, son momentarily gone astray.

But the more glaring paradox and inequities of the system were discussed with two male friends, both in public life. The symbolism of the act itself and the dual position of Mr. Hettleman as secretary of human resources for the state of Maryland and as defendant so easily placed on probation, were interpreted as the outward sign of racism extant in the system.

For as one said, "Suppose this had been Thornton, the black director of personnel, caught with a white woman— he'd have been run out of Maryland on a rail."

The other interjeted, "Yes, but consider the fact that Hettleman deals with poor, black women every day in regard to social services, welfare. To put it bluntly, his so-called liberal tail really showed when he was caught with his pants down, with a poor black woman, the kind his agency is supposed to help."

"But what about the fact, "rejoined the other, "that he insisted several times that oral sex was committed on him. Isn't this symbolic of the slave master dominance, as if he were not only completely detached from the implications of the act, but also not a partner in more mutual sexual relationship?"

Then, in another setting with white liberals, one heard that the son of one of them who was in class with Hettleman's son reported that there had been absolutely no discussion of the incident.

Wagons tightly encircled him, virtually ignoring the degrading actions of a man whose job it is to nurture, to protect, to provide help for women in such degeneracy, in an agency of the state where most of the clients are black women.

(As an aside, the fact that there are few black men in authority in his agency, some in tenuous positions at the moment, tests his credibility also as a liberal do-gooder.)

In addition to being merely an embarrassment to himself and his family, this sordid caper is rightly an embarrassment to that agency.

More disappointing, however, is the fact that there was no outcry from women's groups, no outrage publicly expressed by black female leaders, not black religious leaders about this Jekyll and Hyde contradiction between what the man did in his private nights, that must inevitably spill over into his public days.

His actions absolutely denigrated the basic mission of social services that determines the factors that contribute to social and family pathology and "recommends changes and new programs to solve some of the problems."

Dr. W. W. Sanger, writes in his history of prostitution that poverty is an integral part or nearly all the conditions of life which we have to consider as incentives to prostitution.

And in this regard we must most certainly look at The Block, that services the carnal nature of men who in the main represent the middle level manager, the political types, and in this case the director of a state agency, in an area where victims of poverty are oppressed, degraded, exploited, hardly human fodder for the mill of human resources.

(In earlier time, North Avenue was also a zone patronized by white political figures, high in office now, who exercised this degrading exploitation of black women.)

Rather than consider the Block an area of local color; a dubious decadent tourist attraction; rather than callously accept all of its degrading fringe benefits, an added probationary task force for Mr. Hettleman, after he had been substantially fined and censured, would have been not only to discover how to reduce poverty, the prime cause of prostitution, pimping and drug pushing, but also how to convert that sordid area into one of Mayor Schaefer's most bragged about redevelopment projects.

What about hi-rises and hotels there, on that prime property? Think of the legitimate jobs!

Don't you see these as the knotty sociological challenges that need the problem solving expertise of Mr. Hettleman?

Seriously, however, the racism of this debacle fairly reeks in it an unsubtle slap on the hand, tongue in cheek resolution, that shouts for all to hear that justice ain't blind and that poor black women are still considered the chattels of slavery and don't really count in the scheme of things.

And if it can be done to them, it can be done to you and me, given similar circumstances.

LETTERS

In praise of Murphy prison column

Dear AFRO:

As incarcerated men concerned about the problem of juvenile delinquency in our community, we thank Mrs. Madeline Murphy for her May 2nd article entitled REASONED STRAIGHT.

It is very seldom that anything positive is printed about incarcerated men. At times it seems as though the press is writing about animals rather than human beings.

I'm certain that every incarcerated man who read this article is now holding his head just a little bit higher.

However, there is a correction that must be made. REASONED STRAIGHT operates out of Patuxent Institution and not the Maryland House of Corrections.

The inmates signed to deter juvenile delinquents, i.e. SEVEN STEPS, REASONED STRAIGHT declares solidarity with all incarcerated men who would dedicate their time and effort towards deterring our young brothers from following our footsteps to prison.

Programs such as PROJECT TURNABOUT, SEVEN STEPS and REASONED STRAIGHT are all manifestations of the concern of incarcerated men.

Their very existence refutes 85 percent of all literature printed about incarcerated men.

We all were juvenile delinquents at one time ourselves and our incarcerated status is a daily reminder of the end result of the criminal lifestyles.

We do not want our young brothers to join us in these overcrowded hell-holes.

It behooves incarcerated men to develop programs that would keep more of our young men on the street and heading in a positive direction.

From the existence of such programs as PROJECT TURNABOUT, SEVEN STEPS and REASONED STRAIGHT it should be obvious that there is a new breed of socially conscious inmates in Maryland's prison system.

It should be obvious also that all incarcerated men are not the monsters we are made out to be.

TIMOTHY I. MELTON
Co-ordinator, co-founder
"Reasoned Straight"
Patuxent Institution

The Atlanta police

Dear AFRO:

Your claim that the Atlanta police force "keeps on letting the killings continue" is an irresponsible statement.

The statement is irresponsible because it is made without sufficient facts and implies either that the Atlanta police force is incompetent or the force willingly refuses to solve the killings.

JEROME A. NICHOLAS JR.
Attorney-at-law

Morals Attacked

Dear AFRO:

Nearly 600,000 babies are born each year to girls between 10 and 14. Recent studies disclose that the view most often expressed by teen mothers is this: "Everyone is doing it. I have to have a baby to prove my femininity and to show I have a boyfriend."

Clearly, in contemporary society, the most officious assaults on the intrinsic moral worth and dignity of human beings are a result of our popular sexual attitudes and practices.

For many, sex—instead of being the communion of life and love within the sacrament of marriage—is simply a plaything or a tool to enhance one's popularity or to alleviate one's doubts about one's masculinity or femininity.

Premarital sex is considered the norm; and there are immense pressures on young people to engage in sex before marriage, to procure abortions and to live together.

These pressures emanate from the media, the popular literature and films of our times, the pernicious influence of the peer group and the general moral climate that permeates our society.

Young people who practice chastity are considered odd, and, indeed, are scorned, ridiculed and ostracized by those people — young and old — who smugly and mistakenly think premarital sex is a sign of love.

HAVEN BRADFORD GOW

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.

You cannot beat something with nothing

G. JAMES FLEMING

The landslide passage of President Reagan's economic program in the House of Representatives could not have happened so strikingly, except for the defection of 80 Democrats to the Republican side and the early seemingly throwing in of the towel by Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill.

Why did, or could, so many Democrats turn their backs on the more liberal Democratic plan and help to give such a triumphant victory to the opposition party?

The response most often given by the backsliding Democrats is that they were voting the way their constituents wanted them to vote; that they were listening to the dictates of their districts, which dictates were given to them during their Easter vacations at home.

There is much truth and validity to such explanation, as the public opinion polls also testify. But, there is even greater and more pervasive reason for the Democratic default—going back to last November when Ronald Reagan carried all but six states in the presidential election; when his party won a majority of Senate seats for the first time in over a quarter-century; when several Republicans unseated their Democratic counterparts as governors; and when other key veteran Democrats were toppled.

Then and now, in November and in the present season, is seen a graphic demonstration of the old cliche: "you cannot beat something with nothing."

During the 1980 campaign it was very clear that by every test, the Democratic party was not its old self, in reference to planning and organization, or to money-raising, or to internal unity, or to effectiveness in corralling and delivering the votes to their presidential and minor candidates.

Of all these deficiencies, the most telling was the lack of organization—the kind of organization about which the party was so efficient and effective for the most of the last half century.

The party of "the bosses" and "the machine", having purified itself, had not mastered any other new instruments.

The party was more respectable, it smelled better, but it had lost the power over even those who were feeding at its troughs.

Its organization was in shambles on nearly every level.

As stated in past columns, wherever the Democratic hierarchy and bureaucracy were weak, the Republican party and its supporting coalition were fiercely strong—aided by the latest and most sophisticated electronic devices and the most modern money-raising techniques.

In every direction, the Democrats were the "also rans" because "you cannot beat something with nothing." And there are signs as yet that the party will be able to halt Republican victories in the several weeks ahead.

There should be a lesson in the plight of the Democrats for black and other minorities. For these groups, too, are in the unenviable position of finding themselves quite un-ready to give battle to the conservative wielders of power, who, up to now, are having much of their own way.

So far, since the Reagan election, there are few signs of vitality no really new directions, save for viewing with alarm and other oratory from the leadership groups whose constituents will (or may) suffer most from the Reagan-Stockman, really Reagan - Stockman juggernaut.

Perhaps it is not too late for such organizations as the Congressional Black Caucus, the national NAACP, the national labor unions, and their statewide counterparts to firm up a strategy and program, of such stature and with such resources as to give respectable counter attack to the machine now in power.

It must not be, again, "too little and too late." We must not again be victims of the reality that "no one can beat something with nothing."

Has anything really changed since Malcolm X talked to AFRO in 1963?

By Ralph Mathews Jr.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The two most dynamic black leaders in the Sixties were Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X Shabazz, and both played major roles in the massive strides toward freedom made by black Americans in that period.

Both were assassinated as their power grew.

May 19 is the birthday of Malcolm X and poring over AFRO materials on his life and times were found an August 3rd interview in the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN quite instructive.

Malcolm had not yet broken with the Nation of Islam and his comments on racial conditions and American politics even before his evolution as a Pan-Africanist and an advocate of white-black political coalition are still extremely contemporary.

In light of what black America is presently going through, what Malcolm said on August 3rd, 1963, still holds today to a large degree.

(The writer at the time, an AFRO staff writer, is presently editor of terview in the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.)

Either Malcolm X is becoming mellow or the black revolution in America is catching up with him.

That is one observation I made at the end of an evening conversation with the fiery leader of the New York Black Muslims and second-ranked spokesman, after Elijah Muhammad himself, for this militant movement.

Most of my conversations with Malcolm had been held in Harlem over the past few years before Birmingham triggered off the black man's present mounting quest for freedom.

Where Malcolm's words had often jolted me half-off my chair as I listened, now though he speaks as toughly as ever, it seems the climate of our times that his words do not shock so much.

Malcolm X is aware of the changing climate. One of the first things he said to me Tuesday was "Things are moving now. Some of the so called black leaders are beginning to sound like Muslims. Look at Adam Clayton Powell, now he's saying something."

We were in the office of Isaiah Karriem, the Baltimore Muslim minister, whose guest Malcolm X was for a program that evening.

As we talked, a Muslim brother came in and said, "There are some devil reporters outside, Minister."

Malcolm paused: "Let the devils wait."

A devil in the Muslim lexicon (of that era) is a white man.

And so the "devil" languished outside in 90 degree heat on Wilson St. outside the mosque while Malcolm and Minister Kariem talked with me.

I had a list of questions for Malcolm to answer. He responded with his usual enthusiasm.

Q. Has the apparent uprising among black people throughout the country helped your movement?

A. The uprising has proven what Mr. Muhammad has been saying for 33 years, that there is no difference between the Northern white man and the Southern white man. One barks like a wolf, the other like a fox. Yes, our movement is helped. The awakened black man is the one who is most pro-Muslim, the awakened black man is the one who is most dissatisfied, the most receptive to Mr. Muhammad's teachings.

Q. Have you noticed any difference in the people now joining your movement?

A. Contrary to the peopular opinion, the attraction has always been to a cross-section. The white press gives the impression that only the illiterate come in. You don't have to be illiterate to be dissatisfied.

Q. What programs, activities, actions can we expect from the Black Muslims in the near future that would affect the general population?

A. (Note: Malcolm just smiled at this question for a long moment and declined a direct answer. Rather he spoke in generalized terms.) A racial holocaust is more deadly than a nuclear holocaust. That is why Kennedy is more afraid of these black people than he is of Krushchev.

Q. You have been quoted as saying the black middle - class gets the crumbs from the white man's table. Do you see any role that black middle - class people can serve in the black masses struggle for freedom? For example what can our doctors, lawyers, school teachers and government workers do for themselves and the people they come from?

A. They should be contributing their education, talent and skill toward creating some of kind of society for us. Just as white professionals have created some kind of society or culture for the white masses. They should be creating employment opportunities. They should be setting up and developing businesses.

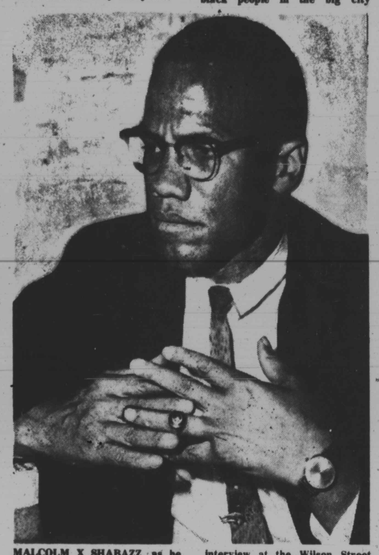
Q. What is your opinion of black people who want to integrate with white Americans?

A. They just don't understand. They are blind. Anytime the oppressed want to integrate with the oppressor it is because they are still blind black people trying to integrate with white people is as intelligent as a sheep trying to integrate with wolves.

Q. Are you familiar with the Gwynn Oak Amusement Park situation here? About 300 demonstrators, mostly white, were jailed for protesting segregation of this park. Many leading clergymen participated. Now the park will be integrated. Your comment?

A. Black people have been amused long enough. They need factories, farms. Those white liberals have blacks barking up the wrong tree. I don't make any distinction between white clergymen and white racketeers. You can throw the Pope in too. Imagine trying to get in a park when you can't even pay your rent. Congressman Powell is right when he condemns that white liberal leadership. He's been around them long enough to know how they talk when they get off in the corner, how they really feel about us.

The worst enemy black people have is the white liberal. Awareness of him (the white liberal) is growing. If the white liberal is no good then what white man is good? That's when the black man begins to wake up, when he is able to look at all of them, liberals included, and see them for what they really are.



MALCOLM X SHABAZZ, as he looked in August 1963, is shown in an AFRO file photo during an interview at the Wilson Street Mosque in Baltimore.

Q. It has been reported that black people in the North where they have voting rights still do not register to vote in strength. Why is this? Is it lack of interest or unawareness of American politics?

A. It's not because they are politically ignorant or lethargic but they can tell that they are used only as political footballs. Who do blacks have a choice of voting for — Kennedy? Nixon? That's like being given a choice between Satan and Lucifer. Blacks catch hell when they vote and they catch hell when they don't vote.

Q. Great numbers of black Americans must live on public welfare hand-outs. What is your feeling about this?

A. Mr. Muhammad's program teaches us how to do something for ourselves. Welfare makes you lazy. If the money spent on welfare was spent on things that would rehabilitate people then our problems would be solved. Mr. Muhammad takes us off welfare and bread lines. We stand on our own feet.

Q. What is your opinion of white Americans who have joined black people in the current freedom fight?

A. I would definitely question their motives.

Q. You have said drug addiction and over - indulgence in liquor are two degrading characteristics of black people in the big city ghettos. If this is so, do you feel our people are narcotics and alcohol prone?

A. No they are not but circumstances make them turn to such addictions. In Harlem alone black people spend about $150 million yearly. Recently, the ministers began a boycott of Harlem liquor stores to force companies to hire black salesmen.

But this approach just gets a few token jobs for a few people. Mr. Muhammad's approach would have been to stop black people from drinking altogether.

Black people in Harlem spend enough on whiskey, dope, marijuana to run a nation. Keep black people drunk, addicted and you keep him deaf, dumb and blind. When you stop a man from being a rummy, he can live on half of what he did before.

A non-Muslim black man has his habits to keep up, his side-woman, his night club bill, etc. He needs $100 a week just to keep these habits up. I know famous black people who earn great sums of money but who stay broke, their names would surprise you, because they are hooked on the white man's bad habits and throw all their money away.

Heroin is not the only habit, nor alcohol. Cadillacs, a fine home, wall-to-wall carpeting can have you so hooked you have to sell your soul to the Devil to keep up and even then you never can.

Any black person who is trying to become a part of the white American dream experiences a nightmare. I know because I tried real hard to be white before I woke up and became a Muslim.

Q. Do you think congress will pass any legislation ending racial segregation?

A. Congress will pass whatever is politically expedient, whatever will help perpetuate the white power structure. No matter what Congress passed black people will still be the last hired, first fired, they will still pay the highest price for the worse foods, live in the worse houses, attend the worse schools.

White America is acting affectionate toward the black man because it is under pressure to do so but no matter how affectionately the white man acts he is still the same old devil.

Ten years ago black people thought integrated education was going to solve their problems but the whites left the schools and fled to the suburbs.

Then we felt that integrated housing was the answer but as soon as black people moved into a white neighborhood, all the whites fled from there also.

Now black people are asking for jobs. The white man cannot give these up and flee and he will not give up his job for black people.

There will be blood.

THIS WAS the end of the formal interview with Minister Malcolm. Later that evening after his speech in the Baltimore Mosque, Minister Malcolm invited me to join him for a meal.

We had talked this way often in my Harlem days. Malcolm ordered watermelon. The eyes of one of my companions rose. Malcolm caught this look. He said quite cheerfully.

"Oh yes I love watermelon. You know before Mr. Muhammad woke me up to who I was and I decided to be myself, I was ashamed to eat watermelon. Now I eat it heartily. You could call me an expert watermelon eater."

He attacked the melon with spoon adroitly scooping small portions as he talked. One of my companions said to the Minister "Your approach is sheer artistry."

Malcolm said "Oh yes sir!"

DURING THE long conversation that followed, I was to note that Malcolm X placed a new stress on the need for unity among all blacks.

Two or three years ago he would have unhesitatingly blasted Martin Luther King or another black leader with whom he took issue. Now the Muslim leader said often "we must all come together, each fighting the enemy in his own way, with bow or arrow, or spear, or paper bullets."

He showed his usual far - ranging interest and knowledge of world politics. He was greatly disturbed by the Kennedy administration and attacked John and Robert Kennedy with more vehemence than is customary.

There is no love lost between Muslims and Catholics.

Malcolm said that the "white Americans Protestant has lost his will to fight, he is being over - run, his spirit is broken. You must understand that the history of Western culture is essentially the record of conflict between Protestants and Catholics.

"Now the Catholics are in the ascendancy. The white Protestant who founded this country doesn't know what to do or where to go. White Protestants are always evenly divided politically, 52 percent for Kennedy, 48 percent for Nixon in the last election, so this gives the Catholics and Jews more control.

"What is not recognized is the black man is the lever with which non-Protestants are lifting control away from the traditional Protestant power structure.

"But the black man for all this power to upset the balance is being used and will end up with nothing as usual.

Malcolm also said: "The new power in this country lines up as either liberal or conservative. This does not mean "liberal" as black people would like the word to mean but "liberal" as describing a group of white men who want to do things one way and "conservative" as those who think things should go another way. It is just a power struggle between white men and blacks have no part in it.

"Only blacks still think in terms of Democratic or Republican. These are out-moded concepts. When Congress votes, it lines up liberal versus conservatives. Our people still go around calling themselves Democratics or Republicans. They are behind the times."

I had a final question for him. Where did he feel most comfortable in this country?

"In Harlem. More happens in Harlem on one corner in one day than happens in Baltimore or other places in a year. This is because you find more racial consciousness among blacks in New York than you find anywhere else in the country and you find more racial pride."

Not that Harlem was physically more inviting to the Muslim leader, "But Harlem people really know how to fight." He pointed a word picture of the Harlem riots during World War II. "Yes Harlem is the only place for me."

Malcolm's final words were: "The most important part of a keg of dynamite is the fuse. Give me the fuse anytime."

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

For all we know

City Editor

GENA EMILLE LANE, daughter of Genesta and John Lane is the fourth in her family to be graduated from the University of Pennsylvania.

Others were Sister Constance, daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. George B. Murphy Sr.; Mrs. Clementine Murphy Knox, sister of AFRO board chairman John H. Murphy III and Daniel H. Murphy, their late father who was son of AFRO founder John H. Murphy Sr.

GENA is the beauteous granddaughter of the late Genesta and Harry Gilbert. Harry was the son of the late Harriett (Nettie) Murphy Gilbert, One of the five daughters of the AFRO founder.

GENA'S COMMENCEMENT is Monday, May 18 at 10 a.m. at the Philadelphia Civic Center Convention Hall. Urban League's Vernon Jordan is the speaker. Congratiulations Cousin Gena.

BLAZING with the U.S. Presidential Eagle in gold on royal blue is the invitation Congressman Parren J. Mitchell has sent thousands of his supporters to attend the Annual 7th Congressional District Open House Sunday May 31 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 102 Ellamont St. RSVP 962 - 4531.

OUR RAYMOND KELLY JR. received a doctor of ministry degree at Howard University's commencement May 9 and we give him and his parents our hearty congrats.

Howard U. was established in 1867 and Raymond's announcements in double envelops also a treasure to keep.

EXQUISITE and edged in Gold are the invitations sent out to a chosen few of the select to attend the 75th Anniversary of the DuBois Circle. The stellar event, (black tie) is set for 6 p.m. May 19 at Blue Crest North. The AFRO is pleased to extend congratulations in person to the time - honored group.

ANOTHER superb invitation is the engraved one coming from Dr. James Lewis for the viewing of watercolors silk screens and lithographers by Romare Bearden and the performance of the Nanette Bearden Contemporary Chamber Dance Group Sunday, May 17, 5 p.m. at the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Building, Morgan.

Mr. and Mrs. Bearden will be present.

MAY 24 is the date for the Providence Baptist Church 3 p.m. concert by the Gospel Unlimited 100 voice choir of Poly - Western High School.

Bring the family to this free affair by the Progressive Workers Club of that beautiful new solar energy church at Pennsylvania and Lafayette Avenues where the Rev. Marcus Wood is pastor. Mrs. Henrietta Daniels is president and Rev. Richard Davis and Mrs. Larraine King, coordinators.

The Progressive Workers will serve dinner at 1:30 p.m. so look for some fine food.

MAY 29 is an important date since the York Road Planning Area Committee is holding Media Open House at 4324 York Rd.

FACT SHEET

Completed — Nearly $20,000,000 public and private investment generated

— 70 renovated structures
— 15 new buildings
— 450 new jobs created

Underway — $4.5 million commercial, residential and historic preservation project - 5100 - 5200 York Road.

— New $100,000 Post Office parking facility on the vacant B.P. station lot - 5316 York Road.

— $125,000 traffic, parking and street improvements in the Northwest Quadrant, - York and Northern Parkway.

MORE FACTS

— The Center is open to small business throughout the Baltimore Metropolitan area on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m., to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

— The Center offers a free business health check up to all Baltimore small businesses. If the business person then wants to use NBAC services, the basic annual membership is $50.00.

— Membership in the NBAC entitles an individual use of one PLATO module, a minimum of three hours counseling, access to the resource library and referral service, and a quarterly newsletter.

— PLATO, a computer based education system, has been developed by Control Data Corporation. Students may participate in one or all of 15 lessons of the "Building Your Own Business" course.

— Counseling is provided by experienced business professionals who have volunteered their time to the Center.

— Glen Besa, director, and Frederick Beauchamp, Business Counselor, staff the Center on a full - time basis.

— The Center is operated on a private, non - profit basis as a program of the York Road Planning Area Committee, Inc.

— The Center's total budget of $140,000 includes grants and in - kind contributions. Commercial Credit Company is a primary sponsor of the NBAC. Other financial contributions include Morris Goldseker, Lutheran Church in America, Equitable Trust, American Automobile Association and the Baltimore City Community Block Grant program.

THE BALTIMORE MARKETING ASSOCIATION sponsored a fund raising dinner at D'Joint to support the Constellation District of the Baltimore City Boy Scouts.

The Marketing association solicited contributions from area black businessmen and women.

Contributing to the fund - raising effort were Robert Clay, Robert Clay, Inc.; Leon Belt, Assurance Title Co; Bernard Lacewell, La Cosmetique; Art Lambert, Lambert Insurance Co.; Terry Hudson, Atlas Insurance Co.; Leon Bridges, The Leon Bridges Co.; Casilda Nichols, Freedom Distributors; The Business League, of Baltimore and The Baltimore Boy Scouts receive 44 percent of their operating budget from the United Way, 33 percent self-supporting projects and the remaining 23 percent must be raised from private contributions.

Communities within the Constellation District include: Upton, Cherry Hill, Roland Park, South Baltimore, Edmondson Village, and Mt. Winans.

ON HAND representing the Boy Scouts were District Executive of the Constallation District, Ernest Gayles and a long time scouter, Jerry Archer.

MAY 18 The grand opening of Upton Courts, a major housing development in the Upton neighborhood when Mayor Schaefer officiates at a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1821 Pennsylvania Ave. A total of 180 new units of Section 8 housing on three separate lots made up of townhouses and garden apartments for low and moderate-income tenants became available for immediate occupancy.

MAY 16)) Graduates of Eastern High School are looking forward to meeting over lunch on May 16.

The occasion is the annual spring luncheon of the school's Alumnae Association.

GRADUATES from all classes are invited to attend the luncheon, to be held at the Cross Keys Inn, 5100 Falls Rd.

THE COST is $12. A fine meal featuring Roast Chicken Rose - Marie, and an enjoyable program with Ward Fashions and "Eastern" talent are planned.

THE HIGHLIGHT of the Eastern Alumnae luncheons is the spirit and bond created when former school - class - mates see and interact with each other, and when graduates representing Eastern's history gather and sing the school song.

FOR MORE information or for luncheon reservations, contact L'Tanya Brothers ('73), luncheon chairperson at 321 - 6885 (evenings), or Doris Lang, at 661 - 6663.

LAST MONTH, Mrs. Eva M. Ayers of Baltimore journeyed to Anchorage, Alaska, where she was the guest of Mrs. Pat Coleman, Past Grand Worthy Matron of the Alaska Jurisdiction, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation.

Points of interest in the area were shown to Mrs. Ayers by Mrs. Wheeler Watts, Worthy Matron of the North Star Chapter, OES.

MRS. AYERS is an officer of Myra Grand Chapter, OES, Maryland Jurisdiction.

MARK MEDOFF'S extraordinary Broadway play, "CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD" starring Peter Evans and Linda Bove, opening Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mechanic.

"CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD", the 1980 Tony Award - Winning Best Play, is a captivating and powerful love story.

This play explores the world of the deaf and the struggle of two lovers, separated by silence, to "hear" each other despite enormous obstacles, some of them funny, all of them poignant. This unforgettable major event is full of love, understanding and passion.