Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Provident Hospital

Public health administrators in Maryland have launched still another of those interminiable studies, by which bureaucrats justify their existance and keep the paychecks coming.

This time the analysis focuses on two W. Baltimore hospitals, Provident and Lutheran.

Nothing sinister in all of this the bureaucrats assure any skeptics, just working up some comparisons.

Well history informs us that when a white-controlled institution be it a hospital college or snowball stand and a black-controlled institution are evaluated it is almost always to the black enitys distinct disadvantage.

Against this background especially in Maryland we are going to point-blank state that the comparisons more than likely have something to do with somebodys unstated intent that Provident be killed off and Lutheran be permitted to be the dominant Westside hospital serving our community.

No one in their right mind, you might say would dare such a thing Provident being one of the oldest of our institutions as well as the largest employer within our community.

Just the same we never underestimate the capacity arrogance and insensitivity of some kinds of people.

There is room for Provident and Lutheran, it is our opinion and each of these two institutions has its own unique mission. We would strongly advise that neither mission be tampered with in the name of cost-efficiency or streamlining of services and other code-words which serve as a camouflage for the covert doing-in and doing-away with black institutions.

In thinking about Providents importance we came across a position paper prepared by two key Provident administrators which we will share with you as all of us just might take Provident for granted and lose sight of its vitality and importance.

We quote!

"Provident Hospital Incorporated is a 271 bed full service general hospital located on a 22-acre site at 2600 Liberty Heights Avenue in West Baltimore.

"The hospital has been at its current site for approximately 10 years having first moved from its original location on Orchard Street to Division Street where it was located for 42 years prior to the latest move to Liberty Heights Avenue."

"The hospital serves a predominantly black population and is staffed by primarily black administrative medical nursing and allied health professionals and support personnel.

"Provident Hospitals mission which has been relatively unchanged since the hospitals founding in 1894 is promulgated on the belief that the hospital should have more to offer the community it serves than merely health care.

"While Providents community has changed considerably from that of the original Orchard Street constituency its willingness and ability to offer a flexible program of services to meet consumers needs has been undiminished.

"Indeed Provident Hospital Incorporated managed to turn around its operating status from that of a financially depressed institution to one which is totally viable in only five years due to the institutions desire to grow and accomodate to the changing tastes and attitudes of its users.

"For example the hospital has developed within its organizational structure a major clinic which serves the health needs of children and adolescents in the form of Provident Druid Children and Youth Development Center. If is a modern well-equipped well staffed facility that has been designed to address the expanding mental health needs of persons living in an increasing more complex and stressful environment which includes most notably a chemical detoxification program; and Provident has now made available a free public health information system the first of its kind in the Greater Baltimore area and a Lifeline program for the elderly and disabled.

"Provident Hospital through its participation in national health programs medical education and by its mere existence at a time when many black hospitals have been absorbed, has emerged as a unique institution.

"It enjoys a national reputation in many areas of clinical and community medicine.

"Among its most noteworthy accomplishments Provident has claim to being the first all electrically powered hospital in the country which recently led to its receiving a national Edison Electric Company award for its conservation efforts and has been named to the National Energy Watch Program.

"It was a first on the East Coast to have a church-based nurse coordinated community Hypertension program; the hospital was first to employ a Patient Advocate in Maryland; and the first full Stroke Unit in the City of Baltimore.

"Importantly, Provident Hospital at its current location also provides the primary access to emergency medical care for three major West Baltimore thoroughfares - Liberty Heights Park Heights and Reisterstown Road and several major high-traffic locations including the Community College of Baltimore, Mondawmin Mall, Druid Hill Park and the soon to be MTA Subway Station.

"Additional considerations deserve our attention when discussing Provident.

"The hospital employs approximately 1000 persons at its main facility and another 200 in outreach programs and has an annual budget in excess of $28 million.

Morever Provident Hospital is the largest employer of black people in the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland.

"Provident Hospital therefore ranks as a major economic, social and cultural resource on the local and national level.

"Provident Hospital also has developed a network of educational affiliations with institutions within and outside the state which include medical schools, colleges and federal scientific institutes.

"These affiliations have provided many opportunities for educating black students throughout Maryland in the health professions as well as providing ongoing continuing educational efforts for its medical nursing and allied health staff.

"In summary Provident Hospital throughout its 87-year history has strived to improve the health, social and spiritual well-being for black citizens in Baltimore.

"The commitment to this mission must and will continue through the ongoing efforts of the community, trustee board, staff and friends."

To this the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN adds Provident Hospital then now and forever. Let no one hinder its continuing growth development and love of and service to our community.

MADELINE MURPHY

Don't take me out to the ball game!

I know as much about baseball as my resident cat, Morris, although, he at times could be called the Sultan of Swat, when he hunts flies, and would make a great outfielder when it comes to catching birds on the wing.

But then there are no Cat baseball teams in the majors, yet.

Furthermore, since Sam Lacy and I have a mutual admiration society, far be it for me to preempt his role as the fine sports writer that he is.

Nevertheless, I, in my amateur status as sports commentator, am emboldened to put in my two cents about the present baseball strike.

First of all, all professional sports are really commercial sports. That is to say, all the billions of dollars management with TV rights and escalating gate receipts rakes in over the season on the backs of a meat rack freely purchased, exploited or sold to the highest bidder, boils down to huge profits. Money is the real name of the game.

The truly greedy in this affair, management, is really short sighted. The players just want a huger piece of the pie. In the stalmate they are killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

A sport that makes fickle fans hysterical won't always be around either, as we say in the recent rally with ringleader Wild Bill Hagey. But of course, he's got a lot riding on the games continuous performance.

But, except for the world series, baseball, to me, is boring.

And who knows my opinion better than two sons, aspiring pitchers, whom I thwarted every chance I could get to keep them from becoming absorbed in a sport I considered a dead end job, with little room at the top. Or two grandsons, stellar Little Leaguers, who can't even discuss the game with me without seeing my eyes glaze over with disinterest bordering on revulsion or phony enthusiam depending on my mood.

A game that is fraught with injuries—bad backs, beaned heads, sore elbows and knees, scrapes and groin injuries—the inhumane way they are kept on their feet, injected with pain killers, forced through whirlpools, to keep the National Pastime a money maker, is like George Brett advertises on a soap commercial—"I give my body to baseball."

Certainly all of them won't be picked to sell soap, candy bars, beer, insurance or underwear. And in the case of Curt Flood, the pioneer in free agency, he's now playing softball in some obscure league in the hinterlands. (Let that be a lesson to them: No good deed goes unpunished!) So why shouldn't they make good money? In a free enterprise system, why shouldn't they have the right to get it while the getting is good?

Isn't that as American as apple pie?

In addition, it is on those sore backs that a city depends upon revenue. Without the players the stars of these extravaganzas, the fans can't abuse them when they're losing; the vendors can't stick it to the fans with stale peanuts, cold hot dogs and warm beer; the TV sports commentators, during the long summer months, in all their sarcastic splendor, can't fill those two minutes with vituperative comment and snide remarks.

Theirs is an industry of multiplier benefits, yet of questionable personal, shortlived tenure. Lord knows they suffer enough for it.

And finally, isn't it ludicrous, really hypocritical that this country can defend the right of the Poles to strike in the name of democracy and even threaten that big bear, the Soviet Union, with drastic action if they don't lay off, and at the same time in this country, the controllers at the nation's air fields can't strike for better working conditions, more pay in a psychologically hazardous job that plays with our life and death? And the baseball players, despite their up front contribution to the economy of their home towns, are being dubbed the villains of the piece?

I guess it all depends upon whose bull is being gored.

I say give'em what they ask and let'em play ball. But then that's how much I know!

So please, don't take me out to the ball game. I just wouldn't appreciate it.

JUST THINKING

Urban League coming up

By Al Sweeney

WASHINGTON

The 72nd annual convention of the NAACP held in the Mile High City of Denver, Colo., ended last week.

There is something stirring among the delegates of the last convention that indicated that there is a new order about to emerge.

The new group of delegates that listened to the panelists who came to the NAACP meetings and challenged the speakers with rhetoric and old saws.

Some of the delegates asked the specialists for new answers. The new environment is drying up the federal funds for social programs, seeking now to find new solutions to meet social needs.

One delegate sought to pool our consumer power to use our economic clout to force open employment opportunities. He sought the old neighborhood buying patronize owners who employ blacks.

President Reagan's appearance before the convention opened up some dialogue. While some listeners really didn't listen to some of the proposals that he talked about other than take a look to break the cycle of welfare that has trapped the poor.

The urban planners who have siphoned off the federal funds, now have to map new strategies to meet the conservatives that have captured the power base.

I indicated last week that black folk will rally to the NAACP as the only organization that we have. While we moan about the hydra-headed leadership of the association that is split with Margaret Bush Wilson and Ben Hooks, the structure is still firm.

Looking at the new leadership in the South that is growing with membership fighting for voting extension along with the rise of hate groups are holding the civil rights gains in the South.

The NAACP organizations in the south has vibrant members. The Blacks in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana are aware of the role that NAACP's national need for a strong network.

Looking at some of the items at NAACP's convention.

Paul Brock, the publicist, did a great job of handling corps of journalists covering the President's address to the Denver meeting. Working with Secret Service agents in getting credentials for black journalists who often set aside by daily White House crew.

Brock saw black journalists got an even crack at first class treatment with the reporters from the daily press. A good job rates a good plug.

Bob Price, who resigned from the Department of Transportation's public relations office, is in a new enterprise.

In the private sector working with convention exhibits, Price is setting up booths and supporting service for exhibitors for convention on halls. Price is a first black in this field.

He worked with the NAACP convention in Denver, will handled convention exhibition in the Urban League convention in Washington, D.C. It is a big business operation and will handle more than 40 persons to service exhibitors. Carpenters, electricians, carekeeping and drainage for the exhibits and the rest of support to the more than 200 exhibitors contracted in the Urban League's convention hall.

Price is moving as black entrepreneur and is trying to get the franchise at the new D. C. convention hall that will open next fall.

He is an example of a person who got equal employment opportunity to carve it niche for himself in the bureacracy by creativity and dedication.

BIG, Blacks in Government, hold their third national training and conference in August. Norman Seay and Mildred Pitts were at the NAACP convention drumming up support for their upcoming meeting.

More than 3,000 delegates were at last year's second year meeting. Everyone is holding their breath at the third year meeting because the change of administration and whether the BIG's delegates will travel this year on the federal funds, good.

Since travel funds have been cut greatly. It will be good to see whether blacks will pay their way to national meeting to meet some of the problems facing Blacks in government.

Lonnie Ballard, president of BIG says, he feels that there is a big interest in the third meeting.

National Urban League's meeting in D.C. at the new Sheraton Hotel beginning July 18.

Jimmy Williams, director of communications, looks for a record breaking turnout. There is something magic about D.C. that has hotest weather and humility (with marketable skills) and counseling - for those who have lost not only their jobs, but their dignity as well. (West Germany has an industrial re-training program-why can't we do the same?)

Our so-called leaders and organizations had better produce some results from the millions of dollars they collect each year in donations-results instead of fancy offices in high-rise office buildings.

They need to come back down to the ground and into the ghetto so they can assess the needs of the people they claim to represent. If they choose to ignore their responsibility, no one will heed their pleas for calm when the next riots begin and they may become unwilling targets. Next time our blood will flow because the man is prepared with his riot squads.

Having political power because one is in the majority is not the same as exercising that power. In the last few years, Black people have not done the latter in Baltimore.

I could care less whether or not a black behind is displayed in Sears underwear or clad in a Pierre Cardin suit (re: Joe Louis Maddox letter in the June 30 AFRO edition). But I do care that it promotes conspicuous consumption on the part of black people have much more important things to spend money on and concern themselves with the survival of their own people.

If we don't help each other, no one else will.

LINDA K. BROWN

LETTERS

Crime and black-Americans

Dear AFRO:

This letter is in response to Walter E. Williams article, "Black People Must be Intolerant of Crime," in the June 30 edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Without a doubt, the dramatic increase in crime in the Black community is due to increasing unemployment—in part. But we must accept the fact that the people who steal, mug and rob us in the Black community are our own: our own children, relatives and neighbors—the unemployed young men on the corners, the chronic alcoholics and the dope addicts who live on on our blocks.

Mothers know their children are junkies. Many are afraid of their own children and therefore prefer to ignore it, just as they ignore the fact of where the next fix or bottle comes from, that is, how it is obtained.

And what about the children of these junkies and alcoholics who grow up in the streets. Williams blames the schools for the poor quality of the education these children receive, but many don't even go to school. Some of these children are absent 15 to 45 days a semester and their parents refuse to come to school if requested to do so. Many of these children don't have a chance because no one cares about them. They roam the streets all hours and get into trouble — and no one cares.

The welfare check keeps these children, the junkies, the alcoholics and the unemployed barely at subsistence level and provides no way to break out of the poverty cycle.

It is clear that we cannot depend on the present administration to assist us, therefore, we must help our own. We need industrial re-training (with marketable skills) and counseling - for those who have lost not only their jobs, but their dignity as well. (West Germany has an industrial re-training program-why can't we do the same?)

Our so-called leaders and organizations had better produce some results from the millions of dollars they collect each year in donations-results instead of fancy offices in high-rise office buildings.

They need to come back down to the ground and into the ghetto so they can assess the needs of the people they claim to represent. If they choose to ignore their responsibility, no one will heed their pleas for calm when the next riots begin and they may become unwilling targets. Next time our blood will flow because the man is prepared with his riot squads.

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If we don't help each other, no one else will.

LINDA K. BROWN

More on cable TV

Whoever gets the franchise for installing and operating a cable TV system in Baltimore is eventually going to be filthy rich or richer.

What the city or its residents get remains to be seen.

Probably not much.

When the cable TV issue finally exploded in the City Council last week William Donald Schaefer the mayor said words to the effect that if cable TV was going to polarize folks along racial lines he would just as soon forget the whole thing.

If the the mayor meant this it might not be such a bad idea.

But we do not feel the mayor will abandon the cable TV project.

For one thing he seems hell-bent on ramming the single franchise concept down the citizenrys collective throat.

Rather than whacking up the cable TV pie so that several companies including black-controlled firms could get a slice the mayor seems all set to give away the whole pie to a large firm with cable TV interests elsewhere that will gain millions more by carpet-bagging in Baltimore.

Last week we urged the cable TV commission which knuckled under and proffered the mayors single franchise plan to take this idea back to the drawing board and come back with something that makes more sense to our community and the city at large.

This week we say to Schaefer that he would be well advised to forget bringing cable TV to Baltimore until such a time that he and his commissars can come up with a plan that does not polarize the city along racial lines. Such polarizaton after all does not develop in a vacuum.

The trick is to come up with a cable TV approach that is acceptable to the present warring factions.

Such a solution may take a little longer but we are far from persuaded that more television even so-called "high-brow" CATV Programming is a burning priority or necessity in Baltimore at this point in time.

For the franchise holder cable TV means big-bucks but for the cable TV viewer (or subscriber) it means one more bill every month. The real question just may be as the age of Reaganomics unfolds can Baltimoreans presently afford cable TV?

What's wrong with nursing in the United States?

G. JAMES FLEMING

It cannot be asked too often "What is wrong with nursing—bedside nursing—in the United States?"

Always mentioned first by hospital administrators is the fact that trained nurses cannot be found for the care of hundreds of thousands of children women and men in the nations hospitals nursing homes and similar facilities.

Further several nursing schools have reported they cannot recruit nearly enough young men and women (mostly women) who meet the qualifications for post-high school education or who if qualified are interested in entering the nursing profession (There are too many other opportunities to earn a living). Some nursing training schools have closed.

Next the nurses already on jobs and those who have recently left for other fields have other reasons for the nursing scarcity. Some complain their pay is not competitive with other industry; others point to the irregular hours; still others feel todays patients and their families are too demanding.

The more outspoken nurses complain they do not receive the status or the respect due them as a result of their training and experience. Their special gripe rightfully or wrongly is against the physicians who the nurses say treat them as menials as maids. Even one high-placed hospital executive was heard to declare "There is is nothing wrong with nursing in this hospital that could not be cured if we could get our doctors to adopt a more healthy attitude towards our nurses."

"There is another side however. The doctors and hospital administrators counter that the trouble with large numbers of nurses is that they do not want to remain nurses but instead want to be doctors and they do not want to engage in beside nursing—"a new breed of nurses" in the words of Dr. A. D. Roberts associate dean of the Southwestern Medical School writing in the New York Times.

Dr. Roberts continues critically "By striving to capture some independent middle ground between classical nursing and medical practice, nursing leaders threaten to make of their professional neither nurses nor physicians fit only to cause trouble: trouble for people who really want to nurse, trouble for physicians and administrators who cant get the help they need and most of all trouble for patients who often cannot get timely medicines and competent ministrations...

Raising the standard for entering nursing schools also is blamed for the nursing shortage by many hospital administrators. Dr. Roberts arguments reflects their view that "They (the new breed of nursing leaders) have not only neglected and downgraded classical basic nursing; they have sought to restrict entry into the profession by raising the standards of accreditation of schools of nursing and the licensure of individuals in many instances beyond what is necessary for the basic skills that are in such short supply."

All too often patients who have survived hospitals and their relatives complain of the "indifference" the "behavior" and "the neglect" of the different levels of the people who engage in nursing—not all "classical" nurses. They complain also of long waits for whatever patients request over-long waits in toilets for those patients who need special help; and of rooms left unclean or undercleaned for days at a time.

Some of these complaints come not only from the institutions where the poor masses go but also from some of the notably prestigious hospitals and nursing homes.

It seems few nurses want to do basic nursing (the bedpan level of nursing). Ideally perhaps what is again needed in addition to the present-day practitioners in the nursing business is an organization of "sisterhoods" and "brotherhoods" or husband-wife teams whose semi-religious commitment is to take care of the sick—similar to worker-priest working men and women who also are part time priests because they care deeply and love being in the priestly vocation.

What also is needed is periodic in-service training which will include helping nurses recapture their once-held feeling that nursing is an ennobling profession worthy of their dedication their industry and their enthusiasm and for which employing institutions are willing to give them both proper respect and the proper recompense.

Of one thing there is a certainty just as higher and higher pay does not guarantee better and more conscientious public school teachers college professors or policemen, so higher pay for nurses will not alone attract people to the profession of Florence Nightingale and hold them. Nor will money alone guarantee better and more caring bedside care for the sick in the United States.

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

THE AFROS Going On 90 Special Edition will come out in August. The historic edition will tell of The Times Of Our Lives in Baltimore history over a period of 90 years.

YOU WILL WANT to be included in this never-before edition. Get your family history ready and sent it in. We want old photos and stories of the Olden Days so this history can be recorded forever.

THE FEATURES of persons "Going On 90" those born in 1892 and going on 90 years of age are attracting widespread attention.

NEXT WEEK we will feature Mrs. Mary A. Humphries mother of Del. Margaret H. Murphy who celebrates her 90th birthday Sunday July 19 at 3:30 p.m. at Douglass Memorial Church.

WHAT ABOUT your Mom or Grandmother or father? Let us hear from you so that your family can be featured in the memorable AFRO Going On 90 Edition.

COMING at the Convention Center July 14-19 is the 5th conference and exposition of NOBLE National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

YOULL want to attend if for nothing else than to see the most handsome black men in the nation those officers who will arrive from all across the USA.

OUR DEPUTY Commissioner Bishop L. Robinson (a fine sample of the above) is president. Here are the speakers you can not afford to miss: Cong. P. J. Mitchell NAACP's Ben Hooks Andrew Young and Atlantas commissioner Lee Brown whom you have seen on TV And therell be others too.

Here are the others:

National Vice President Atkins Warren Lieutenant Colonel St. Louis.

Corresponding Secretary Glavin Alveranga Director New York.

Treasurer Burtell Jefferson Chief Metropolitan Police Department Washington D. C.

Financial Secretary Sylvester H. Winston Major Kansas City Police Department Kansas City Mo.

Sergeant-at-Arms William R. Bracey Chief of Patrol New York City Police Dept. New York.

Parliamentarian A. Reginald Eaves Fulton County Commissioner Atlanta.

Past President Gilbert Branche Chief of County Detectives Philadelphia.

Region I Vice President Henry DeGeneste Captain Port Authority Police Commanding Officer Laguardia Airport, Flushing N.Y.

Region 2 Vice President Dorothy Cousins Captain Philadelphia Pa. Police Department.

Region 3 Vice President Lee Brown Director of Public Safety Atlanta Ga. Police Department.

Region 4 Vice President Ira Harris Deputy Superintendent Chicago Police Department.

Region 5 Vice President Gay Carraway Captain St. Louis Police Department.

Region 6 Vice President Albert L. Reddick Director Los Angeles Community College.

Asst. to the President William B. Darden Chief Riviera Beach Police Dept. Riviera Beach Fla.

MARYLAND CHAPTER OFFICERS—President Edward V. Woods Major Baltimore Police Dept.

Vice President Edward J. Tilghman Major Baltimore Police Dept.

Secretary Isaiah Larkins Parole Commissioner Maryland.

Treasurer Milton Taylor Captain State Police.

THE CONVENTION the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees had here last week was one of the most important in recent times. The powerful organization District 2 was hosted by Clifton Harriss Local 202 and what a grand affair.

THE national has contributed $10,000 to the United Negro College Fund Drive.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT Robert White presented Freedom Bank vice president Sandra Davoll with a $100,000 check for deposit in the only black owned and operated commercial bank in New York.

White indicated the deposit from the NAPEE treasury is a reflection of the Unions continuing commitment to black institutions.

The union has deposited over $3 million dollars in minority owned financial lending institutions throughout the country.

THE MARYLAND Special Inaugural Committee and the Greater Baltimore Womens Political Caucus are pleased to announce the Annual "Best Of Stars" Awards Ceremony to be held on Sunday, July 26 2-5 P.M. in the Francis Scott Key Banquet Room Baltimore Hilton Hotel.

CORDTOWN that section near Cambridge Md. that historic land of Harriett Tubman and Frederick Douglass will be the center of attention when all the families gather for a reunion.

Rev. John O. Jones and the welcome committee officers and members of the Union Chapel AME Church want all Marylanders and relatives to be present Saturday July 25 for the picnic and games and Sunday for services and dinner afterwards.

IF YOU WANT to see decendants of Americas most historic families in person please go. After you reach Cambridge ask anyone how you get to the Cordtown Rd.

SUNDAY Sept. 20 a City-Wide Citizens Committee is honoring Del Troy Brailey for working side by side with A. Philip Randolph Grand Old Man of Labor and Dean of the Civil Rights Leaders from 1941 until his death in 1979.

LIKE MR. RANDOLPH Del. Brailey has fought for Economic Freedom and Security for the working poor and underprivileged the most of his adult life.

THE AFFAIR will be held at the Blue-Crest North at 5 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Ossie Davis noted actor director playwright and historian.

DONATION WILL be $25 per person including full course dinner and refreshment hour with hot hors d oeuvres. Refreshment hour 5 to 6 p.m. with dinner following. Formal dress is optional.

YOU MAY reserve tables of 10 for your church labor union and organization 2405 Baker St. Baltimore Maryland 21216 or by calling 523-5205 or 669-4919. Tickets reserved first-come first serve.

THE FIRST Lady of Song Ella Fitzgerald combines her smooth and silky sounds with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on July 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. when she joins the new Pier 6 Pavilion.

A CAREER that was launched on a nursery rhyme in 1938 "A-tuskit a-tasket" has seen more than 100 record albums recorded and over 25 million records sold eight Grammy awards Down Beats best jazz singer award 18 years in a row.

TICKETS are $10 Front Orchestra and $8 Rear Orchestra. Cabaret and lawn seating are $4 on the day of the show charge tickets by phone 539-5992. For info call 727-550.

BISHOP L. ROBINSON
Baltimore deputy commissioner

LEE P. BROWN
Atlanta commissioner

BENJAMIN L. HOOKS
NAACP executive director

Tony Brown's Journal

Does Atlanta suspect match psychic prediction?

DOES ATLANTA SUSPECT MATCH PSYCHIC PREDICTION?

"I am writing this letter to express outrage at TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL the article entitled 'Is This The Atlanta Killer?'

"For him to print someone's fabricated illusions is inexcusable. It's time to deplore Uncle Tomism as well as racism wherever it pokes its ugly head.

"Tony Brown is exploiting the Atlanta killings, playing Uncle Tom's fiddle while America is suffering from the 'Fire of Racism' spreading all over the country."

A "Mrs. Taylor" wrote those accusations to the Metro Reporter, San Francisco edition. What angered her was an article I wrote based on a television special I produced on the subject of the murder of some 28 young Blacks in Atlanta.

Mrs. Taylor was infuriated by my presenting a Black psychic, Lillian Cosby, and the prediction by Cosby that the killer was Black. That means, I suppose, that the angry letter writer does not believe in First Amendment Rights for Black people.

And freedom of speech notwithstanding, Mrs. Taylor argues, he is simply doing "Whitey's" racist dirty work and qualities as an Uncle Tom. The thinking is a classic example of convoluted logic.

It overlooks one very essential fact: There are no victors in a racist society because a racist society is an essentially sick society. And the oppressor and the oppressed both carry this neurotic burden. But the acid test in this situation is whether or not Lillian Cosby's prediction has been supported by any facts, in this case, conclusions of the Atlanta Police Department.

Ms. Cosby said the Atlanta killer was a light-skinned Black man, chubby with a receding hair line and a "friendly mouth." He had good connections among the authorities in Atlanta and a terrible loss of identity. He dressed in women's clothes, wore a wig and has a sharp, analytical mind. He would be caught very soon—within 90 days—Cosby said.

Within 90 days, on June 23, 1981, Fulton County District Attorney Lewis Slaton accused Wayne B. Williams, a 23-year-old fair-skinned, chubby, black Atlantan with the murder of Nathaniel Cater, the latest of 28 homicide victims. According to a report, the accused had boasted there is no one of consequence in Atlanta that he does not know.

Forensic evidence showed a violet-colored fiber taken from Williams' bedspread matched one taken from Cater's head hair at the morgue. There also was a relationship between fibers taken from Williams' car and fibers taken from Cater's head hair. Dog hairs taken from Williams' German Shepherd were "microscopically consistent" with dog hairs found in the head hair of the dead man.

The unofficial version, insiders in Atlanta say, contains evidence of a animal hair found on the body of victim Yusef Bell, 9, which were similar to hairs found on other victims, according to an article. Both dog hairs and fibers similar to those linking Williams to Cater also were found on the bodies of victims Charles Stephens, 12, and Aaron Jackson Jr., 9.

The district attorney admitted he linked 14 cases to each other on the basis of physical evidence and related information. Blood found in Williams' car also matched the blood types of William Barrett, another victim, and John Porter, another homicide victim who has not been added to the police task force list.

Other covert evidence reveals that Williams matched the psychological profile developed by the police. It indicated that the killer was attending some of the funerals. Williams was seen by police at several; his father, Homer Williams, was a photographer at Cater's funeral.

The accused first became the prime suspect at about 3 a.m. on May 22 at a bridge over the Chattahoochee River. He was suspected of throwing something into the river. A bag of men's clothes and one of women's clothes were seen in his car at that time, according to police reports.

Nathaniel Cater's nude body surfaced near this spot about two days later, about the time it would take internal gases to raise the body it had been dumped in, about the time that Williams was spotted.

Overall, the police believe that although their evidence is circumstantial, i.e., the lack of a "smoking gun" it is too significant to be coincidental. Several witnesses, according to an article, report having seen victims getting into Williams' car. He also had distributed leaflets at schools advertising for young people to audition "in private" for Gemini, the mythical rock group he was allegedly promoting. Police also are investigating charges by a recreational director that there is a possible link between Williams and victims Patrick Rogers, 15, and Aaron Jackson, 9.

And, of course, since Williams has been watched, according to an I agent, "the murders have stopped."

But all of this will be less than needed to get a conviction unless a motive can be established. Although the prosecution is silent on their strategy, street-talk focuses on Williams' sexual preferences and gay bars and Atlanta's Black homosexual community.

A sexually deviant motive might be forthcoming if the circumstantial evidence ties Williams to a sado-masochism bar: Several of the victims were seen in the vicinity of the nightclub in question and the FBI has countered Williams with the Mar Quett Club, a rough hang out for Black homosexual transvestites.

An Atlanta official said: "He remains a suspect because there's nothing that rules him out."

As for Lillian Cosby, psychic, Hiram Jeter of New York called after seeing her predictions on television and comparing them with police evidence: "Lillian Cosby described the Atlanta suspect to a tee."

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, is shown every Saturday, beginning July 11, on WBAL-TV 11 at 12 noon.

ANDREW YOUNG
former UN ambassador

For all we know

LETTERS

NAACP on Voting Rights Act

Dear AFRO

The Baltimore NAACP is distressed over the plight of the Voting Rights Act.

Voting is the essence of the "democratic process," and if any person's right to participate in that process is hindered the very structure of democracy in this country is threatened.

The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 to protect localities, particularly in the South, from denying blacks and other minorities the right to vote without undergoing processes such as literacy tests, and insuring that bi-lingual materials were available.

In addition, the Voting Rights Act prohibited illegal redistricting or "gerrymandering" and sudden changes in polling places.

Although much progress has been made in these areas, much more is needed. It is essential that the Voting Rights Act is extended not only to protect the sacred privilege of voting, but also for the well being and the survival of the United States as a "democracy."

ENOIA P. MCMILLAN
President

Praise for the mayor

Dear AFRO:

Mayor Schaefer's recent efforts in finding funds that will restore drastic state budget reductions in city programs are to be praised.

Significant city programs that provide needed recreation for the multi-handicapped and, in many instances, a first-time camping experience for central city youth would have had to lose more than one-half of program budgets provided by the state to city funding source- Title XX.

It is truly unfortunate that the Secretary of Department of Human Resources (DHR) did perceive these special population programs as not being truly significant segments of the city's population that would fold without adequate monies targeted for them.

In the confusion that has reigned locally and nationally about budget reductions, many Baltimoreans have not yet realized that the recent cuts made in these two city programs are totally unrelated to any Reagan cuts. They are yet to come.

Baltimore: So let us not be deceived by neither the Secretary of Department of Human Resources nor the Sunpapers as to who is responsible for this first round of reductions.

EDWARD TAYLOR
President, Howard Park Civic Association

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.