Baltimore Afro-American

# OPINION

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## Royal Wedding

In 1937, King George was crowned ruler of Great Britain and its world-wide colonial empire.

The AFRO was there in the personage of the late Ralph Matthews Sr., who was sent by Carl Murphy, AFRO editor-in-chief, to write about the many black, brown and yellow dignitaries from all around the world who came to the coronation.

AFRO columnist Marion Banfield also was there for this historic ceremony. She was a very young student at the time in England on a scholarship (evidence of her beginning brilliance as a scholar and leader).

King George is dead, Britain's colonial empire is part of history now and in the AFRO our news from England is of the unrest in Brighton, London and other cities of poor blacks and other Third Worlders, who are the grandchildren of the darker victims of English colonization.

We bring this up to point out that behind the unmistakable beauty and pageantry of the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana this week there is a grim underlying reality.

Where others may see a fairy tale being acted out on television, we see in such royal panapoly reminders of those times when the sun indeed never set on the English flag.

It has been a mere three centuries since the English were leaders of the slave trade which brought us to these shores and rulers of many Third World nations which only have recently broken the yoke of British imperialism.

Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) is the latest to win independence of sorts after years of British domination.

We do not like to cast a pall on the happiness of young people, princes or paupers, but it is important to us that we understand history.

We dare say the vast holdings of the Royal Family and the fortune of Lady Diana's daddy can be directly traced back in time to slave-trading and oppression of black colonized peoples when England ruled the seas and much of the land of this earth.

There is a reason why poor blacks and whites are rioting in England these days and while Prince Charles and his bride are a pleasant respite from this pain the facts of history cannot be denied.

*"Many of us are skeptical of outsiders such as the Guardian Angels. Tell us, in what way will you benefit our community?"*

## 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

### Lightfoot leaves

Seldom is the chance we get a chance to watch one of our native sons grow to manhood and success while still here in Baltimore.

Therefore it is with mixed emotions we wave good-bye to one of our own, Calvin Lightfoot, warden at the City Jail.

When Lightfoot, a Baltimore native, entered the jail for the first time 18 years ago, the place was a powderkeg.

As our reporter describes page one, Lightfoot was forced to place his life on the line at least once while performing his job. He took the challenges, and passed the test.

But when he became warden, two and a half years ago, he had to place his reputation on the line. At the conclusion of his peaceful tenure at that institution, we must say that he, once again, passed the test.

It pains us to see the city lose such a capable young, black administrator, but it warms our heart to see Lightfoot achieve such a prominent position in a field where, too often, we're only involved on the wrong side of the bars.

### Heart attacks often kill blacks

Dear AFRO:

Recently at a health clinic, the fact was stressed that strokes and heart attacks kill more black Americans than any other group.

The question was asked, "Why?" The answer is quite simple. It is a form of battle fatigue. It is well know the stress of a battle zone can impair the health of a soldier, kept there too long. So, after a short time in a battle zone, the combat soldier is relieved.

But think of black Americans from the reveille of birth to the taps of death, their lives are one long, furious battle.

There are no relief columns or rest periods behind the lines. They are always under fire from the artillery of economic injustice, strafed by the Luftwaffe of political injustice and assaulted on every side by the Panzers of educational injustice, not to mention being shot at by the snipers of social injustice.

When all of this is taken into consideration, is it surprising that we lose some fighters because of battle fatigue?

But one thing can be said for black Americans, they are wise. They know when to attack, how to dig in and hold a position. And in spite of casualties, black Americans continue to advance.

Good soldiers, these black Americans.

THOMAS C. MCNEIL

### New downtown plan?

We have gone through any number of ambitious programs to revitalize old downtown Baltimore: the Howard Street-Lexington Street axis.

None have come to fruition.

Developer David Murdock's proposal to redo downtown in grand style catches our eye and our fancy.

For one thing, Murdock has a proven track record.

For another Murdock, through his spokesman, H.R. Haldeman (the ex-Nixon commando) is talking in specific terms about the number of jobs his program would generate. Sixteen thousand is the figure mentioned.

Face it, downtown Baltimore is presently supported by black consumers.

Harborplace has proven itself a special retail zone for the affluent but this city still needs a center for working people to buy things at competitive prices.

If Murdock can bring in the big volume retailers and stimulated competition among businesses while sustaining the smaller merchants who have stuck it out during downtown's recent leaney years, we say give him a chance.

As it stands now, downtown is still deteriorating faster than the courageous merchants who have held on can build it up.

If Murdock can get the job done, so be it.

### Is teacher competency a must?

By David W. Hornbeck

Dear AFRO:

Teacher competency testing has been the focus of a good deal of attention lately. That attention arises, of course, from the general concern with declining test scores, discipline in the schools, and the like.

Some people express the view the root of the problem rests with teacher competency or incompetency.

"There are several problems with that view. In the first place, the problem is not as severe as some would lead us to believe. The 'good ole days' were not nearly as good or are the 'bad new days' nearly as bad as many observers suggest.

Also, any single and/or simple answer to a problem is nearly always wrong. And finally, the overwhelming majority of teachers are competent and dedicated.

But does any of that suggest there is no problem? Does it suggest that competency testing for teachers might not make sense? I think not. Indeed, we have and always have had problems with teaching, learning and administering.

I believe in competency testing for teachers. Those who disparage such testing say, "You can't capture in a test the essence of good teaching." I wholeheartedly agree.

But there are many kinds of competency tests. Any that purport to measure the nuances of good teaching through paper and pencil tests probably purport nonsense. But there are other kinds of competency tests that do make sense.

We live in a society in which the ability to speak, read, and write the English language correctly is very important. A paper and pencil test can measure reading and writing abilities pretty well. Doesn't it make sense for us to make sure that all new teachers are competent at a minimum level in these skills?

At the same time, it is surely the case that a prospective biology teacher should know biology and a prospective history teacher should know history. Why not a test in the teacher's content area to determine fundamental knowledge in that content area? It makes sense to me.

I do not know of another profession in which graduation from school is, by itself, enough. It is not enough for lawyers, nurses, beauticians, ministers, doctors and others. It should not be seen as enough for teachers.

Will a person who can read and write English well enough to pass a test be a good teacher? Will a person who knows biology or history be a good biology or history teacher? Not necessarily.

I wish we could bottle whatever that essence is that makes a good teacher and deliver a pint every morning to all 40,000 teachers in Maryland. Well, we can't. But I do think there is a very high likelihood that one who does not know biology will not be a good biology teacher. And one who cannot read, write, and speak English correctly is not likely to set a very good example for our children.

Are competency tests the whole answer to the problem of continuing to try to improve education? Are they even the single most important piece of a complex answer? Probably not. Should they be part of the plan seeking that improvement? I think so.

**Note: Mr. Hornbeck is the State Superintendent of Schools of the Maryland State Department of Education.**

### Time to fight the Klan

A rising incidence of overt Ku Klux Klan activity in the state of Virginia gives cause for concern on the part of our highest officials.

To date there has been none, neither the attorney general, the state's chief law enforcement officer, nor the lieutenant governor, his opponent for the governor's chair, has publicly come forward against racial intolerance and bigotry.

In this permissive climate, Klan groups are busily staging cross-burnings, etc. from Southside to Northern Neck.

It is part of a national trend recently describe by Gilbert G. Pompa, director of the Community Relations Service in the U.S. Department of Justice.

"There is nothing more devastation — and which poses a greater threat to those goals and the stability of the foundation which provides for the maintenance of social order in America — than racism," said Pompa. "For racism acts as a cancer that erodes the very tenents on which this country was built and eats at the heart of interracial harmony and group understanding."

Pompa noted that "the problem areas that have been growing the fastest over the last five years is the one related to activities by the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party and other extremist groups."

The CRS caseload for Klan incidents increased 350 per cent from 1978 to 1980.

A similar trend has been at work in Virginia if press reports are an indication. Extensive press coverage of relatively small Klan gatherings is part of the problem, says Pompa.

"... it is the opinion of those of us in the Community Relations Service who work on the problem, that the Klan's recruitment efforts and their acceptability may have been sometimes enhanced by this coverage.

"We have seen accounts in area papers which fall just short of glorifying such white hate groups.

"It is imperative that the state's leadership begin to take steps to discourage and isolate the spewers of racial venom.

"Legislative steps can be modeled after bills in Oregon, Maryland and Texas. In Oregon, harassment based on race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin is a Class "C" felony, meaning a fine of $5,000 or a five-year jail term.

"In Maryland, similar penalties can be imposed for the new felony crime of cross burning. Texas legislators are considering four bills prohibiting masks, forbidding members of secret organizations from carrying firearms at meetings, and the teaching of racial tolerance in schools.

"These states and others such as Alabama, which is seeking to outlaw secret military training camps, are eschewing the head in the sand approach."

### All art is propaganda

Dear AFRO:

The planners of the Baltimore International Theatre Festival were recently forced to answer the age old question of whether art is or is not political. Finding it necessary to invite the Baxter Theatre of South Africa, city planners of Baltimore's International Theatre Festival revealed the substance of their decision: art is not political.

To be sure, to hold the parochial view that it was possible to divorce, in this instance, a play company from its racist homeland of South Africa was ridiculous. Furthermore, through this action, one also realized the degree of respect that Mayor Schaefer and the other planners of the Theatre Festival had for the black community. The nature of the insult becomes even more noticeable when one considers that the majority of Baltimore's population is black.

Like the clarion call of W.E.B. DuBois, who in 1926 loudly voiced his view that "all art is propaganda and ever must be," it was, indeed, comforting to find that the Coalition in Support of the Liberation Struggles of South Africa should have vociferously made their voices heard on this important issue.

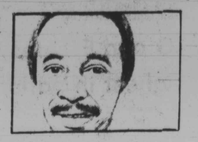
Though snubbed in their initial attempts of following the diplomatic route of sending letters to the mayor and city council and other planners of the Baltimore Theatre Festival, the key was the Coalition's recognition that much has been attained through the implementation of alternative strategies and through social activism.

In a well orchestrated move that not only consisted of picketing the Baxter Theatre's performance at Baltimore's Center Stage, but also producing an Alternate Cultural Festival at the Little Theatre at Morgan State University, indeed, two lessons were learned. First, the Baltimore's Black community demonstrated that it will "not tolerate racism." Second, part of the survival of blacks has come from our possessing the foresight in identifying those people and things that were destined to work to our detriment.

Thus, during this period of budgetary cut backs, the black community must not only watch but must also use all of its resources in challenging those city officials whose lack of vision and otherwise irresponsibility cost the city money, in this instance, $600,000 for a theatre performance, that was widely challenged and later canceled. Never must these or any public officials be allowed to forget their voting constituency or the sources of the city's tax dollars.

GARRY GRAY
JAMES EDWARD JONES

PARREN MITCHELL



### Reagan's tax bill

The Reagan Tax Cut Bill would reduce taxes from all sources by $754.4 billion during the next three years. It is true the Reagan Bill would benefit big corporations, first and foremost; those with incomes above $50,000, first and foremost; and those with incomes of $50,000 and less, last and least.

I do not want to discuss the unfairness of the Administration's bill, because you have perhaps read and heard enough about that. I do want to discuss with you why the Tax Bill was proposed by Reagan and how it is a part of a clever, well through plan to continue the revolution that has been started, a revolution which is designed to end, I emphasize, end all government programs in health, education, housing, minority business, etc.

Please follow this scenario carefully.

Reagan forced through the Congress almost $40 billion in cuts, mostly in human service programs. At the same time, he publicly committed his Administration to spend more than a trillion dollars on the military budget cut.

This Administration has already committed itself to the achievement of a balanced federal budget in 1984. Therefore, it announced further cuts in federal spending in the fical years 1983-1984 to amount to approximately $60 billion, $30 billion in 1983 and $30 billion in 1984.

Please continue to follow the scenario carefully.

In 1984, we come to the crunch year. This is the year in which, according to Reagan, we are to have: (1) a balanced budget and (2) to have spent a trillion dollars on the military budget.

If we have cut federal programs by $100 billion in 1984, and if we have suffered a $754.4 billion lose of revenues by 1984, it will be impossible, I insist, impossible to achieve a balanced budget, unless we eliminate certain federal programs.

What federal programs will be eliminated? Why, the human resources programs, such as section 8 housing, Head Start and other similar programs of course. These are programs which do not have wealthy, powerful constituencies or well financed Washington lobbyists to advocate in their behalf.

The lesson to be learned from this scenario is we must never ever blindly accept any single proposal, which comes from the Reagan Administration, no matter how attractive that proposal might seem, because it is more than likely a part of the long range agenda, i.e., stop the federal government from providing basic services to citizens.

By the way, there is another good reason not to trust any Reagan proposals. In's message to the nation on the evening of July 27, 1981, President Reagan assured the nation nothing would happen to those social security benefits which people had earned.

Can you image this was the same man who has, to date, initiated three separate proposals to cut the social security programs?

### Don't choke

Dear AFRO:

I am writing this letter in support of the editorial written by Parren Mitchell on July 23, 1981, concerning the Coca-Cola Company.

Selective buying is a strategy used in the 1960's, as a tool to bring commercial entities around to meet their total community obligations.

Indeed, in 1980, there is a significant place for this tool. However, lets look at the 400 companies in America and South Africa who are supporting the oppression of blacks.

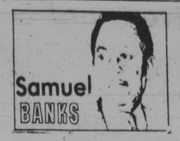
Jesse Jackson is correct in advocating this approach. Be assured this will work quickly.

Ford, General Motors, Goodyear, Firestone, Kodak, Abbott, Boeing, Burlington, Hoover, Chrysler, Johnson & Johnson, IT&T, Motorola, Readers Digest, Singer, Stanley, Pan American Airlines, Tupperware, Upjohn and IBM to name a few are some of the companies doing business with South Africa.

We must fight back with the same knowledge.

JAMES EDWARD JONES

## The Urban League and Reaganomics



Samuel BANKS

The recent 71st national convention of the Urban League conveyed an unsettling and unnerving sense of deja vu.

One recalls the deplorable, lamentable and desparate period for 17 million black Americans when the Urban League was founded in New York City in 1910. Black Americans, at this point in time, were literally fleeing the South for the "havens" of the North and West because of widespread lynching, brutalization and denial of fundamental human rights and astronomical unemployment levels.

The black exodus was to receive even greater acceleration following World War I and the resultant national indifference, hostility and perpetration of violence against blacks; particularly in the South.

Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, the renowned and estimable first black president of Howard University, captured in penetrating and eloquent language the mood and spirit of black America following World War I:

"**At the close of the war, however, the Negro's hopes were suddenly dashed to the ground. Southern newspapers began at once to tell the Negro soldiers that the war was over and the sooner they forgot it the better.**

"Pull off your uniform," they said, "Find the place you had before the war, and stay in it.

"Act like a Negro should act, said one newspaper, 'work like a Negro should work, talk like a Negro should talk, study like a Negro should study.

"Dismiss all ideas of independency or of being lifted up to the place of the White man. Understand the necessity of keeping a Negro's place."

In connection with such admonitions, there came the great collective attacks on Negro life and property in Washington, Chicago, Omaha, Elaine and Tulsa (i.e., "Red Summer" of 1919).

"There came also the increasing boldness of lynchers who advertised their purposes in advance and had their photographs taken around the burning bodies of their victims.

"There came vain appeals by the colored people to the President of the United States and to the houses of Congress. And finally there came the reorganization and rapid growth of the Ku Klux Klan.

The 15,000 national Urban League members, who recently assembled in Washington, were exhorted by their perspicacious and adroit executive director Vernon Jordan and by a bevy of national leaders, black and white, to maintain their faith and determination in the face of awesome and crippling unemployment levels and the jet-biscoring of vital socio-economic programs by the Reagan administration.

Jordan, in almost plaintive language, raised the substantive question of what would happen to the poor of our nation during the "interregnum when social programs were being systematically extirpated."

The answer, of course, is clear: Blacks, Hispanics, and the poor with the virtual elimination of CETA and other social programs have already begun to line the streets of the urban centers of our nation void of hope and opportunity.

Unemployment levels among Blacks in such major urban centers as New York, Newark, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles, and Detroit have reached such catastrophic levels, that urban officials have resorted to large scale "bread and circus" activities (i.e., dances, "soul" concerts, summer athletics - baseball and basketball in particular - etc.) to keep things "cooled down" and to take the youths' minds off their wretched and miserable socio-economic state.

Baltimore and Detroit, with unemployment levels approaching 60 percent, continue to lead the nation.

**Vernon Jordan's vigorous and resounding cry for "a fresh banner of protest" comes at a time when the Reagan administration has fashioned an economic course, if followed, will be disatrous for blacks, Hispanics, the poor and the elderly in our nation.**

The 15,000 Urban League delegates, as did the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's delegates a week before, have now returned home to see the bleak, dispirited, angry and alienated masses in the communities they represent.

The Reagan administration has already set a crushing and debilitating socio-economic direction for our nation which will cause profound pain, pathos and dislocation for 31 million black Americans, Hispanics and the poor.

Black Americans across the nation already reeling from Depression levels of unemployment of Jimmy Carter's administration, even with the emphasis on human rights, now await the Reagan economic onslaught which will be in full force in October 1982 and the succeeding year.

The Urban League's $125 million national budget could be seriously jeopardized by Reagan's economic retrenchment. Once again, as was true at the time of the Urban League's founding in 1910, 31 million black Americans are struggling for their very survival. The immediate future is bleak.

Whitney M. Young, Jr., the late executive director of the Urban League, at the 1968 national conference of the Urban League in New York, stated with compelling clarity and pungency, an historic mission of the Urban League and black people:

"**This revolution (i.e., 1968 urban upheavals or rebellions) bears no similiarity, however, to the American Revolution or to the French Revolution or to the Russian Revolution.**

"This is a revolution against historic injustice, against a way of life, against persons who maintain that the measure of achievement of man is determined by and related to the color of his skin.

"This a revolution peculiarly characterized by a heroic drive and a courageous fight to gain the right and respect that should be synonymous with the word 'American.'

"It is a revolution not by black people against white people, but by people who are right against those who are wrong."

The current urban disturbances in Great Britain by her dispossessed minority, largely blacks and Asians, should also have serious meaning for our nation. It bespeaks the tragic failure of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's calamitous supply-side economics and the revolt of the hopeless.

The Urban League's recent meeting reflects anew, in a time of deepening crisis and restiveness, the ancient and historic resolve "by people who are right against those who are wrong."

The times now require short-range and long-range socio-economic and political action strategies before immediable and irreversible damage to a people who have been "buked and scorned" too long in the land of their birth.

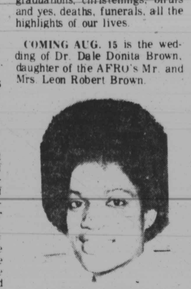
By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

WE HAVE our fairyland weddings too and next week we'll recall some of them in photos and story.

THIS AREA of news highlighted by the AFRO for the almost 90 years, is one great service the AFRO gives, a which no other newspaper offers.

THIS IS THE prime reason for the existance of the AFRO and other black newspapers — to give us a chance to have our great moments told — weddings, graduations, christenings, births and yes, deaths, funerals, all the highlights of our lives.

COMING AUG. 15 is the wedding of Dr. Dale Donita Brown, daughter of the AFRO's Mr. and Mrs. Leon Robert Brown.



Dr. Dale D. Brown
engagement announced

The services at Lochearn Presbyterian Church will join the brilliant young microbiologist and Dr. Philip C. Emeagwali, who is also a Ph.D.

DALE who is regarded by her co-workers as a genius in her field, is employed at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda and is working on a post doctorate.

LEON ISA LONGTIME AFRO employee and native of our town of Brazil, Ind., and his wife one of the Baltimore system's finest teachers. A reception follows the 1 p.m. wedding.

RICK and Louise Johnson's gala wedding anniversary fete Saturday is a glamorous splash party at the Hilton's new pool on the Cabana Level of the North Tower. Del. Peggy Murphy is the one to call if you still want to join the jolly crowd for a dip and refreshments of all sorts. 362-6314.

GEORGE AND RUTH GILBERT are visiting with their cousin, my child, Marsha Rose German in Honolulu. George is the son of the late Genesta Gilbert and Harry Gilbert who was the son of Harriett Murphy Gilbert, a daughter of AFRO founder John H. Murphy.

MARSHA is the grandaughter of Rose Murphy Oliver and Dr. Jacob B. Oliver. Rose was also a daughter of AFRO founder Murphy.

HISTORIC Leadenhall Baptist Church is now surrounded by the most fantastic houses — none of them are worth ½ million including the furnishings, gardens and other appointments. You can not recognize old South Baltimore at all.

YOUNGSTERS enrolled at Camp Concern in Druid Hill Park who greeted Secretary Pierce on the tour Tuesday are Kevin Parros, 13; Carla Warmack, 13; Kimberly Roberts, 13; Oscar Lewis, 9, who was given an art prize by Mayor Schaefer. Billy Hice is the director who is really on the ball. Camp extends through August.

SECRETARY Pierce is in Texas for another tour to see what progress has been in housing development. He was surely and certainly impressed with Baltimore and will urge the president to give money to help continue progress.

BETTYE SHELL GRAVES, a longtime AFRO supporter, sends us this interesting information in answer to a question about newspapers.

THE NEWSPAPER profession often is called the Fourth Estate. The term applies to those who gather, write and edit the news.

The name is believed to have been first used about 200 years ago by the famous English statesmen, Edmund Burke.

Burke, pointing to the reporters' gallery in the House of Commons, said, "Yonder sits the Fouth Estate, more important than all others."

He was adding to the three estatesmen, or classes, of people which made up the States: General of France at that time.

THESE CLASSES were the clergy, the First Estate; the nobility, the Second Estate, and the common people, the Third Estate.

## For all we know

DID YOU KNOW, citizens are already buying oil for winter?

GOV. HUGHES has signed into law a measure which protects rights of tenants of apartments which are converted into condominiums by developers. He is surrounded by state legislative officials and others interested in the new law.

Among other provisions, the law mandates paying up to $750 in moving expenses to anyone displaced by conversion and, in addition, sets aside 20 percent of the units converted for elderly tenants who may remain for three more years, with rental increases tied to the consumer price index. In some cases, life tenancies for some elderly persons may be established by local governments under the new law.

WITH A NEW location and a new look this year, the City Fair remains a celebration that focuses on the best of Baltimore — its Neighborhoods. On Sept. 18, 19 and 20, the northeast area of the Inner Harbor will reflect many of the glittering changes that have happened to Baltimore since the first City Fair in 1970.

THE CORE of the Fair remains those strong neighborhoods that started this celebration of City life. For info call 547-0015.

LOCATED just south of the wholesale Fish Market between Lombard and Pratt Streets, the gaily striped orange and white booths of the Neighborhoods will be the most prominent area of the Fair.

OVER 75 Neighborhoods have committed to the Fair thus far, with 4 groups participating for the first time ever: West Arlington, Remington, East Baltimore Midway, and Mayfield Improvement.

EMPHASIS of the Neighborhood exhibits will be "Communities Helping Themselves." In these times of diminished federal funding, the City of Baltimore looks, now more than ever, to the strong grass roots efforts of the Neighborhoods and their continuing philosophy of self-help.

THE MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CIVIC Choir under direction of Dr. Nathan Carter is now holding auditions for new members. Applicants need not be enrolled at the University, but should be high school graduates and have prior choral experience. Persons interested should call 444-3168, 10 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

HEAR THIS FREE — Christian Science Lecture — TRUST IN GOD AND LIVE by Bette B. Thompson, C.S., member of The Christian Science Board of Lectureship. Tuesday, Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m. Third Church of Christ, Scientist, — 702 Cathedral St. All are Welcome.

BEN VEREEN brings singing, dancing and all that jazz to Baltimore — Pier 6 Concert Pavilion on Aug. 7. The performance, at 8 p.m., is part of the "Harborlights Musical Festival."

VEREEN'S Broadway appearances in such successful productions as "Sweet Charity," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Pippin," for which he won the prestigious Tony Award, have helped to establish him as a Superstar.

HE'S probably best known for his television and movie appearances. His credits in this medium include an exhilarating performance in Bob Fosses' "All That Jazz," a sensitive portrayal of Satchmo in the TV docudrama "Louis Armstrong — Chicago Style," a widely acclaimed performance as "Chicken George" in the popular mini-series "Roots", and electrifying appearances in variety specials "Funny Lady" and "Ben Vereen — His Roots."

THE HOWARD University Concert Choir will be present in a concert at Lake Clifton High School by the Howard University Alumni Club of Baltimore. The date is Nov. 1.

One of Howard's legacies is its reputation for graduating a large percentage of America's black leadership which has been made possible through the continuous patronage and contributions of concerned alumni and friends.

Howard University Alumni Club officers are:

President — Mamie Woodford.
First vice president — Irene Johnson.
Second vice president — Gary Rodwell.
Treasurer — William C. Curtis.
Corresponding secretary — Gwendolyn Biddle.
Recording Secretary — Thelma Ashe.
Financial secretary — John Evans.
Concert Program Committee Chairperson — Gwendolyn B. Buckson — 426-1491.
Tickets — Geraldine Desbordes.
Souvenir Programs — William A. Brown.
Publicity — Andrew Ennis.
Ushers — Gwendolyn Biddle.

HERE IS GEORGE WILLIAMS, another Mr. AFRO who was mistakenly taken for John Sims. Mr. Williams, born in 1892 is at that golden age same as the AFRO and will reveal his story in the Special 90th Year Edition coming soon.

Program Managers — Fannie Morange, Lucille Perry, Robert Smith, Mazie Rea, Gloria Richardson, Herman Barrett, Alice Russell, Thomas DeLaine.

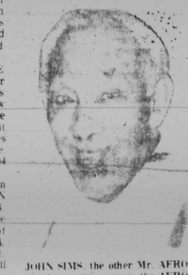
DR. PEARL C. BRACKETT is in Virginia for the funeral of a relative, Patrick Henry Johnson who died Monday, July 27, following a brief illness. He was the husband of Audrey R. Johnson (nee Cole) father of Patricia Anne Branch, father-in-law of George Stevens Branch, grandfather of Charles Delvin Branch.

In addition, he is survived by a sister, Mary Jane Holmes; four brothers, Abraham, Jesse, Clarence and Solomon and many relatives and friends.

Mr. Johnson will lie in state at his home, Box 191 A, Route 1, Louisa County, Bumpass, Va. The family will receive friends today Friday, July 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Funeral services will be held Sat., Aug. 1, at 1 p.m. at the Watchtower Baptist Church, Bumpass, Va. Interment at the Johnson Burial Grounds immediately following.

Contributions to the Patrick Henry A. Johnson Memorial at the Watchtower Baptist Church will be greatly appreciated by the family. Arrangements by John Thomasson Funeral Home, Bumpass, Va., 2-2083.



JOHN SIMS, the other Mr. AFRO, is going on 90 same as the AFRO. His story will be told in the AFRO Special 90th Year edition.

THE RED CROSS is offering CPR — cardiopulmonary resuscitation training at 45 locations throughout Baltimore City and the five surrounding counties the weekend of Aug. 8 and 9.

FOUR SESSIONS will be offered at each site: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., both Saturday and Sunday. Participants need attend only one of the four hour sessions. CPR: Race for Life certificates will be issued to those who successfully complete both the skills and the written tests.

Skills to be taught include Artificial Respiration, One-Rescuer CPR and First Aid for Choking for the adult victim. A registration fee of $2 includes the cost of the textbooks, patches and other course materials.

REGISTRATION for any of the programs are being taken by Red Cross at the following telephone numbers: Anne Arundel County, 269-6754; Carroll County, 848-4334; Harford County, 879-6764; Harford County, 879-6764; Howard County, 730-0020; Baltimore City and County, 889-7200.

Of the more than 700,000 annual deaths from heart attacks or other events resulting in cardiac arrest, 350,000 occur outside the hospital.

Many of those deaths need not have occurred.

IF CPR is applied by a bystander or family member within minutes after a cardiac arrest, the victim's life may be saved.

This is the crucial period of emergency cardiac care. The first responder to a cardiac arrest respiration while waiting for medical help, or the victim will die.

*Tony Brown's Journal*

## NAACP leaders out of touch

**Part I of a Two Part Series**

If a curve is the longest distance between two points, that's what the national NAACP leaders threw President Ronald Reagan at their 72nd annual meeting in Denver recently.

The philosophical difference in social spending between President Reagan and the NAACP heads was generally understood, as was the thrust of his speech, prior to the President's appearance. NAACP chairwoman Margaret Bush Wilson and Executive Director Benjamin Hooks had met amicably with the President at the White House the week before.

But on the day of the President's appearance, Hooks gave the first hint of a surprising hardball attitude when he predicted Reagan would not get a standing ovation.

Mrs. Wilson, in the ultimate condemnation, said Reagan was reviving "war, pestilence, famine and death" with his budget cuts. Then Mrs. Wilson primed the crowd of 5,000 with more uncivil behavior and something more than a wrist slap when she introduced Reagan with the disclaimer: "The NAACP does not necessarily subscribe to the views which are about to be expressed."

Although the President grinned and waved to the crowd, his face reddened. Nancy Reagan stared straight ahead in unmistakeable displeasure as the crowd guffawed.

Media's projection of this ordeal of a rejected president and an insulted First Lady made, before Reagan spoke, a loser of the cause of the minority poor. And the extent to which America perceives the leaders of the NAACP as representing all black people is the extent to which the cause of black people has been harmed.

Without this raucous overkill, however, it is no fact that the majority of black America either disproves of or is skeptical of Reagan's budget cuts and the lack of specific proposals to help blacks who will lose benefits because of cutbacks in federal programs.

His administration's attitude towards affirmative action, his developing policy towards apartheid in South Africa and his reluctance to support an extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act are liabilities with the nation's blacks.

It's my guess that the violently rude staging of the President's speech was not precipitated so much out of genuine and absolute concern for those policy areas, but out of the strong emotional bond that the NAACP leaders have with the philosophy of integration or social-racial engineering.

Reagan will only succeed with this group if he uses the federal treasury to promote racial assimilation.

Reagan's stunned advisors had overlooked these facts and assumed a rational attack on racism, an explanation of the heavy price inflation extracts from the poor, a promise of three million new jobs by 1986 and aiding black businesses would communicate an acceptable policy towards black America. But two miscalculations were inherent in the White House thinking.

The NAACP does not provide, as anticipated, a representative cross-section, but an ideologically segmented group and the leadership is far to the left of the fundamentalism of the nation's 30 million blacks.

The President recognized the value of the source of more than 30 percent of all black college graduates each year, 80 percent of black professionals and the undergraduate source of more than 75 percent of Blacks who received their Ph.D's from white universities.

He acknowledges the fact that blacks attend black colleges because of a rich heritage and free choice.

By contrast, the NAACP's Director of Research, Policy and Plans, Michael Meyers, a Negro, wrote earlier: "No matter what else is taught or how it is taught, the fact that a school is segregated teaches there is a qualitative difference between students in 'Black' and 'White' colleges."

Therefore, the Denver clash between the NAACP national leaders and Ronald Reagan was not racial, but philosophical.

Next week: NAACP shuns Denver Blacks.

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

## —MORE LETTERS—

### D.S.S. probe praised

Dear AFRO:

I wish to convey my deep respect for the Baltimore City Department of Social Services for initiating the investigation of illegal food stamp activity.

It is only in rare instances that a public agency comes forward and cooperates so willingly in an investigation which may implicate its own employees.

Although the investigation has come at a time when there is skepticism about the worth of many publically funded programs which serve the poor, the department by virtue of its willingness to step forward, shows its concern for protecting the integrity of the Food Stamp Program, the clients it serves, and the reputation of the vast majority of its employees.

I applaud the department for its stance.

BEN DAVIS
Executive Director,
National Assoc. of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter