OPINION

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90 years

The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, as you will be reminded throughout these pages in this edition, enters its 90th year of continuous publication.

This is a record of achievement not possible in such a competitive society without the resolute and enduring support of generations of customers who feel themselves well-served. In the case of a newspaper, readers and advertisers are the customers and we feel proud that so many have been with us for so long.

We think we know how we have managed to sustain community support.

The AFRO has never been afraid to tackle the virulence of racism as it affects our community.

Through the years, we have been able to be objective about political forces and personalities, black and white, and make our stands on the issues and maintain independence.

We think our readers respect us for remaining independent. Many forces have attempted to diminish our independence but the company has never strayed from the basic precepts of the founder, John H. Murphy Sr.

But most importantly, we like to think that we have been able to give our community most of the news, good and bad, that vitally concerns all of us.

We have been able to interpret international, national and local news and events as they concern our often necessarily separate and special interests and aspirations as a hard-pressed ethnic group.

Our mission has been to be voice of the black community. As the 1980's begin, as our community is beset anew with social, economic and political problems that most thought had been conquered in the progressive Sixties, we intend to accelerate this mission as the times demand.

We will soon publish a special edition with the rich legacy of the AFRO in particular and the black press in general.

We intend to add to our services to readers in the Eighties and relentlessly pursue those newsgathering and community interest goals that have been our history.

Thank you for your patronage, your support and understanding. The AFRO is thousands of hard-working, God-fearing, civic-minded people.

We are 90 but we feel young and strong and still growing.

Thank you Baltimore!

JUST THINKING

Productive class of '41

By Al Sweeney

Wilberforce University's Class of '41 held its 40th reunion last week at the plush Detroit Plaza located in the heart of Motown's famed Renaissance Center.

The 70-storied cylinder glass structure fashioned by Atlanta's architect Eric Portman dominates Detroit's downtown and provided the only lure to a town that has been dying with the plunging sales of its production of gas guzzling vehicles.

Some 37 members of Force's Class of 141 attended. Many of them had not seen their classmates since they received their undergraduate degrees.

They jammed the class suite on the 40th floor of the Plaza on Saturday where each member participated in "telling time" an exercise in which each capsuled their lives since graduation.

To this writer, it was a humbling experience to listen to a personal recital of the meandering paths each took over the 40 years from the moment they left the rolling hills of Wilberforce.

It must be recalled the year 1941 was before World War II was launched. It was before the civil rights movement and prior to the NAACP's many legal victories to strip down scores that were erected around blacks eating in railroad dining cars and the court - outlawed restrictive housing zoning based on race. It also was some 14 years before the famed school desegregation case.

While the members of the Class of '41 unraveled the fascinating accounts of their lives, a pattern developed.

Charles P. Benson and Bernard Jefferson, a pair of Chicago residents, both of who rose in the ranks of the Windy City's public schools, put the meeting into perspective.

They were co-chairmen of the effort that sparked the largest class reunion of the annual National Wilberforce Alumni Conferences held for an institution founded some 125 years ago.

For a 10-year, a 20-year or even a 30-year class reunion to get so much response would be fitting for a group of budding Grey Panthers, it was something else.

But, Benson and Jefferson put in perspective.

The students that entered Wilberforce in 1937 were "poor." They might be labeled as not "Po," "Po" they were nevertheless "poor" "poor."

The several hundred members of the 1937 freshmen class who became the Class of '41 didn't have $100 collectively.

James McGhee, a roomate, came to the campus without a suit to his name, for example. He came to Force from the outskirts of Steubenville, Ohio - a town called Bloomingdale.

McGhee finished school to acquire a graduate law degree and become an activist in the NAACP activities of Dayton; a general counsel of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity; and later mayor of Dayton.

Since July, 1970, he served as mayor, won two re-elections and decided not to seek another term this fall.

Russel Adrine, another roommate, weathered numerous economic setbacks to become one of Cleveland's top criminal lawyers and a member of the Governor's State Board of Appraisers. He, too, was active in civil rights struggle on the local level and played a role in the city's political life as campaign chairman of Rep. Louis Stokes' successful congressional quests.

He, too, looked back to his early life at Wilberforce as a member of the NYA corps where he earned his tuition and board. His job assignment was hauling out the cinders from the huge furnace that provided heat for the campus buildings.

Several women classmates, who worked in the state, county and federal systems, recounted how the doors to employment opportunity were closed to them after receiving their degrees.

Marie Sheppard, a retiree from the D.C. system; Dorothy Jackson Fearing, Lois MacNeill Holt, Hester Lovely were among the women who typified the Class of '41. They struggled to a satisfactorily level in their professional vocations. It wasn't easy, they all agreed.

Coleridge Hendon and Lorenzo Carter mirrored the life of many male members of 1941 and found the military service as refugee. Hendon became an officer, while Carter, one of 'Force's great football players, joined the AirForce and found life in that branch of service far from ideal.

The years of frustration have left their scars on Carter's life. However, Carter came to Detroit, as did associates in the Class of '41, to look back on it all as a bad dream.

Harold Miller, now a Philly resident and an official in the state parole system, can remember how he proudly earned a master's degree in journalism in the mid-1940s.

He found the degree and a needed cup of cup of coffee at the nearby diner didn't help him meet the tab.

Miller witched fields and became recognized in the rehabilitation areas of the penal system. Lyman Alexander, out of Ohio, is another class member who found an occupational opportunity in the Court system.

Bruce Green, a native of Wilberforce, who became a medic and active in the civil rights movement, now resides in Columbus and after more than 50 years as a tennis player still swings a mean racquet.

From the various parts of the nation they came. It was inspiring.

More than a newspaper - a city tradition

Baltimore Afro-American

The perils of adoption

By Marion M. Banfield

Much more attention is being focused on adoption that was previously done. Part of the adoption concern is because of the determination of some adult adoptees to find their natural parents.

Social work agencies, which have been involved in the adoption process, now face the additional responsibility of giving as much information as possible without wrecking the life of the adoptee, adoptive parents or natural parents.

In our community, there has been more foster home placement than adoption. Many of our pregnant teenagers have rejected adoption for their babies.

These youngsters have seen and heard and paid foster home placements which were unsatisfactory. The good foster home placements which were frequently uneventful affairs where caring adults parented children whose natural parents couldn't or wouldn't give the nuturing children needed.

In the good foster homes, love between parent figures and children just seemed be be a normal way of coping.

Because of a cutural habit of not giving up babies, child abuse in our community is on the increase. When a pregnant teenager has planned to give up a baby for adoption, friends and family members have pressured the expectant mother not to give up the infant.

Our society pressures for money, for fun, for surviving and remaining sane. These pressures are too much for hundreds of teenage mothers. They are abusing their children in increasing numbers.

Through tears of anger and frustration, they are discovering the responsibilities of motherhood are too heavy a burden for them. That is why there now is an increase in the number of black children available for adoption. Social workers plan for the welfare of the child as the most important factor.

I have heard teenagers regret having allowed family members or friends to adopt their children. One rebellious 14-year-old, who was determined to make her own plans without any social work "interference", regretfully decided after 18 months she wished she did not know where her son was living.

The teenager was unhappy with the placement. She, herself, had been placed by her parents with a family that had never adopted her.

The family knew both of the teenager's parents and always were fearful that the emotionally unstable mother would harrass if legal adoption were established.

I believe the unofficial adoptive parents were even affraid to really love the girl, who had lived with them since the age of three.

My plea is we quit bringing pressure on our young mothers to hold onto their infants. As a client of mine once explained, "My mother wouldn't allow me to get an abortion, or to give up my son for adoption. One thing for sure, she couldn't make me love him!"

That's the mother of a 12-year-old boy, who was a school menance, with knives and scissors.

Agencies such as Family and Children's Society, have social workers trained to do their best for the infant and the adoptive parents. The information and Referral Service can list other responsible agencies.

Let us give up the old habit of punishing the mother by making her keep the baby. Our young mothers can find some other ego trips. Our babies need loving, lasting parenting.

—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

Clark amendment

Dear AFRO:

One of the most pressing subjects before Congress is the issue of U.S. relations with southern Africa, especially on questions of Angola and the Clark Amendment.

The Reagan Administration announced in March 1981, it would ask the Congress to repeal the Clark Amendment, passed and signed into law in 1976. That amendment prohibits assistance of any kind which would have the effect of promoting the capacity of any nation, group, movement or individual to conduct military or paramilitary operations in Angola without Congressional approval.

The fight in 1976 to secure passage of the Clark Amendment was fierce. We must do everything we can to prevent the Administration from reaching its goal of repealing that amendment.

Nothing has changed in Africa or in Angola to warrant support for the Administration's proposal. There are not changed circumstances in Angola which would dictate a shift in United States policy.

The Reagan Administration cannot revert to an implied policy of providing covert American aid to antigovernment guerillas within Angola without alienating the rest of black Africa.

When Secretary Alexander Haig appeared before the House of Foreign Affairs Committee, he denounced in very strong terms the Soviet Union's support for wars of national liberation.

With its proposal regarding the Clark Amendment, this Administration will leave itself open to the charge of hypocrisy and promoting its own wars of national liberation.

The timing of such a proposal is especially poor since it could adversely affect the Western-sponsored negotiations over Namibia.

The reaction of African leaders has been swift and harsh. They have warned that U.S. support of rebel forces in Angola would have powerful repercussions on United States-African relations.

For example, the president of oil rich Nigeria, Shehu Shagari, said "if it is true that the United States is to support rebel organizations in a sovereign country like Angola, then it is very serious. I do not think it will, but if it did, it would be in defiance not only of Angola, but of all Africa."

The major concerns of leaders of black Africa are the Administration's Policy toward Namibia and the Administration's policy concerning apartheid in South Africa.

They see the Administration's advocacy of the repeal of the Clark Amendment as an act which will turn Africa into an arena of East-West confrontation. This, they reject.

They know that the end result can only be widespread destruction and the loss of life for thousands of poor and destitute Angolans, who will be used as pawns in the Administration's idealogical battles with communism.

Futhermore, Angola has provided vital assistance to the five-power Western attempt to negotiate a peacful political settlement of the 14-year war between South Africa and the guerillas (SWAPO) in Namibia.

Previously, the foreign minister of Angola, Paulo Jorge, told reporters his government still hoped that relations between our two countries could be improved.

Finally, efforts by African leaders to secure that political settlement and the subsequent withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola would collaspe if the Reagan Administration went ahead with its plan to repeal the Clark Amendment and to aid Angola's rebel factions.

The Secretary of State said the Clark Amendment must be repealed because "it is a blatant restriction on executive authority." When one considers the consequences it is an awesome price to pay in order to satisfy the whims of "executive authority."

A Congressional Conference Committee must eventually work out an acceptable settlement since the House and Senate Committees with jurisdiction have split on the Clark Amendment issue.

It is high time we send a message to other nations, especially to black Africa in this case, that we will work with them and not against them as they attempt to pursue liberty and justice for their people.

Call upon our Congressional representatives and urge them to let the Clark Amendment stand!

LARRY YOUNG (D-38th)
Maryland House of Delegates

Wilson Park

Dear AFRO:

There is trouble in Wilson Park because the Neighborhood Housing Services of Govans presupposes:

1. We are in need of an archaic feudalistic system.

2. There is a finite number of people interested in home ownership in the Govans community.

3. We, as a group, cannot afford ownership of moderate priced homes.

4. There is a dire need for additional rental housing in our vicinity.

5. A one, two, or three-bedroom townhouse renting for $250 to $350 per month plus utilities and a $1,500 initial membership fee is a deserving legacy to bequest a relative.

6. We, of Govans, are so deficient in command of the English language that we have difficulty comprehending the mutual housing concept.

7. We have an affinity for compact living and abhor openess. The residents directly adjacent to the undeveloped tract of land at Cold Spring Lane and The Alameda were not involved in the initial planning.

The components of the Neighborhood Housing Services - the civic minded residents and the representatives of the banking and savings and loan associations - do not live in close proximity to the tract of land; therefore, they will not experience any undesirable reservations from the mutal housing experiment.

There is a parallelism between homeownership and community concern and involvement.

The proposal is a travesty, an act of exploitation by some persons who may place a personal ego, greed or financial achievement above the concerns of prospective new home buyers.

It is horrendous to attempt to force a housing experiment new to the United States on a tranquil, stable, punctilious, crime free neighborhood.

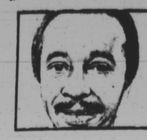
If the Neighborhood Services was candidly interested in the status quo of this neighborhood, in people, and in improving living conditions, they would implement their philosophy stated by Mr. Cassidy.

They would support the construction of affordable homes for moderate income new homebuyers. The counterpart of the Neighborhood Housing services - the banking and savings and loan industry - would provide low interest mortgage.

Finally, we are not opposed to renters or renting. We want prospective new residents of The Alameda, Cold Spring Lane and St. Georges Avenue quadrangle to have the same opportunity to purchase modest priced new homes as provided in other sections of Baltimore City.

VIRGINIA P. WHITE

PARREN MITCHELL



Christmas time for the military

The 97th Congress has done some crazy things thus far. It approved a Budget Reconciliation Bill the members of Congress had not even seen. It threatened senior citizens with social security cuts.

However, the most incredible thing was the Congress voted $136 billion for the military under the Defense Department (DOD) Authorization Act of 1981.

This really was a Christmas tree for the military, but, in addition, it is a very dangerous bill for civil liberties. This $136 billion giveaway can be broken down into three categories: (1) encouragement of waste; (2) dangers to civil liberties; and (3) outright waste.

Insofar as encouraging waste is concerned, the Congress refused to give the General Accounting Office the authority to investigate the need to limit excess profits on defense contracts.

In a similar fashion, the Congress refused to require the President to ferret out $8 billion in documented waste, fraud and abuse within the Department of Defense.

Finally, the Congress encouraged waste by refusing to require that the Department of Defense seek permission from the Congress before entering into multi-year procurement contracts. A Congressional check and balance on the unrestricted way DOD does business with private contractors is vitally needed. So much for encouraging waste, fraud and abuse.

The threats to civil liberties in this bill are as follows: the act authorized the Department of Defense to participate in civillian law enforcement with no clear scope of constitutional authority.

It allowed the Selective Service to require registrants to provide their social security number, thus paving the road for a return to the draft.

Finally, it allowed the Selective Service, the Department of Defense, the Treasury Department, and the Department of Health and Human Services to start sharing information concerning the whereabouts and status of private citizens eligible for the draft, an intrusion of privacy by the federal government.

Insofar as outright waste is concerned, the Congress did four incredible things under this act. A total of $35 billion was authorized for the FA-18 aircraft which has proven to be defective in design and performance.

It authorized $750 billion for the celebration of the Battle of Yorktown's Bicentennial. The Air National Guard was directed to install 1,000 aircraft which the Guard did not want because it preferred the more capable and less costly F-16 aircraft.

And, it increased America's contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization while other countries decreased their proportionate share to NATO.

Watch it! I saw a little boy throw away his sandwich which came with his free school lunch. That is waste, fraud, and abuse and it must be stamped out. We simply cannot afford waste in government (except in the military).

Hard times are in store

Samuel BANKS

By Dr. Samuel L. Banks

A cardinal and incontrovertible meaning of the recent appearances of the Reagan functionaries at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's and Urban League's national conventions in Washington is chilling and harsh: HARDER TIMES ARE IN STORE FOR 31 MILLION BLACK AMERICANS AND THE POOR.

The masses of black Americans and the nation's poor did not need to be told by Vice President George Bush and other Reagan adherents life for them would be made more severe and harsh as President Reagan and David Stockman, executive director of the powerful Office of Management and Budget, experimented with their supplyside economics.

The worst, indubitably, is yet to come.

While it is true troubles are not new to black Americans, given the historic and virulent institutional racism which has bedevided and decimated our forebears since their ignominious arrival to these shores from the motherland, a tougher more pestiferous brand of racism and planned exclusion of blacks from the socio-economic corporate and educational mainstream of the United States now threatens our very existence.

The social pathology for black America is clear: The penal institutions of our nation are crammed disproportionately with young blacks and Hispanics; school dropouts exceed graduates in most urban school districts, Baltimore included.

Evictions from houses are at an all time high; more than a third of black and poor residents of Baltimore and other large urban centers are confined to wretched and substandard housing.

The streets of urban centers, Baltimore included, are lined with forlorn, desparate and pathetic black youths and young adults, who see no hope of substantive work in their lifetime.

Reapportionment plans bode ill for black legislators; a systematic and endemic exclusion from the corporate mainstream of the nation; a national disinclination on the part of the majority white society to insist that equality of opportunity and social justice be made available to all citizens.

In brief, a litary of lamentations and socio-economic disaster.

In view of this saturnine, abysmal and draconian outlook, it is clear, as has been true in times past, particulary in the 1960's, black Americans must become their own advocates.

The fragile and tenuous coalitions of the 1960's, to be sure, in the light of the politics of divide et impera (i.e., divide and rule), and the fragmentation and balkanization of racial and ethnic groups are now, by and large, in disarray.

Ethnic and racial groups are busily involved in terms of protecting their own "turfs" and interests. Black Americans, too, while endeavoring to restructure and energize vibrant and genuine coalitions, where feasible, must also be about the first order of business: OUR SURVIVAL.

The time has come to end the duality and ambivalence in regard to espousing and supporting unconditional and non-negotiable civil and human rights for the black citizenery of our nation and all other citizens.

We must insist now that our full constitutional and human rights be provided to 31 million black Americans. Social, educational, economic and political strategies must be developed by black leadership, at all levels (i.e., local, state, national, international), in order to make this a reality and not empty rhetoric.

A national "conspiracy of silence" on civil and human rights for blacks, Hispanics and the poor is once again enveloping the nation. Black Americans must not permit themselves to become an unthinking and impotent partner in the conspiracy of silence.

There must not be any division on our God-given and inalienable right to be fully free and to have equality of opportunity.

The ancient admonition of Elijah to his doubting and fearful people, at one point in their history, is highly apropos: "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions. If the Lord be God, follow Him, but if Ba'al then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." (I Kings 18:21)

There cannot be any division on civil and human rights. In order to move beyond rhetoric and confronting blandishments, I believe the following approaches are urgent and necessary imperatives for black America:

1. Register to vote and encourage relatives and your friends to do so. "A VOTELESS PERSON IS A VOICELESS PERSON."

2. Marshal strong and vigorous support for the 10-year extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

3. Communicate your opinions on public issues to the local and national media; print and electronic.

You should insist the media include blacks in all phases of their operation: management, sales, editorial writers or broadcasters, reporters, etc.

In short, keep informed and discuss the leading issues of the day with family members, relatives and friends.

4. Become a full and active participant in educational matters. Demand excellence of administrators, teachers and board members.

5. Become an active supporter of the NAACP, Urban League, SCLC, PUSH and other civil and human rights organizations working to end racism, bigotry and sexism in our national life.

6. Become familiar with the legislative records of your elected representatives, at all levels, (i.e., city council, general assembly, Congress), and make certain they address your socio-economic needs.

7. Become an active participant in your local civic or neighborhood association. Make certain your community is heard on pressing and critical issues confronting the city and state.

8. Insist on your children working at their optimum or highest level in elementary, secondary schools and in higher education.

Make sure, too, highly qualified and committed staff and instructional materials and supplies are in place to serve fully your children's needs. Work, without ceasing, to end custodial education.

9. Praise and encourage your children when they perform in an exemplary manner in school, at home, and in the broader community.

10. ABOVE ALL, DON'T GO FISHING ON ELECTION DAY. It is not enough to be registered, but you must make use of the ballot on election day.

Let the voting habit become a regular part of your life and your family's life.

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There are, of course, a multiplicity of action strategies which can be utilized in order to develop a more caring and just body politic. I have simply suggested in the 10 areas cited above a fundamental beginning.

It is most important you not be "halt between two opinions" when our collective survival is at stake. It is now vitally important that we get serious.

The opening salvos of the first six months of the Reagan administration presage a costly, highly difficult and cumbersome struggle for 31 million black Americans and the nation's poor. President Reagan and the majority white society have determined their course—WHAT ABOUT YOU?

It is not only a matter for 31 million black Americans to get ready, even while running the race of life with onerous weights by the majority white society, but to act for the preservation of our humanity and posterity and to save the very soul of our nation.

In the 18th century our forebears shackled by slavery and traduced by all of the major institutions of the day dared, in the face of insuperable odds, to raise the plaintive and universal question: AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER?"

Now we must dare to affirm more than 200 years later, their humanity and our own, in resounding, forceful, translucent and undiluted language and deeds.

A black spiritual that was sung often with tenacity by our forebears provides hope.

"I've been in the storm so long, you know I've been in the storm so long, Oh Lord, give me more time to pray, I've been in the storm so long.

"This is a needy time, This is a needy time, singin' Oh Lord, give me more time to pray, I've been in the storm so long.

"My neighbors need you now, my neighbors need you now, singin' Oh Lord, give me more time to pray, I've been in the storm so long.

"My children need you now, my children need you now, singin' Oh Lord, give me more time to pray, I've been in the storm so long.

"Just look what a shape I'm in, just look what a shape I'm in, cryin' Oh Lord, give me more time to pray, I've been in the storm so long."

The Reagan socio-economic storm is ineluctable. The advance force of the storm is evident; the full force is on the way. Brothers and Sisters, it is time to get ready with prayers and socio-economic and political plans of action.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

City Hall will not be the same without Quentin Lawson. His winning, easy-going, freindly disposition is a rare thing today and he will be hard to replace.

Married and the father of two wonderful kids, he has several degree; Bachelor of Arts in Biology and German, West Virginia State College; Master of Education, supervision and administration, University of Maryland; Master of Science, Morgan State University.

Another degree he has well earned from the School of Life is (I would say), Doctor of Human Relations, he is so perfect in this feild.

One of his hobbies is antique cars.

His job title as Mayor Schaefer's right-hand administrator from 1975 to the present is "Human Development Director" for Baltimore City.

Literaliy thousands of citizens of all races know Quentin, his smile, his wit and his natural way of getting along.

Quentin's new job begins shortly after Labor Day.

He'll step into a non-profit corporation, Public Technology, Inc., in Washington as vice-president.

The firm's prime focus is assisting state and local governments throughout the USA and as VP he will be responsible for those cities with populations of 400,000 and over.

He will be the official liason to National League of Cities, Conference of Mayors, National Science Foundation and other interest groups.

Public Technology is a national firm whose credibility results from the assistance that is provided city and county governments in energy conservation, public safety, community and economic development, computer technology, management, finance and personnel and human services innovation strategies.

Mr. Lawson leaves Baltimore for Washington shortly after Labor Day, but will maintain a strong link with Mayor Schaefer.

As the AFRO enters its 90th year of publication there are many examples we could give which explains why the Black Press exists.

Here is a letter from Dr. Harold A. Carter which is related to our world-famed aquarium.

HOWEVER, most important is a sentence in Dr. Carter's letter which adequately tells the AFRO's role in the world today and yesterday.

In our coming 90th year edition we will have many stories and features from our readers throughout 90 years which will further accent WHY the AFRO has continued all these years.

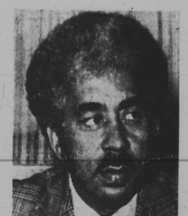
Here is Dr. Carter's sentence:

"The AFRO, to my knowledge, is the only local paper that has properly brought this information concerning one of Baltimore's great black citizens to public notice."

THE INFORMATION of which Dr. Carter speaks is as follows in his letter.

Dear Mrs. Oliver:

The following is a suggested news item regarding Henry Hall and his donation to this city's new Aquarium.



QUENTIN LAWSON is leaving the Mayor's Office to become vice president of a DC firm.

Long before the present interest in the Baltimore Aquarium, an engineer by the name of Henry Hall had an aquarium that covered the entire room of his basement.

This unusual man, who taught others engineering technology, put together thousands of dollars worth of aquarium equipment in his basement and had various fish species from around the world.

His life is dear to the history of New Shiloh Baptist church because he was coverted to Christ in a pilgramage with me to the Holy Land.

It was on a ship in the Mediterranean Sea on a Sunday night in 1969, when he gave his life to Christ.

Mr. Hall became a fervent member of this church along with his wife and shared the knowledge of his treasure of fish with his Pastor.

I actually viewed the many species of fish and recall seeing rare specimens from around the world in the eel family, shark family, and various colorful fish families.

Mr. Hall's life is of interest since it was his collection of fish that has provided the Baltimore Aquarium with its first collection of exotic fish now on public display and commanding world-wide attention.

The Afro-American, to our knowledge, is the only local paper that has properly brought this information concerning one of Baltimore' great black citizens to public notice. Harold Carter, Pastor

That lottery again

Dear AFRO:

This is written in regards to the proposed change in the Maryland State Lottery.

The lottery is terrible enough as it is from an odds point of view, the worst I have ever seen.

Now lottery officials have dropped the hint about a "rub-off" instant lottery. They drop a sound to see the public's reaction. If the public protests, the lottery people say it was a thought. If there are no protests, it will be implemented.

This is the worst game of all. Too much money is involved to trust these people. The winning tickets could be put in certain areas, like before, and people were running all over Maryland.

The odds on the lottery in Maryland are terrible. Odds on triples are like six-way numbers. It is far harder to hit doubles and triples than six-way numbers, so I ask that you bring this to the readers' attention.

This will be a further stick up.

J. ELLIS

Concert safety urged by radio personality

Dear AFRO:

I recently attended the "Jacksons" concert and left very upset.

I have been in the music business many years now and a consumer of concerts for even more time. I feel the time has come for me to comment on what is known as "FESTIVAL STYLE CONCERTS."

Aside from the fact only a few hundred of the more than 20,000 people that attended have a good point from which to see and hear, these type of concerts are DANGEROUS.

I saw at least six people that had to be pulled up on stage from the mob that forms in front of the stage. Some were injured, others had passed out.

Gentlemen, a potential disaster is at hand! Other than the fact that you can sell more tickets for this type of show, I would like to know the justification.

My livelyhood is dependent upon the success and image the music industry has.

Doesn't it make sense we do everything possible to promote the idea major concerts are not gathering places for the immoral and decadent, as once was thought.

If people are turned off to concerts, they'll get turned off to radio, music, performers and on and on. All of this will happen if we have more incidents such as theone last year at a concert by "The Who", where many died.

How many tickets is a life worth?

I would hate for our market to make the network nightly news because some people were killed in an unruly mob. I'm sure you would to.

TIM WATTS
Music Director, WXYV-V103

Tony Brown's Journal

Hampton: The humanitarian musician

Lionel Hampton is known to the world as one of the greatest musicians ever to live. And although his list of credits and accomplishments are endless, there is still another triumph this great American has achieved: urban rehabilitation.

In 1974, Lionel Hampton completed a apartment housing project in Harlem. Not named by him, it was called the Lionel Hampton House.

This past summer, hundreds gathered in Harlem along with Nos. 1 and 2 politicians who were there to pay their respects and government officials including the future vice president, to honor the opening of Lionel Hampton's latest humanitarian effort: the Gladys Hampton House, a 205-unit complex named after his late wife, Gladys.

Gladys Hampton was the cornerstone in Lionel Hampton's career and life. When they met in California in 1942, Gladys was a designer for such great celebrities as Joan Crawford and Rosalind Russell. She helped organize some of Hampton's first bands and stood as the main source of his encouragement throughout their years together.

Later, when he was invited to join Benny Goodman and his band in 1936, she dropped her career and dedicated her entire life to managing his entertainers and musicians from around the world gathered at her funeral in 1971 to pay last respects.

Hampton likes to be quoted as saying, "God gave me the talent, but Gladys gave the inspiration." That statement, along with his wife, were so dear to him that the inscription is engraved on the cornerstone of the building.

In an interview I taped with Hampton last fall, I became aware of the great compassion this musical giant had for his late wife, his career and the welfare of others.

She was a wonderful lady, who supported Hampton during his great wife and a great inspiration to me, and a great guidance, she was also a great businesswoman.

Among other things, he was talking about the large amount of land Gladys had purchased in Las Vegas some years ago where the band frequently played. Recently, Hampton received seven-figure offers for that same land. But money is not Hamp's main concern.

Hampton is a man who is as politically active as he is musically. He has numbered among his closest associates President Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. Even his career as a developer started with the help of the late Nelson Rockefeller, before he became the governor of New York.

Once while playing in Chicago, Hampton received word that Rockefeller wanted him to play at his home for a family dinner. This was to be the beginning of a relationship that would include Hampton's support for Rockefeller in his campaign for governor.

"The people down in Harlem were having a hard time getting money to rehabilitate their homes, and Governor Rockefeller was putting together a UDC—Urban Development Corporation—for the state of New York.

And so the community told me, why don't you ask Governor Rockefeller could he sponsor some of these apartments and new homes down here in our community. So I did. I asked him and he said he would do it. But he said I want you to be the sponsor.

Among the many clients this master of music has conquered, his role when not bringing the house down in a wild chorus of "Coming Home" is that of a hugely successful businessman. Aside from running two music publishing companies, Lionel Hampton Enterprises has as part of its other ventures two record labels and, of course, the Lionel Hampton Development Corporation.

He has even composed a major symphonic work, "King David's Suite," which he was invited to conduct before a symphony orchestra. And to add scholarly excellence to musical excellence, Hampton possesses honorary Doctor of Music degrees from Allen, Xavier, Pepperdine, and Howard Universities. Obviously, his heart belongs to music.

Hampton likes to tell the story of how he met Louis Armstrong while playing at Sabastians Cotton Club in Harlem.

"While we were there, Louis Armstrong came out to headline the show. And Louis manager heard us and he liked us so well that he left Louis band in New York city and used us.

Louis came out and he liked us so well that he took us on a recording session to record for him. And the first number we recorded was a tune that the famous Eubie Blake had sent him, called "Memories of You."

Once at the studio, Armstrong asked Lionel if he knew anything about an instrument that was lying in the middle of the floor. Hampton, who had never played the instrument before, gave it a try—and with instant success. That instrument was a vibraharp, which would become the musical trademark for Hampton's music.

Lionel Hampton will always be remembered as a great musician. However, his long existence in the music world is secondary to his dedication to the welfare of others. He is a house filled with love and music.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, is shown every Saturday, beginning Aug. 29, WBAL-TV, channel 11 at 2 p.m.

—MORE LETTERS—

Butler, Mitchell cleared

Dear AFRO:

It is both a relief and gratifying to learn in the same week that two of our leading citizens have been exonerated of any wrong doing.

First, State Senator Clarence Mitchell III was cleared of charges he lent his real estage license to a rent referral service called Home Hunters, Inc. that took money from clients without finding them houses to rent.

Secondly, Edward R. Butler, successful owner of Pascal's and Giovanchy's at Park Circle, was cleared and released after it was found there was no outstanding warrant against him.

It is my opinion that too often invalid charges or actions are brought against leading citizens in our (black) community simply to damage their credibility.

Far too often, many of our citizens are to quick to believe every negativism that is printed or said about the black community and its citizens. Those who were quick to condemn both of the gentlemen I have mentioned, shall be as quick with their apology.

We are a great and beautiful people. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. But, we will never achieve our full greatness if we continue with the "nigger ain't worth a damn" mentality.

RODNEY A ORANGE

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.