Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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World Patriotism Parade

Guest commentary by Beverly Douglass

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Aug. 22, Baltimore will witness the first annual New World Patriotism Parade and Festival. It is sponsored by the Baltimore Masjid and the Upton Planning Committee. The parade begins at 12 noon at Frederick Douglass High School and ends at Pennsylvania Ave. and Marshall Field.

The theme is "education is sacred."

Beverly Douglass, a city government worker, was a volunteer helping bring about the New World Patriotism Parade, and here are some of her strong arguments for a new kind of patriotism among black Americans.

What is New World Patriotism?

"New World Patriotism, as the upcoming parade and festival celebrates, is being proud of your foreparents who have played an integral part in making this land (America) what it is today.

If it were not for our enslaved forebears, who rolled tobacco down Rolling Road in Catonsville to be sold, America may not be what it is today.

If it were not for a black woman, Alice H. Parker of New Jersey, who invented an effective heating furnance, we would be cold in the winter.

If it were not for Benjamin Banneker, who invented America's first striking clock, blacks and whites alike might be lost in time. Charles J. Perry invented the first gas manifold and ignition combination.

Frederick Douglass, a great statesman and abolitionist, really helped us through slavery and the black political rise.

To me, this is New World Patriotism. Of course, we all know blacks or whatever we choose to call ourselves - black, colored, Asiatic, Negro, Catholic, or Christian - should not have the kind of patriotism that comes with the fourth of July, because in 1776 we had been in slavery 157 years and were not emancipated until 1863.

I am speaking of being proud of who we are.

We are brilliant people, if we would concentrate on the positive and let the negative alone, we would realize how brilliant we really are.

We should never waste engergy on hatred.

Much of this country was built on black labor. We have earned our share, we own basic stock in this country as was recognized by the Union government, who promised freed slaves 40 acres and a mule, but never paid off.

New World Patriotism is dedication to preserving our share holding in a country in which we have become major stockholders.

We must be proud of ourselves and of our race, so we can teach our children. The ideals and goals of such people as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, W.E.B. Dubois, Frederick Douglass, and Martin Luther King live today in many different bodies and speak in many different voices.

New World Patriotism speaks to our achievements, our continuing struggle and our need for unity of purpose.

A new intellectual black is rising like a marble shaft in the gray dawn of determination. When the Caucasian had 3,000 years of training behind him, the slave, us, had 300 years of bondage before him.

But now the black man is pursuing the pages of his own performance. We must catch up with the pages at a pace such as the one set by Martin Luther King.

We can not do that and should not secede from America and give up our stock holdings, we must stay here and strive for the right of our children to succeed in America, so we can help our African brothers.

These are some of the dynamics behind New World Patriotism and the Parade Saturday should be the city's most meaningful celebration this summer.

This is black New World Patriotism.

Henry Hall's gift to the aquarium

By Patricia Tatum
AFRO Staff Writer

The National Aquarium in Baltimore can thank a black West Baltimore stationary engineer for some of the fish swimming in the tanks of the recently opened $21 million facility.

Henry Hall, whom some call the father of Baltimore's black stationary engineers, donated his rare collection of freshwater fish to the aquarium two years before his death in 1979. Stationary engineers are responsibleer for the maintenance of boilers and air-conditioning units of buildings.

John H. Thornton, 72, a retired stationary engineer himself, said he knew Hall for almost 50 years. He said Hall's interest in fish dated back to the days of Hall's boyhood.

"He was interested in fish from the time he was a very small child. He used to get his mother's pots and pans and catch frogs and tadpoles with them."

As an adult, Hall's interest in fish and aquariums grew. He built an "elaborate" aquarium that filled almost the whole of his basement at his Mosher Street home, Thornton said. Hall also made the tanks and filters that housed his collection.

Thornton estimated the collection of freshwater fish was valued in excess of $10,000.

Janet Watson Barnhill, aquarium development officer, in a letter to the AFRO said Hall's donation of about 35 specimen included rare and outstanding species such as electric eels, lungfish, oscars, clown knifefish and shovelnose catfish.

The paddlefish, a native of the Mississippi River, also was one of the fish Hall tried to obtain up to the time of his death.

"He (Hall) was a believer in the aquarium when it was barely an idea," Ms. Barnhill said.

Even though Hall was an aquarium board member, his donation encountered its share of difficulty before it finally reached its aquarium resting place in the spring of this year.

Thornton, who at the time was the president of the National Association of Power Engineers, Chapter No. 8 of which Hall was a chartered member, said he received a summons from Hall to come to Hall's home one day.

There, Hall told Thornton he would like to give his collection to the power engineers. Thornton said he went into the basement and surveyed Hall's private aquarium.

"I looked at the fish, we can do it, but something of this magnitude belongs to the public," Thornton said at the time.

During the year it took to give the fish away, Thornton said he approached Baltimore Zoo officials. They could not accept the fish because they did not have the facilities to house them, he said.

The Rev. Louis W. Foxwell, also an aquarium board member, learned of the collection. Within a week's time Foxwell and Thornton made arrangements to house the fish at the Maryland Academy of Sciences, Thornton said. The fish remained at the academy until they were moved during the spring.

Hall died in the fall of 1979 at Provident Hospital, but he left a legacy of good deeds and unselfish service to his community and his church, New Shiloh Baptist Church.

He was a licensed stationary engineer for 50 years and was chief engineer at Provident from 1927 until 1952. Hall's career began in 1913 as an engineer with the United Railroad and Electric Co. He also taught engineering at his home and other places for about 10 years accepting no pay.

Hall later taught at Carver Vocational High School, Thornton said.

It was Hall who introduced Thornton to the field. Hall gave Thornton his first lesson in the boiler room at Provident and told Thornton to enroll in his engineering class, he said.

"He was a great, unselfish man," Thornton said.

Aquarium visitors should keep that thought in mind as they gaze at the freshwater fish collection.

HOWARD ST. REVITALIZATION-NEW CLOTHES OR JUST A FACADE?

MADELINE MURPHY

For one who gives so much

Gathered in the lounge atop the West Twenty high rise for the elderly, were splendidly dressed men and women of all ages.

Young children, actually preschoolers, dressed in their Sunday best, politely handed out programs with the question: "Do you want to sit down?" Then they directed the visitors to their seats with the firmness of children who had been taught a job and were determined to do it right, like it or not!

The chatting and greetings of people who had not seen one another for a long time (some resorted to shouting) reverberated against the low ceiling — a din of excitement.

It was a happy, festive, orderly crowd under the crepe paper streamers on that humid Saturday afternoon.

The L-shaped buffet tables groaned with food, their lavishness only overshadowed by the huge birthday cake inscribed, "Happy Birthday to Lillie Fleet Logan from her loving daughter Earline," with a huge eight and one candle denoting the year.

As the children skittered back and forth directing people, yet taking time out to run a bit, or slap, tickle or giggle, the guests looked expectantly from time to time, toward the door.

Suddenly, the word passed among them. "Here she comes—sh-sh-sh!"

Quiet descended over the room. Only the intermittent scrape of chairs signalled they all were beginning to rise to sing the Happy Birthday song.

The honoree was escorted by her daughter and son-in-law, John Fraling, whose grandchildren had been the greeters and ushers.

For a moment, as you looked at the daughter, Earline, you remembered her — what was it — 31 years ago, when she was your cheerful, loveable babysitter. How you had read in her diary, on each page, "kiss boys!"

Here she was, the proud daughter, the homemaker, the mother of seven children, now seven grandchildren. Yet, still with that winsome, engaging smile, that bubbling, generous nature, the swift patter of her words unchanged.

But her mother, Lillie E. Fleet Logan, looked almost the same as we had remembered her our first day in Cherry Hill. She had greeted us, unabashed, made us feel welcome and offered help whenever we had needed it.

She would always remind us, how she had watched from her apartment window as I learned how to drive and park in the parking lot. She would also recall how my husband's anger drove me to tears — the first and only time he ever cursed at me!

Mrs. Logan's walk was strong and steady. She even strutted to the speaker's lectern to receive flowers from her great-grandchildren — a dozen long stemmed red roses -- and impishly turned to the crowd, remarking "You didn't think I could still do it, did you?"

As she greeted, hugged and kissed old friends, her three sons and their children, co-workers, and many of the 100 or more whom she had not seen in such a long time, you could tell the surprise party was a success.

They called it a fellowship dinner and in the Biblical sense, it was just that with a program filled with thankfulness to God, with hymns, prayers, poetry and rejoicing that this wonderful woman had surpassed the three score and ten in such a fine fettle.

It was her ability to work with people that made her a strong president of the the Cherry Hill Mothers and Homemakers Club, as officer in her lodge and devoted worker in her church.

Perhaps it also was her vigor; her ability to laugh in the face of hardship; her sense of morality; as well as her quick forgiveness that had blessedly kept her a vigorous, attractive woman at 81. A woman to whom the poem on the program might well have been written especially for:

"It's not the things that can be bought that are life's richest treasure. It's just the little "heart gifts" that money cannot measure. A cheerful smile, a friendly word, a sympathetic nod. Are priceless little treasures from the storehouse of God. They are the things that can't be bought with silver or gold. For thoughtfulness and kindness and love are never sold... They are priceless things in life for which no one can pay. And the giver finds rich recompense in giving them away. And who on earth gives more away and does more good for others, than understanding, kind and wise and selfless, loving Mothers. Who ask no more than just the joy of helping those they love, to find in life the happiness that they are dreaming of."

Thus it was with Lillie Fleet Logan — her flowers when she could enjoy them, smell them, and bask in the warmth of friends and family on that humid Saturday afternoon.

PARREN MITCHELL

In the name of national security

Almost all the air traffic controllers, who went on strike, were white persons.

The ruthless, unyielding way the President handled the strike may have provided us a look at an ominous future. Reagan called for no amnesty; the immediate firing of those who went on strike; and the denial of any future federal employment to the strikers.

He used military personnel to do the work of those who were on strike and launched the federal courts into an unparalleled series of swift, punitive actions against the strikers. Jailing them and imposing enormous fines.

What an awesome display of power! It was made abundantly clear that the strike could be smashed in a few days.

Will this be the method used in handling similar or related situations in the future?

In 1968, our cities erupted because black people had reached the breaking point in frustration. Black joblessness was maddeningly high, and it remains so in 1981.

Congress and the Reagan administration continue a policy of keeping unemployment high "in order to fight inflation." Black people are hurt most by that policy.

If, in 1981, tensions mount to the breaking point again, would the Reagan administration demand the federal courts impose a daily fine of "$1,000 a day for a week on any person caught up in a civil disturbance?"

In 1968, the absence of civil rights and civil liberties protections were causal to the black rage that turned cities into battlegrounds. In 1981, Civil liberties are increasingly threatened and there is clear, hard evidence we are now experiencing a systematic attack on civil rights.

Even during this attack period, we blacks are losing ground by agency actions (or inaction), though civil rights laws remain on the books.

What would happen if black citizens, goaded into action, initiated massive protests? Would the order from the top be "No amnesty?" If 5,000 black Baltimoreans were arrested and sentenced to ten years in prison, would the "no amnesty" attitude prevail? Would we be required to serve 50,000 years?

In 1968, many black federal employees took annual leave or compensatory leave to participate in black protest activities. Under the Reagan administration, would those employees be terminated and forever denied the opportunity to become federal employees again?

While disgruntled vacationers may have been pleased by Reagan's "decisive" actions, they should pause to think of the way in which the strike was blunted:

Raw, naked political power, once unleased, can and will be used again and again even under circumstances that do not warrant the full use of that power.

We, in this society, are guided by such principles as due process of law; protection against excessive fines; and provisions from amnesty. Once these principles are waivered, it can be done again and again even when the situation may not require such drastic action.

White air traffic controllers who went on strike, were smashed. Black people protesting against real injustice would be ....

LETTERS

AFRO congratulated

Dear AFRO:

Congratulations on your resolve to give added emphasis to businesses in our community.

The economics of our community will be affected much more in the 1980s by private enterprise than in the government-dominated 1960s and 1970s.

President Ronald Reagan has spelled it out and anyone who does not prepare himself for self-help in creating job opportunities by "cooperative economics" is just plain foolish.

The HUB Organization foresaw this by forming several years ago and welcomes the AFRO's continued support.

President Reagan himself, in his address to the NAACP, said, "In most neighborhoods, what really brings prosperity is when the income of that neighborhood is then multiplied by turning over several times within that community.

"In the black communities of America, the turnover is less than once before the dollars, those $140 billion, go out into the community at large and that has to be changed."

We at HUB see your support as a form of cooperative economics on the part of the black media as the major non-black businesses switch more of their advertising to the general media.

The community businessman will stay primarily with the community press and radio to reach his community customers. It is just good business to build community businesses.

R. V. HAYSBERT, SR.

'Prevention centers'

The nation-wide bullhorn call goes out almost everywhere for more jailhouse space in order to house the growing influx of criminals who have been booked, tried, and sentenced.

The cry for more jail space may not be necessary, or the number of jailed can be greatly reduced, if and when more "prevention centers" are established at the government expense, happy-go lock-ups can be handled and helped otherwise. Who will bell the cat? When will the cat be bailed? We, the community spirited people, are called upon to assist in this social venture.

What can we do? These persons that are likely to commit a crime, and those with light sentences may be enrolled at some of these standing churches with the proper person in charge, while a policeman will have the record, and make visits at various times for inspection.

These idle-standing churches may do well to have a free employment service to assist these persons who are somewhat self discipline to find work which is suitable based upon training, honesty, dependability, and the right attitude; teach so that others will go elsewhere and set up supervised classes for the helpfulness of the community, give it a try and become convinced as to what good work that can be done for all.

Many of us are becoming convinced that more persons need to be saved by helping them, rather than sitting around daily telling liars which contribute to the wide spread of crime and disorder.

Every community is now speaking about crowded conditions, while help remains resting on its laurels or its own. Many of us are no better off than they, who have been to jail, but have been released; help! help!

Clean Block praised

Dear AFRO:

Recently, we had the need to contact the city regarding the removal of bulk trash from the rear of a "homestead" property, we live at in the 500 block of Gold Street.

My wife and I called several agencies about this problem and, after several months, were unsuccessful in getting an appropriate response.

At one of the "AFRO Clean Block" meetings, I mentioned our problem to Ms. Ida Peters and prompt action was taken resulting in this eye-sore being eliminated.

This letter is in appreciation for the assistance provided by Ms. Peters. It is reassuring to know there are still individuals who take their jobs seriously and do good deeds for others without thought of personal gain.

JOHN A. HARGRAVE, JR.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Air traffic controllers all too lily-white

By G. James Fleming

Whatever the outcome of the air controllers strike, blacks and their organizations should be prepared to see to it never again will that segment of federal government employment be as lily-white as it has apparently been in the past — lily-whitism whether by design or accident.

This column has not made a formal survey and our attempts to ascertain the racial distribution of the membership of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) has not been fruitful. But, our watching of several days and many hours of television coverage of picketing and other demonstrations, has shown only two black controllers. We also saw one who remained on the job.

If there are any substantial number of blacks among the air controllers, they must be hiding somewhere. We do not think they are.

Rather, PATCO, blue-ribbon organization until now, has followed the line once known to exist among pilot's organizations — a closed shop, all positions "sewed up" for whites only.

Sadly, these are not the only areas of government and public service where ways are found to keep blacks and some other minorities out.

From what we have seen, the air traffic controllers are very much a white male outfit — despite the fact the controllers are civil servants, paid from the taxes all Americans pay to the government and benefitting from an industry which those same taxes heavily subsidize.

The worn out arguments will probably be made that "no blacks have applied" or "only a handful of blacks have passed the exams." It may be, however, with a lily-white pattern established, few blacks have wanted to "waste time" trying to become controllers.

From all appearances, there has been no attempt at "affirmative action" here.

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Black leadership must take some responsibility ("blame" some call it) for the small number of blacks who now are commercial pilots or air controllers. From the spectator's view, there is not even tokenism.

Indeed, the lily-white complexion of pilots and air controllers extend beyond mainland United States to its territories and to the Caribbean. This lily-whitism has been evident even in most African countries, except perhaps, for changes made in very recent years.

Some years ago, it seemed only Ethiopia insisted Ethiopians be trained to service and operate the planes they bought from American manufacturers or any deals it entered into our government.

Despite changes (improvements), the image of pilots and air controllers in the western world is lily-white. Even in the rank of airline attendants (once called hostesses and stewards), the employment of black Americans is only slightly above tokenism.

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It took concerted efforts by blacks and their organizations to lower the barriers against their entering the U. S. Marine Corps and other specialized military services; concerted efforts to secure the first black general in the U. S. Army; even greater mounting of the campaign that resulted in the training of blacks to become commissioned officers, in order to break an historic American policy that only white officers could command black troops. One could go on.

If the air traffic controllers are as lily-white as they appear, black communities and their organizations, with their friends, must take whatever steps are necessary to insure black young men and women are "qualified" to pass the exams for such jobs, or blacks must recruit those who are certainly able, but are now now are serving time in lower level positions.

That underway, black leadership must use its organizational and political clout to see to it that in the air controller corps of some 13,000 men and women (with salaries averaging $33,000 annually) there shall be a respectable inclusion of blacks among those recruited, those applying, those taking examinations, those passing the several tests, and those actually employed as air traffic controllers.

And, while at this exercise, blacks must work, also, to correct the lily-white imbalance among the pilots' contingent — the many thousands of those highly respected men in whose hands the travelling public place their lives.

It is too late in the day to accept as gospel that blacks, because they are black, cannot be civilian air traffic controllers or pilots — except on the most token basis.

Tony Brown's Journal

Black press at the crossroads

Joseph Holly, a columnist for the Gary Info, said he could not excuse "the biting indictment of Dorothy Gilliam, Washington Post reporter, by heretofore peerless journalist Tony Brown" and wondered "what induced" the Chicago Tribune "literary virtuoso Vernon Jarret to vehemently attack Jesse Jackson . . . ?"

Holly is wrong, but for the right reason. Now is the time, as he suggests, but not for a racial coverup.

Holly, the critic, also seems to be less interested in whether Brown and Jarrett are telling the truth about Gilliam and Jackson than he is about maintaining allegiance to the unspoken agreement to which too many black journalists have surrendered their integrity.

By defending Gilliam's use of a white newspaper to assault black people or to ignore Jesse Jackson's self-serving agenda, one promotes black overseers to the plantation rather than white ones.

Sept. 17 is "Buy A Black Newspaper Day." On that Thursday, the black - owned Communications Alliance is asking us to buy only black papers to demonstrate the importance of the black press to the black community."

And if we don't do as we are asked, we may not have any place to debate our thoughts.

It is safe, and necessary, to remind ourselves that some black editors censor opposing black thought, too. Some of our journalists live a professional lie, contradicting all of the teachings of Frederick Douglass, John Russwurm and W.E.B. Dubois, who called for a journalistic fight against oppression — black or white.

However, the black defectors from the truth will not publish ideas such as these under the guise they are promoting "civil rights" groups and leaders. They actually are deluding themselves into an intellectual racism — just as harmful to the black underclass as white racism. But people see through it all.

From Durham, N.C., Louis A. DeFreitas said in a letter: "Your greatest struggle in helping our people will come from 'Negro leaders.' These men and women are dangerous. Remember, you are talking about a $140 billion market among our people.

"These dumb Negroes will sell out their mother for a ticket to the Black Caucus extravaganza. Be careful."

Be careful. The only way to be safe is to do God's work — tell the truth, nothing else can protect you or save you.

Barbara Reynolds, a black reporter for the Chicago Tribune and an extremely courageous person, wrote, at great peril, a book in 1975 that caused her much recrimination and pain.

"Jesse Jackson: The Man, The Movement, The Myth" (Nelson Hall, Chicago) has been literally banned because there are forces able to do so. In it, Reynolds responds to a woman disturbed over her public criticism of Jackson.

Barbara Reynolds, in answering, teaches: "...it is a problem that has plagued black people since the first black newspaper was launched 146 years ago. Secrecy and hidden agendas are the enemies of the common masses ... show me any movement wherein the leadership is cowered or protected from public observation and I will show you a movement that ends up as a disaster.

"Your anguish for me to remain silent about the often disgraceful conduct of your leader would mean my betrayal of the black masses...

"When your leader, The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, visits the editors of daily newspapers for the implied threat of a picket line or boycott just because their black writers dare say what their white writers say, then I must speak my piece...

"I value your friendship, but I'll just have to risk losing it if you insist that I remain quiet in such a climate and encourage young black writers to make that awful detour from the great tradition of forthright journalism."

Reynolds then explained, how, at the turn of the century when Booker T. Washington was at the height of his power, black writers such as Ida B. Wells (Memphis Free Speech), William Monroe Trotter (Boston Guardian), and W.E.B. Dubois checked and balanced his awesome power.

Robert Abbott (Chicago Defender) kept Marcus Garvey honest and, in turn, Garvey in his Negro World kept Dubois challenged and accountable.

In the last 30 years, we have lost that balance and because of it, some enjoy authority without accountability. Buy a black paper on Sept. 17 and defend a tradition that prefers truth to lies.

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

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

ARE YOU getting your old photos and history and roots story ready for the AFRO's special 90th Year Edition?

IF NOT, you oughta be because you MUST be in this historic edition. You're going to love it.

WRITE TO ME, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., Special 90th Year Edition, Baltimore, Md. 21202.

I HAVE HEARD from folks all over the nation who are sending me all kinds of stuff they would like to see in this full - color publication . . . this historic edition which will remain on your coffee table for years to come.

KIDS will use it in school and it will be in Libraries and schools all over the nation.

YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE IT - The AFRO's 90th Year Edition.

Get in on it.

ANNA A. CURRY, newly appointed director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

HERE'S GOOD NEWS

James A. Gary III, president of the Board of Trustees of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, has announced the appointment of Mrs. Anna Curry, a Baltimorean and a member of the Pratt staff for 22 years, as director of the Pratt system.

SELECTED after an exhaustive, nationwide search by a Board committee, Mrs. Curry succeeds Ernest Siegel, director since 1975, who resigned last February to become County Librarian of the Contra Costa County (Calif.) public library.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

"MRS. CURRY'S initiative, vision, and gift for leadership made her the outstanding candidate in our view," Gary said.

"As director, we expect her to continue that creative leadership and maintain the Pratt Library's stellar position in the world of urban public libraries."

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE, with Decatur Miller, vice - president of the Board as Chairman, considered some 50 applicants for the job and interviewed about 20, many of whom, Miller says, were heads of major urban libraries and leaders in the library field.

Born in Baltimore, Mrs. Curry is a graduate of Dunbar High School and Morgan State College (now a university).

She was awarded a Master's degree in Library Science by Atlanta University in 1959 and, later the same year, started her career at Pratt with a position at the Pennsylvania Avenue Branch.

SINCE THEN, she has served as head of the Young Adult Department of the Central Library, as Head Librarian of the Walbrook and Hollins - Payson Branches, as Regional Librarian supervising the administration of ten Pratt Library branches, and, since 1976, as assistant director of the Library.

She is known as an articulate, able administrator.

Her presentation of the Library's survival budget plan before the Board of Estimates last June so delighted Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer, that he congratulated her warmly, saying:

"I THINK YOU'VE done the best of any agency I've seen in the city of Baltimore. I'm very proud of you."

In addition to her extensive experience on the Pratt Library staff, Mrs. Curry has worked as a consultant on special projects for the United States Office of Education and has taught courses in the selection and use of library materials at North Carolina College.

She is a member of the Maryland Library Association, the American Library Association, the Young Women's Christian, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

AFRICAN DANCE
OLUFUMILAYO and Company, an African dance group, will perform at the Harry D. Kaufman Pavilion on Aug. 25 as a part of the Inner Harbor's Little People's Program at noon and Kid's Stuff at 7 p.m.

THE RHYTHM, the movement, and the colorful costumes of the dancers magically draw the entire family into a world far beyond the boundaries of the imagination.

THE AFRICAN tribal dances combine dance, music, magic, history, and song to create a unique visual and educational fun - free for children.

THE DANCE TROUPE, formed in May 1973, travels to cities across the United States while maintaining its home base in Baltimore. The Olufunmilayo Dance Comoany has performed for group organizations, colleges, theaters, and festivals.

For more information on the Inner Harbor's free children's programs call the Baltimore Office of Promotion and Tourism at 685-TOUR (8687).

MARY CARTER SMITH is in California for the most interesting events.

HERE are some notes on her appearance at the American Storytelling Symposium and wouldn't you love to be there and listen:

MARY CARTER SMITH is an award winning poet - AFRICAN GRIOT STORYTELLER.

She is the preserver of the African - American tradition of Storytelling as well as a folklorist and historian storyteller living in Baltimore.

She was born in the South. She is a frequent storyteller in Africa, a radio storyteller at Morgan State University.

She is an educator and a frequent workshop teacher on Storytelling. She uses music, chants, and brilliant costumes in her performances.

THE AMERICAN STORYTELLING Resource Center Inc., symposium - conference will be held Aug. 22- 24, at Asilomar Pacific Grove, Calif. on the Monterey Peninsula.

Check - in begins at 3 p.m., with those wishing credit from San Jose State University meeting with Dr. Robert Jenkins at 4 p.m.

If you wish more information about the credit course offered by Dr. Jenkins, please write to: Dr. Robert Jenkins, 1447 Burrell Court, San Jose, Ca. 95126

ALL SIGN UPS will take place on - site at the symposium - Conference.

DINNER is at 6 p.m., at the Asilomar Lodge Dining Room.

After dinner, the first get gether will take place as participants and presenters become acquainted with each other.

Workshop leaders will present stories until about 10.

ON SUNDAY, Aug 23, breakfast is scheduled between 7:30 and 9 a.m.

At 9, those who do not wish to attend a church of their choice will meet for religious and spiritual stories.

PERISCOPE ON POLITICS

EDO faces tough challenge

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

It appears that the powerful East Baltimore monolith, the Eastside Democratic Organization, may be blown apart by dissension in the ranks, after almost 13 years of unity.

For years East Baltimore has stood as one of the most united political areas in the city. Year after year, candidates of the EDO have won elections, led by state Sen. Robert Douglass.

But, come next September, another man, an EDO member himself, will enter the lists.

He is Nathan Irby, currently a 2nd District city councilman. Although Irby himself refuses to actually announce his candidacy for the 45th district senate seat, the word around East Baltimore is that he's serious. If he is, Douglass will be facing his most formidable opponent ever.

Why? Because, for the first time, a member of the inner circle of EDO will be challenging him. Irby has been a member of the organization almost from its inception, and during that time he has served in various leadership roles.

He knows the inner workings of EDO, and he knows Douglass, as he actually helped manage several of his campaigns.

Douglass himself has already gone on the offensive. In a heated speech at last Sunday's EDO meeting, he vehemently launched into Irby, ostensibly for siding with striking workers at the East Baltimore Medical Plan.

He stated that "I plan on being around for a while," and warned Irby that "...if the truth was heard, you'd be surprised."

Douglass was probably correct, for there are a lot of skeletons in various closets throughout East Baltimore. Irby was a former treasurer of the EBMP, and if the campaign heats up, his revelations could turn the election into one of the bloodiest political battles in years.

All of the other EDO elected officials, City Councilman Clarence "Du" Burns, and state Delegates Hattie Harrison and John Douglass, are expected to stick with Sen. Douglass.

But all may find their seats endangered once Irby's campaign gets off the ground. Sen. Douglass is the strongest member of the team, and his defeat would shatter the EDO ticket for years to come.

Why is Irby attempting to challenge Douglass? Although he would not confirm reports of his imminent campaign, he did say that "I feel that we had a dream, when we started things like EDO, but some people have decided to enrich themselves at the expense of others."

—MORE LETTERS—

McDade and WEAA

Dear AFRO:

I have been a faithful listener and supporter of radio station WEAA-FM since its first broadcast and Dr. Jesse McDade has been one of my favorite radio personalities.

However, on Aug. 15, McDade informed his listening audience he would no longer have his program, "University Forum" on WEAA.

It has always been my belief this fine station lived up to its call letters, WEAA (We educate all Americans) and it is my humble opinion that Jesse McDade has been one of the means in which this was possible.

There have been times, when McDade came on strong, perhaps too strong on certain issues. At other times, he was gentle and always well informed on whatever subject he chose to discuss. But he never suppressed the truth and this has been one of his strong points.

It is true, McDade dealt with some controversial issues, but if we are honest, we will admit we were enlightened by them. When a person overflows with a storehouse of knowledge, such as McDade possesses, I guess it's hard to be modest or even humble.

If McDade has to go, then he has to go. But as people who need his philosophy, it will be our loss. I personally appeal to you who are part of McDade's listening audience, to let him know you have enjoyed his remarks.

It is my personal opinion wherever Jesse McDade ventures, it will be their gain and our loss.

NANCY HOLMES BAXTER

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.

Voting Rights Act in danger

Dear AFRO:

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose existence is based on citizen participation in government and in particular, on expanding and protecting voting rights.

As Americans, we pride ourselves in our voting rights. American citizenship provides us the right to register to vote and to have that vote count on an equal basis.

Yet, in many states and localities, systematic denial of that right kept generations of minorities out of the political process and ensured for them second-class citizenship.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 helped unlock an important door to political participation for these citizens.

Now the same Voting Rights Act must be extended before Aug. 6, 1982, or many of its key provisions will expire. HR 3112, the bill which would provide these extensions, was approved July 31 by the House Judiciary Committee by a vote of 23 to 1 after two months of comprehensive hearings.

HR 3112 is a bi-partisan measure sponsored by Reps Rodino (D-NJ), Edwards (D-CA), Fish (R-NY), and Sensenbrenner (R-WI).

It would extend Section 5, the Act's most important provision which requires specified jurisdictions to preclear with the Justice Department changes in election laws and procedure: to insure against discrimination.

The bill also would provide strong and reasonable incentives for states and counties to "bail out" from the pre-clearance requirement on an individual basis.

Any state or county granted such an exemption remains subject to court jurisdiction for 10 years and can be brought back under the pre-clearance requirement if it engages in any discriminatory activities.

HR 3112 is expected to reach the floor of the House in September.

The League urges citizens to write their members of Congress and the President urging them to support HR 3112 and oppose all weakening amendments.

The Voting Rights Act is too important to the basic rights of Americans to allow its expiration.

SUSAN GREENWOOD