Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Our Maryland beginnings

Throughout the month of February the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN is publishing special reports, supplements and other invaluable information about our heritage.

To particularize: Once again, we remind AFRO readers that their forefathers were on the Ark and the Dove, the two ships which brought the first colonists from England.

They landed at St. Clement's Island, now known as Blackstone's Island, in St. Mary's County on March 25, 1634.

Aboard were 32 passengers, including Mathias DeSousa, a black man, who was picked up in Barbados, West Indies, by Leonard Baltimore when the ships had stopped for food and water. He helped navigate the vessels into the Chesapeake Bay.

Historians tell us that it was DeSousa, also referred to as de Susa, Mathias Tusa and Mathias Zause, who helped white Englishmen relate to the Indians because he was familiar with the language and had expertise to bargain and get them to understand that the newcomers were not enemies.

"Sidelights on Maryland History" by Hester D. Richardson and published by Williams and Wilkins Company of Baltimore, 1913, refers to two other black men aboard the vessels when Maryland was founded. They were John Price and Francis Peres.

Dr. Stefan Goodwin, in an AFRO feature in this edition, sets forth some illuminating accounts of DeSousa and other pioneers.

It would be marvelous if some scholar would undertake a book which goes into depth on the role of the black voyagers aboard the Ark and the Dove.

Reagan's lone Black cabinet member

One of the few things positive anyone black could point to about the Reagan administration was that he President has appointed at least one black Cabinet member.

President Reagan once mistook Samuel R. Pierce for a visiting mayor, but the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is beginning to make his mark.

After floating the idea of ending construction subsidies for low-income housing, Secretary Pierce has begun to really get down to a picayune level.

At the urging of conservative Republican Rep. Standord Paris, Pierce overrode the decision of local officials, and blocked planned public housing in the wester section of Fairfax County, near Washington, D.C.

More affluant residents near the proposed site had complained to Parris. If we understand the State of the Union speech correctly, Pierce and his fellow Cabinet officers are supposed to be giving local governments more say so, not less.

It has been national po picy for some time to try to disperse public housing and not perpetuate the poverty cycle by dumping all public housing in a few areas.

Pierce appears to be insensitive to that and is setting a precedent which could eventually rule out new public housing through the country.

The final decision on the housing is still pending but we urge Pierce to rise above petty partisan favor and make a decision in the best interest of the people who are still crying out for decent, accessible housing.

Why are they probing Orlinsky?

Sometimes like everybody else, all we know is what we read in the newspapers.

Which means we have no immediate idea of what the Fed investigators expect to find in City Council President Walter Orlinsky's files. Particularly, his relationship with a solid waste disposal company that was paid hundreds of thousands of dollars by the city.

Welly says he has no idea.

The Mayor says no one has clued him in.

Only the Federal prosecutor knows and so far he is not talking.

We hope someone spells out things clearly, and soon, because it is unfair to cast a cloud over someone, even Wally, who can be overbearing at times, and let them slowly dangle in the wind, to quote a participant in a recent White House imbroglio.

Bus tickets

The School Board has backed down its move to end free bus tickets for some 10,000 city students.

The free transportation issue prompted several reactions aside from the question of how students would get to distant schools, high schools particularly.

A lot of citizens did not know kids were getting free rides and wondered how long this had been going on.

As many more were angered that students, especially those from poorer families, would be burdened with an extra expense in pursuit of their education.

They feel it is just one more snare to prevent poor and or black kids from getting a decent education, especially in the Age of Reagan.

A few less were indignant that modern-day students were so pampered, many recalling themselves walking for miles in country or town, rain, snow, mud, and sleet to get to school each day.

We know a lot of kids must go great distances through the oftimes treacherous city to reach their high schools. Those in proven need should pay the absolute minimum fare at best, those more fortunate slightly more.

Education is the way out for black Americans and if the city fathers do not relent on the free bus pass issue, it should not be converted into an excuse.

We must get all we can. Even if it means putting on jogging or hiking boots, our children must get to class each day some kind of way.

We are survivors to top all survivors. Let us not forget this.

MADELINE MURPHY

We did it before!

Reaganomics, unemployment, New Federalism (feudalism) have taken a lot of wind out of our political sails and at the same time, have set a tone for overt racism.

And even though there are more whites nationwide on welfare, cuts in social programs seem targeted toward urban blacks, out of the ignorance of that Reagan retinue, David Stockman, et al. Must we be continually powerless, the underclass?

We are sailing in dire straits, in a leaky row boat. Reeling from this storm of vindictiveness and insensitivity, we have, in the process dropped our political oars.

It is as if the "Ray-gun" in blinding, foggy weather has spooked us, knocked us off our political course, in our resolve to chart the course furthering our legitimate ambitions and aspirations.

In particular, there has been no black community outcry or outrage about the rank racism accompanying recent judicial appointments.

For example, a few weeks ago the Judicial Selection Committee deliberately excluded highly qualified black judges, a woman and Jewish lawyers from consideration for a vacancy on our intermediate Court of Appeals and recommended four white men instead.

Then, the Governor appointed a white man to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City; even though, an exceptionally qualified black District Court judge, a woman and Jewish practitioners were recommended for the position, the governor appointed a white state senator, whose insignificant legal credentials and dubious political muscle suggest the Governor swam with the tide of Reaganism and simply ignored the importance of the black, women and Jewish constituency of the city.

In like fashion, the Chief Judge of the District Court of Maryland, an Irish Catholic, appointed a 62-year-old Italian Catholic to be the administrative judge of the District Court in the city.

The selection of administrative judges has been ghettoized from its inception in favor of Catholic judges. He did this despite the fact there are black, women and Jewish judges on the Court, who are much younger, much more energetic and significantly more astute.

The hypocrisy is even more blatant when one recalls at recent swearing-in ceremonies for black, women and Jewish judges, the Chief Judge consistently has proclaimed the wave or racism, sexism and anti'Semitism which traditionally have excluded persons of these groups from the bench, is somehow far behind us.

Against this background, we must not ignore the wave of revisionism that may take judicial positions away this time, in the State legislature, from the electoral process and into an appointive system in the hands of the Governor, so he might further reduce representation of blacks as judges, especially in Baltimore City.

So what do we do about it?

This year there are three judgeships on the Supreme Bench (Circuit Court) up for election. Also, there are two black men who already have announced their intentions to run: Alonzo Hairston and Kenneth Johnson. It also would appear a black woman lawyer also might announce in the near future.

These are lawyers of outstanding legal credentials and abilities. They have served our community well and would certainly add quality and the necessary representation on the bench that these hard times require.

From the most recent experience and in the present climate in Annapolis, we must realize the only way blacks will become judges is for black people to elect them.

It is therefore necessary for every black citizen and voter who wants to see justice prevail in the Court House, to start volunteering time, talent and money to these campaigns.

We must succeed in electing them. We must get others to understand the importance of our soul's survival in electing black judges. We must fight and resist any move to appoint judes to the Circuit Court.

We have found out the Governor is insensitive to our needs and his loyalties, his vest depend upon him.

We did it before. We must do it again.

PARREN J. MITCHELL

12 rules for black survival

The cavernous Caucus Room in the Cannon House Office Building was packed. The media, the people were there: young, old, veterans of the struggle and novices in the struggle.

On Feb. 1, "The Black Leadership Family for the Unity, Survival and Progress of Black People" unveiled its national plan for Black survival.

The luminaries were there, or sent taped messages of support: Ossie Davis, Dick Gregory, Coretta King, Joseph Lowery, Dorothy Height, Julian Bond, Bishop John Hurst Adams, members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

One hundred fifty organizations worked to develop the plan, which has three essential major objectives:

It provides 12 rules for Black Unity Survival and Progress which this broad cross-section of black leaders urges black people to follow.

It proposes a Black Development Fund by which black citizens are urged to contribute directly to existing black organizations of their choice which are working for the progress of black people.

It spells out a set of instructions to numerous categories of black organizations for implementing the plan.

No plan can be effective unless it establishes at least general rules to be followed. The rules of the plan are:

1. Support the black Church
2. Protect the elderly and support the youth
3. Excel in education
4. Oppose Crime
5. Contribute to the Black Development Fund
6. Buy and bank black
7. Register and vote
8. Hold your elected officials accountable
9. Support black family and community life
10. Challenge and boycott negative media, and support positive media.
11. Secure and defend the black community
12. Support Mother Africa and Caribbean nations

Operational instructions (or missions) are given to 18 diverse groups such as the media, youth and colleges, Blacks in Government and black entertainers and athletes.

The intent of another section of the plan is to keep more income and wealth in the black community by targeting a category of organizations. We recommend a national movement in which every black, on a monthly basis, would give to a category of black activities.

For example, in the month of March, every black should contribute to black Religious Institutions, above and beyond usual contribution. Continuing to illustrate, in the month of June, every black should contribute to the historical black colleges, giving above and beyond their usual contribution.

These are extraordinary times, demanding of us extraordinary discipline and commitment. Only if we have those two attributes can the plan work. It must work! The preamble to the plan says it so eloquently:

"Therefore, regardless of the challenges, may they range from terrorist organizations to institutions of government, let no man mistake our resolve to implement this plan.

"And let all men see our Plan as the platform upon which we stand and as the sword we wield in defense of our interests. It is both the symbol of our commitment and a program for the black nation.

"A new word has been given. Black America must follow the plan.

Letters

Two views on housing:

Baltimore public housing hard pressed

Dear AFRO:

Many of your readers will be interested in learning what progress has been made in negotiations with the Reagan Administration and the Congress on the public housing operating budget.

We narrowly averted a serious situation in our current fiscal year when Congress provided for a supplemental budget appropriation of funds to cover the nationwide operating costs of public housing.

While the final amount will still fall short of Baltimore's need by about two and one half percent, it is a great improvement over the 15 percent cut originally proposed by OMB.

Looking ahead to the budget year beginning July 1, it is clear Baltimore's public housing operation will again be extremely hard pressed. OMB has proposed fundings as low as 30 percent below established need.

Your reader's should know we are doing all we can to resist these budget slashes, in coalition with other organizations across the country.

The Resident Advisory Board of the Baltimore Housing Authority continues to be very active in keeping the public and Congress informed about the impact of proposed budget cuts on tenant rents and services.

At the same time, we are encouraging tenants to continue to cooperate with management to conserve energy, eliminate vandalism and otherwise help to hold down operating costs.

By working together we will be able to keep the Baltimore Public Housing program the best in the nation.

M. J. BRODIE
Commissioner
Department of Housing and Community Development

More funds are needed for low-income housing

Dear AFRO

I sent the following letter about housing needs for low-income and needy people to Congresswoman Marjorie Holt:

Dear Congresswoman Holt:

I urge you to see to it sufficient funds are provided in the 1982 and 1983 proposed budgets that would maintain a credible commitment to meeting the housing needs of low income people.

While the housing needs increase; the cost for shelter also continue to rise, while incomes do not.

It is apparent the housing needs of the poor cannot be met by a general survival of the economy or by additional investments in unsubsidized housing.

The National Commission on Housing issued its first Interim Reports which states as one of its basic principles the federal government has a continuing role in meeting the housing needs of the poor.

It identifies 10 million renter households of which only one-quarter of whom are living in assisted housing, if they are to live in decent housing at cost they can afford.

Low-income housing cannot be curtailed at this time without grave consequences for thousands of low-income housenoids already in desperate circumstances.

I urge you to pledge alliance to the poor, near poor and hard working people of Anne Arundel County to fight against the recommendations from the Office of Budget and Management regarding housing.

MRS. WENDY W. HINTON
ANNE ARUNDEL COALITION OF TENANTS

Public Service Commissioners should be elected to office

Dear AFRO:

The cost of utilities seems to be rising at an alarming rate. Some utility companies are requesting additional increases.

The Public Service Commission, which is appointed by the Governor, seems to be unable to do anything about it. I lived in Florida 20 years before moving back to Baltimore two years ago. Florida has an elected Public Service Commission voted by the people.

The Public Service Commission, which is appointed by the Governor, seems to be unable to do anything about it. I lived in Florida 20 years before moving back to Baltimore two years ago. Florida has an elected Public Service Commission voted by the people. the citizens of that state. The citizens of Maryland, in my opinion, should be given the same opportunity to vote for their Commissioners of Public Service.

The Governor appointed commissioners act on requests from the utility companies which run into the hundreds of million dollars. Their decisions have a profound effect on many Maryland households, from the individual on welfare who has a telephone, to the businessman who has to heat his shop or office.

The people of Maryland should play a more significant role with the Public Service Commission, than just being allowed to speak at public hearings, which have yet to convince the appointed Public Service Commission to refuse any recent increase in rates to some utility companies.

IRVIN H. HENSON

Honors go to Longshoremen and Frederick Douglass at City Hall

DRAMATIC OCCASION at City Hall came Wednesday when the leaders of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) were cited by Mayor William Donald Schaefer. (L to R) Dr. Samuel L. Banks, Social Studies coordinator; Dr. John L. Crew, superintendent; Garris S. McFadden, president, ILA Local 333; Mayor Schaefer, Johnny Kopp, first vice-president, ILA; Albert Poremski, vice-president Local 333; Hershey Richardson, Atlantic Coast District ILA vice president; Roosevelt Lewis, delegate, Local 333; Horace Alston, recording secretary, Local 333; Richard P. Poremski, secretary-treasurer, Local 333.

Mayor Schaefer proclaims History Month

Through proclamations by Mayor William Donald Schaefer, Wednesday, Feb. 10, became Frederick Douglass Day and Longshoremen's Day in Baltimore. The month of February also became Black History Month in Baltimore and the nation.

The men who work the world famous Port of Baltimore (the officials and members of the International Longshoremen's Association, ILA) just as Frederick Douglass did in 1834, received the proclamation which honored Douglass as a Baltimorean and a ship caulker.

They also received the proclamation which honored the ILA as the lifeline of the Port for nearly 100 years.

Dr. Samuel L. Banks, coordinator of the city's schools' Social Studies, received the National Black History Month proclamation on behalf of Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of Afro - American Life and History. Banks is a board member.

He and Dr. John L. Crew, superintendent, received the Longshoremen's gift to the history students of 1,000 Famous Black Americans Posters. Dr. Banks lauded the Longshoremen for the posters which he revealed are the first such educational materials individual students have ever received.

Representing the ILA were, ILA first vice president Johnny Kopp; Atlantic Coast District vice president Hershery Richardson; Garris McFadden, ILA Local 333 president; Albert Poremski, Local 333 vice - president; Richard P. Poremski, Local 333 vice - president; Richard P. Poremski, secretary - treasurer; Horace Alston, recording secretary Local 333 and Roosevelt Lewis, delegate, Local 333.

DOUGLASS OWN STORY

From 1825 to 1832 Frederick Douglass was a shipyard worker on the Waterfront in Baltimore, MD.

He caulked ships, a process of stuffing the cracks in the board of old - time ships and then covering with a water - proofing to make the vessel sea worthy.

History books record that Douglass sat on Kennard's Wharf at the foot of Philpot St. in Baltimore on one of his days off from work and saw slaves chained together on a shipment to New Orleans.

In the year 1825 the young Douglass lived in the home of the Hugh Aulds, a wealthy shipping family related to the Thomas Aulds of St. Michaels on the Eastern Shore.

HUMAN CARGO

The Hugh Auld family of Baltimore resided on Philpot St., a stone's throw from Kennard's Wharf.

Ships came and went from the busy port with tobacco and sugar and cargo much the same as today.

However, the cargo that broke Douglass' heart was composed of human beings, in chains.

That particular day young Douglass was moved to speak aloud in anguish. His thoughts about slavery had beat down all restraint as the waves lapped the sea wall.

POWER FROM THE SEA

"I resolved," he wrote later, "that whatever power I had within me should one day be devoted to freeing human beings in bondage."

In 1834, Douglass was returned to the St. Michaels Aulds but he had learned to read and write while working on the Waterfront.

Even then Baltimore was a ranking seaport doing world trade.

JAILED IN EASTON

Like the drumming of the tide, Douglass' determination to aid his people kept urging him on. In 1836 he was bound in chains in the Easton, MD. county jail and charged with being "an unruly slave."

He laid plans to escape and was returned to the Baltimore Auld family. He became an apprenticeship caulker.

A SEAFARING FRIEND

On Sept. 3, 1838, Douglass could resist the tide of freedom swelling in him no longer.

He borrowed a sailor suit from a seafaring friend and took a train from the Baltimore station.

On Sept. 15, 1838 he arrived in New York, never to return to slavery again.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS was a young man of about 20 years when this picture was taken. It has been restored by Thomas Stocketti.

GOVERNOR HUGHES' PROCLAMATION for Black History Month for the state of Maryland went to the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture. Carroll Greene Jr., executive director and the historians confirmed by the Senate in Annapolis Monday. Commissioners Dr. Roland McConnell, chairman; Phebe R. Jacobsen, Rev. James J. Fuller, Sen. Verda F. Welcome, Dr. Louis R. Harlan, Mary F. Johnson, Mr. Greene, Angeline F. Williams, Elizabeth M. Oliver, Sen. Clarence Blount.

Mitchell keynote speaker

Rep. Parren Mitchel, (D-Md.) will be the keynote speaker at the 8th annual conference of the National Association of Personnel gworkers Feb. 14-17 at the Howard Inn, 2225 Georgia Ave., N.W. in Washington, D.C.

Entitled "Student Personnel Workers: A Vital Force in the Survival of Black Colleges," the conference will cover topics such as survival strategies for black colleges, student counseling and guidance, federal policy and black colleges and student recruiting.

Other speakers at the conference of personnel workers from predominantly black educational institutions will include Milton Bins, executive director of the White House Initiative on Black Colleges and Universities; Dr. Samuel Myers, executive director of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education; gdr. Vincent Reed, assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education at the Department of Education; and Calvin Rolark, president of the United Black Fund of Greater Washington.

February's First Lady

HONORED IN HER OWN TOWN, Wilson, NC, last week was Mary W. Conaway who received plaudits as Woman of the Month in ceremonies at Wilson's Ebenezer Baptist Church. Mrs. Conaway, wife of Del. Frank M. Conaway, the head of the Legislative Black Caucus, is first woman to run for the office of Registrar of Wills and first in Maryland's 335-year history to ever open a session of the Maryland House of Delegates. A soprano, she has sung with symphony orchestras in the US and abroad and holds a graduate degree in music. She is daughter of Mary J. Ward and the late Albert Ward of Wilson and will be saluted again when she appears in "Up From Slavery" as soloist at her mother's church.

His client awarded $2 million judgement

Mike Mitchell wins historic court victory

Speaking of history, Michael B. Mitchell, attorney, reveals that the award he won for a client in a false arrest suit is the first and largest of its kind in U.S. court history.

The award of $2 million was handed down Feb. 5 by a jury of six black and six white citizens with Judge Freda Thayer, a visiting jurist from Garrett County, presiding in Superior Court.

The trial which began Feb. 2 involved a Korean woman, Mrs. Doo Kwan Killiam, the wife of a Westinghouse engineer. Mrs. Killiam was working in L. Epstein and Sons Department Store. The suit was filed against Marvin Hammerstein who was employed as manager at Epsteins [illegible] the Alameda.

Mrs. Killiam who now owns a High Store told the court in December 1977 she was working at Epsteins when she became involved with Hammerstein over her procedure in recording a discount on a sale.

Through her attorney, Mrs. Killiam stated that Hammerstein demanded that she go with him against her will after work to the customer's residence. She said he later questioned her for over an hour "in an extreme and outrageous manner."

In defending his client, Mitchell asserted that the manager's acts came as an excuse to fire Mrs. Killiam, a four year employee and that his treatment of her resulted because she is Korean and unaccustomed to the laws of this country.

Because customs of the woman's native country cause a person to suffer great embarrassment and humiliation if accused of any wrong doing, Mrs. Killiam told the court the manager's treatment of her gave her grievous harm and injury.

In papers placed before the court, Mrs. Kilham said she was called a thief and told that she was going to jail and embarrassed in front of other employees.

Mrs. Killiam is an officer of the Korean Merchants Association. She and her husband have been married 24 years. Mr. Killiam said their pursuing the case over such a long period of time was a matter of principle.

No law enforcement agent was involved as usual in false arrest cases. The defendants being detained by the manager and against her will, consisted of "arrest" in this case.

The store officials state they will appeal the judgement.

VICTORIOUS — Mrs. Doo Kwan Killiam and her husband, a Westinghouse engineer and their attorney, Michael Bowen Mitchell shown after the verdict handed down by a jury of six black and six white citizens.