Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

Inmate escapes and the penal system

Police and state prison officials give conflicting reports on the number of inmates who have escaped from local and state jails since January.

A spokeswoman for the state's corrections system told the AFRO that 23 inmates have escaped from prison facilities to date. A police spokesman said 43 inmates have bolted to freedom.

While they differ on the number of escapees, both agree the numbers are down from last year. We find this somewhat reassuring.

We also are reassured that many of the escaped inmates' bids for freedom are short lived.

However, we find it unsettling that just as we sit down to write this editorial, word comes of another escape and another capture.

It also is unsettling that persons such as George Green and Tyrone Harrell have managed to escape and also have managed to stay at large.

Green recently was convicted of murder in the slaying of two employees at a popular Charles Street eatery. Harrell, who was awaiting trial on murder charges, escaped about a month ago from the highly touted Towson County Jail.

Green is believed to have picked his leg irons with a paper clip and Harrell's escape came after breaking a supposedly unbreakable window.

How are these people getting away? Are guards looking the other way? Is someone paying money to see these people obtain their freedom?

Who is to blame? Does the state's penal system need to be investigated? Is the governor correct in blaming the correctional officers?

We can only raise these questions in hopes the "experts" can come up with some answers.

It seems there always have been jails and people housed inside them. It also is understandable the human spirit wishes to remain free and so those who are locked away, no matter the seriousness of their crimes, want their freedom.

When that desire becomes great enough and in some recent cases, when the opportunity presents itself, an inmate usually opts for freedom, no matter how brief.

Prison officials in their effort to deal with the problem have suspended or intend to suspend and possibly dismiss those employees they deem responsible.

Breach of security has been cited as one reason for suspension.

Union officials representing the suspended correctional officers claim understaffed facilities and lax security requirements resulted in the escapes.

Charges are hurled by both sides, but in the midst of all this blame placing and finger pointing are the real problems plaguing Maryland's penal system being addressed?

The problems are complex and cannot be solved easily. Instead of pointing the finger of blame after the fact, would it not be better if the parties involved sat down and came up with constructive solutions.

Voting: A right, a responsibility

By Yahya B. A. Muhammad

There was a time when African Americans could be found talking about, preaching for, demonstrating for, being beaten and even going to jail for the right to vote.

We demanded the same rights as every other American citizen, if we were going to go to war and fight for our country. We wanted equal opportunity under the laws of the constitution. That meant the right to vote for the people of our choice to represent us, equal employment opportunity, equality in education and, in general, the right to the pursuits of happiness enjoyed by the majority of the citizenry.

Now that we have come to the threshold of success in many of the areas that troubled us most as an ethnic group, we cannot allow ourselves to be lulled back to sleep by such phrases as "I'm free to do my own thing baby." and "Nobody can tell me what to do," "I know my rights."

These are only catch phrases to trap the unsuspecting and throw them into a "Me and I" syndrome, which only leads to our failure as a people.

To think with the "I and Me" mentality allows us to slip into the apathetic notion nothing can be changed regardless to what I do as an individual, because "I" am pitted against the whole of the rest of society.

We must continue to see ourselves in a collective light, and remember "where there is unity there is strength."

We know we will not agree on every issue, but, we should be agreeable and work for the causes that will prove to be the most productive for us as a group.

I often hear the plea of such organizations as the NAACP and lately, the American Muslim Mission (AMM), calling for the African American to register and vote. These groups realize with rights come responsibilities.

When we demand our rights as citizens, we also must be ready to accept the responsibility that goes along with that right.

We want responsible leaders in our community, who will articulate our needs. How many of us stop and think long enough, to realize our leadership needs responsible supporters, who will back that leadership when they are called upon to do so.

When it is time to come out and vote, many of us find all kinds of weak excuses not to.

We want the right to vote, but we are not willing to take the responsibility for voting.

In many instances, we act more like children than the children we are raising. An example of this is shown when an election year rolls around.

Not only do we have to be begged to register and vote, we have to literally have someone come to our homes and carry us to the polls.

This behavior is a carry-over from our past slave history, where we literally depended on Massa for everything, to think for us, to tell us what to eat, when to eat, when we could sleep, where to sleep, what to wear, when we could wear it, who we could mate with and when.

Surely, we should have grown past that stage, after better than 100 years of "freedom" from the physical chains that bound us.

Or, have we allowed those chains that once bound us physically to bind our minds?

The actions of great majority of

(Continued on Page 5)

MADELINE MURPHY

Violence and apple pie

This has been a month of violence, and May does not portend any relief, what with the May 1, demonstration in Washington and Secretary Regan of the Treasury direly predicting no upturn in an economy that is "dead in the water."

Even so, murders, jail breaks, astonishing weather, have made one wonder if the sooth sayers of modern times do not have some credence in their predictions that the recent launching of the space ship was the culprit that brought on unusually cold weather, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and floods, not to mention snow.

Further, one wonders if the millions and billions when its all over, that it takes to successfully orbit a space craft, is worth it when one looks at the pictures of astronauts cavorting in weightlessness, putting on their pants in midair, and batting their heads against the padded cabin.

When it is reduced to its common denominator, is this what exploration of space is all about?

Nevertheless, the one gruesome event that has riveted the attention of people in Baltimore, has been the brutal slaying of Jon Oster, formerly deputy Attorney General, and then partner in Smith, Somerville and Case.

I am sure the unsaid horrible thought seeping through everyone's subconscious was whether, especially in a racist society, the murderer was black.

And indeed this has a great deal to do with how all of us think about crime and punishment. Blacks are fearful of the deepening stereotypes so obviously indicated in crowded prisons where the bulk of that population is black.

And if the murderer had been black, here would have been much talk of execution, and even lynching, as one prominent white suggested to me. I should not amaze us however, to hear about the alleged murderer's poor circumstances with much time devoted to his tearful relatives' account of his goings and comings and disavowal of any knowledge of violent behavior.

You see the alleged murderer was white and whether he was poor white, or a drifter, he received a fairer reporting than any of us would have received in like circumstances.

Right at the time it happened a panel show posed the question "What do we do about this violence?" Before the alleged murderer was caught.

And even some of the punitive reactions, some of the emotional remarks that seemed to court repression; invite it gleefully, welcoming it as a remedy — the death penalty, execution, swift and speedy trials bordering on vigilantism, a gamut of complaints assaulting the court system — could not successfully divorce violence from a whole society and treat it in a vacuum.

Indirectly, space shots can be deemed the culprit if that money would be transferred into programs that would help educate, motivate, so many others like the alleged murderer, and encourage them to become useful citizens.

Neither can we expect incarceration and execution would be the only remedies in a society gone berserk.

Perhaps we must elaborate on what violence is and how violence of one sort inevitably begets violence of another.

Violence is the bloated bellied baby whimpering through night and day never having its hunger pangs soothed.

Violence is the welfare mother, constantly pummeled with accusations of thievery, corruption, in all manner of ways, given work — make-work, workfare — that punishes rather than succors.

Violence is a defense department vomiting money because it finds it impossible to spend it fast enough, even with corruption and inefficiency, where for example, F-16 planes costing $11.5 million each explode at the rate of 11.8 per 100,000 flight miles.

There are no manual back-up systems to supplement automatic systems gone haywire.

Violence is $1,000-a-place setting China in the White House; a $3 million taxpayers' trip to the million tax payers' trip to the Caribbean, while the jobless rate nears 10 percent.

Violence is slaughter in El Salvador, Buenos Aires, the Golan Heights, Lebanon, the West Bank.

Violence is the protection of the Mafia because it is useful as a "shadow government" for dirty tricks used to bolster a bogus national security network.

Violence is the fruit of our black manhood languishing in prison, without hope, without rehabilitation, without skills.

Violence is increasing the production and funding of nuclear weapons in the amount of $1 billion in three years, secretly seeping into the budget, reported on the inside pages of the newspaper.

Violence is top secret deliberation on how to increase the national wealth on the backs of third world peoples, who must eke out very meager, oftimes starvation, existences; how to make exploitation profitable for a few.

Violence is lust, greed and lying coming from all quarters to such an extent, that it becomes the norm, the acceptable pattern of behavior in all stratas of life, where it ultimately surfaces at the lowest levels of frustration by killings, maimings, violent individual behavior.

Violence is chemical wastes, Love Canals in Fairfield, Curtis Bay, Hawkins Point. It is the people who hire unemployed desperate men to endanger their lives mopping up nuclear spills in power plants.

Sure enough, violence begets violence, but H. Rap Brown said it best, when he said, "Violence is as American as Apple Pie!"

Until we see the interrelatedness of a child without food or textbooks, or a job; a father or mother without work; a country whose Administration is callous and uncaring about those who are entreated to tighten their belts until the belts in fact become tourniquets, it will not only continue, but escalate.

Statistics have shown that for every one percent increase in unemployment, there is a four percent increase in crime.

And woe is me, summer is coming!

Commentaries by Madeline Murphy can be heard each Tuesday during the 6 p.m. newscast of WEAA-FM Radio.

PARREN J. MITCHELL

Maryland General Hospital

During the 1960s many concerned citizens argued frequently against the abandonment of cities. The abandonment accelerated as cities became increasingly populated by black citizens.

We saw industries move to the counties into new industrial parks, taking jobs with them. We saw the real estate industry turn its back on cities. Many private sector service agencies relocated to the counties surrounding our urban centers.

In the 1970s, as urban revitalization, as well as, regentrification began, many of us hoped the process of urban abandonment had come to an end. We were wrong.

Now, Maryland General Hospital joins the list of those who want to abandon the city. The Hospital is attempting to move from its present location to Baltimore County.

Once again the process of reducing or stripping services to the residents of Baltimore has begun. Maryland General is needed in our city.

Not only is there the issue of reduced medical service to city residents, but there is the danger a large number of present employees at the Hospital will lose their jobs.

I received a mailgram signed by more than 150 employees protesting the proposed move to Baltimore County. The employees are members of Local 1199E.

Let us fight to keep Maryland General Hospital in the city. I urge you, your families, friends, and members of your church to send letters, telegrams, or mailgrams to:

Central Maryland Health Systems Agency
501 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, Md. 21202
ATTN:
Marshall J. Spurlock
Executive Secretary

The message should be simple and to the point. It should have words to this effect: "We need Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore City; we do not want the Hospital to move to Baltimore County."

The elected officials at the city, state and federal levels will wage the fight to keep the hospital from moving to the county. They cannot win without your help.

In the past when we have won victories over attempted wrong, no one person or group could claim the victories because they were achieved by aroused citizens who made their feelings known, loud and clear.

When we have lost to wrong doing in the past, it has been, most often, because the people failed to act.

We must prevent Maryland General Hospital from leaving the city.

If we do not, I am willing to wager you will see another service facility leave Baltimore, and then another, and then another.

Women are the true minority

Dear AFRO:

I am in agreement with those demonstrating at City Hall on Monday for increased minority access to the City's contracting award process.

But, I have to repudiate the coalition's tactics after seeing the photo showing Congressman Parren Mitchell wearing a sign reading "Women Front as Minority Contractors."

This unfounded and unsubstantiated generalization reeks of prejudice, and of bigotry.

While I do not wish to belittle the very real difficulties encountered by black contractors, women are the true minority of the construction field.

Women have been discouraged and prohibited from seeking construction careers by restrictions on women's rights to accumulate capital and credit, and by inequitable training and trade employment practices.

These barriers are beginning to fall, but progress is very slow.

For example, the Department of Housing and Community Development administers loan and subsidy programs, hereby housing rehabilitation and home improvement companies contract directly with private homeowners and resident property owners.

These are NOT funds which come from the City's capital expense budet.

Of the approximately 475 contractors, who have participated over the last four years, about 90 were black men. Only four were women, two black and two white.

If the Maryland Minority Contractors' Association is not willing to address the above-listed issues, its members should admit they are ateampting to better themselves at the expense of other minority contractors who also face systematic discrimination.

As for Congressman Mitchell, he has just been reapportioned a district which includes a large number of politically active women.

These voters are supportive of policies and programs which benefit ALL minorities. The Congressman should take note.

SUSAN C. WILLIAMS

More on women as minorities

Dear AFRO:

This letter was mailed to Congressman Parren J. Mitchell on April 15, 1982.

Dear Congressman Mitchell:

There have been articles in the newspapers as well as on television dealing with questions of the position of women relative to the minority set-aside programs in Baltimore City and the State of Maryland.

These stories stem from the approval of the Board of Estimates of Baltimore City of a contract to a low bidder whose minority contractor was a woman.

Under State law, women are properly designated as a minority, entitled to the full benefits of set - aside programs; as are any of the other groups of people historically discriminated against in the American society.

Baltimore City's MBD program, while recognizing the historic patterns of discrimination against women which have restricted their full participation on an equal footing in the business world, nevertheless, improperly relegates women to a secondary position.

As someone who has distinguished himself as a national leader in the fight against discrimination and in helping discriminated against groups reach equal footing, we are surprised and concerned that you would lead an attack on Baltimore City for awarding a contract to a low bidder whose minority set-aside went to a woman.

We would have expected that you would, in fact, be joining us in requesting that Baltimore City include women as full and equal participants in its MBE program.

The State of Maryland properly regards women as an appropriate minority contractor equally entitled to the FULL support of government efforts to eliminate the pervasive historic patterns of discrimination that has kept them and other minorities from sharing in the full opportunities of this nation.

Just as we have, as women, made common cause with blacks to fight for full and equal opportunity for all — so we would expect that you would continue to recognize our plight as well.

However difficult it remains for blacks to move into the business world as free-standing entrepreneurs, it remains equally hard, for women to do the same.

It is our fervent hope that you will, upon reflection, understand not only our disquietude about your role in this matter, but in fact, join us in asking Baltimore City to include women as proper, full-scale participants in its MBE program as the State of Maryland now does.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to end discrimination against all people.

MARTHA WYATT
Maryland Commission for Women

Samuel BANKS

What manner of people?

Blacks under attack

The siege of 31 million black Americans continues with ferocity and intensity. The blistering attack on black Americans represents one of the most severe and crushing attacks since the formal end of slavery in 1865 with the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

It must be clearly understood the systematic and open-ended attack on black Americans represents a blatant, carefully planned and deliberate attempt to break the spirit and will of black citizens.

This iniquitous, nefarious and mean spirited endeavor is orchestrated by the Reagan Administration. To date, it has the overwhelming support of the white society.

There is no way the egregious and pulverizing socio-economic cutbacks could take place if the majority of white society did not acquiesce, or give their assent through a deadening and frightful silence.

As citizens of this nation, we must not permit a conspiracy of silence to develop in the face of widespread suffering among our people and the poor.

This both painful and ironic 206 years after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, 193 years after our establishment as a nation, 117 years after the approval of the Thirteenth Amendmen, 18 years after the approval of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 17 years after the adoption of the Civil Rights Act, black Americans are forced to struggle for their fundamental citizenship rights.

Black Americans are required, as in the past, to run the race for freedom, human dignity and equality with anvils or weights imposed on them by the majority white society.

Locally, nationally and internationally, there is palpable evidence of the disparities or socio-economic anyils forced on black people. The local renaissance as reflected in Charles Center and Harborplace is both an occasion for pride and regret.

Pride in the regeneration of dormant and nonproductive sectors of Baltimore. Regret, however, the majority of blacks, are largely spectators, in the overall regeneration and governance of Baltimore.

It is an incontrovertible fact 98 percent of the corporate wealth of Baltimore is owned by whites. Most blacks own less than two percent of Baltimore's corporate wealth. Then, too, the overwhelming number of boards and commissions in Baltimore are dominated by white citizens.

It should be noted, although blacks are a majority of the city's population and their children represent approximately 74 percent of the 120,000 students, there has never been a black President of the Board of School Commissioners in the 153-year history of the school system.

The position of blacks nationally, except for notable examples of black mayors in large urban centers (New Orleans, Atlanta, Richmond, Washington, Gary, Los Angeles, Newark, etc.), depicts the subordinate role and function of blacks in Baltimore.

The opportunistic and prejudicial emphasis of President Ronald Wilson Reagan provides clear evidence that relief is not in sight. Then, too, worsening economic conditions have brought heavy pressures on coalitions in support of civil and human rights.

The global dimensions, too, are instructive: Zimbabwe remains free and the majority black population of South Africa has resolved to be free of the tyranny and oppression of the minority Afrikaners.

There will not be peace and stability in any place in the world community as long as people perceive themselves as left out and denied fundamental freedoms, dignity and social justice.

Black people, nationally and internationally, represent a proud, resilient and sturdy group. It is particularly inspirational here in our nation that black Americans once enslaved and subjected to unspeakable brutalities and denied elemental human decencies, have never lost faith in themselves and the ideals of our nation.

James Weldon Johnson expressed this idea cogently and eloquently over 50 years ago at a dinner in honor of Congressman (later New York Mayor) Fiorello H. LaGuardia:

"Through his whole history in this country he (black Americans) has worked with patience, and in spite of discouragement, he has never turned his back on the light. Whatever may be his shortcomings, however, disappointing may have been his achievements, he has never consciously sought the backward path.

"He has always kept his face to the light and continued to struggle forward and upward in spite of obstacles, making has humble contributions to the common prosperity and glory of our land."

A proud and determined people who have been i the storm so long must dare to be more active and less reactive in confronting cocontemporary socio-economic issues.

It is not a time for sackcloth and ashes and lamentations, but vigorous and unrelenting advocacy of human values and possibilities.

We must continue "to struggle forward and upward" to hasten the dissipation and passing of the current socio-economic storms not of our making.

Tony Brown's Comments

Blacks succeed at supply-side education

This year I have had three distinct honors. I was drafted by the Council of National Alumni Associations, an umbrella group representing 92 of the 111 black colleges, as the first member of its CNAA Hall of Fame. I also had the distinction of being selected as Prairie View A & M University's commencement speaker.

The third honor was an opportunity to produce a program, "Supply-Side Education," on this unique University. During the filming, we found out the supply-side concept had been in Texas for years.

Advocates of supply-side economics stress tax cuts and regulatory reforms to help American industry supply goods and services. And although the idea is perceived as new and revolutionary, it presents no new body of theory.

As a matter of fact, Dr. Alvin Thomas has been applying this neoclassic mode of analysis to black higher education at Prairie View A & M University near Houston, Texas since 1966.

By taking unionism and subsidizing success, while preparing graduates for growth markets, Dr. Thomas, Prairie View's President, with an enrollment of 5,500, produces more black professional graduates than any college in America. Their average starting salary will be $14,000 — twice the average of their parents.

Prairie View is the major producer of black engineers. Prairie View graduates more black engineers than any of the nation's 307 colleges and universities — black or white — offering engineering.

Approximately 70 percent of the black registered nurses in Texas are graduates of Prairie View.

The University has commissioned more than 1,000 officers through the Army ROTC program. Prairie View's Naval ROTC has commissioned more black officers than all of the universities in the South have produced in the history of the nation.

The state's second oldest university has graduated more than 50 percent of the blacks currently enrolled at medical and dental schools in Texas. And every pre-medical student will be accepted by at least one medical school.

But many have paid remarkably little attention to the lessons of this university and Dr. Thomas' ability to increase the nation's supply of educated, employed black professionals.

In the 1960s, many black colleges abandoned their traditional supply-side strengths in vocational and technical education for liberal arts programs while the market was glutted with these majors. Many of them have fared poorly as a result of this and the black student exodus to white colleges.

But Dr. Thomas is overseeing a growth program because he has REFUSED to emulate white universities: a classic supply-side concept and an idea that has paid off.

Why is Prairie View so successful?

One intangible, but very real reason is the environment. Admittedly, while some students at Prairie View have the traditional gripes of college adjustment — discipline, academic assignments and finding Mr. Right or Miss Right — those gripes pale when compared to adjustment problems of blacks at white colleges.

An increasing number of black students in white academia spend huge amounts of time and energy railing against white rural environments, isolation from other blacks, music preferences, the availability of black men, women or churches, teacher bias, academic difficulties and an overall racist environment.

Prairie View has a head start in educating black students who are academic victims of busing for racial balance or blackboard jungle ghetto schools — something white colleges must now do. Remedial training in freshman reading, math and writing have long been emphasized.

But that is not the only reason for this success story.

There are the black role models: blacks who prove by their demonstrated ability and leadership a black can create destiny. Confidence also comes from a compatible social environment that INCLUDES rather than EXCLUDES the black student into a feeling of isolation or marginal acceptance at best.

The bottom line: Prairie View students are emotionally and academically prepared for any aspect of our society — all white, all black or various shades of salt and pepper.

Dr. Thomas is the most revolutionary black educator since Booker T. Washington. His student body is poor and frequently benefits from lenient admissions policies.

But that same Prairie View A & M University takes those neglected and ignored students and instills Dr. Thomas' virtues of success, personal responsibility, self-determination, excellence and racial pride.

"Producing productive People," as they call it is why more than 700 corporations go to this Texas campus to recruit.

So what if America is a racially biased society? We still have to succeed in it while we change it.

Prairie View is unchallenged in its accomplishments and we will remember Dr. Alvin Thomas as being unchallenged in his vision for a better world — through supply-side education.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, can be seen on public television Mondays, on Channels 22 and 67 at 10:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

—Voting: a right

(Continued from Page 4)

us demonstrate we have allowed that to happen.

To be free, means we must indeed be responsible.

Whether it is voting or anything else effecting our lives, we must act responsibly.

We realize we have slipped far below the mark, as a collective group, where responsibility is concerned. However, it is not too late to bring about change in our lives.

All we have to do is to begin to re-create ourselves, and a good time to start is now. This is an election year, let us be responsible enough to register and then to vote.

To dramatize our pitiful plight, in a ward where we have approximately 133,000 registered voters only approximately 41,000 actually come out to vote. That is about 25 percent of the total number of registered voters. These figures do not even include those who did not bother to register.

If we could turn these figures into money, how many of us would be willing to accept 25 cents for every dollar we know we are qualified to receive? Not any of us.

Why should any politician respect us when he or she knows we are a group of people, who are high on rhetoric and non-existent when it comes to the responsibility to back up that rhetoric.

The founding fathers of this nation cried about taxation without representation. They demanded their rights be represented and even went to war to gain those rights.

We cry about high taxes, officials who are indifferent to our needs, the poor really pay more (and they do) yet, we do not back our elected officials when they are right on issues, neither do we call them to task when they are misrepresenting us.

We take a neutral position which does not cost us anything, no personal sacrifices have to be made.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER
City Editor

For all we know

A gold star for the Philomathians

A GOLD STAR FOR THE PHILOMATHIANS

IT'S LIVING HISTORY of great note when an organization reaches its 50th anniversary.

THE PHILOMATHIANS therefore deserve a gold star. On May 1 the group of gracious ladies ends the Golden Year celebration by honoring 100 women of the community and there will be salutes from all Baltimore.

HISTORY

LOVERS OF LEARNING

Mrs. Vashti Turley Murphy and Mrs. Vivian Johnson Cook in 1932 assembled a group of women to become charter members in a studey club.

The women: Lillian A. Brown, Rosa N. Hampton, Ruth L. McAbee, Grace W. McCard, Olive and Vashti Maxwell, Margaret Roles Williams, Mary W. Wilson, A. Dukye Woode, Annie T. and Mae T. Wright.

The name Philomathians (meaning Lovers of Learning) was decided upon. Thus was established a club which has been in continuous existence for the past 50 years.

RECEPTION

To celebrate the Golden Anniversary the club planned several activities throughout the year.

One was a theatre party to see a play produced by The Arena Players.

Another was an exhibit at Pratt Library during Black History Month.

The third, a reception and luncheon to be held at The Blue Crest North on Saturday, May 1.

A feature of this affair will be the giving of awards to women from the Baltimore - Washington corridor.

These women have made significent contributions to their communities in such fields as education business, art, law, medicine, politics, cosmetology, community and volunteer service.

AIMS

The original aims of The Philomathians were to study modern trends and to discover what other women (especially black women) were accomplishing.

Subsequently, the aims were broadened.

They now are: to study modern trends, to honor women who have made outstanding contributions locally and nationally, to participate in the cultural and intellectual life of the community and to activate interest in problems possibilities and challenges that face women.

PAST HONOREES

According to Bishop Cedric Mills, Dr. Richard McKinney and others, the club has made significant contributions to the community.

Also, it has encouraged black women to reach their full potential and has rewarded them for their efforts.

During the early years of its life The Philomathians honored 38 women.

The honorees at dinner included: Mary Church Terrell, Nannie Burroughs, Jane Beze Tyson, Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Sarah Fernandis, Juanita Howard, Florence Purviance, Sadie Meriweather, Lucy Slowe, May Tyson Baker, Frances Murphy, Lillie M. Jackson, Ida Cummings, Mary Rodman, Dorothy Ferebee and Addie Hunton.

When in 1961 the first black woman was appointed to the Board of School Commissioners in Baltimore City, The Philomathians held a reception in her honor at the Morgan Christian Center. The honoree was Elizabeth Murphy Phillips, a duaghter of the co - founder of the club and herself a member of The Philomathians.

THROUGH THE YEARS

Through the years The Philomathians have been privileged to hear many outstanding speakers including judges, educators (college and university presidents, superintendents of schools, professors, and teachers), media personalities, political figures, authorities on housing and health, persons from the medical profession, musicians, actors, community leaders, historians, clergymen, columnists and travelers.

IN 1976

In addition to these activities, the club challenged the presidents of the predominately black colleges - universities in Maryland to show what had been done at their respective institutions to upgrade women in administrative posts.

At that time (in 1976) there were no women in high administrative positions in any of these institutions.

The following year (1977) the same presidents were able to send a newly appointed woman in a high admnistrative post to represent the college - university at the annual closing meeting of the club.

Each of these women accepted a certificate of honor from The Philomathians to take back to her individual school.

DR. DIGGS ON MAY 1

The April monthly meeting of the club was honored to have Mrs. Anna Curry, newly appointed Director of The Enoch Pratt Library as speaker.

The speaker of the closing meeting in 1981 was Dorothy Brunson, owner of radio station WEBB.

The 50th Anniversary Luncheon speaker will be Dr. Irene Diggs, distinguished educator, writer, lecturer, world traveler, art connoisseur and internationally known anthropologist.

In its 50 year existence the club has had only eight presidents: Mrs. Grace McCard Imes, Ms. A. Dukye Woode, Mrs. Vashti Murphy, Mrs. Mae Wright Peck, Dr. Elizabeth Murphy Moss, Dr. Flossie Dedmond, Dr. Regina Goff Henry. Currently, the president is Mrs. Gloria Minor Phillips. Mrs. Peck is 50th anniversary chairperson.

THE PHILOMATHIANS

Dr. Thelma Bando, Mrs. Harriette Lee Bannister, Mrs. Myrtice K. Bennett, Mrs. Amy Tate Billingley, Rev. Marie Phillips Braxton, Mrs. Carolyn Chissell, Mrs. Doris F. Cole, Mrs. Althea Cornelson.

Mrs. Jeanne P. Davis, Dr. Flossie Dedmond, Dr. Irene Diggs, Mrs. Sallie Fletcher, Dr. Regina Goff Henry, Mrs. Beauline DeOsta Lee.

Mrs. Helen C. Lee, Mrs. Vashti McKenzie, Mrs. Christine Moore, Dr. Elizabeth Murphy Moss, Mrs. Marion Patterson, Mrs. Mae Wright Peck, Mrs. Ida Murphy Peters, Mrs. Gloria M. Phillips, Dr. Ruth Brett Quarles, Dr. Beryl W. Williams.

MRS. VASHTI TURLEY MURPHY
co-founder

MRS. MAE WRIGHT PECK
chairwoman

MRS. VIVIAN JOHNSON COOK
co-founder

ERNEST E. JOHNSON
chorus director

MALCOLM JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP FETE

Sunday April 25, 4 p.m. marks the time the Malcolm Johnson Scholarship Committee will hold a program and announce the 1982 winner.

The event which yearly attracts hundreds of Baltimoreans is set for the Dunbar High School Theatre. Robin Smith a Baltimore City College senior, will receive the scholarship presented by Dr. Samuel L. Banks, coordinator of Social Studies Division for the public schools.

The event features the singular artists members of the United Male Chorus of New York with Ernest E. Johnson as director. Tickets are $7. Mrs. Dorothy W. Chambers is chairperson.

The late Malcolm Winfield Johnson Jr., a noted educator and social studies department administrator, is thus memorialized each year. His death, in 1976 left a void in the local schools.

YOUTH DAY AT SHARON

The annual Youth and Young Adult Day comes at Sharon Baptist Church, Stricker and Presstman, Sunday, April 25 with the 11 a.m. guest speaker, Rev. Mark Sanders, associate minister at New Psalmist Baptist Church.

The music is by the Sharon Choirs.

SUNDAY, 4 p.m. is the concert by the Dunbar Chamber Singers, Hugh Carey, director.

ALL BALTIMORE is cordially invited by Howard L. Brooks, chairman, Janey Perry, co - chairman and Dr. James L. Moore, pastor.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

PROVIDENT HOSPITAL'S Board of Trustees and the staff holds its champagne reception to honor outgoing President Thomas W. Chapman M.P.H. April 30, 5 - 7 p.m.

The event is slated for the Provident Community Health Center, 3101 Towanda Avenue.

TENNESSEE WORLD FAIR

ALL HOTELS ARE SOLD out but if you want to attend the fair in Knoxville, TN, you may get fine accommodations by calling Frank Shell Sr., 615 - 525 - 9863 or Jerry Foster 615 - 523 - 9873, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Spacious facilities are available May 1 through Oct. 31 and you'll be sorry if you miss this, special rates for important folks.

APPR