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OPINION

Why stall Lenny?

No more dazzling or talented football star ever performed in National Football League stadiums across the land than did legendary Baltimore Colt halfback Lenny Moore.

With the equally fabled Jim Brown, late of the Cleveland Browns, Moore was the class running back of the Fifties and Sixties. Their heroics are indelibly stamped into the memory banks of all true fans of the sport.

In recent years Moore, who has been a Baltimore resident a quarter of a century now, has been on the Baltimore Colts' staff as a community relations officer and his service to the community and its young people in this capacity has been outstanding.

We are therefore extremely puzzled and concerned that Moore, laid off temporarily when the players went on strike early this season, is still waiting for the Colt management to call him back to work!

Ernie Accorsi, the new Colts' general manager, who replaced the unlamented Dick Szymanski this year when Frank Kush came in as head coach, has stated that Moore and other administrative office workers would be back on the job once the strike ended.

Thus far Accorsi has not kept his word which makes us wonder if the more because Accorsi reputedly is a football executive free of the negatives often attributed to pro ball general managers as a group.

The Colts have never been free of an undercurrent of racism and while mediocre white players, who have come and gone, have prospered the black players who helped build the local franchise during its glory years have not fared anywhere near as well, economically, or in other areas, once they hung up their cleats.

If Accorsi continues to forget that Lenny Moore has been an asset to the Colts' organization and is trying to kick off an authentic superstar he is sending a loud and clear message to all black Baltimoreans.

As far as we are concerned we are Lenny and Lenny is us.

And seeing the sorry condition of the Baltimore Colts, general manager Accorsi hardly needs our community to withdraw its support.

We would not want Accorsi to be regarded as just another in a long line of white sports executives who treat our super-stars, past and present, shabbily.

We strongly urge him to let Colt great Lenny Moore get back to work.

Sound resolutions makes for a "Happy New Year"

This is the time of year when many of us stop to reflect on our lives and how we could change them for the better. When your thoughts turn to plans for healthier, safer lives, we hope you'll consider adopting these New Year's Resolutions for better health

If you don't smoke don't start. This should be Item No. one on your list of health-related resolutions. Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in America. Some 340,000 American smokers die each year of smoking - related diseases.

By not smoking cigarettes, you're protecting yourself from an enormously increased risk of lung cancer, one of the least treatable types of cancer.

DON'T MIX DRINKING WITH DRIVING

Fifty thousand people die in the U.S. each year in traffic accidents. Half of these deaths are attributable to alcohol. This carnage is particularly tragic because the individual who dies may not be the one responsible for the accident, and because these deaths are preventable.

Resolve not to mix drinking with driving this year. It's no disgrace to call a cab if you've had one too many, it's good common sense. We also like the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's slogan, "Friends don't let friends drive drunk." That attitude could help save many lives.

IF YOU DRINK ALCOHOL, DO IT IN MODERATION

We already warned you about the dangers of mixing alcohol with gasoline. Here, we'd like to mention a few other alcohol - related risks. Safety is an important consideration. Your ability to swim, ski, use power tools, drive a boat, is affected if you have had more than one or two drinks, so be cautious.

Alice in Wonderland

Madeline MURPHY

The sudden shift by the school board to continue its search and in the meantime hire an interim superintendent in the person of Mrs. Alice G. Pinderhughes, makes a lot of sense. Nobody needs a rush to judgement when things are all entangled in school board politics.

From what she has said, Mrs. Pinderhughes has a fix on what her expectations are and what the expectations of teachers, pupils and principals should be.

But one must caution as Tocqueville did, especially in these times of tight money, and budget cutting; low teacher morale and larger classes:

"The evil which was suffered patiently as inevitable, seems unendurable as soon as the idea of escaping from it crosses men's minds. All the abuses then removed call attention to those that remain, and they now appear more galling.

"The evil, it is true has become less, but sensibility to it has become more acute."

But even with all the bright pronouncements, we have heard in recent years, one cannot help but wonder with fact bumping against untruth; with dreams postponed time and again, if the system of public education is really the tangled fantasy of a Wonderland, where what we say is not what we mean, and where people wander about hoping everthing will turn out all right if we just have the right attitudes, the right expectations; and if children are taught how to read, write and figure.

Nevertheless, if there were no idealism, if there were no hope, there would be no point in going on.

But everytime someone suggests changes, of job markets that must be filled, one wonders if we are not all programmed to expect only a few will filter through to that ever dwindling job market, when graduation exemplifies a job well done.

For if all students were to excell, what a tremendous glut on the job market THAT would be.

One wonders if it is not all a hoax by the way the school system is so inexorably tied to the political structure, where the mayor, the president of the city council, the board of estimate, expect more for less, yet build monuments to themselves for the fun of it, away from the pressing needs of communities, of schools, of people.

Further, as Edgar Friedenburg in his book "The Vanishing Adolescent" writes:

"The institutions which mold the adolescence of most young people are intended to yield young people predisposed to a social behavior insistent upon cultivating sensitivity and pliability to the demands and expectations of others.

"Other directions, adaptability, adjustment, conformity . . . establish a cut off point, (for) (no matter what happens) they do not see too much, get too involved, nor try to (change) the system."

And it is in this Wonderland where Mrs. Pinderhughes finds herself, where the product of public education has been firmly entrenched in the Moral Majority and Reagonomics, that seems to be mirring down all of us.

It is the group that has been molded to come out of the system goosestepping to assault and kill human programs, while heightening military might, on the national level, not seeing too much, not getting too involved, not changing the system.

On the local level today having been molded in this same mindset, public educators, having been threatened by political forces they think are beyond their control, within and outside the system, join the goosesteppers in their inaction and refusal to revamp an unresponsive school system from stem to stern.

It would be amusing if it were not so tragic, to see the local administration, who suddenly call Mrs. Pinderhughes in to confuse her plans, thwart her energies, so indecisive that they might sound much like the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland.

When Alice asks, "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from hre?"

"That depends a great deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I do not much care where—" said Alice.

"Then it does not matter which way you go," said the Cat.

"—so long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation.

"Oh, you are sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough." Is not it after all the frustration of dealing with manipulative officials, that will determine where the schools will go in th next six months; where our Alice Pinderhughes will be going, among mad people?

Alice in Wonderland found that out when she asked about the sort of people who lived about the neighborhood of the Cheshire cat, and learned he thought them to be mad.

She remarked, "But I do not want to go among mad people"

"Oh, you can not help that," said the Cat. "We are all mad here, I am mad. You are mad."

"How do you know I am mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you would not have come here."

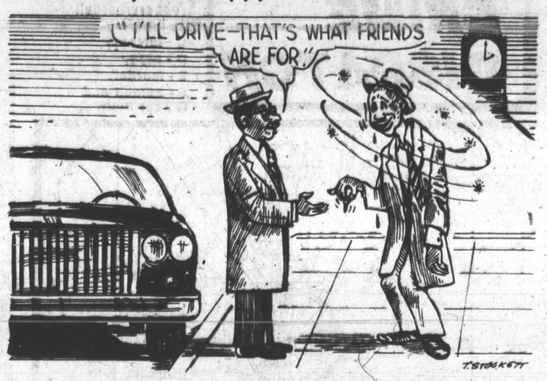
Mrs. Pinderhughes is taking on quite a role within the madness of political machinations. A role that is not only difficult and fraught with frustration, but one that will forcast where public officials want the schools to go despite their protestations.

She has courage and determination. One hopes that it shall not flag when the stumbling blocks are neatly strewn in her path, where Cheshire cats try confusing her just as she feels she is accomplishing something.

However, let us hope before that happens that we forge new partnerships with the institutions in the community— the churches, the schools, the homes— connected by creative means to extend and strengthen the role and importance of education to our children; to develop such a powerful constituency that no amount of political pressure will daunt its main purpose.

The New Year brings elections and 1983 must really be the year of decision that will cope with such madness.

We wish you a happy and a safe New Year



Parren J. MITCHELL

Maryland made out well

In my excitement over the successful passage of my 10 percent minority business set aside amendment, I did not disclose how well the State of Maryland made out under the Surface Transportation Act of 1982.

The law will allow Maryland to make repairs, long delayed due to a lack of federal funds, to its roads system.

In 1983, the State will receive approximately 9334 million which will be used for public transportation systems; the completion of the Interstate System; Interstate 4-R Projects; the primary system, and replacement and rehabilitation of bridges.

Unlike many other states, Maryland gets a good return for monies it pays into the Highway Trust Fund. From 1957 to 1981, Maryland paid almost $2 billion into the trust fund but in that same period it goes back almost two and three quarter billions. Thus, on the average Maryland received $1.42 for each $1 it contributed to the Highway Trust Fund.

Under the new law, the state of Maryland will receive the following funds:

1983-$34,169 (In Thousands)	
1984-$37,890	
1985-$79,607	
1986-$89,615	

Since I first went to Congress, I have tried very hard to see to it that the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland got a fair share of federal funds. Since the Reagan Administration took over, federal funds have been drastically cut across the board, and therefore my job has become even more difficult.

Throughout my years in Congress, I have always worried over whether black people were getting a fair share of the funds which come to the City and State.

It is absolutely mandatory that some group, perhaps a special task force of our Black Caucus in Annapolis, constantly monitor the funds the State will receive under the Surface Transportation Act of 1982.

That group must check on the hiring and promotion of blacks. The black unemployment rate in the State is astronomical, therefore it seems reasonable to me to seek 25 percent of the jobs for blacks.

I was so very proud when Maryland passed a minority business set aside program, however, I have an uneasy feeling that the law is not being fully, effectively implemented.

That same task force ought, must monitor the minority business aspects, in order to insure that monority businesses get our share.

If this is done, Maryland's Minority Businesses should get at least $33 million in 1983; at least $36 million in 1984; at least $37 million in 1985 and $38 million in 1986.

We simply cannot afford to miss out on this opportunity.

Letters

MSU remembers Dr. Sinha

Dear AFRO:

The sad and untimely passing of Dr. Nirmal Sinha, a beloved professor of sociology at Morgan State University, left the faculty and student-body in the Department of Sociology shocked and anguished.

"How could it happen so suddenly?" they asked.

But even more poignant, they asked, "How could it happen to such a sincere, humble, and dedicated person?"

These are the traumatic thoughts that have run rampant among those in the department in the wake of Dr. Sinha's departure from our midst. Dr. Sinha passed away on Thursday, Dec. 9, after suffering a stroke.

He was dearly loved by those who knew him, either as an instructor, or a concerned friend. His absence is sorely felt by the Morgan community.

It is only fitting then that the remembrances of those who knew Dr. Sinha be shared with others who might not have had the good fortune of an acquaintance with this man. Here are some of those who remember Dr. Sinha:

Ms. Marcella Offoha:

"Dr. Sinha was a hard worker, had a nature of a traditional father, admired, respected, and praised mothers, believed in his traditions, and admired those who believed their traditions, despite western influence.

"He was ready to accept new ways, was dynamic, thoughtful, intelligent, and advisor, an excellent teacher, interested in the traditional family and social activities."

Mr. Donald Anderson:

"Dr. Sinha was a great humanitarian, an excellent scholar, and a man who took everyone's interest to his own heart. He was truly dedicated to his profession. He is a great loss at Morgan."

Ms. Linda Thompson:

"He was a very caring person; and he was motivated by very high ideals-the way he viewed people. And I think he was very humanistic, and he certainly communicated that to this classes in the way he taught.

"I feel that he was a man that probably has not got the recognition that he was due. He taught with a very broad scope.

"You know, he gave you the full view in whole course of history. And that is what impressed me.

"I feel that I learned so much from him; But I think I appreciated most was you... could approach him and sit down and talk with him...I'm suffering very deeply, because when you see a person that sensitive, you kind of hate to see them pass."

Ms. Rose Emmanuel:

"I liked him. He was a man that seemed more than just a professor. He was concerned about us individually.

"And I still can not believe that he is gone. And when I was looking at him -- I just could not believe it... I have a girl friend who has his night course-his "Social Theory" course-and she said that he did not come for Wednesday's class.

"He died that night, okay? But the Wednesday before that, she said that he came in class and he said that he had not been feeling too good; but he said, 'the only thing that would keep me away from my classes is my death!' "

Mr. Brian Beverly

"He was a man whose wisdom and intelligence was surpassed only by his capacity to love."

Dr. Ruhul Amin:

"I was particularly impressed with Dr. Sinha's tremendous knowledge and expertise on Indian problems. He could tell you everything all the aspects all the books he read about it and the analysis he was able to give."

Mr. Frank G. Newton:

"I have known Dr. Sinha as a professor, an advisor, and a friend. His kind advice was a source of encouragement to me during times in which I was deeply troubled.

"The timing of his passing was especially traumatic to me, because it occurred almost a year to the day after Dr. Sinha made plans with me and gave me material and information regarding my further studies for the doctoral degree in 'Medical Sociology'

"This little meeting occurred at the department's Christmas Party, of 1981.

Indeed, the decent among us are too soon called away."

FRANK NEWTON
Editor, Sociology Graduate Club
M.S.U.

The Gene Carter controversy

Dugger should not be forced to leave

Dear AFRO:

Once again we see an example of how the whites want to blame a black for something wrong.

The fact is Dr. Carter could not have rejected the offer of Superintendent, he choose to stay in his city because Norfork's board offer the job to him and surely anyone would agree that Norfork had the best offer.

Dr. Carter is getting the same amount of money Baltimore was going to give him for a much smaller school system, a system he already knows.

Second, Dr. Carter did not want to be a patsy and I agree with Mr. Dugger, the board is just run by whites who want to hire a "black" in color only to do their bidding.

We blacks must see to it that Mr. Dugger is not forced to leave his position. Notice it is the whites again trying to run him out. The School Board needs a voice for ALL the people.

BARBARA DONE

SAMUEL BANKS

Urgent imperatives for 1983

The dawn of a new year provides an auspicious opportunity for serious reflection and thought relative to the challenges and opportunities of a new year.

It is demonstrably clear that 1982 was unparalleled in terms of the degree of pain, trauma and privations that lacerated a disproportionate number of black Americans here in Baltimore and across the nation.

The magnitude of the human suffering and disarray must be abated now.

Now that the revels and convivialty associated with ushering in 1983 are drawing to a close, we, as a collective race of people, must get down to serious thought and action for our survival.

The socio-economic landscape is bleak and foreboding for 31 million black Americans.

Record levels of unemployment and underemployment among blacks; more than 50 per cent for black youths; an abysmal national pull-back or retreat on civil and human rights; a blistering and sustained attack on blacks, Hispanics and the poor in terms of human uplift and aspirations for a better life.

In short, as we prepare to observe the close of the second year of President Ronald Wilson Reagan's presidency, the fierce siege against blacks, Hispanics and the poor continues.

The socio-economic toll in 1982 for blacks, in particular, has been crushing, debilitating and troubling.

Black people, locally, and across the nation, must initiate thoughtful and well-conceived planning and programs of direct action, within the framework of law, to effectuate relief and hope for the broad mass of our people.

We must be unscompromising in regard to injustice, political manipulation and impotence and continued and studied exclusion from the educational, socio-economic and political mainstream of Baltimore and our nation.

We must engage in less reckless and obstreperous rhetoric and mobilize and utilize our educational, economic and political muscle.

A people, such as we, over 31 million strong, who spend over $150 billion annually should not and must not, if we wish to survive as a people, remain in a state of perpetual mendicancy, fear and weakness.

Socio-economic parity and full freedom cannot be negotiated from a position of weakness, inaction and blandness.

On Jan. 15, we shall observe across the nation, the birthday of the redoubtable and remarkable non-violent apostle from Atlanta:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His extraordinary hope for the downtrodden and poor.

He witnessed, to the end, for higher human possibilities and hope for all people in the face of awesome societal odds predicated on the uniquitous factors of institutional racism, classism, and religious bigotry.

Dr. King observed 15 years ago while incarcerated in a Birmingham jail:

"But most basically, I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the prophets of the eigth century B.C. left their villages and carried their 'thus saith the Lord' far beyond the boundaries of their home towns, and just as the Apostle Paul left his village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to the far corners of the Greco-Roman world, so I am compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my own home town.

Like Paul, I must instantly respond to the Macedonian call for aid. Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states.

I cannot sit idly in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to injustice everywhere.

We are caught in an escapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

Never again can we afford to live with the narrow provincial 'outside agitator' idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds."

How tragic it is, 14 years after Dr. King's tragic and brutal death in Memphis, "injustice is here" and flourishes in the American body politic.

It is within the purview of a more subtle, insidious and rampant institutional racism and retreat on civil and human rights, that I strongly recommend the following imperatives for black Baltimoreans in 1983:

1. The need to increase black representation on the Baltimore Council. The political arithmetic is already in place. What is required is a summoning of intellectual fortitude, courage and will. All 19 seats will be up for election in 1983.

2. The need for a greater share of the corporate wealth of Baltimore. At present, more than 95 percent of the corporate wealth is owned and controlled by whites.

The two percent of the corporate wealth that was formerly owned by blacks has diminished to one percent. Asians, Chinese and Koreans to their credit, in particular, through hard work and sacrifice now own almost 1 percent of Baltimore's corporate wealth.

3. The need for stronger and wider representation on municipal boards and commissions. The overwhelming number of the city's boards and commissions are occupied by whites.

There are, in fact, some boards on which black Baltimoreans have never served in a leadership role.

A notable example is the nine-member Board of School Commissioners which has never had a black board president in its 130-year history.

4. The need for churches, civic and community organizations to continue their emphasis on voter registration, political literacy and voter participation on election day.

The ballot is essential for jobs and full participation.

5. The need to set a higher standard of performance by educational and political leaders.

Hold leaders, at all levels, responsible and accountable for demonstrable deeds. The inept, sycophants and dysfunctional should be removed from office.

6. The need for black churches to end the constant' over-emphasis' spiritual obsession and focus on the clear and present needs of the hungry and homeless in our midst.

Black churches, as the strongest independent institution within the black community must give greater attention to human needs and suffering. The record of the black church in the past, given fearsome odds, has been inspirational and unparalleled.

7. The need to be unrelenting and bold in our opposition to drugs and drug trafficking which devastate black people in a disproportionate manner.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We cannot go forward as a people if our youths are "spaced out" or "wasted" by drugs.

8. The need for substantive and purposeful jobs. There can be no community tranquility or amity when a Depression level of unemployment afflicts the majority black population of Baltimore.

Effective and fulfilling employment must have a central priority in Baltimore in 1983.

9. The need to fund the school system at a level necessary to achieve demonstrable educational excellence for all children and youths, the educational time lost to children and youths because of inadequate funding cannot, in reality, be made up.

It comes down to the grim and ineluctable reality of wanting to pay now or pay later in terms of derring bad vigor or crime.

10. The need to pull together, believe in ourselves and overcome the petty and internecine warfare among ourselves. It is critical that we re - establish our former spirit of caring, love and sense of community.

11. The need to avoid becoming a part of the conspiracy of silence. Make copious and frequent use of the letters - to - the - editor columns of newspapers and speak - out opportunities afforded by the electronic media to address local, state, national and international issues.

12. The need to develop closer ties and involvement with "Mother Africa." We must become advocates for Black African nations seeking to make their way in a hostile world community.

We, too, should be insistent in deploring the racist, reprehensible and dehumanizing actions of South Africa in connection with 30 million Black South Africans who comprise a majority of South Africa.

The recent raid of the South African government, in invading Lesotho, resulting in the death of 50 blacks, and their venomous and repressive practices in Namibia are deserving of universal condemnation.

13. The need to support the national Jubilee Day observance sponsored by the Maryland Conference and Baltimore Branch, NAACP on Sunday, Jan. 2, at Bethel AME Church at 2:30 p.m. and the "Get one Penny Campaign" on Saturday, Jan. 15, spearheaded by the illustrious and highly respected griot and folklorist, Mrs. Mary Carter Smith.

Both of these activities represent marvelous opportunities to support ourselves and our posterity.

The supreme challenge for each of us in 1983, as we maintain a resolute faith in God, is to become active and involved for a better social order for all.

It is in this spirit that I have offered the 13 imperatives for consideration and action. The rest, Brothers and Sisters, is up to you. Happy New Year and, above all, BE STRONG.

More letters

1982: A devastating year

Dear AFRO:

Much can be said about the hardships African-Americans encountered during the devasting year of 1982. Needless to say we suffered immensely.

One of the reasons for our plight has been the high rate of unemployment among African-Americans, which has plagued us due to the injustices we find in this country. Many families have found the devasting year of 1982 one to lament.

It was a year that succeeded in wiping out many of the fine accomplishments blacks have made over the years.

The most distrubing thing about this situation is that only a few souls in this current administration care about our loss.

As a race of people, we suffered foremost due to the ailing economy. Along with the devasting year of 1982, came an up-surging of racial violence being perpetrated against African-Americans in full force.

Being ever mindful of the fact racism is still one of the major causes of social injustices in America, racism continues to be one of the mind crippling diseases in this society.

As 1983 arrives blacks, as a race of people, need to be extremely strong to withstand the onslaught of wrongness being directed at us. As reports come to us about how our race is being mistreated, it makes one wonder if this government is the protector of all its citizens.

Personally you know the answer to that.

As 1983 starts we need to reflect on past events, and see how we can avoid making the same mistakes and help others to avoid a wrong path.

With so much out right hatred being directed toward us from other sources we need to be loving each other more. That way we can win the battle. To do so will call for strong self-determination on our part.

To win, we as a race of people must learn, struggle, organize and unite. Peace to all of you in the up coming year.

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.

Elizabeth M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

Honolulu newspaper lauds Christopher German, AFRO founder's great grandson as 'profile in courage'

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

I RECENTLY experienced the pride all persons feel when they see relatives or friends "in print." But, that's what newspapers are for, to tell the news to all we know.

THE FEELING CAME when my daughter, Mrs. Marsha German - Joyner of Honolulu, Hawaii sent me a clipping from the Honolulu Star Bulletin Page 1 Football Extra about my grandson, Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER, the great, great grandson of AFRO founder John H. Murphy Sr., the late Dr. Jacob B. Oliver of Brazil, Ind. and Mrs. Frances Robinson German of Baltimore, is the son of Retired Airforce Capt. Elmer W. German Jr. now an attorney in California and Mrs. Marsha German - Joyner of Honolulu, Hawaii.

THE STAR BULLETIN story by staff writer Cindy Luis praises Chris as a "Prep Profile in Courage."

The long feature is accompanied by Chris' photos, one of them as a star member of the Mililani High football team. The team's story takes up an entire page.

All of the other players are of Hawaiian or Oriental descent except our Chris, the halfback.

CHRIS, is, has two brothers, Airman Elmer W. German III and Gregory German, age 14 and a sister, Mrs. Shannon (Marilyn) German Carter, all of Honolulu where the Germans have resided 14 years. (I'll be there after Jan. 15 for a month's vacation.)

Chris' mother, for 12 years assistant to Mayor Frank Fasi, is now associated with Kenneth Joyner's Hair Fare, the Pacific Theatre official representative of California Curl, located on Waikiki Beach and in Nassau.

THE STAR BULLETIN story which makes us beam with pride reads:

PREP PROFILE IN COURAGE

By Cindy Luis
Honolulu Star Bulletin Writer

From premature baby to premier running back on his high school football team. It's not as improbable as it sounds — at least for Mililani Trojans halfback Chris German.

CHRIS GERMAN
Mililani halfback
(Photo by Honolulu Star Bulletin photographer Craig T. Kojima)

GERMAN, an honorable mention selection on this year's Oahu Interscholastic Association Western Division All - Star team, already has overcome a number of obstacles in his 16 years of life.

Born seven weeks premature at the Air Force Academy hospital, German was diagnosed as having hyaline membrane disease, a lung condition that affects many premature babies. It also ranks as one of the major causes of death among "premies."

GERMAN was 4 pounds, 8 ounces at birth and able to fit into his mother, Marsha's cupped hands. He survived after nearly two weeks in an incubator.

Now, German weighs in at 186 pounds. This season, the 5 - foot - 7 Mililani junior finished sixth among OIA West rushers with 427 yards, averaging 5.4 yards per carry, and scored three touchdowns.

"I don't think (being born prematurely) has affected me," said German, a junior honor student who is asthmatic. "I take my medicine before practice and it doesn't usually bother me."

MILILANI Coach John Kauinanu said German did lose his wind at times during practice but "otherwise there weren't any problems. He's a good kid, quiet, quick, and a good runner."

A SPRINTER

In addition to his respiratory problems, German also had congenitally malformed ankles and were casts on both ankles until he was 10 months old. "He learned to walk with them on," his mother said.

"I don't think I run differently from the other players," said German, "but you look at the game films and I'm running straight - legged. The coaches sometimes yell that I'm not running as hard as I can, but I am. It just looks different to them."

GERMAN is a sprinter, competing in the 100 - and 200 - yard dashes, and a triple jumper for Mililani's track team. He also ran the second leg on the Trojans' 400 - relay team that placed second last year in the OIA Championships.

"I HAD SOME reservations when he wanted to play sports," said German's father, Elmer, a retired Air Force captain. "But we talked to quite a few pediatricians and they said physical activity would actually help him. It didn't seem right to me — we were inclined to baby him — but we let him go and so far it has turned out for the best."

"He doesn't think he has a problem because we treated Christopher like he was normal," said his mother. "The most important thing was treating him like the other children.

HE PLAYS FOOTBALL with the same determination he used when he fought to live," she added.

"He has great strength of character."

Capt. German described his son as a very independent sort, one who doesn't depend on his peers for support but thinks for himself and does things his own way.

"I haven't stopped thinking, after he has a run, that he must be tired. But he goes right back so I know he's feeling okay."

Tony Brown's Comments

'Black Wings' flies for you

By Tony Brown
Special to the AFRO

I hope by now that you are aware of the "Black Wings" exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum in Washington. It is scheduled to last for two years.

But I hope, after reading this and - or seeing this phenomenal testimony to blacks in aviation, you will write the Secretary of the Smithsonian and request that our history become a permanent part of this prestigious institution.

A part of the exhibit is "Wings of War," the World War II story of blacks fighting for the right to fight, the subsequent establishment of the all - black 99th Fighter Squadron and later the 332nd Fighter Group. These 10,000 black men and women are commonly referred to as the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Smithsonian's first black curator, Louis R. Purnell, was a pilot in the original 332nd. There were few pilots in either outfit who saw more action than he did. He flew 68 combat missions; because of segregation, white pilots had more replacements and flew about 50 missions before rotating home. Purnell was typical of all black pilots in one respect, he was shot at 20 times more!

However, accomplishments and contributions comprise "Black Wings." I was interviewing Purnell, Art Carter (WWII War Correspondent) of the AFRO - AMERICAN, pilot Elwood Driver and Alfred "Chief" Anderson at the exhibit for a four - part Black History Month special on the Tuskegee Airmen called "The Black Eagles."

Seeing this "living" history and hearing these men recall a part of history that has been tucked away or ignored, gave me a feeling of being there myself. "Chief" Anderson, the acknowledged "Father of Black Aviation" is still a flying instructor and witty and spry at 76 years of age.

He recalled with detail the first transcontinental flight by black aviators. He and Dr. Albert Forsythe were a great team and, the "Chief" proudly pointed to the picture and caption in the exhibit: "Goodwill Flight to Nassau/in 1934. Residents of Nassau greeted Alfred Anderson and Dr. Albert Forsythe after their flight from Miami in 1934."

To a man, every Tuskegee Airman will remind you of the tremendous influence that Anderson as the chief flight instructor at Tuskegee Army Airfield during WWII had on their lives. He has trained the majority of black combat pilots and hundreds of others.

Other pioneers displayed are Bessie Coleman, who became the first licensed black pilot in this country. Of course, because of racism, she had to go to France to train and be licensed.

Eugene Bullard, a native of Columbus, Georgia, had left years before Bessie Coleman and gone to France; he became the world's first black combat pilot and a much decorated member of the Lafayette Flying Corps during WWI. Because of discrimination, Bullard never fought for America.

Of course, the first black pilot to shoot down an enemy plane for America was Lt. Charles Hall. This native of Brazil, Indiana was a member of the original 99th when he destroyed a German Focke - Wulf 190 over Castelvetrano on July 2, 1943.

The exhibit goes on to display America's lost combat - pilot heroes: There is the towering Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., he doubt the most celebrated member of the 99th or the 332nd. He commanded both groups, as well as the 477th Composite Group

Gen. Davis, now retired, was the fourth black graduate from West Point when he finished in 1936. No black had graduated in the previous 47 years. He ranked a very respectable 35th in a class of 276. Discrimination forced him to room alone and be "silenced" during his entire stay at the Academy.

"Black Wings" also has a model of the P - 51 "Miss Pat," Clarence "Lucky" Lester's plane during the war. This Tuskegee flyer of the 332nd Fighter Group, while in a fighter sweep on July 19, 1944, shot down three German Messerschmitts in a dog fight over the Po Valley in Italy. This remarkable feat was performed in about six minutes.

"Lucky" told me in an interview for "The Black Eagles" special that when his daughter was a college student at Penn State, a white instructor told her class that blacks had never been pilots in WWII. When she said her father had been one, he called the story a lie. And after being shown "Lucky's" scrapbook, he ignored the evidence.

That's an example of the virulent form of racism loose in this country that we must resist. And we must repel it with the facts by digging into our history — then preserving it.

You can help preserve these heroic feats and role models for our people by writing the Secretary of the Smithsonian institution, Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, at Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560 and requesting that the "Black Wings" exhibit be made permanent.

If you don't, and the history is lost to future generations, these brave men and women will have died in vain.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL TV series can be seen on public television Friday, on channel 22 at 11 p.m. It can also be seen on channel 67, Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

Please consult listing.

JAN