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OPINION

A senseless death!

A young man, a Douglass High student, athlete and resident of the McCulloh Homes, like most teen-agers was fond of clothes and like most young people (who too often get a bad rap from adults) worked after school to purchase his apparel.

His dream was to work after high school in order to get enough money to move his family from the projects to a home of their own.

Ironically, this youth encountered a gang of robbers even younger than himself, who killed him for the expensive jacket he was wearing.

This cold-blooded murder did not take place near any often maligned housing project where a goodly number of God-fearing, law-abiding families get their first start up the economic ladder toward self-sufficiency, but in semi-suburban Edmondson Village where presumably more affluent families reside.

As the slain boy's mother said to the AFRO, "Crime is everywhere."

Crime is everywhere. It is an urban fact of life.

This young man was gunned down before any of his dreams had a chance to flurish. A wasted life, a senseless death.

What is even more chilling than the fact of this individual tragedy and the grief his family must feel is the more awful fact that 13-year-old kids are carrying guns and using them without compunction, remorse or hesitation.

Every parent knows what the streets hold and parents who care about their children hold their breath each time kids leave the house.

The awful knowledge that killers are getting younger can only increase our collective apprehension.

The final irony is that one life has been taken by a gun and the young shooter's "life" has also been taken from him because the criminal justice system, for all of our lenient laws laws protecting juveniles, cannot let felony murder go unpunished.

The boy who pulled the trigger, his gang, and the families of all involved will know much sorrow because of a $200 coat.

That our values are so distorted that cloth or leather is more highly valued than human life to a child is indeed a sad commentary upon us all.

Letters

Denver 'Boot' is a bad bill

Dear AFRO:

As you and your readers are aware, the Baltimore City Council recently passed legislation that would allow the city to immobilize the automobile of anyone with three or more outstanding traffic tickets.

Commonly referred to as the "Denver Boot;"this device, once locked on to an automobile, totally prevents the owner from moving his or her car. Only after all outstanding tickets have been paid will the city send out a crew to remove the "boot."

The sponsors and supporters of the bill argue that it is aimed primarily at out of town drivers who acquire tickets while visiting the city. They say that many of these tickets become uncollectable and result in a revenue loss for the city.

Thus, they contend that the "booting': of these cars will send a message to out of towners to pay up or risk having their car wheels locked, while at the same time increasing the city's coffers.

Although the intent may be proper this is a bad bill!

The people who will directly suffer the most from this kind of legislation are all of us who live in the City of Baltimore. If for some reason we are unable to pay our outstanding traffic tickets, we will be faced with the threat of having our automobiles immobilized at any time.

We would then be forced right away to come up with money that we did not have in the first place. Not only is the individual faced with a dilemma, he or she is also denied their means of transportation.

Of course, the city should be allowed to collect on outstanding traffic tickets, and it does. Every year before new tags are issued, automobile owners must pay all overdue tickets.

The city then collects this money, with interest, and satisfies each individual driver's debt.

It stands to reason than that as far as residents of the State of Maryland are concerned, the "boot" is an unnecessary, intimidating inconvenience that could be best used if targeted at out of town drivers as opposed to those of us who live here.

As one of the two council members who voted against this legislation, I hope the Mayor realizes its potential negative impact and decides to veto it. In its present form, this is a bad bill for the citizens of Baltimore.

KWEISI MFUME
City Councilman

Wage scale is subminimum

While some folks urge the enactment of a lower minimum wage for young people, inflation has already lowered the real value of the existing minimum to less than it was 15 years ago. Today's $3.35 an hour minimum is worth about $1.40 an hour. To achieve the same real wage as the minimum of 15 years ago, a worker would have to earn $3.72 an hour.

In neither year did a full-time and year-round worker employed at a minimum wage earn the poverty level for a family of four, as established by the U.S. Government. Worse yet, workers have fallen farther behind since 1967. In February 1967, the minimum amounted to 86.5 percent of the poverty level; in December 1980, it was 73 percent.

The minimum wage is hopelessly inadequate. Families simply cannot exist on the full-time income of a person employed at that wage. A minimum wage income actually entitles families in many states to welfare, food stamp and other government aid.

Yet, some folks, seek to lower the existing minimum wage further by establishing a figure 25 percent lower for teenagers during their first half year at a particular job.

The proposal is advertised as creating new jobs for teenagers, particularly minority youngsters. Its real effect and probably its real goal is to lower wages, particularly in the service industries.

The subminimum wage would case chdos and hardships for the poorest workers in our society. It would result in adults being replaced by lower paid youngsters and the youngsters being fired when their six months expired. They would be replaced by new youngsters who could legally be hired at the subminimum.

The merry-go-round would go on among those employers who wanted to adhere to the law. The fact is that youngsters could be kept at the subminimum illegally for longer periods with our punishment since enforcement would be at a minimum due to the inadequate funds of the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department.

Instead of causing an increase in jobs, the subminimum would cause despair, anger and hunger.

ANDREAS MASON JR.

What's the future for the homeless

Many thousands of Americans, black, white, red, brown and yellow, are now discovering what a few of us have always known — there are too many standards for those who live in the American democracy - one for the middle class, with housing (mortgage) subsidies, taxation benefits, educational assistance, etc. - and one for the poor - an ever increasingly diminished portion of the good life in the United States, although it is the good life they have helped to build by standard wages - sub - standard housing - substandard nourishment.

By accepting a way of life that is "cheap" the middle class and the affluent and the wealthy have lived, and do live better lives.

What thousands are now beginning to understand, however, is that such a national way of life is precarious - any of us - any of us at all may slip into the class of poor people - any of us at all may lose our privileged status as a middle class, or as a member of the racial majority.

The rapidly growing recession and depression is throwing thousands of unsuspecting Americans out of jobs - out of comfortability - out of their houses - and, finally, out of their class, their neighborhood, and all that is familiar to them.

What happens to these people whose descent is such that they miss the safety net altogether?

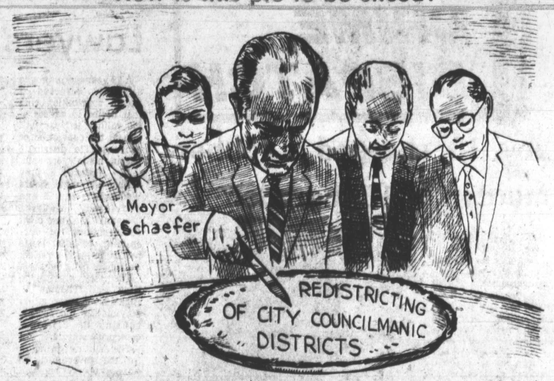
Along with these people - the new homeless, the old homeless continue to exist at the margin of society - victims of the indifference of the government, the officials of the country, and the leadership of our land -

If the bishops, the leadership of the church, and the political and social leaders of our land do not respond to the critical needs of the homeless an evergrowing reminder of the bankruptcy of the government's social policies - if they do nor respond, the biblical injunction will fall upon them.

But, as it falls upon them, the rest of will remain morally and religiously obligated to help the homeless - and as it falls upon them it will fall upon us. The time to act is now. Tomorrow will be too late, for, as the gospel tells us: "Work now, for the night cometh, when no man may work . . ."

Robert L. Robinson
Coordinator
James B. McConduit
President
National Black Lay
Catholic Caucus

How is this pie to be sliced?



Parren J. MITCHELL

Slavery in America still

The American Civil War did not cleanse this nation of slavery.

On Dec. 19, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution, ending one form of institutionalized slavery by replacing it with another. That Amendment states:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, EXCEPT AS A PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME WHEREOF THE PARTY SHALL HAVE BEEN DULY CONVICTED, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

The outrageous waste of human potential created by our prisons has always distressed me, but not until I studied the above passage from our Constitution did I realize why.

Last May, representatives of the Committee to Abolish Prison Slavery, a national prisoners' rights organization, called my attention to the Thirteenth Amendment's saving clause for prison slavery and explained that it was introduced in 1864 by a slave holding Senator from Missouri, but staunchly opposed by the great abolitionist Senator from Massachusetts, Charles Sumner.

They were seeking my participation in an ongoing struggle to restore the practices of citizenship, labor and human rights to prisoners and to the communities from which they come.

Part of that struggle includes amending the Thirteenth Amendment to delete the offensive exception.

Those of us who have continued the fight against poverty,racism, sexism and exploitation of labor knew that we have been carrying out the unfinished work of our abolitionist predecessors.

The most poignant victims of social, political and ecomic injustices come from poor communities. The majority of those convicted of crime are not strangers to oppression.

Government spends a national average of $10,000 per year just to keep one person in prison-enough to send that person to a public university while providing support for his or her family.

Rather than teaching prisoners non-violent alternatives to crime by empowering their practices of democratic responsibility, we deny them the right to vote, diminish their freedoms of press, speech and association, forbid their membership in labor unions while forcing or coercing them to work without decent wages and with no worker protections.

Is it no wonder that prisoners return to society more crippled than when they were taken away? Like the system of human bondage which victimized this nation before the Civil War, prison slavery victimizes all of us—prisoner, victim of crime, legislator and community member—and makes a mockery of our systems of justice.

Article 4 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibits slavery and the slave trade in all their forms," without exception.

While the U.S. Senate ratified Article 415 years ago, this great nation has not yet found the courage to strike the offensive provision for prison slavery found within its constitution, nor has it found the wisdom to restore basic citizenship rights to prisoners. Unwittingly, you and I have been paying taxes to support a system of punishment which maintains slavery.

I will be working with the Committee to Abolish Prison Slavery and with as many Congressional colleagues and grassroots community members as can be mobilized to purge our Constitution of the Thirteenth Amendment's provision for slavery.

I will also be working to help promote public understanding that those punishments formerly reserved for slaves can no longer be tolerated in this nation.

No one, absolutely not one under any circumstances, should be vulnerable to any form of slavery within this nation or any place subject to its jurisdiction.

Of course society has a valid claim in reducing crime, but it has an equal responsibility to provide each prisoner with real opportunity to restore himself or herself to a creative and productive role in society.

If we must incarcerate people to protect society, let us do it in a manner that will restore them as whole, healed and responsible citizens.

This requires the guaranteed practices of their citizenship, labor and human rights: the abolition of slavery "as a punishment for crime."

Madeline MURPHY

Serendipity and serenity

Last year, I complained a lot about personal dealings with good reason. Because the original Murphy's law "whatever can go wrong," did go wrong.

It began in midsummer with the accidental pulling of the plug on our freezer, by that horse of a dog for which I had professed such love, to the simultaneous "dying" of our refrigerator freezer—losses in the hundreds of dollars—as well as all those nicely picked and frozen fresh vegetables from the truck garden.

Then two days before our daughter's wedding the bathroom toilet overflowed into the living room. Things disintegrated from bad to worse, fragile glassed smashed in my hands, orders refused to come and wedding dresses arrived at the zero hour.

To cap the climax, at year's end after a trip to Chicago, my luggage got lost, with all my winter wardrobe.

My younger daughter, upon learning some valuable items had been stolen on her arrival in Los Angeles, responded to my alarm with, "Look Ma, they're only things after all."

"We come to a point where we really invest too much in things anyway," she said.

Here is the only way, to keep our sanity, that we must look at material losses, I guess. That is what "Gather not treasures on earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and thieves break in and steal... "actually means on reflection.

Yet also on reflection I am reminded of the children's record by Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians, the kids used to play over and over again called "L'il Orly and the Steam Engine".

You see L'il Orly was being consoled by a friend, that things were not half as bad as they seemed, without really knowing why L'il Orly was so sad.

So after what he thought was a convincing argument, he asked L'il Orly what he thought. Whereupon, in a droning unenthusiastic and plaintive voice Orly explained in song:

"Ha, ha, ha, hee, hee, hee, I'm just as happy as I can be, for I've lost my pet, my nanny goat, ran away, and it rained and it rained all day, but chuckle, chuckle, chuckle, giggle, giggle, giggle. I'm so happy I can hardly wiggle." Optimism was rally lost on L'il Orly!

Complaints usually caused the same refrain in our household, whenever the complaint level rose to outlandish proportions. After a chorus of "Ha, Ha, Ha," we'd all break out laughing.

It did not make the pain or anguish or loss any the less, but the levity in a perverse way put a healthy perspective on the urge to complain. And then again, how many times could we listen to that nonsense?

And so facing the New Year resolutions should become a task that will make some of those complaints go away; might get us out of th perverse distortion of the old saying: "don't do something just sit there" One might add, "sit there in the corner and suck your thumb!")

Taking the chance, however, that one might be judged according to Mark Twain, that "the only thing worse than a young pessimist is an old optimist" let us gird our loins, take a close look at ourselves, and begin to list ways that we can make the New Year less plaintive, more pallitable, and optimistic.

So here is a beginning universal list:

1. Do not talk, smoke, drink, eat or complain so much. Maybe we will hear what we are missing, see beyond the befuddled haze that what is on our plates is more than the average daily requirement, more than adequate.

Let us then reverse that old saying to: "don't just sit there, do something!" Perhaps that might get down, hugely on complaints, from "Why don't they do something" to "Why don't I"?

In this regard we might write more letters to the President, to Congress, to City Hall, rather than talk and complain among ourselves on that counter-productive treadmill we enjoy so much.

2. In social gatherings, it might help lots of us if we would adopt the motto: "If you can not say something good about someone, do not say anthing." But then that might definitely put a dent in the din, where conversation would come to a screeching halt.

So the addendum to that motto should be: "unless it is constructive", giving more play to conversation that will not always wind up as gossip.

3. If our complaints are horrendous, we should stop mulling over the problem, and begin forging constructive solutions and work on them daily.

After all we all have known the problems for years, we hear them ad nauseum at every fund raiser, rally and Sunday morning service. Let us not remain on dead center.

4. Finally, try meditating more and worrying less. After all worry rarely changes things.

Meditation is really the positive way of lowering blood pressure, getting digestive juices flowing, finally revving up the body to face the world with a bit more serenity. With serenity, maybe action of any kind becomes more positive.

Now with these four, I might have to put away the typewriter!

But ah, yes, I do need serenity mixed with a liberal amount of serendipity—"the faculty of happening upon or making fortunate discoveries when not in search of them."

Then probably the typewriter will work on its own, when I can sing, with glee: "Chuckle, chuckle, chuckle, giggle, giggle, giggle, I'm so happy I can hardly wiggle!"

G. JAMES FLEMING

Balancing pride with income

News from Memphis, Tenn., reveals that blacks there are trying to raise funds to buy the motel where Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., was shot down in cold blood—assassinated.

They want to turn the two-story building into a museum, in memory of one of the most revered human beings of the 20th Century and the most beloved and respected American of his time.

These Memphis citizens have had a struggle raising the $150,000 needed to make this purchase—and that figure is only the tip of the iceberg.

It takes many more thousands to create, expand and maintain a museum, the latter year after year, especially now that there may be no more federal handouts — directly or indirectly for such projects.

All of which forces the question, "Isn't it time for us blacks to find a way to balance our thrust for racial pride with a thrust also for income-generation?"

How different and exciting it would have been, if the news from Memphis had read something like this:

"A group of black Memphis men and women this week raised funds to buy the Lorraine Motel, the two-story building in which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated.

The buyers have three plans in mind:

(1) To find a developer who will convert the structure into apartments for middle-income people; or

(2) to find an enterpriser who will lease the building, office space with contracts, or bad pledges, that the mains would be rented; or

(3) to find a motel operator who might like to expand it into a first rate motel.

On the front of the rehabilitated building, a bronze plaque will be installed declaring it to be a memorial to the great black American beloved by all the world.

Such conversion, well managed, would bring forth profits—dollars which could be used to make possible other income-producing enterprises.

Another advantage would be that, since there is already a full-blown living memorial to Dr. King in Atlanta, there would not be a competing King "museum" not too far away in Memphis.

This suggested detour from the usual practice of more and more prestigious monuments which require freewill contributions, is presented here because black museums, by whatever name called, for the most part have had a hard time finding the resources to maintain them—resources expected largely from a conscionsy which has such higher priorities as providing food, shelter, health care and education for themselves and their families, amid inflation and unemployment at the present time, and always in the face of underemployment and low pay.

Then, too, most blacks are living on first-generation wealth—or non - wealth.

The tomb "museum" memorializing the founder-bishop of one of the leading black denominations, has been neglected and underdeveloped most of its years.

Frederick Douglass' home in Anacostia, in the District of Columbia, has been saved and given a face-lifting by latter-day government subsidy.

And, there are more examples. The handwriting on the wall, to repeat, says that there will be less, rather than more, government subsidy in the future.

This discussion is not a sermon against memorials to the men and women worthy of such high honor; certainly no attempt to take away any honor from the most deserving of modern human beings, Dr. King.

Neither is this intended to discourage those who venture, in faith to build for the future. It is rather a plea that we find ways to demonstrate racial pride with projects that can give employment to others, that can serve the living, and that can stimulate money income—money that can then be used to promote business or to support programs that Martin Luther King would have supported.

This column is intended as a challenge to all of us to pay more attention to becoming a more self-supporting people; to recognize that old-fashioned philanthropy is over, or near over; and that we must turn our dollars and cents to producing more of the same.

Even black churches will find, and are finding, that they must add income-producing, seven-days-a-week projects to their agenda.

To summarize, it seems that the time has come to convert the feeling of racial pridefulness into the practicalities of business, of buying and selling, of profit and loss, of making money talk for the race, instead of, or in addition to, oratory and "Passing the hat."

These Memphis citizens have had a struggle raising the $150,000 needed to make the down payment—and that figure is only the tip of the iceberg.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Just Thinking

A name like 'Tom' can hurt

By Al Sweeney

It was an old southern custom of both white racists and liberals alike to refuse to call a black man "mister."

Black men were referred to — and in some areas today — as "preachers," "doctor," "professor," "lawyer," "judge," you name it, but never "mister."

This tendency has been refined in the modern racist world through the labels tagged on black leaders. The media has picked them up such as: Ben Hooks as a "Black moderate civil rights leader;" Rev. Jesse Jackson and Congressman Ron Dellums as "Black activists;" Dr. Thomas Sowell as a "Black conservative;" "Delegate Walter Fauntroy as a "Black politician;" and so on — always "Black."

Black gridders are "speedy," whites are "crafty." Federal monies to black recipients are "welfare funds," while to the corporate sector are "subsidies."

So why get excited?
There's an axiom:
Sticks and stones may break my bones,
But names will never hurt me.

Not true! Names can hurt!

Out in Cleveland, Ohio, State Senator Morris Jackson is the focus of a raging debate among black politicians.

In Washington, D.C., Clarence Pendelton, a District native and now a San Diego, California resident has become a dart target of many so - called black sophisticates.

The stories of both men, I have known from the beginning of their climb in their selected fields.

As for Jackson, he was a watchmaker at a small pawn shop at 55th and Central Avenue in Cleveland, while I served as city editor of the Call - Post, located nearby.

Jackson was a leader of a neighborhood club in the Hough Area. He was outspoken in seeking assistance for residents in one of the town's most culturally deprived areas.

Jackson will tell all who will listen that this writer encouraged and counseled him to get into the political race.

That's his account. Being modest, I will not argue.

He upset the white lady councilman who had been riding high in the Hough Area and had the Democratic support and money behind her. At the time, blacks were kept out of the ward Democratic organization that operated in a community that was changing because of white flight to the suburbs.

As a city councilman, he was low - keyed and became party loyalist. When some politicians were building an organization for Carl Stokes to become mayor, Jackson remained outside, preferring to be loyal to the party.

When Stokes became mayor, Jackson was not looked upon by the Stokes' group as necessarily a favorite council supporter.

However, he supported Stokes on key issues.

Later, Charles Carr, one of the most astute politicians in Cleveland, coaxed Jackson into the race for state senate. "Coaxed" is the word. Carr, like the Bill Dawson of Chicago, was a master of politics by designing moves to keep white leaders upset and more responsive to black needs.

It was apparently Carr's intent to have Jackson run for the state senate, creating concern from the white state senator who seemed impervious to some of the black requests.

Lo and behold! Jackson won the state senator's race.

He became the first black in years to sit in Ohio's state senate. Never flashy, but experienced to the political mechanism of state politics he rose to the post of chairman pro temp of the state senate.

Two years ago, a group of Democrats pushed him out of his seat. One of the members of the successful rebel group was a white liberal Cleveland area politician Charles Butts. He emerged in politics as one of the leaders of Carl Stokes mayoral race and traded upon that fact to gain a seat in the Ohio senate.

In December, 1982, as the Democrats met in caucus to organize for 1983, Jackson sought to regain his seat as senate chairman. He failed to get his Democratic party support.

The joker in the game follows: The number of Democrats is 17, while the Republicans have 16.

The GOP leaders seized upon a scheme. They offered to support Jackson for senate chairman and exchange for leadership roles on various committees.

Jackson's dilemma: Should he accept the GOP offer or remain in the party?

Jackson declined with gratitude for the GOP offer.

Bowing to fervent pleas of the black Democratic party leaders, he decided not to make the change. An aide to one of the black Democratic senators called Jackson a "traitor" for even considering such an offer. This was written and distributed before he made his decision.

While a voter wrote Jackson that Santa needed to give him "a backbone for a Christmas present."

It took courage for whatever final decision he had to make. I, for one, will never call him an "Uncle Tom" or the degrading symbol the term means

He hasn't been flamboyant. He has been effective both in city council and in the state senate. He has been effective in supporting agencies and legislation that aids blacks.

I can recall the snowy winter day in the 1950's that Jackson accompanied this writer to get Cleveland School superintendant out of his downtown office to examine shoddy structure that housed the Hough Area Vocational School.

The principal of the school had tears in his eyes as he guided us through the rundown school. He confided that it was the first time a top city educator had visited the plant.

Out of that visit came a new Hough Area Vocational School. An excellent plant.

In the senate, Jackson fought to keep certain interests from slashing the funds of the state's FEP agency. He used his committee seat to keep the doors of Central State University open.

Those name - callers are not aware of the real Jackson.

The white Democratic liberals unfrocked Jackson from his state senate leadership in a callous manner.

Not only did they take away the trappings of the office, moved out his desk, they also did something that no man accepts without a battle — stripped him of his manhood.

That was the straw.

In his deliberations, he sought the advice of some pretty sound counselors. He is not the state senate chairman, but he will have assignments that will be meaningful.

Call him anything that you want. But, he is definately not a "Tom," or what the term implies.

Without getting into a long recitation of my long acquaintance of Pendelton, let me say flatly: He is not an "Uncle Tom" or whatever the term implies.

Some of those persons who are hurling darts in his direction are the same so - called leaders who stood silently by when Dr. Martin Luther King was being lambasted for his opposition to the Vietnam War.

The presence of Dr. King in demonstrations throughout the nation caused many of Pendleton's present critics to squirm when his Southern Christian Leadership team visited their areas.

Pendelton, the chairman of Civil Rights Commission has a record of good service in the league movement and has stood tall in many disputes.

Pendelton coached Howard's swimming teams to competition respectability and at San Diego his Urban League programs for housing and employment of blacks are blueprints for successful projects.

He needs no defense from this writer about his posture or his comments. He has to live or die with them.

But, a "Tom," that Pendelton is not. He has not been a member of the Urban "in" crowd. Like Jackson a "party loyalist" who was known to be a "nice guy," who took a licking without kicking, he, too, is nobody's Tom.

Both guys do things "their way."

Elizabeth M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS WEEK'S NEWS

And, of shoes, ships, cabbages and kings, degrees, credits, qualifications, standards

THE TIME HAS COME to speak out on many things from shoes and ships and sealing wax and cabbages and kings. . . and we add . . . credits, degrees and standards PLUS news in general.

NEW HIGHLIGHTS

THE YOUNG MAN who was slain when he refused to give up his radio to robbers was buried Thursday after services at Grace Memorial Baptist Church. Dr. A. C. D. Vaughn presided.

THE YOUTH sang in Vaughn's choir, worked steadily on a job.

HIS PARENTS are both dead.

THE RADIO was all he had close to his heart and he hated to give it up.

HEARTBREAKING also is the case of the youth slain when he refused to give up his $200 coat.

WHEN WE WERE in the Middle East, we noted the absence of crime in that crowded city of Cairo, doors open, no keys or bars at windows. Should a person steal, rape or murder, he is immediately executed publicly or his fingers cut off.

THIS is one way that works to prevent crime.

DR. BANKS ELECTED

CONGRATULATIONS to AFRO columnist Dr. Samuel L. Banks.

INSIDE TODAY is a news release from Washington on Banks being elected to the highest educational, academic and historical post — the national president of the world's oldest historical society . . the Asso. for the Study of Afro - American Life and History (ASALH.)

The society founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1915 is so recognized around the globe and includes such astute authorities as Dr. John Hope Franklin of Duke University; Dr. Benjamin Quarles, MSU, the author; Carroll Greene Jr., head of the nation's only black history commission, the Commission on Afro - American History and Culture — supported and established by the state of Maryland.

THE AFRO has held membership for three generations.

The Journal of Negro History published by ASALH is in every library on this continent. Dr. Banks also heads the Associated Publishers which is registered under the Association. Ms. Willie Miles is director.

ANOTHER MEMBER is Ms. Pauline Young, relative of Paul Laurence Dunbar. A resident of Wilmington, DE, Ms. Young has all the famed poet's original manuscripts. Dr. Gossie Hudson of Morgan has written excellent essays on Dunbar. Over 400 U.S. schools are named for Dunbar.

DR. BANKS' INAUGURATION which will come soon, will summons the greatest men and women of history, black and white, to greet him.

NEWS of his election (which came by secret ballot from 12,000 members across 'the land,) is being hailed in all major newspapers as a stellar event.

QUALIFIED LEADERS

KIRK SCHMOKE, new states attorney, has all necessary degrees, licenses, permits and qualifications for his legal profession and more.

SAUNDRA BANKS has educational and academic requirements for her post as head of the Maryland court system.

DR. OAKLEY SAUNDERS and other physicians at Provident Hospital have degrees, licenses, permits, whatever, for the medical profession.

JUDGE BILLY MURPHY has a Massachusetts Institute of Technology degree plus degrees for the law profession, enough to qualify many times.

JUDGE ROBERT BELL has everything educationally and otherwise — the highest of the law profession.

DENTISTS by the dozens are degreed and licensed to practice.

MINISTERS and preachers by the dozens have EARNED masters and Ph.D. degrees to qualify for their profession.

TEACHERS, administrators in Baltimore city schools and colleges have met the legal requirements of earned masters and Ph.D.s, over 400 of them . . . or more.

CREDITS AND COURSES

MISCELLANEOUS credits and courses do NOT qualify judges, lawyers, physicians, teachers, ministers for licenses in their professions.

CAN A MAN (without medical degrees) qualify as a doctor because he has applied bandages, splints, pulled a tooth or recommended linimint for aches and pains for years and years? Or had Red Cross first aid courses?

NO MATTER how many kids a mid - wife may have delivered, she can not qualify as a physician and practice medicine.

HEAVEN FORBID.

THE FIELD OF JOURNALISM has John H. Murphy III, graduate of Temple; Ida Peters, graduate of Wisconsin U in journalism; Jake Oliver, degrees from U of Md., Fisk and Columbia in his legal field and many others. John J. Oliver Sr., a Rector scholar and graduate of DePauw University. The late Dr. Carl Murphy finished Harvard.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM has stern, unmovable laws and requirements for earned degrees in all areas of education, specialization and administration . . . without exception.

THE BALTIMORE SCHOOLS, legally responsible for education of thousands of children, regardless of race, are the largest business with a budget in the millions . . . of taxpayers dollars.

WHO is licensed to lower the standards in any respect?

MANY QUESTIONS ARISE: Why shall not the parents demand their children have the benefits of the highest qualifications for teachers?

WHY shall not they expect to receive the highest without a fight or hassle? DOES this have to do with race?

WHY can't professionals in education observe the law just as lawyers, doctors, judges, dentists, ministers? Don't they respect the profession? or the children?

Tony Brown's Comments

Are blacks becoming extinct?

This column should not be interpreted as an endorsement of a business offer or the advocacy of any specific proposal related to the ideas that I will share.

Instead, I am pleasantly struck by any African-American who wants to help solve our problems with a practical formula for liberation. You judge for yourself the philosophy and strategies of Black Marketing Concepts of Memphis, Tennessee.

In a mailer signed by J.A. Blackman who identifies himself as president of the company, the reader is told that: this is a genuine offer to bring "about economic prosperity for Black Americans" in a "bold" plan. Sounded pretty good, I thought, but it seems that just about every "thinker" goes this far.

"Let us not delude ourselves any longer. Black America is in trouble!" After more sociological and philosophical meanderings— "Our Black men cry out", and "We all cry out for respect"—the letter moves on to something of more substance.

"The time to act is now! The one to act is you! We can no longer depend on a larger than life white knight to come riding to our rescue on a big, white steed. Our future is in our hands." Right direction, I thought.

"We believe there must be a sound and stable economic base from which to operate. It is our contention, supported by unbiased research that the vast majority of the ills in our communities result from this lack of a stable economic base.

"Our research also shows that without a stable and strong economic base there can be no real or lasting gains made in the political and social arena." Was I reading something that I wrote? "Divided we cannot win! Together we cannot lose!" Okay, now what do you propose?

"Our program will shift into full gear in 1983. During this period our company will be making tours to major American cities with large Black populations to present our program to potential investors. Our goal is to raise a very modest $100 million. A modest sum in light of the assets and resources which exist within our own control. If we are not willing to invest in ourselves then we are not willing to progress as a race.

"If we are unwilling to invest either time or money in the cause of economic liberation for all Black Americans there can be no hope for us as a race!" Makes sense.

"There are a multitude of goods and services we, as Black people, ought to be providing for ourselves. This will be the role of Black Marketing Concepts. Determing the demands of Blacks and supplying them. We will organize this enormous market through a series of well planned and researched steps."

They explained that the researched information will be available to anyone who wishes to reach the "New Black Consumer. By 'New Black Consumer' we mean the new Black consumer we will help to create through programs of consumer education and information.

"How do you plan to accomplish such a gigantic undertaking? By changing not only the way Whites think of us, but the way we think of ourselves. We are realists as well as business people. We fully realize that to significantly alter the life style of Blacks we must first create an environmentconducive to Black progress.

"That's quite an ambitious program. Do you really believe you can pull it off? We not only believe we can, we know we can...But first, we have to alleviate the disorganization, disunity, apathy, and despair within our own ranks." Their self-solicited answers continued in a quite interesting way.

It is at least refreshing to see some African-Americans tackle the idea of trying to think out the utter paradox of our existense in this country. Who knows, maybe they can pull it off. As the letter says, if you can conceive a thing, you can produce it.

As I said, I am not endorsing anything in their proposal, but if you want their literature, the company is located at P.O. Box 3778, Memphis, Tennessee 38103.

I do agree, however, with their answer to the question: "Where will Black Americans be in the year 2000? Extinct, if we don't wake up. We've got to realize a strong economic base is essential to the survival of any race or culture. Especially in a historically hostile environment."

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, Friday, at 11 p.m. Please consult listings.

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