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Civiletti school aid plan

Four months ago, Governor Hughes named an 18 - member-commission to study how the state finances public education in the 23 county school systems and Baltimore city, and to recommend changes to reduce per pupil disparities.

Former U.S. Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti, chairman, and his 17 associates, attacked the assignment diligently. Last week, they presented the Governor with two five - year spending plans.

Both of them recognize that Baltimore city is at the bottom of the totem pole in state funding and would allocate extra monies to correct inequities. Rural county systems would also benefit.

This is as it should be. There is no reason whatsoever why pupils in affluent county school systems should have educational services which are denied children in the city and the poorer counties.

The Civiletti Commission has lived up to its charge. It has worked hard and long all summer to design an equitable school aid plan. One would cost $180 million, the other, $244 million.

The AFRO is glad Gov. Hughes has expressed support for the higher option, also favored by a majority of the Civiletti Commission members.

AFRO readers should be aware that three black leaders played a key role in developing the commission's findings. They are, State Senator Clarence L. Blount, State Teachers' Association Director James W. Spencer and Howard County Councilman, Dr. C. Vernon Gray. They have done their work to help the Commission take an important step in the right direction.

When the General Assembly begins its deliberations in January 1984, the Civiletti school and proposal should be high on the agenda. For too long, Maryland has been unique in finding monies for those who have, and in neglecting the needs of the have-nots.

It is to Governor Hughes' credit that he wants to correct this. He has ample ammunition from his Civiletti Commission report.

AFRO readers should urge their elected officials to support the new school aid plan, and should be willing to pay increased taxes, if necessary to provide equal educational opportunities for all the state's elementary and secondary school pupils.

The meaning of Hanukkah

We are in the midst of the Hanukkah celebration, a Jewish holiday about which much of the gentile world knows little. To the end of offering some information with regard to this holy period that extends until Dec. 8, the AFRO requested Mrs. Beryl Gottesman, educational director of the Religious School of Beth Israel Synagogue to explain its meaning. Here is her account:

Hanukkah commemorates the first recorded historical struggle for cultural and religious freedom. This occurred during the time of Judah Maccabee when he and his five brothers led a revolt against King Antiochus, a Syrian-Hellenist, and Hellenized Jews who wanted to impose Hellenistic-Greek culture and religion upon the Jews of Palestine. The Jews were willing to accept political domination by the Syrians as long as they were not forced to give up their own religious practices.

When King Antiochus tried to impose religious domination on the Jews of Palestine, they rebelled under the leadership of Judah Maccabee. The struggle lasted for about three years from 166 B.C.E. (Before the Common Era) to 165 B.C.E. At the end of these three years Judah and his small army entered triumphantly into Jerusalem. He and his followers cleansed the Temple at Jerusalem and rededicated it to the worship of God. The word, Hanukkah, means dedication in Hebrew.

According to legend, when Judah got to the Temple at Jerusalem he found enough pure olive oil to re-kindle the Menorah, a ceremonial seven-branched candelabrum of the Jewish Temple symbolizing the seven days of Creation. Exodus 37:17-24. The oil, which should have lasted for one day only, miraculously lasted for eight days. This is why the holiday is celebrated by lighting a special Hanukkah Menorah, having nine branches, for eight days using a special oil Menorah or lighting candles.

Many people equate Christmas and Hanukkah because they both come at approximately the same time of the year. Although lights play a predominant role in both holidays, that is the only similarity. Up until the commemoration of Christmas the practice of giving gifts was not prominent as it is today.

In older days, which some of us can still remember children received Hanukkah gelt (money) a few coins for each night of the holiday. Hanukkah remains a holiday commemorating the resistance of the Jewish people to assimilation and their defense of religious and ethnic freedom.

Letters to the Editor

The Caribbean dream 'raped'

Five days after the Senate voted affirmatively on a bill to create a national holiday to commemorate Martin Luther King's American Dream, the government was plotting the death of a Caribbean dream.

There are obvious parallels between the events regarding Grenada and the campaign against Dr. King before and after his death. Dr. King's detractors were mainly southern racists and their representatives in the United States Congress. In the case of the Grenadian Revolution, the detractors were the CIA and the U.S. government under the Carter and Reagan administrations.

We concede that there was a tense climate after the shocking news of the incident that led to comrade Bishop's death, but the revolutionary military council maintained contact with the people, however unsatisfactory, and with the outside world to which it communicated its intention to maintain good relations and promised that a civilian government would be named within 14 days.

President Reagan though was quick to point out that Bishop's death had no precedent in the Eastern Caribbean and was unacceptable to any civilized society.

We agree.

The principles of non-intervention and of self-determination which are fundamental to the maintenance of world peace, however, were raped by the U.S. invasion of Grenada — which may prove to be a "Caribbean Massacre" as more information is released once the censorship imposed by the U.S. military is completely removed.

Serge D. Elie

NAACP REPORT:

Jackson Oil and the NAACP

By Magdalene Fennell

What plan makes it possible for Baltimoreans to purchase a needed product, patronize a black business, and support their local civil rights organization, all at the same time? The answer to the question lies in the agreement recently reached between the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP and the Jackson Oil Company.

According to the agreement, Jackson Oil will contribute $10 to the NAACP for each of the first 1,000 persons signing up for automatic fuel delivery. Because many persons had arranged for automatic delivery before the agreement was announced, the company will donate $10 to the NAACP for each individual who purchases 50 gallons of oil, even though that individual has not signed up for automatic delivery.

This aspect of the agreement will enable persons having accounts with other companies to support the NAACP by ordering 50 gallons from Jackson Oil on a one time basis.

To inform the public of the contract, the consenting parties are in the process of distributing 10,000 fliers through churches, social and civic organizations, and their respective offices. Should all 10,000 fliers motivate purchases, Jackson Oil will make a $100,000 donation to the NAACP.

Each flier contains a tear-off that customers must use if they want the NAACP to receive the $10 donation. The tear-off contains a first person statement expressing the customer's wish to have the oil company donate $10 to the NAACP.

It also contains assurance that after 50 gallons of oil have been purchased, the customer is "not liable for anything else." Spaces are provided, of course, for the patron's name, delivery address, and phone number.

Persons who wish to receive one of the fliers may call either Jackson Oil (426-5700) or the NAACP (396-5290), and one will be sent through the mail. When oil ordered is delivered, the coupon on the flier should be given to the driver. Those not at home when delivery is made should mail or carry their coupons to Jackson Oil. Questions about this offer may be directed either to the NAACP or to Jackson Oil Company. Wythers T. Jackson, who founded the oil company in 1963, started with one small truck. His dream was to "sell the best quality products at the best prices to the widest range of customers." What began as a one man operation now provides employment for 34 people.

The one truck has grown into a fleet of 21 units housed in a terminal of six acres on Braddish Ave. In 1980 the company ranked 16th among black-owned businesses in the nation and first in the state of Maryland. That same year residential, industrial, and federal sales of the company exceeded $5 million. The agreement between Jackson Oil and the NAACP provides the opportunity for all persons who feel with oil to join the struggle and strike a blow for freedom, justice, and equality.

Just Thinking

Goban's minister dies; US 40 hoax story lives

By Al Sweeney

The honorable Orfa Ordibeau, minister of finance of Goban, died on Wednesday, Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Eve.

He died instantly on a racquet ball court in a recreational club located just across the Southeast District line in Forestville, Md.

He was 59, when officially pronounced dead in a Southeast Washington Hospital. Who was Ordibeau? Where is the nation Goban located?

Both were created in the newsroom of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers in the corporate headquarters in Baltimore.

They were the figments of the imagination of Carl Murphy, publisher of the AFRO newspapers. Carl Murphy was a dynamic figure in black journalism. He constantly prodded his news staff into digging deep beneath the surface on issues of the day. He wanted the findings to be written in an understandable and entertaining fashion.

Why Ordibeau and Gobon, you continue to ask.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy was in the first year of his presidency. He had succeeded Dwight D. Eisenhower in the White House.

While Eisenhower was president, Dr. Mary Church Terrell had led demonstrators to batter down the racial barriers to the eating and housing facilities within the District of Columbia.

Dr. Terrell and her supporters filed a suit against the Thompson Restaurant in downtown Washington. While the case lumbered slowly through the judicial process to the Supreme Court, her anti-discrimination movement picketed D.C. eating facilities that refused to serve blacks.

Finally, the Supreme Court ruled that a law passed by District home rule assembly back in the 1870's was valid and in force and blacks had a right to "eat anywhere" in D.C. The heading "Eat Anywhere" which hailed the Supreme Court's edict in the Washington AFRO-AMERICAN is considered a classic.

On the heels of the high court's ruling, President Kennedy as the chief executive of the District issued an order that all District public facilities were open to all persons.

But, that was in the District.

During the early days of the Kennedy administration, a group of African diplomats were denied service at a Howard Johnson dining room located along U.S. Route 40.

The resultant publicity was a stern message to the restaurant owners along U.S. 40 to discontinue the practice of denying service to foreign delegations.

Carl Murphy seized upon the situation to create the African nation of Gobon. The assignment was to test the impact of the Kennedy announcement.

Members of the diplomatic test team were Herbert Maugrum, head of the delegation, known as Orfa Ordibeau, minister of finance from Gobon.

Rufus Wells, known as Luaka Akkiulu, administrative aide.

George Collins, named Akiem Abdu, press spokesman.

I. Henry Phillips as the delegation's photographer.

Minister Odibeau (Maugrum) was attired in an elegant robe and was wearing a classy, silk turban, with an appropriate symbol and flashy diamonds.

Wells and Collins were in formal long-tailed jackets, striped trousers and top hats.

The entourage traveled in a long, black limousine that was chauffered with a driver appropriately attired with cap and all.

The limousine was donated by a Baltimore funeral home.

The entourage began their test at the Madison House Restaurant on the northeast section of Route 40 that led to the Delaware bridge that connected with the Pennsylvania Turnpike that ended in New York City.

Old Route 40 was the main route from Baltimore to New York prior to the present toll road.

The group drove up to the Madison House. Akiiulu (Wells) got out of the limousine first and then Abdu (Collins) before Minister Orbidibeau alighted playing his role to the hilt.

Once they entered the establishment that was some scurrying around before the manager and the employees decided to seat the group.

A waitress who was thrilled about it all asked the minister for his autograph. Ordibeau looked towards his press aide, Abdu, for an explanation.

Abdu in his best acquired accent told the waitress that his excellency couldn't speak English. But he would consider the request.

While the waitress was getting the order together they went into a huddle about the autograph. The minister told them not to worry.

At the conclusion of the meal, the waitress repeated her request. The minister (Maugrum) by an instant reach wrote his autograph on receiving his delight.

The press aide Abdu (Collins) nearly fainted. He felt the cover was about to be blown. The waitress happily accepted the autograph and tucked it down in her bosom.

The group continued on toward Baltimore to the Redwood Inn. There after the usual reluctance, the manager informed the delegation that they could eat in the dining room.

However, the photographer Phillips would have to eat in the kitchen.

"We wouldn't serve him at all, if it weren't for you," it was said. "We don't serve Negroes, Africans yes, because President Kennedy told us so."

The group took their seats, diner manager asked to see their permits.

Press aide Abdu (Collins) became indignant. "That's an insult to his Excellency."

He gibbered to the minister (Maugrum). He went into a display of anger. He muttered in broken Swahili his disgust. The group stomped out and got into the limousine.

Meanwhile, the manager of the diner followed them. "I am sorry. Come back. I didn't mean to insult you. I don't want the State Department to close my place. Come back."

As they headed back to Baltimore, they were in stitches with laughter. They couldn't eat anything more that day because of the two prior meals.

Collins decided to stop at a booth along the highway to inform Carl Murphy about their success.

The publisher who always got everything out of a story had one more stop.

"Go to the Miller Brothers Restaurant in downtown Baltimore," was the Carl Murphy order.

After hanging up, Collins told the group.

"Damn," they chorused.

Collins, the press aide, regularly covered City Hall, while Mangrum, the minister, was assigned the courthouse beat.

"We'll get exposed," they felt.

Dutifully, they went to the Miller Brothers Restaurant. They met the usual reluctance but with the intervention of the maitre de they were served.

While they were dining, someone called the daily Sun-papers about the African group that was eating in the Miller Brothers Restaurant.

Collins spied a Sun reporter approaching the eatery. "Let's get out of here," he said.

The group hightailed it to the waiting limousine, while Collins was in the rear because he had to pay the bill.

The reporter approached Collins, who had pulled his top hat to cover his face, while he moved swiftly to the car.

"Anything going on," asked the press aide.

"No! No! Nothing!" he replied while entering the car.

"Can I talk to the minister," asked the reporter.

The limousine headed for the AFRO on Eutaw Street, called Carl Murphy. He had the group quarantined in the newsroom until the presses rolled and the illustrated story hit the streets.

Meanwhile, the reporters at the Sunpaper were rolling in the aisle after reading about how one of their top scribes had been had.

Maugrum died last week. The survivors of the Route 40 scoop attended the funeral service.

Wells, now an information specialist at the Department of Agriculture; Collins, an executive of Baltimore's Channel Two; and Phillips, a free lance photographer, were at the funeral ceremonies as pallbearers.

After Mangrum, who labored for years at the USIA, the Agriculture Department and the Commerce Department, was lowered into his final resting place, they recounted the U.S. 40 "hoax."

It all summed up the Black Experience. One of irony. Humor. Laughing to keep from crying.

The Satanical list

Dear AFRO:

There are dangerous persons within factions of this society who do not like children. Each year thousands of these precious little citizen are destroyed, both physically and mentally.

Women, the elderly, the cripple, blacks and other minorities also appear to be on a satanical list. It is all to clear that the only acceptable members of this society are upper middle and upper class white males.

With further development in genetic engineering; possible expansion of the theories involving cloning as well as the advancement of robotics perhaps, the white, well-to-do male will be the only recognizable human in the United States of the future.

Could it be that, "The Stepford Wives", was not entirely fantasy?

GERALDINE PRETTIMAN

G. JAMES FLEMMING: YOU READ THEM HERE

Legislative Black Caucus doing homework

[illegible] listened....and [illegible] taking a [illegible] searching [illegible] there, but [illegible]....; they [illegible] of the [illegible] Black [illegible]

[illegible] legislators were at [illegible] annual [illegible] ago—doing [illegible] preparation for [illegible] Senate and [illegible] delegates. They [illegible] session, a few [illegible] Port Deposit, for [illegible] the Donald-son [illegible] Treasee Center, a [illegible] Maryland facility.

[illegible] factory, for [illegible] or argumentation, to the delight of the [illegible] districts, they [illegible] listened....listened.

They listened to a number non-Caucus members and a number of non-legislators from different state agencies and private organizations whom the Black Caucus had invited to come and explain, clarify, enlighten, update ...They studied graphs, had statistics translated, they followed slide talks....they listened.

These 24, with a handful of visiting county commissioners, were gathered together because they want to be better informed, because they want the tools which will make them more effective lawmakers, because they wish to serve their people and their state more thoroughly.

Those men and women, under the leadership of Senator Clarence Blount, incumbent chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, were serious — deadly serious, funeral admonishes. There was not even a hint.

After looking ahead to the expected problems facing the General Assembly, with the aid of Speaker of the House Benjamin L. Cardin and Senate President Melvin A. Steinberg, the group turned to the "Key Issues Facing the Black Caucus," led by Senator Clarence Mitchell.

Then, to just a sample of the [illegible] who appeared, there came Frank Hall, executive secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, who discussed the special problems of the state's prisons and the present thinking and options under planning.

There were also much-questioned Martin M. Puncke, director of the Maryland Lottery Agency; Dr. T. Albert Farmer Jr., chancellor of the University of Maryland at Baltimore, who discussed how the University of Maryland Hospital is governed; and Constance R. Biems, the governor's appointments secretary, who expanded on the report of the Governor's Task Force on Violence and Extremism.

Other information-sharing was participated in by Ruth Massinga, executive secretary Department of Human Resources; Herbert [illegible] deputy secretary, Department of Natural Resources; Dr. Brent M. Johnson, executive secretary, Department of Employment Security and Training; Adele Wilzack, executive secretary, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and Earl F. Seboda, executive secretary, Department of General Services.

There was also in-depth attention to education and transportation and the part that state aid plays, or should play, in the support of these functions. Delegate William H. Cox, Jr., of the Special Joint Commission of Transportation, spoke on the reasons for the existence of his group and pointed to the new Baltimore City subway as an example of the state's interest in moderning transportation.

Higher education was dealt with by Dr. Shelton Knoor, executive director, the State Commission on Higher Education, but most of the interest was centered on establishment of an engineering school at Morgan State University—a matter on which Dr. Shelton and Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president of Morgan did not exactly see eye to eye.

The Caucus did learn, however, that Morgan has already employed a dean of engineering who will take office in January. Charles Tildon, president, Community College of Baltimore, told of the special problems of his institution—problems that call for more funds than the institution presently receives from all sources.

The members of the Caucus, as mentioned earlier, raised searching questions. They also showed special interest in those state enterprises that generate opportunities for employment. The resource people were long on facts, not blaming or begging the question, not just posturing. They were equal to the purpose of the retreat—the Maryland Black Legislative Caucus engaging in some homework.

AFRO Survey

Are you better off this Christmas?

Kim Epps — Scott Melvin — Ward Scott — Jacqueline Jordon

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "Will you be better off this Christmas?"

Kim Epps, 30, photographer, "Christmas will be better than last year for me. This year I have more money and am able to go out and get more things. I will be able to better provide for my family."

Scott Melvin, 39, nursing assistant, "I can't really tell. Right now things are so shaky. However, I'm doing fine and I'm not complaining. There is so much hope for an abundance of things this Christmas."

Ward Scott, 27, technician, "My financial situation is better. In fact, there may be even more money coming in. I think this Christmas will go well for me. I going to get more and my family will get more."

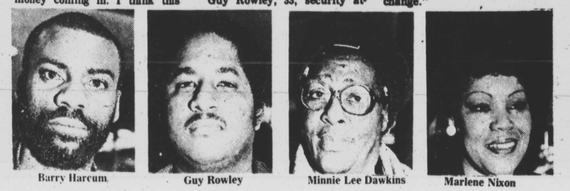
Jacqueline Jordon, 19, sales clerk, "I didn't work last year, so you know I'm going to be better off. I'm just all around better prepared this year. This makes me happy because it gives me an opportunity to do things that I wanted to last Christmas but couldn't."

Barry Harcum, 30, security attendant, "Of course this Christmas will be so much better. My attitude is different about the way things are. My situation is better. Besides, it's good to keep a positive attitude even when things might be bad."

Guy Rowley, 33, security attendant, "Every year I try to do better than I did the year before. It's my personal goal to achieve and shoot for more, especially since I have a family. Christmas will definitely be better this year."

Minnie Lee Dawkins, 62, unemployed, "Christmas will not be the same this year. I'm unemployed. Last Christmas I was working, able to do more and just all around better able to provide for myself. I'm going to make the best of it though."

Marlene Nixon, 40, salesperson, "Oh yes! Christmas will be so much better. I think I've made a better adjustment to the economy. Basically, I'm learning to adapt to a situation I cannot change."



Barry Harcum — Guy Rowley — Minnie Lee Dawkins — Marlene Nixon

COMMENTARY:

'The' Hopkins—mighty institution

By Anthony Armstrong

As you walk through the long narrow pastel colored corridors of this massive place you cannot help but be simultaneously enlarged and humbled by what is probably the mightiest machine for delivering health care anywhere in America.

You are in the mighty Johns Hopkins Hospital. What they do here, all 13,000 people, produces the fullest range of human responses anyone can experience in one contained place. Every emotion from vile cursing to effusive praise can and does run through one's senses in the short distance it takes to go, say, from your doctor's office to the billing counter.

People do things differently here; they do them right. So much so that most people, who are not sick, take Johns Hopkins Hospital for granted. Say what you will, and people say a lot, the world, this nation, our state, and our city (particularly East Baltimore) is better because Hopkins exists.

Statistically, Johns Hopkins Hospital reads more like a Fortune 500 company than a hospital. Its employee count makes it the largest employer in the city. The $83 million dollars in salaries it pays those workers is larger than any other organization of its kind in the entire state.

The hospital's $223 million asset base, its $176 million in annual operating expenses, its 1,000 plus beds, occupied almost ninety percent of the time, are certainly impressive statistics for any hospital.

Enough people come and go through its Christ adorned main entrance in one year than live in the towns of Columbia, Annapolis, and Hagerstown put together. In a given day the hospital's dietary staff prepare and serve more meals, many of them tailored to strict medical requirements, than the Hilton and the Hyatt hotels.

Its quasi-independent laundry, The Maryland Hospital Laundry, is itself a thriving business that not only does the laundry for Johns Hopkins but several other area hospitals as well. Combined in its staff is many more years of highly specialized training than Mehusselah's nine hundred and sixty-nine years.

At Johns Hopkins Hospital new buildings seem to pop-up out of the ground like dandelions in Spring. Here, it is simply not enough to be just a doctor.

The men and women who run the institution are universally considered among the best in their field. To name drop its name is an automatic entree to respectability. It is one of the few organizations in the world that can get away with the otherwise pompous titling "The" Hopkins. If you could somehow pick the whole operation up and simultaneously move it to another location in the country, there is no place that would reject its' choosing them.

The Johns Hopkins staff of nineteen hundred full and part-time doctors do some eighteen thousand surgical procedures a year. More than thirteen hundred nurses do their work augmented by a volunteer force of another twelve hundred people. Together, the cadre of professionals, semi-professionals, and non-professional constitute an army of medical delivery personnel not matched anywhere in the state and probably the entire country.

But just how good is Johns Hopkins Hospital at doing what it is supposed to do: make the sick and the maimed well again? Does the hospital's actions match its reputation? Obviously, no hospital does everything equally well.

At teaching institutions, like Johns Hopkins however, the minimum tends to approach the best that is currently available in the field of medicine. If you ask professionals who know, they would say that many Maryland hospitals do a number of major medical procedures very well.

The University of Maryland Hospital has the best trauma center in the country - no question. Their work in the field of infant crime death is also considered on the cutting edge of progress in this most mysterious of medical phenomenon.

Union Memorial Hospital has a long history of renown in the field of reconnective surgery, with some of the procedures developed there being nothing short of mind bobbling artistry.

Even much maligned City Hospital has won great respect for its Burn Treatment Center. Yet none of these hospitals has gained a national reputation in so many different areas of medical involvement as has Johns Hopkins.

In fact, few hospitals including the Stanford Medical Center in California, Massachusetts General in Boston, or the medical center at Rice University in Texas, all world renown medical institutions, have gained the overall respect of The Hopkins. However, any place that can be so heralded can be lambasted too.

Some of the reputation and respect is forthcoming because Johns Hopkins is a teaching hospital, and as such tends to take-on the frontier problems in medical care. These kinds of involvements bring with them the publicity that more mundane medical interest do not.

This point aside, Hopkins has earned its reputation not just because it attempts the new and glamorous but because its results, in these areas, have been considered often "break-through" in nature.

The list reads like a good Michael Creighton novel: heart-lung research, sex change research and surgery (the surgery is no longer being done at Hopkins), cancer research, The Kennedy Institute for Handicapped Children, psychiatric research, The Children's Medical and Surgical Center and more.

The real measurement of a hospital, however, is how well it handles the broken bones, the high blood pressure, the pain of the little boy's ear ache. Indices such as minimal and maximal care audits, incidents of care figures, mortality rates, financial strength, staff training and development are of no concern to a patient who comes to the hospital with any of these problems; or in my case, with his finger hanging off from an accident with a rip saw.

They are no concern either to a world renown doctor who finds himself paralyzed. These people want to feel better fast. Hopkins handles these problems very well too.

The world renown doctor is none other than Albert B. Sabin, the developer of the vaccine that helped to conquer the dread polio. The average guy with his finger hanging off is me. Dr. Sabin almost died in Johns Hopkins Hospital because someone did not check to see if his tracheal-bronchial tube was sufficiently open to allow his continued breathing.

He was saved by an untrained assistant hired by his wife to watch him every minute of the day. Yet, even after such an experience, he still has high praise for the overall expertise and life saving treatment he received at Hopkins.

My story is different. I was rushed to Johns Hopkins after my finger had slipped into the blade of a rip saw, last year. The finger went flying through the air, and all I could do was stand there almost in shock, watching my hand bleed like crazy. I too have high praise for Hopkins. They stopped my pain! They repaired my hand during a six hour operation. They treated me with sensitivity and respect during my entire three week stay there.

Although the cost came to over $10,000, every penny was money well spent. At the risk of making an unsolicited advertisement, if I had to go to the hospital again, I would gladly go to the mighty, mighty Hopkins. Baltimore, especially East Baltimore, should thank the Christ at the door that Johns Hopkins Hospital exists. That's how good it is.

From seed to Fruit:

Get told!

By Charles Dugger

We Ghet-Told that we live in the ghetto, and we accept it. We get told that we, black people, had better get together, and we reject it. We Ghet-Told that we are inferior, culturally-deprived, unproductive, and lazy; and we accept it. We get told that we, black people, are kings and queens, pyramid builders, and the fathers and mothers of civilization; and we reject it.

We Ghet-Told that our "ghetto" children are hyperactive and need tranquilizers, are disruptive, and are abusive; we accept it. We get told that our black children are not being properly challenged, directed, and taught; and we reject it.

We Ghet-Told that the "ghetto" is full of crime, and we accept it. We get told that, in truth, crime is a game that the Caucasian plays to confuse, separate, and control us; and we reject it. We get told, also, that most of the crime in the United States is on television and not in black communities; and we also reject this truth.

We Ghet-Told that many "ghetto" children will end up dead, in jail, on drugs, or alcoholics; and we accept it. We get told that black children in our communities will be tomorrow's leaders if we love and work with them; and we reject it.

We Ghet-Told that everyone wants to escape the "ghetto", and we believe it. We get told that the "ghetto" for black people is nothing but a state of mind; and we say, "That's a lie." We get told, also, that urban renewal in most major cities has actually been urban removal of black people and we reject it. Furthermore, although we have witnessed the advent of absurdly-priced condominiums and houses, we still have not as a constantly unified community of people challenged the Caucasian power structure for its gross evil practices and injustices, such as destroying rent control here and permitting landlords to let their properties in black communities deteriorate and not be prosecuted for gross housing code violations.

We get told and have been told the truth by our ancestors and by our positive people of today. Unfortunately and sadly, we still get tokens, and we still get taken.

The biggest problem with us is that we are always "ghetting-told" by the Caucasians and not by ourselves. Now, too many of us are on a "ghetto" head trip, in a "ghetto" mindset "ghetto" mental pattern, or playing sick and evil "ghetto" games. Some of us are on a "ghetto" merry-go-round. There are rats like "Ben", pushers like "Superfly", pimps like the "Mack", alcoholics with cirrhosis of the liver instead of their pride and decency, and drug addicts with abcesses as well as closed minds and hearts instead of their natural radiant minds and spirits.

Brothers and sisters, these are all only states of mind that we have been Ghet-told, programmed, and indoctrinated to accept and adopt. It is time that we come out of the "ghetto".

The "ghetto" today is real only because we have accepted negativism and rejected ourselves. We have been Ghetting-Told the negatives and the falsehoods for too long. We have been allowing ourselves to be victimized by deception, racism, and injustice for too long. Thinking negatively and lacking pride, determination, and faith, have been keeping us down, keeping us disunited, and keeping us under the Caucasian's control for too long. We are human beings not "ghetto" dwellers or underclass persons. WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS!

We must get to telling our people to get together everyday and in everyway. Hey, it won't be hard once we TAKE THE GHETTO OUT OF OUR MINDS AND PUT TOGETHERNESS IN OUR MINDS!

Let us turn the "ghetto" around to get to our true natural selves. Let us turn ourselves around. Cut loose the "ghetto" programmer. Let us get together. Let us come together and create beautiful possibilities for ourselves that are yet to be. Let us love and listen to ourselves. Our children, our future, are waiting for us to get ourselves together. WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS!

Militants' role

Dear AFRO:

This is not to suggest that I was in agreement with all of their tactics, strategy, and methodology. However, I have to agree that the Black Militants have been responsible for deepening the American conscientiousness of the immediacy, magnitude, and danger of the racial crisis in the cities. They quickened America's concern about the opportunity for jobs for blacks in all areas of American life. They challenged and stirred the American mind and conscience about the exclusion of the cultural achievements of Black America from the historiography of our American society. They vigorously stressed the need of the Blacks' interest in self-help. They accented the search for identity and the Africans contribution of an ancient glorious historical culture heritage and endowment to world civilization.

TROY BRAILEY
State Senator, 40th District