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Native son new Morgan U. head

Forty-year-old Earl Stanford Richardson, who was named interim president of Morgan State University this week has impressive credentials in the area of higher education and administration, and is no stranger to the problems of predominantly black colleges.

He began learning about them early. The youngest of 11 children, he grew up on a Somerset County farm attended Somerset High, adjoining Maryland State College in Princess Anne, now known as the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, (UMES).

Because family finances prevented him from leaving home to attend Morgan, he enrolled at Princess Anne, where he demonstrated his leadership abilities as student government leader and class president. While there, he was commissioned a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

For four years, he served as information and protocol chief to commanding officers at U.S. bases here and abroad, earning high marks for his administrative skills while he was in full control of staff.

There were other career opportunities after his service stint, but Richardson opted to return to the Eastern Shore and join the Md. State faculty.

In 1970, a Ford Foundation grant permitted fulltime study for his master's and doctorate in education administration at the U. of Pa. Afterwards, he returned again to the Eastern Shore campus where he served as executive assistant to President William Hytche.

He is credited by President Hytche and others with playing a key role in the internal management of the institution and in implementing recommendations of a survey which earned UMES its highest evaluation.

Word of Dr. Richardson's skills were well known in academic circles by this time. Morgan U. President Andrew Billingsley, whom Richardson succeeds, sought to get him to join the Morgan staff, but Richardson answered the invitation of U.M. President John Toll and became his executive assistant two years ago.

Based on Dr. Richardson's training and experience, it would appear Morgan U. has at its helm a president well prepared to deal with the problems of insufficient funds, securing promised monies for the engineering school, uniting the campus, and improving its fiscal posture.

But, he cannot do it alone. He cannot be sidetracked by those who say he is a product of the U. of Md., and thus is "totally unacceptable." The fact is that Dr. Richardson has the unique experience of living, studying and working at the U. of Md., in its segregated days, as well as during its recent and more enlightened integrated days.

We think he should be totally acceptable, and we wish him well.

Ray Leonard's Invictus

For the second time in two years, former world welterweight boxing champion Sugar Ray Leonard has been forced to interrupt his flourishing career because of eye problems.

The first time resulted in surgery to repair a detached retina, and after the operation, Leonard announced his retirement to the consummate joy of most observers.

But the retirement was shortlived. He came out of it to disclose a plan to resume his ring activity—not for the money but to "secure his place in boxing history."

However, now again, trouble has flared up, this time in the sealing off of the retina in the other eye.

Some feel there may be a message in this, one impelling him to take the time to re-evaluate his priorities.

Others taking a more crass point of view claim there is another message to be found in the general reaction: the only people supporting the Leonard comeback are the promoters, potential opponents and hangers-on, their eyes all fixed on the money they figure to gain.

Whether the intent be good or not, a defiant Sugar Ray Leonard would have all let go.

To a God-fearing mother, a devoted wife, an adoring son and hordes of concerned admirers, he would quote from the poetic masterpiece "Invictus."

"Under the bludgeonings of chance, my head is bloody but unbowed;

"It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishments the scroll:

"I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."

So be it.

Only 3 minutes

It takes only 3 minutes to register to vote. That's right. All an applicant has to do is secure a voter registration form, fill in his or her name, address, date and place of birth, answer whether he or she has registered to vote before, and indicate party affiliation - Democrat or Republican.

Baltimoreans have no stumbling blocks in their way. Voter registration applications are available at all public libraries and at the Supervisors of Election office, Fayette and Gay Sts.

We have been emphasizing voter registration this past month because too many poeple wait until the last minute to register. The next Primary Election is May 8, 1984.

Seven weeks remain before the April 9 deadline to register. We urge persons who have never voted before, those who will become 18 by the Nov. 6th General Election, and persons who have registered before, but have not voted in the past five years, to get their registration application NOW.

A good citizen is registered and prepared to vote. If you are not registered, do so today. It takes only 3 minutes.

Caution to new voters: Only Democrats and Republicans may vote in a Primary Election. If you want to have a voice in the selection of the people who will represent you in public office, you MUST register Democrat or Republican.

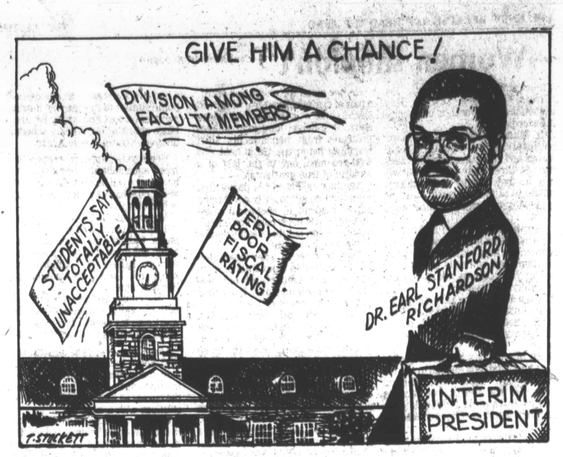
Help honor the deserving

An announcement in our columns last week invited readers to participate in an historical evaluation-nomination of persons or organizations whose service to the community is deserving of special recognition.

The AFRO Honor Roll salutes citizens from all walks of life who have performed outstanding tasks in their communities during 1983. We urge readers to seek out persons who have reflected credit on our city and state through their display of courage, ability, intelligence, tenacity, generosity or unselfishness.

Service is the only criterion — superior public service without thought of personal gain. Details as to how you can nominate candidates appear in this edition.

We invite our readers to participate in this important endeavor, by nominating persons they feel are deserving of special recognition. There are many among us. It is our belief that taking time to single out those who set an example for a place on the AFRO's 1983 Honor Roll will inspire those you recognize to give better service to our community.



Parren J. MITCHELL

House passes significant measures in first week

Although it is quite early in the current session of the 98th Congress, the House of Representatives has been more than busy. Immediately following the fanfare of the State of the Union address, and the receipt of the President's fiscal year 1985 budget, the House moved quickly into passing several important pieces of legislation, all of which I supported. Let's look at these measures in this week's legislative update:

On January 24th, the House passed H.R. 2615, the Weatherization and Employment Act of 1983. This bill authorizes $500 million annually in fiscal years 1984 and 1985 for the Low-Income Weatherization Program at the Department of Energy (DOE). It is a critical initiative to address the energy conservation needs of low-income, elderly, and handicapped persons.

Under the existing program, DOE makes grants to low-income households, administered through the states, for the installation of insulation and other energy-saving equipment in low-income homes.

This particular bill will complete this project in ten years, and thus, provide weatherization for the remaining 13 million eligible low-income households. The following specifics about the Weatherization and Employment Act will be helpful:

The bill would raise the maximum expenditure per dwelling from $1,600 to $2,000 which would include costs for labor, material, incidental repairs and inspections necessary to complete the weatherization of individual dwellings.

The bill expands the list of eligible equipment that may be installed under the weatherization program to include retrofit and replacement of heating systems. States would be permitted to install additional devices with high energy-saving potential in their climate.

The bill requires states to develop programs for training weatherization workers and supervisors and makes funding for the training available from the existing Training and Technical Assistance Fund. States would also be required to provide post-installation inspections of weatherized units to insure the use of cost-effective measures.

Ten percent of the annual appropriation would be placed in a performance fund to be distributed by DOE to states on the basis of quality and quantity of homes weatherized to provide incentives and rewards for states performing an outstanding job under the program.

This bill would continue the existing first priority for the elderly and handicapped, and gives second priority for assistance to low - income recipients of Low - Income Energy Assistance.

Other provisions of the bill allow the Secretary to use up to two percent of the funds to make grants to local weatherization agencies to test promising energy saving methods and materials; direct the Secretary to promulgate regulations permitting funds to be used for providing information, education and technical assistance to weatherization recipients; and direct the Secretary to establish a program to encourage the development of new methods to weatherize multifamily rental dwelling units.

On January 31st, the House passed H.R. 3075, the Library Services and Construction Act Amendments of 1983. This bill authorizes Federal grants to states to extend library services to areas and populations that are unserved or underserved, to assist in library construction, to encourage interlibrary cooperation, and to provide library services to the elderly.

On February 2nd, the House passed H.R. 1904, to extend and improve the provisions of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978.

Unfortunately, we were not able to modify the inclusion of a provision which expands the definition of child abuse to include those instances where medical treatment is withheld from severely handicapped infants because of their condition.

Those of us who suported amendments to modify this provision (known popularly as the "Baby Doe" rule) were very concerned that decisions in this matter should be reached with the greatest discretion of the family and the attending physician.

The bill, however, does provide many important initiatives, and, therefore, I was among those members who voted for it in final passage. The bill, among other things, authorizes $30 million for child abuse and prevention programs in FY 1984, and authorizes 5 percent increases in the funding level for each of the following three fiscal years.

The measure allows states that have not yet qualified for state grants to receive funding for two years, waiving the current requirment that they enact legislation to prevent and treat child abuse which is consistent with guidelines set by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

The bill also earmarks $3 million in FY 1984, increasing by 5 percent in subsequent years, for sexual child abuse programs. The measure redefines sexual child abuse to conform with a recent Supreme Court ruling (New York v. Ferber) by broadening the definition of sexual abuse to include the use of children for commercial pornographic purposes.

Finally, the bill explicitly includes in the definition of child abuse those cases of abuse by employees of foster care homes or other residential care facilities. The intent of the change is to allow states to use child abuse prevention and treatment funding to investigate reports of child abuse in these settings.

ANTHONY ARMSTRONG

Witch doctors for business

Mumbo. Mumbo jumbo. Jumbo. Mumbo jumbo, jumbo. Mumbo jumbo. Mumbo. Lawyers at work? No, not this time. Before I go on, let me stop here to do a little work with The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language.

Page eight hundred sixty two, about midway the page; ah, there it is. Mumbo Jumbo, in its capitalized form, has as one of its definitions the following: "in some Mandingo peoples of the western Sudan, a priest believed to have power to protect his village from evil."

What we need is more mumbo jumbo, the capitalized version that is. Because, you see, the other more familiar meaning of the phrase is what we've been getting far too much of. The other definition reads something like this; mumbo jumbo: 'confusing or meaningless activity; unintelligible incantation; obscure ritual." If you know any minority business people, you must know that confusing and meaningless activity is a lot of what they've been offered lately.

There exist a tendency, on the part of some government agencies and officials, to placate minority business people with programs that are poorly thought-out and just as poorly administered. The result of these kinds of activities only tends to give all minority business people a black eye.

Public policy is not served, nor are needed jobs created by the funding of poorly conceived business ventures. Such ventures get their life from people in government who, too often, let their hearts get in the way of their heads. Alas, the people most served by the kinds of programs set-up to help minority businesses are the majority businessmen who wind-up buying-out many of the victims of these poorly operated programs, at fire sale prices.

There is nothing wrong, however, in one businessman taking advantage of another's failure; it's done all the time and, there are often positive results derived from it.

There is something very wrong, however, when the unsuccessful businessman is set-up to fail, thus providing the successful businessman with a windfall that otherwise would not be possible. We should not be using good money to fund bad projects in the first place.

All too often, poorly trained and oriented minority business people are given sizeable sums of money (the public's money) to start businesses that, it turns out, are the wrong businesses at the wrong time.

More often than not, the people who get this money, get it based on criteria that have little or nothing to do with the prospective success of the proposed business venture.

They are awarded these funds because of who they are, who they know, or because somebody thinks that some hidden agenda will be advanced.

The result of this bad policy does not negatively impact on the "givers" of the money but, it has a devastating effect on the reputation of minority business people. A concensus develops in the public's mind, that these minority business people just don't know what they are doing.

In many cases many minority business people don't know what they are doing and; worse still, they don't know that they don't know what they are doing. These Milton Miltons should be allowed to fail; correction, they should never be given the public's money to waste, in the first place. These kind of people wouldn't know mumbo from jumbo anyway.

Their goals are never the improvement of our collective economic health through their individual successes. Their goals are more often a new Cadillac or ten new shiny suits. I'm not really worried about these blood sucking leeches, because what they do they usually do on someone elses say so.

The people that worry me are those who are sophisticated enough, knowledgeable enough, and powerful enough to continue funding minority businesses that an eighth grader could see cannot work. Most of these people are the money men and the political flunkies of these money men.

Their objectives are usually two fold. They wish to look like they are helping minority businesses and this is important, they do want to help those majority business people who stand to gain from the demise of minority business people.

So, mumbo. Mumbo jumbo. Jumbo. Mumbo jumbo. Mumbo jumbo. Mumbo. More mumbo. We would ask for one important recognition. Let the mumbo jumbo be the capitalized kind. The kind that seeks to protect minority business people from the evils and tricks of these poorly operated minority business funding operations. If we don't minority businesses, all over this country, will continue to be burdened with continuing problems that will be pure Greek to you and me.

Letters

Homeless shelters

Dear AFRO:

On Friday, February 10, Associated Catholic Charities (ACC), agreed to the demands of the Johnston Square-Latrobe Homes Coalition. The agency's swift and strong agreement came as the consequence of a long, effective campaign on the part of the neighborhood to be heard and a demonstration of thirty community residents who blocked the doors of the Archdiocesan Building on Cathedral Street until Catholic Charities surrendered.

The Johnston Square Latrobe Homes Coalition offered Charities two sets of demands: (set one — Stop construction immediately on the site at 709 E. Eager Street and locate the shelter and drop-in center in another neighborhood) (set two — Make a commitment to operate at least five more shelters in the city of Baltimore: one in each of the Councilmanic districts other than the Second. Start development of the shelters immediately and target their operation for during the course of the next year.

— Make a commitment to use the considerable resources of ACC including finances, legal advice and political connections to block future programs of no benefit to the neighborhood and that are significantly opposed by the neighborhood.

— A public apology from Associated Catholic Charities to the community for ACC's conduct during the course of this dispute. The lack of proper notice to the neighborhood, the deceit before the Planning Commission, the City Council Judiciary Committee and the media about notice to the community and the general disrespect to an already abused Johnston Square and Latrobe Homes area merit an apology.

Associated Catholic Charities accepted set two of the demands.

Many thanks to the AFRO for its lead editorial and cartoon on Feb. 11, 1984, in reference to the whole matter. Perhaps your suggestion that the matter be resolved to the satisfaction of all will be taken seriously by ACC and City Hall. Oh, by the way, the coalition still has a bone to pick with the Mayor's office and the Housing Department.

Ralph E. Moore, Jr.
St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center

CORRECTION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We are happy to have this reaction from Ralph E. Moore, Jr., a community activist, and one of the leaders opposed to the Shelter for Homeless in the Johnston Square area in East Baltimore. The AFRO regrets that because of a typographical error, the word "communist", instead of "community" appeared in the editorial in its Feb. 11th issue.)

Samuel BANKS

Struggle for justice at the Sunpapers

The overriding and central issue in the Baltimore Branch of the NAACp is crystal clear: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE. The calculated and deliberate intransigence and recalcitrance of The Sunpapers' management, as reflected in Mr. Reg Murphy, have escalated our current struggle.

As the chairman of the NAACP's Community Involvement Committee and in view of the general lack of understanding and myopia surrounding our struggle, I believe it is highly important to separate fact from fiction; wheat from chaff.

The negative, invidious and imbalanced series that ran in The Evening Sun entitled, "Homes Without Fathers," is not the basis for our current struggle for economic justice at The Sunpapers. The series was a precipitating factor or the impetus for community action flowing from the longstanding institutional racism and exclusion perpetrated by The Sunpapers against the Black community. This information has been shared with Mr. Reg Murphy both in private meetings on Tuesday, December 27, 1983 and on Friday, February 3, 1984.

The issues that we are addressing are systematic and substantive. The essence of our demands concerns the following six factors:

1. establishment of a news bureau in Africa South of the Sahara where most black Africans live. Mr. Murphy's response is no.

2. hire at least six blacks in management, editorial and correspondents positions by the end of March, 1984. The Sunpapers' response was filled with glittering generalities. The gist of the response was, we are looking for "qualified blacks" for the future. A variation on an ancient theme.

3. refrain from publishing the imbalanced and prejudicial "Home Without Fathers" series. We were informed by The Sunpapers' management that the series has been reprinted, but, as of now not marketed. However, anyone who requests a copy, at cost, can secure one.

4. selection of black op-ed and book reviewers for The Sunpapers. Blacks have been systematically excluded in these areas; especially The Sun and The Sunday Sun.

5. provide a copy of The Sunpapers' three-year affirmative action plan showing goals and timetables in regard to Black employment. Mr. Reg Murphy now refers to this as a "business plan." We were told in our December 27th meeting that he had instituted a three-year affirmative action plan at The Sunpapers. Whatever term he now uses should be directed toward full and equal employment for blacks. He refuses to share a copy of his plan with us. We want a copy of this plan.

6. systematic, comprehensive, ongoing and balanced coverage of the diverse activities within the Black community. The coverage of the black community at present is totally inadequate.

The six systemic and elemental demands put forward by the Baltimore NAACP has led to the present impasse and continuing struggle with The Sunpapers. For our part, we have determined to stand firm and go forward in this legitimate and long-overdue quest for social justice at The Sunpapers.

The Sunpapers represent influential molders and influencers of public opinion and power in Maryland. The Sunpapers, too, employ approximately 1700 employees. Black employees represent about eight percent of the total workforce of The Sunpapers. Insofar as management, editorial and correspondents positions are concerned blacks comprise less than one - half of one percent. In point of fact, virtually impossible. This, to be sure, is scandalous.

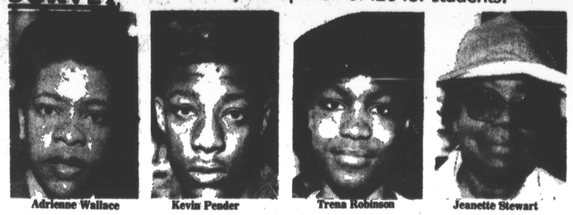
In the face of The Sunpapers' denial of vertical mobility and equality of economic opportunity for black citizens, the NAACP has taken a sound and necessary course in urging the total community to support it in the following actions:

1. picketing of The Sunpapers on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and other times to be announced. The picketing will take place in front of The Sunpapers at 501 North Calvert Street. Picketing, to date, has occurred on Saturday, February 4 and Saturday, February 11, 1984. Massive picketing will occur on Saturday, February 18, 1984 AT 10:00 A.M. Involving the Baltimore and state branches of the NAACP, students

(Continued on page 30)

SURVEY

What's your opinion of IDs for students?



Adrienne Wallace — Kevin Pender — Trena Robinson — Jeanette Stewart

This week the question to the man and woman in the street was, "What do you think about ID badges in high schools?"

Linda Gibson, 21, clerk, "It's a very good idea. If all the students wear badges to identify themselves, a stranger couldn't come in and do bad things in the building."

Solomon Horsey, 29, manager. "A pretty good idea I think. It gives the personnel in the school a good insight on who belongs there and who doesn't. Take for example Harlem Park Jr. High School. If administrators were familiar with all who weren't a part of the school, that shooting incident might not have taken place."

Norwood Johnson, 21, student, "Crimes are happening so frequently in schools that it is probably in their best interest to use ID badges. Badges will help keep unwanted people out and provide security for the students."

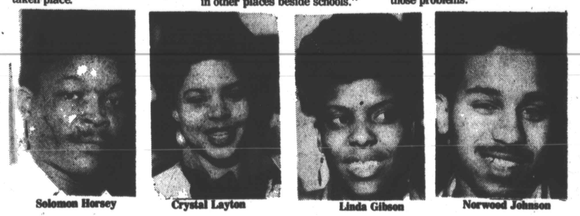
Crystal Layton, 27, receptionist, "Badges would give faculty members a chance to see who's a part of their school It's a good cause. Students, however, should be allowed to decide if they want to wear them or not."

Adrienne Wallace, 27, technician, "The idea of ID badges is a good one. They would help to identify who properly belongs in the building. I don't think it's an invasion of privacy. In fact, I think that idea could be used in other places beside schools."

Jeanette Stewart, 58, housekeeper, "Identifying yourself to others is not an invasion of privacy when it might protect you. I insist that it's a good idea for many reasons."

Kevin Pender, 15, student, "It's a lousy idea. Only if the school's security is really that bad would I recommend it. It is an invasion of privacy; besides, I'd personally feel embarrassed about walking around with a badge on."

Trena Robinson, 15, student, "ID badges would help school officials keep people out who didn't go there. At my school, strangers come in and sometime shoot around the school area. An ID badge would help solve those problems."



Solomon Horsey — Crystal Layton — Linda Gibson — Norwood Johnson

PLAIN TALK

Nursing bottle mouth

By Derrick K. Matthews, M.D.

Dentists and pediatricians have long been steadfastly united in the prevention of cavities. Proper care of teeth must last a lifetime. The foundation for that care begins with proper nutrition even before the teeth erupt. Infants who are fed correctly with proper eating habits have stronger teeth and better health.

Nursing bottle mouth is a condition of poor eating habits that should not exist today. It occurs in children who are kept on the bottle too long in their life.

Why is bottle feeding so bad for the teeth? Most of the time the bottle is filled with sugar containing liquid such as milk, Koolaid or juice. The fluid collects on the front upper incisors, i.e., the biting teeth. It then mixes with plaque which is a thin film of bacteria in the mouth

The bacteria use the sugar to create acid which starts to eat into the teeth enamel and begin the process of decay. The longer and more frequently the teeth are exposed to the sugar and thus to the acid the greater is the chance of causing decay.

The worst time for children to have a bottle is at night. A night time bottle causes the teeth to be exposed to acid all night. Although the child is asleep the bacteria are not. They are constantly at work creating acid which eats into the teeth. Many parents manage to get their children off the night bottle last; in actuality it should be the first to go.

The cup has advantages over the bottle for the teeth. Fluid is not collected on the front incisors but has to be swallowed immediately. The reluctance parents have for this comes from two problems, however.

The cup is messier than a bottle for a toddler. The young children tend to spill liquid over everything. Starting them as early as 6 or 7 months of age can give them lots of practice, however. Some parents have their children completely off the bottle by 9 months .

The cup is not convenient, however. It is easier to carry a bottle in a purse than to keep asking people for a cup to pour into.

Many pediatricians and dentists recommend discontinuing bottle feeding by 18 months at the latest, but most prefer much earlier. By that time all of the incisors and a good number of molars have erupted, leaving them out for exposure to liquids and food. Decay can result if proper care is not taken.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Dental Association have strict guidelines for stopping the bottle. They recommend no bottles after 12 months of age!

Frequently parents find themselves faced with a child's demands for the bottle when they are trying to wean. The best way to prevent this is to start working with the cup very early.

If this has not been done steps should be taken to remove the bottle from the house and throw it away. Most children will not miss it after 7-30 days.

Parents must resolve themselves to resist the tantrums and crying in the first few days. Distracting the child is sometimes a good strategy; many children will ask for something to eat or drink when they are not busy with other activity.

If there is still a need for the bottle the last compromise is to put only water in it. Water has no sugar and thus cannot create acid on the teeth.

Parents frequently want to know how to replace the night bottle. Bedtime can be often used as a quiet time with one or both parents in some type of coordinated activity. Reading a bedtime story is a good substitute. The book does not have to be complex since the child will not understand more than the simplest words.

The time together with the parent gives them something other than a bottle to look forward to at bedtime. In addition reading gives them a sense of the importance of books.

Other activities include listening to music together, playing with blocks and building toys or other toys that the child may be interested in. Most important is that special time spent with the parent.

Cavities in "baby" teeth can cause major problems. Care is needed for the primary teeth as well as the permanent teeth. Primary teeth provide space for the permanent teeth to come in.

If a cavity is allowed to go too far the gums can become infected; the permanent teeth underneath can also become decayed. Decayed teeth look bad and have a potential effect on a child's self image. They can also interfere with eating and digestion and cause speech problems.

Nursing bottle caries is a problem that is prevented by the parent. The health of a child's teeth can be directly related to his prolonged contact with a bottle. There are alternatives to the bottle as a solution to the many problems that parents have with children.

NAACP REPORT:

NAACP and Sunpapers

By Magdalene Fennell

Most readers of the AFRO-AMERICAN are familiar with the contents of The Evening Sun series "Homes Without Fathers: The Poverty Cycle," published over a five day period early in December, 1983. What they may not be familiar with is the cause of the current dispute between the NAACP and officials of the Sunpapers.

The NAACP has never questioned the facts of the articles; however it did find them to be biased, subjective, and totally lacking in sensitivity to Black family dynamics.

By presenting only negative aspects of fatherless homes, the series, either by accident or by design, succeeded in giving credence to racist beliefs that black females are baby factories, and their male counterparts are lazy, shiftless parasites, unwilling to take responsibility for their indiscretions.

Following publication of the very first article, the NAACP office was flooded with telephone calls from angry blacks. Members of the Executive Board were disturbed also and met to discuss ways of counteracting such an insensitive portrayal of black family life.

A chronology starting at this point will bring readers up to date regarding actions already taken and those planned for the future.

During "aftershock" the association authorized its Community Involvement Committee, headed by Dr. Samuel Banks, president of the National Association for the study of Afro-American Life and History, to draft the NAACP's response to the series.

That response identified two principles of journalism violated by the articles—namely, balance and objectivity. It directed inquiries to the paper regarding the purpose of the series, and it made recommendations to the publisher that hopefully would prevent future issuance of narrowly conceived, racist stories.

Ironically, according to Sun officials, one of the purposes of the series was that of evoking sympathy for the victims. But the graphics of the series and the writer's penchant for overkill brought many to the point of disgust.

At any rate, the committee's recommendations, along with a letter requesting a meeting with the publisher, were forwarded to the Sunpapers, and on December 27 the requested meeting took place.

Representatives of the NAACP included Samuel Banks; Enolia McMillan, national president and president of the Baltimore Branch; and Barbara Cooper, executive director, Baltimore Branch.

Reg Murphy, publisher of the Sunpapers; William Hawkins, metropolitan editor; John Lemmon, managing editor; and Ray Jenkins, editorial staff, all of The Evening Sun represented the paper.

During the discussion that ensued, Dr. Banks informed the paper's representatives that the narrow perspective of the series had compelled the NAACP "to take a broad look at the Baltimore Sun's hiring practices and its coverage of the black community." Responding to that comment, Publisher Murphy informed the committee that the Sunpapers had developed an affirmative action plan, the implementation of which was imminent.

The committee shared information from that conference with the NAACP membership at the January meeting. At that same meeting the membership approved six recommendations to be presented to The Sunpapers.

These recommendations are: provide the association with a copy of the Sun's affirmative action plan; hire at least one black immediately and a total of six by March in management, editorial, or correspondents positions; provide the NAACP the opportunity of responding in The Evening Sun to the series;

Reconsider the establishment of a news bureau in Africa; make an effort to use blacks as book reviewers and editorial page writers; provide systematic, balanced, fair, and comprehensive coverage of the diverse activities of the black community on an ongoing basis."

When the committee asked the paper's representatives for a copy of the affirmative action plan at a meeting on February 3, the publisher denied having ever said that the company had an affirmative action plan.

To add insult to injury, the committee reported being treated in a "cavalier" manner. After approximately fifteen minutes of discussion, Publisher Murphy stated that he had only five minutes more to give to the matter. He had selected the time, place, and date of the conference), and the meeting abruptly ended a short while later.

The attitude exhibited by the Sun's management in the February 3 meeting prompted the committee to establish a picket line in front of the Sunpapers from 10-12 noon on Saturday, Feb. 4. Other activities are being planned to keep the momentum of this protest going.

Today's children of destiny

Minister Louis Farrakhan, national representative of the Nation of Islam, challenged DC youths Friday night to learn more about Black History and mobilize efforts to put presidential hopeful Jesse L. Jackson in the White House.

Farrakhan made the statement in an address to over 1,700 mostly young persons at Howard University's Cramton Auditorium.

Today's youths, Farrakhan said, are special, "The generation of fulfillment." He called them, "the most awesome generation we have ever produced...the best generation," different from preceding ones of hope and faith, one "born to lead, born to rule, twice as good. Thank you white folks."

In his message, "A Generation of New Leaders: The Role of Youth in 1984," Minister Farrakhan, in gray suit, crisp white shirt and red bow-tie, blended personal charisma and powerful oratory dressed in simple words to express to young minds complex thoughts, quoting liberally Malcolm X, Elijah Muhammad, historian-educator Carter G. Woodson and passages from the Bible and Qur'an holy books.

"Elijah Muhammad taught us of the need to know history. Of all our studies, history is the most attractive and best qualified to reward our research. History is our guide. When someone takes away from us our history, they take away our guide. As a tree without roots is dead, a people without history is dead." This has been the condition, he said, of Black people in America since brought here in chains from Africa.

Farrakhan spoke of the alarming suicide rate of young Black males today, the inability of parents, schools and churches to reach many youths, their idleness and joblessness.

Minister Farrakhan said young people must always respect their foreparents who have traveled thorny paths. But he said their slavish rituals and methodologies have become outmoded. "God does not want you teaching them the archaic ideas that ruined your life."

In sum, Farrakhan called today's youths "Children of Destiny," born to fulfill the aspirations of past generations.

Our greatest generation, he said, "manifests itself in a negative way because a positive teacher has not yet appeared. Anything that can reach the depths of hell can scale the heights of heaven. Who will speak to their souls? Who will make difference in their lives?" The present generation is indeed the fulfillment of our forefathers' dream. We believe everyone—schools, parents, those in decision making positions, the media—has a role to play to make sure that this generation makes the dream come true.

Letters to the Editor

Rosedale school

Dear AFRO:

At a meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Education in January it was voted to close Rosedale Elementary School in Rosedale and bus a number of the children to Elmwood Elementary.

I have been informed that a number of black children now attending Elmwood would be bussed to another school to make room for the Rosedale children. This I think is very unfair to the black children of Gardenville, those that are to be bussed.

Would you please use your influence to prevent the closing of both schools. There is a dire need for both Elmwood and Rosedale Please do your best to prevent it from happening.

Joseph Lobig

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.