Sam Lacy

Uh, oh!

There are a couple of TV commercials which imply that once an impact decision is needed on a controversial matter, someone comes along to "put the foot down," and the problem disappears.

In one it is the arrival of a cleaning agent . . . . In the other it is the act of a mother in choosing an automobile . . . . In both instances, the punch-line is "Uh, oh!".

Well, a recent issue of Sports Illustrated "put its foot down" on the subject of Manager of the Year in the American League . . . . Not surprisingly, the choice is Doug Rader of the California Angels.

But, here at the AFRO we are not about to say "Uh, oh" . . . . And it may behoove Sports Illustrated to drop a hint to writer Peter Gammons that if he is about to "put his foot down," he could end up with it in his mouth.

You see, at this desk we are convinced that the managing job done by Frank Robinson with the scotch-tape, paper-clip Orioles is unmatched in the major leagues this summer.

The same guy

Gammons, however, appears to have jumped the gun on an issue that still has five weeks to run . . . . It can only be a lobbying effort on the part of Gammons and S. I., for Doug Rader and the Angels.

This, folks, is the same Peter Gammons who ridiculed the Orioles' chances of being a contender when he visited their camp in his Florida spring series for the magazine . . . . and the same fellow who saw little hope "but a possible ray of sunshine" at the Angels' base when he turned up there.

Power vs. pussycat

And when one considers that Rader has a power-laden batting order with Johnny Ray, Bryan Downing, Claudell Washington, et al, and a stellar pitching rotation of Kirk McCaskill (12-7), Mike Witt and Chuck Finley (14-8), followed by Bert Blyleven whose 12-3 record leads both leagues, his (Doug's) nomination over Frank Robinson is truly suspect.

The fact that for much of the year Robinson's bitters have been on leave — including his one big gun, Cal Ripken — and his pitching staff has been wobbly as a butterfly with a lightning-bug's tail, Gammons's assessment of managers is more than suspect . . . . it is preposterous.

The continuing inconsistency of both starters and relievers has produced for Frank an ulcer-ridden problem of trying to figure out not which of the young crowd will be most effective in a given game, but which will be the least ineffective.

Title not vital

Of course, the whole argument may be elementary . . . . At this juncture, either team, or both, may collapse and finish in the also-ran category, something that could sway the voters toward someone else.

But, in this type of voting winning championships should be considered important but not absolutely necessary.

It is said that "figures don't lie" . . . . Well, if they don't, if they have any legitimate value, try this one for size:

On Aug. 31 last year, the California Angels had a record of 68-65.

On Aug. 31 last year, the Baltimore Orioles were 46-86.

When the league's voters sit down and look at Doug Rader's credentials (which may be good), then digest the achievements of Frank Robinson, believe me they're gonna chuckle "Uh, oh!"

And put their feet down.

Notable Quotable

Middleweight claimant Michael Nunn, prior to his controversial split decision win over Iran Barkley: "Iran says he's gonna chase until he catches me. I wonder when he does catch me, is he gonna like it."

De Francis death: loss of a friend

Frank DeFrancis was buried early this week.

His death should be mourned by everyone who adheres to good sportsmanship and fair play.

Perhaps some will questions the wisdom of eulogizing the controversial racetrack owner in these pages. But that will be only because his behind-the-scene activities are overlooked or intentionally ignored.

DeFrancis is well remembered as the man who revitalized thoroughbred racing in Maryland.

He did more.

Black employment improved dramatically under the DeFrancis hand at Laurel, Pimlico and (while he owned it) at Freestate, the harness track.

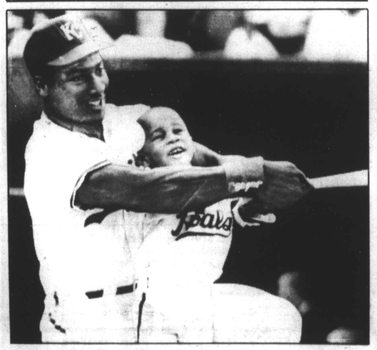
There are now patrol judges, track policemen, admissions clerks and cashiers in numbers greater than ever before. The stable space has been increased for black trainers.

Even the parking attendants' domain has been desegregated.

All these changes have been protested as "union busting," and cause for criticism of him.

But DeFrancis stuck to his policy of equal opportunity, which is the reason for our admiration . . . LACY

SPORTS



THE JOY IS GENUINE — There is no doubt that both father and son are enjoying this bit of pre-game byplay between Kansas City Royals outfielder Bo Jackson and his 3-year-old offspring Garrett.

REUNION IN SEATTLE — Bernie Bickerstaff (left) and K. C. Jones are together again. The two were a coaching team 15 years ago with the Washington Bullets. Jones who then was head coach and Bickerstaff the assistant, will reverse positions with the Seattle SuperSonics.

Holyfield asks what's with Tyson

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ (UPI) — Evander Holyfield says he has proved to himself and to the public he deserves the next shot at the heavyweight championship. Apparently, only Mike Tyson and his promoter remain unconvinced.

"I feel I'm deprived of being the next heavyweight champion of the world," said Holyfield, the top-ranked contender by two of boxing's three major ruling bodies. "I feel I fought my way to the top by not ducking any opponent. The only thing left for me is to fight Mike Tyson."

— —

Holyfield cemented his claim as the top contender July 15 with a second-round knockout of Brazilian Adilson Rodrigues. Since giving up his undisputed cruiserweight title, Holyfield has stopped heavyweights James Tillis, Pinklon Thomas, Michael Dokes and Rodrigues and stands 22-0 with 18 knockouts.

Holyfield and his handlers forecast him making between $12 million and $16 million for a closed circuit and pay-TV bout against Tyson. They would like the fight in October or November.

"I wanted the public to feel I'm a worthy challenger and not just some guy who wants a payday," said Holyfield, a 26-year-old from Atlanta. "Everybody says they can beat Mike Tyson, but that's not the case."

— —

Holyfield's management team — manager Ken Sanders, promoter Dan Duva and advisor Shelly Finkel — has had little success in negotiating with Don King, Tyson's promoter. King has dragged his feet, prompting speculation he either wants to hand-pick Tyson's opponents or avoid doing business with Holyfield's people.

But Holyfield rapidly is gaining allies. Officials of HBO, which has an exclusive TV contract with Tyson, say they will strongly suggest to King that he make a Holyfield fight. Tyson's manager, Bill Cayton, who has been cut out of decision-making duties by Tyson and King, favors a Holyfield fight next. And Donald Trump, who has right of first refusal to land Tyson-Holyfield at the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino, wants the fight next.

Football

COLLEGE SCHEDULE

Friday

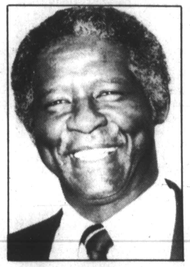
Bethune vs. Central Fla., at Orlando

Saturday

Morgan vs. Norfolk St. (Gary, Ind.)
J. C. Smith at Bowie State
U of D.C., at Howard
Fayetteville at Va. Union (N)
Cheyney vs. Delaware St., Wilmington
Va. State at Ky. State (N)
Presbyterian at S.C. State
Miss. Valley at Hampton (N)
N.C. Central at A&T
Livingstone at Eliz. City (N)
W. Salem at Knoxville
Urbana at Central State
Ala. A&M at No. Alabama
Troy State at Ala. State
Clark at Morris Brown
Tuskegee at Fla. A&M
Morehouse at Lane

Hank's 'Champ' step closer

She's a Champ, the 2-year-old filly in Hank Allen's barn, was depicted here last week as the possible "star," for which the baseball player-turned-trainer has been hoping for 10 years.



Hank Allen eyes on Breeders' Cup

The daughter of Island Champ (by Island Search) romped to a length-and-a-quarter victory Saturday to capture the $50,000 Smart Angle purse at Laurel.

— —

Chasing her at the end were the previously unbeaten Love Me A Lot and Arafour, down from New York to seek recognition.

She's a Champ will now be prepped for the $300,000 Selima Stakes at Laurel, the final stepping stone to the Breeders' Cup series scheduled next month at Pimlico . . . LACY

Lisa Harris for United Press

Dying kids wish upon a baseball star

NEW YORK — New York Mets star Darryl Strawberry remembers being on the road last year when he was "really hit hard."

The outfielder was not in the batter's box. He had just found out a child died, a boy he met that week and whose last wish was to meet a hero — Darryl Strawberry.

That was Strawberry's introduction to Make A Wish, a national chartity granting last wishes to terminally ill children.

Monday, Strawberry's affiliation with Make A Wish was formally announced. But representatives of the charity say he has spent almost every off day this season with the children at no cost.

"One day I was signing a bat and it wasn't long after that . . ." Strawberry recounted. "It reminded me my own two kids are healthy, living good."

Many youngsters in the Make A Wish charity do not have the money for surgery they desperately need. Others can't be helped.

"It is a hard charity because of that, but I have to think of it, my involvement, more as an inspiration to the kids to keep fighting or to give them something they can look forward to," Strawberry said. "Sometimes kids always wish for something and it doesn't always get to happen — these kids have less time to wait for it to happen."

— —

Strawberry of late does not talk with baseball reporters. Monday, the 27-year-old outfielder was all smiles and jokes with lupus victim Staeey Colfield, 18.

He reacquainted himself with Scott Russo, 14, who suffers from Arnold's chary syndrome, an extremely rare condition striking cranial fluids.

Russo received a tape Strawberry made when the Mets were in Montreal last fall the night before the teenager's spinal surgery. They later met when Russo visited Shea Stadium as part of his wish. Strawberry supplied two homers after telling Russo he'd try for one.

Darryl Strawberry a hit with ill youngsters

Strawberry is not the only Met sought by the children. Introductions to Gary Carter, Kevin McReynolds and Coach Bud Harrelson have led to telephone calls, trips to the ballpark and blossoming friendships.

— —

Cofield has always loved baseball and would like to go to a game. But her true wish won't be easily granted: She needs to have both hips replaced at a minimal cost of $30,000 per hip.

The average wish in the Make A Wish program costs $3,200. The charity does not involve itself in paying medical bills.

Cofield is black and has a model's facial structure and features. On the dais, wearing a Mets baseball cap and seated beside Strawberry, she was oblivious to repeated whispers of guests asking if she were his wife.

— —

The question stopped when she hobbled off on crutches laying near Strawberry's feet.

"I've lost all my friends, except three," she said, surrounded by her family. "People try to push themselves away — I guess they're scared because they don't understand what I have.

"I used to like to dance — all kinds. I watch a lot of TV and listen to the radio. I like music and I like to watch baseball. If I got the surgery I need done, I could walk. And I wouldn't have this pain. If I don't get my hips . . ."

She didn't finish the sentence, just as Strawberry didn't when he said: "If people don't give them a reason to keep fighting . . ."

Short Shots

A Sickle-Cell Basketball Classic

The Maryland Chapter of Sickle-Cell Anemia, Inc. and The Baltimore Basketball Association (BBA) are presenting a Baltimore/Washington Sickle-Cell Basketball Classic, a basketball triple header, Saturday, August 26, at Coppin State College Center.

The featured game will be the BBA/All-Stars vs the NBA/Pro-Am "Say No to Drugs" League All-Stars at 4:00 p.m. There will be a girls game at 1:00 p.m. and an high school boys game at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact James Camphor at the Maryland Chapter of Sickle-Cell, at 828 E. Baltimore St., or at 837-3050.

Afro-American wins in Basketball

The Afro-American Women's Basketball team went home with the gold when they beat the Baltimore Lakers, 39-38 in Project Survival's Unlimited Division basketball league last weekend.

With the balance play of Carolyn Allen, Angie Jones, Doretta Paschel, Cynthia McCown, Yvonne McDonald, Adrian Jones and Kim Adamson, the Afro team had to come from behind and used the clutch free throw shooting of Allen to preserve the victory.

Wrestling at Baltimore Arena

Don't Miss the exciting NWA wrestling action as Terry Funk challenges Ric Flair for the World Heavyweight Title at the Baltimore Arena, Friday, August 25 at 8 p.m.

The NWA card will also include Ricky Steamboat challenging Lex Luger for the United States heavyweight title, Sting vs. The Great Muta, The Road Warrior vs. The Samoan Swat Team in the steel cage match and other NWA favorites.

For ticket information, call (301) 347-2010.

Bodybuilding at Ft. Meade

The 2nd Annual Fort Meade/Greater Baltimore All Amateur Bodybuilding Contest will be held, Sunday, August 27, from 1-5 p.m. at the McGill Recreation Center, Ft. Meade, Maryland.

The contest is open to males and females with the following classes of competition — teen men, open men, masters men, teen women, women's open and masters women.

For more information, call 551-7660 or 899-7550.

Craig Cromwell League ends

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

Culminating its 1989 season with its annual all-star game, the Craig Cromwell League went through its best summer ever according to director William Wells.

"This was a great year for our league," Wells said. "We had more balanced teams and there were no real team domination as it has been in the past."

Although the league has "one more game to play" when they travel to York, Pennsylvania, to compete against a team of central Pennsylvania all-stars, the league has become increasing popular up and down the East Coast and has gain more city-wide support.

"Because of the competitive nature of the league, most of the teams play hard all the time," Wells said "and that helps to enhance the league. In addition we have several quality players in the League which explains why many Division I coaches come here to watch basketball."

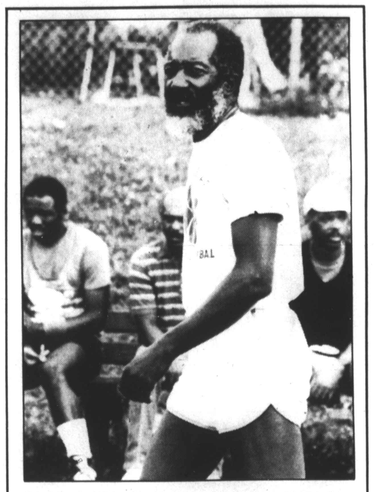
Even though, the Craig Cromwell League was founded on tragedy, it has never diminished the quality of the league nor its primary goal to "achieve an education through sports."

"We're going to keep working," Wells said "until the Craig Cromwell League is on the breath of everybody associated with high school basketball on the East Coast."

This year, there were two players who stood "head and shoulders" above the others. They were junior forward Devin Gray from St. Francis High School and senior forward/center Ron Lucas from Lake Clifton.

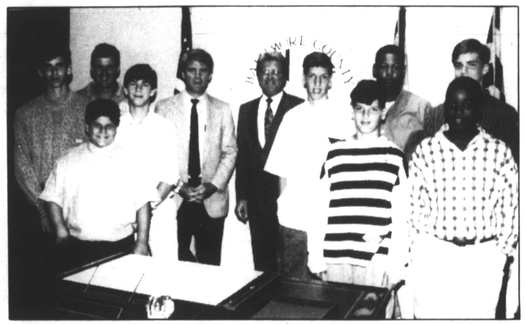
"They were the most impressive, this summer," Wells said, "not only because of their tremendous skill, but each has the ability to take over a game and take their team's play to a higher level."

And so it seems with the Craig Cromwell Summer High School League, it appears to be rising to a higher level.



Last week at the "Teach Every Man's Son and Daughter Day" the AFRO caught William (Bill) Harris at his best, as he played with the Cloverdale Masters All-Stars in the Sixth Annual Walter Leslie Memorial Game.

MEMBERS OF THE 1989 MINORITY COACHING Fellowship Program include Buffalo Bills Training Camp coaches Curtis Jones of New York's SMU (left) and Mac Singleton of Harvard.



CYA Soccer Team

CYA games in Korea

Lucas Kuria of Waverly School and Doni Mason from Parkville Middle School were among eight outstanding Baltimore area soccer players who recently competed in the Christian Youth Athletic International Soccer Tournament held in Korea.

Pictured (left to right) are (1st row) Shane Gress, Eric Runk and Kuria: (2nd row) Jeff Kutchey, Coach Bob Filler, Marc Taylorson, CYA National Athletic Director Scott McGregory, County Executive Rasmussen, Brian Runk, Mason and Ken Kutchey.

NFL launches minority coaching program during 1989

When NFL training camps opened across the country this summer, the rookies were not the only ones learning new plays and techniques. Other newcomers included 37 minority coaching fellows who were guests of the NFL teams. This occurrence is part of a commitment agreed to by the NFL club owners at their annual meeting last March.

The fellowship program is modeled after a concept introduced to club owners by San Francisco 49ers owner Edward DeBartolo, Jr. and then head coach Bill Walsh in 1987.

Minority collegiate coaches attend training camps for four to six weeks. They are paid by their host teams and assist the clubs' regular staffs both on the field and in classroom sessions.

Prospective coaching fellows submitted applications directly to individual NFL teams last Spring. They were interviewed and hired by the teams' coaching staff.

The Washington Redskins have two coaches from the program. They are George Ragsdale of North Carolina Central and Joker Phillips of Kentucky.

SPORTSCENE
By Fred Lindsey

Track scholarships awarded to two high school grads

By Fred Lindsey
Local Sports Editor

The 1989 recipients of the Maryland Track and Field Development Student - Athletic Scholarship were announced at the recent East Coast Invitation Track Meet held at Towson State University.

A scholarship, worth $1,000 for the freshman year in college, was awarded to Andrea Flurry, a graduate of Western High School.

Ms. Blurry was the 1988 MSA (Maryland Scholastic Association) cross country champion. Flurry also competed in the 800 and 1,500 meter runs and the two-mile relay and she ran for the Edward Waters Track Club.

The awards are given annually to a boy and girl who has just graduated from a Maryland high school and will be going to college in the Fall, but not on an athletic scholarship.

The boy's scholarship winner was Terrence Taylor, a graduate of Albert Einstein High School in Montgomery County.

Ms. Flurry will attend Bowie State University in September.

MSU Football schedule

SEPTEMBER			
2	Norfolk State U	Hughes Stadium	7:30 P.M. CST
	(Pre-Labor Day Classic)		
9	Bethune Cookman Col	Jacksonville, Fl	7:00 P.M. EST
16	Bowie State Col	Bowie, Md.	1:30 P.M. EST
23	North Carolina A&T	Hughes Stadium	1:30 P.M. EST
	(Greek Day/Faculty-Staff Day)		
30	Youngstown State U	Youngstown, OH	4:30 P.M. EST
OCTOBER			
7	South Carolina State	Hughes Stadium	1:30 P.M. EST
	(The Elk's Classic)		
14	Virginia Union U	Hughes Stadium	2:00 P.M. EST
	(Homecoming)		
21	Delaware State Col	Dover, DE	1:30 P.M. EST
28	Florida A&M U	Miami, FL	7:00 P.M. EST
	(Orange-Blossom Classic)		
NOVEMBER			
4	Howard University	Hughes Stadium	1:30 P.M. EST
	(Dunbar Poet's Day)		
11	Cheyney State Col	Hughes Stadium	1:30 P.M. EST
	(Parent's Day)		

Hughes Stadium is located on the south campus of Morgan State University