Editorial Page

THE AFRO-AMERICAN

An Independent Weekly Newspaper

What the AFRO Stands for:

1. Colored policemen, policewomen and firemen.
2. Colored representatives on city, county and State boards of education.
3. Equal salaries for equal work for school teachers without regard to color or sex.
4. Colored members of boards of State institutions where inmates are colored.
5. The organization of labor unions among all groups of colored workers.
6. A university an... agricultural college for colored people supported by the State
7. Closer co-operation between farmers and the State and Federal farm agents.

Let's Have a School Survey

Numerous complaints, including over-crowded classes and shortage of text books, also the proposal to establish a stagger system at School 130, and letters from parents protesting removal of junior high school pupils from Booker T. Washington Junior High to Douglass, caused the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to appoint an investigating committee this week.

The AFRO-AMERICAN hopes the committee will make a thorough job of this investigation.

Just why it is necessary for colored schools to be going back towards the part-time and double-duty system when white schools are being adjusted towards modern standards, is a matter of vital concern to every citizen.

Unfortunately we have yet had no city administration actuated by sufficient fair play and courage to appoint a colored member on the school board, and our only approach to the status of affairs is through constant vigilance and investigation.

Long and bitter experience has shown that we cannot expect our children to get equal consideration with that given white children so long as we have no board representation.

The wide differential in facilities and equipment, the crowding of as many as 2,000 pupils into a building designed to house 1400, the complaints of lack of text books, the differences in test results between white and colored children all tend to indicate the need for a thorough survey.

We suggest that the NAACP, following its own committee investigation, plan for a thorough survey done by some of our own educational experts who are qualified to find out whether we are getting from the school administration that dollar for dollar distribution of educational benefits which we have a right to expect, and which it is asserted the authorities are giving.

The North Carolina Mutual Expands

The investment of more than $12,000 in a new building and the beginning of an expansion program in Baltimore by the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company is significant far beyond the effect it will have on the company and those employed by it. It is assurance that sound business men have reasons to have faith in the immediate future of the Monumental City.

John L. Berry, manager of the East Baltimore branch of that company, stated this week that despite all the talk about a recession, they had found a constantly increasing ability on the part of policyholders to meet their obligations.

Mr. Berry also stated that the social security program of the government was not affecting the industrial insurance field adversely. What is occurring, he said, is that working people are able to buy more varied types of insurance.

The head of the family who once had to spend all of his insurance dollar on policies that would take care of sickness and death, can now think of insurance for the educating of children and the purchase of homes.

In addition, the security program does not reach the bulk of the people who must have insurance protection.

The fact that Baltimore has been selected as the first city in which the North Carolina Mutual is beginning an important expansion program is also a compliment to this city.

It indicates, as few demonstrations could, that the time is ripe for our young men and women to get into the business field and begin new enterprises.

Boy Scout Birthday

With the slogan, "Building a Stronger Generation," the Boy Scouts throughout the country will celebrate the movement's birthday during the Boy Scout Anniversary Week which begins Sunday.

There are more than a million scouts in this country of which approximately 16,000 are colored. Here in Baltimore there are twenty-six troops with 332 scouts.

There is no juvenile organization in America which is organized to give boys and girls a finer group of activities than the Boy Scout movement, and but for the undemocratic practices of racial prejudice which is imposed upon its members by grownups in many sections of the country, it would be the ideal youth movement in the making of America.

Be it said to the credit of both white and colored Boy Scouts, however, that wherever they have been permitted to do so, they have demonstrated the finest American traditions of democracy and fair play.

Three out of every four boys, if permitted, would become scouts, but a lack of sponsoring agencies and interested citizen leaders limit the development of this fine movement.

Its program is one of character-building and citizenship training through interesting and useful activities. Under Andrew Anderson, local field executive, the colored division has made an excellent record.

Advisers for South America

"President Roosevelt," the announcement said, "authorized the navy today to lend a staff of advisers to Peru's navy. Two other groups of the kind are co-operating with South American governments and another is being arranged for Ecuador."

There are a number of angles including foreign relations, coming wars, and the Monroe Doctrine, of course, but what strikes us most forcibly just now is the opportunity it will give young men of this country in South America.

Which in turn reminds us that the snooty navy has, so far, halted the attempts of young colored men to get this opportunity in the service.

By the way, what are we doing to qualify a number

No Link Between Howard Alumni and Administration

Dr. Rhetta Contrasts the D.C. School Body with Hampton's

By Dr. B. M. RHETTA

Part II

In considering the alumni as a link between the administration and the student body, Howard General Alumni Association can be discounted altogether.

This association has neither the respect of the administration nor that of the student body.

You may safely add that the Howard University General Alumni Association's performances, to say the least, threaten that respect that a surrounding public might give it.

Called Useless Link

If these things are true, and of course there may be other opinions, the Howard General Alumni Association is not only useless as a link between the administration and the student body but it is absolutely dead as it relates to Howard University in any particular.

As a link between student and school, the Hampton Alumni Association again has the advantage. At least it has the sympathy and co-operation of the administration. It would seem also this it is closer to the Hampton student body.

In the matter of financial aid to the alma mater, a more useless important matter, we submit the following: from the year 1927-28 to the present, Howard University has contributed to the General Alumni Association $29-147.22.

This does not include rooming quarters, heat, light, etc. amounting to from $400 to $700 a year.

Gifts Insignificant

The General Alumni Association has contributed to Howard University since 1927 towards scholarship fund $10.50. During the same time, it has raised for its own expenses $3,282.75.

In the years since 1925-26 Howard Alumni have contributed to the university $152,122.65. These contributions were not made through the general alumni association.

Medics Gave $143,000

Of this amount $143,000 was given by the medical alumni in a campaign to raise $250,000 to match a like gift from the General Education Board. A few Howard alumni are white. Gifts of colored people in this drive totaled $167,000, the largest amount ever contributed to any colored college campaign.

Much of this work was done by the present administration, indeed no statement concerning this drive would be complete which did not hold up the splendid work done by Dr. J. Stanley Durkee, ex president, Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president and Dr. Emmett J. Scott, secretary, of Howard University.

The General Alumni Association of Howard University presents no program for the future.

No Reflection on Chapters

Those figures show that the individual graduates and chapters everywhere, not involved in this General Alumni Association, neither respect nor operate through this association.

Obviously there can be no respect nor charges against these graduates and these chapters but the time has come when they should take this whole alumni situation in hand at Howard.

It is of interest to Howard graduates everywhere when the Secretary of Interior refuses to see a committee representing the General Alumni Association of Howard University, but in all fairness what can we expect when, aside from general attitude, this General Alumni Association has only given, to Howard University $10.50 in a period covering more than ten years?

Hampton's Record

During the last twenty years, the Hampton General Alumni Association has given to Hampton $37,030 as follows:

1. $10,000 in memorial scholarships.
2. $9,000 toward the cost of constructing Armstrong Athletic Field.
3. Approximately $15,000 to the Hampton-Tuskegee endowment fund campaign.
4. $3,030 to the Hampton alumni student loan fund.

"Aside from the entertainment of outstanding members as guest of the school from time to time, the school has spent practically nothing on the alumni group."

The Hampton General Alumni Association plans for the future the completion within the next year of a $5,000 student loan fund and the raising by the end of 1939 of $15,000 for a permanent scholarship fund.

I have discussed Howard and Hampton because I can look upon each with gratitude and as alma mater. If I have seemed to favor the one over the other, it is not because I wish to.

The logical answer to all of this is: If you are an alumnus of those two splendid schools where you now find so much fault, and if there is nothing that keeps you out of this work, and there is not, why not get in and clean up THERE?

Also, and with all reason, how can one attack a general alumni association covering a time when he was president of that very association without first attacking himself?

Attacks Himself

Because this conclusion is undoubtedly logical, this part of this statement attacks me first of all. Though much might be said here on this phase certainly nothing will be said.

I have written here no good word for the Howard and Hampton General Alumni Associations and yet in all fairness much time could be given in holding up accomplishments there.

Whatever has been said, this remains: the Hampton and the Howard Alumni Associations are the best we have, as bad as they are held up to be, pointing out a great need among us.

Behind Times

We are years behind our financial and intellectual possibilities in this field. We have money enough and sense enough to do better work here. This statement holds every single alumnus equally responsible for whatever condition confronts us.

The immediate need seems to be more active interest on the part of individual graduates leading to stronger, more interested and better organized local chapters, that will concern themselves with and be directed not only by the general alumni association but by the very schools in which they are interested.

Again chapters that will assume responsibility and see to it that nothing, not even a general alumni association, will be allowed to run away with a thing that can mean so much to our schools.

This is a plea for a thorough study of the alumni situation with an eye to intelligently giving more of our lives to the advancement of alma mater.

STOP REGARDING SYPHILIS AS DISGRACE, MEDICO IMPLORES

"We must learn to view syphilis as an infectious disease and not as a disgrace." Dr. Ferdinand O. Reinhard, director of the bureau of venereal diseases of the city health department, declared this week.

Dr. Reinhard spoke under the auspices of the health department and the Medical Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. His address was in connection with the observance of National Social Hygiene Day.

The speaker declared that 10,000 persons are under treatment for syphilis and gonorrhea in Baltimore each year, and that 10,000 new infections occur annually.

Expanding his theme, Dr. Reinhard said:

Education Needed

"What are the methods which can be brought to bear on the problem of syphilis control? They are fourfold. Education, treatment clinics, epidemiology and law enforcement.

"First—education, by the spread of scientific knowledge to all people in order that they may be in position to protect themselves and help protect others.

"Everyone should know that syphilis is not a hopeless disease, that it can be cured in early stages, arrested in the later stages and that the patient can be helped at any stage by proper treatment.

"Treatment must be made available for all classes and conditions of our society. Adequate treatment clinics for those who cannot afford private medical care are absolute essentials.

"Early diagnosis and prompt treatment is vital to the control of syphilis as treatments must be taken regularly once a week for at least fifteen to eighteen months.

Should Find Contact

"It is just as important to find out from whom the disease may have been acquired as to whom the patient may have passed it on.

"Technically, this is known as epidemiology, and it should be applied in syphilis just as it would be in smallpox. Finally, we come to law enforcement as an important part of syphilis control.

"If you are a woman, remember that at the present time the birth of a child with syphilis is a sign of ignorance, for congenital syphilis is a preventable disease.

"When every prospective mother has a blood test done, early in pregnancy, and secures any needed treatment, there will be no more babies born with syphilis."

Dr. Alen M. Chesney, dean of the Johns Hopkins medical school, speaking under the same auspices, warned that syphilis victims often do not know that they have the disease. He said that symptoms may arise long after infection in the heart and brain, and noted that the disease can be cured in most cases with proper treatment.

Selected Poem

If Men Were Wise

What might be done if men were wise
What glorious deeds, my suffering brother.
Would they unite
In love and right.
And cease their scorn of one another?

All slavery, warfare, lies and wrongs,
All vice and crime, might die together;
And wine and corn
To each man born
Be free as warmth in summer weather.

The meanest wretch that ever trod,
The deepest sunk in guilt and sorrow,
Might stand erect
In self-respect
And share the teeming world tomorrow.

What might be done? This might be done
And more than this, my suffering brother—
More than the tongue
E'er said or sung
If men were wise and loved each other.

—Charles Mackay.

SERVANT PROBLEM

First Neighbor—Do you keep servants?

Second Neighbor — Not very long.

Let's "Talk Turkey" on Antimob Bill, Reader Says

To the Editor of the AFRO:

I think it is pathetic to note the great injustice being done to some of the representatives of our government, in forcing them to exert and overtax themselves, to find diplomatic, acceptable excuses for their smallness of thought and prejudice.

So much more would be accomplished if our representatives would talk turkey to each other, instead of being so hypocritical and evasive. Why not say what we mean, instead of being so hypocritical and evasive. Why not say what we mean, instead of being so hypocritical and evasive. Why not say what we mean