"We are Americans and as Americans we should speak to America." Frederick Douglass

FOUNDED IN 1892
By John H. Murphy Sr.—1840-1922
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"Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery (segregation, etc.), I have a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."—Abraham Lincoln

The Baltimore AFRO's Platform

1. *Fair employment practice (FEP) laws and enforcement power. Begin with city, county, state and federal governments.*
2. *100,000 registered voters in Baltimore City.*
3. *A judge on the Supreme Bench and in the Federal District Court.*
4. *Integration in the state's reform schools and penal institutions.*
5. *Public hotels and restaurants open to all well-behaved citizens.*

Crazy, mixed up people

There is controversy raging on Capitol Hill over the plan to release erratic poet Ezra Pound from St. Elizabeth's Hospital where he has been confined for 13 years.

Pound, who is now 72, was committed to the institution when the government found he was too insane to be tried for treason. The charge was based on his giving aid and comfort to the enemy while an exile in Italy during the war.

Since that time, the same politicians who wanted to send Pound to the gallows have given billions of dollars of taxpayers money to the Italians, but of course they are neither considered traitors nor crazy.

John Kasper, the rattle-brained, anti-racial agitator who is now languishing in jail as a chronic troublemaker, once claimed to be a disciple of Pound, but the latter has flatly denounced him.

But Kasper has strong advocates among men like Governors Faubus, of Arkansas, Griffin of Georgia, Almond of Virginia and a whole array of unregenerated rebels who are out helping to run the country while Pound is in a padded cell. It doesn't make sense.

When everybody thought Pound was forgotten he attracted attention of the literary world in 1949 by winning the coveted Bollingen Prize for poetry awarded by the Fellows in American Letters under the auspices of the Library of Congress.

With the usual shortsightedness of congressmen, that body ordered the prize abolished at once thereby robbing thousands of aspiring Americans of this stimulus to their creative genius.

This and other actions almost give authenticity to Pound's evaluation of American mentality when in 1908 he described the United States as "a cultural backwoods and a land of boobs."

Judging from the antics of some of our Dixie-minded political figures, what Pound wrote in 1908 is equally true today. Talk about crazy mixed-up people, we've got our share.

No tears for Frank Kent

Try as hard as we might, we could not squeeze out a tear for Frank Kent, the 80-year-old Baltimore Sun columnist who died last week.

Mr. Kent, whose columns were distributed to some 140 newspapers, had achieved distinction of a sort as a student of the political scene.

But in common with so many of his conservative contemporaries, Mr. Kent, for some unexplained reason could never accept as a reality the fact that 17 million Americans of color, as citizens, were entitled to all the rights, and privileges enjoyed by all other citizens of the United States.

* * *

HE WAS completely out of sympathy with the aspirations of colored people to shed the oppressive yoke of a second class status.

He sneered at their campaign for what he termed "so-called civil rights."

He joined the radical right in a scurrilous attack on the Supreme Court for handing down its unanimous decision outlawing public school segregation.

And during the 30's he screamed with painful anguish when colored voters in key Northern states achieved a balance of power during the Roosevelt regime.

Now he is gone, and we certainly have no regrets. He was neither our man nor our model.

Spring is here

Spring is here and it has truly been a thrill to see the bright sunshine these past few days in the Baltimore area.

The Orioles put the hometowners in a wonderful springlike mood by trouncing the Washington Senators Tuesday by a walloping score of 6-1. Folks from all over converged on Memorial Stadium on opening day and were blessed with ideal baseball weather.

Let's hope that the Orioles have a long winning streak and that the bright days remain with us for a while.

We need a bit of time to repair the damages done by the two big snows and unseasonable rain. Also, on fair days we are more in the mood to sneak out to the Stadium and root for the Birds.

THE AFRO'S CREDO

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept the faith with the common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are

The fate of the machine candidate who bucks the political boss

They belong to daddy

Both Democratic and Republican Fourth District candidates were invited by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Monday night to participate in a political forum.

There are a total of eighteen members of both parties seeking nominations as candidates for the six seats to be filled.

Six of these candidates honored the invitation. They were Mrs. Verda Welcome, incumbent Truly Hatchett and James McAllister, Democrats; and Mrs. Bertha Winston, incumbent Emory Cole and Daniel Spaulding, Republicans.

SEN. HARRY COLE, who, facing no primary, is aiming his campaign toward re-election in November, was also present and made what we think is an important observation.

"It's more than significant," he said, "that although all candidates were invited, only those not affiliated with any political machine thought it important enough to appear."

Noticeably absent were the six handpicked candidates running with the blessing and the financial support of the Jack Pollack machine.

* * *

THEIR ABSENCE said louder than any words that, if elected, they will feel no allegiance whatsoever to the constituents of the Fourth District.

They will have no receptive ear to the aspirations and problems of residents in the district; they will owe no political debt to the majority of the voters in this area; they will respond to no petitions of its people.

Their hearts as well as their souls will belong to daddy —and "daddy" to them is Jack Pollack.

Dixon curfew proposal

A midnight to 5 a.m. curfew ordinance applying to minors under the age of 17 and their parents who permit them to stay out after hours has been introduced by City Councilman Walter T. Dixon.

Ordinance 2026—under study by the Judiciary Committee—would make it unlawful for minors to loiter, idle, play in, or be upon the public streets, sidewalks, alleys or other public ways for the five-hour period.

The measure would not apply to minors in the care and custody of their parents or guardians. Nor would it affect minors on emergency errands or legitimate business at the behest of their elders.

The ordinance would provide fines of from $10 to $100 and as much as 30 days in jail for adult and 16-year-old violators. Violators under 16 would be turned over to Juvenile Court authorities.

Although controversial, there is a strong argument for the Dixon curfew ordinance.

If it is enacted into law, police would than have authority to break up some of the juvenile packs which roam the streets all hours of the night.

Also, if these youngsters know they must be home by a certain hour they wouldn't have time to get involved in such senseless incidents as school vandalism and unprovoked attacks on innocent people.

Several cities, including Cleveland and St. Louis, have measures very similar to the Dixon ordinance.

Those for and against the proposed curfew ordinance should make known their feelings about this measure which would certainly cut down on the percentage of juvenile crimes committed between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.

Outdoor living room

Last year Maryland spent $400 a mile for removing trash from the Ritchie Highway alone.

This fact was revealed by the Governor's Committee to Keep Maryland Beautiful in announcing that Maryland Clean-Up Week will be observed from May 3 to 10.

The parks and highways belong to all of us. And, as the Governor's Committee puts it, every foot of Maryland soil is our outdoor living room.

During the warm months ahead many of us will spend a lot of time picnicking and taking motor trips. If we

Readers Say

Dear AFRO:

The AFRO-AMERICAN editorial on my 75-point platform was rather surprising to me.

Your editorial commented to the effect that my Senatorial platform would have been better received had I stated that I would support the Constitution of the United States and the decisions of the Supreme Court.

Had you been commenting on the views and actions of a newcomer in public life your observation might have had some merit. But to direct this comment to one who, politically and most unfair in view of my record,

I don't believe the colored people of Baltimore have ever had a better friend than I have been; and if you will reflect for a moment I think you will agree.

When the Supreme Court of the United States outlawed segregation in the public schools, the D'Alesandro Administration noted immediately to comply with the result that Baltimore was the first city in the country to do so.

Under the D'Alesandro Administration, the Baltimore City Council passed and I as Mayor signed the Fair Employment Practices Ordinance, and I appointed a Fair Employment Practices Commission which right now is hard at work trying to end discrimination seeking employment.

Under the D'Alesandro Administration the Baltimore Fire Department, for the first time, employed colored fire fighters, something that even Truly Hatchett could not bring about when he was mayor.

Under the D'Alesandro Administration numerous other job opportunities were made available to colored people in the City Government and colored men and women have been appointed to the most important Boards and Commission of the City Government.

Under the D'Alesandro Administration, thousands of units of public housing have been built and huge segments of slums have been cleared.

As your editorial observed as a Congressman my record on Civil Rights was excellent and, as Mayor, my record has been, if anything, even better.

Now, getting back to your unnecessary question, will I support the Constitution of the United States and the decision of the Supreme Court if I am elected United States Senator? Of course I will support the Constitution and, of course, I will support the decisions of the Supreme Court. My views are public knowledge. I have stated repeatedly, and publicly that the decisions of the Supreme Court are the law of the land and it is the duty of all good citizens to abide by the law.

In conclusion, let me tell you this, if I am nominated and elected to the United States Senate the colored people will find in me the same good friend they have always had in the past.

In fairness to me, I request that you publish this letter in full.

MAYOR D'ALESANDRO

Small businessman

Dear AFRO:

I wish to thank you for the article you published in the AFRO-AMERICAN about myself as a small businessman being taxed out of business.

I received many compliments from AFRO readers. They thought the article was very nice. Truly, you touched on a subject that is on every tongue.

WILLIAM K. CLARKE

Cornbread Lady

Dear AFRO:

how we feel about your 'Cornbread Lady,' Mrs. 'Fannie Joe

Sightseeing

By JAMES D. WILLIAMS

Not that it's news to anyone, except perhaps a lonely Eskimo, but spring is definitely in the air, or else I am running a high fever.

I was led to make this brilliant deduction about the weather by the following items.

1. Street corners that have been deserted all winter long have sprouted thick crowds much in the manner of grass appearing at the first warm touch of the sun.

2. Housewives began getting that come hither look in their eyes that means they are ready to start tearing up the house again in the guise of spring cleaning and husbands start developing strange aches and pains that prohibit them from doing anything requiring any effort.

3. And for the unattached, and even for some of the attached, males, every young lady he sees suddenly becomes attractive and he begins thinking that he's a latter day Lothario . . . Then you know it's spring.

To show you that you can mix politics with sports, Mayor D'Alesandro was busy at the Memorial Stadium luncheon on Tuesday shaking hands, passing out cards with the Orioles schedule on one side and a tribute to himself on the other side as the man who brought major league baseball to Baltimore.

AFTER SWEATING about over an income tax form I am convinced that the people who make up said forms must be a special type of human being with certain qualifications.

First, such a person must be opposed to the idea of anyone having any money left in his pocket after he has paid his taxes.

Next he must derive a sense of pleasure from making life miserable for people.

With this equipment he's in pretty good shape.

NEXT COMES, a little test for prospective employees that goes something like this:

INTERVIEWER—I want you to write a set of instructions so that people will understand how to take a deduction for money they have invested in "unanimless uranium mines."

The would-be tax employee is then sent off to a little dark room since all tax form makers happen to work in dark rooms, and he makes feverish marks with his pencil.

Ten minutes later he takes his completed work to the interviewer who takes one look at it and throws up his hands in disgust.

"What are you trying to do, do the Internal Revenue Service make us look silly?"

"I thought it was pretty good" says the hapless job seeker somewhat weakly.

"You've made it so clear that even a simple minded person can understand it. This will never do. Go back and try again."

TWO DAYS later the poor job seeker emerges from the darkroom, blinks his eyes at the unaccustomed light, and stumbles over to the interviewer's desk.

Almost near collapse, as he hasn't eaten or slept for 48 hours, he gives the interviewer the form.

The interviewer looks at his work and smiles.

"Now this is on the ball Cavendish, this is the real stuff."

Then he reads the instructions.

"For this deduction write down the net amount of the loss on line C2, then add to the total of line 41, subtract from this sum the entry on line A2, which you should multiply by one fifth the amount of the last gross on line C3. If you are using the straight line method, if not then divide the smaller figure by one half of one per cent of the above total, unless the tripe, was located in Idaho, in which case state taxes must be included and the process must be reversed. BE SURE AND INCLUDE YOUR W2 FORM."

The interviewer looks up at Cavendish and says:

"Remarkable, not even a CPA could understand this. You'll go far in this department, Cavendish. We need men like you. Oh what a happy day for the Internal Revenue Service, oops, I mean the Internal Revenue Service.

Along the way

By STEVE DUNCAN

A wise old king — Solomon was his name, I believe — was moving and poetic boy to what to look for for signs of spring:

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

It's been my personal observation that nowadays it is pretty hard to distinguish the voice of the turtle over modern-day noises.

AND WHILE the flowers and birds are surefire signs of spring, I still look for additional indications.

When I read of college boys —with the help of coeds — staging unmentionables raids on dormitories, I know that the winter has passed.

When three handicappers move their games from the basement to the back alley and the cop on the beat gives that faraway look in his eyes, the sign indicates that the sky is cloudless.

When folks start making plans for picnics and the barbeque pit in the back yard gets repairs, it's cherry blossom time.

When the rating curve of television programs take a downward turn and drive-in theatres fill B-grade pictures, I'ole Mr. Robin has made his appearance.

And, when dals doff those winter coats for snug cashmere sweaters and guys assume that jaunty air, somebody has heard the turtle's voice.

There are many, many signs of spring.

If You Ask Me

By B. M. PHILLIPS

47 Years of service...

Before school integration in 1954, a good many youngsters who grew up in Northwest Baltimore attended Booker T. Washington Junior High No. 139 on McCulloh St. and Lafayette Ave.

And, if they did—they got to know Mattie Frances White, the talented, likeable physical education teacher. When we were coming along, we called them 'gym teachers.'

This month—after 47 years in the Baltimore schools—Miss White, now Mrs. James A. Ashton, is retiring. On sick leave since last September because of a slight heart condition, she decided it was time to retire and "take it easy" and that she will do.

Actually, 1958 will mark an eventful year for Mrs. Ashton—the year she leaves her school post, and also probably the year she will have to leave the home at 434 W. Biddle St., where her family has lived since 1906.

It is in the path of the East-West Expressway and probably will have to be torn down soon.

Mrs. Ashton joined the school system in 1911, soon after her graduation from what was then Coppin Normal School. She is also a graduate of Morgan and Sargent Colleges.

Her first job was at School No. 113, where she herself attended the eighth grade.

Later, she taught geography to seventh graders at the high school then located at Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St. She was made gym teacher at Douglass High and a year later in September, 1928, was assigned to School No. 139.

When she began, there was only the one gym teacher. Later another was added. Today, there are four women "gym" teachers.

* * *

How many youngsters have learned basic dance steps and rudiments of physical education under her guidance? Mrs. Ashton says, "thousands." She she had as many as five classes at one time with 170 girls in a group.

In addition to her school work, Mrs. Ashton gave private dance instruction for a six-year period.

Mrs. Ashton is the only child of the late Milton N. White and Sarah Mantley White. Remember when her father was doorman at Alex Brown and Sons?

Her closest relative is an aunt, Mrs. Adelaide Widgeon, now residing in Boston.

Wouldn't it be nice if Baltimoreans rallied to give a testimonial to this native daughter who has guided, counseled and aided thousands of their children?

Wouldn't it be swell if some of her former pupils at Booker Washington Junior High spearheaded such a testimonial? What do you think about honoring for a deserving fellow citizen?

People, places and things...

Baltimore's Dr. F. Walter Sherrington is the new president of Chi Delta Mu, the national fraternity of medical, dental and pharmacy men.

He was elected at the 45th grand conclave in Richmond last week to succeed Dr. G. R. Key of St. Louis.

And Dr. Sherrington was one of 12 members to receive a certificate for 25 years service to the fraternity.

George E. C. Hayes, Howard U. law professor and one of the chairmen of the public utilities commission in D.C., received the group's achievement award at the public meeting.

Another Baltimorean in attendance, Dr. Walter David son.

* * *

People coming and going: Dr. and Mrs. Ulysses Bourne (Lois), and her two daughters of Frederick, Md., visited here on Sunday. They expect their first image in September.

Feted at a supper and reception on Tuesday evening at the Masonic Temple, was Mrs. Ercell Moore of Buffalo, N.Y., imperial commandress of the Daughters of Isis.

It was her official visit to Jerusalem Court. Isis is the women's auxiliary of Shriners.

* * *

Baltimore's Capt. Uthman Ray Jr. has graduated from the school of aviation medicine at Randolph AFB in Texas—and has been ordered to report next week to the 1607 USAF Hospital at the Dover, Del., AFB where he will be aviation medical examiner and flight surgeon.

His wife, Lena, is a Hopkins nurse, and resides here, as do their two children, Uthman 3rd and Sylvia, 6 years and 15 months.

Charles Herndon, the retired railroad worker who lost part of his right leg, is to be fitted next week for an artificial limb.

Fellow members of Shriners gathered at his McCulloh St. home on Tuesday evening to present him a life membership in Jerusalem Temple No. 4 of Shriners.

* * *

Two years ago this week—Mayor D'Alesandro signed the Equal Employment Opportunities bill (April 18), creating a nine-man commission to be created July 18.

People being kind...

In Juvenile Court, after hearing how two teenaged boys have become addicted to a new home with their mother after a sad experience in the home of their father, Bernard McDermott, master of the court, granted the request of the social worker that they remain there and the court withdrew custody.

To the father, Mr. McDermott said: "And remember the boys may not visit you when you have company." To the boys, he asked, "Are you happy now with your mother?"

And when they answered "yes," and the mother smiled agreement, they walked self-assured from the courtroom as though a burden had been lifted from their shoulders.

And in Criminal Court Part I where Judge James K. Cullen heard domestic relations cases, appeared a man who faced charges of failure to support six illegitimate children. He also has six children of his own.

With an understanding not often exhibited in criminal courts, Judge Cullen suspended a jail term and said to him: "You're in a mess, aren't you."

Responding to the sympathy, the father answered, "yes sir." Asked whether he had a good job, the father said he had been at the same job 12 years.

Judge Cullen told him: "You better keep it." The father nodded his head and managed to smile although it was hard to understand how he could with the problems he faces of supporting 12 children in two or three different homes.

Maybe he smiled because someone understood his problem and was kind.

More people and things...

Frontiers from the East Coast are due in Annapolis on April 26 for the regional meeting of that group. Sessions will be at the State House.

And speaking of Frontiers, the Baltimore group's benefit midnight show tonight at the Regent Theatre is a premiere performance of a top movie you won't want to miss.

The Swars, a local social group, have added two new members — Elmer Patterson and Bill Stanford.

Mr. Patterson, who is superintendent of buildings and grounds at Morgan, is in Provident Hospital for a checkup.

* * *

Cards of cheer also to Wilbur Jones, who is a patient at Ft. Howard Veterans Hospital.

Mrs. Romaine Jones, the school exec, remains a patient at Provident Hospital.

Out of the hospital: Leroy (Hickeys) Gray.

April 19 birthday greetings—belated—to James C. Wright, 1138 Fulton Ave. He's the Greensprings' lone employee.

April 21 thoughts to Miss Frances L. Murphy — retired teacher and founder of the AFRO's Clean Block Drive.

Although she has been bedridden since December, she is able to sit up and read those 80th birthday cards. Her address: 2427 Madison Ave.

* * *

The death on Monday of Mr.

this is the man...

James Bruce

to represent Maryland in the U.S. Senate

A dedicated public servant who has served Maryland well. James Bruce has combined 40 years of business and banking with periods of government service at the call of three Democratic presidents.

★ Served As Ambassador to Argentina
★ Organized and Directed Mutual Defense Assistance Program (NATO)
★ Financial Advisor to Home Owners Loan Corp.

HE BELIEVES IN FULL EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL!

JAMES BRUCE SAYS ON CIVIL RIGHTS:

Civil rights is an issue to be faced and discussed nationally and locally without fear. Looking at it broadly and realistically, with the eyes and mind of one who has lived abroad in the service of his country both as a diplomat and a soldier, there is only one solution and while it is political in nature the answer lies in our own moral responsibility. What we do as Americans among ourselves is amplified throughout the Free World and Communist dominated world, as the true test of our established Democratic society. If our pulse is slow and faint — if we do not accept and fulfill our destiny as a freedom loving people — our influence among the rest of the Free World is equally slow and faint.

It is only when we shun and avoid the issue that we should become alarmed. Then we are placing in the hands of our enemies the greatest weapon they can use against us — even more powerful than nuclear energy and guided missiles — the force of human emotion. That is the compelling urge which brought freedom loving and freedom seeking people to our shores, which started us on the road to greatness through free enterprise and equal opportunity together with the blessings of freedom of worship and freedom of speech. We should not let anyone infiltrate and despoil the basic concept of freedom in the hearts of our people.

JAMES BRUCE SAYS:

★ TAXES:

I am in favor of increasing the income tax exemption from $600 substantially upward as a realistic way of curbing what is politely known as a recession, putting more money in circulation and increasing the spending power. This should be backed up by a program of public works and defense spending.

★ FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

I am strongly in favor of military and economic aid to the member nations of the Free World.

★ NATIONAL ECONOMY:

This demands a realistic approach with the application of sound business principles to the business of government. This we have not had with the Eisenhower Administration.

★ SOCIAL LEGISLATION:

This is an increasingly important field and one in which I am proud to say the Democratic Party has a notable record — particularly Social Security. I favor increased Federal aid to education with a proper balance between the sciences and the humanities.

Vote for James Bruce

NOBODY... BUT NOBODY OWNS JAMES BRUCE

JAMES BRUCE WILL NOT BE CONTROLLED BY A MACHINE.

He will represent YOU honestly and directly.

Remember to Register. Exercise your democratic privilege by voting in the Primary May 20th. James Bruce will give you sound, able representation as U.S. Senator from Maryland

A FIGHTING LIBERAL IN THE ROOSEVELT-TRUMAN TRADITION!!