EDITORIAL COMMENT

Let's Change Our Technique

Ever since the Senate defeated the FEPC bill by a vote of 52 to 32 against cloture, we have been doing a lot of thinking about the effectiveness of the recent Civil Rights Mobilization which was supposed to bring that proposal into being.

At that time, there was much ado about excluding Reds, Pinks, Commies and Whatnots, on the ground that, by keeping them out, the lawmaker would rally to the colored people's cause and put the measure over as an expression of gratitude for their being good loyal Americans.

We pointed out at the time that this was a naive and childish assumption and that the NAACP-CIO braintrusters would accomplish nothing by their blood-letting but would only weaken their own forces. Instead of winning any votes and influencing Senators, they would only alienate the liberals who might help bolster our cause.

Events have proved that we were right, and the Mobilizers now have some tall explaining to do. In addition to winning nothing, the holier-than-thous did a very wicked thing.

By kicking out the Progressives et al, they put the stamp of approval on the abortive doctrine of "Guilty by Association," which can be used now and in the future to drive off all of our friends among fair-minded forward-looking whites who want to see something done about our decadent democracy.

Instead of trying to outdo the McCarthys in name calling and red-baiting, our leaders should take the other tack and create the impression that they are having a heck of a time keeping our restless masses from kicking over the traces and going hook, line and sinker for communism.

It should not take a lot of wit to create this impression because any colored person who is jim crowed is a potential revolutionist brewing dark plots to overthrow those responsible for his humiliation. If he isn't he is a faceless sloth who deserves no better treatment than he receives.

At the moment, communism is the only force in the whole wide world of which the American white man is afraid. Practical politics dictates that, in order to get anything in this life, we trade on instead of abating the fears of those we seek to use.

Every tin-horn dictator around the world can get anything he wants out of America by pretending that he is threatened by Communism; while our leaders, in crying about how loyal their followers are, wind up being kicked in the teeth.

American history also proves that the most disinherited group in the body politic is that which the politicians know is in the bag. For 50 years, colored folks out of loyalty to Lincoln, were safe in the GOP column and got nothing for their pains.

They then switched and became Roosevelt worshipers. They still came up short because the two old parties were so nearly identical that we had no choice.

The fear of Communism, which boiled down simply means the fear of change, seems the alternative left to us to stir up a worthy competitor. The girl who is always waiting by the telephone may eventually land a husband, but the smart lass who keeps her suitor guessing is the one who gets the flowers and candy.

In politics, the doubtful voter gets all the cigars.

Since the major parties have proved that they put no premium on being loyal, it looks as if some of us should start trafficking in doubts.

Of course, these hardy souls will be accused of being un-American, but the choice seems to be whether we are to be un-American by volition or have un-Americanism forced upon us by exclusion, segregation, jim crowism and all the other techniques now used to keep us from enjoying full citizenship.

Micheaux Does It Again

We see by the papers that Elder Solomon Lightfoot Micheaux, Washington, the "Happy Am I" evangelist, has shipped ten 100-gallon drums to Palestine to fetch back water from the River Jordan in which to baptize his followers at Griffith Stadium, Washington, come next September.

Shipping all that water across the ocean will cost somebody a pretty penny.

Since cleanliness is supposed to be next to godliness, we wonder whether that money would have been more wisely expended if the good elder had used some of it to install running water and a few bathtubs in the substandard dwellings of a lot of his followers in the capital.

It is our belief that a little running water from the nearby Anacostia, making it possible for the slum dwellers to get a good bath every Saturday night, will do more to advance the kingdom than one dip in the waters from the Jordan on baptizing day.

We also feel that, when it comes to making people better, what is in the heart is more important than what is in the tank.

'Speed Kills,' State Police Warn Before May 30 Trips

"When you use the highways, be careful, be alert, and remember—speed kills."

It is pointed out that the coming week end, just before Memorial Day, will usher in summer traffic on the highways and with it will come the usual toll of life and limb and property. The State Police see this toll day after day.

They have first-hand knowledge of the risks involved and the chances taken by the heedless and careless driver. Up to May 15 of this year, the police have seen 40 deaths on the highways of Maryland directly attributable to speed.

Speed Control, June's Theme

Throughout the month of June, the theme of the National Highway Safety Campaign will be speed control. Motorists will be urged to control their speed in accordance with posted speed limits and in accordance with prevailing road and weather conditions.

The State Police, in co-operation with the Governor's Citizens Highway Safety Committee, will make an all-out effort to bring the motorist to control his speed. On the rear bumpers of all patrol cars will appear a safety slogan reading "Speed Kills."

Posters, large and small, on the same theme will be erected in all sections of the State and, in addition, 200,000 small leaflets, pointing out the hazards of speed on the highways, will be distributed at toll bridges and on ferries.

Take Over From Political Hacks, Frontiers Urged

William Boucher, local attorney, who is executive director of the Baltimore chapter, Americans for Democratic Action, and a candidate for Congress from the 2nd Congressional District, addressed the Frontier's Club on May 19. Following are excerpts from his speech, in which he pointed out that minority groups often lacked influence with the politicians whom they elect to office.)

You've got to take the initiative away from the political hacks and machine politicians. You've got to see that your own kind of people get into a position where they can make important public decisions.

Let's look a little closer and see why, in the short run, organizations like the one aren't as successful as they should be in getting things done.

2nd District Glaring Example

Take the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland.

It's a shocking example of how bad things can get, of how people can forfeit their democratic right to control their own government—of how a group of highly-organized professional politicians, whose interest is not good government, but only power and patronage, can run roughshod over the people they are supposed to represent.

The reason for this is clear. There is no mystery about it. We've been afraid of politics. Intelligent, educated, well-meaning people consider all political activity as dirty, as below them, as somebody else's business.

We've completely abandoned our rights as citizens. In our long search for good government we've somehow ignored the only method by which we can achieve it.

Half a Million People Affected

The 2nd Congressional District includes Baltimore, Harford and Carroll counties and the northern, western and eastern sections of Baltimore City.

Over a half million people live in this tremendous area. Yet the only fight for control has been between rival political machines—the voters themselves have never been in the scrap.

1948 was a typical year. Only half of the voters were registered. Only one-fourth of those registered voted in the Democratic primary, and only about 6% of the eligible voters supported the winning candidate.

Elected by 1 Out of 17 Voters

Thing of it. By obtaining consent of only one voter out of 17, your Congressman, William P. Bolton, was able to win the Democratic nomination.

After that, of course, there was no fight. For when the general election came around the Democratic voters had no choice. If they believed in the two-party system, they had to vote for the machine's nominee.

This year, it could be the same old story. Two county-controlled machines are battling furiously. Each owns a handful of votes. Each will spend a tremendous sum of money in an attempt to lure the few additional votes that would ordinarily give it victory.

It is appalling to think that our lawmakers are chosen by means of an ugly system of political maneuvering, but that is just what happens. The only qualification for high public office in the 2nd Congressional District is to play on the right political machine at the right time.

Ex-Reserve Officers May Re-enlist as Top Non-Coms

Reserve officers now on active duty are assured the right to re-enlist as master sergeants when their commission status is terminated, according to the Army-Navy Journal.

Previously, unless a non-Regular officer or warrant officer had held the top enlisted pay grade in the Regular Army prior to accepting commission or warrant appointment, he was not assured of enlistment as master sergeant if he elected to continue commissioned service beyond 1953.

The new policy will be a great aid to service morale. Under the old policy, a large body of officers who had served continuously since the beginning of the war were in danger of losing their right to re-enlist as master sergeants.

Booker T. Bulletin History Disclosed

The current issue of the Baltimore Bulletin of Education contains five articles by colored teachers.

One article by teacher of the Booker T. Washington Junior High School, Osceola Savage, Etta B. Phifer, Edna M. Williams and Beatrice C. Myers, deals with the production of the school newspaper, the Booker T. Bulletin.

A second article, written by Mrs. Ethel T. Payne, head of the English department at Dunbar High School, is entitled "Improvement of Listening Skills."

An article on "Training for Democratic Living" by Aurelia P. Green and Bertha T. Washington of Druid Junior High School No. 137 also appears.

The other articles are "Making Vocational Students Language Conscious," by Gladys Turner of Carver Evening High School, and "A Remedial Approach to Reading Problems" by Bertha Anderson of Douglass High School.

Helps Train Writers

The article on the Booker T. Bulletin follows:

The Booker T. Bulletin, the student newspaper of School No. 130, is, in its present form, an outgrowth of a three-week course in school newspaper writing given at the beginning of the semester to one 9A class by Miss Osceola Savage, the 9A teacher of English. The aims set up for this course are these:

1. To provide an organ of information that will present all news desired by those actively interested in the school.
2. To provide an organ for expression of student thought and to unify ideals and objectives.
3. To create wholesome school spirit.
4. To promote and encourage worthy school activities.
5. To promote scholarship.
6. To encourage ideals of true sportsmanship.
7. To provide training in useful and purposeful writing.
8. To provide an outlet for the best creative, literary and artistic work.
9. To create a desire for the best form of journalism.
10. To provide an organ for spreading information pertaining to the school and its needs.
11. To record in permanent form the history of the school.

In order to aid in the realization of these aims, students, during this course, study school and daily newspapers, tour local papers, and gain practice in newspaper writing by doing mimeographed exercises.

Following these mimeographed practice exercises are assignments on the covering of actual school activities. The stories or articles dealing with these activities are written, brought back to class, evaluated, corrected, and assigned for copy writing to those students who demonstrate exceptional skill in composition.

Members of the English Department assist in the typing and final proofing of the copy.

Won Several Awards

Not only is skill in writing developed through this course in newspaper writing but also competence in oral expression is gained through the student—planned, practiced, and directed auditorium program and "pep" talks given for new students during New-paper Drive Week.

The school is very proud of the work done by the students in this course, for the "Booker T. Bulletin" won in 1949 a certificate of honor from the National Tuberculosis Association and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and a second place certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and first class (excellent) rating from the National Scholastic Press Association.

In addition to these awards, at the recent press convention for junior high school publications sponsored by The Collegian, a weekly newspaper at Baltimore City College, two of the Bulletin staff members won first place certificates for the best editorial and feature stories, and two others won second and third place certificates for the news-writing contest.

With such values accruing from what started out as a one-class project, the school is looking forward to the day when the students will have a permanent room fully equipped for editing and producing The Booker T. Bulletin.

THIS WE GOTTA SEE!

Scratch Pad

Talking Between Heaven and Earth Just Wait And It Will Happen Plenty of Room for Newcomers

By Mae Morris Medders

I liked the AFRO's Ideal Mother this year.

She came to Baltimore with a philosophy that anybody could adopt.

It was sweet and simple. "Ask anything in God's name, and He will answer," was the way this Ideal Mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Bouey, put it.

Shucks, I'm not one to preach about who should say their prayers every night and who shouldn't.

Arrangement Good Deal

But, from a practical point of view, it seems to me that a working arrangement with God is just about the best deal any human could make.

As far as I know, nobody who ever entered into such an arrangement and was really sincere about it, was disappointed. Mrs. Bouey wasn't.

Neither were my parents, grandparents and the ones before them.

All you've got to do, Mrs. Bouey said, is to ask for it, mean it when you ask for it, have a little faith and wait for it to happen.

Ease Astonishing

Now, what could be easier than that! Perhaps the only thing difficult about it is realizing just how easy it is.

So what's the sense of fretting and fuming about what you've got and haven't? As long as there is Someone Else who is willing to shoulder all your troubles, and provide the best answer, what are you waiting for?

Move over, Mrs. Bouey. You're going to have company.

The Big Spiel

'Mauler' Needs Etiquette Course Does Emerson Have Hair? 'Minor' Search Proves Futile

By Biddy Wood

They say ye olde Captaine Alexander Emerson has been cussed, cut and sued.

So it seems there's no need to go into particulars on the man who can never find the doorbell But . . .

Appears as if "Public Servant" Emerson could take a short refresher course from Madame Emily Post, of etiquette fame.

The captain, with his crew right behind, made the rounds, Saturday night.

Goes 'A Calling'

On his inspection agenda was one of Pennsylvania Avenue's more fashionable night spots.

So-o-o into the cafe the captain walked, a crewman right on his heels.

The program must have called for a nice young person, preferably under 21, for the captain and his mate gave all the patrons a careful scrutiny, but fortunately nobody was asked to go for a ride.

Seems everybody had celebrated his 21st.

Playing Incognito

Now don't misunderstand, that's what the man gets paid for, to see that the city's youths don't taste of the wicked brew until they reach proper age.

Doubt, however, that there's any regulations in police laws, that says the men who serve the public have a right to make routine checks, with their hats slouched down over their ears.

Can't blame the captain's aide too much, he was just following the leader.

Wouldn't know the captain had any hair, unless you saw him in court—with his hat off.

birthdays

O roses for the flush of youth
And laurel for the perfect prime,
But pluck an icy branch for me,
Grown old before my time.—ROSETTA

The AFRO extends congratulations to these persons celebrating birthdays next week:

May 28—Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, 907 N. Stricker St., Odessa Owens, 914 Park Ave., Miss Melba L. Forbes, 531 N. Pace St.

May 29—Virginia Smith, 4429 Cradock Ave., Mrs. Frances W. Lee, 2305 Druid Hill Ave.

June 1—Mrs. Pauline S. Boyer, 514 Robert St., Miss Frances Welsh, 123 N. Pine St., Kelly Lenger, 2307 Fairfield Rd., Helen Harris, 5008 Beuregard Ave.

June 2—Miss Shirley Smith, 1900 Druid Hill Ave.

June 3—Mrs. Charles Law, 802 Madison Ave.

If You Ask Me

By B. M. Phillips

In a Western city last week, a young woman whose parents had sent out over 800 invitations for her wedding to a young professor, changed her mind and eloped with a wartime sweetheart four days before the scheduled event.

News accounts report the ex-bridegroom-to-be congratulated the family, and over 300 attended a hurriedly arranged reception for the new bridegroom and bride. Telegrams informed them of the change in principals, and all was well.

When 'Little Things' Count

Observers said here was a case of "true love triumphing," but we are forced to put a lot of emphasis on some other 'little' things.

For example, the report that the new bridegroom came riding like a knight of old in a brand new chariot (his was a high-priced car with the latest gadgets) to fetch his lady love.

Right to Change Her Mind.

And she certainly must have been duly impressed by the fact that after the ceremony awaiting her was a brand new house that she could spend hours arranging and there'd be no limit to what she could spend to do it.

Yes, love is a wonderful thing but when it's backed up with all these other 'little' necessary items—home, car and successful business, a girl is crazy if she doesn't change her mind.

newsbeat

By Rufus Wells

Over in Annapolis this week, residents of Parole, a colored settlement, and of Fairfax, a white district, pooled their votes to put the men they wanted in the Annapolis City Council.

As a result, T. Norwood Brown, colored cab company owner, and William J. Martin, white businessman, were elected.

Briefly the picture was this: The Parole-Fairfax area was to be the Seventh Ward in Greater Annapolis. As such, it could have two city councilmen. Four candidates were running for the two offices.

Carry Out Planned Action

The improvement associations of the two communities got together and decided to support Brown and Martin. When they went to the polls, they kept this agreement, and their candidates won by a wide margin.

Now let's look at Baltimore City, where colored people comprise 20 percent of the population. But they have no representative in the City Council.

Surely some of our leaders can figure out a way we can make a bargain that will get us some bona fide representation in our city government.

Speak Your Piece

NAACP or NAAAP

Dear AFRO: I want to thank you for the plaque and recognition given me for the service I have rendered to the people for 27 years as a beautician.

I have tried to be as impartial in dealing with the public as you have with your noted and respected publication of the AFRO-AMERICAN.

(Mrs.) MARTHA B. PULLEY.

Beautician Appreciation

Sob Sister

By Ruth Jenkins

Big gains are being made in improved race relations nowadays.

Why just last week, a noted college for white students invited an instructor from a colored institution to address its student body.

Now this development, unimportant on its face value, is, in reality, quite history-making.

For never before has a colored guest been featured on a program at this particular institution. Even more important, this instructor, is invited, not as a silent visitor, but as guest SPEAKER.

What an Opportunity

This means, he will have an opportunity to expound his learned theories to all who will listen—an opportunity to influence these open minds any way he wants to. This, indeed, is a precedent-shattering opportunity.

Incidentally, it is a college for the deaf and dumb.

Oh yes, big gains.

Memorial Day 1950: Let's Do Something

By JULIA B. ENGLISH

Another Memorial Day is approaching, bringing with it a challenge which we must meet if we are to pay due homage to those who have gone before.

First celebrated on May 30, 1869, Memorial Day was set apart so that the living could pay tribute to the dead, especially those who had died for us on the fields of battle. Later, it was to become known as Decoration Day because of the practice of laying wreaths on the graves of the deceased.

The idea of paying tangible tribute to the dead was good, but what happened as time passed was the same thing that happened in the case of other of our holidays—Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving.

Purpose Forgotten in Stress on Trimmings

In the case of the first, we celebrate the birth of a Christ whose birth was designed to save man—we celebrate it with a conventional midnight or morning service, which is soon forgotten in the excitement over the food, clothes and toys which go to make up a festive occasion.

On the Day of Resurrection, we celebrated the victory of Christ over the forces of sin with another "must" church service, which too is quickly forgotten in the colorful Easter parade.

On the day the Pilgrims put aside to give thanks for their success in a new free world, we celebrate on the largest turkey or goose possible and give thanks—with the shortest grace we know.

It Bears Repeating This Year

And our Memorial Day celebration, will in nearly all cases, parallel the others unless we remember the purpose of its founding.

I like to think of the idea Abraham Lincoln expressed at Gettysburg, in 1863, when he said:

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

The words of this man, who generally reflected a oneness with his fellowman, give a real meaning to Memorial Day, 1950.

Any Contributor Worthy of Remembrance

Certainly we cannot forget those who have gone on before. The very fact that we consider them deserving of tribute on a special day all their own indicates that they have contributed something—tangible or intangible. And so, wreaths, flowers, services are in order.

But there is a real challenge for us in Memorial Day—and—that is the one hurled in Lincoln's immortal words: "That we dedicate ourselves to an unfinished task."

And there is so much for us to do. Men of wealth often rid themselves of their obligations by endowing colleges or other institutions in the names of their loved ones. Others set up foundations, which enable younger and more energetic persons to make major contributions in the name of the donor's loved ones. Some few, realizing their failings in relations to their deceased loved ones, do emotional turnabouts.

There Still Is Something to Be Done

The overwhelming majority of us, the little people, cannot endow institutions or set up foundations. We generally don't have to make the extreme emotional changes.

But we can meet the challenge hurled at us by the dead. We can do it by creating memorial ideals and working toward the achievement of them so the world in which we live will really be one "of the people, by the people, for the people."

Beauty Treatments Aid Mentally Ill

"More than any other type of hospital patients, the mentally ill need to be beautified and to have interest shown in their personal appearance, said Dr. Jacob Morgenstern, superintendent of Crownsville State Hospital, in an article in the Red Cross Courier.

Dr. Morgenstern was discussing the good done by the 50 members of the Master Beauticians' Association of Baltimore, who have been serving patients at Crownsville weekly since Nov. 1949, when a beauty salon was opened there.

Beginning of Road Back

He pointed out that a trip to the beauty shop in many cases has marked the beginning of the road back to good health for some mentally-ill patients.

"Up to the time the patient was worked on by the volunteer beauty operators, she might have shown no interest whatsoever in her personal appearance or her clothing.

"But, the hours spent on her hair and her nails, coupled with words of encouragement or praise by one of the operators, has revived interest to the extent that the patient wants to be clean and neat to show off her newly-done curls," said Dr. Morgenstern.

Accommodates Only 2 at Time

The beauty salon at Crownsville which was furnished by supplies donated by local dealers, can accommodate only two of the 800 patients at a time.

The hair treatments and manicures are given by uniformed operators of the Maters Beauticians' Association working in assembly line style. Plans are now under way for a larger shop in the near future.

New 15-Day Military Course to Be Offered

A special 15-day basic military course will be offered Army Organized Reserve Corps personnel without prior military service under a program which will be put into effect after June 1.

In announcing the program, Gen Mark W. Clark, Chief of the Army Field Forces, said the program, to be given at ORC Recruit Training Camps, would be comparable in scope to that given regular Army training divisions.

Objective of New Course

This shortened course will be offered in the late spring and summer months thereby affording opportunity for the new enlisted Reservist to attain his basic training during his vacation season.

Two years ago, the Army instituted a 14-week basic training course for ORC Recruits. The field training was similar to that given regular Army trainees. It was recognized than a more inclusive training program would have to be developed, one that wouldn't interfer with their civilian jobs.

Upon satisfactory completion of the 15-day active duty basic training, the Reservists will return to their ORC unit and will enter the armory training cycle of that unit.

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