What The AFRO Stands For

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts of the city.

Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities

Extensive and untrammeled black political power.

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems, except those constitutionally authorized.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

"75 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the AFRO-AMERICAN population of Baltimore are identical and any faction of the race which fosters strife to gratify its own selfish ambition should be classed with the enemy." — The AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893.

Baltimore AFRO-American

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful, and magnify our Father which is in heaven. May we stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism and prejudic" — Carl Murphy, Editor-Publisher — 1888-1967

The Flower Mart At 60 — Years That Is

"The Citizens must realize that times have changed and that one of the significant changes is that people of the city wish to meaningfully participate in events which are allegedly staged for their cultural edification."

Mayoralty candidate George Russell made this statement when the Women's Civic League announced recently that they would not hold their flower mart next year because of its concern for the individual personal safety of its members in conducting an event which has been a tradition in the city for almost six decades.

"While their decision is regrettable," Mr. Russell said, "and while we agree that they as well as all citizens have a right to personal safety while engaging in any reasonable pursuit, we do not agree that cancellation of the event represents an appropriate solution to the problem."

Two things are clear in the Russell statement. One, that City Solicitor Russell realizes that this is not 1911 and two, in a city made up two majority ethnic groups, both must have a say in what goes on.

The day of "nice Miss Annes" telling Matilda what she should and should not read, listen to or take her children to see are gone. There are no more maids in white and black uniforms standing in the doorway of O'Neills. Gone is the city filled with only white bus drivers, white taxi drivers, and the all-black Douglass and all-white Eastern and Western.

Words in the Russell statement like "wish to meaningfully participate" and "allegedly staged for their cultural edification," we hope the members of the Women's Civic League have by now looked up in the dictionary. For, if the Russell statement failed to penetrate their high brow armor, maybe a basic dictionary could help.

Double Talk On Russia

There was a time when an American who visited Soviet Russia would be the subject of raised eyebrows, tapped phone lines, and perhaps the target of a congressional probe. Happily, politics are more sophisticated today, and because of this, two groups of black Americans have made trips to the Soviet Union within the past month, one group including three Washingtonians.

One group of 11 members was headed by George B. Murphy Jr. who said the purpose of the trip, sponsored by the Institute of Soviet American Relations, was "very clear — for knowledge, in friendship and peace." "Specifically," he added, "we will be talking with our Soviet friends in various Republics about the National Question," how the Soviet Union has solved the problem of the development of minority people, on the basis of equality."

The other group called the American-Soviet Goodwill Tour was sponsored by the National Economic Growth and Reconstruction Organization (NEGRO), headed by the nationally prominent neurosurgeon, Dr. Thomas W. Matthew. This group included 22 persons, and was scheduled for 17 days whereas the other unit had a 22-day stay. Both steps were "historic steps."

The publicity surrounding the Matthew group, however, has raised some questions about the purported goodwill aspect of the expedition. In a release to the AFRO, which was published the week of July 27, the NEGRO president said: "The purpose of the tour is to provide an opportunity to observe first hand, the cultural and economic growth of a nation that within 50 years has become the second leading industrial country in the world." Very good!

But three days prior to this publication, Dr. Matthew was quoted in the New York Times as saying the purpose of the trip was threefold, as follows:

"To develop relations between black Americans and other peoples and to "put some heat on" the Soviet Government to enable more Jews to leave that country, and as a journey for "universal brotherhood."

Why the double talk? Isn't it important for non-Times readers to know that Dr. Matthew and his Soviet-visiting friends were interested in the Jewish-Soviet issue, or did he have a specific purpose in providing different media with different viewpoints.

Of course, it is of no real consequence, but we think the double talk was unnecessary and would like to see the record kept straight.

Incidentally, Dr. Matthew's group cut short its trip and returned two days earlier than planned after a disagreement with the Soviets over the places they wanted to visit.)

Talked Too Much

Robert Lee Grant is no longer a member of the Nixon team. It seems that he talks too much.

Grant, the University of Stockholm and Sorbonne-trained urbanist, has been relieved of his $21,000 a year job as special assistant to Assistant HUD Secretary Floyd Hyde.

There are conflicting reports of why and how Grant was ousted, but it is clear that his release from HUD, whether it was self-propelled or a boot from the Nixon administration came after he spoke out against some of the sins of the men on the team.

In one speech, Grant charged that the Justice Department (run by Mr. Nixon's valued friend, Attorney General John Mitchell) had stood idly by while 100,000 black citizens lost their right to vote. Then Mr. Grant let loose a blast at Vice President Agnew.

Earlier he had hinted in a speech that the Nixon Administration position on black voters was not all it pretended to be, and was advised that the White House considered him "a bad boy."

Thus, he knew that he was going somewhere soon, but his ouster again brings to the front the old political truism: you must play the game our way or turn in your player's suit.

It also raises the question about the truth of Grant's criticism. If what Grant has been saying disturbs the White House and upsets the President's image-making allies, there must be a ring of truth to his remarks. We are only concerned when it hurts.

It Can Be Done

"The master of ceremonies said he would stop the show if anyone left their seats, and no one left their seat."

A cub reporter was talking to the city editor about the Jackson Five show held recently at Cole Field House on the University of Maryland campus. Further, the reporter stated, the people went home after the show instead of hanging around in groups.

Are we to believe that a disc jockey from a radio station can make an audience stay in its seats and be attentive during a soul show when our planners of high school graduations and Civic Center rock and roll shows can not?

Are these disc jockeys more gifted in audience control, or is what they did just plain common sense?

Let's take a look: Before the show started, the audience was told what the show would be about and the rules the audience must follow if it wanted it to continue. These instructions were given not once, but two and three times by various speakers and disc jockeys before the Jackson Five appeared on the stage.

When the stars finally appeared the instructions had sunk in. No one danced in the aisles. No one left their seats. The entire crowded auditorium obeyed the rules.

Here was a happy audience which paid to see a show and which followed the rules because it knew the planners meant business.

At those Civic Center shows where exhuberant fans rush on stage and at our high school graduations where the names of the graduates can not be heard because of a few loud-mouthed friends, the audience must be made to understand the rules or feel the hand of the "or else."

AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because 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;

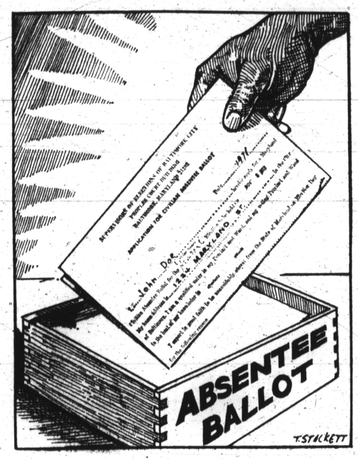
Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustices and prejudice, and the cowardice of compromise.

John H. Murphy Sr., 1920

File By September 3 Deadline



OUR READERS SAY

Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

A point of major significance is raised by the author on the matter of the interest of whites in black sex;

He notes: —

"In this country, the white man has been obsessed with black sex. He has possessed black women, because he perceived them to be more libidinous than his own; and because he felt this way, he, as an aging slavemaster, was invigorated to perform other impossible nasty feats.

"At the same time, he showed an almost unnatural interest in the black male. This interest is indicated by the slaver buyer's ritualistic examination of the genitals of bucks, before deciding to make a purchase.

...Unusual also was the bizarre punishment of castrating or otherwise mutilation of the genitals of slaves accused of sexual aggression in the 17th and 18th centuries."

Dr. Vontress contends that white sexual jealousy may be the prime issue in race relations in the country today, "since the fear operates on the unconscious level, it is all the more difficult to deal with, and certainly not to be acknowledged."

He suspects that alleged white sexual jealousy of blacks may be on the "upswing."

"Today,", the black scholar says, "young blacks with their wooly hair, loud colors and peacock stances project and incite more dramatically than ever the animal image of them which lurks in whites."

It is concluded that: **"To be sure, the** American society is shot through with pernicious racism and hatred of blacks. The hate is character-conditioned, as opposed to reactive hatred.

"That is to say, the white hate for blacks is a continuous readiness to hate as opposed to hatred resulting from a particular incident or situation.

"Since white hatred for black people, especially black men, is sexually based and usually unconscious, it is apt to remain intact and become more intense, especially now when black men are moving about in the open with white women hanging onto their arms.

"An understanding of the genesis of white hatred should in due time help blacks to 'get themselves together' quicker."

Dr. Vontress suggests that frustration with the problems of race have led black men to erratic behavior.

To escape frustration blacks have entered upon a variety of avenues.

Racial "passing," expatriation, passivity and identification with the dominant racial group aggression toward whites, blaming of lover class blacks the racial situation and excessive indulgence in alcohol and the "hereafter," have all been used by blacks to minimize the pain of their plight.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: **Part II of this article will run next week. Dr. Vontress, a professor at George Washington University, has long been interested in black identity. He has taught in a number of black colleges and is the author of some fifty articles in major professional journals. A graduate of Kentucky State College in French and Spanish, he received the Ph.D. degree from Indiana University in Counseling and Guidance.**

The Black Personality

Part I

By PAUL EVANS

In the June issue of "Black Scholar," Dr. Clemmont E. Vontress, president of the National Capital Personnel and Guidance Association, has written a lengthy article entitled, "The Black Male Personality."

In an initial definition of the term "personality," Dr. Vontress says: **"Personality is like a mask in that it is made up of patterns of behavior through which the individual expresses his uniqueness. It develops as a result of actual contacts with the world and the organization of experience gained from these contacts into an integrated whole."**

The scholar concludes that personality development is greatly determined by conditions under which one has grown up. He applies his definition to an analysis of the black personality in America.

On the historical status of the black man, he says: "Black people in this country have all been subjected to the agony and nightmare of racism. Since our abduction to this continent, we have been set apart and reacted to uniquely by the dormiant group.

"We were so abhorrent to our slavemasters that legal barriers were instituted to prevent the natural process of assimilation, which historically has almost always taken place in other societies inhabited by the conqueror and the conquered or the superior and the inferior."

The author cites four components of the black personality from which he suggests all blacks have suffered a common experience.

They are: (1) self-hatred (2) erratic behavior (3) black compulsiveness and (4) marauding protest. He sees self-hatred, as the one which "stands out above all others."

"When one is a member of an ostracized, excluded, or outside group, he tends not only to despise his group, but also to hate himself for being a member of that group" he says.

Because we are products of a racist society, we have taken on the same cultural values as whites, which include anti-black sentiments.

It is suggested "This helps to account for the desperate attempt to approximate the looks and behavior of whites. The destructive in-fighting among blacks can also be explained in terms of self-rejection. Hatred of oneself is inseparable from hatred of others, even though on the surface the opposite may appear."

West Arlington Backs Russell Team

Dear AFRO:

As president of the West Arlington Improvement Association, Incorporated, I have been authorized by the Executive Committee to endorse the following slate of candidates for city-wide office and the 5th District Councilmanic candidates in the Primary Election on Sept. 14, 1971.

It is the belief of this association that this slate of candidates is not only outstandingly qualified to lead the city and represent the 5th District, but its racial composition more truly and equitably represents the racial composition of Baltimore City.

Although this association has refrained from publicly endorsing political candidates in past elections, the many problems which the West Arlington Community has encountered in the past makes it increasingly clear that neighborhood and community problems cannot be divorced from political involvement.

For it is the politicians who legislate the laws which affect all phases of community living directly and indirectly. It is one thing to complain about poor sanitation, inadequate housing inspection, inadequate police protection, flagrant crime in the streets, inadequate recreational facilities, among other things, and another thing to support those individuals who are qualified and sensitive to the needs of the people and the community to attain public offices.

Moreover, it is politically naive to believe that elected officials are going to wholeheartedly help a community to solve its many and diverse problems when community organizations and residents fail to demonstrate their political strength by "getting involved" publicly.

George L. Russell Jr. for Mayor; James J. Lacy, Jr. for City Council president; Frank M. Conaway for city comptroller; Alexander Stark (incumbent) for 5th District councilman; Pinkney A. Howell for 5th District councilman; the Rev. Eugene B. Hugne for 5th District councilman.

Mr. Russell is presently the city solicitor of Baltimore City. He is 41 years old, married and has one child. He received his law degree from the University of Maryland Law School.

He was an outstanding attorney, and nationally recognized as an expert on search and seizure laws prior to his appointment as a Supreme Court judge. Among his many civic, political and religious involvements and accomplishments, he co-chaired the successful Provident Hospital Fund.

As city solicitor he strictly enforced various codes which affect the lives of city residents, and he has been sensitive to the needs of the city's problems.

Mr. Lacy is presently president of the Board of Fire Commissioners for Baltimore City. He is 45 years old, married and has five children. He received his B.S. degree in business administration from Loyola College. Under his leadership the fire department has increased its efficiency and made many gains, particularly in the upgrading of black personnel to supervisory positions.

Mr. Lacy is also a successful insurance broker, and he is active in many political, civic and religious organizations. In 1960 he was voted the outstanding young man of the year by the Baltimore Junior Chamber of Commerce. For the last six years he has been the Maryland singles and doubles squash champion.

CHARLES W. GRIFFIN, President
GLADYS F. PARKER
Fr. NOWELL HAGUE EDWARDS
E. CAROLYN FAY
J. ALLEN HODGE
GARRY D. RICHMOND
WALTER A. SNEAD
CHARLES E. MARSHALL

The above signatures represent eight of the 12 members of the Executive Committee. Others were not available due to vacation schedules and have a right to their own opinions.

Traffic Court

Dear AFRO:

I am black, employed, 24, and was proud to be a member of the most democratic nation in the universe until Monday, Aug. 16. For the first time in my life, I realize that the great country of mine is run entirely by the white bureaucracy.

I am speaking especially of the white run judicial system. Justice is blind. Justice is white. Justice is having no compassion, no understanding. Because I failed to make an appearance in Traffic Court due to circumstances that were truly beyond my control, a warrant for my arrest shall be issued.

The law now considers me a criminal — a black criminal. Although I did appear at the designated place mentioned above at a later time, I was told there was nothing anyone could do. I should have appeared at the time designated. How matter-of-fact like we are when we are dealing with the everyday people.

When I am depended upon, when no help is available, when the general health of one is at stake, am I to disregard that person for my own sake?

I thought we lived by the Golden Rule. We are becoming a nation of hypocrites with each day that passes.

No, I would like to think, if I had left this person by himself and his health had deteriorated due to my selfish absence, I would never have been able to forgive myself. My life is not that important. It is possible that I could have been a murderer.

And if I had to do it all over again, I would certainly do it without any regret, because I feel that I was doing the right thing at that particular time. I couldn't contact the Traffic Court, because I was terribly busy and could not have divided my attention and still obtained a satisfactory job. And yet Justice being as it is: blind, compassionate, and heartless, cannot understand it.

I will never respect the law or the judicial system. But, I will obey them because it is the proper thing to do. I will never respect the law enforcement agencies. But, I will obey them because it is the proper thing to do.

I surrender to the court my driver's license. With all white luxury handouts, there is a price to pay. I never want to see a driver's license for the rest of my life. My freedom is more important than a permit to drive.

Before I let myself be incarcerated, I'd rather die an unproductive life. And that is what the white bureaucracy really desires — an end to all black peoples everywhere.

MOSCOE JOHNSON JR.

George Wallace Deserves Only Condemnation

By JAMES E. ALSBROOK

One of the most exasperating statements I have heard some of my friends make is that prejudiced people like Alabama's George Wallace are to be admired because "at least he is frank and truthful."

"He will tell you frankly and show you that he doesn't like you," a friend said. "Then you know exactly where he stands. You don't have him saying one thing and doing another — the stuff we have seen in the 'liberal' places, mainly in the North."

Without doubt, frankness is an admirable thing and telling the truth is an act of good character and personal integrity. My friends are correct in saying we find Northern white "liberals" sometimes saying they are in favor of integration, while perpetuating inequalities such as segregated schools and racially restricted housing patterns.

The mere fact that de jure segregation exists indicates that no consistent and successful program of racial integration has been carried out generally in northern states with large black populations.

But I fear that some blacks lauding George Wallace and his kind think they see the pure beauty of high-born truth when in fact they are looking at the bold and ugly defiance of bigots attempting to justify and perpetuate racial discrimination.

When George Wallace stood in the door of Alabama University, defying federal orders to desegregate, he was frank and true to his obnoxious position that black people should be discriminated against.

But he was defying and attempting to invalidate greater truths — (1) that individual ability and not racial ancestry is the yardstick for measuring intellectual potential and (2) that publicly supported institutions by ethical reason and legal fiat must be available to all citizens equally, regardless of race.

When Wallace stood in the university defying federal integration orders, he was frankly expressing the truth about his opinion of black people. But he also was reinforcing the prejudices of those who shared his biased views. He was stiffening the determination of those who would discriminate. He was figuratively waving the Confederate flag, playing "Dixie" and defending the racial superiority myths, the long-time traditions and segregation laws used for so long to oppress black people.

So I cannot agree with those friends who in effect argue that whatever a person does, the person is to be admired if he is frank and open about it.

A burglar sneaks into your home and steals; but a bandit boldly approaches you, points a gun and tells you frankly that he intends to kill you if you don't give him your money. Is the bold bandit preferable to the sneak-thief?

When the so-called white liberal does one thing but says another, he is admitting his awareness that his deeds are not compatible with his value system and his sense of fairness. He is vulnerable to guilt feelings and he experiences the discomfort of mental and emotional dissonance and disharmony. He does not deserve a halo, but change in his behavior is not beyond reasonable expectation.

But when the culprit commits his crime, boasts about it and urges others to commit the same crime, he is dedicated to his wrongs and deserves only condemnation.

NOW and THEN

Fearful Of Welfare Reorganization

DR. FLEMING

With G. JAMES FLEMING

Rightly or wrongly, a substantial number of young, black welfare workers are frightened over the reorganization of social welfare in the state and city, now under way. They are particularly concerned about what will happen to Baltimore's welfare recipients and those who serve them.

Under Governor Mandel, there is no longer a separate State Department of Social Services but a new "Department of Employment and Social Services." The new, multi-program agency is headed by Mrs. Rita C. Davidson, formerly a Montgomery County lawyer. Raleigh Hopson, formerly director of the Department of Social Services, is no longer the top person but is still on the staff of the new agency.

Reorganization of agencies has been central to Governor Mandel's administration. Reorganization or reorientation of some kind is declared also to be necessary in light of President Nixon's Welfare Reform Bill, H.R. 1, also identified as FAP (Family Assistance Program), and because of state relations with other federal agencies.

During 1969 and 1970, the Maryland Legislature approved a plan of reorganization, reducing the number of state agencies reporting to the Governor from 254 to 11. One of the new "super" departments created is the present Department of Employment and Social Services.

In addition to employment and welfare services, the new department brings under one umbrella the State Office of Economic Opportunity, as well as several commissions dealing with problems of the disadvantaged, aging, veterans, children and youth, and the status of women.

Let it be noted that reorganization which reduces the number of agencies existing helter skelter is beyond criticism; this is progress; this is recommended and approved by all forward-looking administrative experts.

Why then are black rank and file employees questioning and frightened?

They say that they are not concerned about their own jobs, even if there is a reduction of personnel, because Secretary Davidson has told the State Legislative Council, in writing, that "All personnel presently employed by these agencies are guaranteed offers of reassignment at present salary levels within the new structure."

If their jobs are secure, why are these young social welfare workers worried?

They complain that "Everything about the reorganization is so "vague." Indeed, in several conversations, "vague" and "vagueness" were the terms most frequently heard.

They resent what they call "a lack of black input." They say, not only are black staff members not being involved, but, "even more important, the larger black community and the clients themselves are not getting an opportunity to have anything to do with the reorganization."

The aggrieved public welfare workers are fearful of the rumors that Baltimore City will be divided into several welfare districts, with parts of the surrounding county attached to each or most of the city districts. They are afraid of "county influence" which is not interested in the urban poor or the urban blacks."

The Baltimore workers also point to the fact that there is no longer a lay, policymaking state social welfare board, with topmost policymaking power and authority. That spot is filled by Secretary Davidson.

The former board is now purely advisory, with Howard Murphy, who served 20 years under the old organization, as acting chairman. So far, this column has learned, the advisory board has not been asked for any advice about reorganization.

Mrs. Davidson has named a six-man reorganization team and she has drawn up an organizational chart. She has also held conferences with committees of the National Association of Social Workers and, reportedly, with some of her own personnel.

In writing to the Legislative Council, Secretary Davidson reveals that her reorganization plan has also been reviewed with the Federal departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare, as well as with Governor Mandel, the Maryland Attorney-General and key members of the Governor's cabinet.

She also explains that the reorganization plan "will be accomplished in four phases."

In addition to continued employment for present workers, Secretary Davidson also gave this guarantee:

"An Employees Advisory Group on Reorganization will be selected to represent the views of employees...and to assist in the reassignment of personnel."

The "action arm" of the new department will be the Bureau of Field Services, according to Mrs. Davidson. "This unit will combine all the existing field activities into multi-service centers" equipped to coordinate the delivery of all the department's services to any eligible citizen. ..As a first step, 'one-stop' service centers will be created as the lease of any component agency office expires."

Projects to evaluate the feasibility of techniques to be employed in a multi-service center were underway as of July 13, 1971, in Montgomery, Prince Georges, Frederick, Howard and Anne Arundel counties. Total assimilation of field service functions are scheduled to be completed by the end of 1973

On paper, there is nothing against the interest of black citizens in the Davidson plans. Neither have any black state legislators spoken out against the reorganization now in process.

The fearful black workers say that it is also what they hear via the grapevine that disturbs them, together with fear that their legislators may not become concerned or aroused "until it is too late." Then, too, in their minds, there is still that "vagueness."

A Day To Remember

MRS. MUMBY

By MATTIE MUMBY

It was a day to remember and yet you would love to forget. On Sunday August 22, 1971 my husband Bill, Leroy and Marjorie Durham were booked for Eastern Airlines return flight 994 leaving Montego Bay for Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York.

The airport was miserably hot and no one knew the flight schedules. Our plane finally arrived around 4:15 p.m.

Outside the airport was a downpour of what some of the natives refer to as "liquid sunshine."

Upon boarding, we were pleasantly surprised to see familiar faces of Mrs. Edna DeCoursey Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Newton and daughter Karen, Mrs. Carrie A. Johnson and Mrs. Rosalie McGuire, the new national president of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., all from Baltimore. After settling down in our seats and being delayed a few minutes longer, the plane was off into the air.

Sitting very close to us was the family of a Pan American Airlines employee that was split up into four single seats. The family had been "bumped" from its original flight from the Barbados to Miami and had to go instead to Baltimore (and a two-hour layover) and then to Miami.

The group of us had just started to exchange comments on how awful it was for them to have to be inconvenienced in such a manner, when our "Pan Am" friend noticed that the plane was turning around.

To him, this meant something was wrong.

A split second later, we heard the voice of the captain: "Good evening ladies and gentlemen, this is the captain speaking, we are experiencing just a tiny bit of difficulty with the rear landing gear.

"To be on the safe side, we are returning to Montego Bay to have the crew check it out. We are now headed in that direction."

All eyes were fastened to every available window as we flew to the airport.

Very soon, the familiar voice returned, "Ladies and Gentlemen, we have decided that it will be best to land in Miami in case of major difficulty, it will be easier to transfer to another airplane."

"Mr. Pan Am" at this time assured us that this was Eastern Airlines home base and that their best equipment would be there.

Well, old "Pan Am" really eased the tension, as I am sure he had been trained to do.

I couldn't help but notice the happy glance that "Pam Am Gave his wife. Reading their thoughts, one would surmise that they might have been thinking, "Oh boy, we are going home first after all."

From that moment, the only reminder of the defective gear was an occasional loud thump from the rear.

A good meal was served and some very appropriate jokes were told. One very humorous one was when the airplane seemed to have been turning and my witty mate replied that "the pilot was most likely trying to find his place in line, and he doesn't realize that the line forms in the rear." Jokes of this type and some that I wouldn't dare repeat really helped busted."

His final remarks were that we would receive instructions from the stewardesses.

Immediately after receiving this message, I noticed our Pan Am friend fastened the seat belts on each of his children and began taking blankets down and passing them around to his family.

This was the only clue that we needed. If old "Pan Am" was preparing for a drastic change, something was amiss.

The stewardesses began spacing themselves in different sections of the plane and stopped at each passenger, reviewing the third position on the airlines emergency card — that of a bracing position.

We were told that this would be used only upon the instructions from the captain.

One cute little stewardess, Sheryl Parks, daughter of Baltimore's famous sausage king, asked my husband if he would get some of the male passengers to help pack small bags or parcels found under the seats in one of the three lavatories.

Seconds later there was formed the smoothest assembly line of good looking men passing all large packages of Island goodies, such as "Tia Maria," straw bags and, yes, even loaded ladies' handbags.

When this was complete the lavatories were stacked and locked. We were next asked to remove all personal articles such as eye glasses, bracelets or any sharp pieces of jewelry and place them in the pockets of the seat in front of us, leaving them on each end of the pocket for our shoes that would also have to be removed.

"Old Pan Am" got back into the act by distributing blankets to those without jackets.

We found that the blankets could be used to cushion the head in the lap while sitting in position number three.

In the bracing position, the head is brought down as far as possible to meet the knees and this position is held until the plane lands.

We had all the instructions and "old faithful's" voice returned.

"We are now approaching the Miami Airport and must await clearing for landing."

The plane flew around and over the airport several times and then away.

Then the guided tour of Miami from the air began. This was the tour that no one really wanted at the time.

The Sugar Bowl was pointed out along with other lovely sights of the beautiful city.

It suddenly dawned on us what "old faithful" was doing.

He was stalling for time while the airport was clearing the field for an emergency landing.

Soon, the staller's voice returned, we assumed that an "all clear" had been given and he was ready to try his luck with a landing gear that had been down since take-off.

His voice was very calm and using choice words he said, "ladies and gentlemen, we are now approaching the landing field and will you kindly brace yourselves position number 3?"

The stewardesses remarked that we were to hold this position until landing.

Well, there we were with our heads bowed, getting closer to the man upstairs, quietly awaiting that anxious moment when the plane touches the ground.

The next sound was like a thump and then like a loud cloud burst of clapping hands and yells.

We were rolling on the ground. All heads popped up at the same time.

Then the airplane stopped completely and that beautiful voice returned, "Ladies and gentlemen from this point on it is going to be a little uncomfortable with the engines shut down, we are going to be towed into the airport."

As the plane was being towed, you could not help getting an ominous feeling when you looked out and saw a deserted airfield with the exception of blue and white mechanical trucks, crews in white uniforms and, yes, even blue and white ambulances with the red lights flashing.

Could all of this have been waiting for us anticipating a crash landing or perhaps even death? Wedon't really want to know.

After about a 40-minute clearing in customs through the smooth and skillful guidance of Eastern's personnel we were placed on a giant 197 passenger D.C.-8, that seemed to be as long as a city block.

Once in the air, we were given a delicious dinner and drinks on the house. We finally landed in Baltimore around 12:25 a.m.; only five hours late.

"Home Sweet Home," there is music in those words.

Beatrice con templates the moon

MR. FRANKLIN

By BUTCH FRANKLIN

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There has been growing concern recently about 'Black' English. I will explore this topic next week in this column.

In the meantime relax and read this column out loud, in a tone that you think Beatrice might use.

When we see how we sound, we realize, all of a sudden, that it's poetry.)

Every time I gets up to go to work, I always wakes up on this bus. I jus sits here so much, I guess.

Get up early. A cub of coffee: kiss my children goodbye; the bus stop and here on this bus. It's better in the summer though. I ain't gotta freeze to death.

Lordy me, I'm sure Miz Miller gon axe me what I think of this moonshot. She gon say, "beATrice, don't you think all this exploration of the moon is fantastic?" Then she gon tell me all 'bout how great it is. She always do.

I be working for Mr. and Miz Miller for fifteen years, I be. Only people I ever work for. Since coming to Baltimore.

But she be axing me a lot of questions, since R'em King, he, bless his soul, started making white peoples give us colored people some respect. Even make her two children call me MISS beATrice. They do too.

But what am I gon say about this moon shot? Can't scuse myself. Specially since white peoples seem to be listening a little bit more.

Well, I jus don't know. I don't want none of them space men to git kilt. I mean, I want them to come back here. Where they belong.

But these here moon shots is awful expensive. R'em Brown told the church that one of them buggies used to ride them men around in, on the moon, cost over 12 million dollars.

I can't even count that far. Though I got myself my raise last year.

Sometimes, I can't help but axe myself, how I'm gon know what's right. Or not. 'Cause I feel two ways about it. The moon shot.

While I know Mr. and Miz Miller and they friends, they happy. I jus can't help but feel happy and sad all at the same time.

Deep down inside. Like spending all that money on space. Way out there. And having all these problems here on earth.

I know if I tell Miz Miller onat. She gon say, "But beATrice, we got to beat the Russians ..." She ain't gon understand what I mean.

I'm scared too cause I don't see none of our people. We ain't nowhere involved in this space program. I be straining my eyes trying to find some of our people on these special space reports.

My oldest son, he say that this whole thing, the moon shot, is the white man trying to control the world. He say they gon use it to show us all what they, as a people, can do.

I don't know 'bout that. But I do know Mr. Miller gon invite his friends over after work to see the television reports. They gon make a big mess for me.

They do everytime: laughing and cheering and sticking their chest out like peacocks.

Then too. With all them people, white or not, up there on the moon looking down here at me. I don't feel like I'm standing on solid ground, like I did back home.

I wish there was some way I could make Miz Miller understand how I feel. Without making her mad. 'Cause I remember I make her mad when I told her long ago that R'em King was a great man.

I know. Maybe I'll axe R'em Brown.

In the Spotlight

MR. FLAMER

Newest certified public accountant in Baltimore is 24-year-old Cecil Eugene Flamer of E. Cold Spring Lane.

He was among 120 persons to pass the recent exam. Other black persons certified were Forrest I. Higginbotham, Internal Revenue supervisor, also of Baltimore; and Willie Brown of Good Hope Rd., Hillcrest Heights, Md.

Mr. Flamer, a native of Ridgely in Caroline County, Md., is the son of Mrs. Anna Flamer and the late Christopher Flamer.

He is a 1965 graduate of Lockerman High and a 1961 Morgan State College graduate.

He studied accounting in the class taught by Benjamin King, now head of a public accounting firm in Baltimore and a member of the CPA board.

Presently, Mr. Flamer is employed as accountant by Ernst and Ernst.

He is married to the former Miss Louise Penn, a native of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. She is an administrative assistant at the Hopkins School of Hygiene.

Mr. Flamer's other relatives besides his wife and mother, include his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Adeline Wright, Baltimore; three brothers, Edwin, 18, a North Caroline High grad who enrolls in Lincoln Institute of Technology this fall; Patrick, 20, who is in the Air Force; and Williams C., 42, who is employed by General Foods in Ridgely; and a sister, Mrs. Leon Miller (Sylvia), of Philadelphia, where her husband is employed by the city.

Mr. Flamer is a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, which he joined while at Morgan State. He holds membership in the National Association of Black Accountants.

Warning To Bathers

As the final big month of the summer vacation season moves toward its end, we are reminded that last year 7,000 Americans lost their lives by drowning.

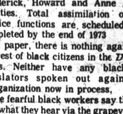
And we remind those who patronize the pools, public and private, the beaches, resorts and old swimming holes once again to be careful.

From now until after Labor Day especially, everybody is going to be out to get that last ounce of summer fun, but don't spoil it by doing something you should not do. It is safest to go to a place that has an attendant whose business it is to help you and to prevent drownings.

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore AFRO-American

IF YOU ASK ME


MRS. MOSS

By PAM WIDGEON

(Editor's Note: If You Ask Me this week is being written by Miss Pam Widgeon in the absence of Mrs. Moss who is on vacation.)

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS

Remember the musical Stovall children, Donna and James of Callaway Ave., featured in this paper as examples of solid American citizens along with their parents, Ella and James Sr.? Well, they are still at it! James, is now 13 and an eighth grade student at Gilman. He played a leading role in the 7th and 8th grade school production of "The Sirloin Letter" by Bill Rich.

Donna is now 10 and a fifth grade student at Gwynns Falls Elementary School where she starred in the role of "Mary Poppins" in her school's spring musical. At the close of school Donna and James became quite busy with intense study of acting as members of the Urban Musical Theatre of Morgan State College. They took roles in the production, Billy Noonan, the off-broadway musical by Johnny Brandah under the direction of Joseph Eubanks. James played the role of Billy as a child in a very good manner.

While Donna played a number of exciting parts as cast member requiring singing, dancing and speaking. A great show and a great summer for the Stovall children.

People moving about: The DeWitt Howards (Elaine) and their Dickie, and Doris Buckner White and her Carol, send Bellos from London.

Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Brown of Three Oaks have their niece, Edwina Brown of Georgia, as house guest.

In the mailbag this week we received post cards and letters from some of our readers who are on vacation: Mr. and Mrs. George White (Bernice) sent a card from Ontario, Canada.

Romeo and Evelyn McClearry, a letter from Nassau where they are spending a week touring the islands.

Mrs. Esther Wainwright vacationing in Paris had to rush home because of the death of her sister, Mrs. Mamie Freeman Valentine.

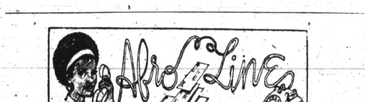
Doing fine, thank goodness, is Mrs. Vashti Murphy Matthews, AFRO employee, who had surgery at Provident Hospital and is now home.

Continue to send those get well cards to Mrs. Marie Cooke, AFRO reporter who is recuperating at home.

Mrs. Juanita Starke, who taught English at Morgan State College in the fifties, has just authored "Black Portraitures in American Fiction," published by Basic Books of NEW York. It is called, "The First Intensive and Comprehensive View of Black Characters," beginning with 1920. Dr. Starke is now professor of English at Jersey City State College. The Starkes live in Flushing, Long Island, N.Y.

Off to college Saturday will be the AFRO's teen columnist, Michael D. Belfield. Mike won a scholarship to Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and will be majoring in Business Administration. He was given a bon voyagé and birthday party last Sunday by his mother, Mrs. Jessye Belfield. Mike will celebrate his 18th birthday on Sunday.

AFRO LINE



AFRO LINE is an AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a post-card to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the Action ea to found.

QUESTION: I was at the Douglass High School graduation last June and saw your photographer and reporter taking pictures and information about some of the graduates.

The photographer took a picture of a young man who arrived late. I remember because a teacher helped him put on his robe. I have been looking in each edition of the AFRO and haven't seen the picture. Who was he and who was the teacher? — Mrs. Elmira Williams of the Business Department at Douglass.

Mrs. M. W.

ANSWER: The AFRO printed mainly leading graduates from all high schools due to limited space. We checked our special file on the 1971 graduations and came up with this photo. We hope it's the one you're speaking of. The young man is handsome Mark Dorsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Ruth) Dorsey. The teacher