Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN Co., of Baltimore City Inc.

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.
CARL MURPHY, (1889-1967)
Editor-Publisher, (1922-1967)

'Harassment Commission'

Mayor William Donald Schaefer paid David Glenn, the outgoing staff director of the Baltimore Community Relations Commission, (CRC) a back handed stay-in-your-place slap when he termed the commission an "harassment commission," saying the CRC too often has fought racism in the courts.

This doesn't sound like the comment of a mayor of a city which is 50 per cent black.

But this type of criticism, for that is what it was, is nothing new to CRC.

In 1966, when Samuel T. Daniels was executive director, he spent a good deal of time taking the City Council to task for refusing to allow the CRC do the job the City Council had asked it to do.

CRC has repeatedly pointed out that there are several minority groups in Baltimore and that Baltimore's equal opportunity law forbids not only racial discrimination but also unequal treatment on the basis of religion, national origin and ancestry.

If Mayor Schaefer would only look, as Mr. Glenn suggested, CRC has been able to make a quick assessment and response to racial flare-ups and widespread grievances which have reached a boiling point.

The commission has asked for a local or state law which will effectively combat the kinds of housing discrimination blacks still encounter.

It has prepared guidelines to assist tenants in effective use of the few rights they do have; conducted workshops, helped enforce the new laws against sex discrimination, made the Rumor Control Center work and in its own words,

In the commission's own words, it has "uncovered more and more territories where for years bias has flourished, unchecked and unnoticed. even by its victims."

But what of our mayor who prefers to think of these kinds of community building activities as "molesting," a dirty old word which means the same as "harassment"?

Has Mayor Schaefer forgotten what it means to be poor? Is he saying that he no longer is attuned to the 50 per cent of the population that needs a decent home and job?

Should we but answer our own questions by saying that just when it appears the man in City Hall understands the problem he finds we are catching up and he then turns tale to "keep us in our place."

Prove us wrong, Mr. Mayor, by putting not only your own men and women on CRC, but also some of the community representatives who know what is needed.

Prove us wrong, Mr. Mayor, by giving CRC the help, direction and financing it needs so that it can even clean up the discrimination in city government.

Weekend Wake Regrets?

It may be that professional basketball is breathing its last in Baltimore tonight (Friday). It also may be that there are few regrets at the weekend wake.

The Knicks have but to win here tonight, or in New York on Sunday, to put an end to the era of the Bullets in Baltimore. Next year, they will be playing at owner Abe Pollin's newly-built arena in Largo, Md., near Washington.

Whether it is interpreted as sour grapes or mere coincidence, the fact remains that black Baltimore should not be embittered by the loss. There is enough lily-whiteism in the heirarchy of pro sports locally to afford the demise of one such bulwark.

Over the years, it was easy to confuse hunger for entertainment as enthusiasm for the club — and, for that matter, for the league in which it plays. But it is just as easy now, in retrospect, to make a more rational assessment of what the city is losing.

Owner Pollin, coach Gene Shue and the Bullets take with them a multi-million-dollar business that is comprised of 87.5 per cent players, 3.1 per cent officials, 1.04 per cent coaches, and .02 per cent executives with zero per cent in ownership.

Gov. Mandel's Judgeships

Gov. Marvin Mandel has reached out and pulled in another close friend, Del. Sol J. Friedman of the Fifth District, and handed him a District Court judgeship.

To the AFRO, this is one more example of why this newspaper has insisted that getting judgeships out of the election process does not mean getting the best qualified men on the bench; nor does it put a stop to judgeships based on politics, friendships and payoffs.

Here is an instance in which the Bar Association of the city did not include Friedman on its list. However, the Judicial Selection Commission, headed by another Mandel friend, included Friedman on its list.

We think Del. Friedman described the picture quite frankly when he enthused: "The governor, whose known me 25 years, thinks well enough of me to appoint me and I think that speaks well of the governor and well of me. It's certainly better than appointing somebody he doesn't know."

Two things are interesting about Friedman's quotes.

He doesn't try to argue he was the best qualified man for the judgeship and he pretty much conceded that the appointment system favors lawyers and others well known by governors and appointing commissioners — putting many black lawyers and lesser-known whites at a disadvantage.

Since the AFRO has held that it does not take a man from Harvard or Princeton, or from one of the firms rated "distinguished," to make a good judge, this newspaper does not argue that Friedman won't make an effective judge.

The AFRO does take this occasion to remind the voters that there is no way to get politics out of judgeships. It also is a proper time to note that Gov. Mandel is so busy taking care of his friends he's ignoring the racial imbalance on the court.

New AFRO Directors

Family owned businesses like the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper Company of Baltimore have an obligation and a duty to make sure the younger generation is trained and ready to step in when needed.

It used to be taken for granted that son would follow father. This is no longer the case.

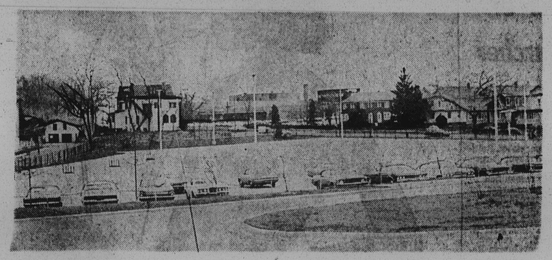
The 11 new directors under 30 years of age who were named to the AFRO Board of Directors last week were not only educated in our local Baltimore institutions like Douglass High School, Western High School, Dunbar High School and Morgan State College and Coppin but also earned graduate degrees at schools like Hopkins, Harvard, Columbia University, University of Chicago.

We are particularly proud that three of the young men joining our Board have law degrees; (John J. Oliver Jr., Robert M. Bell and Milton P. Webster 3rd) that one of the young women, Mrs. Marie Murphy Phillips Cooke, has already become an integral part of the newspaper business as our women's editor; and that all have shown a willingness to engage not only in "rapping" but in constructive building of this 81-year-old business.

We welcome these 'under thirties' to our Board as they form a new link to success of this large chain of newspapers.

A Tale Of 2 Hospitals

FREEDMEN'S Hospital parking lot photo taken 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 3 indicates D.C. facility is busy place.



PROVIDENT Hospital parking lot taken same time shows Baltimore facility has many vacant places.

What Makes The Difference?

An Editorial

A visit to Provident Hospital in Baltimore and Freedmen's Hospital in Washington is like going from night to day.

Both are run by blacks and there the similarity ends. Freedmen's is an old hospital with fresh paint, fast stepping personnel, hundreds of patients, visitors and doctors looking and acting efficiently. Even the switchboard operator exudes business as she asks, "That line is busy, won't you call back?"

Provident, on the other hand, is spanking new, with all the modern conveniences, with nurses who walk at a leisurely pace, patients in every other room, a visitor here and there and even an occassional white coat.

At Freedmen's in the morning, you circle the block four or five times and then park four blocks away.

At Provident, the parking lot has a spattering of cars, morning, noon and night.

Why the difference?

Is the fact that Freedmen's is attached to a medical school the answer? That Freedmen's is a Federal Institution? That Freedmen's even with Federal money requires you to pay when served?

Whatever the difference, we might suggest that the board and administrators at Provident take a good hard look at their sister, a mere forty miles away in Washington.

For whatever Freedmen's is doing from the looks of things, they must be doing right. At least they have a bustling hospital and that's more than we can say of Provident.

Provident is not going to solve its present financial plight unless it is willing to stop being "too busy doing nothing" and begin doing the things that count.

It doesn't need an outsider to come and tell them what they already know. All they have to do is take a good hard look at themselves and they could begin with the service they want to give to the community.

If Provident is going to remain a community hospital, then the community must support it, not just by demanding free service but by paying its way;

Not just by keeping on the payroll more people than they need but operating as efficiently as possible;

Not just by complaining about what can't be done, but looking around at what can be done.

Then, and only then, will Provident become a real community institution.

ACTIVITY at Freedmen's front door caught in this photo by Washington AFRO photographer, Cliff Cabell.

NO CROWDS seen at Provident's front door in this photo by Baltimore AFRO Photo. I. Henry Phillips Sr.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All photos taken between 2 and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, 1973.

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 independent 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.

A black owned and operated taxicab company.

A black owned and operated bank.

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

A Little About a LOT Garden Addict

By MADELINE W. MURPHY

I've often wondered in areas like Cherry Hill, why public housing projects haven't encouraged vegetable gardens in all that open space. Think of the possibilities of cooperative ventures, of home extension services in canning and freezing, of soil development, of future vocations.

Land and liberation are for those who know what to do with them!

In many areas where the grass gets trampled, brown patches of ground should be cultivated for worthwhile and money-saying harvests of green beans, tomatoes, green leafy vegetables, and corn.

On our side street, families living in detached houses with plots of ground, have lovely truck gardens every year, which provide canned goods lasting throughout the winter and early spring.

Their pantry shelves are stocked with tomatoes, beans, bread and butter pickles; the freezer bags hold peas, corn, greens and perhaps the bounty of a bushel of peaches, ideal for the welcomed variety of peach pies at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Off and on during the years that I've been mother and homemaker, my excuse (to avoid the monotonous drudgery of mopping, scrubbing, washing and ironing, cleaning) has been the great escape to the garden.

There I would weed and think; debug and think; and marvel at the yellow blossoms bursting into marble-sized green tomatoes, or gherkin-sized cucumoers, or a tiny eggplant, already deep purple at infancy, erupting from their sensuous lavender blooms.

Ofttimes my boredom and frustration have been alleviated by planning, at this time of year, to get out, to dig in the dirt, to mark off an area and plant some seeds, then to wait impatiently for the first green sprout.

Ah, sweet mystery of life, will it be weed or plant?

It is precisely this time of year, when seed catalogs clog the mailbox, that you are almost forced to begin a garden. The prose is so inviting and the "how-to's" so easy.

Just imagine being reluctant to garden after reading Ferry Morse on how to plant Seed-Tape vegetables:

"It is no longer necessary to stretch a string between pegs to mark straight rows or to carefully space out the seeds. Simply roll out the Seed-Tape on the ground for each variety, leaving adequate space between rows for access. Beets, carrots and parsley plants can spread to 18 inches across, but radish, lettuce and green onion plants grow to only 8 to 12 inches across. Many gardeners alternate rows of vegetables with rows of flowers for cutting. Or, they plant fast-growing radishes or lettuce in flower beds for harvest before the flower plants begin to spread out. Parsley makes a most attractive green cover to fill in between small shrubs."

You see, if you can read, you can find every help you need. This year, garden books are everywhere. Doesn't this make you want to start your own garden?

There are many things I'd rather forget about the "good ole days," but gardening isn't one of them.

In spite of dogs trampling and uprooting the corn, bugs decimating the plants, even another "Agnes," I've already started tomato seeds on my window sill.

Nothing tastes so good as a vine ripened bright red tomato, warmed by the sun; corn on the cob dripping with butter (a taste long deadened by cold storage and freezer packaging — exciting those dormant taste buds); green peppers, paper thin and crisp; snap beans, prickly and firm; carrots, fulfilling their promise to taste as crisp, tender and sweet as they look.

The only way to really enjoy the flavor of vegetables is to grow them yourself. Only then does a meatless meal turn into a banquet.

This year's strain on the pocket book, may be the time when you rediscover not only your sense of taste, but also your sense of values. When you redevelop the creative spirit of your parents and grandparents who knew how to make ends meet on a postage stamp plot of ground. When you realize that your freezer, this year, will hold a tantalizing array of extraordinary, (rather than tasteless ordinary commercial) vegetables and fruits.

How much better it will be to lose yourself and then find your real self, by the sweat of your brow, by the exhilirating challenge of going back to nature (not that far removed from country days), and in the bargain, easing the stress and strain of making ends meet during this hilarious meat price freeze of King Richard!

Even though, out of desperation, you might wind up like me, a garden addict.

AFRO 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 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 injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise. (Dec. 25, 1920.)

(From The Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded AFRO Aug. 13, 1892).

Baltimore Afro-American

AFRO 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 more than 200 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Training Schools

Dear AFRO:

I am writing to express my thanks for the articles on the Training Schools. (AFRO's current series from citizens' survey).

I started to write before, but felt my words would be inadequate to describe my concern.

I am so very glad that the situation has been called to the attention of the community groups and especially Senator Clarence Blount. I was made aware of. the situations that take place in the boys' training school, because my son is placed there.

I truly agree that these are children in need of care, love and attention. There are many that have emotional problems, but are not criminals. The school offers nothing to motivate these children. Those I have come in contact with seem to have lost identity of self-pride. I cannot place the full blame on the children themselves. But society and family life can be blamed for juvenile delinquency.

I would like to make a special mention of the Rev. George E. Henry of the New Union Baptist Church, who has taken a special interest in my child's case.

He became aware of the situation at the MTS. He felt that there was such a need for the boys to have something to occupy their time and minds that for a start, he is taking a program and social get together for the members and young people of our church on Palm Sunday.

Many thanks to him and others who have an interest in the situation.

(Mrs.) ELIZABETH GLOVER

Firemen's Case

Dear AFRO:

ADVOCATUSDIABOLI (The Devil's Advocate) is dangerous to the black community.

It is with great concern that I write these remarks. I have made it my painful duty to observe as a spectator some of the trial hearings involving the city of Baltimore and the four black fire fighters.

As chairman of the Positive Action Committee of the NAACP (Baltimore Branch), I find it most distressing to see a brilliant black man destroy himself just to please his master (The City of Baltimore).

Being an advocate is one thing and being an advocatusdiaboli (devil's advocate) is most repugnant.

The NAACP has and always will be for equality and justice. I will venture to say that that there is not one black practicing lawyer in the city of Baltimore today that has not benefited from the work of the NAACP.

To imply that the NAACP is a racist organization only reveal how uninformed the person responsible for such implication is.

As chairman of the Positive Action Committee of the NAACP Baltimore Branch, I feel it is my duty to sound the alarm: BEWARE OF ALL ADVOCATUSDIABOLI: They are dangerous to the black community.

JOHN H. THORNTON

Criminal News

Dear AFRO:

A number of black residents in Baltimore are expressing increasing concern and disgust about the manner in which criminal news is reported in the AFRO when the offender is an adult and related to a professional black person.

When an individual is an adult, he becomes responsible for his own conduct. The fact that the parents are professional should have no place in your headlines to attract attention and embarrass the family involved.

If you claim that type of reporting sells your papers, then it is clear that your selfish lust for money, obviously identifies the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper as a scandalous paper, lacking compassion, understanding and love for others.

Our black people need consideration and dignity and it would be rewarding for this consideration to become a part of your reporting policy.

C. A. MORTON

The Sleeper

Upon the grass I laid
In a spot I sought for shade;
Now I'm everything but still
For while sleeping on a hill
I got ants in my pants.

PAULD. McALLISTER

Middle School Proposal

Dear AFRO:

I am happy to see community involvement and manipulation get the news coverage it has gotten. It does distress me, however, to see how slanted the news is.

Several facts about the Baltimore City middle school have been either inadvertently or intentially left out of all of the news coverage. I was at the School Board meeting and heard the following facts highlighted at that meeting:

1. Pimlico Jr. High School and Greenspring Jr. High School were the schools originally designed to be middle schools. As a matter of fact, Greenspring meets every need of a middle school. Somehow, these schools were overlooked completely and Falstaff became the "desired" school.

2. Although advocates of the Falstaff Middle School said it would be 40 per cent black, a projection of the school's future racial situation indicates that the school will probably be predominantly white within 3 years. (This question was asked by Mr. James Griffin and was answered by Dr. Roland N. Patterson).

This projection is more than just an educated guess. A task force was assigned to work up this data for review by the School Board and this was their finding.

This, in itself, defeats the alleged purpose of the proposal:

"THE COMMUNITY IS INTERESTED IN BOTH QUALITY AND INTEGRATED EDUCATION." (Taken from the Middle School Steering Committee Proposal for School Board, advocates of the proposal).

3. One of the main objections to the Falstaff Middle School is the displacement of all special education students, as discussed in detail by Mrs. J. N. Parker.

In the first year, room could be made for a minimal number of existing special education classes. However, after the first year, there will be no room for special education students. (Special education means handicapped, mildly retarded, emotionally unstable, slow learners, etc.)

4. The Falstaff school is not physically equipped to be a middle school. Although the promoters of this proposal have "graciously" agreed to accept Falstaff as is, so that it will be operational in September, 1973, it was brought out by Sen. Rosalie Abrams that the cost to make this school physically adequate, will be nearly one million dollars of taxpayers' money, many of whom are black.

Making this school physically adequate includes, among other things, replacing kindergarten and elementary grade furniture, water fountains, toilets, etc.; setting up science laboratories, home economics departments, etc.

5. So, what happens after eighth grade? Another publicly-funded high school? My conclusion is that this is a proposal for a private white school (with black tokenism) for the people in this area who cannot afford to move farther out.

It would be wonderful for the residents of this area and every other area of the city to have their own publicly-funded private school, in which they could select the "right" pupils for the school and omit the "undesirables," but not at the expense of the other taxpayers.

The citizens who endorse this proposal were most agreeable to Pimlico and Greenspring being made middle schools — AFTER Falstaff. Separate but equal middle schools?

To those few blacks who endorsed this proposal, it seems that they have been duped by the persons who would have them believe that they are among the "acceptable."

Perhaps, in the planning stage, they were not aware of the serious drawbacks of this proposal.

However, now that the facts have been revealed, it would be senseless for them to continue to be loyal to a faction that would use them as a tool to promote their cause, but in the not so distant future (three years or less) exclude them from the harvest.

To be pro-black does not mean that one must be anti-white. The idea of the school is a beautiful one, but only if it sincerely hopes to accomplish its stated objective and works toward that end.

(Mrs.) EVELYN ORR

New Senate Entry

By G. JAMES FLEMING

This time it is the Hon. Frank M. Conaway, member of the Maryland House of Delegates since 1971, who is throwing his hat in the ring for the State Senate in the legislative race of 1974.

And this is no shadow-boxing, no "trial balloon," he declares.

"I shall be running in the Harlem Park — South District; I'll be living there; and I'll be running because the Senate is the next step. I believe in moving up. I believe in being 'Number One.'

"More than all that," he continued, "I believe in working hard in anything I do and for anything I want."

What about all the other candidates — both incumbent and new, he was asked.

Delegate Conaway says he is not running "against anyone" (Where and when have we heard this before?).

Certainly, he will not be facing Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III and the Mitchell arsenal of campaigners, nor will he be facing Senator Verda F. Welcome — if the new district lines hold up in court.

In addition, the first-termer in the House of Delegates claims he has "strong backing in high places, in addition to the rank and file of voters." He also expects to raise the needed campaign finances.

"I also hope to receive the backing of the Governor," he told this column. He would not expand on this expectation.

Del. Conaway is a "local boy who has made good." He was graduated from Morgan State College in 1960 with a major in political science, but turned to life insurance as his vocation.

He is given credit for breaking the five five blacks in Baltimore, as representatives of the national giants among insurance companies. He has won many honors in the field.

He is presently regional director of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company and is owner of the Aristocrat Insurance Agency (casualty), with offices in the Old Town Bank Building, Gay and The Fallsway.

Del. Conaway believes that his "record of outspokenness" and his interest in the little man speak for themselves.

He claims, also, that, since being in business, he has secured jobs for over 100 people and that he has introduced 38 bills in the legislative. Eight of these have been made into law.

With overwhelming confidence in himself, Mr. Conaway joins the primary race in what is now the Fourth Legislative District, with fellow-Democrats, fellow-Delegates and fellow aspirants Troy Brailey and Hildegardais Boswell.

The final outcome depends, not only on how the new reapportionment ends up in court, but also on the fortunes of the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, pastor, Douglass Memorial Community Church, a serious Republican entry in the primary.

POLITICS AND BUSINESS: It was

NOW and THEN

DR. FLEMING

heartening to see the special section in last week's Baltimore AFRO, in which the Mondawmin Shopping Center gave all the signs of being quite alive and "kicking."

It was good to see the crowds of shoppers and to read the advertisements — all giving the impression that this most important northwest community business area is not giving up the ghost, just because its giant member, Sears has moved.

Sears' moving should be forgotten and no time should be lost griping about it. This is a free country and men and women — private and in business or in situations — have been moving, down the centuries. This is true, regardless of the race, religion or nationality background of the movers.

More important than the past is what we are all doing about the empty space left by Sears.

More directly, what are the politicians and the political power structure of northwest Baltimore doing to bring some other big employer, or employers to Mondawmin.

What strings are being pulled? What pressure is being applied? What deals are being offered? What advantages are being stressed?

Or is Mondawmin to be another example of another store or building closed, unless the non-taxpaying government rents it?

Is Mondawmin to be another example that the black community and black leaders can fuss and fume, and orate about their POWER — but that they really have no power?

This column has not heard of any group of black politicians, sitting around a table, "beating their brains out," trying to keep Mondawmin from becoming a business shantytown. Or, to be more exact, we have not heard of their finding a way to turn the Sears space into dollars and jobs.

In fact, what is true in this case, is too true of black politicians of this era. We walk out on Presidents, we refuse to shake the hands of governors, we turn our backs on coalitions — but what are we doing FOR our constituencies?

A Column Of CHOICE

Salute To The Parents

By MARION M. BANFIELD

Let us salute the parents who stuck together, went through procedures, did their homework, and got a middle school for their children.

Sure, there was a racial overtone.

There was class overtone, too. There was also the overtone that they wanted their children to be free to go to school without being hassled by meanness of other children.

Let's face it. This was a beautiful example of power of the people. We need more power to the people!

Open enrollment hasn't brought about significant improvement in the education of our children. Those Northwest parents didn't hassle against it. They planned and fought for their children's education.

They didn't shout against open enrollment. They were smart enough not to direct their strategies to that emotional issue.

Now, it's up to some of the rest of us to be as specific as those northwest intellectuals as to exactly what we want for our children.

Some of those same parents who got a middle school are the type who will work along to help other parents get a decent educational set up for some other children. Let's remember that!

We have to begin to get over the idea that open enrollment is a sacred issue that is not to be discussed.

At this point under-utilized and over-crowded secondary schools are a major outgrowth of open enrollment.

The time has come when there needs to be a citizens task force on education to take a look at and some action about open enrollment and quality of education.

I know of no reason why a young man should sit in my office and describe himself as being unable to read other than that his teachers and family expected very little from him.

That 22-year-old Baltimore man was cheated by poor teaching and an ignorant family.

Open enrollment has not removed the curse of low expectation from black and poor students.

There is no logical reason why children from Northwest Baltimore should get a better education than children in Cherry Hill or East Baltimore.

There is no simple explanation of the many reasons why there is a difference. An over-simplified, but nevertheless valid explanation, is HUMAN RELATIONS.

The relationships between teachers and children determine learning effectiveness. It is useless for a teacher to have courses in methods if she lacks basic respect for her pupils.

Let me be clear, that respect without knowledge of teaching methods is not what black children need.

In other words, you can't teach English in high school if you handle the English language and literature poorly yourself.

A child from a home with an alcoholic mother, a border-line psychotic for a grandfather, and fighting siblings is going to need special attention from the school. That child's relationships with humans are distorted.

The school cannot reach this small human being by responding to his anger with its own anger.

MRS. BANFIELD

Some of the affluent Northwest children get private counseling from social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists.

Poor children with emotional problems need counseling also. Parents had better face this need and get the schools to deal with these problems.

A choice for parents is to meet in small groups, decide what priorities they want established for their children and move from the small meetings to larger ones.

A choice for parents is to recognize that bad relationships among students is a major cause of hundreds of students refusing to attend predominantly black schools.

Our choice is to face facts and deal with the human relations aspect of schools before the courts throw us into an emotional crisis by directing racial integration.

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 postcard to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203.

QUESTION: During last week's riot at the Maryland Penitentiary, I heard a lot of complaints about inmates in the West Wing being mistreated.

I even heard that Baltimore City policemen shot through the bars of the prison.

He said he couldn't come across a single incident of maltreatment.

What happened?—E. R.

ANSWER: Bob Grahams, assistant public information officer for the state division of corrections, told AFRO LINE: "Commissioner James Jordan, who was present in the West Wing that night, said that he saw no sign of any recrimination on the part of the correctional officers, and that he thought they handled themselves very professionally.

"In addition, Mark Levine, director of administrative services, conducted an investigation the next day and determined that the 26 inmates who were injured received their injuries from other inmates, not from police or correctional officers.

"The plastic bullets which were fired hit no one, and were fired by correctional officers, not Baltimore City policemen.

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's where the action can be found.

WEST WING PEN BARS — Did police fire bullets through these during last week's riot? AFRO LINE writer asks the question. See answer in AFRO LINE. (AFRO photo by Mark Baird).

QUESTION: I went to a lawyer in April, 1971 to secure a divorce for me.

The fee requested was paid in full by the end of May, 1971.

He told me I would be notified about the divorce, but I haven't heard from him yet and don't know my status.

Am I married or divorced?—G. J.

ANSWER: The lawyer told AFRO LINE that your divorce was granted Jan. 12, 1972.

QUESTION: Please let me know the name of the bank where my brother had the safety box.

I believe it was on 40th St.

I can't do anything until I get the name of the bank.

I received your letter and everything was okay. Thanks for all your kindness.—G. V.

ANSWER: As AFRO LINE said before, the bank in question has no record of a safety deposit box in your brother's name, and told AFRO LINE it never did, either.

Walter Dickerson, David Glenn, Gary Burgess, Jean Talley, Marion Jordis, Albert Mattes, Elizabeth Shipley, and this writer.

MCSW Chairperson is Anne Carey Boucher; Kathleen M. Carter, vice chairperson; and Elaine L. Newman, executive director. The Commission has offices at the Department of Employment and Social Services, 1100 N. Eutaw Street.

Date Data: Woman Power, Incorporated will sponsor its first Black Tie "May Ball" on Friday, May 11, at the beautiful Eudowood Gardens in Towson, Maryland. Reservations are $12 per cover and can be secured by calling 233-8087 or 383-5639. This organization of dedicated women has been carrying on voter registration and voter education campaigns for over 15 years and is one that deserves the support of our local community.

Clubs, organizations and interested citizens are urged to secure reservations early.

It's NOT a Man's World

The Status Of Women

By BERNICE S. WHITE

Among the many organizations that are working for better opportunities for women is the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW).

This Commission was established by an Executive Order of Governor J. Millard Tawes in 1965.

On July 1, 1971, Governor Marvin Mandel signed an act which created a permanent commission.

The commission was created to help expand opportunities for women and to eliminate barriers which keep them from realizing their full potential.

Toward this end, the commission has been charged with (1) identifying areas of concern to women; (2) recommending methods for overcoming discrimination against women in employment; and (3) promoting development of women's educational and vocational skills.

The commission acts as a clearing house for information and activities for women and serves as a consultant to individuals and organizations on matters pertaining to women.

The commission is assisted in its efforts by committees composed of a cross section of community leaders, both women and men. One very active committee is the Employment Committee. This committee has filed 15 complaints of sex discrimination in advertising against employers in the State.

To date, the Maryland Commission on Human Relations has conciliated two of the complaints and affirmative action is now being taken by these two employers to hire women. The two settlements involved an aircraft company and a Western Maryland daily newspaper. Other complaints under consideration involve the largest employment agency in the state, an auto agency, a petroleum company, a finance company and several cab companies.

The recently organized "Baltimore New Directions For Women," is also a project of the commission. This is the project that is operated by volunteers and serves as an information center and advisory service for women seeking career planning assistance, job information, and education and training program descriptions.

The project was launched under the leadership of Mrs. Edna D. Johnson, co-chairperson of the Employment Committee.

This committee is also busy making plans for a conference in May to bring together labor unions, employers, enforcement agencies, and women to discuss the problems of working women.

The conference will be patterned after the "Women's Bureau Guide to Conducting a Consultation on Women's Employment. Among the members on the planning committee are Ilse Darling, chairperson; Esther Levin, Joseph Jones, David Zabel, Dorothy Davenport, Clarie Kolom,