Baltimore Afro American

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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)

A-4 NOVEMBER 3, 1973

Fire Department Chief

For the first time in history, the Baltimore City Fire Department has a black battalion chief.

Forty-year-old, Clyde J. Smith was among 57 persons promoted by the Fire Board this week.

The action follows the court battle which began December 6, 1971, when black firefighters filed a class action suit in Federal Court claiming racial discrimination in hiring and promotion.

They were encouraged to act after the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, an outspoken member of the Fire Board, exposed the racist policies in the department and caused the city to become a party to the suit to test their legality. Promotions were delayed.

In a May, 1973 ruling Judge Joseph H. Young, found for the firemen, and ordered desegregation plans to correct the inequities.

It is in this posture that the Fire Board announced promotions this week. More are to come.

Baltimore City has approximately 2,300 firefighters, only about 350 of them black.

While specific figures are not available, it is a fact the city has 39 battalion chiefs, only one of whom is black.

The proportion of captains (about 8 blacks out of 93), and lieutenants (about 23 of 197) and other personnel, nowhere approximates the population of Baltimore city which is half black.

What we're saying here is that the naming of Chief Smith is nothing to crow about.

Like the Baltimore city police department, which has a bad employment record, (just 449 out of 3,279 black), the Fire Department is also out of step.

Forty miles away in Washington, the head of the 1,406-member Fire Department is Chief Burton Johnson, named in April 1973.

The nation's capital also has a deputy fire chief and for years has had battalion chiefs, captains, lieutenants and sergeants.

The Baltimore City Fire Board, under the court's ruling, has ample room in which to move to correct continued inequities.

In filling additional vacancies at the battalion chief, captain and lieutenant levels, it can and must do better.

We agree with the Rev. Mr. Bascom that the appointment of Battalion Chief Smith is just a start.

Further, we suggest that the Fire Board can raise the victory sign only if it remains vigilant and makes rapid improvements on this small beginning. It has a long way to go, but it can do it, if it has the will.

Congratulations, Earl

An honor which he truthfully earned in, at the least, three of the last five years finally came to Earl Weaver this week when he was named "manager of the year" in the American League.

The peppery pilot of the Orioles, ironically, was bypassed in his pennant-winning seasons of 1969-70-71. But, in 1973, when he was only second best, he received the recognition he so richly deserved for so long.

AFRO readers will be a part of the rejoicing that national acceptance is going to a leader in Baltimore professional sports who is unafraid to infiltrate his team with qualified blacks. In a city where complexion is more often than not the determining factor in the makeup of the team on the field, the Oriole manager's behavior is refreshing.

Being named "manager of the year" is the most coveted accolade a front-office individual can receive. And when it goes to a man whose performance is unfettered by racial considerations, the recipient merits our heartfelt congratulations.

Unhealthy Situation

Not unexpectedly, President Nixon has done everything possible to kill plans for national health insurance.

In order to offset chances for passage of a health bill sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. Martha W. Griffiths, D-Mich., Nixon instructed the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to submit its own bill.

The HEW bill would, at Nixon's direction, create a windfall of billions of dollars for private insurance companies.

Thus once again, the President manifested that his primary concern is directed at strengthening the already-rich business conglomerates, rather than truly helping poor people.

Under the new HEW plan low-income couples without children, and low-income single persons, would receive no benefits.

Families would be offered health insurance through their employers by order of the Federal Government. And employers would have to pay 75 percent of the premiums.

But — and here is another catch — the poor, making less than $5,000 per year per family would still have to pay additional premiums of up to $300 annually, and an additional $150 worth of medical bills for each family member, before the insurance plans would go into effect.

And they would still be required to pay one-fourth of all bills after that.

Rich families would also benefit from the plan. No family, regardless of whether it makes a combined income of $25,000 or $100,000, would have to pay more than $1,500 for medical expenses during a year.

Thus, the plan not only would benefit insurance companies, it would also benefit the wealthy.

Most poor families cannot afford normal expenses of housing and food, let alone medical bills or insurance premiums of any amount. They would still find the costs prohibitive.

Let no one then fool himself into believing that this plan would meet the needs of America's poor. Emphatically it would not.

James H.N. Waring Jr.

Dr. James Henry Nelson Waring, Jr., consecrated teacher, administrator and humanitarian, is dead at the age of 83.

The death notice published in this edition notes that for 41 years, until his retirement in 1965, Dr. Waring was principal of the Downingtown Industrial School, in Downingtown, Pa., where he succeeded his father, the senior Dr. Waring.

Baltimore, for two generations, has had a special interest in the Waring family. The senior Dr. Waring, was a physician and principal of what was then known as the Baltimore Colored High School. The bronze tablet erected in his memory is the only one of its kind on the walls at Douglass High School.

The younger Dr. Waring finished Baltimore Colored High School in the class of 1907 and was the sole surviving member of that class, which included the late AFRO publisher, Carl Murphy, Dr. Charles Wesley, Dr. Victor Tulane College educator and Louis Russell, school principal.

In 1959, the AFRO presented Dr. Waring an engraved watch on the anniversary of his 35 years as Downingtown principal. The citation noted his "long and distinguished" service, and hailed him as, "a gentleman, a builder of character, a man of integrity, fearless and faithful."

Baltimore would do itself proud if it perpetuated the memory of the Drs. Waring, father and son, by naming a public school in their honor.

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 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.

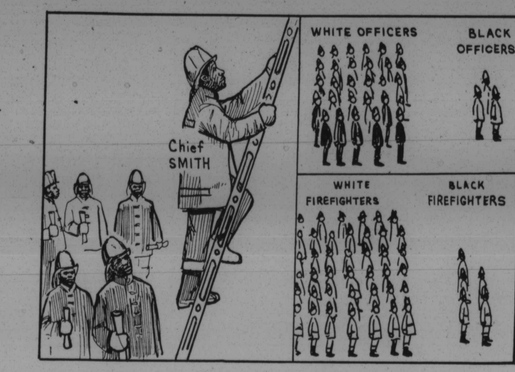
Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise.

The AFRO-AMERICAN must become a bi-weekly, then a tri-weekly and eventually, when advertising warrants, a daily.

It has always had a loyal constituency who believe it honest, decent and progressive. It is that kind of newspaper now and I hope it never changes.

From the Dec. 25, 1920 papers of JOHN H. MURPHY SR., founder of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper, August 13, 1892.

Still A Long Way To Go



NOW and THEN

UN's Worth Shown Again In Mid-East

By G. James Fleming

So often, both cynics and idealists question, "What is the use of the UN"

Others curse after the international body and say it has no value, or "It's a farce," or "It's a tool of the big powers," or "It hasn't stopped any war."

Count this writer, nevertheless, as a friend of the UN, one who believes the world would be far worse off without it. More positively, it is an instrument of good and constructiveness.

Indeed, it is more an instrument of strength than of weakness.

The latest opportunity for the UN to show its usefulness in peace-keeping came last week when there was the question of whether the USA and the USSR would face each other, armed, on the Suez — the U.S. supporting Israel and the Soviets contending for the Arabs.

If there had been no United Nations, the world might now be in the throes of World War III. The Soviets, reportedly, had threatened, and our own country had put its ground, naval and air forces on the alert.

If there had been no "escape valve," the two super powers might now be "on the march." Instead, by resolution of the General Assembly, the UN is sending its own peace forces into the Mideast, to insure the cease-fire.

If the UN could not prevent the outbreak of the brush-fire war between Egypt and Israel, it has stepped in to prevent its spread — to prevent real, big war.

As Voltaire might have said, "If we did not have a United Nations, we would have to create one."

Wherever sovereign nations have permitted it, the UN has converted war into peace. It has had even more success in combatting disease, in saving the life of children and in improving food crops.

Where the UN has failed, it is because powerful nations have by-passed it and waged their wars — or "police actions" — without giving the UN a chance to use its specialized "good offices" of peace.

Those who turn against the UN, forget that the organization has no army, no navy, no air force. It has no guns and, if it had, it would be helpless as a force for peace.

It does permit "airing" of issues; it allows men and nations to fight with words (sometimes with a bang of shoe on desk), instead of resorting to arms.

The UN is also the outstanding example in the world of peoples of all racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds working together as equals.

Behind the UN action for peace in the Mid-East, even more important is the fact that there is every appearance that the Israelis and the Arabs will have laid down their arms.

Both Jews and Arabs need peace so that they can develop their countries. The Israelis, we know, want to build more schools, extend their health services and push both their agriculture and their manufacture.

The Arabs, despite their oil which makes a few of their people extra rich, need every penny possible for the welfare of their masses — education, public health, housing, a higher standard of living.

There is land aplenty in the Mid-East for both Israelis and Arabs. This column is particularly concerned about Israel, because, to us, the world owes the Jews an opportunity to make a national home somewhere.

They, (the Jews), have been violated, lynched and routed in, and from, most parts of the world. No other people have experienced 6,500,000 of their kinfolk baked to death.

Would that there was enough wisdom and love in the world to insure that Jews could, at last, return to and remain in their ancestral homeland.

A little About a LOT

Professional Status

By Madeline W. Murphy

The Md. Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers is promoting legislation, not unlike other states in the Union, to create a State Board of Social Work Examiners.

This would give the board power to license social workers with the minimum of master's degree in social work or its equivalent, two years professional experience, who can pass an examination administered by the board.

Here again is an effort to so rigidly control a profession, that the abuses would far outweigh the rules promulgated to stop them.

The effort to license, ultimately, becomes a political weapon to thwart the movement of more blacks in the field of social work; to control the growth of the profession; to establish a dangerously punitive system, smacking of the ills of the Age of Inquisition.

First of all, the governor would appoint five members of an eight member board with three others appointed by the lily white NASW.

All you have to do is scan other state regulatory agencies, and tokenism or "uncle-Tomism" slaps you in the face.

Secondly, within the last five years, there has also been an increase in training para-professionals in social work. Where do they fit into this new regulation?

Will they be relegated to paper work in the back office, or will their expertise, perhaps less sophisticated, more humane, be withheld from the consumers, because they are not certified professionals?

It is surprising to see how some blacks have fallen for this scheme, with a purity of purpose, an a-political naivete that ignores the facts of life of an undemocratic system when it deals with black brothers and sisters.

A couple of weeks ago, the Association of Black Social Workers held its first statewide conference, and one of the workshops dealt with licensing.

Although members of this particular workshop, about ten in number, were in the majority against this kind of regimentation and "professionalization," some took this proposal very seriously, even falling into the trick-bag of writing legislation of their own.

The proposed bill, with its own nebulous provisos, revokes or refuses a license for, among other things: "gross negligence, incompetence or misconduct in the practice of social work and other prescribed acts." (Underlining mine).

The first thing that should come to mind, by those who may be eligible for the title of "Certified Social Workers," is the quality and honesty of the jury of their peers, who will decide what constitutes incompetence or misconduct or "other prescribed acts."

After our experience with Watergate, and its attendant Watershed of enemies lists, executive privilege, being above the law, lying, cheating, stealing and closer to home, the Agnew-Dale Anderson revelations about misconduct in office, do black social workers really believe that any political appointee of the governor will not manipulate laws to suit the purpose of a racist society, where a black minority will be out-voted and out-maneuvered?

In addition, when there are now more black social workers than ever who are interested in advocacy, who are willing to protest and demonstrate openly against the injustices of the system, side-by-side with the consumers, won't this be considered misconduct or fit into the grab-bag of "other prescribed acts"?

And in order to hold on to the precious status, "Certified Social Worker," won't those very advocates have second thoughts when yearly licensing looks them in the face?

Updated, relevant Civil Service exams should certainly be adequate to judge the capabilities and qualifications of social workers. Rather than become part of ever-widening bureaucratic red tape, the crucial job of testing insensitivity and racism; the revision of civil services exams; should be the primary job of both NASW and ABSW.

Considering the rules and guidelines which affect the proper administration of social welfare, it would seem that fewer regulations are needed and more time should be given to repealing and changing laws which countermand, contradict and confound the consumer and worker alike.

Certainly excellence in black people should be the goal for any job, but regulations which primarily boost a job into a professional status symbol, will not change destructive attitudes nor devious manipulators in that profession, who constantly fail to help poor and black people help themselves.

Dr. Kissinger's Prize

By Claude Matthews

Nobel Peace Prizes are intensely political. This year the prize goes to Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, chief architects of the Vietnam cease-fire.

The prize has been criticized by Communist observers who charged that one must live in the West to receive it.

Le Duc Tho refused to accept his share of the prize until peace actually exists in Vietnam.

North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho is the first representative of a Communist nation to be so chosen. With the exception of Albert Luthuli of South Africa all the recipients have been Europeans or Americans.

The Nobel Prize can legitimize a man or a cause in the eyes of world opinion.

In the case of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it threw the world spotlight on the civil rights struggle in the Deep South. Dr. King was not alone in feeling that the prize was his "mountain top."

Albert Luthuli won the prize for his highly moral stand against apartheid in South Africa. World opinion was endorsing his pacifist approach to the South African racial conflict.

High purpose and moral rectitude are not always enough, however. Gandhi never received the Nobel Prize.

The award to Henry Kissinger was not given to a peace partisan, but to an American nationalist. The prize need not go to a saint, but Kissinger represented the President, who despite 1968 campaign promises to end the war, carried on the most massive air war in history for the next three years.

Kissinger and Tho were partisans, moving no faster toward peace than their governments desired. The glaring fault of Kissinger is his complicity in the bombing of North Vietnam, bombing against civilians as well as military targets.

Since the cease-fire last year over 50,000 North and South Vietnamese troops have died.

Both sides charge systematic violations of the cease-fire agreements. The Americans have gone, but there is no peace.

Perhaps this year's Nobel Peace Prize should have gone to the thousands of peace demonstrators who forced Lyndon Johnson from the Presidency and drove President Nixon through his emissary, Dr. Kissinger, to the negotiating table.

80 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."
(From the AFRO-AMERICAN, April, 1893)

Washington Report

By Parren J. Mitchell, M.C.
(House of Representatives, D. 7th Md.)

Of course all of us are fascinated, and perhaps frightened, by the large drama . . . Watergate, Impeachment, the Mid-East situation and U.S. troop alerts. We should be fully aware of these things.

However, we must not ever lose sight of the little dramas that go on day after day behind the big dramas.

Case in point, the U.S. prisons new mind-control program. It is known as the START program.

Tom Flowers, an inmate says, "the program designed to be used on prisoners who offer stubborn resistance to 'adjustment,' consists of 'reorientation' consisting of a minimum of 18 months in segregation, without a hearing.

During this period, the prisoners are subjected to psychotropic drugs, a version therapy and manipulation of environmental stimuli producing states of apathy conducive to suggestibility.

"An attempt is made to establish a conviction on the part of the prisoners that they have lost their common social order and the protection of the law.

"At the new Butner facility, psychosurgery is being planned."

In short, the program consists of brainwashing techniques associated with the Gestapo and the Soviet Secret Police.

One of the victims of the Springfield START program wrote me saying, "This crisis in the prisons affects you if you are a minority, conscientious, have political awareness, or are active in movements out on the streets.

"The odds are when and if you are arrested, you can very likely find yourself on the inside looking out of one of these programs."

At the request of John Money, professor of Medical Psychology and associate professor of Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, on June 18th I wrote the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to protest the START program.

In his reply dated July 11, 1973, the director of the Bureau of Prisons did not deny the existence of the START program and described it as follows:

"The intent of the START program is to provide a treatment alternative for individuals who have repeatedly demonstrated by their behavior, an inability to benefit from programs in regular institutions.

"These offenders have long histories of assaultive and threatening behavior directed towards staff and other residents.

"Individuals who are being considered for the START program have been offered the opportunity to participate in treatment and training programs in several institutions prior to being recommended.

"However, they have consistently resisted efforts of staff to help them and have exhibited behavior which requires them to spend considerable lengths of time in control units."

Isn't it wonderful what we can do with words to obscure the truth or to not answer a question.

I shared the Bureau of Prisons letter with Dr. Money. He reacted to it by saying: "Sometimes a behavior modification works wonders as a form of psychiatric treatment. At other times it fails . . .

"The method works best when the patient and the doctor both agree on the kind of behavior they want to get rid of, and the new kind of behavior that will take its place.

"It is possible, however, to force the method on unwilling subjects. Then it becomes a form of brainwashing. Here lies the ethical issue, especially in the possible case of forcing the method on prisoners.

"Mr. Carlson has not addressed himself to this ethical issue. I think there is a very real possibility that the rights of prisoners will be abused.

"Therefore, I would like to know more specifically in detail what the Bureau of Prisons plans to do with respect to informed consent of prisoners undergoing the method of behavior modification."

We must get to the truth about the START program.

Remember, if you are a minority, conscientious, have political awareness, or are active in movements out on the streets, —and if you are arrested, you can very likely find yourself on the inside looking out of one of these programs.

GIVE YOUR FAIR SHARE THE UNITED WAY

The United Fund of Central Maryland

Thanks to you it's working

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

No Courthouse Ticket

Dear AFRO:

Recently, an article appeared in the daily press which implied that some type of alliance was being made among the elected court house personnel in preparation for the election of 1974.

I was tempted not to comment for two reasons. First, because I was not asked for my views by the person who wrote the article, and second, because I was certain that persons who know me would understand that it was inaccurate.

Nevertheless, for fear that there may be some people who know me only as a name, I would like to re-assert my commitment to the principles of independent, open political action which played so major a role in my election as Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas four years ago.

Those principles are based on the deep belief that for too long blacks and other minorities had been denied access to the elected offices that exerted such great influence on their destinies.

Those principles state further that political decisions affecting peoples' destinies should not be made in a vacuum nor in smoke filled rooms.

Finally, and most important it would be unconscionable to be a part of any ticket, coalition, or confederation that would minimize the participation of black candidates, thereby denying them the vehicle that made possible my election . . . namely the overwhelming support of the black community.

PAUL L. CHESTER
(Clerk, Court of Common Pleas)

Commitment

Dear AFRO:

I believe it is vital that I publicly restate my total commitment to the continuing development of political power in the black community.

It is because of this thrust for a long denied voice in the decisions that so deeply affect us that I decided four years ago to seek the office of State's Attorney for Baltimore City, with the full involvement of the community in reaching that decision.

It is a tribute to the political maturity in our community that I was elected. I find it inconsistent to suggest that I would or could be a party to any alliance that would in any way diminish the full and equal participation on the part of the black community in all institutions exercising influence over our destiny.

Indeed, during the present atmosphere of "velvet racism," "benign neglect" and misleading statistical studies that would have us believe that blacks have indeed achieved equality, it is crucial that we be constantly on guard against any device that would steer us from maximizing political power in the black community.

MILTON B. ALLEN
(State's Attorney for Baltimore City)

Mid-East War

Dear AFRO:

Israeli prisoners are shown with hands tied and padlocked! Contrast this with Israel's humane, compassionate treatment of encircled Arabs in the desert, cut off from food and water, abandoned by their Arab leaders, doomed: Israel is supplying them with medical supplies, blood plasma, etc.!

B. J. SMALL

Visitors Pleased

Dear AFRO:

We would like to thank you for showing our three African visitors around the AFRO-AMERICAN office last Friday. They found it quite interesting.

In their communities, we think these programs are particularly important to them both professionally and because they will carry back to their countries a very realistic and empathetic picture of Baltimoreans.

NANCY CAMMACK
(Administrative Assistant
Balto. Council for International Visitors)

Nixon Should Quit

Dear AFRO:

Richard Nixon could best illustrate his patriotism by resigning . . .

ELISSA WARD JOHNSON

Landlords

Dear AFRO:

I believe that the landlords must bear some of the blame for the death of the constable who was killed in Cherry Hill. The landlords create a hostile atmosphere with the tenants, then the constable is sent in to do the dirty work.

Landlords have the right to evict tenants for any reason, or no reason at all. All they have to do is give the tenants a 60-day notice. I have received many complaints about this practice.

For example, an elderly couple called me last week. They have been paying $110 per month for a broken down two story house for the past five years.

A couple of months ago, the landlord informed them that they will have to pay their water bill. They say that the water bill was originally included in their rent.

Last month, when they mailed the rent to the landlord, he deducted $45 from the rent for the water bill. This means that they are $45 in arrears in their rent. If the elderly couple do not pay the back rent, they could be evicted.

Speaking of Cherry Hill, I remember a few years ago, several families were set out in the snow, victims of arbitrary evictions. The problems in Cherry Hill do not lie with the people who live there, they begin with those who take advantage of them.

Nothing I have said here is to condone violence and the senseless murder of the constable. Rather, I am pointing out that landlords can help eliminate situations which breed violence.

TROY BRAILEY
(Member, House of Delegates
Fourth District
Baltimore City)

Painters, Help!

Dear AFRO:

The Baltimore Arts Tower Committee is a volunteer citizens' group working out of the office of the mayor to reopen by November 18, the old Bromo Seltzer Tower as an arts-oriented center.

The first floor will contain the Under the Clock shop, which will sell the works of Baltimore artists and craftsmen, while three other floors will be designated as office space for art groups.

Acting on the instructions of committee chairman, Warren Truitt, AID, some weeks ago the membership began soliciting donations of money, material and labor. We have received much help, but we still need more.

Specifically, we need as many volunteer painters as we can get for Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Tower, at Lombard and Eutaw Sts. We can supply all paint and brushes.

BLAINE TAYLOR

Dr. Harmon, Unusual Man

Dear AFRO:

As acting chief of Provident Hospital's Department of Medicine where Dr. Louis E. Harmon served all of his medical life, I feel moved to write about this very unusual man.

Few people realize the difficulty that a black physician experiences in becoming qualified in a specialty of medicine.

Not to say that it is not difficult for a non-black physician, but the heavy demands imposed on a black physician to deliver primary care (family practice) makes it quite difficult to spend the time that is necessary to prepare for a medical specialty while there are fantastic needs in the black community for primary care physicians.

Dr. Harmon not only rose above these obstacles but did so after having spent many years in family practice and having acquired all the responsibility that an established physician acquires after several years of practice.

To tell his patients of many years that he could no longer serve them because he is going into the specialty of skin diseases is not an easy task, but Dr. Harmon did this.

Secondly, upon completing his training, Dr. Harmon became and was at the time of death the only black physician in the state of Maryland specializing in the field of dermatology.

Yet, he never refused to see a referral from his fellow physicians and he attended the Dermatology Clinic at Provident Hospital every Tuesday with help only from one dedicated family practitioner (Dr. Uthman Ray) plus, he would still see patients on the wards with skin problems.

His devotion to his practice and fellow physicians was most vividly exemplified while in the hospital during the last few days of his life.

I recall Dr. Harmon found out about five days before his death (Oct. 15, 1973), that there was a nurse working in the hospital at Provident with a skin problem that I nor any other physician at the hospital had the experience and training to handle.

Dr. Harmon said, "Why, Elijah, have her come to my room." The nurse did and he recommended the appropriate treatment. Because of the unusual man that Dr. Harmon was, and his dedication to Provident Hospital, its teaching program, and his patients, the department of medicine voted at its last meeting to establish the Louis E. Harmon Memorial Lectureship, the first of which will be given on January 26, 1974 at the hospital.

Of course, I will not go into Dr. Harmon's many civic and community interests, but I am told by Dr. Ray that nothing upset Dr. Harmon more than when fellow physicians whom he called upon to contribute to the young people's camp of the YMCA and there was some delay in the sending him their checks.

Such a man obviously will be missed by the entire Baltimore city community, Provident Hospital, specifically the Department of Medicine, and, of course, his fellow colleagues in the community as well as at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where he was instructor in dermatology.

ELIJAH SAUNDERS, MD.
(Acting Chief,
Department of Medicine
Chief, Division of
Cardiology Provident Hospital)

Nixon Cripples Us

Dear AFRO:

Following the election of President Nixon in 1972, the Senate Special Watergate Committee, the press and television commentators have informed the people of the numerous devious practices by this administration which are shameful and beyond explanation.

During the last few days the incidents surrounding the firing of Mr. Cox and resignations of Mr. Richardson and Mr. Ruckelshaus, the American people must be dumbfounded at the actions of the President.

Inspite of these, there are individuals who still support Mr. Nixon and wish to fix the blame for our present sordid state of affairs on the committee, the press and commentators.

They continue to make excuses for the President, and yet he is the Head of State and must be held accountable for his actions and all acts committed in his name by those in his administration.

The President claimed that this great majority at the polls was a mandate to lead this nation and to implement his policies. I firmly believe that the vast majority of Americans were hopeful that he would do this.

It seems that those who still make excuses for Mr. Nixon ought to be reminded that it was:

1. This President and his Administration who practiced corruption and deceit on the American people.

2. This President and his Administration who acted as if they were above the laws of this nation.

3. This President and his Administration who infringed upon the rights and privacy of American citizens.

4. This President and his Administration who attempted to use the Justice Department, CIA and the FBI in such a way which almost led this nation to the brink of a "police state."

5. This President and his Administration who have permitted small businessmen in all areas to be placed in a squeeze and forced out of the business by large corporations who in turn will try to monopolize and control all industries and businesses.

Further: — 6. This President and his Administration who have permitted the economy to reach a point where working Americans can hardly afford food, clothing and shelter, while the select rich get richer.

7. This President and his Administration who blocked needed health reforms and health care, while Americans sick in body and mind continue to suffer.

8. This President and his Administration who have curtailed funds for education, while a young generation of Americans continue to be unprepared educationally and in time will resort to drugs and crime.

9. This President and his Administration who have violated the laws and used tax money illegally to improve his private homes and in so doing, caused many Americans to disrespect our laws.

10. This President and his Administration who seemed more concerned with foreign affairs than with domestic issues which affect the lives of all Americans.

I for one, want a President that I can believe in and respect. We need a President that can be trusted, and one who is concerned about all of the people.

We need a President who tries to consolidate the American people and not to divide them.

We need a President who is human enough to listen to the needs of the people and not one who tries to respond with the arrogance of a dictator.

I find it easy to follow and cooperate with such a President and without a doubt, the vast majority of the American people are willing to do likewise.

I would hope that since both the office of the President and this nation have been crippled by the actions of Mr. Nixon that he would resign; and if not, the Congress will have the courage to impeach him for the well-being of all Americans.

ISAIAH E. WHITE

If YOU Ask ME

By Bettye Moss

Can you go to a college homecoming weekend and not ever see the student in whom you have a special interest? It happened to us.

We went down to Petersburg, Va. for the Va. State-Va. Union annual classic Saturday.

For the record: Va. State, located in Ettrick, crowded some 23,000 persons into Rogers Field (some 2,000 outside), and it was biggest traffic snarl I've seen in many a day. River Rd., the main thoroughfare to campus, was jammed. Score: Va. Union Trojans, 39, Va. State Panthers 0.

But back to the story of how we missed our Va. State freshman daughter: Eight of us drove down Friday evening, put up at Holiday Inn, on Rt. 95, some 12 miles south of the campus. Nearby hotels were booked solid.

We talked to student daughter. She was headed for homecoming prom when we arrived after 9. So, since two in our party, Leon Hillen and Bea Wright, had birthdays, we turned our record player on, lit the candles on the cakes and showered them with gifts right in our hotel rooms.

Our party ended early, so we were asleep when student daughter called after the prom to say the campus gang was headed for the bonfire.

On Saturday morning, we talked on phone again. She was on the way to breakfast and the game. We told her to call us after the game, and we took our time at breakfast and then headed for the Colonial Heights home of the James Cephases (Marietta).

That trip took us right in the middle of the game traffic, and it was an hour after kickoff. Horrible!

We passed the stadium to see the hundreds of people still outside.

Cars were parked all on people's lawns, driveways, sideways, frontways, and don't talk about what today's college students and their friends are wearing. It seems like they try to look their worse rather than their best.

Nevertheless, we spent a delightful visit the rest of the afternoon at the Cephases' elegant home and enjoyed the tasty dishes she'd prepared (chili, spaghetti, hot tamales et al). Although she is professor of music at Va. State, Mrs. Cephas is a talented cook.

Mr. Cephas, who is comptroller-treasurer at the college, was at the game.

Because of the traffic jam, the after-game crowd drifted in slowly, so we had a chance to chat a while with the early arrivals.

They were Mr. and Mrs. John F. Willis (Natalie) and their children, John Jr., 15 and Karen, 16, of Turnersville, N.J.

He is program evaluation officer for Social Security Regional Office in N.J. From 1961-70, they lived in Baltimore.

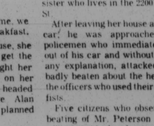
Mrs. Willis, a Morgan State grad, recalled they were married in the Cephases' home on the hottest day in July, 1956.

Cuff notes: — Mr. Willis was happy he'd seen a number of classmates at the game, mentioned particularly Dr. Purnell Avery, formerly of Henderson, N.C., who came from his home in Houston, Tex., for the game.

Also about, the Cephases' daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Anderson (Judy) of Richmond and their two youngsters, Chip and Steve.

The other Cephas daughter is Jackie Hendricks, the commentator on WTOP-TV Eyewitness News in Washington.

The after-game crowd picked up, more people dropped in, but the phone call never came from our freshman, so we left the phone number and went on to the



MR. AND MRS. LEWIS SMITH

He's new Coppin State instructor, she's educator

fabulous new Ettrick home, the Tanner Collinses (Gladys), occupy.

He's the Richmond school principal, and she is on state's faculty. Here again, it was like old home week, folks from all over had gathered.

We missed by minutes seeing Bishop and Mrs. Howard Z. Plummer (Bernice) of Portsmouth who went out one door as we entered another.

But, we met beautiful people and admired with them the out-of-sight residence the Tanners designed and built themselves.

Unique here is their use of blue, purple and green in decor which are so magnificent you're breathless.

So, as the evening wore on and our student didn't call, we had a chance to meet new friends and renew acquaintances.

Like, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis (Jack) Smith (Laverne). He is the new physical ed instructor at Baltimore's Coppin State College. Many know him as one-time All-American at Prairie View and Va. Union.

Mrs. Smith is a director of the reading center at Va. Union in Richmond.

But, get this — here is how small the world is — Mrs. Smith revealed she is the former Laverne Byrd of Richmond and that in 1944 she won 2nd place in the Richmond AFRO's most popular teen contest (Barbara Coates of Danville was 1st).

She recalled her "exciting" all-expense trip to Baltimore (which I've never forgotten. They took us on a trip to Druid Hill Park, Mrs. Bernice Buckner was our hostess').

And, get this — Mrs. Smith continued her close association with the AFRO. Together with her sister (Elizabeth G. Byrd) she edited the teen column, 'The Younger Set' for our Richmond edition and later did feature writing and covered other events.

More on Mrs. Smith: This year's AFRO-Greyhound Woman of Year contest, she won second place.

Others we had chance to chat with at the Tanners' included her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Turner (Georgene of Philly, where she is a school librarian and he's retired naval officer.

Also about: Mrs. George Fields (Juanita); Mr. and Mrs. Earl Winfield (Lillian); Mrs. Louella Anderson and Richard Wiggins, all of Philadelphia;

And, Mrs. Lelia Williams, formerly of Cleveland, now on State faculty and Dr. and Mrs. James Guy (Renee) of Petersburg. He is a Rod and Gun Club pal of Baltimore's James T. Dorsey.

It got later and later, and we hadn't heard from our freshman daughter so we went on back to the hotel because nobody, repeat nobody, could find anybody in that homecoming mob on campus.

On Sunday morning, en route home, we tried again . . . she was at breakfast. When we arrived at the waffle house, she had just left, so we managed to get the goodies and the clothes we brought her stashed in her closet, left word on her dorm door for her to call us and headed towards Richmond, where the Alan Brodnaxes (Lillie) had brunch planned for us.

The Virginia hospitality is something . . . the Brodnaxes' modern rancher, another place of beauty, kept us oohing and aahing from room to room.

Between tasting the variety of dishes, we admired the gorgeous plants Mr. Brodnax has cultivated and the brand new hot house he's built off the patio, and then that's it . . . the phone call came . . . daughter was pleased with the gifts, sorry we'd missed each other . . . and we headed home.

So, the answer to the question we asked at the beginning is, yes, you can miss your favorite student when you visit on a homecoming weekend.

Some pleasant people who bid us bon voyage at the Brodnaxes' included the H. B. Pinkneys (Virginia). He's the new assistant superintendent of instruction for Richmond schools. She's in special ed. Also, the Harry Johnsons (the Ph.D. couple. Her first name's Mae. Both are on Va. State faculty, he in communication, she in elementary ed.

And, she and Bea Wright got a visit and their heads together anent the reading programs at the Matoaca Elementary School at the college.

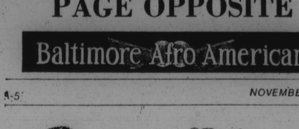
Also about: the William Carrs (Anna). He's the Richmond school principal, and she's a testing specialist with Medical College of Va.

U. of Md. grad-niet: Dr. Daryl Dance, assistant prof of English at Va. Commonwealth College and wife of Warren Dance, physical ed coordinator for Richmond schools.

The Dave Wrights, Royal Weavers and Charles Hillens were the Baltimoreans.

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro American



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.

In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and telephone number.

Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week, because that is where the action can be found.

FOLLOW-UP: — Last week, we promised an answer for residents who wrote to protest relocation of the Baltimore Rescue Mission on N. Central Ave., in East Baltimore.

They complained drunks cause disorder in the area and AFRO Line promised to get some answers for readers from the Rescue Mission director.

Rabbeigh Holt, manager of the mission, told AFRO Line the facility operates a Christian public service for the community, and he couldn't understand the "surprising" opposition.

Mr. Holt denied that the rescue mission would have an unsettling affect on the neighborhood, saying that he felt that our reader's evaluation of her visit to his present building on N. Greene St. was "inaccurate."

He told the AFRO Line not all the men who use the mission are hard-core alcoholics. A good portion are transients, migrant workers, and stranded travelers.

The average length of stay is about 10 days.

Main purpose is to assist the penniless, hopeless, and jobless. Holt says that the mission does not function as an employment agency, but does refer persons seeking help to professional employment counselors.

He says that the Baltimore Rescue Mission is responsive to the needs of the community, and operates summer camps, Bible study groups, and other services free of charge.

Mr. Holt added he would be glad to meet with community representatives to discuss their views on the mission and to answer any questions.

AFRO Line advises protestants in the vicinity of the proposed site of the new location of the Mission that the City Council has to pass a zoning ordinance (No. 886) before Mr. Holt and his organization can actually set up shop there.

Residents should contact their city councilman, might also be a good idea to meet with the mission director, Mr. Holt. He's told AFRO Line he's willing.

QUESTION: On Oct. 11, 1973 about midnight, an incident occurred involving Henry Peterson Jr. and officers from the Eastern Police Station.

Mr. Peterson attends college when off duty from his job as fireman and had been to school when he stopped by to visit his sister who lives in the 2200 block of Mura St.

After leaving her house and entering his car, he was approached by several policemen who immediately forced him out of his car and without questioning or any explanation, attacked him. He was badly beaten about the head and legs by the officers who used their night clubs and fists.

Five citizens who observed the brutal beating of Mr. Peterson Jr. were themselves attacked and arrested by the same policemen.

Mr. Peterson Jr. is and always has been a reliable citizen with no criminal record.

He is 27 years old, finished high school at the age of 18 and volunteered for the Marine service.

He served four years with the Marines and was honorably discharged and then entered the Police Dept. as a city police guard. He left the police department to be a fireman, which job he now holds.

He has received the gold medal for bravery on his job, and is known to be a fine, quiet gentleman and certainly does not deserve treatment of this kind.

"I feel it highly necessary for a complete investigation of this incident. It was entirely unnecessary for the brutal beating on the part of the officers and something should certainly be done in this case."

MRS. I. L. PETERSON

ANSWER: AFRO Line carried this mother's complaint directly to Major James H. Watkins, head of the Baltimore City Police Department's Community Relations Section. He advises:

I reviewed the police folder, employment data and arrest record on Mr. Henry Peterson and with his permission will release the facts to the AFRO for publication.

"If Mr. Peterson will contact Community Relations to file a complaint, provided he has not already filed one, an investigation will be made.

"I would further suggest that he contact his lawyer as a Polygraph test would be required to establish the blame of how the action started and if there was any wrongdoing by the Police Department."

It's NOT A Man's World

By Bernice S. White

"The emergence of black women in politics — as voters, as active party members and as office holders — is among the most encouraging aspects of the trend toward black involvement in America's political life.

"The unique energies and insights of black women are necessary elements of the search for a humane society."

These words are those of Vernon E. Jordan Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, at a recent conference.

Black women have been described as an exciting interlude in the political structure because they are bringing a new thinking, a new perspective, a new approach to the political scene.

For years, the black woman was crushed and her political views were not really considered.

Now, black women are demanding recognition. They represent the emergence of a new political entity and are making