# OPINION —

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)

A-4 MARCH 9, 1974

## Job For Teachers

At week's end, Baltimore City public schools are back to normal. The month-long teachers' strike settled Tuesday by a close vote of 1799 to 1725 gives teachers a 3 per cent raise this year and 6 per cent next year;

Spokesmen for the Public School Teachers' Association which led the walk-out, ordered the educators back to the classroom with the view that they had such a directive with the narrow vote.

They termed the contract "excellent," and the raise, "substantial" Because of unprecedented fringe benefits like tuition reimbursement, Blue Cross, Blue Shield which go in effect immediately.

But there remains dissatisfaction among some teachers who correctly note their salaries are still inadequate and below what is paid in surrounding counties. They term the settlement a 'sell-out."

Four weeks ago when the 7,500 educators quit their jobs, we said nobody wins in a strike.

We repeat that here. The city has suffered through long hours of unrest — negotiations with the teachers' union and the rival, Baltimore Teachers' Union at loggerheads.

There have been unnecessary arrests and confrontations between teachers, administrators, school board members, city officials, and most of all valuable loss of time from needed schooling by the city's 184,000 students, most of whom are black and who will be unable to make it up, because they were so far behind to begin with.

Baltimore city has a budget in excess of a billion dollars, more than enough money to pay teachers a fair wage, supply the schools with books, pencils, papers and other materials. The problem is, where is the money in the budget?

Is it hidden in the Department of Public Works, buried in the allocations for Inner Harbor, set aside to build a new sports complex?

It is possible; a close scrutiny of municipal funds would have found the money for teachers long before the strike.

We don't need to develop a beautiful new Community College of Baltimore in the Inner Harbor, if our children can't get enough education in the elementary and secondary schools.

We don't need to help finance new highways for people to race in and out of the city if we can't have supplies for our children in the classrooms.

Superintendent Roland N. Patterson can't run Baltimore City Schools on pennies and it's time more people say so:

Now that Baltimore City teachers have won their battle with the support of parents and civic leaders, they should launch a study-the-budget project, because the present city budget is a fraud. If it does not provide adequate money to run the schools, and pay the teachers to train our leaders of tomorrow.

## No Middle Of Road

Officials at University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, had a difficult decision to make early this week. They made it, but, even now there is debate as to whether it was the right one.

Their basketball team was extended an invitation to compete in the National Invitation Tournament in New York. But the invitation arrived after UMES officials had committed the team to take part in the National Association of Intercolligiate Athletics playoffs in Kansas City.

The NIT is the second most important annual event in collegiate basketball. Until this week, it had held the line against teams from small colleges in general, teams from predominately-black colleges in particular.

For this reason, a bid to the NIT is a coveted possession that is rarely refused.

The NAIA, on the other hand, is an organization of broad influence among the smaller colleges of the country. It has been the citadel of equal opportunity for two decades, therefore a trusted friend of the predominately-black schools. It was the only tournament which each year gave athletes from these institutions the chance for a national title.

This year, the NAIA had established UMES as its top seed. And UMES had given firm assurance that it would be available. But, then came the belated NIT invitation.

Faced with a choice between the prestigious New York event and the old faithful at Kansas City, the Eastern Shore officials elected to join the NIT.

On the one hand, UMES was in position to put a foot in the door on behalf of black college teams of the future, an opportunity all agree should not be wasted.

On the other, UMES was honor-bound to a promise to an old friend.

On the one hand, the opportunists will applaud. On the other, the idealists will deplore.

For UMES, there was no middle of the road.

## House Bill No. 1109

One direction in which Baltimore might ease its financial plight is suggested in a bill introduced in the State Legislature by the Baltimore city delegation.

House Bill No. 1109 has passed the first reading and is now assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.

It would authorize the city to:

Levy a general local tax on income earnings or gross receipts or,

Impose a general license or permit tax based on income, earnings or gross receipts not in excess of one per cent.

Basically, the bill would exempt the city from that section of the Annotated Code of Maryland which provides that no subdivision in the state has power to levy such local taxes.

This would be good for the city.

Baltimore is a different entity from the other subdivisions in the state. It would seem reasonable to grant the city the right to levy taxes to meet its staggering obligations.

Some members in the House of Delegates might view this bill as a way out of using other monies to support this large city. Some feel that the state has other commitments and should not be pulled into city government.

If this be true, then they should be willing to go along with a bill that allows Baltimore City to develop the means and the wherewithal to support itself.

In view of the aloofness that other legislators have taken during the city's teachers' strike, it will be of interest to note their reactions to this proposed tax bill.

If they use the same arguments they used against supporting the city during the strike, then we are assured of their vote for this bill.

The Baltimore City Delegation shows foresight in introducing this measure at this time.

We are aware of the fact that delegations have introduced similar bills through the years but in view of the present financial plight of the city, they should have a better chance of getting it passed this year.

Governor Mandel would do well to take over the steering of this bill through both the House and the Senate.

If he did he would at least decrease the frequency of the city's jaunts to Annapolis to beg for additional financial support.

## On Target!

WE'RE 147 YEARS OLD

## Black Press Week

The black press has always been in the forefront of the times.

Since 1827, when the famed Freedom's Journal first hit the stands in New York City, until the present, the black publishing industry has thrived and grown in both coverage and influence.

The features of the movement — national circulation newspapers and specialized magazines — have led the way for white publishers to emulate. The AFRO-AMERICAN and a few other black papers circulated national newspapers long before their white counterparts became popular.

And the printing of specialty magazines — now a trend seized by the white press — was early a characteristic of some black periodicals. In fact, black publications themselves are specialty media.

But aside from these ahead-of-the-times developments, there are more fundamental reasons why the black press has survived and prospered, and is again, being honored this year with a Black Press Week observance from March 10-16.

The truth is, black periodicals exist because of the failure of white publications to tell the truth about black people and black movements.

This should come as no surprise, since the white press is a component of the institutional racism inherent in the American fabric.

The white press, though often criticized and victimized by those of the Nixon ilk as being careless and radical, has never been the progressive voice that the black press has been.

Even in Chicago, when none of the white papers would support Kennedy, for instance, the black daily courageously did so.

White publications consistently through the years have segregated black news if they carried it at all; dealt in negative news about blacks, and especially overplayed those stories which seemed to support all the endless stereotypes about black people generally.

During the Civil Rights movement, the white papers carried movement news with violent angles, playing upon white fears and often generating white resistance. Even those few papers generally "sympathetic" to human rights, gave perspectives from their white angle; and the movement was more often viewed through the eyes of white participants rather than as a people's movement.

Today all these failures of the white press still exist, surfacing with frequent regularity.

And even more damaging, is the fact that stories which appear to have no apparent bias, are nevertheless edited by, if not written by, whites who often cross out vital bits of information which could permit a reader to reach different conclusions.

In recent months, we have even witnessed a resurrection of outright biased slanting of news in unfavorable ways by white media — a sort of repercussion of the new backlash against blacks.

Actually, though white papers now seem to give a visual impression that blacks are included in pictures and or articles, the prejudices and biases still linger, as any black reporter for a white paper will readily testify.

No wonder many black people simply do not trust the white media.

Reasons why black people do, however, trust and read black publications are multitudinous. Only a few could be mentioned here.

But recall that the black press, in fact, led the protest against injustice, and helped to create the political sensitivity of our people which we now see unfolding.

It is almost impossible to visualize that any degree of black solidarity could possibly develop — or have developed — without the black publications, particularly the black newspapers.

Critics who would try to minimize this power of the black press, are simply displaying their own ignorance of what Black Press Week is all about.

WASHINGTON REPORT

## The Struggle Continues

By Parren J. Mitchell
(7th District-Maryland)
U.S. House of Representatives

I am very proud of Gloria Morgan. She just completed her student Congressional internship with me. I thank Morgan State College for giving my Office the opportunity to work with this personable and capable woman.

I am equally proud of John Guess, chief of my legislative section in Washington. Gloria and John worked together to produce this week's capitol hill comment.

Around Washington, especially in African circles, people from Baltimore are beginning to act with a consciousness that earns them great respect.

Carl Dicks, Fred Mason, Ella Johnson, Dan Hungerford, Hershey Richardson, Local 338, and Bob Brown have become names to drop.

The Baltimore Port is now a place to have been. Baltimore, a City like many others where the people have routinely avoided taking stands on national issues, has become the real world action place on the Rhodesian chrome issue.

Here in Washington, the atmosphere among the growing African constituency has been nothing short of delightful.

It was in September 1971, that the Congress of the United States passed the controversial "Byrd Amendment" allowing the importation of chrome ore from the United Nations defined illegal minority regime of Rhodesia.

With the passage of the legislation, the U.S. joined Portugal and South Africa as the only three countries in the world to break the United Nations embargo on Rhodesian goods.

Black people around the world gave pause then to consider the reasons behind these actions.

Here in the Congress, many Congresspeople and their staffs became resolute about getting legislation passed that would repeal the Byrd provision. We tried twice in 1972, and lost on both occasions.

After the second defeat, a number of people from Baltimore got together to reconsider the situation.

We acknowledged the fact that contrary to arguments that the Byrd amendment decreases U.S. reliance on the Russians for chrome, the evidence shows that in the two years since passage of the amendment, imports of Russian chrome ore have more than doubled from 24 to 31 per cent of total chrome imports.

We acknowledged the fact that, contrary to the arguments that the Soviets were buying Rhodesian chrome and transhipping it to the United States, the evidence, according to the Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior, revealed conclusively that the ores in question were of Soviet origin.

Finally, we acknowledge that contrary to the argument that Rhodesian chrome ore is cheaper than Soviet ore, the evidence, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, showed the Rhodesian chrome among the highest priced bought by the United States.

Baltimoreans decided to act. The reception given this initial action by a few Baltimoreans, especially the African Liberation Support Committee and the American Friends, was heartening.

Not only have they consistently been on the picket lines giving support to the Longshoremen's actions, but they have continuously sought to publicize the issue and broaden the support efforts.

In one sense they have been highly successful. They have consistently blocked the unloading of the illegal Rhodesian cargo on 90 per cent of the attempts to enter into our port.

At a time when we were beginning to feel that our legislative impact was again going to be feeble, we received information that both Engelhardt and Phillips Brothers, two major importers, had given orders to the shipping companies not to reveal any details about the cargo for Baltimore except to three specific individuals.

Here in Washington we were able to buttress our arguments; an American community was actively resisting policy that supported a racist Government that oppresses black people.

Baltimore today is the only acknowledged American community known to be an unfriendly port.

It is this uniqueness that has excited those of us in Washington working for repealing legislation, and this uniqueness helped inspire the passage of the Senate repealing legislation.

Yet in another sense, we have not been as successful. We have not broadened community support for the progressive union actions.

Our pickets are predictable. We still picket with Carl Dicks, Fred Mason and Ella Johnson of the African Liberation Support Committee.

We still picket with Dan Hungerford of the American Friends Service Committee.

We will increasingly need much more.

The greater Baltimore community would do well to follow the example of these courageous few and labor. You will find that your impact is much greater than you probably suspect.

In lobbying for the passage of the House repeal legislation, H.R. 8005, sponsored by Congressmen Diggs and Fraser, it is constantly evident that the actions taken in Baltimore have made a positive impact on our efforts.

Many times in talking to Congresspeople, the fact that citizens are adverse to this policy and are actively resisting it has been the difference in support and opposition.

The Baltimore longshoremen have declared to the Union Carbides, to the Foote Minerals, to the Engelhardt's that they will not act as an accomplice to a racist regime that exploits the labor and resources of Africa, nor will they collaborate with a criminal act to violate the international rule of law.

We in the community of Baltimore, can do no less than give them our fullest support.

## A little About a LOT

## Street Venders, Black Free Enterprise

By Madeline W. Murphy

Anyone who visits the Caribbean, the delightful European or Mexican villages goes for local color, the sine qua non of warmth, the flavor and experience of something foreign, unique, quaint.

But not in dear ole "Balmer". The brashness of black street venders, somehow, rankles.

Oddly enough the complaints about them have come from the very merchants and city fathers, who pride themselves on being: "Jet setters" (of sorts), who vacation abroad in quaint villas where they, too, soak up just this kind of local color.

Many black middle class downtown shoppers, also, want them to leave, not comprehending the benefits to them, the ultimate rewards of American free enterprise!,

On the other hand, perhaps the color of the vender's faces has something to do with the self-hate of blacks, and the local revulsion, resentment heaped upon them, since white beggars have been a common sight on Lexington and Howard Streets for many years, and have never elicited bitter debate on such a large scale.

But then it is more comfortable to make us scapegoats for all the problems of society, to lambast us for being on welfare, than it is to praise us and encourage our ingenuity.

Moreover, it is ironical that three days of the year, with the whooped-up carnival atmosphere, the brashness of competition in all its enterprising raucousness comes to Baltimore, in the guise of the City Fair-

(To bring us together after the Flower Mart riots) can't be appreciated in the form of street venders.

It seems more prudent to hide away the "Little Italies," the Lombard Street venders, etc.; in "their place" the remaining 362 days of the year—the question is: where do black venders make their profits on these days?

Downtown has been abandoned by the majority of whites, who have developed their own insulation, cocoons of protection in suburban shopping centers, where they can avoid the growing black urban population.

So when city fathers and their commissions talk of revitalizing downtown they probably refer to that pre-1954 era of exclusivity when blacks couldn't enter, couldn't try on, and couldn't walk on Charles St.

When a furnabout in Baltimore's racist image, might be just the shot in the arm the Convention Bureau needs to attract outside visitors and dollars.

The system that has kept blacks second class citizens for so long, has spawned this free-wheeling, free enterprise in black venders, who have found a way (by their bootstraps) to beat that system, and to create interesting, legitimate ways of making a buck.

It is the same system that sees profit changing into black hands, God forbid!

Rather than construct kiosks and colorful areas for street venders in the midst of Lexington Mall; including them in the local color of the city (whose downtown claim to fame, heretofore, has been the notorious "Block") merchants and city fathers alike would prefelate them to Paca Street or to the outer limits, so that downtown would retain its lily white image and black free enterprise would die a borning.

Lexington and Howard Street stores remain open with black dollars in greater proportion than ever before.

Perhaps a black boycott of stores would have a salutory effect, especially now in a falling market, upon merchants who still think they can take our money, yet resrict and prescribe the ways we earn it.

## 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 the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

80 YEARS AGO — "The interests of the A-fro-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 1892.)

## Robert L. Jackson, M.D.

In 1925, Provident Hospital was located in a four story, dilapidated building at 413 W. Biddle Street.

In that year, the Superintendent, the late Dr. William T. Carr, one of the men who founded the hospital in 1894, led a campaign to renovate the structure so it could house at least 35 patients.

It was at this period that he interested six young physicians who would lay the ground work for the professional future of the hospital.

They were the late Drs. Bernard Harris Sr., Wesley Gaines, W. Berkley Butler, John R. Coasey, and W. F. Noville.

The sixth member of that group was Dr. Robert Lee Jackson, who died February 23 at the age of 79.

Unlike the other five pioneers, Dr. Jackson lived to see the hospital move from its inadequate quarters to the old Union Memorial Hospital site at 1514 Division St. and still later, (in December, 1970) to its present $16 million home on Liberty Heights Ave.

Not many men live to see their dreams come true, but Dr. Jackson did.

In his early days as a student at Meharry Medical College and later as an intern in Nashville, Tenn., he talked about a hospital operated by and for black people which would enable black physicians to have privileges to treat their patients.

His devotion to this cause and his competency as a professional surgeon led to his appointment first as ward supervisor in medicine and surgery, junior consultant surgeon and in 1925 as the Provident's first resident in surgery.

When he was named Chief of Surgery Emeritus in 1958, he could look back on a career which had spanned 40 years as the hospital's Medical Director and Chief of Staff, a man noted for developing the training program in the major services, particularly in general surgery.

Many of today's practicing physicians attest to his skill, devotion and dedication.

But Dr. Jackson's contribution to the city as a surgeon and counselor to patients and fellow doctors was not his only service to the city.

He found time to volunteer his services as board member of the Welfare Department and to work tirelessly with various health and social service groups. He was an elder of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Further, he was one of the first fellows in the American College of Surgeons. Not content with his own elevation to this prestigious group, he encouraged fellow doctors to qualify and gain admission.

When the AFRO honored Dr. Jackson on its 1948 Honor Roll for superior public service to the community, we described him as a "hard hitting member of the City Planning Commission."

The citation noted the dynamic physician's philosophy was that people would not have as many physical ailments if they lived under healthy conditions. For that reason he had been active in the field of protective zoning and long range planning for new schools and housing.

As a result of his efforts, numerous pieces of legislation and plans were developed.

Any accurate history of Baltimore during the last half century would have to have enshrined in gold letters the name of Robert Lee Jackson, physician, counselor, friend, city planner.

His contributions have inspired others to follow his leadership and volunteer their services.

# PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

A5 MARCH 9, 1974

## Readers Rap On Many Issues

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.

## Clerkship Bill Hit

Dear AFRO:

A bill which will strip the elected clerks of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City of the power to appoint the employees in their respective offices is being pushed in the General Assembly in Annapolis. The question that concerns me is why Baltimore City? Why not all the courts of Maryland?

The answer that comes easily to mind is that only in Baltimore City does the likelihood exist that there is even an outside chance that a black person might be elected to a clerkship.

The clear implication of this bill is that an elected black would be incompetent or, at the very least, be as biased in his hiring practices as some of his white predecessors have demonstrated themselves to be.

As for me, I trust the judgment of the electorate because I believe in the democratic system and the basic intelligence of the American people, black and white, to make decisions rather than the placing of trust in tests which are manipulable through their construction, administration and evaluation.

Those who would advocate the injection of the merit system might well note that the leading American testing authority, the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J. (which makes up the college entrance examination, the law school aptitude examination and the National Teachers' examination), has been criticized as a discrimination tool.

Moreover, who is there to say with authority that a test can be devised that correlates test scores with the ability to perform as a deputy clerk or that can determine the fundamental honesty of an individual?

Does the fact that a person scores high on a test insure that he will not abscond with the office funds?

None of these variables is being addressed in the haste to make certain that control will not be transferred from self-interest to the "wrong" people.

Why not in fairness, permit that sector of our society long denied participation in the selective process a chance at the decision-making which affects its economic survival?

PAUL L. CHESTER

## Utility Rate Hearings

Dear AFRO:

Our organization is represented by delegates from a number of neighborhoods of the inner city in Baltimore. We concern ourselves with issues and problems which affect the residents, particularly the poor, and one such issue is the proposed increase in electricity rates how under consideration by the Public Service Commission.

We know that the rate increase proposal, and even more importantly the rate structure formula used to determine utility rates, is bound to severely hurt poor city residents.

It is with this background that our group spearheaded the efforts to get people to attend and testify at the three city public hearings on January 15, 17 and 22.

Each of the hearings had approximately 150 people, many of whom represented a number of neighborhood organizations. Elected officials and individuals attended to express objection to the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's increase proposal.

While we have communicated with many groups and individuals since the hearings to thank them for their interest and participation, we could not reach them all. It is our intention by writing at this time to express our appreciation to those who may not have been reached previously.

JOSEPH McDONALD (Chairman
Housing Committee,
East-West Advisory Council)
FRANKLIN E. SMITH (Chairman)

## On With Right To Read

Dear AFRO:

Much has been said pro and con regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the Right to Read Program. As one of the original impact schools which experienced the growing pains of this program, let me state unequivocally that the quality and tone of this program will depend primarily upon the principal and his team of teachers trained in the various aspects of this program.

As one of the original impact schools which experienced the growing pains of this program, let me state unequivocally that the quality and tone of this program will depend primarily upon the principal and his team of teachers trained in the various aspects of this program.

The program can have some flaws and requires a lot of work but the benefits for children in improving reading skills, far overshadows the disadvantages of implementing this program.

At the outset of the reading program, it was necessary to administer a number of tests to our children. It was imperative that we do this because each test pointed out a specific strength or weakness for each student.

These results indicated to teachers the areas where children need assistance and eliminated most of the meaningless repetition of skills already mastered by the students.

For the very first time test results were being used to meet students' needs rather than a meaningless measurement to be recorded on some scholastic record.

Those of us in the business of training children realize how important such an effort can be in making education relevant and interesting to students.

The greatest problem one faces in trying to implement the reading program is selling it to the entire teaching staff. The tests or other efforts needed to get such a program off the ground are no real problems which can not be solved.

It is possible for 90 per cent of the staff to cooperate in implementing this program, have the Team prepare materials for training staff plus children and yet 10 per cent of a staff can sabotage this effort.

It would be in the best interest of all concerned to transfer or remove that 10 per cent and get along with the business of teaching children in such an important subject area as reading.

I believe in and support the reading program completely. We have the personnel with the expertise at the schools and supervisory levels to do an excellent job with the reading program. It seems to me that a renewed effort should be made now to do just that.

ISAIAH E. WHITE

## Strike Terms

Dear AFRO:

The Public School Teachers' Association and Mr. Karl Boone should officially adopt as their song — "Cruising down the River."

WARREN SCHWARTZ,
Teacher, School No. 412, and president, Baltimore City Public School Coaches' Association.)

## Another Mother Speaks Her Mind

Dear AFRO:

I want to direct my letter to Mrs. B. A. Z. I too am a black mother of 7 children (6 boys and 1 girl) and I am very proud of my intelligent, well-mannered children whom I raised practically all alone.

I find that children of today are caught up in a confused mixed up world, and need superior guidance, now more than ever from teachers and parents alike.

Our children are facing a terrible world crisis today, especially our black children. Mrs. B. A. Z., if you as a black mother have had it as you so bluntly stated, with black people always making excuses for their children then I personally know that you can not help us at all in our struggle for great freedom for our boys and girls nor for our race that has been in human bondage for over 100 years.

I too came from a broken home even without a father's care, only a very devoted loving, praying, and hard-working, struggling mother as so many of our present-day boys and girls do now.

My mother taught me about the oppressions and distresses that existed in this chaotic world then. But as a struggling mother still of today, I have experienced great hardships and understand about strifes and woes.

I fight now to help save our present day delinquent children, not criticize them. We can help them. (Mrs. B. A. Z.), by giving them excellent advice and instructions that will lead to making them decent citizens in our community.

MRS. IDA A. SNOWDEN

## Morgan Choir

Dear AFRO:

It is felt that the Morgan State College Concert Choir under the direction of Mr. Nathan Carter is the best musical experience one would want to encounter on this earth.

This was my elated feeling as I listened to the group of promising young students as they performed at the annual musical for the Constance H. Moore memorial scholarship fund at the Sharon Baptist Church on Feb. 17, 1974.

The varied vocal presentations that included traditional religious pieces, opera, folk, cantata and spiritual were sung with maximum clarity. And the soloist who sang the spiritual did render her selection with such memorable dignity.

Morgan is quite fortunate to have in Mr. Carter, a director that brings such inspirational talent back into the community, letting us know there is possibility in our youth to cope with these harried times.

(Mrs.) MIRIAM L. WINBORNE

## On Patuxent

Dear AFRO:

I am confined at Patuxent Institution and I would like to share my opinions, views and comments with your editorials, as I feel your newspaper expresses the truth, as it is, and that you print what is right, even though others may feel different.

I am what is referred to as a "lily white" but, I feel color has nothing to do with being a man — men therefore should "share what little they have regardless of color."

Color is not our fault. It's our dignity, pride, love and inheritance, as well, as our beauty. Stokely may say "Black is beautiful," but I say: "The color is only beautiful when the "man" himself is beautiful.

Right On, LEON RITES

## Aided Elderly

Dear AFRO:

The Senior Co-Workers of Gelmore, Mrs. McDonald and her wonderful staff helped with the Elderly tenant's Lunch Program.

As a black man, and a concerned person, it brings a shine in my eyes, to see our elderly tenants are learning arts and crafts, relaxing and living.

LEON N. THOMPSON SR.

## If YOU Ask ME

By Beltye Moss

Some of the strangest things happen on crowded airplanes. This was so, on the Eastern Airline's direct flight from Montego Bay, Jamaica, to Baltimore last Thursday.

The flight, which had originated in Kingston, was half filled, when it reached Mobay, but there was no vacant seat when the vacationers boarded for the final lap of the journey.

This meant that when the stewardess noted a mother would have to be separated from 2 small children she asked a black man who was seated on the row behind us, to move up a seat.

And that is how this strange experience happened:

After he was settled in his seat, this writer soon discovered that our companion had a horrible cold. He couldn't stop sneezing and coughing.

We stood it for a while and then we said to him, "I am a doctor, maybe you would like to take two anacin when I can reach them in my bag under the seat. He nodded his head.

Shortly after lunch, we reached under the seat and gave him the anacin and suggested that he take two more when he got home. There was no further conversation. I worked a crossword puzzle and my husband read a magazine.

Shortly before we arrived in Baltimore, however, the seat companion volunteered that he once lived in Baltimore. This conversation followed:

Me — "What were you doing in Baltimore?

Answer: "I was interning at City Hospitals."

Well!!

Of course this pseudo-doctor had a red face. But our real doctor seat companion joined us in laughter, and agreed that the anacin we had prescribed was pretty good treatment (At least he stopped sneezing).

Our real doctor, seat companion turned out to be Lennox F. Westney, an obstetrician and gynecologist who is a fellow in the American College of Gynecologists.

He was en route home from his native Kingston, where he had been lecturing and visiting his mother, Mrs. Rosetta Westney.

He is a 1961 graduate of Howard University, where he is a OB-Gyn assistant professor. He interned at Baltimore City Hospitals from 1962-66.

His wife is Dr. Ouida Westney. She is also on the Howard University faculty, associate professor of nursing.

Their children are Quida 6; Irving, 11; and Lennox Jr., 13.

Cuff Note: Also on the flight was Miss Judith Cooper, a nurse at Baltimore's Provident Hospital. She had been vacationing in Montego Bay.

Back home: Pleasant visitor in our midst last week was Mrs. Dottie Barbee Anderson of Lorain, Ohio, where she serves on the Community College Board of Trustees. She was in the area to attend the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges meeting in Washington.

In Baltimore, she spent the day with Dr. and Mrs. William Wade, and in Washington with her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Norvell Barbee, (Mildred).

Mrs. Anderson is the wife of the physician, Dr. Marvin Anderson and get this, she looks like a teenager herself, but she has five strapping sons.

They are Eric, 16, a sophomore in high school; Keith, 17, a junior; Christopher, 19, a student at Antioch College; Clarence, 21, Lincoln University; and Marvin Jr. (Chip), 23, who lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

Cuff Note: The Wades mentioned above and Dr. Jerry Luck of our city, were in Danville, Va. a week back for the 100th birthday of their aunt, Mrs. Addie Luck Williams.

In our midst a week back were two ladies, who lived abroad, where their two husbands have been ambassadors for the U.S. Mrs. Clinton E. Knox, (Clementine), and Mrs. Nathan Pitts, (Mary) at that elegant Valentine Day Party, members of the Who-Zits gave at the Hilton Hotel. It was out of sight.

Mrs. Knox's husband, now retired, was Ambassador to Haiti and Mrs. Pitts' husband is still on assignment in Paris.

Continue get-well cards to Provident Hospital for Elson Higginbotham, AFRO Advertising executive. He had brain surgery last week and is reported on the mend and able to have therapy.

Glad you are better hellos to Mr. and Mrs. Shelton Coles (Margie). She is out of Provident Hospital where she had been confined for a month.

He is up and about and doing all right. He had a fainting spell in the bank earlier this week.

Cheers to Mrs. Theodore Johnson (Charlotte). She is in Room 530 at Maryland General Hospital. Combine your get-well cards with birthday greetings. Her birthday is today.

# NOW and THEN

## Workers In Vineyard Of Man And God

By G. James Fleming

A cluster of men who were buried last week is a reminder that countless workers "in the vineyard" never get all the credit they deserve because, either their deeds have been overlooked or forgotten, or these men, (and women), have outlived the generation that knew them best.

It is also true that, by the laws of average and by the ways man chooses his heroes, there can be only a few Martin Luther Kings, a few John and Robert Kennedys, a few Whitney Youngs and a few Mary McLeod Bethunes.

But there are others. We point to three, in three different cities who recently died. They were Robert Lee Jackson of Baltimore; John Dillingham of Newark, N.J. and Lucius H. Pitts of Augusta, Ga.; the first a medical doctor and surgeon; the second, a Presbyterian minister and the third, an educator.

Each, in his own way, walked "the second mile," labored zealously for his fellow-man "beyond the call of duty" and reached far beyond the limits of his profession.

Of all three, it may also be said that making money was not their first priority.

Dr. Jackson, who died at 80, was a graduate of Meharry Medical College who settled in Baltimore. The way was open for him to convert his training only into high and conspicuous living.

Instead, he devoted his years into becoming more and more skilled as a surgeon, in teaching others to become master surgeons, and in making possible, down the years, a medically more proficient Provident Hospital, in both men and facilities.

While such a life as his is taken for granted today, it must really be evaluated by the America of 80 years ago and America, even up to 1954, when being black and doing anything was much more difficult and frustrating than it is today.

Dr. Jackson served many other causes: The YMCA, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity (of which he was a founder of the Baltimore Alumni Chapter), the NAACP and his church.

But, it is as a surgeon and a teacher of surgeons and as a hospital builder that he must look for monument — if and as the years remember him.

Generations of black surgeons owe their skill and insights to him.

The Rev. John Dillingham was also a builder of churches and community-centered programs, in Philadelphia, Oakland (Calif.) and Newark. But, he was not simply a parish priest.

He was born in Leota, Miss., in 1896, but it did not keep him there. After Shaw University, and Yale and Crozier Theological — and in between — he served in the Emergency Peace Campaign and the Student Volunteer Movement, learning about diverse peoples at home and abroad, all of which experience he used wherever he found himself.

In Philadelphia, his home was a gathering place for young and old who needed counsel or just wanted to share in "conversation and coffee;" from here all kinds of committees were formed for community betterment — and action. He petitioned, he appeared before city council and state legislature, he picketed and marched.

This writer remembers him, especially, as a bulwark of strength during the Philadelphia trolley car strike of 1944, when 6,000 conductors protested the employment of six black conductors, on the orders of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices.

Mr. Dillingham volunteered to bolster the undermanned FEPC office. He became another pair of eyes, hands and feet; he was an ambassador to misunderstanding groups, he was bodyguard.

In the San Francisco Bay area and in Newark he was the same kind of seven-days-a-week, down-to-earth minister and carrying "the message" no more vigorously than to his fellow-ministers in the Presbyterian church.

Most of all, John Dillingham will be remembered for his special talent of listening but never telling others what they should do, while helping them to make their own best decisions.

Our third worker in the vineyard, Lucius H. Pitts, was president of his alma mater, Paine College, in Augusta, Ga., when he died suddenly at 59 — all too young, it seems.

Dr. Pitts was an educator who performed magic in Birmingham, where he transformed Miles College from an inaccredited, poorly attended institution, in run-down facilities, into a lively, accredited and nationally known place, in an increasingly modern plant.

This son of a Georgia share-cropper also doubled its enrollment, in his ten years there, to over 1,200 students.

When he faced the problem of all black educators, that his freshmen students were very poor in English, he headed straight for Harvard University.

He did not go to hire a newly-spun Ph.-D., but rather, to invite the dean of Harvard College (Dr. John U. Munro), to resign his Harvard job and become director of freshman studies at Miles. And Dr. Munro accepted the challenge!

In 1970, Paine College, also needing a magician, called its hard-working son to its presidency, where he was again building both things and man — especially men and women.

Far beyond his campus, his voice was often heard in a plea not to destroy the black college.

In their different ways, men and women in every community, serve their day and many generations. Some make the national headlines, as in the case of Dr. Pitts, but most will not.

Some will be honored by their homefolks, although most of the time they are taken for granted. To those who live to a ripe, old age, it may be that other heroes have replaced them.

But the lives of such people, as those memorialized in this space, offer a reminder of those who have built, educated, marched and fought, but who may never be mentioned in the history books — or may be only a footnote.

There should be a reminder, also, that they, like countless of others before them, are the building blocks for today and for the tomorrows.

## 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 telephone number.

QUESTION: The AFRO ran a story recently about a family that was lost in a fire. I am anxious to help them a little bit, if I can locate them. Can you help?

B. G.

ANSWER: We do not have the current address for the Thomas family of Rutland Ave., in East Baltimore. We hope they will see this letter and call AFRO Line immediately (728-8200) and ask for Mrs. Steele. Then AFRO Line will put them in touch with this Good Samaritan.

QUESTION: I am the founder of the Lakeside Youth Organization. I founded this organization because I recognize the needs of the young people in my community.

Presently we have been meeting in my home, a seven-room apartment, occupied by the eight members of my family.

From my home we hold rap sessions, self awareness classes, sewing classes and show film every Saturday. I am blessed to have a mother, (Mrs. Roberta Gaines) who understands and loves all the children of the community as she loves her own seven. She teaches the children and opens our home to them until she goes mad each evening around eight.

Through our efforts and the efforts of other volunteers in the community, we have been able to reach over 100 young people.

We are desperately in need of a meeting place in our community. I am writing in hope that you will print my letter so that I might plead to the community to help us to help others. If anyone can help us find a meeting place, we will be extremely grateful, as will many young people in our community. LARRY SMITH, Lakeside Youth Club, 383-8690 or 462-2545.

ANSWER: AFRO Line hopes readers will respond to this plea. Let us know how things turn out.

QUESTION: I have never seen a pig pen quite as filthy as the floor in a Pennsylvania Ave. store. I see black people going there buying and eating where one could take a shovel and scrape up the dirt.

Something should be done about this store and soon.

If you don't believe me, just make a visit there and you can see the filth on the streets.

Maybe the manager doesn care, as it is our race that keeps him in business.

X. Y.

ANSWER: The store's manager told AFRO line the conditions described here "may have existed at the time she was in but on the average the store is kept clean."

The spokesman described the complaint as "an exaggeration," and noted he has "never received a complaint about the condition of the store."

He added that a private maintenance crew comes in monthly to inspect and clean the premises.

AFRO Line visited the premises at 12:30 p.m. on March 6, and found conditions to be "fair." Although the general keep-up of the store was acceptable, the floors were wanting desperately for mopping and waxing.

QUESTION: I am a senior at Northern High School and I am interested in going to college. However, due to financial circumstances I must apply for a scholarship. Since Northern High has not provided me with a complete list of the scholarships available, I was wondering if you had available such a list.

I have been accepted at Morgan State and I am exhausting all possibilities of a scholarship or the work study program.

Any information that you can give me would be appreciated as soon as possible so that I can make proper application.

C. K.

ANSWER: Your letter was referred to Mrs. Ellen D. Howard, director of Direct Search For Talent, at 2227 St. Paul St., who told AFRO Line to have you call her at 243-3009. If she is not there, you may ask for Theodore Alexander or Ms. Rosalind Hanks. You will also receive a letter from them.

QUESTION: On Saturday, March 2, about 10 a.m., I called AFRO City Desk to report an unusual accident at Gold St. and Pennsylvania Ave. A small car and a big one tangled and caused quite a commotion. What happened?

CURIOUS

ANSWER: AFRO's photog was on the scene shortly after your letter called. (See accompanying photo). Report from Baltimore City Police Department as to how accident happened is still NOT available, nearly a week later. Wish we could provide more than this visual evidence of the accident, but police department red tape prevents it. Maybe a reader can give more info for AFRO Line.

A WHOLE WEEK later and police have no report for this AFRO Line query.

## CCB Editorial

Dear AFRO:

The AFRO-AMERICAN published a splendid editorial on David Mason's talk at the Community College of Baltimore on discrimination.

The editorial stated the essence of Mr. Mason's discussion effectively and added some worthwhile comments. You get an "A" in my class rollbook!

I am enclosing a piece of news about the selection of President Harry Rard to appear in the 1974-75 edition of Who's Who in the World.

This is an unusual honor for a Baltimorean, as few appear in the volume, as far as my check indicates.

(Dr.) SIDNEY KOBRE
(Professor of Journalism
Director, CCB News Bureau)

## Register NOW So You Can VOTE

Do so TODAY at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Streets, Baltimore. Open daily, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays