"I am a man of peace; God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace."

Hungarian Freedom Fighter Kossuth

# 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)



## Election outlook

Speculation is heating up now about major candidates for the top three posts in Baltimore City government.

One of the big questions seems to be which of the top spots black voters will dedicate themselves to attempting to win this year. It has to be put that way because there probably will be a black candidate in the Democratic primary for mayor, president of the City Council and for comptroller.

An interesting development materialized this week when Mayor Schaefer and City Council President Walter Orlinsky permitted their running feud to go public.

Out of that has come signs that reemphasize what many observers already felt: that the mayor would like to head an integrated ticket, that Comptroller Hyman Pressman probably is the most secure incumbent and that, if necessary, Mayor Schaefer is ready to dump Orlinsky to make way for a black candidate on his ticket.

There are plenty of names around for all three spots. Those being discussed include Sen. Clarence Blount, David Glenn, City Councilman Emerson R. Julian, Frank Conaway, Monroe Cornish, Milton B. Allen, George L. Russell, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, Jr. Roland Patterson, Judge Joseph C. Howard, Delegate John Douglass — and others.

Conaway and Cornish already have announced and Douglass is close to it.

The reason we think the outcome largely will rest with how the voters size up the candidates and their campaigns forces a painful look back to the Democratic primary and the defeat of State's Attorney Milton B. Allen, who still could and should be in that office.

Black voters caused Allen's defeat. It was not until they woke up to the magnitude of the disaster that they came back in the Allen write-in campaign to prove they still are a force to be dealt with in Baltimore City elections.

Just now we're not getting edgy about candidates but we are concerned that whoever makes plans for upcoming citywide races be prepared to see that the voters are, or can become, dedicated to his victory.

## Spy case fat in fire

The fat is in the fire now on the increasingly strange case of the super-secret spying accusations against Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau and the department's Inspectional Services Division.

George L. Russell Jr., chief defense counsel for Pomerleau, has made it clear there will be no lynching of Pomerleau, the police department or of black Baltimoreans, if he can prevent it.

It becomes more critical as time passes that the police department has its day in court so that the public can get a much clearer view of what has gone on, how much of it went on, why it went on, what did not go on and how much of what went on was illegal?

Is there a hidden agenda here, as Russell suggests? Is the police strike an element? Has Pomerleau been changing things too much? Is there a way to trade in some of the innuendo and open-ended claims for some facts? Are we going to have newspapers publishing calls for super-secret hearings (reporters promoting secret legislative hearings) to decide what to do about super-secret spying?

Where are all those witnesses with all the damaging evidence? Would they feel "safer" going to a secret grand jury than before the State Senate's show? Those legislators who a couple of weeks ago were insisting Pomerleau couldn't tell them about policing limitations and privacy, are they in a position to really tell the public what it is they are in to?

Nothing is going to come out of a kangaroo court hearing run in Star-chamber style by the State Senate and that's not what the public expects or deserves.

As with former President Nixon and others, Pomerleau can't expect to sell the public a bill of goods wrapped in a "national security" package, but any accused public official deserves a fair deal in a hearing where so much is at stake.

Some very disturbing racial implications are involved in this entire "spy" episode.

Anything short of a no-holds barred, mostly public airing — with necessary cross examinations of the accusers — will be farcial and unworthy of the time, effort and money spent.

## The week that was

Black History Week which was celebrated Feb. 9-16, came on the even of the nation's bicentennial program and during the 99th anniversary year of the birth of the History Week founder, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, twin circumstances which gave this year a celebration added importance.

As founder and longtime director of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Dr. Woodson, who died in 1950, organized and perpetuated Black History Week.

In tribute to the "Father of History Week," the Association designated and dedicated its new national headquarters in Washington at 1401 14th St., NW, and named it the Carter G. Woodson Center.

This is a fitting tribute to a man who spent a lifetime of effort in a dedicated career to focus properly the role of the black person in world and national history.

Dr. Woodson stressed the "character and the quality of one's contributions as providing support individuals's and a people's self-image." This, too, is what Black History Week emphasizes, and should always emphasize.

It was no easy time for Dr. Woodson, and it was not until years after his death that the true contributions of black persons to world and national history began to get full recognition.

Now, via the communications media, volumes on black heritage, a broad range of historical documents, and the perpetuation of Black History Week by the Association, it is moving full steam ahead. It should ever be that way.

It is important to look backward and salute our history. We need to know where we have come from before we can see where we are going. Obviously, Dr. Woodson recognized this.

As we do this, however, it is also important to look ahead; to think about history that is being made each day, each week, each month and each year — history that has not been made but history that depends on what we do today, tomorrow and next week.

This is the kind of history we see recorded each week across the pages of the black press.

The AFRO accepts the responsibility to spread this good news, and hopes its readers have a realization that this is history in the making.

## 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. 24, 1920

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

## Now and then

## Congress on President's blueprint

The Congress of the United States is not making a good image of itself, helplessly being unable to come up with a firm economic plan of its own, while it still opposes the President's blueprint.

Words, words, words, criticisms and attacks have been the main contributions of the august legislative body, thus far.

President Ford's proposals are complex and there are items certainly which can stand revision. The important thing, however, is that it is an over-all plan to meet a pervasive near-disaster.

For, what we are living through is not an economic boil or a rash.

It is a deep-seated illness — disease — which cannot be cured by applying ointment at any one place on the surface. It demands medical attention to the entire system.

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The President's proposals do not go far enough, for the economists leftists; it does not sit too well with the welfare staters; but, taken as a blueprint for the entire economy, it beats a blank.

Any other plan will attract as much criticism as the Ford Plan and then we shall be in the same kind of stalemate.

As this column has said before, the sad truth is that whenever experts sit down, they split down the middle as to corrective programs for the ills of society.

Another reality which we face is that both the White House and the Congress are compelled to deal with the current recession and inflation as, not only economic problems, but also as politics.

They face the closing of factories, unemployment and escalating prices, from the point of view of how these phenomena will help or hurt their respective parties or affect the fortunes of individual office-holders and office-seekers.

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These diverse loyalties to politics and to the economic welfare of all the people, always exist but, right now, they are luxuries we can scarcely afford.

Nothing that we have written, thus far, means that this column supports unequivocally, Mr. Ford's proposal to hold benefit increases for social security and welfare recipients down to 5 per cent.

Nor is this column adamantly against gasoline rationing as the President; or that we are as satisfied with the high profits made by certain industries, at the same time that their workers are being dropped from payrolls.

If Congress showed signs of having any bright ideas with which to counter the President's plan, we would be all for Congress having "equal time" to press its case.

But there are no such bright ideas from the Capitol. All we hear are accusations of what is wrong, what is not enough, and what is too much or to little.

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Instead of Congress preventing the President's plan from being activated, it might be better and more constructive, to give it confirmation (make it law), then watch it, evaluate it, and revise and change it, in the light of its effectiveness.

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Whatever plan is adopted, the next step will be for both the White House and the Congress to struggle to keep the plan, in action, as free as possible from narrow, partisan, clubhouse politics.

This is perhaps the hardest request to make — more difficult than harnessing our recession-inflation complication — especially on the eve of national political convention are the subsequent Presidential election.

Somehow, the gods seem to say, the times call for our leaders to be both in politics and above politics at one and the same time.

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An honest-to-goodness depression, with an intensity of that of the 1930's, will be disastrous in more ways than one.

Of course, there will be the bankruptcies, the unemployment, and the floundered hopes of the individual.

Even worse, however, will be the sad discovery that our vast social security system does not, and will not, inevitably guarantee insurance against economic depression.

Down the years, social engineers and social legislators have been saying that the collective impact of social security, per se, together with railroad retirements payments, workmen compensation, publid assistance, unemployment insurance, and veteran benefits, would prevent repetition of economy-wide depression.

These wise men expected these income-security programs to place so much purchasing power into the hands of the masses that, through spending for consumer goods, the economic system would be kept primed and going.

Alas! Our optimists did not reckon with what happens when enterprises and speculators manipulate and when the rank and file of the people lose confidence in their money and their government.

## Sports stars serve as absent teachers

By Joe Juliano

DAVIE, Fla. (UPI) — Whether they know it or not, sports stars like Muhammad Ali, Sal Bando and n Gabriel and lesser-known athletes such as baseball's Ed Kirkpatrick, are helping teach some local elementary school students here everything from geography to creative writing.

The program, called the sports learning center, uses sports statistics, sporting periodicals and sports jargon to help teach Nova University's elementary school students English grammar, mathematics, reading, vocabulary and graphing.

"We're doing something the kids want to do," elementary school director Leonard Tomasello said. "We get the ideas — many from the kids themselves — give them some encouragement and guidance, and let them go. It's a little noisier than a formally structured class, but communication helps them in something like this."

"The whole idea is to make learning more relative to the kids," he said.

Tomasello said the school's fourth, fifth and sixth graders can study at the sports center or two other centers with similar formats in their free time during the school day. Other periods in the day are devoted to helping each child in subjects where he has deficiencies.

Jane Emerson, who helped develop the sports learning center, credited the more than 100 students in the prgram with coming up with the project ideas themselves. "All I do is reword them," she said.

For example, 10-year-old Aaron Greenspan, seeing that Muhammad Ali defeated George Foreman for the heavyweight boxing championship in Zaire, began learning the geography of Africa by locating Zaire and neighboring countries on a map.

Ten-year-old Mark Melrose, who is reading more now because he enjoys the sports books Ms. Emersn keeps handy, wrote a short story on an athlete.

Young Laurence Moskowitz used a sports figure while putting a list of terms in alphabetical order. In Laurence's list, the letter "E" stood for "Ed Kirkpatrick," whose name he saw on the bubble gum cards Ms. Emerson keeps handy for reference in project ideas.

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Ms. Emerson said other projects included graphing Roman Gabriel's passing yardage and Sal Bando's runs-batted-in totals the past five years, matching teams of the National Football League in blank circles on a map of the U.S. and changing standard measure in track to metric measure.

Girls are not left out of this program by any means.

"Some girls developed a project on horseback riding to learn about horses," Ms. Emerson said. "Others came in here knowing nothing about football, but set up their own projects on a certain aspect of the game. They all enjoy participating here."

Although parents sometimes fear this is too much fun and games and their children will leave without learning anything, the school is very much aware and concerned if a child if deficient in some math, English grammar or other basic skills.

"Every Thursday our team of seven teachers plans a series of classes, like in long division or vocabulary, and schedule the child for a class period in the next week," Tomasello said. "Also every teacher has a personal conference with each of their 20 students at least once a week."

Ms. Emerson said she sees a long future for the center, which begn last November.

"It's really exciting to see kids who have been turned off by some subjects come in here and begin to write and put things in alphabetical orders or match team names with geographical locations on the map, and really get into it whil learning something," she said.

## Davis protest

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Committee on Africa has urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to reject the nomination of Nathaniel P. Davis to the top post on Africa at the State Department. Davis was U.S. ambassador to Chile from 1971-73 when the CIA was active in the overthrow of the government of President Salvador Allende.

Peter Weiss, an international lawyer, stated in testimony on behalf of the Committee before the Senate panel: "We believe that, like a judge, the conduct of an ambassador should be free not only from impropriety, but the appearance of impropriety."

"In Mr. Davis' case" he said, the appearance if not the strict proof of impropriety, is simply overwhelming."

Davis' background inevitably raises serious concerns about future United States policy toward Africa.

The Reverend Edgar Lockwood, director of the Washington Office on Africa, also testified against the nomination.

Mr. Weiss cited Ambassador Davis for poor conduct after the Chile coup as well. He charged that the U.S. embassy in Santiago "turned a deaf ear to all pleas for humanitarian assistance" while "several Latin American and European ambassadors and their staffs acquitted themselves heroically in providing shelter and assistance to thousands of victims of the Junta's terror."

Prior to Chile, Mr. Davis served as Ambassador to Guatemala from 1968-71 when U.S. policy supported efforts to "eliminate insurgency" there. Mr. Weiss noted that with U.S. aid and advisors that government's "pacification program pacified 20,000 Guatemalans to their graves."

## Curfew law for youth opposed as overreaction by adults

By Edward A. Chance

(Editor's note: Mr. Chance is president of the Baltimore Chapter, National Association of Black Social Workers).

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The Baltimore Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers is opposed to City Council Bill No. 1557 providing curfew requirements for certain minors in this city.

We recognize, as much as anyone, the problems of juvenile crime and delinquency, especially as they affect the black community.

But to blame and penalize all youth for the actions of a minority of them would be an emotional overreaction on the part of adults, which would only be another symptom of adult behavior that results in your alienation.

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Unfortunately, there seems to be a mentality in this state that continually suggests that we can solve deep social problems by simply passing a law.

The gun control law is a prime example of this thinking, and the increased crime rate and number of guns at large are examples of the results of action based on this thinking.

It is time to end this kind of thinking and action and get at the root causes of our problems.

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Truth is, that over the last five years adult crime has been rampant in this country from the White House down. This is to say nothing of the criminal oppression of blacks and others throughout this country's history.

But let us talk about "street crime" which we think is the concern in this instance.

The truth is that the vast majority of crimes committed by persons under the age of 17 are committed during the daylight and early evening, outside of the proposed curfew time.

Your house is robbed while you are at work.

Your children are robbed and beaten up on the way home from school.

Your purse is snatched as you walk from the bus stop after work or shopping.

The grocery store is robbed during the day.

The dangers that will exist for you after 10:30 p.m., will be the same dangers that you face from criminals 18 years of age and above.

The teenager who defies his parents and goes out on the street, who has no problem obtaining a weapon, will have no problem obtaining phony identification.

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If Bill 1557 becomes law it cannot be adequately policed. Stopping suspected violators would be time consuming, aggravating and in some instances hazardous to the police.

How will the police be able to distinguish age by sight?

The natural rebelliousness of youth may cause them to get smart with the police which could result in bodily harm to either party and or unnecessary arrests.

Family lives would be disrupted as parents would have to take off from work to go to court, hire lawyers, and do all kinds of things that they are not ordinarily required to do.

The other hazard is that the youth who is intent upon committing a crime may take violent action against the police.

Such a law allows for much bias on the part of the police, and lends itself to the harassment of individuals, groups, and neighborhoods.

We have every reason to believe, that most harassment will be against blacks and the poor.

After the experiences of the 1960's, we should know by now that this would only make alienation from the law more prevalent among a significant element of the population, and make matters worse for all of us.

A curfew is an intrusion upon the Constitutional liberties of the citizenry, and ought to be used if at all, only in large scale civil uprisings or when there is a complete breakdown in law and order.

We do not believe either of these situations exist in Baltimore.

It is pitiful to see worded into a bill before the Council that we are in a state of emergency due to children under the age of 17.

We do not believe that even the sponsors of the bill believe this.

Therefore, we suspect an ulterior motive to its introduction.

We suspect that this is a move to give legality to repressive harassment of black and poor people through our children.

It represents the movement toward a police state to which the recent alleged illegal spying by the Police Department attests.

The Baltimore Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers strongly recommends to the Council that Bill 1557 be defeated, and that the Council get on with the business of addressing itself to the root causes of crime and delinquency by adults and juveniles and to develop and strengthen programs more relevant and appropriate to their amelioration.

81 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.)

## Thoughts of the founder

The man who knows little is the same fellow who will not learn much.

—

Some people hide their real self behind a false tongue.

Feb., 1929

J. H. Murphy



## AFRO readers RAP

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

### More on X-CELL

Dear AFRO:

Reference your article on X-CELL in the February 8 edition.

The photograph above the article does not depict three X-CELL staff members, only two. Ms. Herod is a senior resident and she does not hold staff status.

In addition, the photograph makes no attempt to illustrate the real therapeutics which take place in X-CELL, such as the group sessions, work activities, etc.

Your use of the term "rehabilitation" is not really related to what X-CELL is doing. Rather what we do is re-educate — teach new behavior patterns in order to replace negative ones.

This re-education factor is exactly why we can deal with many behavior problems; not only those related to drug addiction which is itself only a symptom of emotional problems.

A complete listing of the businessmen who have given their support to X-CELL was not included in the article.

The following businesses, and individuals and merchants' associations have supported us through financial and in-kind donations: Ms. Doris Hill, Gay Street Merchants' Association; B. Green and Company, Herman Katkow, Mayor's Office of Small Business; Lee's Surplus, James McNeal, Retail Merchants' Association.

To list everyone who has supported X-CELL would take many pages. The above are merely representative of the community support which X-CELL enjoys. It is certain that we could not exist without it.

CAROLYN STINCHCOMB
(Executive Director,
X-CELL,
Drug-Free Treatment Center
101 S. Wolfe St.
Phone 732-0600)

### Arrogant, indifferent

Dear AFRO:

The arrogance and indifference of some public officials in Baltimore — often toward the very people, the citizens, who all pay their salaries — never ceases to amaze me.

For example, the "public information officer," of the Department of Social Services this week refused even to discuss certain policies and attitudes toward one minority of Baltimor, namely the American Indians.

Said he, in a brief telephone conversation: "Write me a formal letter with your specific questions, and I will see what I can do."

When I tried to reach the Director of Social Services, a female voice said flatly, "You can't talk to the director," and hung up.

No courtesy, just thinly disguised animosity and belligerency — this is what greets a legitimate newsman with more than 25 years news reporting.

Don't these people owe anything to the public, even though supported by public funds? That isn't the way I have been educated to understand the matter.

Somebody ought to do something and I suggest that the newspapersof this area do it. — LEW BARTON

(Editor's Note: Mr. Barton is a teacher-historian in residence at the American Indian Study Center, 211 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md. 21231.)

### Educational fraud

Dear AFRO:

My present employment as counsellor and instructor with a job training program is revealing frightening facts about our Baltimore public educational system.

There are thousands of Baltimoreans wandering around this city with little or no education.

The appalling injustice involved here is that the majority of these people have been awarded high school diplomas, high school equivalences or attended Baltimore Public Schools as far as the tenth grade.

Due to the strong emphasis placed on the high school diploma, many of these drop-outs have been encouraged or persuaded to return to educational centers (e.g. Calvert Educational Center), to get a high school degree.

Too often they have been awarded degrees or certificates without having a semblance of the necessary qualifications!

To cite a few examples:

1. One trainee attended the Calvert Educational Center and received certificates for outstanding achievement in reading, writing and arithmetic and could only score four points on the army entrance test!

2. Another young lady who attended a similar educational center could not add, substract, multiply nor divide at the most basic level!

These are only two examples of the many that have come to my attention.

The focal point of my concern centers around the fact that those getting these degrees or certificates expect job doors to be thrown open to them.

However, within those doors they are given tests which more often than not — slam those doors in their faces.

It is no wonder that they have done so poorly.

The answer is a simple one—industry has realistic standards and too often those giving the degrees seemingly have little or no standards at all.

I can only label such practices as "Educational Fraud" and fraud is a crime punishable by law.

Since an alarming percentage of this city's crime incidents stem from unemployment and illiteracy, why are we allowing our educational standards to decrease?

I, for one, think it is high time for parents, employers, politicians and concerned citizens to demand more from Baltimore's Public Schools.

So many people are becoming dismayed with our standards of education in this city that it leads one to believe that we are speaking of some strange phenomenon.

Education for both purposes of survival and growth is not—and should not be treated as an incidental occurrence.

The prime issue then is accountability. When a student is promoted from elementary school to junior high school and has no understanding of the basic concepts (English, reading and basic arithmetic), his teachers should be held accountable.

People should get only as much as they earn but all should have full opportunity to earn as much as they can.

Unfortunately, this also becomes a racial and class issue, because an overwhelming per cent of these people are black and from lower income families.

If this city is to grow and prosper, we must act now to insure every Baltimorean quality education.

All the educational practices and deficiencies I have mentioned thus far can be labeled "EDUCATIONAL FRAUD."

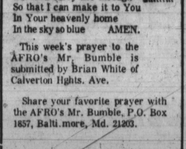
When will these atrocities stop? When will the offenders be brought to justice?

(Mrs.) SAUNDRA E. BANKS

## Smile

The most frustrating kind of car trouble is when the engine won't start and the payments won't stop.

## Mr. Bumble prayer



Lord, the road to Your home is tough
And the devil makes it more rough,
But God carry me through
So that I can make it to You
In Your heavenly home
In the sky so blue AMEN.

This week's prayer to the AFRO's Mr. Bumble is submitted by Brian White of Calverton Hights. Ave.

Share your favorite prayer with the AFRO's Mr. Bumble, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

## Black is...

Black is beautiful, black is great, it is the essence of truly a victorious race.

Black reveals the struggles of a people close to God, and tells how his love has lifted them from slaves to stars.

Black is beautiful, black is great. Black is the symbol of a beautiful race.

R. T. PARKER

## Capital punishment evil; just like legalized murder

Dear AFRO:

The Citizens Alliance for Public Safety (CAPS) is an umbrella organization for other community groups that feel the rate of murder and degree of brutality is intolerable.

Well, in this area I could not agree more with CAPS. But, this organization is formed to push for legislation to reinstate capital punishment. This, I find very sad. This I cannot support, not even in cases of first degree murder.

Of our social deviants, the hard-core and dangerous ones are of the minority, I believe they should be institutionalized with comprehensive rehabilitative programs to their avail for an extended period of time for our public safety.

The majority of our social deviants are non-dangerous and should be treated more humanely outside of the traditional institution.

Community correction facilities should be established with effective psychological and psychiatric care.

Various types of counseling and community resources should be utilized in them with community input and community involvement to reintegrate our non-dangerous offenders back into society as harmonious and useful citizens.

If the $31,000,000.00 that is available to build a maxi-prison for 400 unmanageable juvenile delinquents is used for that purpose, it will be a grave mistake and a utter waste.

We must be innovative and constructive in dealing with this crisis. We should discontinue the welfare policy that encourages the father of ill means to leave his wife and children so they might get a little better care from the state government.

Why not make a sincere and wholehearted effort to deter crime.

Stop all the empty talk and make some real sacrifices. Why not demand that more money be put into better schools for inner city youth with relevant and meaningful studies?

Create more jobs and better jobs with adequate income.

Why not spend money to develop and implement free and better medical care programs for the indigent?

Why not spend some of the millions toward decent housing for the poor and minorities, for adequate assistance for welfare recipients?

Many cry that drug addiction is a major cause for the rampant crime. If you really are concerned, if you are sincere about obtaining or maintaining public safety, stop playing games.

Stop putting all the blame on the loser who gets hooked on the streets in your heighborhood and start focusing on and putting forth a community effort to stop the entry of drugs into the community.

To obtain these goals would be better deterrents than capital punishment.

Human life is sacred. Who are we to determine who should live or who should die? No one on God's earth has the authority to make that determination.

The money to be used to build a maxi-prison for juveniles should be used for more human purposes. As decent and moral people do not sink to the level of the wayward perpetrator.

Capital punishment is evil. It is nothing more than legalized murder.

It is criminal and barbaric. It is no more justifiable than the cold-blooded killing of a defenseless individual.

To protect all citizens from those who would encroach upon personal and property rights, it is the duty of governments to establish police forces, courts and facilities for rehabilitation of offenders.

Government measures should be designed to reduce and eliminate crime, consistent with respect for the basic freedom of persons.

I reject the misuse of authority and unjust policies of our social structures that are used for the purpose of persecuting or intimidating those whose race, appearance, life style, economic conditions, or beliefs differ from those in authority.

I reject the discriminatory enforcement of law.

I support measures designed to remove the social conditions that lead to crime and encourage continued positive interaction between law and enforcement officers and members of the community at large.

I urge constructive and effective change throughout the Criminal Justice System — one that will restore, preserve and nurture the humanity of the imprisoned.

For this reason I oppose capital punishment and urge its elimination nationwide.

REV. AMERICUS ROY
(St. Ambrose Church,
St. John's Council on
Criminal Justice)

## A rabbi talks about America's sickness

The following are words of Rabbi Arnold Levine of the Temple Oheb Shalom, at the recent Baltimore NAACP annual Freedom Festival Dinner:

"There is a duel sickness that plagues this nation .... the sickness of deteriorating cities and the rage of an oppressed minority no longer content to live with poverty and prejudice.

"Part of the crisis that I, as a Jew, face is that it is not visible to me in my comfortable suburban dwelling.

"The questions that I sometimes hear asked in the white community; "Why can't they better themselves? Why can't they get jobs?" are unfair questions.

"The truth of the matter is that whites cannot understand because they don't know the vast magnitude of the problem on the one hand, and on the other hand are unable to emphathize and identify with the black victims.

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"In the last few years we have experienced a black pride and renewed self-awakening. Other groups have taken this lead and have become more aware of who they are.

"Nevertheless, America today is in deep trouble, the deepest trouble of our history.

"We all know something is seriously wrong.

"We must strive to reorder our priorities, to put people and life before technological circuses in the sky and private greed masquerading as free enterprise.

"Our mandate should be what Hillel said thousands of years ago "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? And, if not now, when?"

## If YOU ask ME..... by Bettye Moss

By Bettye Moss

An open letter to Ruby (that's not her real name).

Dear Ruby:

Confined to the Department of Corrections Diagnostic Center is a 23-year-old father who is charged with raping you. His name is Henry Lee Wilkerson.

His father, Arthur Wilkerson, is a supervisory employee at the University of Maryland in College Park. His mother, Sarah, and his dad have been married for over 30 years. They have 3 daughters, but he is their only son.

The accused's wife, Maxine, and his father tell us that he continues to claim his innocence. He says he did not attack you, but rather that you accepted a ride with him and willingly acceded to his advances.

Further they added, "I am asking help to have Henry's trial re-opened because they did not give him a fair deal because his face is black and her face is white."

The Wilkerson family has lived in this state for over 50 years. They are members of All Saints Church in High Ridge, Laurel, Md.

Their son has a wife and young son. They need him home to care for his family.

YOU, and you alone, can help him — by clarifying whether his story is right or yours. We have tried to talk with the lawyer who represented the younger Wilkerson.

The family is disturbed that the lawyer wants $3,000, and they can not pay it. They have no money.

Please, Ruby, come forward — write this column and tell us your side. If it wasn't rape, aren't you woman enough to speak out and save this youngster from a long life in jail?

Be a woman, Ruby, and tell the whole truth.

—

You never know how shocking a stick-up is until it happens to you. Ask Dr. Joel Carrington, assistant superintendent of schools.

He had called at the Dennlyn Rd. home of the Charles Robinsons (Mary) on Saturday afternoon to pick up his wife. Mrs. Carrington (Vera). Mrs. Lavelette Green Campher, a neighbor of the Robinsons and Mrs. Doris Wallace, the principal who was a guest, left at the same time.

As they started to walk to their car, a youth with a red stocking cap, checkered shirt and heavy mustache stopped them.

After the usual street jargon — "get your g. . d. . . hands up; he pulled a gun, yanked Mrs. Campher's purse and ran.

—

Those of us who were inside the house were nearly as shaken up as the victims. And did the police take forever to get there—at least 25 minutes!

The young black officer who responded, Northwestern Patrolman John Williams (cap No. 266), explained it had been a busy afternoon.

"Sure enough, while he was taking details of this daytime holdup, another call came with a similar description — a youth in red stocking cap, checkered shirt, had done it again in the Mondawmin area.

Note to Commissioner Pomerleau: Patrolman Williams, a fine, efficient officer was most comforting and helpful. But gee whiz, can't he get some help on a busy beat like this?

If there had been a call for an officer in trouble, there would have been four police cars responding — we saw this happen a block away not too many hours later. Honest!

—

People being nice to others — Mrs. Robinson, mentioned above, does the nicest things. She had several friends invite in two or three of their friends "to meet a friend and old acquaintances."

Later, she explained, so many people hear names and see folks but never get a chance to fellowship.

Soon, after lunch, there were get-ting-to-know-you games (like pass the gift packages) and still later, bridge, pinochle, etc.

About here: Audrey Pinderhughes, Betty Fry, Judy Martin, Evelyn Hayshert, Glodine Adams, Vashti Matthews, Frances Murphy, Isolene Crowner, Elizabeth Demby, Belle Campbell, Helen Gallis, Ada Woodland, Otyce Froe.

Also, Cardirenne Griffin, Alice Smith, Gladys Dungee, Sandra Vance, Rosemary Backus, Gloria Carpenter, Mary Umphrey, Anethia Williams, Doreva Stanley, Harriet Trader, Carolyn Willis, Sara Giles, Rita Selby, Liz Cooper, Vivian Burnett.

—

More people being kind: The William Ledbetters (Tony), gave a dinner reception (supper-dance) Sunday, at the Holiday Inn Belmont, for their deb daughter, Susan, who is cute as a button and talented, too.

You had to smile with relatives and friends as you watched Susan leave her escort, and move among her parents' adult friends to say her personal thanks to them.

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Cuff note: Susan was among debs presented by Annapolis Links last Friday.

—

Another thoughtful youngster we watched this week — was Marjean Davis, daughter of the Marvin Davises (Jeanne).

After her beautiful wedding at Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church, Sunday, and the reception at the Alcazar, Marjean and her new husband, Charles Oscar Funn, found time to visit Keswick Nursing Home to let her grandmother (Mrs. Carl Murphy (Lillian), see her on her big day.

Cuff note: And, in tribute to her grandma, uncle and stepfather, the wedding solos included, "The Angel Song."

Words were by the bride's late stepfather, Dr. Carl Murphy and music by William Parrott, the retired school principal and uncle of the bride who was present with his wife.

Rosalyn Catlin, (Mrs. Albert Wood), was in terrific voice as she performed this number (with a variation in words to fit the wedding occasion and her "Lord's Prayer" solo was tremendous. Mrs. Charloyte Swann was at the organ.

Up from Durham, N.C. for the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Hackett.

—

In the mailbox, a letter from Dr. S. Randolph Edmonds now of P.O. Box 765, Lawrenceville, Va., 23868.

Formerly a revered Morgan State College professor, he left Baltimore for Dillard University where he headed the Drama Department and since then has won fame as a playwright and producer.

In his letter this week, he advises that his daughter, Henrietta, is following in his footsteps. She is now teaching in the Drama Department of Howard University.

On Feb. 19, her Children's Musical, for which she wrote the script, the lyrics and music was presented in D.C.

## The AFRO stands for

— Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before courts.
— Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.
— Extensive and meaningful black political power.
— Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.
— Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.
— Black judges on all benches of the city, county and state court systems.
— A black owned and operated taxicab company.
— A black owned and operated bank.
— a black president of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.
— Black cabinet officers with meaningful responsibility on the staff of the Mayor of Baltimore and the Governor of Maryland.
— University status for Morgan State College.

## Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

AFRO-LINE is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be.

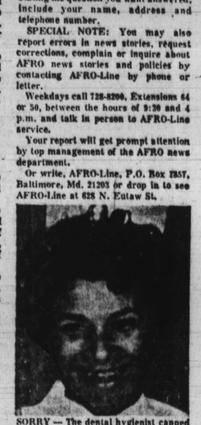
All you have to do is write a post card to AFRO-LINE, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. in addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and telephone number.

SPECIAL NOTE: You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections, complain or inquire about AFRO news stories and policies by contacting AFRO-Line by phone or letter.

Weekdays call 728-8200, Extensions 44 or 30, between the hours of 9:30 and 4 p.m. and talk in person to AFRO-Line service.

Your report will get prompt attention by top management of the AFRO news department.

Or write, AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203 or drop in to see AFRO-Line at 628 N. Eutaw St.



SORRY — The dental hygienist capped at Community College of Baltimore is new property identified. She is Mrs. Gayle Ethel Lightfoot. See details in AFRO-Line.

QUESTION: In this Tuesday's AFRO (Feb. 18), you ran a lovely photo of dental hygiene students being capped at Community College of Baltimore. You identified the lady at left in the photo as 'pretty Miss Catherine Marion Dixon of Penrose Ave.'

But, alas, you failed to identify the equally pretty lady at the right. Please, who is she? — A. R.

ANSWER: We're happy to report that the lady on the right of the photo was Mrs. Gayle Ethel Lightfoot of Harlem Ave. We regret her name was inadvertedly omitted. So that readers may know our heart's in the right place, we re-run Mrs. Lightfoot's photo with this column.

QUESTION: Towson State College recently began a parking gate program where you have to pay a $5 fee and a $5 refundable deposit. How come state employees have to pay on these lots? Don't we pay enough now? — J. G.

ANSWER: Bill Carey, Towson, Public Relations Officer, told AFRO-Line:

"No one does have to pay. There are unpaved lots as well as gated lots. If one chose, they could park on lot which do not have gates.

"We have a faculty parking committee. There has been a growing problem of access to parking spots close to the buildings they teach in. They recommended that we go to a gate procedure because it seemed as though there was no other way to control it.

"Following that recommendation, we put them up and now a person buys a gate control card which allows them to park in the four lots that are gated. They pay $10, $5 of which is refunded when they return the card. They will also be paying $1.00 a year maintenance.

"Any faculty or staff member may purchase one if he wants to be able to get into those lots during the day. If he doesn't want to, he will have to park on another lot and it may not be as close to the building. This is the really the impetus for having them. The faculty claimed they could never find a space.

"No one is obligated to pay. Everyone has a choice if they want access to the lot to buy, if not they won't. For that price, you have more assurance of finding a space."

WHERE TO CALL FOR HELP

HOT LINE — 539-8181 for abandoned vehicles; dirty yards; garbage collections; street lights; street repairs.

POLICE — Emergency, 222-3333; community relations, 396-2710.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-1111; bad food, 396-4424; animal removal, 396-0218; fire, 685-1313; defective sidewalk, 396-3168; rats, 396-4418; food stamps, 234-2751; oil furnace check, 396-4429.

EMERGENCY — Housing, heating or light, 234-2412; after 6 p.m. and weekends, 234-2172.

BALTIMORE ANSWERS YOU (BAY) — For help in problems with city agencies, 396-1234 (10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4700.

INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-5271; transit and traffic, 396-3049; drug abuse counseling, 396-2720; job, 383-5488; legal aid, 539-5340; rumor control, 837-1188; rape center, 366-RAPE; pension reform, 962-3914.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6084; Greater Homewood, 396-4080; Northwest, 396-0024; Steuart Hill, 396-0207.

REGISTER TO VOTE — Now is the time to get on the books so you can vote for the next mayor and city council persons to represent YOU. Register to vote now at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts. Office open Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Next primary election for mayor and city council is Sept. 2, 1975. Get ready to VOTE now.