I am an American, and as an American, I would speak to America . . . Frederick Douglass — 1817-1895

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1846-922. 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)

Leadership needed

Time is short but the dangerous curfew or so-called parental responsibility bill in the City Council should be killed and black elected officials who know what a community threat such a law could become should cash in some of their political debts to bury this legislation.

Both City Council president Walter Orlinsky and Mayor Schaefer, who counted heavily on black Democratic backing prior to the primary to stifle effective black opposition, should be advised by their black supporters that this is an issue on which they need and want help.

One of the reasons black voters in recent elections have not turned out strongly to back black candidates is because they can't see the officials they've put in office taking a tough stand on anything and showing any power.

All Baltimore's black city councilmen, two whites in the Fifth and one white in the Second, moderates who see the inadequacies of the bill and also appreciate the concern of and support of the black community for them in their election bids, are against the bill.

Most of those for the bill are the known reactionaries and right wingers. A couple of the "for" people are going to be knocking at the doors of black Democratic organizations soon for themselves or other white candidates for the U.S. Senate or Third Congressional District election.

Can't black Baltimore officials do anything for their people except deliver votes to whites who then turn around and slap their communities in the face?

At the least, this is a fighting matter and the community has a right to expect some action. What we know of curfews is that Philadelphia has one and that city also has one of the nation's worst teen gang problems.

It may be that some parents could do more to control their children but mark our word: a lot of unruly children who are tolerated at home now whether parents can control them or not, are going to be pushed out into the streets before poor parents with other children to look out for are going to pay fines and spend jail time on behalf of uncontrollable youngsters.

We think the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, a Republican with little money or organization, proved something every black and white politician in Baltimore had better pay some attention to — he collected almost twice the black vote Orlinsky did — despite the fact just about every black elected official, all Democrats, supported Schaefer and Orlinsky.

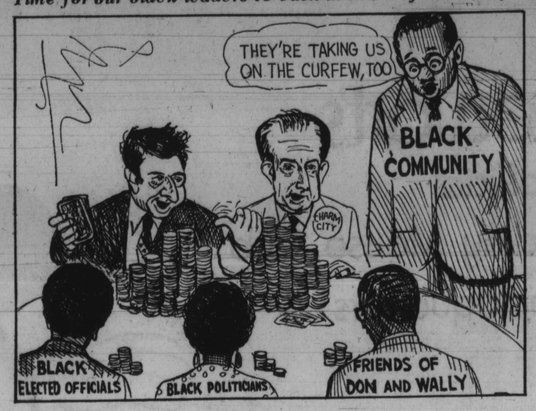
The message is that a black candidate worth his salt can carry black votes even against the desires of certain black elected officials.

And in districts, as example, the Second, where there are strong rival organizations, things can be done in coming primary elections that some cocky people don't seem to realize.

It's time black elected officials stand up in Baltimore and be worthy of the responsibility entrusted to them.

The curfew is a place to start the fight and even at this late hour the community expects to see a lot more fur fly on this issue before we get led to the slaughter house.

Time for our black leaders to cash in some of their chips



A little about a lot — by madeline w. murphy

For us, the usual minimum!

When Huey Long came into power in Louisiana, he was asked what he would give blacks. Without blinking an eye, he replied, "The usual minimum!"

So we see it with the disrespect that Mayor William Donald Schaefer is showing toward Dr. Beryl Williams, black woman School Board Vice President, now that he's gotten a "mandate" from his people for four more years.

In all the behind-the-scenes maniupulating, he has given the back of his hand to the direct line of succession, without the courtesy of consultation.

Never, I'm sure, so long as he sits on his throne in City Hall, will the "Little King" ever turn over the presidency of the board to any black, no matter how well qualified she may be.

And so all the new black members of the School Board have received a message loud and clear — the "Little King" will give them the "usual minimum."

Typical of his autonomy, is also the manner in which Schaefer managed the firing of Superintendent Roland N. Patterson. First, he sent the word for the old president to step down; then he moved in hatchet man Norman Ramsey for Patterson's Kangaroo court; then after a bungling, illegal, inept job was done, he made him keep quiet about leaving until after the election ("No issues at this time please"); then he replaces him with a younger one of his sycophants, yet a facsimile therof.

The transparency of this sleight of hand is grossly insulting to the black community, whose mere mention, at the Mayor's victory celebration, according to one reporter, evinced a reply that the subject of the problem of blacks was "inappropriate" — like rain on his parade.

Who, however, will do anything about it? Black legislators, where are you?

In addition, if you look at the pressing legislation that has hit City Council — making the Block pretty for vice, crime and corruption, and at the same time a Curfew Law for adolescents, does it strike you maybe that it should be the other way around, that the kids ought to have a curfew for the adults to keep them out of the clutches of Sodom and Gomorrah?

With all the allegations about organized crime on the Block, and with no clear laws that sanely deal with the problem of prostitution — where penalizing the prostitute, but not the John has come into question — what convoluted reasoning has brought about this fatuous decision?

Preachers, where are you?

And so we'll have a Convention Center whose main attraction will be a spruced up, extended Block, a Midway, where innocents abroad will find a broad, who'll fleece 'em, con 'em, hustle 'em, but leave 'em and disease 'em with the experience; where policing the block will increase the kick-backs, pay-offs, to look the other way, and Charm City will have its play, while the rest of us, those who'll get the "usual minimum" will pay, and pay, and pay for decadent debauchery!

Citizens, where are you?

The young beat — by larry young

Jennifer at Civic Center

Harold Jennifer, the only black man who has ever served as executive director of a Civic Center in any major U.S. city, has held the post in Baltimore 32 years. In fact, in this day of urban communities in trouble because of lack of interracial harmony, Mr. Jennifer's position has given Baltimore cause to stick its chest out, so to speak.

In the past, Mr. Jennifer's contract has been renewed before the expiration date of Sept. 30. This has been done three times, extending his service to a fanbastic 32 years in accomplishment.

Only this year, the Civic Center has racked up the highest attendance records, a money-related factor which has to be considered. Baltimore has to show the taxpayers that it knows how to stay out of the red ink.

Last week the Shrine Circus' 3-day stay at the Civic Center excelled all records for attendance, cash and what they call a really fine run. The Civic Center is in good shape.

But, Mr. Jennifer's 1975-76 contract is going on two months overdue. If it were the Election that held it up, the Election is over.

Mayor Schaefer gets what he wants. Although the Civic Center director serves at the pleasure of the seven-member commission, Mayor Schaefer can call its attention to Mr. Jennifer's flawless record and get him back in the saddle for the coming Bicentennial Year.

Baltimore needs to point with pride as countless Americans flow through during the Bicentennial year. "A black man is head of our Civic Center."

Downtown is budding with countless multi-million $$ improvements and skyscrapers. We're going to sift through to find how many black citizens are in high posts in these golden Inner Harbor buildings.

But, meantime, we are urging that one man stay in his post in that area. At the Civic Center, we'll have to have Harold Jennifer, to keep the whole record (we suspect) from looking lily-white.

Cash flow at hospitals

Individuals, industry, trade unions, professional groups, and providers of medical care and support, are all baffled by what appears to be a simple question, — how to provide quality medical care to all the people at a reasonable cost.

Many hospitals of our communities face a different and unique problem caused by the change from traditional medical care and advancements in technology. Doctors are no longer located in the inner zones of our city to any great extent, the exception being staff and administrative physicians who still maintain their private practice but do not make house calls nor do they see the sick after a certain hour of the day.

Therefore, the hospital, being the major medical institution with staff available 24 hours, has become the provider of medical care during off hours in their emergency department.

In many sections of the state, particularly the inner city, the hospital emergency room is the source for medical care not only during off hours but rather during all hours.

Part of the problem that the hospitals in Baltimore city are experiencing is the dollar loss due to uncompensated care and charity cases. By no means should the problem be construed to be a black-white city, as opposed to country, problem, but an interrelated political-economic situation that must be dealt with as such.

Over the past 10 years there has been an increasing trend toward utilization of hospital emergency facilities for non-emergency medical problems.

As a result, emergency rooms have become 24-hour out-patient clinics. Certain problems are inherent in this trend.

These facilities are inappropriately used, (as they are staffed for emergencies only), and as a result, at midnight an emergency room may be filled with patients who have problems such as sore throats, back aches, insomnia, etc.

The problem gets so severe that ambulance drivers are instructed to take emergency patients to other hospitals where hopefully the facilities are not in such demand.

The answer is clinics, accessible and properly staffed, operating possibly from 4 to 11 p.m., not expanded emergency room services.

Many of the patients utilizing emergency room facilities as their only source of primary care are public assistance recipients with medical assistance cards. Others are working people whose income is just above the cut-off that would provide them with medical assistance coverage under title XIX. Their wages are not adequate to pay the total cost of medical care.

Census and other hospital data verify that the bulk of patients at these facilities are from lower socio-economic groups, quite often unable to pay the cost of medical care when billed by the hospital.

Even when the hospitals collect the emergency room fee, they find it increasingly difficult to be reimbursed for the necessary follow-up rendered.

Many hospitals have tried to alleviate the problem of over utilization of its emergency facilities by the non-emergency cases by establishing a system of triage and referral.

This means the bona fide emergency would be seen immediately and as long as real emergencies presented themselves, other patients would have to sit and wiat sometimes for several hours.

This discourages the non-emergency cases and also enables the staff to provide better care to the true emergency case.

However, the cost of seeing those patients in the emergency facility is apparent.

One must also consider the fact that the non-emergency case is certainly perceived as being an emergency by the individual or the parent of a child and that person has no place else to go for immediate medical care and no one to call.

All of the solutions tried by many of the hospitals have not helped the problem of income loss due to the inability of the poor and jobless patient to pay the full cost of medical care.

What is to be done about the individual who cannot or refuses to pay?

Certain things will have to happen: —

(1) The federal government could responsibly assume a greater role, thereby affording Maryland hospitals a waiver from the medical and medicare regulations.

(2) Industries, large and small, should expand insurance coverage to provide ambulatory health care not only to the worker but to the family of the worker as well.

(3) At the state level, medical assistance will have to be made available to people employed with a higher income level than would currently qualify.

(4) Blue Cross and Blue Shield and other third party payors should be responsible for a percentage of charity and uncompensated care coverage in the state.

Certainly, the hospitals, themselves, with the tremendous staff available, should be capable of devising a plan to reduce some of the cost of uncompensated care and charity cases.

A one-time payment by the state of Maryland to the three or four hospitals that are experiencing critical financial problems may be necessary.

This payment would be made with the stipulation that these hospitals would, within a reasonable period of time, present a plan outlining steps to (1) reduce uncompensated care and cost and (2) develop alternative financial mechanisms.

Perhaps the solution lies in the formation of a special work committee composed of representatives from the hospitals, third party payors, the Maryland Hospital Association, consumers, and members of the Health Services Cost Review Commission, which would be appointed by the governor.

In addition to calling for the formation of a statewide blue ribbon commission, the Baltimore City Legislative Delegation has taken a major step towards remedying this situation by appointing a sub-committee from the delegation to Study Out-Patient Care and Costs.

Members of this sub-committee are: Charles Avara, Torrey Brown, Walter Dean, Steve Sklar, Pinkney Howell, Richard Emory, and yours truly as chairman.

(Editor's note: This is the second column by the latest addition to the AFRO editorial columnists, Larry Young, an urban environmentalist. At age 25, he is the youngest member of the Maryland General Assembly. He represents Baltimore City's 39th District in the House of Delegates.)

57 years ago, we said

On its editorial page on April 3, 1918, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN published these comments under the heading, 'As To Benefits,' which are as appropriate today as they were 57 years ago:

"Any public emergency always brings to the surface a number of people who seek to fatten on the community by pretending to help by way of giving "benefits" for this and that.

"We have had a number of these "benefits" recently, which so far as benefitting the object for which they were given, they were no "benefit" at all, everything being eaten up with expenses.

"No matter how large the crowd, the expenses always seem to exceed the income, so there is nothing left.

"It is about time that institutions and other interests allowing their names to be used should in some way supervise these so-called "benefits" and see to it that the proceeds are properly placed — as well as the expenses.

"They owe this much, at least, to the public which is so generous in its support."

TX, you're just not OK

(A guest editorial reprinted from the Oct., 1975 issue of the American School Board Journal).

Careful readers of The American School Board Journal may have noticed that the September issue was those st-- abbreviations (two capital letters, no punctuation) that were devised and are being pushed by the U.S. Postal Service.

This changeover is a rather common one being made by all sorts of publications in this country.

Although the JOURNAL tends sometimes to resist "rather common changes," the forced usage and consistency urged us to embrace the postal abbreviations.

So we did. But love didn't follow the embrace.

We have to plead emotion, not logic, as our motive for retreating (with this issue) to the comfort of the old abbreviations.

We'd be the first to agree that the postal system needs all the help it can get, but we found it difficult, for example, to live with AZ when Ariz. seems so much smoother and more understated.

And although AL sounds friendly enough, it just doesn't seem to have the subtle grace of Ala.

How could we ever exchange solid, old Ark. for soulless AR?

And it still gives us shivers to think that comfortable Mich., Minn., Miss. and Mass. could be abandoned for the meaningless grunts of MI, MN, MS, MA.

Who could ever agree to give up cowboy-booted Tex. for the computerized nothingness of TX?

Even the two letter abbreviations such as Pa. and Va. look, to us, kinder on the eye that PA and VA.

And are we grasping for straws when we insist that N.M., N.Y. and N.C. seem more distinguished than NM, NY and NC?

To those who want publications to use the postal system's state abbreviations, we say: You're right.

Those big, ugly, punctuation-nude letters are, like leisure suits and seat belt buzzers, things we have to live with and probably should go along with.

But, for awhile yet, we'd like to keep Colo. and Conn. and Del. and Fla. and Kan. and Wash. and Wis. and Wyo. and the rest.

(Editor's note: What do AFRO readers think?)

Smiles

Teenagers today come in three genders: masculine, feminine and guess.

Some people don't have much to say. The only trouble is that you have to wait so long to find it out.

82 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)

Now and then

We can NOT afford it!

By G. James Fleming

Really, can black people afford NOT to vote?

The resounding answer is NO! Staying away from the polls is a luxury that blacks, the poor, and all other near-powerless people can not afford to do.

Everything these groups need or want eventually will come through the ballot; every right they want to protect, every step forward they wish to make, every improvement their neighborhoods require, every opportunity they seek for their children — all these will rest wholly or largely on whether those eligible to vote, do vote, and how they vote.

No better example is needed than the plight of most black people in the South, wherever blacks were not allowed to vote.

With no votes black citizens found their communities unserved, their streets unclean, their schools of the lowest quality, their lives often threatened, and their chance to enter the public service almost nil.

And what happens to a people who do NOT vote is no different from what happens to them when they are prevented from voting.

Led by Harold Laski, the late eminent political economist, two or three persons have summarized this truism:

"Those who are excluded from politics are also excluded from the benefits of government, and those who exclude themselves from politics are also excluded from the benefits of government; furthermore, no group already in politics will work to include another group into politics, unless it is to the advantage of the first group to do so."

Those who have everything, those who already are shareholders in political power, can perhaps afford NOT to vote, but black Americans are too low down on the totem pole to "go fishing" on Election Day — equally true for the primary as for the general election.

That is why it is such sad reading and re-reading that only 26 per cent of all black registered voters cared enough actually to vote last week in Baltimore City.

What we must all understand is this: A more striking turnout of blacks is called, for, not only in white-black contests; it is needed in every district, in all circumstances, so that blacks may claim full share in the elevation of those who govern.

It is doubly mandatory that black citizens vote because they are part of the poorer masses and the working classes who are easily forgotten unless their numbers stand out and they are "king-makers" even when and where they cannot be "kings."

In a city such as Baltimore, or Richmond, or Philadelphia, or Atlanta, the need for blacks to vote in overwhelming numbers is paramount, if we are to share in political leadership and if the masses of us are to secure, in any major way, the benefits of government and of the society.

Why the refusal of black people to vote in the North?

Have they lost hope in the democratic system?

Have they given up on politics and politicians?

Have material things — money, cars, TV's, real estate — become so important that they have no time to think about, or become involved, in political matters?

Are they imitating their satisfied white counterparts, even as they fret about them (Only 28-30 per cent of Baltimore's registered whites voted last week).

If Baltimore were peopled with 52-56 per cent Japanese-Americans, or Italian-Americans, or Jewish-Americans, one could easily tell it from the backgrounds or complexions of those who would be making its laws and running the government.

Once in a while the blacks of Baltimore become mad and vote in their own self-interest and in the interest of the city, as they see it, but it is not madness or hatefulness that is needed in most cases.

During the next 8 to 10 months, Baltimoreans, especially black Baltimoreans, should get their heads together, to seek answer to the question, "Why do Black Baltimoreans not vote in larger numbers?"

Then, we should seek to resolve the problem or problems, if we find there is a problem, as this column believes there is.

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 presented 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.

DECEMBER 24, 1920)
(From the Papers of John H. Murphy Sr., who founded the AFRO-AMERICAN, Aug. 13, 1892).

"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

PAGE OPPOSITE

Baltimore Afro-American

The taxi service

Dear AFRO:

Congratulations on the AFRO's expose' on taxicabs avoiding inner city fares at bus terminals.

In most cases, your reporter was very accurate, but an omission can be as penetrating as the truth.

Between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., the No Stopping and the Ticket Enforcement is prevalent at bus terminals such as the Trailways.

Some good, non-prejudiced cabbies, as myself, have stopped for any and all fares but have halted this practice after hard-nose police officers tagged us with the $27 ticket.

Perhaps, the AFRO can use the power of the press and again expose this issue and get better cab service.

The "No-Stopping" signs should read, "No Stopping, Except Taxicab Taking Fares."

The Mass Transit buses are exempt from many left-turn corners, why can't taxicabs pick up a fare?

WILLIAM J. PRELLER
(A Cab Owner)

Dr. Patterson's talk

Dear AFRO:

I would like to request space in your fine newspaper to answer several critics in regard to former school superintendent Roland Patterson's speech given at Lake Clifton Senior High.

Dr. Patterson does not have sophisticated resources to combat "back room decisions" made by a handful of influential people, therefore, he should be allowed all public forums to exercise democracy's inalienable rights.

Let's stop fooling ourselves. As long as situations exist that will deprive minorities with the proper qualifications to exercise leadership, then surely, such persons shall register some bitterness. There are far more people in sympathy with Dr. Patterson's viewpoint than most people realize, so, "the silent majority" must not be overlooked or forgotten.

BERNARD LLOYD HALE.

Provident

Dear AFRO:

During my recent illness, I had a two-and-a-half weeks stay at Provident Hospital.

The care and services I received were fantastic, and all the staff was friendly and helpful.

I can't quite express how much this good treatment meant to me and I will never forget the warmth and kindness that was shown to me there.

I might add I AM white, and also an employee of Provident, and was a patient there over a year ago. If anything, the care has improved since then. I was treated as if I were a part of a large friendly family.

Since I've come to Baltimore, I have heard so much criticism of Provident Hospital from different people, but as far as I'm concerned, there is only one hospital in the city.

—HELEN J. HOWARD

If YOU ask ME — by bettye moss

Jared (Jerry) Beads of Annapolis put in Westport cocked 93½ miles in his marathon bid to break the 200-mile non-stop record and he did it despite a bad knee.

The marathon took place at the Poly-Western Oval, began at 4 p.m., on Saturday and continued until 11 a.m. Sunday.

Mr. Beads, 47, is the Md. Glass Co. employee who ran 121 miles at Dulany High in 1969 for a world record which was bettered by Tony Rafferty of Australia two years ago.

Cheering Mr. Beads over the weekend and running some of the distance with him were his wife, Mary, a Read Drug Co. employee, and 5 of their 7 youngsters, Don, 9; Carl, 10; Skip, 12; Valerie, 13; and Myra, 15.

Other children are Vanessa and Jerry, who are in their early twenties.

Also joining in the competition for a while was an adopted daughter, Carlotta Robinson, a teacher at High Point School in Beltsville, Md.

Ho hum department: — The United Negro College Fund's annual gala on Sunday evening attracted approximately 400 guests, but by the time for the main attraction (presentation of teenage contestants and announcement of the winner of Miss UNCF title), only a third of the guests remained.

Originally advertised to begin at 6 p.m., sponsors at the last minute notified guests the $17.50 per event would not begin until 7:30 p.m. because they said the Dogwood Rd. hall stated an earlier event would delay theirs.

Soooooooo, by the time the preliminary speeches by sponsors and politicians were over, and the jazz version of the National Anthem was sung, it was well nigh 10 oclock.

Those who remained advise this writer that the unique manner in which the teenage participants were introduced, (each carrying a red rose), and the dancing by the Gwen Biddle group was most delightful.

Winner, reporting $3,729.56, was Cheryl McGoine, Coppin State, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Total raised by the Women's Committee which sponsored the gala was $16,311.81, largest in the four-year history. Hats off to co-chairpersons Martha and Milton Allen.

We made it to Va. State Homecoming game a Saturday ago and even had a chance to see the teams play.

Even though State's Trojans have a dismal 2 out of 7 record, our interest was in Daughter, Rachael, now a junior, and in the Baltimore guys who play on the grid team.

They've suffered depressing losses this year, but manage to show great sportsmanship and that's what football and other competitive games are all about.

Baltimoreans on the team included defensive back Alvin (Butch) Pride, captain; and Steward Orange and Charles McDonald, running backs; Rodney Diggs, guard; and Michael Sims, split end.

Cuff note: Va. Union trounced State 21-0 in the game. John Marshall is head coach.

More cuff: You haven't lived until you attend a college football game and get a chance to watch the very interesting young people.

You learn that:

1. male fashions indeed have changed drastically and that the males are just as peacockish as the gals in their colorful garb.

2. Betty coed comes in all shapes and colors and is pretty as a button and really sewn together!

More cuff: If you think you've enjoyed southern hospitality in Baltimore or other places further South, you haven't, not until you join homecoming festivities in college towns like Petersburg, Va.

There, the Tanner Collinses' (Gladys) open house attracted these Philadelphians:

Earl and Lillian Winfield, Juanita Fields, Georgine Turner, Samuel and Beatrice Levy and son, Christ Billy Lambeth, Geneva Johnson and Kenneth Chillis; and Connie and Thomas Edwards. Baltimoreans there included the Eric Whites and Samuel Owingses.

In Richmond, Eunice and Doug Wilder, (he's the noted state senator), "put the big pot in the little pot for homecoming visitors. Their manse, (and it is indeed a handsome one, out Hawthorne Ave. way), was aglow with beautiful people for their Sunday bon voyage brunch.

Spied here, William Scott, the New Haven, Conn. telephone employee and his beauteous Sandra, the researcher who recalls she was often mistaken for a Baltimore girl who was at Howard University when she was there a couple of years ago.

More people moving about: Baltimore visitor a week back — Charles (Chuck) Smith, his bride, Tommie, the librarian, stopped here on route from an island jaunt to their home in New York. He is known in this area for his work with the Rockefeller Foundation, where he is an educational director.

AGNN members called to report they've cancelled their Saturday after Thanksgiving party at Ramada Inn rather than be embarrassed.

They state the party committee was royally entertained by management representatives who assured them problems encountered by other club groups earlier this month had been cleared up but when they went to refine plans the hotel said it was still having difficulty with help.

How it turned out — Big Sisters and AKA Sorority are still negotiating their complaints with management. Ramada spokesmen told AFRO Line this week the complaints are still under study.

Continue sunshine to Mrs. Alma Ball the Ruth J salehiady. She is out of the hospital after surgery.

Also on the mend is Calvin Gilliam. He is home from the hospital and is resting at his Kenwood Avenue home.

The Tubs Rd. home of the Clift Gattises (Helen) is aglow with flowers, cards and gifts — many of them — from friends who have been keeping her spirits up since she had surgery at Greater Baltimore. She came home on Sunday and was much improved when we visited on Monday. She's the Baltimore County teacher whom many know as a good neighbor.

Get well cards to Elijah Black and Miss Debra Paige. Both are in Provident Hospital.

Glad you are better cards to Wilbur Walker. He is recuperating at his Alameda Circle home.

Glad you are better cards to Travis Vauls, Director of Baltimore Urban League. He was hospitalized but has now returned to his desk.

Congratulations to the Thompsons (Theodore and Celestyne). She's the "hello" girl at the AFRO. They recently celebrated their wedding anniversary at the Cedardale home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William (Celestyne) Grace.

It was a double celebration, because it was also a surprise birthday party for Bill's father, Henry Grace. He was 78.

In the mailbag: The first Yule card is from Mrs. Shirley Davenport of East. Pratt St.

Two deaths in family: Dr. Simon Carter's mother, Mrs. Ernestine Carter and Mrs. Carter's (Kaye) father, William Mumby Sr.

Out of town relatives here for the Mumby funeral included Mr. and Mrs Louis Rodgers, Miss Patricia Rodgers Mrs. Carol McClinton, Miss Mildred Caesar and Miss Doris Caesar, all from New York; and Wayne Mumby of D.C

School story

Dear AFRO:

This is to extend my personal appreciation and gratitude for the AFRO-AMERICAN'S coverage of the Baltimore School System's Desegregation story.

I have found the AFRO's accounts to be fair, balanced and accurate.

Thank you for a job well done.

PAUL L. VANCE,
(Deputy Superintendent, Executive Matters)

Over 95%

Dear AFRO:

At the risk of exhausting your hospitality I thought I should reply to Madeline Murphy's answer to my letter published in the November 1, 1975 issue. I do this because I think the questions she raises are important. First, a criticism:

My letter stated that over 95 per cent of new housing built by this Department has been occupied by blacks. You printed it as reading 95 per cent.

As for Mrs. Murphy's reply, she states that HCD removes people from neighborhoods and makes no effort to bring them back. The opposite is true. Every displaced family receives a signed certificate giving them first priority for any new or rehabilitated houses in their old neighborhood.

R. C. EMBRY JR.
(Commissioner, Dept. of Housing and Community Development)

Identification

Advisory Committee meets Nov. 18

"Operation Identification" will be one of several neighborhood crime preventive measures scheduled for discussion at a meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee to the Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. at Morgan State University.

Make it Official

The writer's name and address must be included in all Letters to the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN.

Those which contain printed or typed names and initials will not be considered.

All letters MUST be signed. Names will be omitted if requested.

The AFRO reserves the right to edit all letters.

NOWADAYS — by bill riley

STARS AND YOU

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will encounter some delays and difficulties. Be reasonable and keep calm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Excellent prospects for what you desire most. Don't overspend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be confident if you undertake something of importance. Good news.

CANCER (June 21-July 20): Try not to attach too much importance to gossip.

LEO (July 21-Aug. 22): An important and decisive phase in your life. You must persevere.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You feel fine and get on well with people. Financially, things improve.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You don't quite know which way you are going. But you overcome difficulties.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travelling and seeing people may be useful now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You find solutions to financial problems. Brilliant prospects.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your intuition is right, and you can follow it up. But private affairs don't quite work out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't give in to doubts. You have excellent chances and the right contacts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): What has been worrying you can be settled. Meet friends this evening.

Washington — by parren j. mitchell

Billions for rails ignore minorities

(Mr. Mitchell represents Md.'s Seventh District in the U.S. House of Representatives.)

The game is always changing and often it seems impossible to keep up.

The continuous fight for meaningful participation by the minority business community in the economic life of this country is now shifting to the mammoth efforts to reorganize and revitalize the nation's railroads.

Many of the country's major railroad lines are in economic shambles.

In fact, some lines are in such bad shape that they are unable to declare bankruptcy, since declaration of backruptcy usually suggests that new private interest, administration, or management could turn the company around into a profit making venture.

Major new changes in the area of transportation notwithstanding, the nation's rail system is still an extremely vital resource and must be salvaged.

Congress, recognizing this fact, in 1973 passed the railroad reorganization act.

As a result of this act, the U.S. Railway Association, (USRA), was established, within the department of transportation, with a mandate to develop a final systems plan to reorganize railroads in bankruptcy in the northeast and midwest regions of the country.

The USRA final systems plan was automatically adopted on November 10th, since the congress failed to take any action disapproving the provisions of the plan prior to its own deadline set for November 9.

This plan establishes a quasi-governmental agency, "conrail," to carry out the reorganization.

More importantly, however, is that various estimates and proposals currently before the congress for funds needed to implement conrail and the final systems plan range from $2.1 to $19 billion dollars.

The approved final systems plan has no provisions for black participation.

The various legislative proposals for implementation funding for the plan have no provisions for black participation.

Therefore, at least at this point, whether the final figure is $2.1 or $10 billion, black people and other minorities will not share in the multi-tax dollar outlay.

Why is the minority business economic community always "cut-out" instead of "cut-in?"

Whenever the multi-billion dollar programs are developed our talents and potential contributions are never considered — at least not without a major fight.

Case after case can be cited.

Where was the inclusion of minority enterprise in the computer industry? Where was the inclusion of the minority enterprise in the cable television industry?

Where was the inclusion of minority enterprise, without the threat to halt the entire project, in the Alaskan pipeline?

It is a simple fact that black businesses generate black jobs. Black jobs reduce black unemployment.

Reductions in black or any other kind of unemployment increases federal and state tax incomes and decreases corresponding benefit payments that drain government coffers.

In the instance of the railroads, the national business league, through its Booker T. Washington foundation, has developed a program for minority private sector participation in reorganization dollars — to correct this serious "oversight."

It should be noted that the national business league is the oldest organization in the United States and the nation's largest black business association founded in 1900, twelve years before the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The NBL proposal calls for the establishment of a national railroad resource center to assist USRA and conrail in conducting the reorganization of railroads in a manner which will provide maximum business opportunities to minority firms and maximum economic benefits to economically disadvantaged communities.

This mandate would be carried out by the national railroad resource center the following ways:

(A) establishing and operating a national information clearinghouse for minority businesses in all aspects of federally supported programs to reorganize the nation's railroads;

(B) conducting market research and business analyses to identify opportunities and promote and assist the minority private sector in securing contracts and subcontracts and in providing investment capital and debt financing for related projects;

(C) subcontracting with established minority business and trade associations and business development organizations currently engaged in such activities to provide these services to local communities;

(D) serve as liaison between the minority private sector and USRA, conrail, and related federal agencies; and,

(E) developing support mechanisms, such as venture capital, surety and bonding organizations and management and technical assistance services required to support minority business.

The idea and implementation of a total support package such as the national rail resource center to prevent the exclusion of the minority business community from sharing in the nation's economic development is long, long overdue.

Unfortunately, I predict that this idea is as overdue as it is unfeasible in the minds of many members of congress. Therefore, a massive effort will be needed to get such a program locked into the rail reorganization legislation.

Such an effort deserves the support of every person who can see how black people and other minorities are consistently "railroaded" out of participation in economic development that could lead to a better quality of life for all people.

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

QUESTION: I was a victim of an armed robbery. I disarmed my assailant after he robbed me of $12 of my hard-earned money. After slinging the gun from my attacker's hand, he instantly made a run for his life.

I located the firearm and promptly started leaving when, to my dismay, who would be walking in my tracks but my assailant in enough time to secure another weapon.

I turned around and inflicted three-bullet wounds into him. (Remember now, he approached me not once, but twice in less than 10 minutes).

There are witnesses to verify his actions, but there's one catch, and that is they live in his neighborhood, which means one thing. While I am in jail, they are out there getting their lies right.

I am locked up only because he took out the warrant before I did. So, there go my courses at Morgan, my son's Christmas and my freedom, for I am behind bars. — THE VICTIM

ANSWER: AFRO-Line has talked with the Public Defender's office and was advised a lawyer has been assigned to you for your trial which has been set for November 18. They also suggested that you have your family contact the State's Attorney's office, 396-6726, if you wish to lodge a complaint against your assailant.

QUESTION: I read in the Yellow Pages that a firm on Monroe Street, located in a predominantly black neighborhood, did driveway paving. I called there on Wednesday and asked the secretary whether they did small jobs. She said, "Yes, wait a moment."

When I was transferred to the person who evidently was the manager, before I could even ask if they would come and give me an estimate, he said, "We only do big jobs. We don't do any small work."

It's inconceivable to me that they would run an advertisement and indicate that they do this kind of work. Don't you think people like this ought to make it known that they only do "big jobs"?

I had the feeling that because I gave my name and address and the firm recognized that it was in a black neighborhood that that was the reason why they would not come and give me an estimate. Do you think this is true? M.T.

ANSWER: A spokesman at this company told AFRO-Line that they have requested that the telephone company take "private driveways" from the ad in the directory.

She explained "It is very difficult for us to get our large equipment into a private driveway. This ad is misleading and it should not be in the current directory because this request was made several years ago. I am very sorry your reader was disturbed."

Where to call

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION — for complaints of discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability — for report of tension in your community — 396-3141.

CONSUMER PROTECTION — for questionable business practices — 383-3700.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND — Resulting from robbery or assault — 539-3540.

DISASTERS — fires, floods, hurricanes — 467-9905.

EMERGENCY — Housing, heating, light — 234-2172 or 383-6520 — After 4 p.m. and weekends, 396-2426 or 396-2082.

FIRES — 685-1313.

HOT LINE — 539-5131 — for abandoned motor vehicles, dirty yards, garbage collection, clogged sewers, street repairs, bulky trash pickup.

INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-8211 — Drug Abuse Counseling, 396-2720 — Job, 383-5468 — Legal Aid, 539-5340 — Pension Reform, 962-3914 — Transit and Traffic, 396-3049.

MAYOR'S STATIONS — Govans, 396-6084 — Greater Homewood, 396-0080 — Northwest, 396-0224 — Steuart Hill, 396-9287.

POLICE — emergency, 222-3333 — community relations, 396-2716.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION — for complaints about phone or gas and electric services, 383-2374.

RAPE CENTER — 366-RAPE

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-2171 — Animal Removal, 396-6215 — Defective Sidewalk, 396-3188 — Food Stamps, 234-2731, 234-2413 — Oil Furnace Check — 396-4429 — Rats, 396-4415.

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 234-6780.

tell it to Jan

Dear Jan,

I have a serious problem: I am 21 and 112 pounds.

What I am about to tell you it may come as a surprise or may shock you. I like women, older ones at that, at least they are three or four times older than I.

The one I am supposed to be messing with has a man she is concerned about very much. She tells me that she loves me but I find it very hard to believe sometimes. Now I love her and sometimes I don't know where to turn.

The only reason why I find it hard to believe that she loves me is because of a little accident that took place a while ago. It made me stop and dig myself a little. Tell me what's wrong and what is right. I don't like men so please don't say find a man.

Confused and Hurt

Dear C and H:

Your letter is loaded. Are you asking, is homosexuality right or wrong? Is that your problem? I would then refer you to your community Health Center or call Health and Welfare Council for free referral service at 752-4146.

If you are asking, does this woman really love you although she has a man on the side, I can't answer that without enough facts. Keep on digging yourself and you'll come up with the right answer.

The Baltimore Gay Alliance has a Hot Line, 224-HELP, 7 p.m. to 12 Midnight you can call for more help.