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

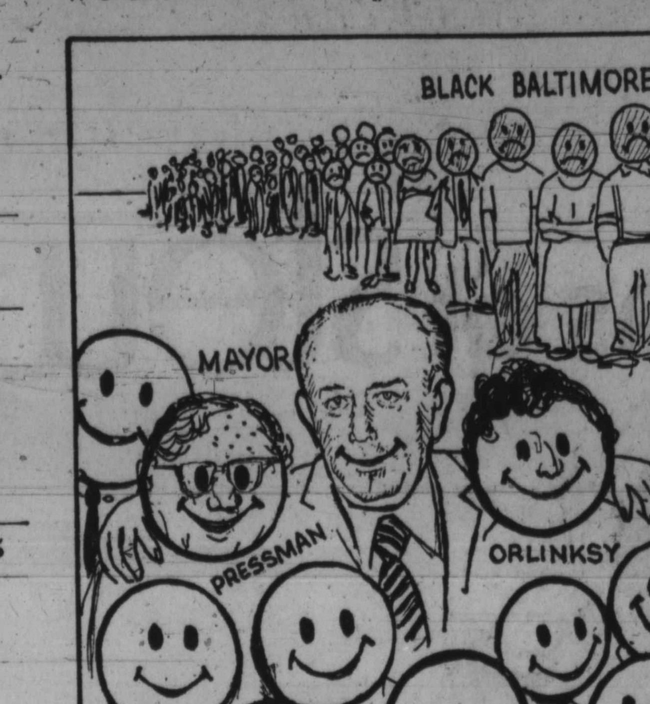
OPINION

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)

We could all smile if we could all share--



Schaefer platitudes

Black Baltimoreans who have followed closely the career of Mayor William Donald Schaefer should not be too shocked that his Tuesday inaugural address had little substance for them.

There were the usual platitudes as he outlined his first four years in office and his plans for the next four.

Nowhere in the 2,314-word talk was there specific reference to the meaningful rolle or black citizens who comprise over 54 per cent — or the majority of the population.

There were the bromides — "I reaffirm my responsibility to reflect the concerns, the needs and the desires of all our citizens," — and, "Baltimore ranks as a great city . . ." and, "the most important (in the city) are people, rich people, poor people, old people, young people, black people, people . . ."

Also, "We recognize that the Constitution does not provide for first and second class citizens and neither will the policy and programs of this city government" and, "We will be guided by the belief that our society must achieve true social justice for all citizens . . ."

And so it went. Missing were the specifics his plans to involve black citizens in policy-making positions of city government, now predominantly white.

Absent was his perception of the role he envisions for the unemployed, the poor, both black and white. Yet, there was a golden opportunity to do so when he orated about downtown renewal, highway programs, economic development, the Inner Harbor, the Civic Center complex and mass transit.

As we listened to the words our minds went back to December, 1971, when Mr. Schaefer gave his first inaugural address. Then, as now, the city's chief executive evaded the issue of black citizens.

In an AFRO editorial at that time, (December 11, 1971), we expressed the hope that as he grew in office, Mr. Schaefer would follow the example of his predecessor, former Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro 3rd, who left him a legacy — a record of appointing black citizens to policy-making positions.

Four years ago, Mr. D'Alesandro warned newcomer Schaefer that black citizens in urban cities are "trump cards" who will save the cities and this nation and they are willing to go halfway if given the opportunity to be in the driver's seat.

Mayor Schaefer did not take this advice during the past four years. His record of involvement of black citizens in his cabinet and in policy leaves much to be desired.

In his inaugural address this week, he pictures himself as "excited and inspired" with "'faith and pride in our city."

The AFRO believes Mayor Schaefer is sincere in his utterances. As we said in 1971, we think black citizens should go halfway and give Mayor Schaefer an opportunity to prove himself again.

This week, he promises that in his second term, he will give 'his best,' and 'it is the people of the city who will decide the future of the city.'

He sees his administration succeeding with the "people," and "with God's blessings."

We suggest God will have an easier job if Mr. Schaefer and his white-only top officers will employ an equal opportunity specialist to promote a realistic program involving all of us in meaningful roles.

We can do it together, if we try — and then we can truly smile about our city which then, and only then, will be truly charming to us all.

AFRO's Mrs. Santa

Unless your work involves you with broken families struggling to make ends meet, the sick and distressed who have nowhere to turn for help, you have no idea of the poverty which exists in our sprawling city.

The AFRO's annual Mrs. Santa program provides an opportunity for readers to assist their less fortunate neighbors.

We are encouraged that in this year's list of contributors are persons who received aid in previous years and are now able to share their gifts. This is what the AFRO's Mrs. Santa is all about.

YOU can help. Send tax-free contributions by check or money order to AFRO Charities Inc., Mrs. Santa, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

In addition, you may adopt a deserving family. Needy neighbors are listed on Mrs. Santa's page by number. Call Mrs. Santa at 728-8200 to adopt a family.

Now and then ______ g. james fleming

Judge Stevens and Supreme Court

When and if John Paul Stevens is confirmed by the Senate, the U.S. Supreme Court will have seven "conservative" justices and only two "liberal" members, when its membership is classified along conservative-liberal lines.

This will be a radical change from the Warren Court and from the court as it reflected appointments by Presidents Roosevelt, Kennedy, Truman and Johnson.

But, so it has always been. Presidents name federal judges, including Supreme Court justices. It is accidental when a federal judge is not an extension of whosoever appointed him.

It should be noted, however, that those appointed may live up to their earlier images and past records; or they may outshine their past selves, for the better; or they may be worse than anyone expected.

So it may be with the latest nominee. "John Paul Stevens" is no household term. He was named to the federal appeals court in 1970 by former President Nixon. As might be expected, he is a Republican conservative and on the strict construction side of interpreting the Constitution.

So far as is known, he believes that the victims of criminals have rights no less than those of their attackers.

It may also be surmised that he will be very questioning of affirmative action programs — what some people call "discrimination in reverse."

In other areas, the justice-designate has a long suit in anti-trust law.

Judge Stevens, 55, is presently a member of the Seventh District Court of Appeals bench in Chicago. Other judges and lawyers sing his praises as being scholarly, thorough and knowledgeable of the law.

Superlatives have been profuse since he was named by President Ford to succeed Justice William O. Douglas, 77, who resigned Nov. 12.

His credentials are also outstanding. He was graduated in 1941 from the University of Chicago. In 1947, he finished first in his class at Northwestern University Law School and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's highest-ranking honorary scholastic society.

He served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Wiley Rutledge of the Supreme Court.

The some 200 decisions he has written on the Appeals Court show him to be careful and thoughtful, although they also indicate his respect for precedents over so-called court-initiated or court-induced legislation.

How John Paul Stevens, as a Supreme Court justice, will react in such cases as those bearing on public school busing, on search and seizure, on capital punishment, and on forced confessions, no one can really know until he takes his seat on the highest court in our land.

He may be strict constructionist or liberal constructionist.

History is witness to the fact that Supreme Court judges, once conservative, have become very liberal in their new experience and as they respond to their new, non-political role.

We can keep our fingers crossed as to soon-to-be Justice Stevens.

The nomination of the Chicago jurist should again remind us that one of the tests of judging a Presidential candidate might well be the type of man or woman he is committed to name to the Supreme Court, since the future of the country is shaped to such a great degree by the decisions of the Court.

Every U.S. President, on the average appoints about five new justices during a two-term career, due to the death or retirement of members of the Court.

To vote carelessly for a President, is treacherous and criminal in the light of his powers vis-a-vis our most prestigious and change-inducing judicial body.

While Presidents come and go, Supreme Court justices have life tenures and they affect generations down the years, for better or worse (Associate Justice Douglas served 36 years).

Before John Paul Stevens is an unwritten page. Only time and history can show what he will record there.

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.

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

Washington ______ by parren j. mitchell

Africa--will America meet its responsibility?

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

It was a long hard trip! We covered four countries (Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast and Liberia) in five days.

We, members of Congress, and representatives from the U.S. Treasury Department, inspected projects funded in part by the World Bank and the African Development Fund.

We visited a flourishing cotton factory, a palm oil processing plant, a canal which facilitates the operation of the port in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and other installations which evidence the growing industrialization of the African Nations.

There is poverty in Africa but there is also hope.

There is hunger in Africa but there is also a fierce pride.

There is ill-health in Africa, but there is also a well being of spirit and mind in the African Nations.

The major purpose of the trip was to facilitate Congressional action which would permit America to participate in the African Development Fund for the first time.

The American State Department made a commitment to the African Nations in 1967, that this country would participate in the African Development Fund.

Now, almost eight years later, the U.S. House of Representatives is to take a vote on this issue.

There are three major obstacles to Congressional approval.

First, many members, angered by the United Nations vote which equated Zionism with racism, have threatened retaliation against the African Nations, promising to reduce foreign aid, not to participate in the African Development Fund, and other dire actions.

Retaliations of this sort are foolish. First of all, total retaliation against all African Nations would be manifestly unfair.

America should remember that the mineral resources required for the ongoing of our industry are found in abundance in Africa, while our domestic sources are rapidly drying up.

Retaliation now, may result in retaliation against America ten, twenty, or thirty years from now.

The African nations may simply refuse to sell certain basic minerals to us.

Second, many members of Congress say that if America is to participate in the African Development Fund, it should also be allowed to "buy into" the African Development Bank.

African leaders, remembering colonialism, exploitation and "sell outs," insist, and I think properly so, that only African nations should be members of the African Development Bank.

The African leaders argue, in reasonable fashion, that as the African Development Bank grows and has had an opportunity to demonstrate its capability, at some later date the policy of excluding all save African nations from participation in the Bank will be reviewed and reconsidered.

Third, some members of Congress feel that the African Nations should not be so closely identified with the "Third World Nations" and should pledge solid, unswerving alliance and allegiance to America's foreign policy.

The question that immediately comes to my mind is, "Isn't it perfectly natural for Africa to be aligned with the Third World because African nations are indeed Third World Nations?"

American Congressmen and leaders, must come to understand that the days of economic imperialism have ended, and that international alignments will be based upon idealistic not solely economic structures in the future.

The young beat ______ by larry young

Our agenda, a plan, not the man

All things come to those who wait, even justice. This is my reaction to the unfortunate developments that have affected the state of Maryland — the indictments against Governor Marvin Mandel.

Various black leaders have said the Governor should not resign, he should maintain his position until he has been tried and proven guilty or innocent.

This writer tends to agree. I would hope, however, that discussions are not going to focus on Marvin Mandel alone.

Discussions in this state, particularly during the 90-day General Assembly session must be on what we can obtain for the best interest of all Marylanders, especially the black residents.

I would hope that we would look into placing on the legislature agenda such items as the uncompensated costs of hospitals — they do need financial assistance. Recent news accounts have informed us that Lutheran Hospital intends to close its out-patient services before late Spring.

In addition, Provident, Johns Hopkins, Bon Secours, Lutheran, and Maryland General Hospital are suffering severe financial deficits due to uncompensated costs.

We've got to look into how we can assist the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene obtain adequate monies so that they can go back to their present level of funding the medical assistance programs.

This past Monday morning, a public hearing was held to discuss cut-backs in the medical assistance program in the areas of dentistry, optometry, inpatient day's limit, and limits on purchasing certain prescriptions.

There is the question of funds for Morgan State University so that it can be a true university.

There are questions such as dollars for the prevention of juvenile delinquency. And we need funds in our social services programs as well.

Others have concerns that should be a part of the legislative agenda for 1976.

I will not wallow in the discussion of Gov. Mandel's guilt or innocence.

We must concentrate on the vital issues necessary to our community, such as the appointment of black judges to the Supreme Bench (including Milton Allen); and the increase of black persons in state employment. Delegate John Douglass, in cooperation with the Baltimore Metropolitan Committee Inc., has compiled a report that shows how miserable the present percentage of black state employees is. We need to look at what we can do in the area of jobs in this state.

We need a greatly improved Executive Order concerning Equal Employment and Fair Code of Practices.

We have to discuss if and when there is a tax increase, what kinds of benefits, if there are such, we can expect to obtain.

There are dollars that need to be appropriated for the construction of the proposed Convention Center.

And there are dollars that are needed to assure that we are able to build our Rapid Transit System for the metropolitan Baltimore area.

I am convinced that we must keep our direction on continual good government.

Those who are concerned about the kinds of things that happen in our State Legislature, should focus on monitoring the activities of the Legislature by encouraging the enactment of good laws and urging the defeat of bad legislation.

I recognize my list of concerns for the 1976 legislative session is incomplete, however, you, the reader, can improve on it by becoming involved.

As for Gov. Mandel, he has announced 'he will stay on the job, and I concur. Justice will have the final word.

A little about a lot ______ by madeline w. murphy

Surprise-Shields Place has no buyers

When I first ran for City Council in 1963, the northern section of Lauretta Avenue, once a part of the Sixth District, was an alert voting community, but in 1967, when I ran again, expressway plans diminished the interest, increased the apathy of these same home-owners who had invested decades or more in their neat brick row houses, because they now were uncertain of their future.

Plans vacillated between destruction of their homes or keeping them a residue of abandonment that was all around them.

This was a heart-rending and glaring example of callous disregard for human investment and values, where the much touted Rosemont became the belated panacea for some of them.

In like manner, there have been countless other cases where people have been thrust into economic disaster all in the name of progress.

And what we see today in Shields Place, once Shields Alley, where small rehabilitated houses do not attract low and middle income families, reinforces the idea broached in this column a few weeks ago — in a democracy, people must have a say about what kind of housing they want as opposed to what kind the bureaucracy builds for them, (at inestimable expense not only to the builders, investors, etc., but also to the taxpayers.)

People who have experienced hard times have exactly the same intensified dreams of a plot of ground, front and back, a townhouse with all the conveniences with enough rooms, a wholesome environment where families become part of an attractive open spaced community — JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE.

Then, thirty year mortgages at 7 per cent become attractive investments for which people will be willing to sacrifice.

Black people, despite their back-breaking labor — slave and free — that brought about the up-building of Baltimore City, have for the most part been left with the hand-me-downs; have been classified and categorized without consideration for their hopes and aspirations; have remained poor because those who exploit them by overcharging for food, utilities, clothing and shelter need them as a base from which they reap enormous profits.

At the same time, no matter how many houses are constructed, the building industry will never offer the bulk of employment needed for the 41 per cent inner city youth who are looking for work, nor will the industry hire them in any great numbers because of racism that is so scrupulously denied, yet so deviously supported by city agencies, as well as the business community.

And so the same people who understand this, who have not forgotten the aura of poverty, decay and bitter memories of absentee landlords, poor city services, the agony of no heat or water, must now be expected to return, to the same small houses, narrow streets and be grateful for re-done houses, that give no promise, like Lauretta Avenue, that one day some city planner might decide that their houses are also dispensible.

It is against this background, that voters should keep a healthy suspicion toward bureaucratic agencies; toward hand-picked, rubber stamping advisory councils; toward sketchy accountability; of where money goes and at whose behest; of super defensive agency heads who overlook basic problems to suit their own purposes; of power vested in a few.

It is out of this condition that Watergate, Marlboro Raceway, Tidewater Insurance Co., etc, emerged.

For vigilance and dissent are basic to the fulfillment of a democratic society where human renewal should take precedence over all other kinds.

When we become doubtful, we must continue answering "no" to all proposals until we research, investigate, challenge and get a full accounting of the all too glowing reports of progress, that gloss over the decay of increased poverty in Charm City, USA.

Smile

A man selling vacuum cleaners knocked on the door of a farmhouse. When the farmer's wife opened it, the salesman said, "Madam, I want to show you something you'll never forget."

Before she could say a word, he threw a sack of dry leaves onto her clean floor.

"Now," he continued, "I want to make a bargain with you. If this latest model Electroclean Vacuum cleaner doesn't pick up every bit of that mess, I'll eat it."

"Here's a spoon," the farmer's wife said. "We don't have electricity."

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)

Salute of week

More than 32-years service with the Western Electric Corporation is the record of Mrs. Beatrice Moseley, a process checker.

The N. Kenwood Ave. resident is in the spotlight this week because she will be retiring in February and is already formulating plans to give time to charity, specifically working with the children at Rosewood and patients at other state hospitals.

A native of Hamlett, N.C., Mrs. Moseley is married to Norman W. Moseley, a Sparrows Point worker.

She is the daughter of the late Raymond and Lucy Davis. She has two sisters, Mrs. Blanche Hopkins, a nursing home employee in Baltimore, and Mrs. Mildred Jackson of Philadelphia; and a brother, Richard Clemon Davis in Hamlett.

When Mrs. Moseley began working at Western Electric in 1942 she was a bench worker in the Arbutus shop across the bridge for two years.

From there she went to the cable shop as a paper insulator operator for twenty years, then to her present position in department 3430, better known as Boystown, because "nothing but kids work there."

This week's honoree is a member of Faith Baptist Church where she serves on the Usher Board, is a member of the Missionaries and a life member of the Convention Usher Board.

She is also the president and founder of the Neighborhood Club which was organized in 1970.

Mrs. Moseley likes to do needlework. Crocheting is her favorite.

Mrs. B. Moseley
already making retirement plans

"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

Let Guillory function

Dear AFRO:

"Senate to decide soon on authority of MHRC chief" was quite interesting and informative. (AFRO, Nov. 22.)

Why? Because it clearly spelled out to me, that in 1975 Maryland has a large segment of the population existing mentally in the 1940s.

A good example of this mentality is the call of the Chamber of Commerce submitting new rules and procedures to transfer the authority to decide whether a case for discrimination exists from the black director, who has effectively functioned as 'chief', to the white general counsel, who has been ineffective in his present position, Md. Human Relations Commission.

From your article, statistically, the Commission's director, Guillory, has done great things with the investigating of discrimination complaints for that state commission.

When the State Senate reviews the suggested changes in the annotated Maryland Code, Article, 49B, let's hope that they will evaluate the high level of work being done by the MHRC and its present director, and how the proposed changes by the Chamber of Commerce will ultimately eliminate the director's duties and responsibilities.

MS. CHARLES JAMES.

He was that man

Dear AFRO:

I was the white man Mrs. Chandler had reference to in her article which appeared in your newspaper, November

As I explained to Councilman Emerson Julian, the Curfew Bill was a highly emotional issue which Council President Orlinsky should have been aware of and, therefore, reacted in a more tolerant and understanding manner when natural audience outbursts occurred.

Fortunately, after the incident everyone kept their cool, including the policemen, and the legislative meeting went on in a normal fashion to its evening conclusion.

LOUIS R. MILIO, L.L.D.
(Street Club Worker Service Senior Worker-Statistics)

(Editor's note: In a byline article, entitled, "Mayoral Candidate Chandler Gives Views on Effect Of Curfew Bill," Mrs. Claudette Chandler told of a threat to arrest her during the Nov. 17 City Council hearing when she reports she spoke out and Council President Orlinsky told police, 'remove that woman.' The writer above identifies himself as the person to whom Mrs. Chandler referred when she wrote: "A white man asked police are you going to arrest the lady who ran for mayor?")

For Guillory

Dear AFRO:

Over the past two years I have had the opportunity of hearing Mr. Guillory speak on several occasions in support of the competent staff and the productive work being done at the Maryland Commission.

I am sorry to have to continuously read articles on how such a forceful administrator, as Mr. Guillory, who has proven his superior abilities, has to be subject to the scrutiny of the Conroy Committee, Chamber of Commerce and the agency's Board of Commissioners on his authority as director.

As a Black man, I wish to express my support in what Mr. Guillory has successfully accomplished at this agency.

RALPH PAYNE

All will know

Dear AFRO:

Has anyone stopped to notice that the sudden unheard of open revelations of the "compulsion syndromes" of the F.B.I. and C.I.A. in harassment and assassination mirrors the day, when all men will know every dark secret hidden from daylight?

Perhaps God's will and justice is beginning and the kingdom of the new day is about to come. Think about it. . .

ELISSA WARD JOHNSON

School Board's Schaefer

Dear AFRO: Some news stories in the dailies this week make several statements about School Board Commissioner Robert W. Schaefer which are untrue.

As he resigns from the School Board this month, some things should be cleared up and the truth of Mr. Schaefer's differences with ousted superintendent Roland N. Patterson shared with the public.

The dailies states Dr. Patterson hired Mr. Eli Francis as school system comptroller without the knowledge of the school board. This statement is untrue.

Dr. Patterson had been searching for a comptroller on a nationwide basis for almost a year with the full approval of the board.

Mr. Schaefer served as the Budget and Finance chairman of the board. He was kept up-to-date through progress reports from Dr. Patterson in his efforts to select and hire a comptroller, as well as all other members of the board.

Mr. Schaefer became angry when Dr. Patterson would not hire several persons he had recommend for the position of comptroller.

The candidates Mr. Schaefer wanted for the position were not the best qualified, nor would they have been free from City Hall political influence.

Many of the financial problems which confronted the school system prior to Dr. Patterson stemmed from the lack of competent, financial officers, who could establish a financial reporting system which would educate the public about the way City Hall politicians continually underfinance the education of our youth.

Dr. Patterson created the position of comptroller, (first time in the history of Baltimore), when he reorganized the school system.

He recommended Mr. Francis to fill that position with the full knowledge of Mr. Schaefer's Budget and Finance Committee and subsequently the entire school board.

Mr. Schaefer appeared to me to want to discredit Dr. Patterson's fiscal operations because Dr. Patterson refused to go along with the proposal by city officials to request an inadequate budget for school year 1973-74.

Shortly afterwards, Mr. Daniel Paul went public with an audit report of school finances in what seemed an effort to discredit Dr. Patterson's management of the finances.

It had been decided by the political fathers that Dr. Patterson had to go as superintendent because he could not be manipulated.

The daily articles mentioned that Mr. Schaefer seldom missed a School Board meeting. The truth is that Mr. Schaefer attended school board meetings when his vote was needed by the conservative wing of the board to attempt to discredit some of Dr. Patterson's programs for fiscal management.

Furthermore, School Board minutes are public and on file so it is easy to find out how regular in attendance Mr. Schaefer was.

When Steve McNierney was chairman of the budget and finance committee he held regular meetings. Mr. McNierney and the committee continually examined fiscal policies and procedures and made meaningful positive changes which helped the staff to reorganize the school system more smoothly.

It was Mr. McNierney's committee which helped upgrade administrative and teachers salaries and initiated a recommendation for a more liberal maternity leave policy.

JAMES M. GRIFFIN

(Editor's note: The writer is a former member and vice president of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.)

NOWADAYS ______ by bill riley

THANK YOU, MRS. BROWN. THEY ARE PRETTY. BUT THEY'RE NOT FLOWERS -- THEY'RE COLLARD GREENS."

A column of choice ______ by marion banfield

The scapegoat in family problems

As a social worker in a private agency, I have the good fortune to have people come for counseling as their free choice. I guess, realistically, "mostly free choice." Sometimes family pressures find an agency client sitting politely but really not feeling they had much choice.

Daily, in our community, we face degrees of sorrow, of hatred, of joy, of despair and frustration. Slowly, we are learning that talking with a professionally trained social worker or counselor can ease tension.

Pride is a beautiful and important part of feeling human. Pride is not necessarily an asset in solving problems of human relationships.

Wives are more inclined to ask for an appointment to discuss family matters. Husbands don't usually phone until the wife has left home or shows signs of being serious in getting a separation.

Parents are more likely to seek help with the frustrations and bitter disappointments of their children's behavior.

Pride, mixed with fear of revealing one's self, is a big handicap when a social worker is suggested as a means of enabling family members to cope.

Some of us are so burdened with guilt that we fear talking. We feel that what we have done or thought makes us inacceptable. Seeking help is seen as a sign of weakness.

That is why I try to reassure clients of the basic respect and understanding they can expect. I have no answer to all questions. In fact, I'm better at asking questions than giving answers.

Clients often realize that my questions help them to come up with answers from within themselves.

With the increasing frustrations of our political and economic systems, our family system needs all the strength and support possible.

Seeking professional counseling is a modern updating of an ancient human need for sharing problems and seeking personal solutions.

A choice is for family members to recognize that no human being is so awful that all respect and decency is gone.

A choice is to remember that to blame all family problems on just one person is making a scapegoat. That may not be the truth of family tensions.

A choice is to use professional counseling to seek understanding, to ease anger, and to develop more positive relationships.

People are reading

Books most often requested at the branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library this week are listed below. If the one you want is not immediately available, the librarian can suggest another which you might enjoy.

NONFICTION

HELTER SKELTER, Vincent Bugliosi (HV6533.C2B83)
WHEN I SAY NO, I FEEL GUILTY, Manuel Smith (BF575.A85S65)
STRICTLY SPEAKING, Edwin Newman (PE2808.N4)
HOW THE GOOD GUYS FINALLY WON, Jimmy Breslin (McN)
JUDY, Gerold Frank (ML420.G253.F7)

FICTION

RAGTIME, E. L. Doctorow
THE HEART LISTENS, Helen Van Slyke
LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBAR, Judith Rossner
FEAR OF FLYING, Erica Jong
SHOGUN, James Clavell

Dear Jan:

I am 19, and working on my first job at a federal agency in the Baltimore area. The other day while I was doing my work at my work station in a secluded area, the man who is the boss of the section made advances to me.

I tried to be pleasant but firm in turning him off, but he put his hands on me and I am mad about it. He is white and married.

Older workers tell me he has done this to other girls and they have been afraid to complain because they needed their jobs. I need mine, too. My father died recently and I had to drop out of school to help at home where there are four younger children. I am at a loss as to what to do. Please help me.

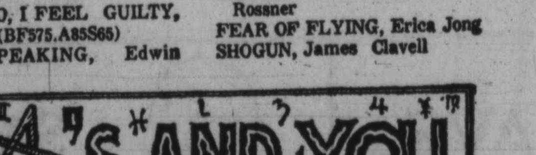
FIRST JOB

Dear FIRST JOB:

Forget what the other girls did. Report the freshie to your union representative and to the top man or woman in your department. If possible, go all the way to the top at the agency.

Failing in that, report, in writing to your U.S. Congressman. He is Parren J. Mitchell, with offices at 1018 Federal Office Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, Md. 21202.

You don't have to take crap from 'handy' guys. Good luck.



ARIES (March 21-April 19): You feel under the weather. But go straight ahead and tackle difficulties. Work will help you forget your problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Tension in personal relationships. Try to have more understanding for others, particularly the one dearest to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can achieve a lot in the morning if you persevere. Avoid making late evening financial decisions.

CANCER (June 21-July 20): Much confusion but don't take it too seriously. Prospects are rather bright. Don't count your chickens until they're hatched.

LEO (July 21-Aug. 22): Important decisions must be taken in the morning. Don't exaggerate in personal matter, and try to avoid meddling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Try to tie up various loose ends. You have the necessary energy. Smile a bit more.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep calm. Don't cause friction with your partner. A loving attitude will help.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Active day with many new ideas and new friends, too, if you give them an opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Excellent prospects. Happy times for those in love. Early rising will help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may not feel quite up to scratch. Get more rest and try new types of recreation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Carry out previously arranged plans. Results and success will come sooner than you think.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): Follow up your enterprising ideas and take the initiative. Show confidence.

If YOU ask ME ______ by bettye moss

Yes, life is complex in an urban center like Baltimore. ..yes, people are unkind and mean to others. . .yes, there are too many people with hang-ups who take it out on somebody else and too many people with hang-ups who should cool it.

Sooo, it is not unusual for a newspaper office like ours to receive numerous letters from people in distress.

These are excerpts from a Culbert Ave. parent who writes about an incident concerning her 13-year-old daughter:

"I am writing this letter because I am the mother of a 13-year-old daughter, who suffered indignities at the hands of a special security officer.

"He was later identified as a security officer for a store in the Reisterstown Shopping Center.

"My daughter was shopping when the officer approached her from behind and asked her to go with him. He failed to identify himself as an officer, and did not tell her what she was charged with.

"It was at this point my daughter became frightened because the officer was dressed in plain clothes. She began to run from this man, and was chased a few blocks, apprehended, thrown to the ground, and bruised.

"She was then taken to a back room of the store where she was interrogated and cursed.

"During the first part of the interrogation a black female employee was in the room, who was asked to leave only to be replaced by another sales person who was white. My daughter was searched and nothing was found on her.

"It was at this point the Baltimore City Police was called. She was handcuffed and placed in the paddy wagon and taken to Northwestern district.

"Shortly thereafter my husband went to Northwestern to sign for her release.

"My husband and I then went to the store to inquire of the details surrounding her arrest. We were met with great resistance and hostility by a security officer.

"My husband became very upset as to the manner and tone of voice the security officer was using. He was arrested.

"My daughter did not steal those earrings and she was accused. However, if she did, I feel anyone representing due process of law should be a responsive individual.

"We have been told that our young ones have no respect for the law, but with this kind of injustice, how can we teach them to respect and obey the laws that govern all of us?

"I am pleading to you to assist me in restoring respect for the law in my daughter's eyes and others in her age group.

"I am also asking you to help right the wrong that was done to my husband who was subsequently arrested and fined for disorderly conduct when he was questioning the actions of the security officer."

As stated at the beginning this is typical of the kind of complaints we get weekly from readers who complain of insensitivity on the part of business people with whom they deal and public officials including police officers.

This letter impressed us so that we asked our AFRO-Line to call the manager at Woolworth's store in Reisterstown Plaza.

His reply was: "I am familiar with it but unfortunately I am not allowed to comment on anything. I am sorry. I am afraid that I must refrain from giving my name too."

Then, AFRO Line asked Judge Sewell Lamdin who heard the case in Northwestern involving the father.

He said, "I advised him fully of his rights and if he is dissatisfied what he ought to do is take the appeal.

"He went back after his daughter was charged and demanded to know why the special officer at Woolworth's charged her.

"Of course he was wrong, he should have waited until the case was tried and discussed it in the court room. The avenue he ought to follow is take his appeal."

As to the writer's inquiry as to what to do now, AFRO-Line has suggested that the matter be promptly taken to the nearest Legal Aid Bureau which is located at 1333 W. North Ave. More on this later.

Maybe in this Christmas season, we'll have a good followup story to give next week.

COMING UP: The Missionary Department of Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave., is sponsoring a program which will feature drama, music and poetry.

The affair, for the benefit of the development of a spiritual center for women will be held Saturday, December 13 at 5 p.m.

During the program there will be excerpts from plays about black women, Raisin In the Sun, Pearlie Victorious, Wine in the Wilderness and a Son Come Home. The women in the Missionary Department will be performing.

Music will be spirituals and music written by Nina Simone, performed by the women in the department, Harian Scott and Charles.

Coming up: Baltimore Marketing Association holds its eighth annual awards dinner Friday, Dec. 5, at Holiday Inn Downtown.

E. Gaines Lansey, president of Ideal Building and Loan Association, gets the group's top honor. Mal Goode, consultant to National Black Network is the dinner speaker. Ms. Helen C. Stafford is president of group.

PEOPLE BEING KIND TO OTHERS: The Goodwill Industry played host to 45 senior citizens from Wayland Baptist Church at a Thanksgiving dinner. They are still talking about the feast.

Send cards of cheer to Officer William H. Braxton, Room 353, Sinai Hospital where he is undergoing tests. He is the aide to Col. James A. Watkins, Deputy Chief, Patrol Area, No. 2.

Also, hellos to Mrs. Otelia Brown. She was injured in a fall at her home, 2801 Riggs Ave.

And to Mrs. Bessie Griffin. She will be admitted to Bon Secours Hospital on Sunday,

Happy 72nd birthday greetings to Charles Wood, 108 N. Allendale St. His birthday was December 3. His wife is Mrs. Edna Wood.

Other relatives are daughter, Miss Doris Wood; granddaughter Pattie Ann Jackson; grandson, Hershel Rooks, and Leroy Jackson. Mrs. Viola Curtis is his sister.

And to Mrs. Marjorie Coles, who is in the stroke unit at Provident Hospital.

AFRO-Line is an effective AFRO community service to help you solve problems. You may also report errors in news stories, request corrections and complain and inquire about AFRO news stories and policies.

You need only to write a post-card to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address and telephone number.

You may also call 728-8200, extension 64 or 50, between the hours 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

HOW IT TURNED OUT: — Last month, we promised an expert's answer for the reader who asked why her dogs were unusually disturbed when she drove them through Druid Hill Park.

A spokesman at Md. Veterinary Association advises AFRO-Line:

"The veterinarians I have consulted on this problem feel that the dogs probably associate parks with something that upsets them — or, alternatively with the idea of running free and playing which could excite them. You would be the best judge of that.

"In the specific instance you mentioned (dogs excited in Druid Hill Park when the radio is turned on), veterinarians feel that the nearness of the Television Hill transmitter may have had something to do with it.

"A dog's range of hearing is greater than ours. It is possible that the television transmitter produced a sound which the car radio picked up and the dogs heard. If so, it would be very high-pitched, and perhaps painful to the dog's ears."

QUESTION: My daughter carried her daughter to Johns Hopkins Hospital for which she received a bill. She had been making payments on it.

A woman from the Credit Bureau of Baltimore has called me about six or seven times, harassed me and even threatened to speak to my 5-year-old granddaughter, who is a patient.

She said she was going to meet me in court. I am not the person who owes the bill. I am the patient's grandmother. My daughter who is 21, is alone with the little girl and she has been trying to make the payments. Evidently, she had to stop for some reason but she told me she would start making payments again.

I called the Credit Bureau to complain. I don't feel that I should have to receive the calls.

A.L.

ANSWER: A check with the Consumer Credit Committee that there is a debt collection law which is enforced by the Attorney general's office They suggest you make a complaint in writing to the Consumer Protection Division of the State's Attorney's Office: 1 South Calvert St., 12th Floor, Baltimore, Md. 21202.

Appreciation

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of the staff and the Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for the articles which have appeared concerning our agency.

At this crucial moment in MCHR's existence it is absolutely necessary that citizens be aware of the plight of anti-discrimination enforcement in Maryland. We thank you.

ELBERT L. A. GUILLORY
Executive Director

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 robberies or assaults — 539-5340.

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

EMERGENCY — Housing, heating, light — 234-2172 or 265-0525 — After 6 p.m. and weekends, 396-2426 or 396-2053.

FIRES — 685-1313.

HOT LINE — 539-5151 — for abandoned motor vehicles, dirty yards, garbage collection, clogged sewers, street repairs, bulky trash pickup.

INFORMATION — City Jail, 396-5211 — 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, 396-6080 — Northwest, 396-0224 — Steuart Hill, 396-0207.

POLICE — emergency, 222-3333 — community relations, 396-2210.

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

RAPE CENTER — 366-RAPE

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188.

SERVICE — Ambulance, 396-2111 — Animal Removal, 396-0218 — Defective Sidewalk, 396-3168 — Food Stamps, 234-2751, 234-2413 — Oil Furnace Check — 396-4429 — Rats, 396-4418.

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 234-1700.