I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:
"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. — 1929-1968.

OPINION

Baltimore Afro-American

FOUNDED Aug. 13, 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1866-1922. 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)

County - city crap

No matter how tough situations are there is a level of respectability that subdivisions and their ranking officials should maintain.

Moving a couple of welfare families into Baltimore County and suggesting its the beginning of a trend that will further integrate the counties and relieve the concentration of welfare recipients in Baltimore City is nothing less than misleading and possibly fraudulent.

How can Mayor Schaefer say he thinks this is "one way the federal government can further integration without changing zoning or getting embroiled in the local situation."

What the federal government does provide in this feeble effort which unfortunately is being blown up into something it is not, nor ever will become, is money through the Section 8 program to make up the difference in rent above 25 per cent of the welfare recipient's income and what the landlord charges.

Although Baltimore County Executive Ted Venetoulis, who'd like to become governor, says he is aware of the program to move low-income city residents into county housing under the Section 8 program, other top county officials seemed in the dark about it.

Mayor Schaefer declares that the city is in dire budget straights and shifting some of the welfare recipients might help Baltimoreans with their tax rates.

It would replace such a massive shift of people before any relief in the tax burden could be noticed as to render the mayor's observation absolutely ludicrous. He could affect the tax rate by helping restrict city public jobs to city residents.

Any one who might somehow be misled into believing this is the first step in a dramatic change must be warned that Baltimore County isn't about to accept large numbers of welfare recipients from the city.

One reason is that finding good rental housing for low-income families, especially large ones, who need not be on welfare, is something Baltimore County claims it needs to do for its own residents.

But more to the point, as J. Van Story Branch, director of housing management here put it, the county has consistently stated it does not want low-income housing.

Branch told a reporter he thought some of the county's resistance to low-income housing is racial.

That's putting it mildly. Much of that resistance definitely is racial.

It was that way under conservative Dale Anderson and it's still that way under supposedly moderate Ted Venetoulis.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is going to frustrate many white-flight suburbanites by insisting they share some of the poor people along with the federal subsidizing of homes they get — although they don't admit FHA and other assistances constitute a kind of welfare for them.

Meantime, until something is done in numbers that will have an impact or establish a true trend, it is too much to have politicians rubbing in our faces the obvious pure crap about a few body shifts moving us toward a more equitable sharing of the poor or increasing racial integration.

Leadership conference

The Maryland Black Leadership Conference being held on the Morgan State University campus April 29 through May 1 isn't an important event just for politicians.

Experts in various fields of endeavor are having meaningful input. This, of course, is as it should be because the needs of Maryland's black population are so great every possible resource must be tapped.

The conference, with statewide participation, is sponsored by Morgan State and the Legislative Black Caucus.

Conferences of this nature are extremely valuable in focusing attention on problems and assessing directional strategies.

Del. Larry Young's pre-conference estimate of the number of people who would participate in the three-day session was 300 to 500.

It would be good if his post-conference report of actual participation surpasses his most optimistic expectation.

A broad spectrum of Maryland life will be discussed during the conference.

Every citizen has a stake in better understanding the larger needs of the state's people. Often too many of us become parochial in our views to the extent our vision and concern are limited to personal problems.

But it is true that no man is an island unto himself and seldom are any of us capable of doing as much alone as we could with a supporting cast.

The AFRO strongly encourages wide participation in this well-planned and important leadership conference.

Cab strike avoided

The AFRO speculated some issues back that bringing an arbitrator into the dispute between the Sun Cab Company and its drivers was a wise move.

It seems that a threatened strike which would have hurt the riding public has been avoided and a financial agreement reached with which both sides to the dispute can live.

Instead of the $7.30 daily increase in the cab rental sought by the company, the arbitrator decided a $4 hike would be sufficient. The daily rental rate, which drivers must meet before making anything for themselves, is now $25.45.

The 300 drivers also won more costly health and welfare benefits that become effective Nov. 1, a year earlier than the company had proposed.

For hourly workers at the Sun company, the arbitrator approved a 45-cent hike instead of the 20-cent increase offered by the firm.

According to the arbitrator, Herbert N. Bernhardt, Sun Cab did not show that meeting the terms established would leave the company without adequate profits.

If in the future it is determined that rental hikes are necessary in order for Sun Cab to make a profit and remain in business, the likelihood of the unions and drivers being more receptive to the move has been enhanced.

Joy may not reign all around but the riding public, the workers and company owners are better off without having suffered the negative effects of a bitter, costly strike.

Fans strike out

Baltimore fans struck out in Memorial Stadium this week with a disgusting display against former Oriole Reggie Jackson and the Yankees.

They acted like heathens and animals as they hurled vicious verbal insults and dangerous objects such as hot dogs, paper airplanes, glass, bolts and rocks.

Not all 17,634 fans joined in the shameful outpouring. But far more than the several who were arrested deserved the fate.

Some media people, it seems to us, helped encourage the onslaught in pre-game articles and broadcasts. Some went so far as to stupidly suggest that tossing paper planes and hot dogs is not dangerous.

Anything thrown onto the playing field can be dangerous and the buying of a ticket gives no one the right to endanger ballplayers.

Just because Reggie Jackson didn't like Baltimore and acted like a good American entrepreneur by taking the Yankees for $3 million, he doesn't become fair game for demented fans who go out and stink up Memorial Stadium while Reggie shows why he's as worthy of his paychecks as any other of the overpaid stars.

We'll sneak one here; another there. . . .

Washington report — Impact felt in Congress

(This week's column was prepared by Attorney Jerry Lyman, special projects assistant to Congressman Parren J. Mitchell in Washington, our regular columnist).

This article touches on some selected major legislative and federal agency activity for the period of March 14-23 in which Congressman Mitchell was deeply involved.

Rep. Mitchell introduced H. R. 5675, a bill to provide the Treasury Department with the authority to earn interest on its idle tax and loan accounts by investing them in interest-bearing securities for periods up to 90 days.

In addition, the Treasury will reimburse depositories for expenses they incur in handling tax and loan accounts. The bill also authorizes the inclusion of savings and loan associations in the tax and loan system.

Mitchell provided in the bill a special provision for minority banks which instructs the Treasury to phase in the investment authority with respect to minority banks over a five-year period. The bill, if enacted, will result in earnings to the Treasury of $90 million in FY 1978 and $140 million in FY 1982.

The Mitchell Bill was approved by the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee and by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 25.

Rep. Mitchell has been fighting for almost four years attempting to achieve a breakthrough for minority truckers.

Mitchell repeatedly has charged that existing trucking operators were grandfathered in years ago when the law was passed, and in the ensuing years, the cross country, interstate trucking operations have been run on almost a monopolistic basis.

In his fight for minority truckers, Mitchell persuaded the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) to establish a national program designed to get minority firms in the billion dollar trucking industry.

OMBE has complied with the Mitchell call for help by awarding a contract totaling $247,157 to the Minority Trucking Transportation Development Corporation (MTTDC) for the purpose of organizing and operating a national minority trucking assistance organization to assist minority trucking companies seeking equal opportunity for participation in the trucking industry with special emphasis on interstate trucking.

The funds will be administered by MTTDC's Washington office and will also go toward assisting minority truckers in developing working relationships with all levels of government, majority trucking organizations, major shippers, the National and Regional Purchasing Councils and assisting minority truckers in the formation of new organizations.

Cong. Mitchell introduced an amendment to the International Lending Institution Bill to incorporate a $150 million United States contribution to the African Development Fund.

The House amended the Mitchell proposal and removed the specific dollar figure and substituted language which directed that such sums as may be necessary be authorized to ensure that America will participate in the African Development Fund.

Mitchell immediately pushed for hearings by the Senate African Affairs Subcommittee, and after the subcommittee heard testimony from Congressman Mitchell, it restored the $150 million dollar figure for the African Development Fund and the full Senate Foreign Relations Committee also voted to restore the $150 million for the African Development Fund.

The measure will be taken up by the full Senate next month.

Cong. Mitchell co-sponsored legislation to repeal the Byrd Amendment and to halt the importation of Rhodesian chrome.

Speaking on the floor of the House during the debate on the Byrd Amendment, Mitchell argued that the repeal of the Byrd Amendment would be the strongest signal we could give to the world community that we are seriously committed to achieving majority rule in Southern Africa through peaceful means.

The House and Senate voted to repeal the Byrd Amendment and it is now public law.

Now and then — Women's Conference important

by g. james fleming

June 12 and 13 should be "Red-Letter" days for the women of Maryland, as those are the days when the Maryland Women's Conference will be held, under the auspices of the Maryland Women's Year Coordinating Committee.

It will convene at the Johns Hopkins University (Homewood campus) and it is hoped that 1,000 women will pre-register some days and weeks before the conference opens.

What Maryland does will also be repeated in every other state and territory under the American flag and with delegates representing every segment of the people who live under our flag.

It all began with Congress.

Recognizing both the past contributions and the current problems of American women, Congress has appropriated funds to plan and hold these conferences and, eventually, a National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas, next Nov. 18-21.

At all the conferences, the participants will explore the problems women face in participating fully and equally in all aspects of national and state life and will develop recommendations aimed at ending, or resolving, these barriers.

The conferences also will encourage a greater awareness throughout the nation of the role of women in the economic, social, cultural and political existence of their communities and their several constituencies.

The Maryland conference should be well-balanced and colorful. The legislation which set up the conferences mandates that participants be broadly representative of local and state institutions, agencies, organizations, unions, associations, publications and other groupings which work to advance the rights of women.

The law also provides that special emphasis be placed on including low-income women and members of diverse racial, ethnic and religious groups. Some financial assistance will be available to persons who would not otherwise be able to attend.

Anyone who would like to work as a volunteer at the Maryland conference or any organization which wishes to be represented has only to apply to:

IWY Coordinating Office 211 East Fayette St.
2nd Floor
Baltimore, Md. 21202
Phone: (301) 837-5540

Among AFRO readers on the Coordinating Committee are Sylvia Law, Ruth Brett Quarles and Doris Johnson.

Twenty-six delegates will be elected by the Maryland conference to attend the national meeting in Houston. From the Texas city, the overall recommendations will be forwarded to Congress.

LEADERSHIP CONVO — This weekend has its own important conference and it is not too late to attend several sessions of the Maryland Black Leadership Conference which is being co-hosted by Morgan State University.

This evening (Friday), the Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Proctor, professor of graduate education at Rutgers — the State University of New Jersey and pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York City, will give the keynote address in the McKeldin Center, on the Morgan campus, Hillen Road and East Coldspring Lane. All sessions, and all workshops, are free to the public.

In addition to Dr. Proctor, some of the "tried and true" old workhorses, headed by Congressman Parren Mitchell and State Senator Clarence W. Blount will be playing major roles.

Many Baltimoreans, however, will be seeing and hearing, for the first time, Mrs. Martha Bonnie Mitchell, special assistant to President Carter.

Councilman Clarence "Du" Burns, vice-president of the Baltimore City Council, is listed as "expected to attend," as is also his opposition in the running feud over the proposed Continental Can prison in East Baltimore and the MacDonald's restaurant in Mondawmin.

Undoubtedly, the findings and recommendations of the leadership conference will try to answer the question, "What do Maryland blacks want in 1977?"

A little about a lot — Under Carter status-quo unchanged

by madeline w. murphy

Now, I suppose, if consumers stretch their minds, they will understand what blacks go through as victims being blamed for conditions beyond their control.

Because with the new energy proposal made by President Jimmy Carter to reduce the annual growth in energy to less than 2 per cent, what do we do with all those air conditioners, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers and small electrical appliances that manufacturers and utility companies have been twisting our arms to buy over the last 30 years?

How do they justify the lie that energy was plentiful, cheap and labor saving with 220 housepower?

In the fifties it was Eisenhower who urged us to buy more and more "gas guzzlers" to prop up a faltering economy, an idle work force.

Prior to that it was the oil companies extolling the virtues and thrift of conversion from coal burning furnaces to oil, that also were touted to be cheaper, more efficient, less time consuming. Now back to coal.

In achieving a 10 per cent reduction in gasoline use by taxing gasoline, the victims are made to believe that gasoline is the only kind of fuel we can use.

At the same time our proven reserves of fuel oil have been considerably reduced because the major oil companies deliberately cut back 50 per cent on exploration in 1957 to boost oil prices.

Ergo, higher prices do nothing to expand production already restricted by monopolies in energy.

If we had maintained exploration of oil in 1957, we'd have more today, at least enough for the next 50 years while discovering new energy sources — like solar heat, methane production devices, solar electricity, out of which comes hydrogen on which commercial airlines could fly indefinitely. Cleaner, and with less pollution.

Yet no mention has been made of the strides in experimentation with alternative organic fuels like methane, alcohol derived from chicken, hog and human wastes that could be used to drive electric generators — a plentiful and ongoing natural source that could at the same time solve solid waste disposal problems.

And although the threatened government tax on gasoline was originally promised as tax rebates to consumers, new backtracking by Carter indicates that like Lockheed, our tax money will be redistributed to the oil companies as incentives to develop new energy sources.

So back to square one: business, which faces a shortage of capital, a 30 per cent shortfall in the next 30 years. And Carter, like Nixon and Ford (who better than the federal government?) will subsidize them with our money.

Further, Carter's energy program, according to Dr. Barry Commoner, noted economist from the University of Washington., St. Louis, will create a new bureaucracy larger than the Internal Revenue Service with accountants and engineers in thermal dynamics in the face of Carter's campaign pledge to reduce the size of government.

A not too subtle effort to prime James Schlesinger for Cabinet secretary of energy, the intellect behind the Carter energy program, former head of the Atomic Energy Commission, that did everything wrong, former secretary of defense, former head of the CIA.

What is worse, as this writer has continually warned, is the move toward fascism accompanied by the drum roll that this energy program is a patriotic necessity where Schlesinger will tell us what to do, Carter will lead us to give up our luxuries and any, perhaps, all criticism of his program.

Slowly emerging are the two faces of Carter.

What's good for General Motors is good for the country, continues as the watchword for government — now enamored of big oil — overloaded with former Coca-Cola, IBM officials as David Rockefeller and the Tri-lateral Commission guide a phantom government.

We should ask, as Rep. John Conyer, D-Mich.: "What about price control, so that the costs of energy conversion will be partly derived from corporations?"

What about nationalization, so that the break-up or nationalization of the big oil companies will be a positive plan for the future?

For heedlessly, to paraphrase the stock market report, closing averages on the human scene are mixed today. Brotherly love is down two points, while enlightened self-interest gains a half . . . overall the status quo remains unchanged.

People are reading

From the Pratt Library's Forest Park Branch, 3023 Garrison Boulevard, here are five selections for pleasure reading recommended by Floyd C. Owens Jr., of the Pratt staff. Titles are available at most Pratt agencies.

TWO LOVE STORIES, by Julius Lester. Stories of the pains of love.

CITY OF DARKNESS, by Benjamin Bova. A glimpse of New York City in the future.

LEGEND OF JOSEPH NOKATO, by Lawrence P. Bachmann. Sabotage of a Pan African Movement.

THE THIRD LIFE OF GRANGE COPELAND, by Alice Walker. A story of self-realization.

THE HONORARY CONSUL, by Graham Greene. A tragi-comedy set in revolutionary Paraguay.

GIRLS AT WAR AND OTHER STORIES, by Chinua Achebe. A collection of African short stories.

GABRIELA, CLOVE AND CINNAMON, by Jorge Amado. A Portuguese love story.

LISTEN FOR THE FIG TREE, by Sharon B. Mathis. A blind girl gets faith from Kwanza.

EFURU, by Flora Nwapa. Novel of woman's role in a changing African society.

THE RAMAYANA, by R. K. Narayan. A modern prose version of this Indian epic.

Smile

Ladies, heed to the lines of this verse
To let a fool kiss you is stupid; to let a kiss fool you is worse.

A young man showed up in school with a cigar box full of all-day suckers, proudly explaining, "I'm a brother."

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).

"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

Story located husband

Dear AFRO:
I want to thank the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers very much for the article you published in the April 16 edition, with regards to my missing husband.
He called me that night and came home. He still is not well but at least I know he is safe.
Your reporter, Clarence Hunter, was so kind and helpful. I am sure it is because of his efforts along with everyone else at the AFRO and the mercies of the Lord that I can write this letter of thanks.
MRS. ERNESTINE DAY

Jews empathize with blacks

Dear AFRO:
Alex Haley, author of ROOTS, says: In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage, to know who we are and where we have come from.
There's food for thought in that. I cannot go back further than my grand-parents — they and my parents came from Russia. But there is pride in being able to skip back over many centuries and be associated with Moses!
Slavery exists in many forms. Karl Marx certainly felt workers were slaves, being exploited by getting only enough to keep alive and perpetuate themselves. (Is it any different today?).
Because Jews, too, were slaves and even when free still know discrimination, exploitation, etc., we can and do empathize with blacks.
My pigmentation is white, but our fault (?) possibly even more devastating than being black, is being Jewish!
Blacks came from freedom to slavery. My parents came from slavery to freedom — and, admittedly, their children were born free. A decided difference.
We've come a long way, and are grateful, but the battle has not been won yet. Our mixed-up world will have to get straightened out first and, unfortunately, that won't happen in the foreseeable future.

Corruption trial

Dear AFRO:
I am commenting on the political corruption trial of Governor Marvin Mandel's legal inclinations in the state of Maryland.
As a concerned citizen and economically disadvantaged person, I find it difficult to accept this government's stereotype legal system for the white collar criminals. We are taxpayers and vote in each election.
The Watergate corruption trials pointed to all the white collar criminals who attempted to overthrow our government.
All received equal justice in all fairness. Governor Mandel is a local government official and he may have broken the law, too.
In view of his previous physical condition, and all the doctors' testimonies, will justice be demonstrated to prove to all concerned citizens that Governor Mandel will be brought to trial and have a fair hearing on all the charges against him.
We protest against any more delays and political games, constantly trying to delude the public. What will Maryland do to avoid this stereotype legal system in this corruption trial.
CONCERNED CITIZENS COALITION, INC
Winda Ann Williams Bey, president
James M. Mimiefield-El, V.P. and Founder

Quality Education

Dear AFRO:
I have two points to make: The mayor asked all city agencies and communities to help the Baltimore City School system maintain and improve the thrust for excellence it set as its goal years ago.
Attendance has been a problem for many reasons and improving it was priority goal during this school year.
As Dr. John Crew indicated to the school board, improvements have been seen, but cuts in the education budget may necessitate the elimination of 40 home visitors, according to recent news reports.
It seems we have such trouble maintaining our commitment to quality education!
We tend to be so short-sighted where the educational systems' complex needs are concerned.
Does it make sense to eliminate the positions of 40 caring, committed people whose burdensome jobs really require 40 additional shoulders to help carry them?
Few people realize the importance of the tasks they perform for very little financial compensation.
We say we want children off the streets and in schools and we then force the elimination of those who are assisting in doing just that.
Federal and state laws mandate that school systems provide educational and support services to all handicapped children. Support services include psychological and social work services.
Very detailed evaluation and screening procedures are included in the laws dealing with the education of these children.
In no way can schools meet these requirements and properly educate these children without the help of support services.
Providing services on behalf of the handicapped is only one of the important services psychologists and social workers perform.
Yet, proposed educational budget cuts could jeopardize the viability of these services.
Who still believes we care about quality education for our children?
Mrs. Joan Y. Harris, ACSW
School Social Worker
Baltimore City Public Schools

Poet's corner

UNAA (goddess of Wisdom)
Numbers, numbers, got me turning
in bed,
Numbers, numbers, grey hairs in
my head.
I dreamed of a train one night
With three numbers on its side.
I played the numbers the following
day
Missed it by one, could've cried.
I picked some numbers at random
From my grocery list.
Combinated all of them
still came up with a miss.
Watching the late show,
A number the man gave out.
Put four dollars on it, too
My mouth is in a pout.
Met this lady on the street
Says she's been lucky through the
years.
Says she's got this number now
That's burning in her ears.
Told me to play it, three days in a
row
That when I see her again
I'd have plenty of dough.
Five days I played that number
So I decided to stop.
The sixth day it came out
From a window I started to hop.
Got a number from an out-of-town
license plate
Put so much money on it the man
said quit.
If I'd combinated the number that
night
I would've had a hit . . . gotta stop
this bull . . .
Numbers, numbers.
STOVALL

"Life"

What is life?
To live just to die.
To seek an answer for
a question, no one asked.
Or to find mystery and remove
its mask.
Following someone who does not
know where he is going,
is like trying to find the end
of a rainbow glowing.
Hating one another is hating
our sisters and brothers.
Disobeying is hurting our
fathers and mothers.
You have your sight and can
see everything around you.
But you are blind to everything
that is true. You go
through life like cancer goes
throught the body, never stopping,
until it completely
demolishes.
Why can't you understand that
God Created Everything
Including MAN!!
Maurice Briggs

Young beat — Maryland Black Leadership Conference

larry young

I suggest to you that the Maryland Black Leadership Conference being held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Morgan State University is definitely an idea whose time has come.

The Maryland Black Leadership Conference's purpose: To develop a broad-based political and educational agenda for black Marylanders in preparation for the "new" politics of the Seventies and Eighties.

The conference's theme: A Citizen's Humanistic Values and the Quality of Life in Maryland: A Mandate for Social Action.

You are invited. Sessions are open to the public free of charge. There will be a meal charge for those who desire to eat. However, even those sessions will be open for others to sit in.

The following is the printed program for the Maryland Black Leadership Conference:

Friday, April 29, McKeldin Center Ballroom — 6 p.m. — Reception open to all registered participants. 8 p.m. — Opening session — all welcome; presiding, Larry Young, conference chairman; invocation, the Rev. Quincy Cooper, Morgan State University chaplain; welcome, Dr. Andrew Billingsley; introduction of speaker, Senator Robert L. Douglass; speaker, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Proctor, Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York; Conference Instructions.

Saturday, April 30, McKeldin Student Center — 8:30 a.m., breakfast meeting for registered participants; presiding, Delegate Lena K. Lee; speaker, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, 7th Congressional District, Maryland (only paid registrants will be served breakfast).

10-1 p.m. — Task force meetings — Group A: Criminal Justice and Correction, Health, Education, Urban Policy and Rural Development.

1-2:30 p.m. — Lunch for paid registrants in the Refectory.

2:30-5:30 p.m. — Task force meetings. Group B: Housing and Land Use, Business and Industry, Employment and Income Maintenance, Civic Participation.

7 p.m. — Dinner for paid registrants. Presiding, Del. Arthur Murphy; invocation, the Rev. Leroy Bowman, 1st Baptist Church of Annapolis; introduction of speaker, Dr. Horace Judson, vice president, Morgan State University; speaker, Mrs. Martha "Bunnie" Mitchell, special assistant to President of U.S.

Sunday, May 1, McKeldin Student Center, 8:30 a.m., prayer breakfast service, all welcome (breakfast served only to paid registrants). Presiding, Senator Verda Welcome; introduction of speaker, Senator Clarence L. Blount; speaker, the Rev. Walter Thomas, pastor, Psalmist Baptist Church.

10 a.m.-12 p.m., conference critique. Presiding, Dr. Augustus Adair: parliamentarian, Del. Kenneth Webster. 12-1 p.m., brunch for paid registrants. 1 p.m., conference officially ends.

1-5 p.m. All conferees are invited to the Maryland Black Leadership Conference Gubernatorial Forum. Presiding, Dr. Vernon Gray, department of political science, Morgan State University. Attending, Hon. Blair Lee, Hon. Steny Hoyer, Hon. Walter Orlinsky, Hon. Robert Pascal.

Children, education, money priorities

By Joan Y. Harris
School Social Worker
Baltimore City Public Schools

I am concerned about the lack of vision, foresight and courage being shown by some officials in the Baltimore City government where human needs and resources are concerned.

I write this with deep appreciation for the strides and achievements that have been made in many areas including human needs, since I was born in this city many years ago.

Baltimore is far ahead of most cities confronted with problems of urban blight, crime, poverty, unemployment, prejudices, racism, etc.

We have been creative in several areas related to physical development and economic growth in parts of the city.

It has been in the area of personal human needs for survival and advancement that our progress has been hampered by ignorance and misunderstandings, leading to poor decision-making by some city officials.

By personal human needs, I am referring to needs people have to survive and cope — such as adequate nutrition, decent clothing, adequate health care and housing, wages and assistance grants that enable people to live in relative comfort and dignity — and education that will enable them to deepen their understandings of themselves and their interrelationships with the world around them, as well as to develop their skills and talents.

There are other human needs I will not dwell on in this letter.

I perceive our officials as wanting to do a good job but perhaps inclined to relate to the general welfare and education of pupils from a political perspective.

This very narrow viewpoint makes for human waste and suffering as well as poor economics.

When you cut the education budget, creating even more unmanageable classroom size—adding to the effect of less adequate teaching and disorder in our schools—what are you gaining?

Children who have problems in their home and community reflect this in their behavior and attendance in school.

If there are no social workers, psychologists or home visitors in the schools to assist in dealing with these problems, how will we deal with them?

The social agencies in the community have had their budgets cut and their staffs are definitely inadequate to take on this extra burden.

Our social problems are increasing — child neglect and abuse rolls are heavier than the present staff of the Department of Social Services can handle.

We in the schools are identifying more and more child abuse situations, indicating the stress parents are under trying to cope with life.

The problems in our schools are a microcosm of the problems in our communities.

Are we really concerned about all people, especially children?

How can we show our commitment to "people needs" before they reach the breaking point and force our negative attention to their needs?

Schools and social agencies simply cannot do their jobs without money. Unqualified people cannot be expected to replace the skill and knowledge professional training and experience confers.

We do not expect anyone to take a doctor's role or a lawyer's role.

Why do we demean the role of the professional educator, social worker or psychologist?

We show what we value by where we place our money. We say our children are our future. What are we willing to expend on them and how much time are we willing to devote to finding innovative ways of funding education?

Or would we rather continue to fund the costs of vandalism, crime, trials, correctional facilities and rehabilitation programs?

What are our real priorities?

Salute of the week

Mrs. Gertrude Thompson
70 years

(AFRO readers are invited to submit names of persons or organizations to be used in this column. Write Salute of the Week, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.)

Mrs. Gertrude Thompson, 914 Gold St., celebrated her 70th birthday, Sunday, April 3 at the Oddfellows Hall.

A native of Cherokee County, S.C., she came to Baltimore in the early 40s where she attended the Booker T. Washington and Douglass High Schools.

Mrs. Thompson is the widow of Joe N. Thomas, former custodian at Enon Baptist Church.

Our honoree is quite active at Enon and serves in the Enon Ivy League Circle, the Helping Hand Club, the Robert Jeffries Utility Circle and the Senior Citizens Club.

NOWADAYS

"LET'S PLAY GROWN-UP. I'LL BE A LIBERATED WOMAN AND YOU BE THE MALE CHAUVINIST."

Afro Line

EDITED BY TRUDY STEELE

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 postcard to AFRO-Line, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203, stating the question you want answered. Include your name, address, and telephone number.

QUESTION: Every now and then we find a stray dog in our neighborhood. It seems that someone has abandoned them with the hopes that they will find a good home. Usually the dogs are nice and the neighbors begin to feed them. Of course this causes them to become permanent residents, actually belonging to no one. What can be done to help these dogs? — S. S.

ANSWER: The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, (SPCA) 3300 Falls Rd., will take dogs when they are brought in, providing they have not bitten anyone.

There they remain for seven days to give the owner a chance to claim them. If no one claims them, they are put up for adoption.

According to the SPCA, persons who no longer want their dogs may bring them in to be put up for adoption. They ask for a donation but it is not compulsory.

For further information, interested persons may call 235-8826.

QUESTION: I live in the 2000 block of McCulloh Street. Someone in the area has a powerful CB set. It is able to cut into Channel 5 on weekends and can break into the radio stations.

I have noticed it mostly on Sunday mornings when I am listening to WCAO.

His trade name is "Cotton Top." Can something be done about this? It is quite annoying to have your listening interrupted. N. J.

ANSWER: AFRO Line called the Federal Communication Commission at 962-2727 which is a recording.

"If you are receiving interference in your TV and radio, report such interference in writing to the following office describing detail, type of interference, time of day it occurs, channels affected and the identity of the source of this interference. Address correspondence to Federal Communications Commission, 819 Federal Building, Baltimore, Md. 21201."

Where to call

COMPLAINTS

Of discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, physical or mental disability or tension in your community, call COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION — 396-3141 or 396-3150.

—of questionable business practices, CONSUMER PROTECTION, 383-3656

—on food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, radiological products, call FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION — 462-4600.

—Discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodation, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION — 383-3680.

—about phones or gas and electric services, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, 383-2374.

EMERGENCIES

AMBULANCE — 396-1111.

FIRE DEPARTMENT — 685-2313.

POLICE EMERGENCY — 222-3333.

HOUSING, HEATING, LIGHT — 234-2172 or 234-2412.

SERVICE

ANIMAL REMOVAL — 396-6216.

DEFECTIVE SIDEWALKS — 396-3168.

DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL — 383-2720.

FOOD STAMPS — 234-2413, 234-2751, 234-2763.

LEGAL AID — 539-5340.

PENSION REFORM — 962-3914.

RAPE — 396-7273.

RAT AND INSECT CONTROL — 396-4416.

RUMOR CONTROL — 837-1188.

SEWERAGE PROBLEMS — 396-6232.

TRANSIT AND TRAFFIC — 396-2040.

VACANT HOUSE — 396-6176.

WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION — 233-4791.

The Insurance Information Institute recommends extra precaution be taken when operating motorcycles. Motorcycle fatalities increased by 20 per cent in 1976 over 1975 in states that have repealed helmet laws, according to a study by the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration.

States with helmet laws recorded no increase in motorcycle deaths.

STARS AND YOU

ARIES "The Ram" (March 21-April 20) — Be honest and act without fear of repercussion. It will be a satisfying experience.

TAURUS "The Bull" (April 21-May 21) — To please yourself is to please another. Act on the strength of your own principles.

GEMINI "The Twins" (May 22-June 21) — Avoid being reluctant when asked to do a favor. The favor may be to your advantage in the end.

CANCER "The Crab" (June 22-July 23) — Think clearly about your talent. Avoid letting another's admiration for you interfere with your thinking.

LEO "The Lion" (July 24-Aug. 23)-Help is coming to you from a distance. This distance does not cover miles, but involves help from friends you didn't know you had.

VIRGO "The Virgin" (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Go to the right people with the information you possess. This is your chance to right an injustice.

LIBRA "The Balance" (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Independence is your goal. Prove yourself capable to those in authority.

SCORPIO "The Scorpion" (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't be so quick to volunteer your services. It is time you think of yourself first.

SAGITTARIUS "The Archer" (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your wonderful sense of humor makes communication easy for you. There will be no problem adjusting to your new setting.

CAPRICORN "The Goat" (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Do things the way you see fit. By the same token, honor the thoughts of others. Avoid too much criticism.

AQUARIUS "The Water Bearer" (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Begin to help others with no thought of a return favor. Appreciation of yourself will increase.

PISCES "The Fish" (Feb. 20-March 20) — You are able to make some important decisions without upsetting another. Self control is the key.