Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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May 17, 1954

Twenty-five years ago on May 17 the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision whose impact cannot yet be assessed.

Let us quote from that decision, collectively called the Brown decision, though it involved several cases the NAACP had successfully argued before the highest court.

"In each of the cases, minors of the Negro race, though their legal representatives, seek the aid of the courts in obtaining admission to the public schools of their community on a non - segregated basis.

"In each instance, they had been denied admission to schools attended by white children under laws requiring or permitting segregation according to race.

"This segregation was alleged to deprive the plaintiffs of the equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment."

The Supreme Court then summarized pro and anti - desegregation arguments it had listened to in the proceedings leading up ot its historic decision and then found:

"We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

"Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reasons complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment."

In September 1954, three months later, the city of Baltimore integrated its public schools, not entirely without incident and not entirely without resistance by white administrators within the system, but as compared to intransigent Southern cities, Baltimore's desegregation process was much admired at the time.

Black and white leaders, responsible leaders that is, had been quietly preparing for the Court's decision for a number of years before the day or reckoning came.

Our thought on this 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court desegregation decision is that while all has changed, at the same time, all has remained the same.

As recently as 1974, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare gave Baltimore city public schools a "spanking" for the segregation that still existed and required school officials to implement a strong desegregation plan or lose millions of dollars in federal aid.

The plan, which received much opposition from the white community, was implemented in September 1974 and now, almost five years later, has disappeared.

Several schools are back to the same unbalanced racial composition that HEW raised such a fuss about.

In the 25 years since Brown, many thoughtful blacks have re-assessed the initial wisdom of the school desegregation ruling arguing that as much has been lost as has been gained.

Among the lost intrinsic and not easily measure intangibles such thinkers lament is the "caring" of and for black children that had been a strength of the all-black school system prior to Brown.

Even so often black students who find themselves in integrated situations, such as is the current case at predominantly white University of Maryland Baltimore County, become so frustrated at their predicament that they are moved to direct action protests.

Among young blacks in integrated school situations today, "insensitivity" is the code word for what they perceive as unfair treatment by white administrators and faculties.

Another point to consider 25 years later is the fact that white flight immediately after the desegregation decision (and still continuing) has resulted in most urban public school systems becoming re-segregated once again.

In Baltimore, for example, the public school system is approximately 73 per cent black, which realistically means that we are almost back where we were in 1954.

School facilities and resources are better.

But as the city of Baltimore itself admits, black students, contrary to the 1954 decision are still being denied "equal" education.

Because of the staggering imbalance of the state's formula for aid to public schools which discriminates against poorer districts, four Marylandsubdivisions have filed suit against the state stating that basing state aid on property taxes means less money for school districts with lower tax bases than richer districts.

Baltimore City is one of the jurisdictions petitioning the courts to force the state to give up tax money to correct this imbalance.

Which, of course, is an admission that black, low-income school districts are not getting everything they need (which for historic reasons of racism and economic deprivation) sometimes means black students need even more than is the norm.

Our community is still not getting all it needs so far as public education is concerned.

The more things change the more they remain the same. As we celebrate the many positives gains the Brown decision has caused to be we are in no manner of speaking out of the woods as yet.

MADELINE MURPHY

What ever happened to respect?

Well, Mother's Day is upon us again. And despite the commercialism, with cards, flowers, lingerie and perfume at record prices, it does provide the necessary focus on all of us who've been unsung heroines in so many ways.

We've suffered the stress and strain of juggling budgets, renovating hand - me - downs, stretching the meat ration with creative stews, soups and cottage pies.

Pne of my daughters used to hate those 'left over meat stews, which had the same sauteed basic ingredients: onions, pepper and celery in tomato sauce. Until. Yes, until she married and was confronted with that drying end of a loaf. Being thrifty she couldn't throw it out. Yet perplexed us to how to make it still palatable, she too, sauteed onions, green peppers, celery along with the cubed meat, adding tomato sauce and thanked heaven she could be so creative!

Then there was always the bucket brigade as the flu sped its way through one after the other child, being especially vengeful on Dad. But mother as chief nurse, couldn't afford the time to get ill!

Also, as they grew older, the minor and major crises — broken bones, burns, baseball, school, boyfriends tumbled one after the other. The girls would anguish over whether they'd ever have a date. And the sudden bursts of tears or anger that inevitably ended with: "You just don't understand me!" — "You don't love me!" — I'll be so glad when I get a house of my own!" — or all the resentment summed up in: "I never did have a room of MY own!"

Now, as they have all gone, you smile, reminisce and miss (momentarily) the noise, hustle and inevitable confrontations, resistance to discipline and autocratic rule (we had NO democracy in our family!).

Although the kids had plenty of time at dinner to ventilate their feelings, discuss issues and argue over rules and regulations, Dad and Mom had the final vote — in unison — about what rules had to be kept to the letter.

Only when there's a visit from one or the other, some with families, does it seem like travelling backward into time, seeing again unmade beds, clothes thrown about and toys underfoot. Home after all is till familiar, comfortable, the easiest place to relax to return to the womb, for that special release.

But today, one finds things have changed in rearing children. There's little consistency in discipline. Children are spanked or punished less.

They have more material comforts and THINGS — electric gadgets, multiple pets, wheels of all kinds, bikes, trikes, moped. The more they have, the more they want. They're mouthy and aggravating with their arrogance. Choices become hap - hazard. Part time jobs are easily given up and independent travel is discouraged.

And whatever happened to respect?

My mother used to tell us when she was particularly displeased with our behavior that she didn't care so much if we loved her, only if we respected her. Which meant that when she spoke we listened and didn't dare argue (no "But, but . . .") When she called or whistled we came.

We had a regular dinner hour every night and had to be washed, hair combed and take turns completing preparations for serving dinner. We set a complete dinner table including napkins, dishes, glassware, cups and saucers, salt pepper, sugar, bread and butter BEFORE Dad sat down. Then we carried in the vegetables, and Mother brought in the meat platter. No one ate until everyone was served. Then we said grace. Heaven forbid if we had forgotten anything. Stony looks and sharp questions helped us remember the next time. We girls were encouraged to cook part of the dinner at an early age.

And if ever we were late, everyone was instructed to give the offender the "silent treatment" No one spoke to that member throghout dinner.

But I often wonder what has happened to that kind of discipline where a mother's stony look abruptly ended what she called "sauciness" (sass); a quick hit on the writs or buttocks done sparingly was the most humiliating. Or the hairbrush!

Mothers today, scream too much, talk too much, argue too much, when a cold stare, the "silent or hairbrush treatment", would add the shock value needed to gain their respect. They give too many things as if they would appease and curry favor with their children.

Perhaps it's fear they'll lose their love, but without their children's respect, they won't have love anyway.

Because it was indeed respect when Mom would shake a broom straw at us that frightened us more than if it were a tree branch!

So the word for all out there on this special Mother's Day is: RESPECT. Respect for mothers who have served faithfully and well, who have kept secrets, counselled, cajoled, guided and loved beyond the call of duty.

RESPECT, that shows gratitude, that shows caring, that lends dignity to a relationship that is a lifetime job.

After all, who still calls upon Mom when the going gets tough?

You do!

Mrs. Murphy is a commentator on Impact News on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. on WEAA - FM.

PARREN MITCHELL

Broad and complex interests

The Congressional Record Index (CRI) lists all important actions taken by a member of Congress. Those who represent blacks must, of necessity, have a wide range of interests.

The CRI for the period of March 12 through March 22, 1979 reveals that I introduced or co - sponsored legislation covering a broad spectrum from "Meals on Wheels"; to "Infants and Metabolic Disorders"; to "Protection of Privacy Rights."

These bills are listed as H.R. which means "House Resolution" or H. Con Res. which means "House Concurrent Resolution."

The following are bills and resolutions I introduced in the time period March 12 through March 22nd.

Civil rights employees' religious observances - H.R. 271;
Domestic violence: prevent — H.R. 2977;
Educationa: retirement benefits for teachers - H.R. 2852;
Elections: Presidential - H.J. Res. 261;
Employment: age discrimination - H.R. 70;
Food Stamp Act: amend - H.R. 2412;
Higher Education Act: system of grants for urban universities - H.R. 3181;

Peace Corps

Infants: screening of newborn for metabolic disorders - H.R. 2997;
King, Martin L., Jr.: place bust or statue in Capitol - H. Con. Res. 80;
Members of the House: outside income - H.R. 3100;
National Meals on Wheels Week: designate - H.J. Res. 238;
National Medic Alert Week: designate - H.J. Res. 255;
Natural Gas Policy Act: lower prices for natural gas - H.R. 3153;
Peace Corps: restate purpose - H.R. 2995;
Postal Service: reorganization - H.R. 2247;
Privacy: protect individual rights - H.R. 368;
Sales representatives: protection from separation from accounts - H.R. 2209;

Small business

SBA: procurement programs - H.R. 3113;
Seals: reassessment of Canadian killing policy - H. Con. Res. 59;
Small business: additional assistance - H.R. 2447;
Solid Waste Disposal Act - H.R. 1048;
U.S. Health Service - H.R. 2969;
Universities: system of grants for urban - H.R. 3181;

Speeches

In addition to keeping a record of legislation, the Congressional Record Index reports on speeches made by a member of Congress, the times a member submits written statements in the Record, and the special reports made by Congressmen.

For the period March 12 through March 22, the CRI reveals my activities to be:

Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs: monetary policy report provisions;
Council on Wage and Price Stability Act: extend authority (H.R. 2282);
Federal agencies: alleged bribery of officials by South Africa;
Foreign trade: impact of multilateral trade agreements on minority business;
Friedel, Samuel N.: eulogy;
Members: investigation of alleged bribery by South Africa;
Minority business: impact of multilateral trade agreements;
Monetary policy: Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs report provisions;
Small business: impact of multilateral trade agreements on minority - owned and
South africa: alleged bribery of U.S. government officials.

Mr. Mitchell represents Maryland's 7th District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

— LETTERS

Housing commissioner compliments the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

I was very pleased to read the AFRO's supplement on Park Heights. Baltimore's strength is in its neighborhoods and their residents and we are excited to see that the AFRO shares our commitment to neighborhoods and is beginning a series of reports on Baltimore's neighborhoods.

We are proud of the work we have done in Park Heights. The time and money and effort that has been invested by the city in cooperation with the Park Heights Community Corporation is beginning to pay real visible dividends.

That is not to say that all the problems are solved. It will take a continued cooperative effort by the city and residents of Park Heights to continue progress.

Or to paraphrase the AFRO, "... while the city, state and federal government can do much more . . ., it is also a question of just how much the people of Park Heights will do for themselves."

I look forward to reading the AFRO's next neighborhood supplement.

M. J. BRODIE
Commissioner,
Department of Housing and Community Development

Responsiveness

Morgan State University student leader Peter Harvey graduates this spring and out of consideration for his school he withheld criticism of living conditions at Baldwin Hall, a men's dormitory on campus, for as long as he could.

With other students he felt MSU was getting enough negative press as it was without his adding more fuel for the fire.

Yet Harvey and associates felt that some things must have the whistle blown on them and a dormitory that is falling apart cannot be ignored.

What bothers Morgan students is that they respectfully informed state legislators, including all members of the black caucus, of the conditions at Baldwin and of his 20-member caucus, only one legislator, Sylvania Woods of Princes George county, bothered to respond to their communication.

Delegate Woods did inspect the dormitory.

What bothers us is that none of the black legislators who are Morgan alumni has thus far lifted a finger.

It is through the General Assembly that MUS gets its money and as a predominantly black state school we have every right to expect our elected officials to be especially diligent about this university's getting everything it can.

Del. Walter Dean, who should know better, told the AFRO he was aware of conditione at Baldwin and that this dorm had been a mess since his student days. We find that attitude simply incredible.

Our legislators can get caught up in some very exotic concerns that have almost nothing to do with the needs of the constituencies they were elcted to serve.

The Baldwin Hall situation perfectly demonstrates the need for elected officials to exercise charity at home before going off on tangents that may well serve self but leave the folks back home wondering if their votes have not been miscast.

To the graduates of 1979 like young Harvey we say do not despair of elected officials but enter the political process and improve the quality of our representation.

There is a positive footnote to all of this.

The university is moving ahead to repair Baldwin so it is fit to live in at a cost of about one-quarter of a million dollars.

It took this initiative on its own, praise be!

'Set a new standard of need'

Dear AFRO:

Last week, the U.S. Department of Labor announced the annual rise in the official level of poverty.

An urban family of four will be considered poor in the next 12 months if its annual income is less than $6,700. That is up $560 from 1978.

With inflation and rising costs of fuel, clothing, food, health care and housing, it can be expected to cost the "poor" family in Baltimore and other urban areas considerably more than $8,000 a year throughout the 1980s.

We were pleased with the actions of Gov. Harry Hughes and the 1979 General Assembly which provided increases in the income levels for recipients of public assistance.

However, Maryland is still far from meeting the Labor Department's official poverty level, and far from meeting the standard of need identified by the General Assembly in 1969.

The Secretary of Human Resources and the Governor's office stand to set a new standard of need in Maryland in the coming months.

The current welfare grant level, $5,536, is insufficient to provide adequately for a family of four in Maryland.

At a time when the Labor Department data indicates that a family need $10,622 to enjoy a "middle level" standard of living, it is critical — a matter of life — that careful consideration be given to the development of a new state standard of need.

MARY T. CARENGA
executive director,
Maryland Conference of Social Concern

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

Principal pleased

Dear AFRO:

At Douglass High School, we are all very pleased by the excellent exposure given to our Art Department on your April 17, 1979 issue.

The photographs by Roman Hankewycz show the commendable work being accomplished by teacher Hiram Ammons and his "turned on" students.

The acting department head is Meredith Addison, who has given 25 years of creative service to Douglass.

EARL L. HAGAN,
Principal,
Frederick Douglass High School

Note!

Ollie Shannon wrote the letter "Concerned parent blasts schools, testing" and Garris McFadden wrote the letter "Recognition for city's longshoremen" which appeared in the May 5 edition of the AFRO.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Science orientation early

It was heart - warming as it was exciting seeing more than 1,000 junior high and middle school students at the NASA - Morgan Aerospace Symposium last week.

They were young, of course, and eager, wide - eyed, listening, questioning. They came, 10 buses a day each, for three days — a total of 1,100, with 75 teachers and - or counsellors.

The project was an effort to expose these students early to the language, mathematics and technology of air science — and to the men and women who make aerospace activity possible.

"High school is too late to start," every "expert" agreed. "A young man or woman who is attracted to the higher branches of science and engineering must start early conquering the mathematics on which they are based."

The exhibits were almost beyond the understanding of those born before World War II. Many of the youngsters, however, had certain gleamings from reading science fiction and were more at home.

Different, also, were the aerospace people. There was Major Frederick D. Gregory, of the Johnson Space Center, Houston, an honest - to - goodness astronaut, and Dr. George D. Carruthers, of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, both black and both "high up" in the aerospace world.

There was Dr. Harriett G. Jenkins, director of the Equal Opportunity Office, NASA, and Roscoe Monroe and Collette Jackson of her staff. There were James Mundy and James Chapman of the Goddard Space Flight Center.

There were several other experts and technicians on the visiting team. This kind of large - scale demonstration could not take place, however, without much local backup, and this cooperation among national agencies, a state university (Morgan), and the public schools is as notable as the project itself.

No wonder, therefore, that in addition to Dr. Jenkins, inspirational and motivational words were brought by Dr. John L. Crew, Baltimore superintendent of schools and by Dr. Rebecca Carroll, assistant superintendent of schools, and by Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president, Morgan State University.

The project director, representing Morgan, was Dr. Kenneth F. Jerkins, professor of science education, while Mrs. Constance Tate, coordinator of science in the public schools, was what her title suggests, the very active "Keeper of things moving" on the schools level. The logistics were magnificent.

Former Morgan president and former science professor, Thomas P. Fraser, was technical adviser; Delegate Robert W. Douglass, a trained electrical engineer, was a speaker, and Dr. Nathaniel K. Proctor, professor of biology, was the silent inspiration.

Not listed in print were the electricians, the federal and local civil servants, the bus drivers and the food servers, and the cooperating teachers who helped to make the three day project a success.

There were, indeed, more than air science and air technology on display at the McKeldin Student Center last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; more than seminars and workshops.

There was the reminder of Morgan's continuous outreach into the larger community; there were the flesh and blood evidence, to black and white youngsters, and to their teachers, that blacks can make it on the higher levels of science and mathematics and in government.

There was endless printed material on aerospace, and related programs, but the piece that attracted most attention was "Minority Profiles," a booklet picturing scores of black and other non - white currently functioning on the upper levels of the NASA program.

This type of early orientation to the need for serious study of science and mathematics, and the kind of creative cooperation among the three branches of government could stand repeating for the next 10 years.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

For All We Know

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

JUNE 10 is the New York City Salture to Dr. Roland Patterson who is superintendent of the Bronx School System. The stellar affair will see many Baltimoreans who were Dr.nPatterson's friends attending.

They'll go June 9, stay in a fine hotel, shop awhile and dine and then get ready for the banquet etc. the next day.

IF YOU wish to join the crowd get in touch with Glascoe Catlin, vice principal of Clifton Park Junior High School, 728-0623, who led the Baltimore teachers to visit Dr. Patterson in New York last February.

This is an event you should not miss. Two days in New York and the grand finale, the banquet for Dr. Patterson who is termed the New York city occials at the No. 1 education in the nation.

MAY 17-22 is the 5-day National Convention of the YWCA in Dallas, Texas. The eight members of the Greater Baltimore Assoc. attending will be:

Ms. Jane Christie, Executive Director, Ms. Brenda Brisbon, YWCA Board of Directors, Ms. Virginia Doonis, YWCA Board of Directors, Ms. Johanne White, Sec., YWCA Board f Directors, Ms. Pat Hannan, Convention Chairperson; Glen Burnie Center. Ms. Marcia Cummings, Community Specialist Madison Center and Miss Debbie Ward, NTO (National Teen Organization) delegate and member of the National Teen Planning Committee.

Women will meet on many national issues affecting the lives and eestinies of all American women and their families.

DURING the sessions at the Dallas Convention Center, these 2,500 participants and delegates will also address themselves to the concrete goals and objectives of the national YWCA during the next three years — a crucial period in the work of the oldest autonomous women's movement during a similarly critical period of the country as a whole.

AMONG NATIONAL issues in the spotlight: inflation, government spending, employability of women and teens, sex and age discrimination and affirmative action programs, racism, marital and sexual relationships, wife and child abuse, juvenile delinquency, cancer prevention, voluntarism, private contributions, U.S. positions in world relations.

MAY 18-19 parents, staff, directors and friends of Head Start will meet in Denver, Colo. at the Hilton Hotel. There will be 5,000 plus delegates representing the 1,500 programs that serve 465,000 young children and their families nationally.

THE THEME "Head Start — A National Endeavor," focuses on the rainbow of services Head Start offers children and families, to help them grow socially, intellectually, physically and emottionally. The backbone and success of Head Start is parent involvement.

DICK GREGORY, nationally known lecturer, will keynote the opening session at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 16 in the arena at the Denver Convention Complex.

MAY 12 (SATURDAY) is the Howard University Commencement.

CLARENCE M. MITCHELL JR., gets an honorary degree at that time. He is husband of the lawyer, Juanita Mitchell, father of Sen. Clarence III and brother of Cong. Parren J. Mitchell and head of the family which has sons Michael on the City Council; Dr. Keiffer Mitchell and George, the lawyer.

The entire Mitchell family will be present including the sons' pretty wives and the grandchildren.

MAY 20 Mr. Mitchell (who just retired as head of the Washington NAACP Bureau) will give the Baccalurei sermon at Boston University and then receive an honorary degree with the family in the audience.

THE BOTTOM LINE to this much - honored man's story is this: he is a good, solid family - oriented man and a person committed to humility and Christian principles. There's the key to his high achievement.

MAY 21-25—The annual Maryland Baptist Convention at Leadenhall Baptist Church in old South Baltimore. This is the church which has recently come to the place of highest honor and is registered on the USA list of Historic Places.

MAY 15 is the date Leon N. Perry, the public information offical for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration receives the NASA Space Ship - Earth Award for 1979.

THIS dynamic young man from Prince Georges County will receive this super honor at the 6th NASA Awards Ceremonies at 1:30 p.m. in the old NEW Building, 300 Independence Ave., S.W., D.C. Leon is one in a million. The most amazing personality, he travels around the globe for NASA.

JUNE 10 is Baltimore's Children's Day at War Memorial Plaza and the kids in town are all aglow. Rain site is the Civic Center.

MANY representatives of the city, state and nation are present as Honorary Chairpersons to give greetings.

These include Mrs. Joan Mondale, wife of the Vice President; Joseph A. Califano, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; Gov. and Mrs. Hughes; Sen. McC. Mathias; and Sen. Sarbanes, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell; and Congresswoman Mikulski and Congresswoman Gladys Noon Spellman, State Senators Abrams and Clarence W. Blount, Dr. John L. Crew Sr., Superintendent of Baltimore Schools.

THE PROGRAM starts with a colorful procession of local children in costume reflecting their national heritage with Boy and Girl Scouts led by the Scottish John F. Nicol Pipe Band.

A WIDE variety of entertainment for and by children will be given throughout the afternoon.

Performing groups include the Morgan University Choir, the Seton Hill Mime Group and the Walbrook Concert Choir, and Dance Ensemble. Magicians, storytellers, puppet shows and games will add to the festivities.

THE WEST Baltimore Middle School invites you to attend the Spring Fling Wednesday, May 16 at 12:00 noon.

The entertainment part of the Spring Festival will be held at the school Sunday, May 20.

WAXTER CENTER 861 Park Ave. is open weekdays 8:30 to 4:30 p.m., weekends 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The public is welcome to come to Waxter Center for the programs of Anniversary week:

Sunday, May 13 is the Anniversary Ball which will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15 at 12:30 the Waxter Volunteers will be honored at a Recognition Ceremony.

Thursday, May 17 is the ethnic festival called "Worlds Within Waxter." Folk Dancers will show dances from many lands. The "Port City Ensemble" will play variety music and the Lithuanian Dancers will perform. Ethnic pastry, brads and cakes will be on sale after lunch.

THE PRAYER BREAKFAST on May 26 is sponsored by Missionary Department and Women's Day Committee at First Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Fulton and Winchester.

DR. W. LYNDSIA PITTS SR. is minister.

The Breakfast will be in the format of a symposium. The symposium topic is "ISSUES FACING BLACK AMERICA'S BABY IN BALTIMORE."

The speaker's are, Mrs. Ruth Pratt, Senior Educational Officer To The Superintendent, Baltimore City Public Schools; Dr. Anne Emergy, Principal, Walbrook Senior High School, Baltimore City; Sister Rosetta Marie Brown; Archbishop Keough High School.

—MORE LETTERS—

Thanking volunteers

Dear AFRO:

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 23 - 29, I'd like to thank the members of the volunteer corps of the Baltimore Association for Retarded Citizens Inc. for unselfishly lending their time, talents and energies towards the enhancement of our programs and services for the community's mentally retarded citizens.

BARC volunteers fulfill a variety of needs within a variety of settings. Some work on special events while others work in in the office or in activity centers.

Despite the diverse nature of their contributions, they share much in common — compassion, patience, dedication to improving the quality of life of those around them and commitment to something beyond themselves.

For the type of people they are and for the invaluable contributions they make, we at BARC are grateful.

LISA DUBANSKY,
Coordinator of Volunteers

'Excellent'

Dear AFRO:

The purpose of this letter is to express my deep gratitude to you and the AFRO - AMERICAN for the excellent feature article about the work of Constant Care which appeared in the AFRO of April 27.

It is this kind of positive reporting that distinguishes the AFRO as the one newspaper which is dedicated to the interests of the black community.

It is in the AFRO, and nowhere else, that Baltimore blacks can read, in depth, about the issues and happenings in our community.

May you continue to flourish as you carry out your unique mission.

HARVEY WEBB, Jr.
D.D.S., M.P.H
Executive Director,
Constant Care
Community Health Center

Thanks

Dear AFRO:

Thank you for your time and efforts in touring our students around your newspaper. Sandra Bacon, my co - worker, says your tour held the students' interest and stimulated questions. This is great because as we both know through asking questions the students gain a greater insight.

In addition, the Golden Legacy Souvenir is an excellent reminder for follow up questions on the tour as well as an effective educational guide in black awareness.

It is with no reservations that I commended you on a job well done. Our students have both enjoyed and benefited from this trip endeavor.

BARRY K. YOUNG,
Adult Learning Center

Grateful to the AFRO

Dear AFRO:

May I please take the opportunity to thank God for the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper and for their very conscientious staff writer Ms. Ann Sagi.

Your paper and staff writers were responsible for reaching many persons who were concerned with my recent misfortunes.

The Rev. Harold A. Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church, of which I'm more than proud to be affiliated with, came to our rescue almost immediately.

Mrs. Estelle Ratliff Wilkins contacted the AFRO immediately when she read about the ordeal and stated her willingness to give help.

The next thing I knew Mrs. Wilkins had contacted the members of the Evening Star Gospel Chorus (original group) and in a matter of a few short weeks Mrs. Wilkins, as sponsor had put together a benefit program which raised $625 for the Lawrence Lawson fund.

Many, many Christian spirited persons from all walks of life opened up their hearts and gave generously to me.

Thanks to each and every one of you seems cuch a tiny way of expressing my gratefulness.

LAWRENCE LAWSON

Political predictions

Dear AFRO:

Frank Conaway tossed his hat in the ring for the possibility of becoming the first black City Council President. Becha 10 to one that there will be at least three Blacks fighting for this position.

I predict that at least one of those running will be doing the bidding of the establishment as a spoiler. After none of these gentlemen pull out of the race Wally will still be the City Council president, laughing with his mustache in his beer.

Almost the same prediction seems imminent if Billy Murphy or any one else strong runs for mayor of Baltimore, while the strongest political black forces in the 4th District remain divided.

Until the Mitchells and the Adams meet and support one prominent black together with the united - we - stand - divided - we - fall attitude, we will be left at the post.

Ialso would like to predict that since this will be Mrs. Victorine Q. Adams last time running in the 4th District for City Council, and te young Dr. Julian possibly not running, there will be so many seames in this slot that a dark horse (excuse the pun) will emerge the victor.

JOHN T. BAILEY

Praising entertainment at the Strip affair

I sincerely hope that the persons who attended the Strip Alumni affair at the Civic Center on April 28 were not so disillusioned by the mismanagement on the club's part that they failed to recognize and appreciate the superb quality of the continuous entertainment.

There were three fine bands who rendered continuous music of all types throughout the evening.

The salient feature of the evening was, however, the Midnight Show which was put together by Mr. Wilbur Phillips and Mr. John Tayler and narrated by Mr. Del. Edwards. It was refreshing to see the youngsters who made up the dance group performin in such a highly professional style.

Del. Edwards gave an impressive account of the dances through the years as the youngsters performed them with finesse. This is a show I would like to see recreated for all of Baltimore City to see.

If those in attendance at the affair would stop and consider the fine performances of the three bands and the young dance group, it is apparent that the evening was far from a total loss.

BARBARA J. ANDERSON

'Warmest gratitude'

Dear AFRO:

To those at AFRO - AMERICAN who played a vital role in the overwhelming success of our Ninth annual Walk - A - Thon, our warmest gratitude.

It was certainly the incredible media support and volunteer involvement that generated over $1 million toward improving the quality of life at birth.

The thousands of good people (young and old) who participated, were expressing their concern for those born less than well.

We're deeply indebted to everyone who made Sunday, April 22nd. . . "Something To Believe In"

ABBEY LAZARUS
special assistant
to the vice president
Public Relations Department

Money Matters

Tax time — one year from now

Now that 1978 income tax returns are behind you (behind most of you, at least), the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants says it is not a minute too soon to look at your 1979 tax prospects and take action to minimize next year's tax liability.

Working parents, for example, might want to re - examine their child - care arrangements.

According to the Maryland CPAs, the tax credit for such child - care costs is now available even if payments are made to a grandparent or to one of the taxpayer's olerr children. The older child, however, must be at least 19 and may not be claimed as a dependent, regardless of whether such services constitute employment for Social Security purposes.

What will the status be of those fringe benefits or perequisites you may be getting from your employer?

Unfortunately for many taxpayers, there's no longer any tax - related reason for keeping records of non - business auto mileage. State and local taxes on gasoline and other motor fuels will not be deductible on 1979 tax returns.

For business or investment driving, however, not only the state and local taxes, but also the cost of the fuel, will continue to be deductible.

There's another change that may benefit some taxpayers. If, the Maryland CPA Association explains, you have heretofore passed up a chance to go to school at your employer's expense because such company benefits would be treated as taxable income to you, it's time to reconsider.

In many instances, employer reimbursement of such school expenses is not now taxed, even if the study is not job - related.

Still other tax law changes taking effect this year will alter family financial arrangements.

As just one example, the Maryland CPAs point out that if your adjusted gross income is $20,000 or more ($25,000 if you file jointly) and you should become temporarily unemployed, you can no longer treat your federal or state unemployment benefits as manna from heaven. They will now be taxable, in whole or in part.

Although ths Internal Revenue Service wants to tax such "perks," the matter is still unresolved, the Maryland CPAs say.

A Congressional task force has, however, laid down general guidelines, recommending that benefits of little cost to employers or those given chiefly for the employer's own convenience and available to all employees remain untaxed.

Protestors' uncertain future

Dear AFRO:

A South African Court found 11 black student leaders guilty of sedition for organizing protests marches. The maximum penalty is life in prison. The Penalty is a way of stopping demonstrations.

Here in "The Land of The Free", more than 100 black students are charged with sedition. The administrators of the University of Maryland have other names for it but basically it,s the same charge (organizing a protest march.

These students face an uncertain future, much like their brothers and sisters in Africa.

It is very hard to tell America from South Africa. The oppression of black citizens' rights are quickly becoming a threat we cannot afford to overlook.

We may be the next victims of the gas chambers and ovens.

GWENDOLYN TUCKER

Does Dennis Holly deserve our support?

Dear AFRO:

Recently a writer to the AFRO called upon the black community to support WMAR television anchorman Dennis Holly in his one million dollar slander suit against a local white disc - jockey.

The writer indicated that he felt whites would support the dic - jockey and that the black community should do no less for Mr. Holly.

Ordinarily I would be inclined to say "right - on".

However, in this instance I have one problem. It is my understanding that Mr. Holly has retained a white attorney to represent him.

This, of course, is Mr. Holly's prerogative but inasmuch as this thing called "support" is a two - edged sword that cuts both ways one might reasonably be expected to ask, why did Mr. Holly pass up an excellent opportunity to show his support of the black community by hiring a black attorney?

WILLIAM B. GARRETT