Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Death on #23 bus

We cannot imagine any words, insults, mumbled sentences between passengers on a public bus that would end with one rider dead from a bullet and three young men charged with murder.

That is exactly what has happened here on the much traveled MTA No. 23 bus line and we think we speak for most residents when we label this awful affair, reprehensible, vicious and stupid.

We are further appalled that some teenagers carry guns as casually as most of us carry our newspapers or umbrellas.

None of these words will comfort the parents of the young men charged with homicide.

For sometime now we have been agonizing, as have many of this city's ministers, as to just what has caused so many of this generation of our young people to resort to murder as a solution to anything.

Words passed on a bus. Bang. A man is dead.

That simple. That horrible.

What has happened to our children? What is happening to us?

As the Lenten season begins these questions seem more than appropriate.

School breakfast

We know that there is federal money available for free breakfasts at school for children from low-income families in the Baltimore area.

We know also that not all schools have availed themselves of this program.

We know further that the Department of Education, on one hand, says it is wholeheartedly for such a program for all who need it and on the other hand, says it does not have the facilities to implement free breakfasts in every school.

This could or could not be termed double-talk.

We think school officials, if they really wanted to, could mobili ze enough parent and other community volunteers to see that no child goes hungry in Baltimore on any school morning.

The money is there, the food is available.

We think the answer is some plain, old-fashioned rolling up the sleeves and getting the job done without slavish bureaucratic adherence to the dotted 'I's' and fine print.

It can be done.

FBI recruiting

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, perhaps trying to make up for all the ugly racism which permeated its being during the shabby years J. Edgar Hoover was its director, is embarked on a vigorous affirmative action program.

The FBI wants black agents and makes no bones about it.

In former years many white FBI agents launched successful political and business careers after service with the Department. Many outstanding Americans (white) have worked with the FBI as part of their proud work experience.

No longer is it mandatory that FBI agents have to have law degrees. New eligibility requirements are more realistic and sh ould afford more minority applicants career opportunities with the nation s most prestigious law enforcement agency.

Beginning salaries are not skimpy — $18,000 yearly to begin.

It is something young people should check out now that the door has opened another inch.

Prison football

Our legislators are not without senses of humor.

Delegate John Hargreaves, currently under fire for pressing vigorously for legislation that would benefit trucking companies at the same time he has a healthy piece of ownership in a trucking firm himself, wants the new jail built in Baltimore City.

On the Continental Can factory site.

Here we go again.

Anyway, Delegate John Douglass and other black caucus members figured that Hargreaves should be taught that politics is a game any number can play.

A bill under Douglass' imprimatur is now before the Assembly which would place the new jail somewhere in Caroline County, the district Hargreaves represents.

We think it is an excellent plan.

Update

Next week some 400,000 black Baltimoreans will have a new publication delivered to their homes.

It is called the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN 'UPDATE' and is a collection of recent news, issues and comment of special interest to our community.

'UPDATE' is designed to show Baltimoreans who may not ordinarily or regularly read the regular Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN that this newspaper consistently provides news, information and ideas that vitally affect black residents.

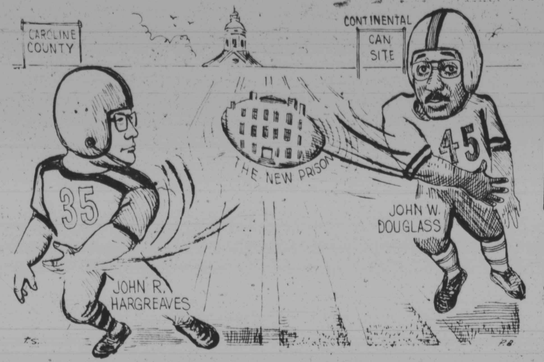
It is also a publication that demonstrates that one reason for this company's 88 years of continuing publishing is that it has always been deeply committed to the idea that black America needs its own press, its own journalists, its own perspective.

As the Eighties begin, 'UPDATE' is further proof to Baltimoreans that the AFRO-AMERICAN Company is determined not only to continue the tradition of a free black press and community service, but to continuously improve and expand on this rich heritage.

We thing you will find 'UPDATE' a very positive publication. We are proud of this latest venture which takes its place with DAWN Magazine, the local and national editions of the AFRO, as expressions in print of the black experience.

One thing more: 'UPDATE' looks good, reads easily and is designed for families to share, discuss and keep at hand. It is a bonus publication for regular AFRO readers and a new media experience for those less familiar with our regular publications.

It will be published seasonally.



Madeline MURPHY

A Bush in the hand

Much as we'd like to believe that the Democratic and Republican primaries or caucuses all over the land represent a democratic process as to who people favor for the next president, it just ain't so.

If you had seen Bill Moyers' recent Journal on David Rockefeller, chairman of the board of Chase Manhattan Bank on PBS, you would have viewed a gingerly, touch and go peek at the power this man wields under cover of anonymity all over the world.

Bill Moyers was eloquent with the questions he didn't ask and comments he didn't make. More so, one suspects that though the vast power David Rockefeller wields, he'd better not. Who knows how any indiscretion or that sort might shake Moyers' future security.

Touched upon, however, was the acknowledgement of that infamous Tri-Lateral Commission, when Rockefeller with Moyers in tow, visited the new Chancellor of West Germany.

Not so subtle was Rockefeller's chiding that since the Chancellor had felt the Tri-Lateral Commission, he had not heard from him recently about West Germany's banking preferences.

With these super rich, not only keeping money, but making more is the fuel that pilots them between left (Moscow—where Chase Manhattan Bank is doing business) right and in between, black, white, yellow or red, around the globe, logging 80 or more thousands of miles a year.

But now that David brought up the Tri-Lateral Commission, which is a financial-political think tank between the United States (the Rockefellers), West Germany and Japan, it is even more instructive to review its members, especially on the U.S. side.

There was early member President Jimmy Carter in 1973.

And you know how he went from "Jimmy Who?" to Hail to the Chief.

Then Zbigniew Brezinski, hawk of hawks on the Security Council (where Henry Kissinger began also a member of the TLC), both of whom are intent upon building up the military-industrial complex.

Then Cyrus Vance, now secretary of state. But guess who else? Yep, George Bush, former CIA director during Nixon's term—loyal

to the last even when the tapes proved Nixon was less than honest with anyone. BushxuntiBush until recently was another "Who?" on the Republican ladder to success, but now as the new media darling has become made over and groomed with the seal of approval of Mr. David Rockerfeller, no less.

Talk about bird in the hand worth two in the bush!

Because like all powerful and wealthy businessmen, David Rockefeller does not cotton to losing and just like he made Jimmy Carter, so he can crush him in his hand with his Bush waiting in the bush and at the moment using his power to support both Fence sitting, or if it benefits wealth is not considered disloyal.

Rereading Lundberg's "The Rich and Super Rich", the following reinforces the premise about David Rockefeller:

"Not only is he engaged in an interminable running series of conferences with the highest foreign movers and shakers at home and abroad, but his schedule takes in without any party discrimination the highest American officials. All of this going and coming, hosting and guesting, may indeed be conducive to a more smoothly running world (and this one devoutly hopes) but it is not a line of activity to ordinary mortal...This is super-Business, where the line of demarcation between inner government and upper business is so blurred as to be indistinguishable. It isn't deals but concessions, protectorates and spheres of influence that are negotiated here."

And while local Republicans are ecstatic over George Bush as the next president of the United States, they should realize that this hawk is merely another puppet of big business, who with his CIA connections, will cast us into a holocaust unlike any we have ever known. First however, the military budget will be increased and the CIA secrecy will be enhanced.

When he was goaded by Robert Scheer in an interview in the Feb. 17, Washington Post, Bush allowed as how in a nuclear war that we could expect that at least 5 percent would survive!

Local black Republicans intent upon backing a winner—which seems to be everyone's fantasy—are also being led down the Primrose Path.

But if we were really looking for an ideal candidate, who in the main speaks about all aspirations, who sticks to issues, who has solutions, John Anderson makes the most sense of all the Republicans.

But with this fixation for a winner, most can only whisper about their approval of Anderson, while beating the drum for Bush, and now since the New Hampshire primary, Reagan.

It seems that survival after all isn't as important as winning.

LETTERS

African exhibition — 'a disappointment'

Dear AFRO:

There are many inadequacies, disappointments, and glaring omissions in the current Walters Art Gallery show entitled "African Images."

The show begins with some Egyptian art forms, by now well known, almost commonplace, and then Africa disappears, except for some vague references to "Nubians". Why? African images is a misnomer.

What I found instead of African images was a view of black people held by many white people, that we are servile and unimportant, and somehow not quite "regular people".

For centuries, we have been painfully aware of bigoted, ignorant and narrow-minded people; and their points of view are well documented - you need not highlight them at the Walters.

I objected to the method you employ to identify the work on display. Black people were pointed out as one would point out an object, e.g.: a Grecian urn, a black.

Certainly you would not hang an untitled work depicting a white person with the caption "a white". Please use some common sense and sensitivity. In the future! "A Man" would have been proper and sufficient. However, if you still feel the need to point out the color of the subject, "A Black Man" is also appropriate.

The John Mayden photographs, interesting though they were, seemed out of place in the show. First, the subjects are not African and they are Americans. One could streich a point and say, "They are after all African descendants," but why stretch that far when Africa itself is rich with art and culture. This gave an even stranger ending to an already skillish and pointless exhibition.

I found no cohesive thread or binding idea to link the works together. There was no interesting perspective, nothing to learn from it.

What was your point? Did you so desperately need something, anything to whip together in Black History Month? Did you actually stoop to flipping through the pages of old books, seeking out black faces?

You have missed an incredible opportunity to bring to the general public, information, knowledge and a better understanding of the black experience. There are numerous examples of art work by and about black people that are rich in meaning, culture, purpose and history. We are not honor ed; indeed, we are insulted by your so-called African Images.

I have just begun to scratch the surface in learning the history o my people, and truly expected to enjoy and learn from your show. It is a sad fact of life that the media and many institutions, cultural and otherwise, specialize in negative images of what they do not understand.

Perhaps these negative images are so much a part of American culture, that you do not recognize them for what they are.

Take a good look at your "African Images" and see them for what they are.

EVELYN PRETTYMAN

Well-mannered Civic Center crowd

Dear AFRO:

On Feb. 24, 1980 a concert was held at the Baltimore Civic Center. For this reason I felt it imperative that I write and comment on the way blacks handled themselves.

Being a black usher at the center, I have worked many concerts of this type. Never before have I seen blacks so well mannered and well behaved. The blacks at this show were the most pleasurable group that I and the other black ushers have ever served. Unlike many other concerts of this type, our people did not get out of hand and there was trouble of no kind.

I would like to commend the blacks at this affair for displaying dignity and bringing pride to all the other black ushers with myself included.

Special thanks should go to those who attended for showing that blacks can come together and enjoy a oneness without any mishaps or disturbance of any kind.

So please be aware that our people are no longer hard to deal with just because of their color. We've come a long way and for that I'm proud.

ANTHONY DIXON

Parren MITCHELL

Redistributing the money

Recently, the House of Representatives considered H.R. 5980, the "Anti-Recession Fiscal Assistance and Targeted Fiscal Assistance Act of 1979," otherwise known as the "Countercyclical Act."

The title of the bill may look very complex, but its concept is fairly straightforward. The Countercyclical Act provides financial aid for state and local governments, which, in turn, provide social and support services to their communities.

Although the measure faced nasty opposition from a number of well-meaning but short-sighted members of Congress, it passed by a vote of 214 yeas to 179 nays.

During the debate in the House on H.R. 5980, I spoke in favor of the bill. I would like to share with you my remarks at that time.

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Anti-Recession and Targeted Fiscal Assistance Act of 1979. Although economists are anticipating further recessionary trends, many cities and rural areas have been sustaining this stagnation for an inordinate period of time.

For this reason, H.R. 4980 would ameliorate the financial burden incurred by state and local governments in providing social services and community support programs. Unless municipal ties receive some kind of fiscal relief from spiraling costs, many disadvantaged citizens will pay unfairly for economic difficulties n ot of their making.

"Let me emphasize to my colleagues that H.R. 5980 is an abundantly reasonable bill. The triggering mechanism contained in the anti-recession section of the measure requires that the nation suffer both two consecutive quarters in real wage decline and a decline in the real Gross National Product. A community, in order to receive federal assistance under the provisions of this bill, must need help very badly in deed.

"The targeted fiscal assistance section of this legislation is a one-time grant to areas of proven structural unemployment and historically poor growth rates. As this requisite in the bill clearly indicates, the needs of regions with so abysmal an economic outlook undoubtedly require healthy injections of federal aid to expedite their recovery.

"Thus, H.R. 5980 recognizes that different geographic areas experience certain economic conditions at different periods. To this extent, the bill has evolved considerably from its predecessors.

"For my colleagues whose primary objection to the bill is its possible cost, I would hasten to add that H.R. 5980 is a great deal less expensive than countercyclical measures passed in previous Congresses. It does not require any additions to either the federal, state, or local bureaucracy. The mechanisms for its implementation already exist.

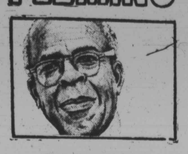
"This measure is not audacious; it is not costly. In fact, it does nothing to disturb the status quo. It is for this reason that I have minor misgivings about this bill. Unfortunately, the funding levels set by the Anti-Recession and Targeted Fiscal Assistance Act may only succeed in sustaining poverty in areas designated to receive fiscal assistance, thus needlessly prolonging their distress.

"We must also recognize that while this kind of back-up assistance is desperately needed, it is only a stop-gap measure, a symptomatic response to critical human and economic problems. Lest we forget, this bill should be viewed only as a beginning. As American industries— and the metropolitan and rural areas that embody them—begin to mature, we must continue to re-evaluate our capacity to nurture and sustain human resources.

"Despite these minor flaws, I give my wholehearted support to thi measure. Yet, I recognize that there are many members of this body whose constituents are generally more affluent than my own, and who question the philosophy embodied in this kind of legislation.

"I urge the passage of H.R.5980."

G. JAMES FLEMING



By G. James Fleming

Sometimes rulers lose heads

If George Washington had been caught by the British during the Revolutionary War, he would have been hung as a common criminal; or he might have been shot.

Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis did not fare badly when one part of the United States fought the other part, with the North and its Union forces winning.

Napoleon and Kaiser Wilhelm were banished for life. Mussolini was executed by a mob of their former supporters.

Down the years, kings and emperors have been guillotined or hung, as each new regime wreaked vengence on its predecessor, or just demonstrated who the new "boss" was. The Tower of London, in the most developed of nations, is testimony to this practice. Shakespeare's pen made it dramatic art.

In African and Middle Eastern countries, "taking care" of an adversary, in or out of office, is not unexpected. Sometimes, an "enemy" just disappears, with no word or clue as to his whereabouts. Thus it was, too, in Hitler's Germany and thus, also, in some periods in the Soviet Union.

Those who torture and kill must know that, in time, they may or will be killed, also, but the penchant for violent revenge goes on. Power, especially new power, exerts itself in brutality and murder.

All of these ruminations because of what is happening in Tehran, as that nation goes through the masquerade of trying Shah Mohamed Reza Pahlevi before a tribunal of international lawyers.

This column has no quarrel with the calibre of the jurists chosen by the United Nations. From everything that has been said and written in Iran, however, the shah does not have the ghost of a chance of a fair trial, certainly in the western sense of the term. In addition, regardless of whether he is found guilty or not by the speical international court, he is doomed to be killed, either by official orders or by militant patriots taking the law into their own hands.

While the shah was in a New York hospital, the sentiment, often expressed, in Iran was that some Iranians in the United States should find a way to slip into the shah's hospital room "and chop him up limb from limb."

None of the present rulers in Iran has stopped once to remember that what they would do to the shah is exactly what may happen to himself or herself, some day.

Certainly, Khomeini's guns, which have killed more than 600 dissidents and suspected dissidents in a year have not ceased because of the Ayatollah's appreciation of what may happen to him, if he should lose favor. Indeed, Khomeini has not been softened by the fact that when he was expelled from Iran, at least he was permitted to live, and in rather high style in France.

This is no defense of the shah. He is a notable example, enlarged, of what rulers cause to happen to others, and what rulers themselves may expect to happen to them. The shah, accused of many high crimes against his people, was reportedly as ruthless against those who disagreed with him, or challenged him, as his present antagonists are ruthless against him.

In Iran, as well as in many other places in the world, human affairs have the hallmark of "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Oh both sides of any confrontation, each side wants its pound of flesh. Power is possessed to be exercised. The powerful are the gods' chosen people.

Clubs are made to be used against the heads of the less fortunate. Prisons are conducted for punishment. If a man steals, cut his arm off. No conciliation with the enemy; no shaking hands between the victor and the vanquished.

A people may develop to great heights industrially and economically; they may even boast outstanding educational institutions and hospitals; and they may have a modern military system. Nevertheless, such a people may still hold on fiercely to their older "tribal" customs— from the feuds of the Kentucky and Tennessee mountaineers in the United States to the "Eye-for-an-Eye" practices of other

The census — Baltimore's life line?

By Rafael L. Cortada and Gordon Saxe

In the last decade, roughly $240,000,000 worth of federal aid never made it to Baltimore. Why? The answer is simple.

In 1970, when the last census was taken, 120,000 Baltimore City residents failed to stand up and be counted. It is estimated that for each person Baltimore receives $200 per year by formula from the federal government.

Over a period of 10 years, the number of years between each census, this comes to $2,000 per person, which when multiplied by 120,000 comes to an exceedingly large sum of money.

The only Spanish speaking U.S. representative from a major Eastern city may lose his Congressional seat, and not for political reasons. The congressman is dynamic and popular. The reason lies with his constituents.

Despite the crowded streets and all evidence of a fully occupied community, it appears that the population of his district has declined. In actuality, many of the residents of his district avoided being counted in the 1970 census.

Once again, our nation is gearing up for a headcount. April 1, 1980 (Census Day) marks the beginning of the 20th Decennial Census of the American people.

Important only for those with a mind for statistics, batting averages, and the like? Not so! The 1980 census affects directly each and every one of us, and will have a significant effect on the revitalization of our city.

How could an apparently mundane list of population figures, usually reserved for The Information Please Almanac, be so important? To begin with, census figures determine or reapportionment and redistricting of our political representation both in the U.S. House of Representatives, and within the State General Assembly.

More importantly, they affect the allocation of some $50 billion worth of federal revenue sharing to states and cities. In more concrete terms, this means that the level of funding for key survival services for Baltimoreans is dependent on an accurate headcount.

An immense amount of funding hangs in the balance for such programs as job training and employment, adequate low cost housing, better schools and playgrounds, health care services, day care centers, adult education, parks and recreation centers, legal services, emergency food and medical aid, special services for senior citizens, and other facilities provided through community action and Community Development Block Grants (CDBC).

The real tragedy is that the people who are not counted are precisely those who need the added federally supported services, if they are to secure even a toehold in the economy. The added funding in human services could expand city efforts to help unemployed young people, and add to the positive momentum the public schools are developing.

Thus, an undercount of Baltimore's population by the census implies a proportional drain of federal dollars that could be earmarked for vital survival services. How could such a large portion of the City's population — 10.15 percent — have been "missed" in 1970? What is being planned to prevent the recurrence of such a glaring error in 1980?

In answer to the first question, many people who were mailed census questionnaires did not respond for a variety of reasons. Some couldn't speak or read English well enough. Others had personal fears of, or misconceptions about the uses of the census. Many believed, for example, that information provided could be used against them by the police, immigration officials, or the draft board. Still others simply did not care to take the trouble to fill out the questionnaire.

Furthermore, a large number of individuals (mostly students, illegal aliens, transients, and the aged) did not have permanent addresses and therefore did not even receive the questionnaire.

In response to the second question, the city has embarked on a grass-roots campaign to address the causes of the error. To this end, Mayor William Donald Schaefer has composed the Complete Count Committee and charged its members with the task of tracking down "missing persons".

The Committee will use a two-pronged approach in its quest for these people. First, an extensive educational campaign, aimed specifically at the neighborhoods and population groups overlooked in 1970, is in the works.

Information concerning the importance of a complete and accurate count is being disseminated to the public in an effort to combat the notion that census information can be used against anyone.

It should be noted that census information is strictly confidential, and will not be released to officials of the IRS, FBI, CIA, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, welfare or police departments.

According to Title 13, United States Code, information furnished to the Census Bureau can be used only for statistical purposes and cannot be published or released in any manner that could indentify an individual or business firm. This law prohibits access to individual census returns by anyone except sworn officers and employees of the Bureau. Further, the law calls for a five-year prison term and $5,000 fine for violations of this secrecy provision by census employees.

Secondly, a neighborhood outreach program is also underway. Key individuals throughout the city will contact census personnel, as well as members of the Complete Count Committee, transmitting information and leads about "missing persons" in their neighborhoods to individuals who will follow up on them.

We are hopeful that by employing these methods to track down "missing persons" for the census the Complete Count Committee can contribute to a more realistic appraisal of Baltimore's population, and in the process, attract much-needed and well-deserved federal funds. The challenge of this committee is one that confronts all Baltimoreans, and depends on their cooperation and support for success.

Mayor Schaefer's Complete Count Committee for the 1980 Census faces a huge task. The most frequently undercounted groups — minorities, the elderly, college students, and distinct language groups — comprise a majority of the city's population.

To carry out this public education effort the Mayor has assigned Tom Maruđas from his own Office, and Dr. Rafael L. Cortada, president of the Community College of Baltimore, to chair the committee. Because the effort will have to be city-wide, the Committee is working with a panel of approximately 200 involved citizens representing every neighborhood in Baltimore.

Many are assuming that Baltimore's population, like that of our Eastern cities, has declined. But the doomsayers were wrong when they dismissed Baltimore 10 years ago. With a complete count, it may very well be that rumors of the city's demise are again premature. Dr. Rafael L. Cortada is president of the Community College of Baltimore. Gordon Saxe is employed by the Office of the Mayor as a Census Awareness Aide, and is a graduate of Brandeis University.

Work for peaceful solution in Iran

Dear AFRO:

We, the Joint Peace Committee of the Baltimore Friends Meetings, urge our government to continue pursuing peaceful and diplomatic means to resolve the current confrontation with Iran.

We applaud every effort to involve international organizations such as the United Nations in freeing the American hostages and bringing a just settlement.

In the longer view, it is clear that we as Americans need to resolve our energy crisis. Lasting peace ultimately can only be built on a fairer distribution of the world's resources.

Our excessive consumption of oil contributed to our dilemma in Iran, and we fear it will similarly expose our country again and again in the future.

Each of us needs to consider whether, in the words of George Fox, we "live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion for all wars."

BILL ROBINSON, Joint Peace Committee, Baltimore Friends Meeting

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.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

NOW COMES the universal urge to go to far-away places or just around where you live, get out of doors and enjoy the coming of spring. It used to be February was the time I visited Dr. W.E.B.DuBois at his home in Brooklyn, New York. I would arrive late Friday evening breathlessly after fork, take the train and then the subway.

THE AIR was too cold for spring and yet a little too warm for winter and New York seemed alive with expectancy. Dr. and Mrs. DuBois lived on Grace Court in Brooklyn near William Lloyd Garrison's church and other historic spots. Just a bit less that a half a block and you could look across the river toward the New York skyline called the "Jewel Box".

BY FAR that was the most magical sight in late evening and at that hour between the daylight and dark, dusk, Dr. DuBois used to don a heavy coat with an expensive fur collar and walk to the edge of the street to breathe the cold air and dream a little while looking at the fantastic city.

THEN WE would return to his home to a delicious supper, always preceded by a glass of champaign or a rare wine. Dr. DuBois would sit in his study, surrounded by books and manuscripts. His desk was overloaded with papers,letters and more papers. The room was sooo cozy and with a bright fireplace.

AFTER SUPPER, he and his wife Shirley would receive guests who came from all over the world for his birthday, just to sit at his feet. I would always spend the weekend with them and enjoy meeting famed persons, small aspiring writers and artists and those who had just read of the Great DuBois.

SATURDAY was a day to remember but Sunday was the most exciting. After a walk, Dr. DuBois would sit back in his study and remember Fisk University. I had met him there when I was a student and he a lecturer. He, of course was the most famous of all Fisk graduates.

The last time I saw Dr. DuBois was on his birthday weekend and he gave me a priceless copy of his Souls of Black Folk, that immortal book in which he recalled the bricks of our Fisk University Jubilee Hall were put together with blood.

AND HE GAVE ME the first two volumes of Monsart. He never finished the third volume When he and Shirley went to Ghana to live, I knew I would never see them again. This time of year however, my thoughts go back to those wonderful weekends in February at the DuBois home on Grace Court.

IN CASE you go to New York this spring, go to Greenwich Village. We were there in January to show my grandson Elmer the skyscrapers and all New York before he returned to Hawaii. He marveled at the Statue of Liberty and Times Square.

HOWEVER, the Village is different from the sorrowful deterioration in Harlem. There as you know the famed Apollo Theatre is in bad shape, all torn up and vandalized with nothing remaining of the days of its glory when Pearl Bailey, Billy Ekstine, Sammy Davis, all those stars used to perform.

IN THE VILLAGE, folks of all races who are seemingly better off than those of old Harlem were walking the dogs, jogging in the parks, visiting the fantastic shops and cafes. There was something in the air that you do not find anywhere else.

BLACK AND WHITE alike have a certain class about them and they all seemed to sport some kind of "class" dog, walking blocks away from their plush apartment houses in the crisp evening air. Of course there was the sidewalk comedian who stood on a box and gave an entire show before he would pass the hat around.

ASTONISHED, we watched him collect plenty money from the crowd which gathered every time he finished one show, had a brief intermission and then went into another performance ... all outdoors, on the sidewalk.

BUT STAY AROUND Baltimore and there are lots of things going on to get you out of the living room and away from TV on weekends. It's almost time for Flee Markets and some of them are indoors and open now.

ONE CERTAIN to please is the Sunday March 2 to 5 p.m. event at Morgan McKeldin Center where Mrs. Helen Hill and Thomas Henderson will have exhibits. Debirah Blackwell Gregory a Coppin instructor will talk on her recent book, Fruits of a Flower. Refreshments too.

I FIRST MET Mrs. Hill at a Flee Market just off Charles Street and she was swamped with customers for her original handicraft, mostly her tote bags. Her handbags,totes, pillows, aprons,caftans, scarves and belts are much in demand and utterly so attractive and colorful you can not resist.

SHE WILL BE around all over the town this spring with her stuff from her "Hill's Stitchery of Unusuals" shop on display. You've got to see. Call her at 744-2073 to find out when and where you can get a touch of brilliant color to perk up your wardrobe.

MARCH is the month when many wonderous things occur like the gathering of that large Virginia family at the dedication of the Calvin Rodwell Elementary School on Liberty Heights. Remember, the late Mr. Rodwell, a policeman doing night duty as a cab driver, was slain by a gunman ?

DR. JOHN CREW is extending invitation for all the Virginia relatives to come to Baltimore at an as yet unnamed date in March to attend the ceremonies. There will be about 2,500 of the Rodwells, Blackwells, Stiths, Shells,Taylors and Hickses plus more and more of the other branches all from Virginia or the other 50 states.

HEY, did you know Mrs. Ruby Gill was one of the 554 delegates who attended the worldwide International Life Line Christian Ministry Convention at the University of Melbourne Australia early this winter ?

BEFORE and after the convention the group stopped in Honolulu and three other countries. Fiji Islands, New Zealand, and so forth. WHAT AN EXPERIENCE Rubye C. can tell you about. The trip included special receptions at which she met folks from around the globe. I'd like to hear more sometime, wouldn't you ?

THE PAST TWO WEEKS I have been speaking at schools and telling them about the Middle East trip I went on with seven other editors and publishers and the children have been most interested. This week ends the Black History Month talks I have been giving but there are some more in March, ones I thoroughly enjoy. Thanks go to the many students and teachers and Mrs. Ardell Vessels who have modeled the beautiful clothes made by the citizens of those Middle East countries.

HAVE YOU taken advantage of the Pratt Library's new service to answer all your questions, no matter what they may be ? ? ? I am sure you must need some information. IF SO, call 396-5430 and get the answer to anything that puzzles you in a flash and all free.

DO YOU WANT a place where your kid can learn to dance ?? Call the library number above and ask. WHAT ABOUT income tax questions, health service questions, rental info or legal questions you can't figure out ?? CALL today and get the correct answer.

PRATT LIBRARY- Information on anything for everybody, 396-5430. EMMETT A ASHFORD, the first black umpire to reach the major leagues in professional baseball will be at Western Maryland College March 4 to talk about "Black Power: Umpire Style." Go if you can.

THE COLLEGE has the friendliest people from the president on down. And, you can look around the countryside, surrounding communities there in Westminister, Carroll County. For example there is the Lutheran Service Center nearby New Windsor that has the most exotic International Gift Shop.

IF YOU WANT something from far-away lands to perk up your home or wardrobe, that the place. I got a floor length dress from Kenya in the most beautiful design for my daughter in Hawaii. It cost only $13 and is it charming, original African design.

YOU CAN HAVE breakfast,lunch,dinner in the spotless dining room and if you wish you may spend the weekend in the guest house. It's all so entrancing. A facility for conferences and ecumenical world programs,where many boards and commissions like the State Board of Education meet. Nice for retreats too. There you will find the colonial buildings all on a spotless campus like an old ante bellum college, peace and quiet and a grand setting in the hills of Carroll County. roadside meat markets and get that famous Carroll County bacon, hams, beef and roasts and chickens and eggs that have the best flavor. I swear by Carroll County bacon for flavoring green beans, cabbage and greens this time of year. Nothing like it. Better than Smithfield, I think.

BY THE WAY at a truck on the side of the road coming from Annapolis you can get Chincateague oysters, fresh shucked by a fisherman and his kids, kind of homey people who fill the pints and quarts brim full of the best tasting oysters in the world. Use some half-and-half cream and you have the best oyster stew.

GET AROUND out doors now and have fun.

Taxes are important if your hobby makes $$

Many people operate a part-time business after putting in a regular workweek at a salaried job. Although these "moonlight" businesses provide extra income, they are often outgrowths of hobbies or talents which provide a great deal of personal satisfaction.

Many people fail to realize substantial tax savings, says the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants, because they do not realize their hobby or sideline is actually a business.

If the IRS decides that you are more interested in pleasure than profit, they may want to consider your activity a hobby. In that case they will tax the net income from your hobby, but will consider any losses pur ely personal and therefore, not deductible as business expenses.

A business that is as much hobby as anything else, the CPA Association advises, will be allowed to deduct certain operating expenses but only up to the amount of taxable income the operation produces.

Operating losses, which an established company can write off against taxable income, even applying any excess to previous or future years, have no tax effect for the hobbyist; he must absorb them.

If your business spends more than it earns, you must be able to show that the activity is engaged in for the specific purpose of making a profit in order to claim deductions. You must also have some justification for your hope of making a profit; your qualifications and experience must be such that the expectation is realistic.

And finally, you must conduct the business as a hard-headed, profit-motivated person would — advertising, promoting, doing what you can to maximize sales and minimize costs.

A good starting point in establishing that a true business exists — and it is just a starting point, the CPAs tell us — is to actually show a profit. The tax rule is that there must be taxable income in any two or more out of five consecutive years. Then it will be presumed you are engaged in an activity for profit. The importance of adequate books and records cannot be overemphasized.

An editor who adds to his income with freelance editing work is simply moonlighting. However, if he operates an editorial service, it may qualify as a business, but it would be difficult to show where his regular professional work ends and his part-time business begins.

His professional library, association dues, and subscriptions could be necessities for either job. An electric typewriter, purchased exclusively for use in the editorial service, could be considered depreciable business equipment.

However, it would be difficult to show that the editor never used the typewriter for his regular job, or simply for a freelance assignment.

Your business "premises" is another sensitive issue. The deduction for a home office was abused for so long that a few years ago Congress cracked down. To qualify as a business expense, an office at home must be used exclusively and on a regular basis as the taxpayer's principle place of business.

If an antique dealer runs his service from the family basement— then he must show that the family does not use the basement at all. The dealer must be able to prove that customers visit the basement office to do business on a regular basis, and he must keep careful records of the dates of those visits.

A small business can also get investment tax credits for tools and equipment, new or used, purchased during the year. To qualify, items purchased must be able over an extended period and they cannot include inventory or real estate, although certain building improvements do meet the requirements. The investment tax credit is a direct reduction of tax liability of up to 10 percent of the purchase price, subject to some limitations.

The rate at which a company depreciates or amortizes its fixed assets will affect its after-tax income. There are alternative ways of depreciating, with still newer ones now being considered by Congress.

The owners of a business can enjoy certain tax-favored benefits — pension and profit sharing, company-paid Individual Retirement Accounts, and sick-pay plans, for example — usually allowable only if the same benefits are extended to other