Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

PAGE 4 MAY 17, 1980

The primary- not all bad

The number of people who can vote but do not is as politically important as the number who do vote.

A great many Marylanders chose not to vote in the primary election just past. This says something!

Those who did vote were selective and precise in who and what they vote for. This also says something.

Political statisticians hold that almost 70 percent of the state's eligible voters stayed away from the polls this time.

Carter and Reagan won. They did not win handily, or all that convincingly, they just won. Voters figured these two were the best of an unimpressive lot so far as the presidential sweepstakes are concerned and so they went to the polls more out of a sense of duty than anything else.

Most voters stayed away from the polls because not voting sometimes is as powerful a statement as voting itself.

The black community, being in the minority however, can seldom if ever afford the luxury of such political nay-saying and so our voting patterns suggest the obvious.

First our community stuck with Carter just enough to see him through.

Carter this time did not get over 90 percent of our votes as he did in the 1976 general election.

To us this says that about half as many black Marylanders are as gung ho about Jimmy presently as they were first time around.

As we pointed out in our pre-election editorial of endorsement of Carter—what we expected of him and what he has given up thus far is a great variance.

Black voters, locally, and nationally in the general election next November, despite our present misgivings about Carter, will give Carter the votes he needs to win over Reagan.

We hope the president understands what has been said in the Maryland primary by our community. As things now stand come November it will be as much a case of blacks rallying to Reagan's bid for the White House as it is of our voting for Carter.

If by some miracle a Republican less rigid than Reagan faces Carter in the general election, we would not be at all surprised if there is grave defection among black voters as regards Carter.

The president has his work cut out for him and in no way should he take our community for granted this time around.

People who are in the business of politics, reacting to the apathetic voter turnout in the Maryland primary, have lambasted voters for not exercising their franchise.

We do not think this is quite fair.

When voters are given clean-cut choices, when politicians offer viable programs, raise intelligent issues, voters react positively. They come out and vote.

If Sen. Edward Kennedy had not begun raising the issues and getting folks to thinking, locally, about some bread and butter issues, we think the voters would have been even fewer.

If politicians give voters nothing to vote about past trivia like "I'm a Democrat" or "I'm a Republican" then the people, as is their right, react negatively - that is they do not vote at all - or they vote stingily - that is Carter gets no landslide mandate and Kennedy gets no desperately needed upset.

Things sort of remain up in the air.

Witness the Republicans. While Reagan got the majority of votes, George Bush still managed to pick up some delegates that could prove troublesome to Reagan convention time or at least be a nuisance.

Black voters in Maryland, particularly in Baltimore, we are happy to report, voted their best interests to an encouraging degree.

Our community voted with precision even if total numbers were small.

They gave State Sen. Robert Douglass in excess of 20,000 votes in his bid for a U.S. Senate Seat.

Senator Douglass, come November, now has some leverage in his political negotiations on our behalf. No candidate is going to alienate 20,000 voters exactly the way he would like to think he can.

For our middle son, Arthur, was the architect of the latest two victories which might mean also that one must keep trying until he gets it right.

More to the point, how many of the governor's appointees to the Supreme Bench, using that minuteness as dangerous it would seem, than to, even have political contributors or voters try to lean on the judge for favorable decisions.

The power of the commission rests precariously in the hands of a few almost anonymous people who might be so unscrupulous as to regard themselves privileged and above the law.

So let us not be fooled by so-called principles like the Sitting Judge principle that would cloud our thinking and divest us of our democratic right to choose whom we want to serve us.

I'm a firm believer that the people make the right choices, at least they did in two cases on may 13, and will do it again in November!

Thanks a lot

MADELINE MURPHY

The thrill of victory...

Now that the smoke of the primary election has cleared, it is fitting for me to now make some observations.

Our family has had the agony of defeat more often than the thrill of victory in political campaigns. Eleven campaigns at this counting, 10of which occurred back to back in 11 years, with only one success in that time but now the Democratic nomination of Billy Murphy for Supreme Bench judge.

This has meant money spent, not wisely perhaps, but well, if experience can be counted as a capital gain.

For our middle son, Arthur, was the architect of the latest two victories which might mean also that one must keep trying until he gets it right.

More to the point, how many of the governor's appointees to the Supreme Bench, using that minuteness as dangerous it would seem, than to, even have political contributors or voters try to lean on the judge for favorable decisions.

The power of the commission rests precariously in the hands of a few almost anonymous people who might be so unscrupulous as to regard themselves privileged and above the law.

So let us not be fooled by so-called principles like the Sitting Judge principle that would cloud our thinking and divest us of our democratic right to choose whom we want to serve us.

I'm a firm believer that the people make the right choices, at least they did in two cases on may 13, and will do it again in November!

As if it were a restricted country club, however, it is so glibly said that "Well, they were appointed by the governor in order to keep politics out of the judiciary."

But that is not necessarily true. It is more sinister than that.

For example, in his last interview before going to prison, former Gov. Marvin Mandel volunteered an answer to a question that had not been asked when he stated in words to the affect that he had never "sold" judgeships. One then wonders, who had? And why was this juicy hint of information ever volunteered?

Further, Gov. Harry Hughes not long after he was elected appointed a man to the Court of Appeals, who had been within his inner political circle.

Also Acting Gov. Blair Lee returned one list because it didn't have his choice on it.

In addition if the Selections Commission is appointed by the governor, to whom must they owe allegiance?

Moreover, not long ago, a woman appeared before a judge in traffic court and was quick to introduce in her defense the fact that she was a member of the Judicial Selection Commission —no doubt a mild threat to the judge to go easy, or else, since he would soon be up for reappointment.

Now, as then, the president and his scientific and military experts were distrustful of most (really all) of their close compatriots, both at home and abroad.

Which brings us to a basic characteristic of present-day western society, high and low. No one trusts anyone, to indulge in an overstatement, more or less.

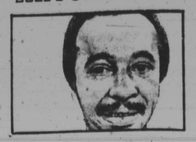
This distrust is noted among many married couples and the rise of separations and divorces, everywhere. It is seen among families, especially after a death and an estate is to be divided.

It has long been present among the religious denominations, as is marked by the number of competing churches, sects and cults. This distrust is most noticeably rampant in politics and among politicians.

If the Carter high command did, in fact, carry out mexhaustible planning, and if steps leading to the abortion of the "rescue" were really an "act of God," then the answers to other unanswered questions may simply be that there is perhaps too much distrust on all levels, on all sides, high and low, far and near.

Or, perhaps the Iranian gods just won out this one time.

PARREN J. MITCHELL



The media can be dangerous

The impact of media on our lives is almost incalculable. The clothes we wear, the deodorant we use, the automobiles we drive, the banks we do business with, all of these and hundreds of other activities are influenced by the media.

The media can be helpful or harmful, daring or down right dangerous. How?

I read a half dozen national magazines each week. I read them from cover to cover. Rarely is there a meaningful story about black America.

Oh yes, you will find us in the sports section — we simply cannot be ignored there. Yes, on occasion, you will find us on the entertainment page — we cannot be completely ignored there.

But, it is incredible to me that, in any given week, in a seven day period in 168 hours, nothing of economic, political, social, or educational significance.

Ralph Ellison, the black author, wrote a book called "The Invisible Man" some years ago. It appears that once again the attempt is being made by the media to make us invisible. However, if you remember, Ellison's book, when the invisible man became visible, all hell broke loose.

In fact, we face a bitter choice, either we remain invisible or we are made visible as clowns.

I am well aware of the special shows, such as, "Roots" or "Miss Jane Pittman," but every ongoing television series portrays us as clownish, comic figures. "Good Times," "Different Strokes," "Sanford and Son," and the list goes on.

Doesn't the media know about black families facing the vicissitudes of urban life with courage and dignity? Doesn't the media know that each day there are beautiful love stories acted out between whites in that we experience love, death, pain, aspirations, and dreams as men and women, not as clowns?

To picture blacks as stereotypes, as buffons, serves but one purpose. That purpose is to reinforce feelings of white superiority. A person laughs at his fellow man because that fellow man is seen given a nonreflective response of a situation, or, is seen as giving a stupid reaction in a life situation or is seen as being incapable of intelligent response reactions.

When we laugh at people, we are saying look how dumb, how stupid, how inept, how non-logical that clown is. As white audiences laugh at us, inevitably they heighten their own feelings of racial superiority. That is sad.

But even more tragic is the fact that when we laugh at comic portrayals of ourselves, we develop feelings of racial inferiority. That process is aptly summed up in the phase that all too often grates on my ears. "Ain't that just like us."

It is so very clear that the media is a partner in the effort to contain black Americans, to hold us in our present status, or to roll back the gains we have made. It is a psychological and social containment by the media by making us invisible or by presenting us as clownish objects, not as women and men and children.

To change all of this will be exceedingly difficult. By excluding blacks from ownership of radio and television stations, it is easier to ignore blacks or to treat us as stereotypes. By discriminating against us as newsroom employees (no more than 1,000 of American's 40,000 newsroom employees are minorities) it is easy to ignore us.

We blacks can be kept out of print except in crime stories. By using a revolving door pattern for local black television reporters, that industry can be assured that positive news coverage of blacks will be sparse, and white audiences will be protected from a feeling of the difficulties and frustrations of being black in America.

The film, "The Birth of a Nation" fixed a stereotype of blacks in the minds of white America which, for far too many whites, still persists today.

The communications media can help to shape national policy; it can serve as a force for social justice or social injustice. Here in America, it can help determine whether we blacks will continue to move toward social and economic parity, or whether America will continue to turn its back on our cause, permitting the erosion of political and economic gains we have made.

Afterthoughts on Mother's Day

G. JAMES FLEMING

This Mother's Day one matter for sure, was on the minds of every mother (and every father, too): How close we came to the threshold of World War III, by the United States' mini - invasion of Iran.

This abortive attempt to rescue the 53 American hostages held in and by Iran is understandable, from the points of view of American nationhood and of practical politics—even if there are questions about the method and the timing.

But, "understanding" does not relieve the qualms of mothers of war-age young men and women now living, nor does "understanding" lessen the pains of the mothers who lost sons in the "no - win" escapades ("police actions') in Korea and Vietnam.

The temper of the American people (the rank and file) seems to be that the United States must avoid war at nearly any price, unless our own lands, our installations abroad, or our ships on international waters are attacked by some other nation.

Even in such latter instances, our people (the "man in the street") seem very much of a mind that negotiation (talking, talking, talking) and non - military pressures are, in the long run, superior to mass killing of the young people of the nations involved.

In the 1980s, war means more than the killing and wounding of individuals. It may mean the destruction of entire cities and their inhabitants; the wipeout of entire peoples; widespread desecration of the cultural heritage of the past. The list could continue.

Then it will be too late to sit down at the negotiating table, meaningfully.

Amid the Mother's Day sermons and programs, mothers and fathers were asking themselves some questions that others have asked:

1. Why was the plan to attempt the rescue of the hostages not shared with at least the top most leadership of the Congress, even if the exact staging area and time were not disclosed?

2. Why, similarly, were our NATO and other close allies left totally in the dark, even after their pledge to mount their own economic boycott of Iran, if a stated deadline of May 17, to release the hostages, were not honored?

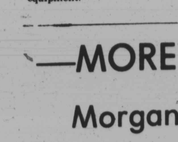
3. Why was the invasion party so thin, especially in helicopters, why was there not a second team, on the ready?

4. Why was the anti-terrorist brigade of Israel not called upon and utilized to furnish "know-how" as to its successful incursion and rescue against Arab plane highjackers in Uganda?

If one feels stumped in finding easy answers, or any answers, one must remember that Harry Truman, as Vice - president of the United States, knew nothing whatever of the historic construction of the atomic bomb, under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, until after the president had died.

Then, it became Truman's unexpected and awesome duty to decide whether or not to drop the bomb, with its killing of more than 200,000 men, women and children.

ON THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY



LESLIE KING HAMMOND

This Sunday, May 18, a very special show will open at the Gallery 409 located at 409 Charles

'Montage of Dreams Deferred'

"Montage of Dreams Deferred" is a series of visual statements which make strong reference to the different interpretations of black life through the artistic eye and the clever inventive mind.

The work of Gregory Russell consists of black and white statements which use the technique of weaving paper. Russell's objective is to try to and make order out of the chaos in

and makes statements on black life styles through his explorations of interiors. Color, light and texture are the key factors in his constructed spaces.

Joyce Jane Scott ponders in a magical, mystical way the inner spiritual aspects of black folk and their culture. All objects have meaning to Scott and her visual statements recall the past point to the future.

Aissatou Mijiza works in a similar manner to Scott but with completely different results. Aissatou is also a collector of things. Her statements are large and bold, almost in a theatrical sense. There is a rare quality in her works to capture the irony and humor of the black experience without using literal references.

James Barefoot is probably the most introspective, almost meditative meditative of the group. His images speak of the psychological trauma in the lives of black people. The first four artists had achieved some of their training at the Maryland Institute College of Art. James Barefoot is a graduate of Morgan State University.

The gallery opening will be held on Sunday, May 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. This exhibition will continue until June 16. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday noon to 6 p.m.

Dr. Hammond is dean of graduate studies, Maryland Institute, College of Art.

exhibitions traveling through the state of Maryland through the Baltimore Museum of Art. This traveling program was sponsored by a grant from the Maryland Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The title of the show is a variation on Langston Hughes' poem "Montage of a Dream Deferred." In this series of poems Langston talks of the many elements present in the hopes and dreams of black folk.

This exhibition is a showcase for five young black and gifted artists who have not had the opportunity to be included in major shows of this type. All of the artists showing are residents of Maryland.

The selection of the title of this exhibition also has to do with the selection and content of the show. A montage has to do with an image that is pieced together. Therefore each of the artists selected works in some aspect of what is called the mixed media idiom. Each of the artists works in a wide variety of materials to make a visual statement.

There is also a symbolic meaning to the selection of these artists and their works. Traditionally, the survival of the black artist in this country has been heavily dependent on the artists' ability to find materials to work with, even when there was no money to buy any equipment.

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

A NOTE from an AFRO friend of log - standing Kay Carter, the former vice-chairman of the Maryland Commission on Women, a teacher and counselor and founder of Human Relations Concepts Inc. Also, she is the beauteous and fashionable wife of Dr. Simon Carter.

Now, Kay and Dorothy Samuel, the executive director of Koinonia, an author and lecturer and once TV commentator, have started an interesting project.

YOU'LL WANT TO JOIN. The event is July 24 through July 27, a project to take place in the spirit-filled atmosphere of Koinonia, apart from the usual frustrations and pressures, eating wholesome food and exploring nature walks, a healthy life style.

You may get more information by calling Kay or Dorothy at Koinonia — (301) 486-6262. Please note, this is not a "consciousness raisinrap session and not a cataloguing of women's problems and restraints. Instead, the ladies note, it involves affirmations meditating, prayer and self-image building.

Full tuition is $55. There is additional $40 for room and board. So now, you do not have to go to Mexico or some far away spot for this rejuvenation — the "in" thing nowadays.

LOOKING AHEAD to Flag Day, June 14— The Maryland historic celebration will be held at Fort McHenry starting with an old-fashioned picnic and band music. Then at 2 p.m. when the huge Star Spangled Banner replica is unfurled and the First Army Band strikes up the National Anthem, this will be the signal for a new tradition: Everyone across the nation will renew the pledge to the flag.

THE PLAN conceived by authorities here at the Flag House calls for everyone to fly a flag and at 2 p.m. pledge love and support for your country. That's good. You have to support the land that feeds and sleeps you. However difficult, we can not get anything anywhere else.

Seems like all the world is messed up. We do not like what is happening to the Haitians in view of the influx of Cubans scot free. But we understand that soon the Haitians will be allowed freedom to arrive in the United States like the Cubans. BUT, we'll keep a watch.

SUNDAY, MAY 25, the Paul Lawrence Dunbar School Chamber Singers will be feted after 5 p.m. at Gatsby's with a Disco Sip by their Neighbors and Friends. Praise be to their director Hugh W. Carey who is a masterful musician.

THE THIRD WORLD Fashion Revue will act - model,sing and dance and you will get to see designer fashions supplied by Darlene Langley and Frances Quarterman. Maurice Dew is choreographer.

ALSO May 25 is Baltimore's Best Academic Festival, the awards to students for achievement and educational excellence at 3 p.m. at Lake Clifton Senior High. The reception for more than 100 of these fine kids at 1:30 p.m. and this you should certainly see.

MAY 25 is the date set for the governor's and the mayor's honors commemorating the birth-date of Dr. Lillie M. Jackson. Josephine Ora Young made the request which will also proclaim that week as an honor in all schools and institutions for Baltimore's Late Great Lady.

JUNE 1 is the day Iota Phi Lambda Sorority Delta Gamma Chapter marks its 31st birthday at Morgan's Christian Center. The theme is "The Black Family"

Representing the AFRO, I will speak on the topic "Women Facing Challenges in a New Decade."

That's June 1 and you're invited.

SENATOR TOMMIE BROADWATER'S birthday party is set for June 10 at the Glenarden Town Hall, 8600 Glenarden Parkway, Glenarden, Md. and what an array of guests from Gov. Hughes on, plus the Legislative Black Caucus and a whale of a lot of delicious food... through midnite.

OUR OWN Mary Carter Smith is elated at being selected as Honorary Chairman for the Citywide Speak Up-Speak Up Speak Out Declamation Contest. Final competitions are May 20 and 21 at Mt. Royal Rec Center, 120 W. Mosher at 7:30 p.m.

COMMENCEMENT season begins Saturday at 10 a.m. when some 300 kidds finish Bowie State, the 115 year old liberal arts institution near Washington in Prince George's County.

Dr. Rufus L. Barfield, president, and Gen. George M. Brooks, member of the board of trustees will preside and confer honorary degrees to William Lucy, secretary - treasurer of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and to the speaker, Mr. Eddie N. Williams, the president of the Joint Center for Political Studies, Washington.

Hopkins U Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa presents the Annual Recognition Award to the Adopt-A-School Program May 16 (today) and Dr. John L. Crew superintendent, will receive at the 6 p.m. dinner meeting at the Hopkins Club. More on that later.

THE SCHOOLS adopted included Chinquapin Middle, Eutaw Marshburn Elementary, Diggs Johnson Jr. Hi., Medfield Heights Elem., Hamilton Elem., Guilford, Federal Hill, Dallas F. Nicholas, West Balto. Middle, Mt. Royal Intermediate, Hamstead Hill Jr. High, Pimlico Elem., Robert Poole Jr. Hi., Booker T. Harford Heights Elem., Canton Jr. Hi and Francis Scott Key Jr. Hi.

Mel de Rutledge Jr.

Urban America Housing Report

Coping with 13 percent interest

As this article is written, prime home mortgage interest rates are at 13 percent. Rates are higher for investment real estate; less than five months ago, the same mortgages could be had for 11 percent. As the shock wears off, people are asking, "What should we do?"

What high rates mean

Mortgage interest rates are at historic highs. But so is inflation. And current mortgage interest rates less last year's 13 percent inflation yield a "real" interest rate of 0 percent. This is consistent with what many observers have long contended — that is, interest rates are always inflation plus 2 percent or 3 percent.

By this standard, interest rates aren't high ... they're just where they always were. And experienced real estate investors recognize the positive side of today's rates.

True, interest rates have been lifted by inflation to unprecedented levels. But real estate investors generally love increases in the inflation rate as they apply to the value of their properties.

So the real meaning of today's high interest rates is not much different from yesterday's "high" rates of 8 percent, 10 percent and 12 percent, each of which was shocking to the country in its day.

The psychological meaning, however, is somewhat different. Many of the actors in the real estate drama — buyers, sellers, lenders, have contracted a paralyzing stage fright from the interest rate rise.

But if you can keep your head while other investors are losing theirs, you might be able to make some good real estate deals.

Tactics to employ when buying

If you wanted to buy, you still can. If the seller demands that you get a new loan at present rates, then you demand that he reduce the price, so that you can make the payments on the loan from the property's income. If the seller refuses, bid him farewell.

There's nothing wrong with borrowing money at 13 percent so long as you can earn more than that on the use of the money. If you can buy the property cheap enough, no problem.

More likely, you'll have to search for existing financing which you can take over from the seller. To do a 10 percent to 20 percent down deal, you'll generally have to persuade the seller to take back a second mortgage. For various reasons, sellers rarely demand market interest rates on the loans they take back. Even today, you can probably get 10 percent interest only, or terms in the neighborhood, from the seller.

He will, however, probably want a short term, such as two or three years, on the second. Hold out for five or more. And try to negotiate a clause which says you only have to pay off the loan at that time if refinancing funds are available.

As today's tight money situation demonstrates, obligating yourself to a balloon payment could lead to disaster if you don't give yourself enough time to accumulate the payment or don't have dependable refinancing.

There are other tactics that you can use successfully in today's market. For example:

Acquire an option

Instead of buying a property, get a lease-option or an option to buy a property for a particular price. When you own such an option, you are entitled to all the appreciation above the option price. That was probably your central reason for buying anyway. And you get the benefits of appreciation without much risk and without management problems.

In view of the current mortgage market, many more sellers than before are receptive to options. They give the seller a sense that he has made progress toward selling the property.

Pay cash

You might consider paying all cash the way pension funds usually do. If you raised the cash through a limited partnership, you could leverage your own position but not those of the limited partners.

And you could refinance the property when today's paralysis wears off and lenders go back to lending. If you pay cash, especially in this market, you should be able to get a very favorable price. In times like these, cash buyers are golden.

Combine first, second, right price

Where there is an existing first loan and the seller needs cash, you might try taking over the first and getting a commercial second mortgage. The commercial second may be at 20 percent or more interest, but when combined with the first, the overall payments may be tolerable. With such terms, you can demand a low price from the seller.

If you combine a low rate existing first, a high rate commercial [illegible] price you can [illegible] investment.

Use connections

Real estate brokers who have strong connections with lending institutions can be worth their weight in gold at times like these. Although they can rarely get a below market interest rate, they can get loans which are prohibited by current loan policy — an exception to the prohibition against loans on a non-owner-occupied property, for example.

Look to your employer

Your employer might help, particularly in transfer situations. Better yet, work for a mortgage lender. Lenders often give their employees favorable mortgages. With rates jumping as they have recently, such perks are of great value.

Policies vary widely, so check before you sign on. But it might be worthwhile for you or your spouse to get "on the inside" in today's market.

A favorable loan can be equal to about a $5,000 or $10,000 raise — enough to make a lot of people change jobs. Keep an eye out for special programs. The California National Guard, for example, is offering low interest mortgages to new recruits.

Take out a consumer

Overcoming high rate psychology

High interest rates have caused some paralysis in the real estate community. But remember that part of the problem is purely psychological and should not deter you from making sensible real estate deals.

As long as you can make the payments and earn more than you're paying, borrowing under such conditions is sound.

Glossary of real estate terms

The majority of the following definitions and explanations of real estate terms have been made available by the Mortgage Bankers Association of America, through their publication **Mortgage Banking Terms-A Working Glossary** and are printed here with the permission of the MBA.

1) **Abstract of Title:** A written history of the title transactions or conditions bearing on the title to a designated parcel of land. It covers the period from the original source of title to the present, and summarizes all subsequent instruments of public record by setting forth their material parts.

2) **Acceleration Clause:** A common provision of a mortgage and note providing that the entire principal shall become immediately due and payable in the event of default. Without this clause, the mortgage may have to file separate foreclosure suits as each installment of the mortgage debt falls due and is in default.

3) **Accrued Interest:** The interest earned for the period of time that has elapsed since interest was last paid.

4) **Acknowledgement:** A formal declaration, attached to or a part of an instrument, made before a duly authorized officer (usually a notary public) by the person who has executed the instrument, the execution being a free act and deed. (See affidavit.)

5) **Add On Interest:** The full amount of interest calculated on the original principal for the term of a loan. It is added to the principal thereby becoming a part of the face amount of the promissory note.

6) **Advance:** In real estate, a partial disbursement of funds under a note. Most often used in connection with construction lending.

7) **Adverse Possession:** The right by which someone occupying a piece of land might acquire title against the real owner, if the occupant's possession has been actual, continuous, hostile, visible, and distinct for a statutory period.

8) **Affidavit:** A sworn statement in writing before a proper official, usually a notary.

Kaplan strikes again

One of the reasons why more black voters did not turn out to vote this week has its roots in the rent control issue.

The pro-rent control voters won at the polls last time out.

Judge Joseph Kaplan, ruling later, overturned what had been won at the polls on some points of law we are not convinced are landmarks of jurisprudence by any stretch of the imagination.

What thousands of voters wanted, Judge Kaplan was able to deny. Thus what the city's monied interests wanted was rendered to them after all and the people probably concluded what the hell sense does it make to fellow traditional American political routes when you get wiped out anyway.

Kaplan's decision raised cynicism among the poor and minorities about elective politics to new heights and lowered disillusionment to new depths.

Now Kaplan has dissolved an injunction he originally granted to a minority-owned contracting firm which sought a halt to construction of the $425 million Fort McHenry tunnel until a clearer and more equitable percentage of construction work be given minority firms.

In the tunnel affair, Kaplan has found no violation of federal guidelines regarding minority contractors, which given Baltimore city's tract record one equity is absolutely astonishing on its face.

We have all kinds of problems with the way Judge Kaplan looks at some things.

The sooner more judicial candidates from our community ascend to the bench, by election or appointment, the sooner Joe Kaplan's view of justice will be counter-balanced and offset.

If any jurist more skillfully uses the law to dampen our expectations than does Joe Kaplan we prefer not to know just who that could be.

Do not discount the rent control decision as a factor in this lackluster primary.

As a postscript: we kind of have the idea Judge Kaplan thinks his decisions in some areas are not only technically correct, even legally brilliant, but laced with humanism as well, which if true is all the more saddening.

LETTERS

Report on Orchard Street Church

Dear AFRO:

During the years that the Committee for the Preservation of Orchard Street Church has been in existence, there have been several fund raising activities chaired by various members of the committee and friends. Each of these members was responsible for making a report to the committee, and turning the proceeds over to the treasurer of the committee.

The treasurers were responsible for all of the funds in the name of the corporation and deposited all such funds in a bank designated by the board of directors.

The Restoration Committee, which was a subcommittee of the Committee for the Preservation of Orchard Street Church, had its own chairman and treasurer and held its own fund rasing activities.

They made a full report to the committee at a regular meeting at Urban Services and turned their records over to Elva J. Edwards, associate director, Urban Services Agency.

We had some very find fund raising affairs chaired or directed by leading members of our community. Some of those who helped us in our efforts were, Mrs. Mary B. Adams, Mrs. Elva J. Edwards, Mrs. Marguerite Campbell, Norman Ross, Mrs. Cornelia Lake Smith, Mrs. Mary Carter Smith, Mrs. Bernice Tackack, Miss Elizabeth M. Oliver, Mrs. Viola C. Jackson, Mrs. Mildred Kington, Mrs. Willa Bland, Mrs. Chessie Brailey, and the choir of Emmanuel C. C. Church.

The treasurers have been William Perkins, Norman Ross, Norman Brailey, Mrs. Madlyn Ray, and William Parrish.

The historical Orchard Street Church is a landmark for black citizens everywhere. On this site, the first building was erected in 1837 by slaves and free blacks. This monument to the history of our people was sold to the city by the Methodist Church and scheduled for demolition by the city so that a developer could include the church in the area for demolition.

I first found out about the church when I attended a program and dinner there, before the congregation moved to its new location on Garrison Boulvard. A fellow texan, the Rev. Roscoe Williams, then pastor of Orchard Street Church had invited me.

It was during this dinner that some of the parishioners told me of the history and significance of the church, when they discovered that I was the daughter-in-law of the late Bishop W. A. C. Hughes of the United Methodist Church.

It was I who alerted William Perkins of the Oxford STREET Improvement Association to the significance of the church building and of its age and past. Then, Mr. Perkins and I alerted members of the black community.

It was I, and Mr. Perkins who sat in the office of Robert Embry, commissioner of Housing and Development and worried him several times a week for well over a year before he relented and gave us consideration.

With all of the mass effort on behalf of white Baltimoreans, and white Americans to preserve and protect their history from the earliest of times, and with the vigorous effort of some of those same citizens to destroy, whitewash, or completely eliminate black history, it was my desire and determination to save that church.

It's criminal that the city has not given much support for our efforts to preserve this bit of black history. It has been a long, hard - fought battle to preserve this church.

Though I have resigned as chairman of the committee, I shall always put forth every effort and work with the committee to save the church. I t will be up to everyone who in interested in preserving their heritage, to assist those who have worked so hard through the years to win this one. The record shows that the legislature has extended the time for the $200,000 until 1982.

MRS. W. A. C. HUGHES, JR.

The Douglass High School reunion

Organizers of the mammoth Frederick Douglas High School reunion to be held this Saturday report some 1200 old and young grads and former students from all parts of the nation are expected.

This is particularly heartening.

That many of Douglass progeny will be cited for special awards (just who is secret until Saturday) is also splendid.

The impact of Douglass High School on this city, as with Dunbar and Carver High, is not estimable.

Any institution which produced Thurgood Marshall, Elton Fax, Avon Long, Cab Callaway, Goldie Green, Sonny Til has more than done its job.

Douglass continues to turn out outstanding citizens successful in all walks of life.

This newspaper certainly has been sustained by the contributions of a legion of Douglass graduates.

Ralph Matthews Jr., the Baltimore AFRO editor, is a Douglassite. Entertainment editor Ida Murphy Peters is an alumna. AFRO members Oakley Saunders, Arnetta Lottier, Elizabeth Murphy Moss also graced Douglass' halls as did such veteran staffers as Beatrice Young Wilson, Berine Haney Bundara, Robert Rea Sr.

Other Douglas grads who keep the AFRO running are Gertrude Steele, George Lottier, Odessa Dyson, Laura Phillips, Alice King, Frederick Howard, Bertha Jordan, Mac Dyson and the list goes on.

The point is the Douglass spirit and heritage spreads into every aspect of our community and is a common soil which has nourished succeeding generations of black Baltimoreans from 1897 onward.

Saturday the Douglass past, present and future will fill the Convention Center in living testimony to the value of an outstanding center of learning.

See you there!

—MORE LETTERS—

Morgan president commends AFRO

Dear AFRO:

This letter is written to commend the Baltimore AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers for the recent editorial series concerning the Legislative Black Caucus.

Your perceptive call for unity, despite difference, was correct in all its facets. The political process is a protracted one, not always yielding immediate benefits, which often can lead to a sense of frustration and despair.

However, we have seen some positive results from the election of blacks to public office and from black participation in the electoral process. Some positive results, but not enough!

We seem to get the best results when a high degree of unity is exhibited, together with effective coalitions with others.

The Legislative Black Caucus has been an effective and positive force in the Maryland General Assembly. It can be even more effective if it receives the kind of support and encouragement from the Baltimore community that your editorials suggest.

Congratulations for a job well done!

ANDREW BILLINGSLEY
president,
Morgan State University