Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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'Snowball' murder trial

Roman Welzant, an elderly retiree, has been found not guilty on all counts, in the celebrated 'Snowball' murder trial.

Welzant, the jury found, had been living in terror of teen-age youths in his neighborhood and shot one fatally after a dispute over snowballs being hurled at his Dundalk home.

While the Welzant case is at some distance from our community at the same time it strikes quite close to incidents in our neighborhoods.

What is to be learned from this tragedy is that juvenile hooliganism is no respecter of race, class or faith.

In testimony developed during the trial Welzant had been hounded by boys in his neighborhood for a decade.

In black communities, many of our elderly are afraid to open their doors or walk the streets for fear of robberies. The aging are always prone to the criminality of young punks.

In our community, because black on black crime is allowed to run rampant and often unreported, the fears of our senior citizens have not received the national attention the Welzant trial created.

Then again no elderly citizen in our community, to our recent knowledge, has shot his youthful harassers.

A fatality does make a difference as does the fact that all involved in this violence were white.

In short, his tormentors grew up with the idea that they could hassle older people with impunity.

The youth he killed, still in his teens, according to the medical examiner, was overloaded with beer as the dispute with the older man reached its tragic finale.

Here we have boys not yet men allowed to harass the elderly...to drink excessively and to destroy property in a relatively quiet community.

We sympathize with the slain youth's parents but, given this set of facts, we are hard put to understand the boy's parents who after the trial screamed out that the deceased "blood is on your hands" meaning Welzant's.

We understand remorse, ensuing bitterness at loss of a loved one but this young man's death cannot be entirely be blamed on an old man, tired, in terror and with no one to turn to, including the police, who did not effectively intervene.

When tragedy such as this strikes, responsibility must be shared, parents, the community, law enforcement agents as well as frightened old men.

Judge Cole understands

We could save a lot of time herewith by repeating our remarks about the wrongness of Supreme Bench Judge Joseph Kaplan's decision overturning the voters' rent control victory after the last election.

Now, the State Court of Appeals has upheld Judge Kaplan's findings against the majority of people who thought rent control an essential protection for tenants against landlords and so voted.

What we said about Kaplan's finding we say about the Court of Appeals decision: technically correct from a legalistic sense but humanistically a mile off the mark.

Our praise, however, goes to Appeals Judge Harry A. Cole, who dissented from his colleagues' decision and gave solid legal reasons for doing so.

As a veteran human rights advocate, as a product of central Baltimore, Judge Cole not only understands what is legally possible regarding an issue like rent control, but he knows full well why people voted for rent control.

He knows all the neighborhoods where the pro-rent control voters live, he knows the conditions under which too many of them must live, he knows all the pros and cons of tenant - landlord relationships.

Judge Cole dissented.

We praise his wisdom and courage and pray that the day soon comes when more jurists with his knowledge of both the law and the human condition join him on the bench.

Housing rehab - bad joke?

We had a rainstorm here Tuesday.

Not exactly a Hurricane David, but fairly rough.

We do not feel it was rough enough to have blown the roofs off houses in the 500 block of West Mosher Street.

But that is what happened.

Ms. LaVern Foster and her two children were the hardest of all these families so stricken. It was just good fortune that they were not close when the roof vanished and all above their home was suddenly open sky.

The properties affected had been rehabilitated by the city then sold to low and middle income families in the central city.

Obviously, this was a lousy job of rehabilitation. An older, not remodeled structures close by, weathered the storm without damage, no other conclusion can be reached.

Worse, Ms. Foster and other West Mosher Street families have no appeal from their disaster.

The city government is telling these families it is not liable for any defects.

Insurance companies have withdrawn coverage. It will cost Ms. Foster, a working parent, thousands of dollars to replace this roof. Furniture has been irreparable damaged.

In short, one hell of a mess.

The city may be legally sound in disclaiming responsibility.

We strongly feel that with a housing rehabilitation crusade so widely proclaimed by the Mayor and the Department of Housing and Community Development that it is a serious blow to the "rehab" movement's credibility when things like Mosher Street happen.

We would think the Schaefer administration would be moving with all speed to help the Mosher Street families rebuild what was shoddily built first time around.

Anything less than a strong and compassionate response would just accelerate accumulating cynicism about the city's programs to remediate housing problems among the black and the poor.

Time is running out

MADELINE MURPHY

There is something about the white American psyche that cannot abide the thought of a handsome black man in the company of a white woman, without the libido rising, the suspicions soaring, the fantasies revived.

Such is the case in the near fatal shooting in Fort Wayne, Ind., of Vernon Jordan, Urban League executive, whose hostess, Martha Coleman, of the evening coffee hour, after his speaking engagement, brought him back to his motel.

"So what else could they have been doing?" they wonder aloud.

Some blacks, I'm sure, asked the same question too!

What with People magazine mentality, the trendy gossip swirls all around. We, who treasure freedom of information, also debase the innocence of that dogma and translate it to mean freedom of defamation.

But also swirling in a maelstrom beneath this idle destructive prattle is the ever present danger of the Ku Klux Klan phenomenon, arising all over this country and deposited quite heavily in Indiana.

For it is reported that the membership of the KKK there is far and above that of any other state in the union.

So we become haunted by other more sinister, yet realistic, questions: Will there be other attempted assassinations of our leaders? Is this a warning to the more inflammatory black leaders that "we almost got a moderate n——, but look out, you might be next if you don't shut up"?

Blacks in this country are in a more precarious situation than ever before and the Miami, Fla riot has not made our lot much easier.

Violence between blacks, violence between police and blacks, violence from white groups against blacks are on the increase.

All, out of racism, hate, jealousy, competition and facism.

Certainly with the United States' history of rapaciousness for land, oil and power in the hands of a few; against different forms of government — witness Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, the Soviet Union; pitting one oppressed group against another—the mounting antagonism between blacks and the boat peoples, of Cuban easy entry and Haitian easy exit; U.S. history reinforces its natural blood lust, its faith in divide and conquer.

And yet a third wonder emerges.

Could there be a conspiracy involving the CIA to forment this kind of violence of Indiana to the extent that we won't have the nerve to complain about jobs, food, housing, health; nor critize too much the "second coming" of Jimmy Carter? Certainly we cannot forget the Houston plan under Richard Nixon—Chile, Iran, Afghanistan all on the CIA hit lists.

As the hysteria mounts over a second presidential term it is no less expedient that here too the ends must justify the means.

Also as one looks at the scenario of primary elections, of double talk, of oblivious endless braggaducia about "how good things have been under President Jimmy Carter", there is an eerie feeling of lip movements being out of synch with sound, like a foreing film dubbed in English, matching lip movements whether the dialogue makes sense or not!

Unreal? Or, 1984?

And to some it seems easier to switch channels, stop reading the news, avoid analysis. ("Somebody must be crazy! Is it me?")

But we, who were the forerunners to non-violent protest, to sit-ins, demonstrations, had better prepare a new, more sophisticated agenda.

It is not enough for us to shout to the latter day protestors from right-to-liters to gay liberators: "Get in line, we were first!"

We had better learn that the "Me" generation has no place in our program. Rather it is an informed "We" generation banded solidly together, that will count, that will protect our leaders - that will ultimately insure our survival.

It is then that we must decide whether the carrots on the sticks have been put on enticingly, especially where they have become so few that we are willing to jostle, shove and stomp our brothers aside so that we self-appointed leaders can keep chasing after them.

Time will tell.

However with the recent acquittal of an old man who killed a teenager for pelting his house with snow balls, we are warned that we have re-entered the age of the vigilante and that time is swiftly running out.

LETTERS

Double standards of justice unmorkable

Dear AFRO:

The riot in Miami resulted in the deaths of more than 18, and wounded hundreds of people with damages of more than $100 million or close to $1 billion.

This violent outbreak stemmed from our double standards of justice for blacks and whites. The judicial system has always discriminated against blacks and the poor and have — riots in the American judicial system.

The brutal beating inflicted on Arthur McDuffie which took place in December 1979 was the beginning and the end and finally led to the outbreak of racial riot in Miami.

(Action) taken by the four white policemen in subduing Arthur McDuffie was far beyond the ordinary way to handle a normal human being.

The coroner in Miami reported that after having performed autopsies 3,600 cases that Mr. McDuffie's case was the worse he had ever seen in his life. Mr. McDuffie's skull was cracked like an egg. The coroner indicated that tremendous brutal force had been used to have caused such frightful and inhumane destruction of a decent human being.

The four white policemen who were exonerated by an all - white jury after three hours deliberation was the final straw that broke the camel's back.

The black people in Miami have suffered long and bitter frustrations against law enforcement. Over the years the judicial system has continually exonerated white policemen charged with brutality against blacks as though our brothers and sisters were animals to be destroyed, because of the color of their skin.

Assessing the out come of the riot in Miami bears out that justifiable causes will always surface.

In seeking recognition of blacks' plight in Miami ended with the worst riot in the new decade of the '80s in this nation.

Whether we disagree about such horrible action we must examine the real causes which led to a volcano of human frustrations. Mount St. Helens in the state of Washington erupted because of the tremendous heat within the earth.

Imagine the long ordeal, frustrations, disappointments and continued brutality by white policemen and disadvantage of social and economical realities which robbed our brothers and sisters.

The faith and hope in believing in a system that never recognizes our brothers and sisters as human beings and carry on business as usual.

The rude awakening has surfaced and our brothers and sisters are crying out for human justice and recognition. The judicial system has completely ignored them as though our people did not exist in Miami. The crying for equal justice came through loud and clear through rioting between the haves and the have - nots. "vengeance is mind says the Lord."

This nation is sitting on an explosive keg of human explosives that one more unjust act could pull the peg from the keg and turn the situation into human explosive violence. Once again there is division in this nation between blacks and whites.

Marvin Dunn, black sociologist in Miami, stated in an interview with Dan Rather on CBS, that as long as our judicial and social, and economic system implements double standards for blacks and whites, that the end result will produce social unrest among the masses.

The '80s will (show whether) this nation will survive with equal justice for all, or face the most serious consequence to be wiped from the face of the earth by our own destruction against our brothers and sisters, because of the color of their skin.

OLIVER F. HOLMES

'Shocked, dismayed' over Vernon Jordan shooting

Dear AFRO:

We are shocked and dismayed at the violence directed against Vernon Jordan, one of America's truly thoughtful and sensitive leaders. At the Baltimore Chapter, American Jewish Committee, we join with our friends in the Urban League to pray for his speedy recovery.

This senseless act is another sign in our world society of the pervading violence which must be opposed by every available lawful means.

ALLEN L. SCHWATT,
chairman
Baltimore Chapter
American Jewish Committee

County needs human relations commission

Dear AFRO:

We at Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc. deplore the incident reported in the AFRO of white youths harassing black families in East Towson.

This and other incidents, such as the cross burning in Catonsville, are evidence that, unfortunately, racism is still much a part of American life.

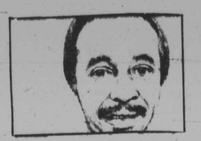
These incidents also emphasize the need for Baltimore County to have a strong and actively involved human relations commission staffed by a properly trained, professional, full time human relations staff.

Baltimore County might well be the largest jurisdiction (area and population) in the country without a properly designed, empowered and staffed human relations commission.

We intend to communicate with leaders in the East Towson community and with the Baltimore County government to express our concern and to offer whatever help we can.

GEORGE B. LAURENT,
executive director,
Baltimore Neighborhood Inc.

PARREN MITCHELL



What I am telling graduates

This is the graduation season. I have been honored to speak to graduation classes from nursery schools to universities, literally. I would like to share with you the message I am delivering to the students, families and friends of the Class of '80.

First, "Freedom is never free" is not a trite expression and you would be very foolish to assume that racism has ended in America. Racism is just below the surface of all the good interpersonal relationships, just below the surface of all the advances that we've made.

Racism is there...like a grinning, smug animal and when the time is right for it to surface, it surfaces, and it is surfacing now in America. It began some time ago, when somebody articulated the concept of "benign neglect."

Saying "We have done enough for black people. Let them stand on their own." "Benign neglect" has lead to the Detuine case, the Bakke case, the Weber case, and the Fullilove case.

Because of America's own uncertainties — the value of the dollar in international markets, the balance of trade deficit, a recession, the energy crisis — because of the uncertainty, I think racism has been heightened because inevitably, if you study history, where a nation becomes uncertain about its own well being, it scapegoats (are) in terms of its minorities.

Second, don't worry so much about the Ku Klux Klansmen in their robes. Worry about the Klansmen in the three-piece suits, those who profess brotherhood and understanding and the desire for improved race relations and yet seize every opportunity to deny the advancement of blacks.

You don't need to go into the federal agencies to look at their composition. You know it! It does not matter whether it's the Department of Interior or Department of Agriculture.

Black people are concentrated in the lowest levels in every federal agency, and the opportunities to move up are decreasing...not increasing. Because of reverse discrimination, the anti-affirmative action mentality dominates in the Congress and in far too many of our governmental agencies.

Third, strive for the insist on excellence in everything you do. This is particularly important with respect to mastering the basic skills of reading, writing and mathmatics.

For example, it does no good to hear a conversation in which one of the parties states, "The proclivity on the part of non-white races, low on the philogenetic scale, to gravitate toward the nadir in terms of accomplishments, as opposed to gravitating toward the zenith, can be eternally anticipated," and not know that it can mean "black people will always be dumb."

Fourth, the finest and most magnificant contribution of black people to this nation, I think, is not the arts...not the sciences...not the entertainments...not the skills...but that our history reflects the indomitability of the human spirit.

Put us in a slave field and we will find our own sense of liberation. Attach us on a freedom ride...turn your hoses and dogs loose...**You can't kill a spirit!**

The children of Soweto, in the racist regime in South African produced that indomitable spirit that says:

"We will be whole human beings, not chattel.

Not things. We will be liberated humans."

There was an army. And the army was made up of men and women and children. The army carried its food with it. It carried its medical supplies with it. It carried everything with it.

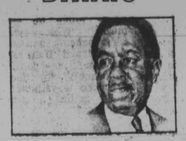
The army had a slogan and the slogan was — A lute continua — the struggle continues. And indeed it did and Luis Cabral and others finally saw a free Angola emerge.

The indominability of the human spirit. That's our greatest contribution, I think to this country.

The Class of '80 must continue to demonstrate the indomitability of the human spirit ...no matter what the circumstances.

A NEW DAY BEGUN

Samuel BANKS



On Saturday, May 17, the day of the anniversary of the momentous and landmark Brown decision of 1954, more than 4,500 marchers, predominantly black, descended on our nation's capital exhorting and beseeching President Jimmy Carter and the Congress to execute fiscal and monetary policies that will provide desperately needed jobs for blacks and the poor across the nation.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, Mayors Marion Barry and Richard Hatcher, and Delegate Walter Fauntroy, among others, spoke eloquently, passionately and trenchantly on the disastrous levels of unemployment which exist among black youths throughout the United States.

Moreover, in highly reasoned and thoughtful position papers, they urged President Carter and the nation's entrepreneurial leaders to develop policies and utilize technologies to effect full productivity in the economy.

As I listened to the lofty and heartfelt oratory, I was reminded that official Washington was, conveniently, on holiday. The overall absence of highly placed Carter functionaries, members of Congress and pivotal members of the house of labor bespoke a painful disinclination and refusal, at this critical point in time, to assign a high priority to embittered, troubled and frustrated black and Hispanic adults and youths who comprise the preponderant number of the unemployed in our nation.

No high level meetings at the White House, as was done, fittingly and mercifully, for more than 65,000 Cubans in south Florida who are fleeting the oppression of Fidel Castro's Cuba, and later, after much protesting by black leaders, for destitute Haitians fleeing the poverty and autocracy of Claude Duvalier's Haiti, have been held for America's native sons and daughters who are poor and jobless.

The Depression levels of unemployment in such urban centers as New York, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Norfolk, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, Nashville and Los Angeles provide palpable and crushing evidence that the mood of retreat, and resistance and recalcitrance, to socio-economic rights is firmly in place in the national body politic.

The sad and saturnine fact is, as of now, political and corporate America has turned its back on the deplorable plight of black and Hispanic Americans.

Mayor Hatcher's remarks reflected a centrality of the March for Jobs, Peace and Justice: "We are poorer, sicker, hungerer than we were 10 years ago. It is a nightmare now. Not a dream."

A drive through Broadway, Baltimore Street and Pennsylvania Avenue and other areas of Baltimore, as is reflective of other urban centers, reveals the grim and depressing scenes of youthful blacks and adults with their hang-dog countenances, behind the bravado and flashing rhetoric, consigned to a human scrapheap.

It is a monumental tragedy that most of them, given the current fiscal and monetary policies will not have the experience of steady gainful, and satisfying employment in their lifetime.

We have as a nation, once capability, power and resources necessary to provide substantial job opportunities for the jobless.

Two critical factors are required:

1. A national determination to achieve and maintain full productivity or economic growth. To this end, our economic creativity, know-how and research and development should be mobilized to make our economic system fully competitive in the world community.

New and fresh technologies will enable us to put the unemployed to work and permit us to achieve parity with Japan and Germany. Additionally, to close the balance of payment deficits in international trade.

2. A national insistence that the U.S. Employment Act of 1946 be enforced and the Humphrey-Hawkins Act be funded and utilized vigorously to generate jobs. Full employment, not interpreted at 5 or 7 percent levels, must become a national priority.

The March on Washington for Jobs, Peace and Justice, although not overwhelming in numbers, nonetheless is a powerful reminder to the national conscience that there are enormous socio-economic needs in America's "Other America."

The March constituted a clear and incessant national challenge that will not go away until socio-economic sufficiency and social justice are realities in the United States.

As I drove from the South Mall, in the rear of the White House, I could still hear, in the distance, the spirited and determined voices of the youthful protesters: "We want jobs now. We want jobs now."

The words, too, of Langston Hughes came to mind:

"What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore —
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over —
Like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
Like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?"

Our nation must make some fateful and necessary decisions now on the jobless and dispossessed who will not go away.

Washington jobs march —an elusive hope

—MORE LETTERS—

Defend Republican policies but...

Dear AFRO:

The recent article by Angela D. Wright on the tribulations of being a black Republican was amusing to say the least.

If Ms. Wright wishes to defend the national policies of the Republican Party she is welcome to that odious task but she should not be surprised at the antagonistic positions that many black people take.

Her party is the one that brought us such shining examples of compassion and honesty in government as Spiro Agnew and Richard Nixon, the man who tried to dismantle the Anti - Poverty Program. Her party is the one that elected Nixon, who had a secret plan to end the war in Viet Nam which took from November 1968 to April 1975 to come to fruition.

Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation under pressure because he never intended to interfere with slavery. His decree only freed slaves under Confederate jurisdiction not those in Maryland, Delaware, Missouri and Kentucky.

Lincoln was no great liberator. He was a politician who only helped black people when it was the only way to help the Union. Lincoln ordered that runaway slaves be sent back to their masters at the beginning of the Civil War.

He countermanded the orders of a Union general named Hunter who issued his own "Emancipation Proclamation."

Ms. Wright claims that Andrew Johnson submitted the 13th Amendment which guaranteed the right to vote. Johnson was out of office when it became law and he was bitterly opposed to granting any rights to black people. He was a slaveholder himself.

I believe that neither party has the interests of black people higher than last on their lists but if a black woman wants to wave the banner of the Republican Party then she should not distort history nor delude herself about the severity and justness of black people's criticisms of her.

ADIMU KHARY

Concern over proficiency tests

Dear AFRO:

Teachers from many schools and parents in Baltimore City are concerned about the way in which the Writing Proficiency Test has been implemented and administered throughout the school system.

We believe very strongly that the entire program is an injustice to the students, particulary on the senior high level. In some cases, seniors will not be graduated because they have failed a test for which we feel there has been inadequate preparation over the 12 years they have been in school.

We feel the tests were implemented to cover up the inadequacies of our present program.

English teachers, in particular, have been documenting their concerns and plowing through bureaucratic vrocedures for making these concerns known to the proper administrators. Of all our concerns, grading the tests ranked last.

However, despite the allegations we have made concerning the program, we have been largely ignored. Administrators have taken a defensive position on the testing program and curricula and have chosen to deal with the easiest and least important problem to solve: i. e. scoring the tests.

School offial have chosen to use the issue of scoring tests to divert teachers and the public from the more serious defects of the program.

We, parents and teachers, are preparing to go before the Board of School Commissioners in the next month to expose the deficiencies we have found in the program and cocument in injustices being perpetrated on our children.

We urge concerned parents and citizens to attend this meeting of the board if they ever expect to know the truth about what is really happening in the school system.

The teachers want the public to know that our first and primary concern is the education of our children and our students - not whether we have to grade the tests!

JOYCE A. KRAMER,
teacher of English,
Patterson High School

Track, field club needs support

Dear AFRO:

The Ed Waters Track and Field Alliance Club, EWTFAC, needs your support.

The Ed Waters Track and Field Alliance Club is a non-profit organization whose goal is to train and develop great track and field athletes. However, the organization must have funds to achieve that goal.

Therefore, each year the committee helps out by planning and implementing various fund raising activities which help to buy and-or pay for uniforms, entry fees, transportation and other operational expenses.

Unfortunately, giving discos, dinners, raffles, bake sales and other fund raisers do not adequately support the organization.

The EWTFAC would deeply appreciate a minimum donation of $25 to aid the organization achieve complete operational efficiency.

Make your check or money order payable to the Ed Waters Track and Field Alliance Club and mail to Ms. Zaneta Barham, 2201 Baker St., Baltimore, Md. 21216, phone number 728-1207. All contributions are tax deductible.

SYVLIA S. HILL,
chairperson,
fund raising committee

Thanks for Douglass reunion coverage

Dear AFRO:

The Frederick Douglss High School Steering Committee, and its friends, extends a sincere "Thanks" to the entire AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper staff, especially City Desk, for your cooperation with the Douglass High Reunion. You helped make May 17 a night to remember, always.

We also wish to thank all of Douglass' graduates who lent their hands and hearts to make the reunion and special scholarship drive a success.

Twilah M. Scarborough,
Douglass Alumni Committee

FOR ALL WE KNOW

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for these very special events:

DEL. FRANK CONAWAY'S Friends have set the Top Drawer Event for the Regency Terrace Sunday June 15 at 6 p.m. and for only $25 each you'll enjoy the best in bar, buffet and entertainment soo get tickets by calling 367-1500 or mail to Chairmen Margerie Banks, Al Laws, Carroll A. Smith and G. Leo Hunt, 3738 W. Belvedere Ave., Balto., 21215.

The $100 per affair at Glenarden Municipal Hall, 8600 Glenarden Pkwy., Glenarden, Md. at 8 p.m. is on the occasion of the birthday party friends are giving for Senator Tommie Broadwater. Needless to say the tickets are GOLD and you can get one as a souvenir upon payment to Norma Lindsay, chairman, 5611 Landover Rd., Hyattsville, Md. 20785.

YOU AIN'T seen nothing yet, is the comment folks are saying about both the above affairs for the two popular members of the Maryland General Assembly.

SATURDAY June 7 here in Baltimore is the date Provident Hospital kicks off the first telephone public health information service. It's called "Tel Med" and the first call is at Provident Hospital where there are 300 tapes available.

BEFORE THE CEREMONY led by Mayor Schaefer is the 9:45 a.m. press conference which will reveal all about this great service.

ETHNIC FESTIVALS continue with the Lithuanian's June 7-8; Good and French-Norse-Scot June 14-15 and Polish June 21-22, all downtown from Charles Plaza over to the Inner Harbor.

ALL THIS WEEK the most interesting festivals were going on at the Rosemont Elementary School. Fantastic is the word as Rosemont in the estimation of many, rose to the No. 1 elementary school in town.

WE CAN SAFELY SAY never before has such a community involvement program happened. The events which embraced all phases of the area included the elderly and neighboring schools and the near 800 youngsters of School No. 63 where Dorothy Bennett is principal.

More on those events next week. The final day is to say Friday with all the kids taking part in International Events, an extravaganza.

FRED BAILEY informs that the Johnson-Hughes Reunion is set for Aug. 17 in Laurel, Md., an all day event which will highlight the reunion season we know.

MEANTIME, if you are a member and are truly interested in taking part in the many events, call or write Jean Manns, 5330 Liberty Hgts., Ave., 21207, phone - 466-8417, AND, there is scheduled a Bus Trip to a casino in the middle of June. All family members must respond quickly.

CRUISE with Friends of Pete Rawlings on the Port Welcome June 15 from 6 p.m. until midnite. Tickets are $15 each for the sail, buffet and bar may be had by writing to the Friends, 4225 Bonnier Rd., Bal. 21218.

THE BALTIMORE COUNTY Chapter of the Pinochle Bugs had the Card Party at the Park Halls Center and awarded fine prizes. Guests were members of the Washington and Baltimore Chapters.

Hostesses were June Chapman, Dorothy Short, Helen McDonald, Frances Jollye, Ruth Giles, Fay Bridgeforth, Carole Johnson, Murray and Mae Medders, the co-chairladies.

ANOTHER PLUSH event was the elegant luncheon at the Broadview given by the Northwest Branch Women's Civic League. Hostesses were Mary Booze, Louise Gant, Lillian Graves, Elizabeth Parker, Ruth Tussell and Margaret Yates.

DR. DAVID SHANNON, the new Virginia Union University president will be here in person to address the VUU Alumni Miles Conner Chapter banquet June 12 at Fountain Baptist Church.

THE TOP DRAWER occasion will be just like all the other VUU group's affairs, simply fabulous, and headed by President Fullwood will honor the president of the college and all the Baltimore youngsters who are entering in the fall.

MY DAUGHTER MARSHA arrives today from the Pacific to represent the governor of Hawaii at the White House awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to our Clarence Mitchell Jr. and others.

THE BUFFET at the Belvedere at noon today is for the town's folks to meet John Davidson "It's Incredible" and chat and shake his hand.

LAWYER Dwight Pettit and wife Barbara really rolled out the Red Carpet in their lovely garden last weekend for his 25th retirement party. And, is that family really gracious that imagine entertaining nearly 200 guests for endless hours. Their children were also ideal hosts. The senior Mr. Pettit and his wife are equally nice to meet.

Mr. Pettit (George David who is a Human Factors Engineer was at Aberdeen Proving Ground 30 years and his son won for him a bias case in which the government was ordered to pay him $75,000 back pay in 1974.

THE CELEBRATED Pettit Family is from Greensboro, N.C. and the mother and father, both in their 90's had 10 sons and one daughter all living except one and all quite successful.

1979 tax return may save $ next year

You have filled your 1979 income tax return and the last thing you feel like doing is thinking about your 1980 return. But if you want to lower this year's tax bill, now is the time to start planning for it.

That is the advice from the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants who offer some tax dollar savings hints to taxpayers.

The first step according to the CPAs is to keep accurate records on how much you earn and how much you spend because a good deal of your spending has tax ramifications. Bills, receipts, appraisals and cancelled checks should be kept in a simple, handy and orderly system.

Set up a record book with current totals broken down into the same categories you find on your federal income tax return. If you stay organized throughout the year, it will not be such a chore to prepare your 1980 federal tax return and you may lower your tax bill.

Get an extra Form 1040 now and fill it out with your 1980 anticipated income, deductions, exemptions and credits. Tax rates for 1980 will probably be unchanged so figure out what your tax bill is likely to be.

To reduce your taxes you can lump every available deduction into this year, or you can deter as much of your income as possible until future years — or you can do both this year. That might make next year's tax bill correspondingly higher, but you will have had the use of the money in the meantime.

For instance, if you lump deductions into alternate years, you might be able to get, say, $4,000 of deductions in odd years and $2,000 in even years. This way, you itemize deductions in the odd years and deduct the zero bracket amount ($3,400 for a joint return) in even years. Otherwise, you would have $3,000 of deductions in each year and would never get any tax benefit from them.

Think about deductions first. If you will need a car in the future, buy it in the year when that substantial sales tax deduction will do the most good. Or to add to the usual medical deductions, perhaps you can prepay 1981 medical expenses for an elderly patient in a nursing home.

In planning deductible contributions, remember that a $1,000 contribution lowers your tax burden by $500 if you are in the 50 percent marginal tax bracket. If you donate appreciated property, your contribution may cost even less, so ask your tax advisor whether it is better to sell the property and contribute the proceeds to charity or to give the property itself.

The "points" paid on a secured mortgage or home improvement loan are deductible in the year paid, so if you plan to buy a home this year, you may want to pay this amount by separate check — rather than having the bank withhold it from the loan proceeds.

If you pay estimated state income taxes, you may want to pay the final installment in December instead of January so it will be deductible on your 1980 federal income tax return. This can also apply to accelerated payment of accrued property taxes, although you cannot deduct tax payments made to a mortgage company and held in escrow until they are paid to the taxing authority.

There may be deductions to consider in all plans you make during the year, the CPAs say. Can you possibly combine a vacation with a tax deductible business or house-hunting trip. Will you change jobs this year? If deductions will not be substantial this year, consider postponing payment of some bills until next year when the deductions will mean bigger tax savings.

What about credits for child care, energy-saving home improvements and political contributions? Like deductions, credits can be ganged up and remember, credits are subtracted directly from your tax bill while deductions reduce your total income before the tax is figured. Thus, credits mean more money in your pocket.

If your year is likely to be limited in deductions, credits or exemptions, plan to reduce your tax bill by derring some of your income.

The most obvious way, if you qualify, is to invest some of your income in an Individual Retirement Account or a Keogh Plan. Interest on muntax-exempt so you may want to invest money there, depending upon your marginal tax bracket. Ask your tax advisor about gifts, trusts and interest-free loans to family members and see if you can transfer the tax burden to their lower income tax bracket.

It has been estimated that three out of four families pay more federal income tax than necessary so it pays to plan ahead for your tax bill. Always keep your current financial situation in mind. CPAs say, and keep abreast of constantly changing tax regulations so that you'll know how to make decisions and choices that will affect your tax picture —in your favor.

Straight Talk About Aging

Alcohol — the elixir of despair

By Dr. Matthew Tayback,
state director on aging

I wish this column could be prescriptive.

That is, I wish I could offer a prescription that would cure the problem. I am going to discuss.

Unfortunately, I can't do that. Nobody can. Yet.

So I will be descriptive. I will describe the problem and hope that my description makes you so aware of it that you will try to come to terms with it yourself — be you an older person or the mature child of a person afflicted with the problem.

The problem is alcoholism and a big problem it is.

Around half of the elderly people admitted to mental institutions have drinking problems, and alcoholism is the second most common condition suffered by the older people who are admitted to public mental hospitals.

Granted, half of that second group are long-term alcoholics who have gotten old. The other half, however, are individuals who have sought in the bottle an elixir that would numb the anxieties of age.

Although those anxieties are legion, certain generalities can be stated.

Female alcoholics, for instance, tend to be recently widowed. Most often, they are people who have had few activities outside the home. They turn to alcohol to ease the loneliness of days and nights made long and empty by the absence of their husbands. Most drink by themselves, in the seclusion of their own homes.

With men, heavy drinking can come with retirement, when the spectres of "uselessness," loneliness and financial uncertainty become common.

Men, it seems, are much more likely than women to drink with others, specifically with other men in bars, lodges or organizational halls. "For men," one researcher has written, "drinking is belonging."

Interestingly, many older alcoholics will argue that they are drinking less than they did when they were younger. That may be the truth — for it is also the truth that as a person ages, his central nervous system grows progressively more sensitive — more vulnerable — to the effects of drugs (and thus, of course, to alcohol). In a very real way, less alcohol produces more of an effect than it did when the imbiber was young.

In any discussion of alcoholism and the elderly the topic of depression must arise. When it does, it appears as a two-headed monster.

On the one hand, depression can discourage treatment. "So what if I drink too much?" the older alcoholic asks. "I've got nothing to live for anyhow."

Unhappily, many family members — and even some professionals have tended to agree with that point of view.

A more enlightened viewpoint is coming to the fore, however, and it now seems that careful, concerned counseling can dispel that self-defeating "nothing to live for" attitude. Furthermore, the remarkable development of senior citizen activities centers, volunteer programs, housing for the elderly and life care communities (retirement villages) brings about significant enrichment of the living environment for the elderly.

By holding forth incentives such as better health, fewer accidents, more secure lives generally, and improved social contacts, counselors of the near future may be able to break the cycle of alcohol dependence that takes such a significant toll of the nation's elderly.