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 JANUARY 31, 1981

Iran, Vietnam

We share the nation's relief that the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran are home free.

But we resist euphoria because recent history and current conditions among our people demand that we be as clear-headed as possible.

Depending on whose statistics you accept, some 25,000 to 40,000 Americans, black, white, brown, yellow lost their lives in the tragedy called Vietnam. Thousands more are not accounted for and never will be.

Private Robert L. Garwood, currently on trial as a traitor while in Vietnam prisoner of war camp, has testified that he knows American servicemen are still being held by the Vietnamese. He left them behind when he was released.

The U.S. government has quietly let the question of American Missing in Action during the Vietnam conflict die.

For these American families there will never be a final peace, a final truth about their sons.

The 52 American hostages just returned from Iran, save for the Marine embassy guards, were highly-trained, highly-paid Foreign Service Officers, manning a high-risk diplomatic station.

Some, as their captors claimed, were intelligence officers or spies for us, and by all the rules of secret agentry are indeed fortunate.

But wondrously all have been returned after an ordeal of 444 days, intelligence officers, young Marines, career diplomats, all are home.

If their return helps this nation heal some of its recent trauma, fine.

But thoughtful Americans must keep everything in perspective. Those young men and women who experienced the hell of free fire zones in Vietnam, who on orders used napalm against civilians who in turn were exposed to Agent Orange, those hundreds of thousands of Vietnam vets, some maimed, many still confused as to why they fought, who they fought, and what their fighting proved are very much among us.

They are on the unemployment lines, they are suffering the ravages of inflation, the psychic after-effects of Nam. Some learned how to be junkies in Nam, some killers.

There have been no ticker tape parades for them, no special amenities, no thanks for fighting as good Americans in an insane war.

We rejoice for the hostages and their families.

We also mourn the young Americans of all races who never made it back from Nam.

Or came back too messed up to fully participate in our society.

We must keep this recent history in perspective even as we celebrate.

Caucus agenda

There is an interesting profile of Black Legislative Caucus chairman Frank M. Conaway in this edition, "Tough guy" is how the writer perceives him as does something of the delegate's coming to age on Laurens St.

Chairman Conaway indeed is 'feisty' and is a recent conversation with this newspaper asked why we wondered whether he had an agenda for black politicians to follow as this session of the General Assembly begins.

"You got a copy of my memorandum in September. Of course I have an agenda. When are you going to print it?" he asked.

Well, we dug up the chairman's September document, entitled a "proposed agenda for 1980-81" and we are pleased to reprint all 10 of the agenda items Conaway proposed to the caucus.

They are as follows:

Item 1

Minority Contracts: To develop means for assuring greater participation by minorities in State contracts and contracts controlled or influenced by State government; to provide an improved system of monitoring minority performance and participation in contracts already made available to them.

Item 2

Minority Business: To increase means whereby minority business can receive financial aid through the State's exercise of various powers affecting business.

Item 3

Employment in greater numbers of blacks by the General Assembly; particularly the Chief Clerk's office, the Secretary of the Senate's office; general study of hiring and promotional practices in the State Merit System and the Criminal Justice System

Item 4

Review hiring and promotional practices of the Maryland State Police and the Baltimore City Police Departments.

Item 5

Review and investigate, if feasible, hiring practices of State Boards and Commissions as they affect minority and female employment.

Item 6

Review the Affirmative Action program of each State department by interviewing each Secretary, perhaps in public hearing.

Item 7

Appoint oversight committees to suggest new legislation and to monitor existing legislation affecting interest rates, Court consolidation, and the budget process, especially as it relates to Black - State educational institutions.

Item 8

Conduct special studies of the State Retirement System as it affects correctional officers, teachers, sanitation workers, police and firemen.

Item 9

Study and condemn sexual harrassment in State institutions.

Item 10

Establish Annapolis and Baltimore offices for the Caucus to deal with constituent complaints and needs on a year-round basis; to solicit and encourage members to pledge a percentage of their interim expense fund to forward the execution of this item, or in the alternative, to earmark certain fund-raising activities as allocated to this purpose.

This, for the record then, is what the chairman wants the Caucus ro work on in Annapolis this session, and it will require all of his toughness and more.

Monumental Health must survive

Federal health officials, it is our carefully considered conclusion, do not want to give the black-owned, black-controlled Monumental Health Plan any more money because they do not want it to succeed.

They do not want it to succeed because a black health maintenance organization such as Monumental, especially if it has a health insurance component, directly threatens white controlled health groups which have been feeding off of our community since their inception.

A successful black health maintenance organization in the city of Baltimore with its majority black population is going to create more jobs, more profits, more self-determination for black physicians, health workers, health consumers — not to mention declining profits for fat cat plans like Blue Cross nad Blue Shield.

All this talk of mismanagement and cost-overruns is a lot of poppycock. Monumental never received sufficient funding from the Feds to get off the ground properly and now that it threatens older health programs and can, in short order, become competitive The Feds want it dead.

Monumental can and must survive.

A terrible game is being run on us.

Our research indicates that the scant three or four Federally funded black health maintenance organizations in the nation have all caught the same kind of hell from the Feds that Monumental is presently catching.

The game plan is patently clear. Black health organizations are an economic and political threat to white medical interests and they want to kill them off. The Feds are only too happy to be the hit men.

We recommend Monumental plan members and the community at large stand their ground and take whatever action is necessary to impress upon the health power structure that we all understand just why Monumental and like organizations are trying to be destroyed.

LETTERS

Foreigners: a personal response

Dear AFRO:

Permit me a space to respond to Ethel Payne's Jan. 17th column captioned "Foreigners in our midst: Friends or foes?"

A cab driver was reported as being disenchanted with foreign cab drivers who are giving the profession of hacking a bad name. Cheat and greed were levied against these people, most especially the Nigerians and the Ethiopians.

Having driven a cab in this Charm City—Baltimore, and also being a Nigerian, I think it is time somebody spoke out on behalf of these foreigners.

What the citizens here do not realize is that most of us are students. Our education is your education and visaversa. We came not because of the crumbs but because we wanted to see our sisters and brothers across the Atlantic in the first place.

Back home they taught us in high school about slavery and the condition of the black men and women in the States. We learned about segregation in the south and the lynchings from the activities of the KKK. We even read that many schools were burned down because it was considered "ungodly" for blacks to receive a decent education.

Every child, black or white, Chinese or African, has a sense of what is right or wrong. We from Africa understand that we are not free unless out brothers and sisters, either in South Africa or the America become free.

In this light, I pity those black Americans who consider us "foreigners." I also pity some minority African students who don't understand the plight of the brothers here. Maybe we should have a dialogue so that we can objectively address the problem. I am prepared to contribute my quota.

Frustration among the black American cab drivers against their African co-workers is a touchy issue, and an instance where our American brothers and sisters have to do their homework.

Cab driving, sorry to say, is the most demeaning job a man can do. If the brothers did their research, they would find out that most Africans who come here were the cream of their countries. With a high school diploma, I was working in the bank in Nigeria. I thought the sky was the limit. But when I got here it was one slavery following another, from one factory to the next. Sweeping floors, cleaning toilets, or being a security guard...without a gun.

One time I thought I must have gone crazy to have left my home in Africa to come to a country which, by tradition, is hostile to black people. We understand when white people, due to ignorance, treat us less than human beings. To make him see reason, we went to school so that we could speak his language for him to see and understand.

To worsen the situation, some black people don't see that we came to the U.S. to relieve them of their burdens a little bit. People should realize that Africans, especially the Nigerians, are not in any way economic refugees. We just want to tell you that you have friends across the Atlantic, if only you can reach out for the truth.

One does not have to dig into ancient history to know that African development has a direct bearing to black consciousness all over the world. People like Debber Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, among the dead, and former U.N Ambassador Andrew Young, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and root exponent Alex Haley among the living, have a testimony of truth.

This truth is that racism, prejudice and discrimination is man-made, hence artificial and plastic. No race is better than another.

In light of this, the brothers and sisters should leave no stone unturned in educating themselves, so that we can give ourselves jobs, make our own clothes and bake our own bread rather than expect crumbs from any master, be he pink, red or white.

Another problem is lack of unity. Division among us has always been annihilating to our race. Our enemies are champions when it comes to dividing us. But it is a worse crime when we allow ourselves to be divided.

Because we do not control any radio, television or newspaper, it is difficult for Americans to know how we feel. For example, the visit of Nigerian president Shehn Shagari to Harlem ought to have received heavier publicity for its symbolic implications.

I think it is also important that it be known that the activities of the Immigration and Naturalization Service have for ever been hostile toward the Africans. This has led to unnecessary fear, anxiety and frustration to the point that many brains have been wasted. I can document that we receive all sorts of shock treatments from this arm of the government, which makes one wonder what its hypocrisy on human rights is all about.

This is where I think the black Americans can help most. Activities of the Immigration Department towards people of African descent should be exposed to the world. People should ask why the borders are easily opened to the Chinese and Korean refugees, and closed to Haitian and other suffering people from Africa.

One good note, however, is that some of us who survived the wrath of the Americans will take their diplomas back. We won't forget those brothers and sisters who helped us while we were here and it is then that they will reap their rewards.

AYODELE AIYETIGBO

ASSERT gives thanks

Dear AFRO:

On behalf of ASSERT (Association for Sickle Cell Services- Education, Research, and Treatment), we would like to thank you for your support of our Sickle Cell awareness and fundraising activities during September, National Sickle Cell Anemia Month.

As you know, ASSERT is an outreach component of the Monumental Health Plan, Inc.'s Sickle Cell Clinic. This organization was formed with the help of concerned community members and is essentially a community based group.

The Monumental Health Plan, Inc. Sickle Cell Clinic was granted federal funds, in August 1977, to provide education and screening services to the residents of the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Since that time, our clinic has provided educational information to over 30,000 individuals. We have provided definitive hemoglobin identification for more than 13,000 of those individuals. Genetic counseling, referral, family counseling have been available to all persons having a hemoglobin type other than normal. Clinic staff realized the needs of persons suffering with Sickle Cell Disease were not being adequately met, causing the families to be burdened with financial, educational and psychological problems. When ASSERT was organized in June 1980, the goal was to raise monies to provide direct services to the Sickle Cell Disease patient in hopes that this assistance will help alleviate some of these problems.

ASSERT began its fundraising campaign with the support of many concerned community persons, including local businessmen and media and sports personalities, however, a project of this nature cannot be successful without good publicity. In our telephone conversation, we discussed the need for more participation and communication with your newspaper. We realized your circulation is widespread in the black community, which is most at risk for Sickle Cell disease. If we are to make persons sensitive to the needs of the sickle cell disease patient, then they must first be given facts: sickle cell anemia affects one in every 500 black Americans and sickle cell trait is carried by every one in ten and the probabilities of having a child with sickle cell anemia is one in four for a couple both having the trait.

We are again asking your support of your efforts, as we begin planning for activities in September, 1981. We know of your work with sickle cell disease and we would like you to be a member of the ASSERT Advisory Committee for the sickle cell clinic to assist staff in upgrading its present services to the community.

SHELLEY E. WILKES
CHAIRPERSON
JACQUELYN D. PRICE
CO-CHAIRPERSON

Trooper West

Dear AFRO:

Trooper West is to be commended for staying as cool as he did as a lone person facing a mob of attackers in a neighborhood notorious for hostile behavior.

From Druid Park Drive to as far out as Northwest Ice Rink across from 21209 post office! I am personally aware of unnerving experiences with these youth.

One Holloween season as I was driving down Druid Park Drive, I had to stop my car as I was driving East of Greensgring Ave. There was an object lying in the lane of traffic that looked like a body. As I came closer I could see it was a life-like mannikin.

At that particular moment, I couldn't move because of the oncoming traffic westbound on this two lane street. On the opposite side of the street were a group of taunting youth. More recently gangs of youth hang around the Northwest Ice Rink smoking pot, using foul language and trying to get into the rink without paying admission.

The Board of Directors of the rink met very recently with city detectives and a member from the state's attorney's office to work out plans to curb the loitering and vandalism. The assistant manager of the rink reported that when he had spoken to the youths about behavior problems he was answered back with 4 flat tires.

Since radio patrol are more frequently seen around the rink now the numbers of youth have thinned, but there is still a persistent group trying to get in without paying admission.

I waste no time travelling between Druid Park Drive and the rink because of the threatening experiences.

MRS. MARIAM L. WINBORNE

Ethel Bond

Dear AFRO:

Last week, the Bon Secours Hospital and the people of West Baltimore lost a very special friend. Ethel Bond, otherwise known as "Mrs. Health Care of West Baltimore," will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

A truly great lady — whose impact on health care in West Baltimore will be felt for many years to come.

ALVIN M. POWERS
DIRECTOR BON SECOURS HOSPITAL

PARREN MITCHELL

Displacement and the urban poor

In almost every city in America, land values are soaring. Tax rates and the cost of urban living rise proportionally. Nowhere is this more abundantly clear than in Baltimore. Why is this phenomenon becoming so widespread? The reason is "gentrification;" a word which is becoming increasingly ominous to black, brown and poor people everywhere.

During the 1960's a mass of white Americans fled to the suburbs to own homes and raise families. Industry quickly followed. Corporate offices and light industry relocated to areas with lower population density, lower taxes and a lower percentage of minority workers. It seemed as though white America had renounced its stronghold on the major urban centers.

During the 1970's, city governments sought to reverse this trend. Baltimore is a prime example of what many cities have done to "revitalize" themselves. Abandoned houses were sold for mere pennies in order to stimulate homeownership. Municipal bonds, subsidized by federal funds, were sold to finance these housing schemes. Baltimore established a legislative office in Washington which was designed to lobby the Congress and the Executive Department for fiscal assistance. Federal dollars were then used to rebuild urban infrastructures such as roads, water mains, port facilities, and abandoned office buildings.

Then, a strange thing happened. Baltimore had succeeded so well in its revitalization efforts that many whites wanted to return to the cities which they has so callously abandoned years before. The middle class or "gentry" had come back to the cities. This phenomenon, occurring in at least 44 cities across the country, is called "gentrification" or "displacement" — depending on whether you are one of the gentry or one of the displaced.

At first glance it seems like the perfect solution to the decay and "crisis" in our cities: a way to restore jobs, buildings, and the urban tax base. But gentrification really means shifting the "crisis" — poor people—to a location where they will be less visible, as they were in the days before the Vietnam War. Once more, America is "saving" neighborhoods at the expense of the people who are supposed to live there.

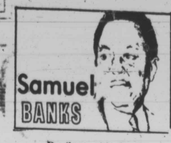
In Baltimore, all of this has been done in the name of progress. The Convention Center, the Hyatt Hotel, the revitalized Holiday Inn— all these were built in order to generate more revenue for the city, so that all Baltimoreans could experience the benefits of the "trickle down" effect. In this theory, poor people are to profit from the entrepreneurial activities surrounding the revitalization process.

It is important to distinguish between well-meaning whites who are willing to contribute to the community, and unscrupulous real-estate speculators. According to planners who have studied the displacement cycle, "urban pioneers" come first. They're usually young, middle class, and liberal, with just enough money to buy a house if they do all the renovation themselves. Present residents often welcome them, for they bring economic diversity to the neighborhood.

But on their heels come the less adventurous land developers, not attracted to the community's present, but to its future, when money can be made by flipping houses and apartments from black and brown to white—quickly.

The root of the displacement problem is discrimination. Formerly, real estate values would be low no matter what communities did to their old houses. Now, dilapidate structures are worth thousands of dollars. In other words: that which is owned by blacks is worthless— unless unscrupulous land developers and absentee landlords see a means of achieving a profit.

Black America and President Reagan:



Dr. Samuel L. Banks

Hands to the Plow

The election of Ronald Wilson Reagan as the 40th President of the United States is not an occasion for national jubilation for 31 million black Americans nor is it a time for national panic and paralysis. There has been far too much rhetoric by some black leaders depicting gloom and doom. The socio-economic programs that Reagan is committed to in terms of a national retreat on equitability in housing, public education, health care and welfare assistance for the needy indicate that blacks, Hispanics and the nation's poor will have to wage an even harder struggle for social justice. However, troubles are not new to us as a people.

The dawn of a new year provides, in fact, a fitful challenge and troubling opportunity for black America under a Reagan Administration. Nonetheless in spite of the various task force reports commissioned by Reagan with their conservative and reactionary socio-economic prescriptions, we must be unrelenting in making certain that our human agenda of unmet needs are kept squarely before President Reagan and the Congress. Moreover, as United States citizens, we must be insistent in the position that Mr. Reagan as president represents all 227 million Americans.

The legislative canvass of Reagan suggests serious difficulties in a number of substantive and vital areas affecting blacks and the poor in our nation. The major areas of concern are as follows:

1. Equality of Opportunity in Education

The recent furor in the Congress relative to busing provides an unsettling harbinger of what is to come in terms of a systematic and pernicious dismantling of the Brown decision promulgated over 26 years ago. The red herring or diversionary issue of busing is utilized in order to detract from or obscure the real issue: equality of educational opportunity. The forces of reaction led by Senators Jesse Helms of North Carolina, Robert Byrd of Virginia, Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, among other reactionaries will be incessant in their efforts to deny to over 8 million black children and youths equality of educational opportunity. As a matter of record, approximately 20 million children of the 46 million enrolled in the nation's public schools are bused to school daily. Only 3 per cent are bused for the purpose of court ordered desegregation. It is not the bus ride, but the quality of education at the end of the ride that counts. Black America must not permit any retreat on what has been determined by the Supreme Court as the law of the land. Any congressional legislation which seeks to overthrow Brown, in any form, must be challenged in federal courts immediately.

2. Equality in Housing

Black America must continue through moral suasion, non-violent protest, legislative action and court preceedings to make certain that the 1968 Fair Housing Act is enforced. No American should be denied equal access to decent housing because of race, creed, sex or national origin. The fact that over 40 million United States citizens, disproportionately black, Hispanic and poor, represents a national human calamity. Decent, safe and affordable housing is a right of every citizen of our nation. It must new become a reality.

3. Equality of Opportunity in the Work Force

It is a national disgrace that unemployment among blacks hovers around 50 per cent or higher in the major unban centers of our nation. At a time when approximately 100 million Americans are employed, the highest in the history of our nation, there can be no domestic tranquility when a disproportionate number, largely because of color and enduring poverty, are denied job opportunities in the work force. Affimative action must be employed to overcome the institutional exclusion which denied in the past, and to a large extent today, job opportunities because of color.

4. Equality in Health Care

Just as the quality of education a person receives should not be determined by where he or she happens to live, the quality of health care service should not be predicated solely on wealth. Every American has a right to decent, humane, and effective health care.

The socio-economic issues adumbrated here among other (viz.,welfare assistance, inflation, defense spending versus social programs and to cities, etc.), constitute persistent, nagging and urgent human concerns. President Reagan and the Congress are constitutionally bound to confront these issues in terms of the welfare protection of all citizens.

Now is the time for black leadership, especially at the local level, to plan carefully, meticulously and systematically for full inclusion in the American body politic. The election of President Reagan, bleak as it may seem, may well provide the catalyst necessary for resurgence and a momentum toward the fulfillment of human rights and opportunities at a critical juncture in the life of black America. We must now, more than ever before, in the words of the Black Spiritual: "Put Your Hands to the Plow; hold on."

Black History Month

Beginning February first most of us will observe what is called Black History Month in our schools and on many other festive occasions. This comes at a time when there is a growing assault on the black community that has ushered an era of fear and the will to fight back.

The major objective of this observance is to commemorate our past and present black leaders who have made contributions on the behalf of their own with a great deal of sacrifice and at times having to pay the supreme sacrifice. The difficulties and obstacles experienced by these leaders were insurmountable during an era of national life that has left a permanent scar. At one time, one week was allotted to black history. Then one month. But this is still inadequate. There should be only one course in history in our classrooms for this important subject to be relevant and meaningful with the desireed effect on our youngsters at their most impressive age.

In recent years many schools of higher learning put special emphasis on black studies, but now that is being phased out and a vacuum in this field is beginning all over again. It is not enough to cram the deeds and exploits of black persons into one month or even one year and give them the attention they rightfully deserve.

History should be history with a portrayal of the struggles or contributions of those who made them and the time and difficulties in which these efforts were made. This would go a long way toward freeing young minds from traditional thinking of a segment of people in certain categories. No doubt enlightened views on both sides of the racial equation would emerge and those showing potential in various fields would have a better opportunity of achieving their ambition regardless of skin color.

Traditionally we have been wont to think of certain ethnic groups of gravitating to the fields of medicine, education, law or the performing arts and going into these areas within the black community. Disease and poverty dictated this racial consideration. Talent and unique minds are precious commodities too badly needed to be wasted. These critical areas need all the talent available and the time to cultivate open minds is when they are at their most impressive age.

Regardless of color or ethnic background most young adults would benefit from exposure to such historical figures as Harriet Tubman, Denmark Vesez, Crispus Attucks, poet and author Langston Hughes, in addtion to such heroes as civil rights leaders Medgar Evers and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who paid the supreme sacrifice for their dedication. In the modern era we have such heroines as Mrs. Rosa Parks and black members of congress, known as the Black Caucus. These leaders tought and continue to wage warfare against bigotry and racial discrimination despite the odds against them.

A single course in history taught with understanding and sincerity would go a long way in helping a developng youngster empathize with those of different color. It just might make merit and potential the criteria for improving race relations.

SCLC set to stage oratorical contest

(Photo by Sam Courtney)
A PROUD MAN — Charles Jones, the only black held hostage in Iran for 444 days joined 52 other Americans in White House Ceremonies in Washington, Tuesday.

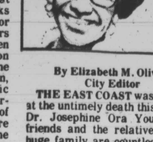
Graduating high school seniors with plans to attend a post-secondary institution following the 1980-81 school term have been invited to participate in an oratorical contest sponsored by SCLC/WOMEN (Southern Christian Leadership Conference).

The organization's national convener, Evelyn G. Lowery, said entrants should prepare and memorize a 10 to 12-minute oration pertinent to the theme, "Making The Dream A Reality: The Challenge to Youth in the 1980s."

Two winners will be selected in the national competition and will receive the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Awards. First prize is a $1,500 scholarship and second prize is a $500 scholarship. Additionally, all contestants will receive an award for their participation.

According to Ms. Lowery, a panel of judges will evaluate contestants on grammar, organization, content, form, substance, gestures, facial expressions, voice delivery, volume, eye contact, confidence and a number of other elements.

For more information contact Ms. Lowery by writing to P.O. Box 42257, Atlanta, Ga. 30311 or by calling (404) 344-3970 as soon as possible.



By Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor

FOR ALL WE KNOW

THE EAST COAST was shocked at the untimely death this week of Dr. Josephine Ora Young. Her friends and the relatives of the huge family are countless.

A FOND farewell goes to her and condolences to the survivors are sent from the AFRO. Because of her efforts the AFRO, the Lillie Carroll Jackson home and Freedom House have bronze historic markers.

A GREAT LADY who spent her life setting an example of manners and morals, she loved her nieces and nephews and placed every one on the road to success and happiness.

AT THE FAMILY banquet last year, Josephine's entire family took part and what a talented group of musicians and orators they are! A nephew is a PAN AM jet pilot who flies the giant 747 aircraft overseas.

NO DOUBT you will see him and his beauteous model wife at the funeral Saturday. By the way Josephine's sisters, brothers and nieces and nephews are all very handsome people. Possessing excellent manners, they are ranking students and teachers.

What a family has sprung from her stern and exacting mother and father. The 14 children reared on the farm in Courtld, Va. are such examples of prime success that they have been featured in Readers Digest and other mags nationwide.

TAXPAYERS NOTICE

COMMON CAUSE Mgazine says:

Q: What benefits did President Carter receive when he left office?

A: Like Ford and Nixon, Carter will receive an annual pension of $69,630. In addition, for 30 months after he leaves office he will get $575,000 for staff salaries and office expenses. Then the staff allotment drops to $96,000.

The cost of former presidents to the U.S. taxpayers has grown from about $64,000 in 1955 to an estimated $21,800,000 in 1981 with $12,545,000 for presidential libraries, $8,462,000 for Secret Service protection and $854,000 for office allowances.

BY THE WAY, vice - presidents are not eligible for a government pension. As a former senator, former Vice - President Mondale is eligible for a congressional pension.

RED CROSS YOUTH Peggy Jackson, was present at the recent installation of a Red Cross centennial exhibit at Union Trust Bank on Fairmount Ave. in Towson.

The Overlea Senior High School student is dressed as Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, to represent the past 100 years of Red Cross service.

January marked the beginning of the centennial year for the American Red Cross. In commemoration of the anniversary, the exhibit will be displayed at Union Trust thru April.

Also present were Warren Weaver, chapter chairman for the Baltimore Red Cross; Red Cross youth Joseph Ford, representing the future of Red Cross and J. Stevenson Peck, Union Trust Chairman.

WE VISITED St. Philips Episcopal Church on Bestgate and Severn Grove Rds. in Annapolis last Sunday. Father Robert M. Powell is rector and Charles H. Covington, organist.

The new church is one of the most beautiful we have seen in many a moon. Father Powell and his bride have the most colorful residence, like a picture from a house and garden magazine.

The new Mrs. Powell is an AKA and graduate of Indiana University, a superb housekeeper and excellent cook. Her plants show she has a green thumb and Father Powell's oil paintings indicate he is a first class artist.

The Youth Fellowship Bake Sale and coffee hour following services was delightful. The youngsters displayed their homemade goodies and sold every one.

LENTEN HOUSE COMMUNIONS are planned and the church bulletin said, "If you are interested in opening your home during Lent for a House Communion, please notify the Rector as soon as possible so that it may appear on our Lenten Calendar of activities and events.

Lent begins on March 4.

The Vestry is opened for suggestions and ideas for our Lenten programs for this year. If you have any ideas or programs, please speak with any member of the Vestry.

A WARM WELCOME went to visitors and friends and to the children of Larry and Christine Thomas, to Wendell, Sherma, Ian, and Vernessa. They arrived in our country on Monday from Grenada, (Near Trinidad).

THE SPRING - LIKE afternoon took us to the Arundel - on - the - Bay home of Republican Senator Aris T. Allen and his family. The spacious residence has an all glass front facing the Chesapeake Bay and the Bay Bridge in the distance.

MRS. ALLEN who is a physician like her husband was comfortably dressed for a stroll along the beach with the pet dog.

THE BUSY family delights in going home weekends. Mrs. Allen's pomsettias bloom the year around with huge blood red flowers and brilliant leaves, a pretty sight along with great, long frond hanging ferns.

TOYS are scattered here and there just where the grandbabies left them after a visit with Grandmom and Grandpop Allen.

"JAMES WELDON JOHNSON," a special art exhibit developed from the original exhibition organized and shown at the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution, will be on view at the University of Baltimore Academic Center at Charles Street and Mt. Royal Ave. Wednesday, Feb. 11 through Monday, March 9.

James Weldon Johnson and his brother, James Rosemond Johnson, write words and music of "Lift Every Voice And Sing."

I WAS a student at Fisk University at the time and knew them well when the brothers said, "The anthem is designed to be sung LAST at a service or affair.

"The last verse which begins with "God of our weary years" is a prayer that should be sung with bowed heads." (PLEASE NOTE)

Sponsored by the Baltimore Museum of Art and the UofB Student Government Association, the exhibit is free to the public. Exhibit hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MARYLAND Commission for Women says:

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND THE LAW — Legal options do exist as a strategy for combatting sexual harassment. Women are beginning to explore civil suits, tort actions, criminal charges, and workers' compensation claims as avenues for dealing with sexual harassment.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, clearly prohibits discrimination in the conditions or privileges of employment because of a person's sex, race, color, religion or national origin.

The application of Title VII with regard to sexual discrimination and sexual harassment has lagged behind its use in racial discrimination.

However, there are some parallels between racial and sexual discrimination which have been used in the latest Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Sex. (The EEOC Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Sex have been approved and copies are available in the MCW office.)

To pursue formal charges, contact:

— Maryland Human Relations Commission
20 East Franklin Street
Baltimore, Md. 21202
301 - 659 - 1700

— Maryland Commission on Humans Relations - Satellite Office
514 Race Street
Cambridge, Md. 21613
301 - 228 - 0112

— Local County - Municipal Human Relations Commission
— Your Union

— Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
— Your attorney for private litigation

For further information, contact:

— Maryland Commission for Women
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Md. 21201
301 - 383 - 5608

— Local - County - Municipal Commissions for Women
— Women's Law Center
2517 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Md. 21218
301 - 366 - 2232

JUST THINKING

Reagan's Black in the White House

By Al Sweeney

If the Reagan approach to handling special interest problems follows his White House staffing the gragmented approach to handling civil rights issues in the government are headed for the scrap pile.

Ed Meese, Reagan's top adviser, had indicated to black delegations that the practice of having a black specialist in the White House would be discontinued.

In the recent appointment of ranking black in the White House, Mel Bradley, he was classified as a senior adviser on policy and program development.

Bradley, although, he handled top minority recruiting for the transition team, will not be the man to see at 1600 Pennsylvania to talk about the problem.

Since E. Frederic Morrow, a special assistant to President Eisenhower, there has been a black specialist on the White House staff. Andy Hatcher, an assistant press aide during the Kennedy administration and Louis Martin from the staff of the Democratic National Commitee, were the black specialists of the JFK era.

After JFK was gunned down in Dallas, Lyndon Johnson selected Hobart Taylor Jr. as the special assistant for minority problems at the White House. Hobart Taylor's dad, a wealthy Texan with some oil property, financed LBJ's first campaign for congress.

LBJ moved up to a power in congress and finally the presidency and Taylor's support was never forgotten.

Hobart Taylor Jr. was named to Export - Import Bank before LBJ's term ended and Clifi Alexander succeeded him as the black special assistant at the White House. Alexander, who served as secretary of the Army, also headed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

When Richard Nixon oecame president, one of his first White House staff appointments was that of Bob Brown, a public relations specialist from North Carolina.

Mr. Martin was loaded when he accepted the "public service call" from President Carter. He is now an executive at Howard University.

It is easy to see that the White House assignment is excellent for making lucrative connections.

As for Bradley, the 42 - year - old Texarkana, Texas native is on furlough from United Airlines where he is a special assistant to regional vice president.

He has been connected with the Reagan forces from the time that the president was governor of California.

During his brief spell in Washington, he has been target of the verbal lashes of black Republicans. They question his knowledge of Washington and the rest of the "pick - picky" comments that go with the crab - in - the - basket local scene.

However, the black Republicans who have come out of the woodwork since the recent election forget that Bradley was a Reagan supporter before election. He has paid his dues with the administration forces.

So, it appears to be silly as hell to go around hurling verbal darts from the rear.

While he doesn't carry the title of special assitant for minority affairs, Bradley will be the individual to get things done.

Meanwhile, in the budget cutting efforts, look for the new OMB to take a dim look at the expensive civil rights duplicative efforts that tind special Federal Women's Program, Hispanic Program, Handicapped Program, Native American Program, while still maintaining offices of civil rights that is supposed to deal with all of the equal employment and service delivery efforts in the government.