Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

Founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1848-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-publisher (1922-1967).

City's dirty underwear

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers 47th Annual Clean Block Campaign ends this Sunday with a gala awards ceremony at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple.

Proudly the AFRO salutes the gallant workers more than 10,000 strong living in more than 395 blocks who have fought the battle of trash, vacant houses, stopped up sewers all summer long.

At the first leadership meeting in April, the question was asked what do you feel are the most pressing problems faced by residents living in Baltimore?

Since June 30, Captains, Co-Captains and Advisors have told representatives from Housing and Community Development, the police department, Sanitation, Self-Help Housing about problems. They have turned in written reports detailing vacant houses full of trash; dirty alleys, offending merchants putting out illegal trash; stopped up sewers.

To be sure some complaints and thousands of pounds of trash has been moved and blocks pictured in this issue and many like them are proud.

It's a sad commentary but for the first time in 47 years, the Mayor of Baltimore did not attend one 1981 meeting or turn out to present flags to winners. It's almost as if Mayor Williams Donald Schaefer and his cabinet at City Hall are sweeping the black inner city under the rug.

A sparkling Harborplace, marina, Aquarium and writeup in Time do not a Charm City make. The crime, filth, drugs and unemployed men and boys drinking on every corner is a disgrace and, a fact of life, in Baltimore.

AFRO judges spent 10 hours and logged 72 miles touring Baltimore's predominately black areas last Sunday. The contrast between the clean streets and alleys in white areas and the filty dirty streets around Johns Hopkins and some areas of West Baltimore were shocking.

Areas around schools, public building were the main offenders with uncut grass weeds and trash.

The AFRO has been taking the pulse of the Baltimore black community for 89 years. It's time for all good citizens, every community organization, the NAACP, the Urban League to come out of their ivory towers, their air-conditioned offices and look around, walk the wide streets and small streets and complain and demand that the police department get their officers out in the streets, repair outdated sanitation trucks and set up a department that not only takes complaints, but does something about it.

The time has come for the Mayor of Charm City to commit our taxpayers money and city resources to all citizens equally.

PUSH and Coca Cola

The Reagan Administration through is obvious economic slap at the black community via its vast budget reductions for and, in some cases, elimination of social programs which for more than two decades have helped thousands of black citizens to pull themselves out of the poverty depths, perhaps unwittingly, has provided an avenue for strong economic unity among black consumers.

The efforts to offset the lack of support from the Reagan Administration is forcing black citizens to seek economic cooperation from the business and industrial sectors. This has been initiated by way of the recent PUSH - Coca-Cola agreement. This economic thrust is long overdue and should be the beginning of a continuous campaign to open the doors of opportunity in the business and industrial world.

It should enable black consumers to get a small refund on their overwhelmingly heavy investment in the consumer market without any previous rewards. It seems clear at this junction that the recent PUSH-led economic agreement with Coca-Cola should be the fore-runner of big things to come and provide an avenue for advancement toward economic security for countless black institutions, better paying jobs for skilled workers, and open new doors for black businessmen.

It should be the first major step in a trend toward black economic progress. Somewhere along the march to achievement, blacks have overlooked the magic power of the black consumer, and the need to unify their collective and selective purchases.

It should also be clear to black Americans, who are the ninth largest economic force in the world (spending $140 billion annually), that they cannot be ignored economically. It should be clear to black Americans that they must utilize this kind of economic power to their own advantage. Only they can do it; nobody else will do it for them.

For far too long, the travel of their $140 billion has been away from the black community with noreturn. We can no longer afford to permit this kind of money trip to be made without some kind of return to the black community in the form of jobs and business development opportunities.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, the prime mover in the PUSH-Coca Cola agreement, declares the $24 million pact, which will generate approximately $6 million in the Mid-Atlantic area, including Washington, D.C., is not an act of "generosity but one of reciprosity." In other words, Coca-Cola, through its promise to employ more blacks, put a larger share of its advertising dollar in black-owned media, and provide educational scholarships, simply will be returning some of the millions black consumers have spent on their product to them for their benefit. This is how it should be with all businesses and industries which currently profit from the $140 billion black consumer market.

It is a good program and should be followed by other companies which through the years and currently are profiting economically from the black consumers dollars. Unity in the promotion of this project is paramount, however. Unity among black consumers, institutions and organizations, and close monitoring by the Black Press are the ingredients necessary to make the program work, not only for Coca-Cola and PUSH but for other such agreements which should come in the not-too-distant future.

It is significant that the agreement comes at virtually the same time the Reagan Administration is phasing out social programs, eliminating jobs and making it improbable for minority businesses to survive in the fight against rising inflation and high interest rates. If ever there was a time when black consumers need to stick together, this is the time. In building this new path toward the economic summit, we cannot afford to be divided and there must be no backsliders.

The AFRO heartily endorses the PUSH-Coca-Cola agreement. We look forward to the extension of such agreements to other such firms and industries in the near future. A number of local businesses may well fit into this picture, and they will by no means be ignored.

Letters

The controller's strike

Dear AFRO:

I am getting a little tired of hearing ignorant people condemn the air traffic controllers for "striking illegally."

When the autoworkers, steelworkers, rubber workers, longshoremen, seamen, packinghouse workers, garment workers, truckers, government employees and many others first went on strike; they did so "illegally."

Labor has never won the right to strike until it struck "illegally" and forced the government to either pass a law "legalizing" strikes or negotiated with "illegal" strikers.

Steel and autoworkers had to sign a pledge to never join a union, or to strike long before there was such a thing as an air traffic controller.

They were called "Yellow Dog Contracts" then, because they demanded working people give up their most essential civil liberties, the right to voluntarily associate with their follow workers, and the right to withhold their labor without loosing their family's right to survive.

People who violated the solidarity of striking workers in order to take their jobs away from them were called "scabs" then and they are nothing more than cowardly, selfish, unprincipaled scabs today! A ROBERT KAUFMAN

Reagan a god?

After reading the article, "20 Days and Get out," Dawn Magazine, August 1981 edition, I had to voice my opinion.

I am an out-patient at Provident Hospital. But, I was hospitalized there for 30 days sometime ago. All I had to pay the bill was my medical assistance card.

I would like to know who gave President Ronald Reagan the right to play God? Because, that is just what he is trying to do. No one plans to get ill or knows how long he will be ill, except for God.

GERALDINE LESTER

MADELINE MURPHY

The more things change

Watching the movie the "Grapes of Wrath," last week, I thought how the more things change, the more they remain the same.

Because the Joad family, caught in the Great Depression (ours following closely behind), were constantly being exploited in the "promised land" of California by the fruit growers, who developed deplorable fenced-in migrant camps surrounded by thousands of hungry and desperate job seekers.

At first, the going price of a bucket of peaches was five cents. The four Joads were able to eke out enough in a half days work to buy one dollar's worth of hamburger (their half-day's wages) at the company store to feed a family of eight.

When there was a move to form a union, and a strike was impending, the fruit grower's goons, after beating them up or killing some of the workers, spread the word the union organizers were communists.

Then having put the fear of the devil into the workers, they offered two and a half cents for a bucket of peaches—not even enough to feed the worker's families.

With the pool of unemployed clamoring at the gates, the workers had to take the cut.

Even the police were collaborators with the goons. The helpless workers had the choice of being exploited or of being kicked off the farm without any hope of work and with the word being spread among the fruit growers they were trouble makers.

We now are in these same times, with a large pool of unemployed and fewer jobs in a union-busting frenzy whose time has come.

First, the owners of companies, airlines, even mayors of cities, bargain to reduce wages, pension rights, vacation times, as in the case of Esskay, Pan American Airlines, and the Detroit fire fighters, suggesting that without cuts in pay or fringe benefits, the companies will close or the cities will go bankrupt.

Then, it is only a short time later that they will still have to let people go, because once the door has been cracked in breaking down the union contract, the companies no longer have to negotiate in good faith.

In the East Baltimore Medical Center's fight to keep costs down at the expense of workers, it is easy to see President Ronald Reagan's hard line toward the striking air traffic controllers is being imitated in a more insidious way.

For here, where the people have elected representatives to be their spokespersons, people who have been exploited for years, their representatives - now owners of a business - can only serve mammon.

It is hopeful their constituents in 1982 and 1983 will recognize this outrageous turn about, remembering they need representatives who do not serve two masters.

It is written in Matthew, chapter 6, verse 24:

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Basically, the profit motive overrides everything else.

A case in point is the Baltimore Gas and Electric company's request of higher rates to satisfy the stockholders, the public be damned.

The wage earners, the welfare recipients, the working poor must bear the greater share of this sacrifice. This alone is an indication that gas and electric companies should be nationalized.

Yet, this anti-people syndrome, so well articulated by the Reagan budget cuts; the use of overworked supervisory personnel as traffic controllers at crowded airports; the obscene spending for defense, that will not even be realized due to a shortage of materials and manpower as it only enriches the war merchants while city mayors and governors find it increasingly difficult to shift the tide away from guns to butter.

Someone, in commenting upon Mayor Schaefer's move to double cell prisoners in the City Jail, called him the human neutron bomb, sparing buildings while figuratively killing people.

Schafer is unwilling to cope with the overriding problems of people—hunger, unemployment, poor housing conditions—except for beefing up police surveillance to protect the buildings in Harborplace. These problems cause crime.

Despite the recent government report that overcrowding in prisons and double celling is unusual and cruel treatment because it causes more problems than it solves, Schaefer must recognize the expanding cleavage between the haves and the have nots may well ignite the powder keg of discontent.

It will be then that even Time Magazine—that fickle finger of fate—may no longer be able to glorify "Willie Don" or Jim Rouse, or those black elected officials, who have blatantly shown their anti-people attitudes.

Neither will those, who have virtually "malled" America for quick bucks in the glorious short term — without concern that in a food riot or an angered mob confrontation — it may well be the fire the next time.

Meanwhile, it would behoove all union members and their families, all church and liberal organizations to mobilize in Washington, D.C. on Solidarity Day, Sept. 19, to send to the Reagan Administration there is indeed time for the change that will not, SHALL NOT, remain the same.

Tony Brown

Black college day awaited

Part I of a Two part series

Black College Day '81, the second annual march and rally, will occur Monday, Sept. 28, 1981 in the 19 states under the gun of so-called desegregation (assimilation) orders or Justice Department lawsuits, which force the black colleges to become white and the white colleges to remain white.

Anticipating the new conservative emphasis of President Ronald Reagan's "federalism" the return of greater spending power to the states, the Project '81 Coalition for Black Colleges, sponsor of the highly successful Black College Day '80 in Washington, D.C. last year, will focus on statewide organization in the 16 states where the greatest peril to public black colleges exists.

Those states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Much of the opposition to black colleges comes from a few of the presidents of these schools, who are either out of step with the times or political opportunists whose major survival tool is demagogery.

The presidents of Fisk and Tennessee State, for example, are "bridges to the past."

Andrew Billingsley, the beleaguered president at Morgan State University in Maryland, confessed to an absolute fabrication in the August 1980 edition of Essence magazine when he wrote "several strong allies" in the struggle to save black colleges includes "the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund."

The very problem affecting his own school, as well as all public black colleges, stems from Jack Greenberg's obdurate NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Billingsley's blessings from Greenberg, obviously solicitous and political, is synonymous with congratulating the fox for eating the chickens.

His actions are only matched by the president of Southern University, Dr. Jesse Stone, who refused to allow a member of the Coalition to even speak on behalf of Black College Day at halftime at the Grambling -Southern Bayou Classic. The enemy is truly "integrated."

Although the Reagan Administration has sent mixed signals on their integration plans previously adopted by the Carter Administration, to bring a majority white faculty and student body to black campuses, it has been consistent in its efforts to carry out the candidate Ronald Reagan's promise to give black colleges a larger share of the total federal higher education budget.

In Jimmy Carter's first year, he reduced the black college share to 4.8 percent from 5.2 percent under President Ford. When Carter's inept performance ended, blacks were getting only 4.1 percent.

(Continued on Page 5)

—Black colleges

(Continued from Page 4)

That was the sorry record that Ronald Reagan promised the Coalition for Black Colleges — in writing — he would top.

So far, while the total education budget is being cut by about 25 percent or $2 billion, Reagan proposed to increase Title III monies, the second largest source of funds to black colleges.

For fiscal year 1982, Title III monies will be increased from the current $120 million level to $129.6 million and, if the administration's budget proposal is accepted, funding for the work study programs also will be funded at the same level. Ask any student financial aid officer how important that is.

There are two major areas of conflict between black community and the federal government, regardless of which party is in power:

1. The share of the total federal education budget allocated to black colleges.

2. The interpretation of the Adams case on desegregation by the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education.

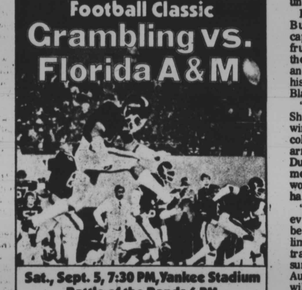
On the former point, the Reagan people must exceed the Carter promises or embarrass the president and damage his credibility with black America. Of a constant $120 million allocation for Title III, under Carter in 1979, blacks got 42.5 percent and a paltry 14.3 percent in 1982.

On the threat the interpretation of "desegregation" schemes, which will comply with Jack Greenberg's NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF), the Department of Education seems to be resisting that old policy of destroying the chances of a higher education for black students by eliminating the source from which America gets more than 50 percent of its black college graduates each year.

But while an early reading indicates the Reagan policies of increased funding to black colleges and a policy of public support for the continued existance of black institutions of higher learning are compatible with the basic interests of black people, another philosopical belief of the Reagan Administration can, and probably will, cause conflict. That policy is federalism.

The 11th Annual New York Urban League Football Classic

Grambling vs. Florida A&M



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Staten Island—358 St. Marks Pl.

College Sports Center—
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The 'black scholar in an area of crisis

By Dr. Samuel L. Banks

The desperate, bitter and deplorable state of the overwhelming number of black Americans makes it imperative the nation's black scholars, concentrated principally in predominately black institutions of higher education and public school systems, join hands with the masses of their people in the present struggle for survival.

The historical record clearly shows no matter how pristine, thorough and sagacious the quality of their scholarship, the nation's black scholars have been consigned, as is indicative of the masses of their race, to a SUBORDER AND UNEQUAL POSITION in the American social order.

The cavalier, condescending and inequitable treatment endured by Drs. William E.B. DuBois, Carter Goodwin Woodson, Alain Locke, three towering black scholars, bespoke a similar inequity for the black masses.

Each of these three black intellectual precursors earned doctoral degrees at Harvard, but neither, in spite of the potency and strength of his scholarship and academic attainments was invited to serve on the faculties of "Fair Harvard" or any other Ivy League colleges and universities.

Dr. William Edward Burghardt DuBois captured the spirit of frustration, pathos and the need for sublimation and ethereal escape in his seminal "Souls of Black Folk" in 1903:

"I sit with Shakespeare and he winces not. Across the color line I move arm in arm with Balzac and Dumas, where smiling men and welcoming women glide in gilded halls.

"From out the caves of evening that swing between the strong-limbed earth and the tracery of the stars, I summon Aristotle and Aurelius and what soul I will, and they come all graciously with no scorn nor condescension.

"So wed with Truth, I dwell above the Veil. Is this the life you grudge us, O knightly America? Is this the life you long to chance into the dull red hideousness of Georgia?

"Are you so afraid lest peering from the high Pisgah, between Philistine and Amalekite, we sight the Promised Land?"

The perfidious, mendacious and iniquitous forces of institutional racism and exclusion operating in our nation prevented the late Drs. DuBois, Woodson and Locke from enjoying the national and international acclaim wrought by their intellectual labors.

The academic sequestration and limiting of broader opportunities for black scholars continue today in our national life. The black scholars, as in the case of the majority of their people, areeverelcy circumscribed and restricted in terms of the mainstream of American life.

While black scholars must continue, in all academic fields and vocations to demonstrate excellence, there must, given the depth and severity of socio-economic crises impinging on a majority of 31 million black Americans, join the struggle for survival.

Academic and theoritical models must be translated into pragmatic and workable models that will abate or eliminate the socio-economic storms which are ravaging a majority of black people.

Dr. John Hope Franklin, professor-emeritus of history at the University of Chicago and a nationally renowned and respected historian, makes the point with clarity and probity:

"I have said that the American scholar has been drawn irresistibly into the main stream of American life, and has contributed his knowledge and ingenuity to the solution of the major problems he has faced.

"I now assert that the proper choice for the American Negro scholar is to use his knowledge and ingenuity, his resources and talents, to combat the forces that isolate him and his people, like the true patriot that he is, to contribute to the solution of the problems that all Americans face in common."

As I have said on many occasions, the protracted struggle for equality of opportunity and socio-economic parity is encumbered and obstructed by a national spirit of retrenchment, recalcitrance and, more recently, by Reaganomics or supply-side economics.

The linkage of a national spirit of resistance to civil and human rights and Reaganomics has resulted in sheer pain, bewilderment and frustration for the vast majority of black Americans, Hispanics, and the poor.

In terms of 400 high level executive appointments within the Reagan Administration, only 19 are black; Secretary Samuel Pierce of Housing and Urban Development is the only black cabinet appointment; the parous "safety net" of the Reagan administration is compounding problems for blacks and the poor.

The massive defense expenditure, $1.5 trillion by 1985, will not only decimate Reagan's alleged "safety net," but will set firmly in place a permanent underclass of blacks and the poor.

Black Americans, for the most part, now find themselves at the edge of the precipice.

This lamentable and worsening state of affairs, if for nothing more than enlightened self-interest, should serve as a catalyst for black scholars and black middle and upper income groups to shake their fears, timidity and docility and become a part of the struggle for survival.

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Drs. Sowell's and Williams' tactics and advocacy of an elimination of affirmative action, busing, tuition vouchers, as supported by Dr. Milton Friedman, of the University of Chicago, and a general opposition to socio-economic programs designed to provide assistance to blacks, Hispanics and the poor have made them the instant "heroes" of conservative, reactionary and racist white Americans.

Both Sowell, a poor black originally from Jamaica, and Williams, a black born in an impoverished section of North Philadelphia, could have attained their academic achievements, even with their intellectual acumen and ability, if federal subsidies and the sacrifices of the masses of their black brethren in the 1960's, had not made it possible for them to earn their doctoral degrees in economics at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Their pandering to the white majority society today represents the worst forms of opportunism, pomposity, self-aggrandizement and intellectual hypocrisy. Drs. Sowell and Williams must come to understand the difference between economic theories and palpable social realities.

The nation's black scholar must wage a two-fold effort:

1. the survival of his people and 2. the relentless and assiduous search for truth.

The collective experience and wisdom of the race and all who celebrate the life of the mind, transcending race and class, must now be summoned afresh into a new epoch of national and world crisis in order to soar above the ancient "Veil" that divides the peoples of the world community.

The black scholar has a vital and distinctive role to play in this process.

Dr. James E. Cheek, the distinguished and insightful president of Howard University, in a recent address to the Howard University community, in fact, conveyed a compelling message to black America and the United States:

"Our institution (i.e., Howard) is the business of not only educating, but also of liberating, not only of discovering, but also of reconstructing.

"We are alone in the business of undoing the yoke of bondage. We make no apology for doing what our times and circumstances compell us to do.

"For the First Emancipation was the burden of the white man, and that is why it remained only a proclamation. But the Second Emancipation is the burden of the black man, and that is why it must be made a reality. If we do not assume this burden, then who will?"

Black scholars must be in the forefront of helping 31 million of their people to survive the awesome burdens of the "Second Emancipation"

The times, parlous, dispiriting and menancing, require firm, resolute and creative action by black scholars in order to affirm hope and human possibilities for the nation's excluded and suppressed black masses and the poor.

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FOR ALL WE KNOW

The AFRO- someone on our side

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper began its 89th year of publication on Aug. 14.

CONGRATULATIONS are coming in to the venerable old newspaper established here in Baltimore by John H. Murphy Sr., a white visitor by trade.

We would like to hear from all of our readers. Your letters will be published in the coming historic 90th Year Edition due on the street soon. Write us.

Here are a few received recently.

"Congratulations to you. The AFRO has been my hometown paper for as long as I can remember.

"As long as I can remember the AFRO has been for us when nobody else was.

"With the AFRO we feel like we've got somebody on our side. Keep with us for many years to come.

The above letter is from Robert R. Loane, a citizen of Prince Georges County, Md.

Mrs. Mary Virginia Nelson of Oxnard, Calif. writes, "I am a longtime reader of the AFRO and I want to be sure you reserve a Special AFRO 90th Edition for me and send it to me."

We will see that orders for the AFRO 90th Edition are sent to subscribers. Let us know if you want it reserved.

FROM SECRETARY PIERCE

Here is a telegram from U. S. Secretary Samuel R. Pierce, a member of President Reagan's Cabinet and a longtime AFRO friend and reader.

I congratulate you and the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers on the beginning of your 90th year of publication.

When John H. Murphy Sr. founded the AFRO-AMERICAN in 1892, Jim Crowism was rampant especially in the South where it was established by law.

Even in Baltimore City leaders opposed ordinances to block blacks from moving into areas that were mostly white.

The AFRO, as we have always called it, grew under the founder and under his five sons to become the largest black weekly paper in the South and East.

Today some 89 years later John H. Sengstacke and the Rev. Samuel E. Cornish published the first issue of Freedom's Journal the AFRO is in the forefront of those gallant crusaders still seeking equal and full opportunity for America's biggest ethnic minority.

LIKE YOUR OTHER admirers and supporters, I look forward to helping you celebrate your first century of publication.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Samuel R. Pierce Jr., U. S. secretary of Housing and member of President Reagan's Cabinet.

EDITOR'S NOTE - We have received dozens of congratulatory notes and even a birthday cake which is due to come from one of the AFRO's Honor Roll recipients.

Requests for reservations of the coming Special AFRO 90th Year Edition due in late September and your old photos, features and stories may be addressed to:

Elizabeth M. Oliver, editor, Special 90th Year Edition, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201

We're expecting to hear from you.

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CCB classes still open

It's not too late to register for the Community College of Baltimore's 1981 fall semester. Both day and evening classes are still available at CCB's Harbor campus Lombard Street at Market Place; Liberty campus, 2901 Liberty Heights Ave., and 11 neighborhood centers throughout the city.

Late registration will be held Monday through Friday, Aug. 31- Sept. 4, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Harbor campus in the Bard building and at the Liberty Campus in the administration building.

The Community College of Baltimore's GED program is based on the philosophy that every student has potential for success. Registered students are entitled to unlimited tutoring until they reach their goal.