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).



## Troubles at CCB

The possibility that the the Community College of Baltimore, largest center of higher education in the city, might have 23 of its programs eliminated within the next year is deeply troubling.

The college trustees are considering a proposal to make these drastic slashes and give as their reason the budget deficits reported by Dr. Rafael Cortada shortly before he left to assume the presidency of a West Coast College.

Cortada's administration had been efficient and effective .

We are also mindful that the Mayor had earlier lusted after the land housing the CCB's Harbor campus for developments for commercial reasons.

Knowing the Mayor's obsession with downtown progress at the expense of much else, we fervently hope all this CCB slashing of programs is not simply a way of denuding the Harbor campus so that the developers can move in.

So at the very outset we want to remind one and all that budgetary control of CCB resides with the Mayor and the City Council.

If the Mayor and Council are sincere about maintaining the integrity and excellence of CCB they will rearrange monies (as with the Pratt Library situation) rather than cut programs which serve thousands of citizens who seek self-improvement and self-determination.

Logically, college programs are cut as enrollments decline. CCB's population is alive, numerous and determined. There is no need to undermine a healthy institution.

We want to examine the budgetary slashes before the CCB Board thoroughly.

But first we want all to know that if the threatened cuts are to serve another agenda then it simply will not wash.

More on this next week.

## The black divorce rate

By Gus Savage

The divorce rate for blacks, which is twice the rate for whites, represents a tragic, shattering reality that threatens to prevent us from forging stable neighborhoods and communities.

According to the Census Bureau, in 1970 83 black men and women were divorced for every 1,000 who were married. The breakdown for black men showed 32 divorcees for every 1,000 males. For black women, the divorce rate came to 104 divorces for every 1,000 females.

This disturbing count was much higher than the rate for whites in 1970. There were only 44 white men and women who were divorced for every 1,000 who were still married. The rate of divorce for white men came to 32 men for every 1,000 males, while for white women the divorce rate measured 56 for every 1,000 females.

By 1980 the figures and the ratios were just as negative. Some 203 black men and women were divorced for every 1,000 blacks. For black men there were 151 divorcees for every 1,000 men; and for black women there were 257 divorcees for every 1,000 women.

So much for statistics.

In black communities all across the country there have been meetings and conferences aimed at improving black male-female relations and building black families that might be in disarray. Too often more questions are generated than answers.

Too often we tend to be overly combative toward one another, without fully examining the external forces, the sire forces associated with racism in white America. We live the black experience, in many instances, on a social tightrope.

The Census Bureau reports that black women, as opposed to white women, are more likely to be married to men who have less education than they do. The result is that professional blacks may have a difficult time relating to, or living with, other blacks who are not as skilled or educated.

Relatedly, a high inner city murder rate, other violent crimes, drugs, unemployment, and the prison system diverts many blacks away from normal family lives. Many blacks find themselves struggling to survive in a racist system that will let them struggle but not survive.

The abandonment of children and wives by black men, on the other hand, creates a severe hardship for many black women who find themselves as the heads of households. The recession makes this condition worse since many of these women find the cost of living rising while their incomes are not. The extra income from another member of the household is sorely missed.

More frustration sets in. Distrust mounts.

Some population experts are predicting that by the year 2000, eight out of every ten black households in Chicago, for example, will be fatherless.

Blacks are subjected to all forms of discrimination and these realities become pressures on struggling black families. Many blacks, spurred by media reports praising the merits of the single life, come to the conclusion that they can go it alone.

We must strive to come together and build stronger families in the tradition of our African ancestors. We must be attuned to and resist the changing social attitudes toward marriage and quick legal proceedings which make divorce easy and painless.

We must build strong black families to build stronger communities.

## Change the name, same old game

By M. Carl Holman

The next shoe is about to drop in the dismal game whose latest version was announced many months ago with the creation of that dubious category "the truly needy."

As the conservative magicians now in charge slashed billions in aid to the disadvantaged and rewarded the deserving rich, the country was assured that a "safety net" was securely in place to catch all the certified poor. Only the cheats, deadbeats and assorted free-riders, it was asserted, would feel the sharp edge of the axe.

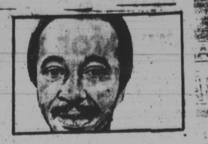
For some that was a comforting myth while it lasted, but as some sage warned long ago, you can't fool the American people forever. Suddenly the polls, the nation's religious leadership, even some of the very members of Congress who earlier joined in the assault on social programs, are now agreeing with those perfidious 'interest groups' that the poor have indeed been the prime victims of federal budget cuts.

So now a new wrinkle is being introduced. Once again it concerns the poor, and once again no harm or malice is intended. It appears that the real problem is that we may have been deluded into thinking a great many people were poor who really may not be poor at all. Actually, it seems, it is mainly a matter of definition.

Enter the Bureau of the Census with not one, but three new recipes for redefining poverty. Having claimed its best job ever of counting Blacks, though still lamentably, falling a million-plus short by its own calculations, the Bureau offers up three possibilities for measuring poverty. This package of options, according to news accounts, will "dramatically reduce the official poverty rate reported for specific groups such as Blacks and the elderly."

What could be more attractive? Admittedly, the "material well-being" of tens of thousands of low-income citizens will not change one iota. But that is surely a small price to pay for those who by sleight-of-computer will be transformed overnigh into non-poor Americans.



## The budget stalemate

The press has had a field day over the failure of the U.S. House of Representatives to pass a federal budget for the Fiscal Year 1983.

Some of the press accounts and editorials have critized the Congressional Black Caucus for failing to vote for any of the three budget proposals considered by the House of Representatives, saying the Caucus acted out of anger because its own budget was voted down by the Members of the House.

That is not why the Caucus voted against all three budget proposals.

To help you understand why I and the other Members of the Congressional Black Caucus voted as we did, we should take a brief look at the three proposals voted down.

First, there was the Michel-Latta Substitute. This was really President Reagan's budget.

It made further cuts in many of the social programs, left the enormous military budget in place and did nothing about the tax cut passed last year, which is really one of the reasons for the high deficit we now confront.

Second, there was the so-called Coalition Budget, which was offered by Congressman Les Aspin. This approach did cut military spending about 10 percent, but it also cut social programs.

Third, there was the budget offered by Congressman Jim Jones, Chairman of The House Budget Committee. It was very difficult to distinguish between this budget and Reagan's budget.

All three of these budgets shared several elements in common. They were all conservative budgets, highly protective of military spending but callous in their disregard of the importance of various social programs.

All three served to institutionalize the savage cuts made in social programs in last year's budget and, indeed, imposed further cuts in these programs.

The debate on the floor, and the arguments in the press for passage of a budget centered around the idea the money markets, the financial world of America, needed a budget which cut federal spending even more.

The further argument was that unless such a budget were passed, the financial institutions would do little to help the nation out of the deep recession it now confronts.

Are the money markets more important than these people who faced the loss of their Medicare? Is the financial world more important than those people who desperately need safe, sanitary and decent housing?

Are the lending institutions more important than the people who have been thrust into unemployment because of wicked cuts in the C.E.T.A. program? In my opinion, the people come first, not the financial institutions.

If either of the three budgets had passed, then a Conference Committee with the Senate would have taken place to reconcile the differences between the House budget and the Senate budget.

But please remember the U.S. Senate's budget is worse than any of the three substitutes rejected by the House of Representatives.

Therefore, any budget which might have come out of a House-Senate Conference would have been infinitely worse than a budget passed by the House.

The Congress will approve a budget sooner or later. I fear that it will be an even more cruel budget than those rejected last week.

I cannot, in good conscience, vote for any budget which imposes more pain on the poor and working poor; which maintains an insanely high rate of military spending; and which is designed, solely and exclusively to satisfy the money markets, the financial institutions of America.



MADELINE MURPHY

## For all the 'Bennys'

Out of the Eugene 'Neill Playwrights' Conference, in Waterford, Conn., came an emotional wallop in the play, "Benny's Place" on ABC-TV, Monday at 9 p.m.

Rarely does one see the frustrations of a black working man on prime time struggling through the maze of corporate insensitivity, at the rung of the black personnel manager.

He lugubriously tried to get Benny to accept a young black apprentice in the guise of affirmative action. The underlying aim, however, was to groom him as Benny's replacement.

The personnel manager's ambition to please the boss — to Hell with Benny — says a lot about the duality of roles blacks face in corporate America.

Tying these themes together into a cohesive two hour tour de force was the playwright, J. Rufus Caleb.

To our family, Rufus had been friend to and classmate of our middle son at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.

I recall him to have been a slight young man who nevertheless had been Dickinson's star punt returner (at least I think that's what he did, since I know so little about football!) . . . escape from serious injury. Perhaps this was out of his inordinate awe and fear of his huge opponents, not to mention his own hulking teammates, some of whom might well have hung the Confederate flag in their dorm windows!

"Benny's Place" is an absolute indication this tenacity and drive have paid off.

Moreover, Rufus came from the steel town of Coatesville, Pa. He wrote about what he knew well: what he and his family had lived — the best thing any writer can do.

And his success as prize winner at the O'Neill Playwrights' Conference, out of 15 other contestants attests to that truism.

But this by no means was his first writing success. His works, poems and short stories, have appeared in Obsidian, The William and Mary Review, Boo Doo Black Series, Shenandoah Magazine, among others.

It always is a thrill to see an honest portrayal of the tragedy of black life on TV, especially when it is written with such sensitivity and fidelity to our frustrations, 'ur singular slang, gestures and body language.

It is even more fulfilling and a greater thrill to know the playwright and to realize in Rufus's case one need not compromise one's principles to have one's work win a prize and be presented o an audience of millions.

I am sure we shall hear more from J. Rufus Caleb.

In the meantime, we need a black audience reaction that will end a message through letters to ABC-TV, as well as all the other stations, public and commercial, to demand more stories of Caleb's uality on prime time TV, that express the black experience without sugar-coating, without stereotypes, but just like it is.

Commentaries by Madeline Murphy can be heard each Tuesday during the 6 p.m. newscast on Radio WEAA-FM.

## For all the 'Bennys' an urge to live, even self-destructively, to maintain his space wherever it was.

This foretold in effect Benny's doom.

Yet, his attraction to a woman, Odessa, as a result of a mugging that left him injured and prone in a drunken stupor outside her house, sent a psycho ogical message of opposing ideals about the purpose of one's life.

The woman wanted peace, perhaps at any price. In his deeper recesses, Benny wanted peace too — but without complacency or compromise.

There also was a telling commentary about the age old black activists' argument as to whether one works within or outside the system in the character of the black personnel manager.

He lugubriously tried to get Benny to accept a young black apprentice in the guise of affirmative action. The underlying aim, however, was to groom him as Benny's replacement.

The personnel manager's ambition to please the boss — to Hell with Benny — says a lot about the duality of roles blacks face in corporate America.

Tying these themes together into a cohesive two hour tour de force was the playwright, J. Rufus Caleb.

To our family, Rufus had been friend to and classmate of our middle son at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.

I recall him to have been a slight young man who nevertheless had been Dickinson's star punt returner (at least I think that's what he did, since I know so little about football!) . . . escape from serious injury. Perhaps this was out of his inordinate awe and fear of his huge opponents, not to mention his own hulking teammates, some of whom might well

Profiles of publishers

# Journal & Guide

"Dedicated to the cause of the people... no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed"

Vol. LXXXIII No. 18 Norfolk, Virginia Wednesday, May 5, 1982 2 Sections Price 35 Cents

Black publishers from across the nation will meet in Baltimore later this month to attend the National Newspaper Publishers Association's 42nd annual summer convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The convention's theme this summer will be "Renaissance of the Black Press." To better acquaint the public with these men and women and their publications, the AFRO is presenting a series of articles highlighting these black journalists.

---

For more than 75 years, the Journal and Guide has been in the forefront of the black man's fight to gain equality and justice in the United States of America.

Since the beginning, in 1900 when the Journal and Guide was first published as the official organ of the fraternal order known as the Knights of Gideon, until today, the Journal and Guide has not missed one week of publication.

The legendary Plummer B. Young, Sr. acquired the newspaper in 1910. He converted the fledgling paper to an independent secular weekly publication.

Relying on stirring editorials and quality journalism, Young guided the Journal and Guide to an unparalled success in the black press community, gaining the newspaper national prominence and the reputation of being the "New York Times" of black newspapers.

Young proceeded to launch campaigns for the eradication of saloons in residential areas of the city and for the improvement of sanitary conditions in the school system.

His spirited leadership ignited the community and soon the Journal and Guide's circulation extended throughout the state of Virginia and into many states along the eastern coast.

With the aid of his two sons, Thomas W. Young and P.B. Young Jr., the Journal Guide prospered during the next few decades, winning many awards for its excellence in journalism, including three consecutive Wendell Wilkie Awards for Journalism in the Negro Press - 1946 - 1948.

During the war years, the Journal and Guide had three accredited war correspondents, who saw service overseas. Thomas W. Young, Lemuel E. Graves Jr., and John Q. Jordan were those pioneering black journalists.

The latter, John Q. Jordan, went on to gain national fame for is accomplishments in the field of journalism. During his tenure with he Journal Guide, Jordan served as publisher, managing ditor and general manager of the newspaper.

A scholarship in his honor has been established at Norfolk State University.

After the death of the Youngs and Jordan, the newspaper suffered through perilous economic times that resulted in several changes in ownership.

In 1974, the Journal and Guide's present owner, editor-publisher Dr. Milton A. Reid, rescued the newspaper from almost certain disaster.

With the aid of present board chairman, Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, the ship has been turned around. The Journal and Guide has re-established itself as a blue chip member of the nation's press community.

The Journal and Guide is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

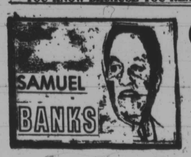
Plans presently are being drawn that will enable the parent Guide Publishing Company to expand its marketing and service potentials.

The future looks better than the past.



Dr. Milton A. Reid






## Class of 1982: A BLACK perspective

At this time of the year, the stirring, majestic and dulcet strains of Mendelssohn's "War March of the Priests" and Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" fill the air in 16,000 school districts and more than 3,500 institutions of higher education echoing a central and inspirational message: GRADUATION IS HERE.

Congratulations, to be sure, are in order for each person who moves up the academic ladder. Congratulations, too, are in order for the parents, relatives and friends who never lost faith and provided material, emotional and psychological support for you as you made your way.

It is my heartfelt and earnest hope you will savor your high school and college years. Your graduation, in fact, represents not an ending but a beginning.

The socio-economic challenges, amidst the great joy, happiness and ebullience of the present, are awesome. You will now be called upon to put your skills, knowledge, dreams and savvy to the test of every day realities.

The black-white dichotomy which pervades and exacerbates the quality of life in the United States and the world remains a clear and painful condition for 31 million black Americans.

Wherever you attended school, predominantly black or white, you must now come to grips with a societal ethos which constricts and restricts black and non-white people in our nation and the world.

A fervent and urgent hope is your youthful verve, vitality, daring and sagacity will help to abate and diminish the ancient scourge of "man's inhumanity to man."

What, then, are some other compelling issues which confront you as graduates. The paramount issues revolve around the following:

(1) A systemic and virulent racism which prevents us from uniting and growing as one prosperous, caring and humane nation. Sexism and religious bigotry are essential elements of the systemic or institutional racism.

(2) The existence of depression levels of unemployment extant in black and Hispanic communities. In most of our large urban centers, the average unemployment among blacks is 50 percent.

When the "discouraged" or those who have ceased looking for work are included the percentage of unemployed black youths is more than 60 percent. There are, in reality, black youths and adults who will never have stable and full-time employment in their life time.

(3) The proliferation of shoddy and inferior education for black, Hispanic and impoverished children and youths. The existence of abysmal truancy and dropout levels constitute a blueprint for social disaster.

The terrible tragedy is there is not widespread compassion and concern for this group.

(4) The war between Argentina and Great Britain over the Falklands or the Malvinas, the brutal oppression in South Africa, the tension and conflicts in the Middle East, the imprisonment of Haitian refugees in "detention centers," continued nuclear proliferation, among other pressing issues, are complex and vital issues which require a humane and just resolution.

In spite of all of these doleful and troubling developments, there are those of us who are counting on you of THE CLASS of 1982 to make an enduring and positive difference.

We expect you TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF and to turn problems into opportunities. We look to you to revive and rejuvenate the weary and forlorn among us; to engender and extend a pervasive sense of caring and community; to work, without ceasing, to make your youthful dreams soaring realities.

We want, above all, for you to continue to STRETCH YOUR MINDS. Do not permit anybody to define or chart your human potential and possibilities.

You have, within you, the potential to transcend yourself and make our world a better and more humane abode for 4.5 billion inhabitants.

Your graduation or beginning is both an occasion for jubilation and action. You should exult that God has enabled you through parental support and your own tenacity to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to "run the race of life" or pursue your career choices.

You, on the other hand, should act in a rational, vigorous and responsible manner to translate what you know into positive action in order to enhance the total community through service.

Failure to act to improve the quality of life will mean that the essence of education will have eluded you.

In spite of all of the cumbersome and formidable problems which confront you, it is still an exciting and felicitous time to be alive. Refuse to capitulate to self-pity, doubt and a psychosis of defeatism.

Make use of your powers of intellect and acumen to dream and build newer and better bridges of humane uplift, understanding, hope and advancement.

You will only be circumscribed or limited by the feebleness of your vision or lack of it. I challenge you to dream and work mightily, forcefully and profoundly.

I, too, believe that with all the perspicacity and material wealth that you may possess, there is a need to cultivate and maintain a spiritual dimension to your life. I still believe "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

William Arthur Ward provides an apt and fitting challenge for all graduates:

"If you can imagine it,
You can achieve it.
If you can dream it,
You can become it."

Warmest and earnest felicitations and best wishes to each of you at this happy juncture in your life. Always remember, we are counting on you. Godspeed and best of luck.



ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

City Editor

## For all we know

OUR GREATEST FEAR this summer is the devastation to young people caused by loss of jobs, or no jobs at all, idleness, hopelessness.

DRUGS and alcohol seem to serve as painkillers, according to authorities who see the problems coming in greater numbers.

Anxiety and stress rapidly plunge youngsters into trouble.

YOUNG ADDICTS

"What is striking about young addicts of the '80s is that they give up on life before even living it. They see the world of adults and they 'get off' like one gets off a train . . .

The alarming trend has been toward the use of drugs by increasing numbers in the younger age brackets.

Most drug users are between the ages of 12 and 25.

Why are so many young people turning to hashish and other hallucinogens?

The reasons commonly given are for pleasure, for the excitement of doing something forbidden, to do what friends do, to satisfy a habit, to forget problems at home or at school.

Or, as one youngster sniffing glue remarked, "I don't want to destroy myself. But I have nothing to do, nothing to do, nothing to do . . ."

HERE ARE passages from a magazine called PLAIN TRUTH being circulated free by the editor and founder, Herbert Armstrong.

HOWEVER, whoever voices opinion, it is about time to think.

"What is the solution," and look seriously at what is happening these days.

DRUG EXPLOSION

Drugs made from vegetative sources have been with man from earliest recorded history.

But with the 20th century, revolutionary human developments opened the way for the modern drug abuse explosion.

After World War II, fiercely competitive pharmaceutical companies spent heavily to develop and promote new "wonder" drugs to capture world markets.

Drug industry advertising taught millions to equate feeling well and healthy with the taking of pills and drugs.

BOOZE ADS

Alcohol industry advertising equates drinking with success for both men and women.

Unfortunately these advertisement tell only the temporary "benefits," not the ugly side effects that can occur with many drugs, or with misuse of alcohol.

Harried doctors, however, often allow themselves to fall into the habit of prescribing potent drugs as an easy way to treat patients.

With mounting case loads of (in reality, largely emotionally induced) illnesses, many physicians spend only a few minutes with each patient.

WHAT IS THE CAUSE

Medical men admit it is easier and more economical to reach for the prescription pad instead of taking the time-consuming step of determining the root cause of their patients' anxieties or wrong living habits.

Patients are also culpable for modern drug abuse trends. Many are not looking for the cause of their problems.

They have come to believe it i their right to receive immediate relief from whatever problems — mental or physical — plague them.

They don't want to change wrong habits of thinking or living.

SOLUTION IN DRUGS

The Physicians' Desk Reference lists more than 2,500 medical drugs on the market. Is it any wonder modern nations are drug-inundated cultures?

Each new generation growing up in this environment is more conditioned than the one before it to whatever bothers them.

The problem of alcohol abuse lies not with alcohol, but with the people who consume it.

PEOPLE ARE THE PROBLEM

What this means is that we are the problem.

People cannot solve their problems by simply reasoning in their own minds and deciding for themselves what they want.

There must be an authoritative source to serve as a guidepost.

Continued alcohol abuse leads to tragic consequences: loss of respect, loss of happy relationships, loss of employment; and finally death, or worse for some a completely meaningless existence.

This need never be.

Alcohol itself is only an inert substance incapable of doing either good or evil of itself.

Man is the one who either properly or improperly uses it — the latter with tragic consequences.

FAMILY TROUBLE

A criminal lawyer having dealt with many cases of drug addiction, remarked recently; "I don't know of a single example of drug addiction among youths which has not been characterized by a total lack of communication between the young person and his family."

Efforts being made to resolve the drug problem are primarily directed to cutting off the supply, prosecuting distributors, disseminating information about the dangers of drug use and other such treatments of the effects.

Far too little attention is given to the causes!

Troubled family situations are an important contributing factor. But it goes deeper than that.

CURE

Drugs fill a void in life; they substitute for a sense of purpose that is lacking when one does not understand what life is all about. The head of a drug rehabilitation program summed it in these words:

"It's easy to obtain drugs. And then, because of a disgust of life, because of hopelessness, a process takes place which leads to suicide by an artifically imposed paradise. I insist that it is wrong to think in terms of 'curing' thoee on drugs.

"They are not sick.

Detoxification without seomething at the end of the road is worthless."

There is a goal, a purpose in life to work toward. But how many have found it?

Unfortunately, it is this lack of knowledge of an authoritative source to guide mankind through life that invites disaster.

A society regulated by God's laws would be free of drug and alcohol abuse portions.

ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

The root of the problem is spiritual in nature. At the same time many of these individuals admit that they mst overlook the root cause and limit themselves to trying to deal with the effects instead. Why?

Society as a whole has not wanted to face up to its spiritual responsibilities.

Governments, educational systems and religions have not taught the spiritual laws and the way of life that would produce understanding of human Problems, that would produce solutions and bring peace, hope and happiness of mind.

POWER TO HELP

You can — if you will repent of violating Gods revealed spiritual laws (sin is the transgression of God's law — I John 3.4) — ask God for help to solve your problems and fears.

You can ask for spiritual understanding, for wisdom, or loving attitudes and strength that only God can provide.

God works with humans through his Holy Spirit.

Through his Spirit God gives the help, love, hope and strength needed to resolve problems.

But if humans stubbornly persist in going their own way, in doing selfish, self - centered things, they remain cut off from the help that God alone can provide the alcoholic or the addict. The Creator says: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. — PLAIN TRUTH.



## Tony Brown's Comments

## Will the real NAACP please stand up

Part I

The NAACP's lawsuit against the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. will either make the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization or it will precipitate its gradual demise into oblivion.

And, ultimately, only the support of the Black community can save her. Ironically, many Blacks have already read the White liberal slant and are blaming the NAACP for being the victim.

The situation is so grave that, along with this column, I am sending a $1,000 check to the Pittsburgh branch to start a Wilhelmina Byrd Brown Fund for scholarships for Black students to go to Black colleges and $100 to the Lynchburg, Virginia branch to help pay its share of prosecuting this lawsuit—not for any busing lawsuits—but for the courageous action it has taken to halt its own exploitation.

There is also a hidden agenda. At stake is the N.A.A.C.P.'s ability to set its own course and control fund raising and legal strategies. If it loses this case, it will forever be at the whim of a succession of White leaders—who pass for friends by exploiting Black political and economic power.

When I say "white liberal," I don't use it as the opposite of "White conservative," I use it in the context of exploitation: Those who posture as friends while instituting a racist plantation with Black overseers.

And predictably, the wrath of the White liberal establishment descended on the N.A.A.C.P. last week simply because it went to court to stop the White-dominated LDF from using its initials and representing Black people by fiat.

The white liberal press cranked up their awesome propaganda machine to denigrate the actions of the N.A.A.C.P. and stop this break from White dominance.

The capstone of White liberal journalism delivered the occasion's most vicious—and racist—assault. In an editorial, the New York Times called the lawsuit "petty and mean spirited." A columnist in the Washington Post referred to it as Amos 'n Andy. It was racist in the sense that the white liberals are saying, as the Times did, that their Blacks were wrong because they were upset with their white man — Jack Greenberg who runs the NAACP LDF.

The Times, instead, tried to divert attention to President Reagan as the real enemy. "The NAACP would do better to drop the suit" and focus on Reagan. Certainly, Reagan will not qualify for a civil rights fanatic, but neither does he qualify as the source of the NAACP's problems with Jack Greenberg's organizations. Both issues can and should be addressed separately and equally.

Therefore, in its own wisdom, the NAACP is doing just that by ending a long-simmering dispute by taking the case to court. Both the Post and the Times reported that Vernon Jordan would represent the LDF when, in effect, a white lawyer, Jay Topkis of a prestigious white New York firm will lead the defense. Jordan, now a formal Black-member of the white establishment, will obviously lead the window dressing.

But the LDF will have no problems with legal fees; it has a fat $6 million-a-year budget, almost equal to the the entire NAACP's $7 million budget. "We see nothing to be gained by marging. We have developed our own constituency: clients, contributors, and cooperating lawyers," Greenberg boasted. He's right.

The LDF has raised funds, the NAACP's suit charges, and pursued legal strategies that confused the puublic and harmed the NAACP. Fuel was added to that argument in the Washington Post on the day before the court action.

A one-sided article by Charles Babcock explained how the heroic LDF was back in court to ensure "desegregation" in higher education in Virginia. LDF representatives were referred to as "NAACP lawyers" and no distinction was made between the two organizations. One was clearly left with the impression that Jean Fairfax, Greenberg's Black-liaison to Black groups, was speaking for Margaret Bush Wilson and Benjamin's Hooks' NAACP.

In state after state where the LDF has been involved, very questionable "desegregation" of Black colleges has taken place. In my opinion, Black colleges were under the gun to become white and white colleges made whiter. The LDF's concern for Black colleges is very questionable.

And the NAACP has been blamed for what many perceive as the legal destruction of the Black college as an institution. In turn, the two "NAACPs" have disagreed over this dubious legal strategy.

Hooks notified his leadership in a letter of May 14 that positions taken by the LDF "do not appear to be in accord" with the N.A.A.C.P.'s long record of support for the 111 Black colleges which have trained over 80 percent of Blacks each year. Next week: Part II

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, can be seen on public television Saturdays, on Channels 22 and 67 at 6:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

## Knowing your days in court

By Patriscya E. Duncan

There are eight judicial circuits in Maryland which encompass 23 counties and Baltimore City. Though seven of the circuits include two or more county courts each, the Eighth Judicial Circuit includes only the six courts of the Supreme Bench because of its size and complexity.

The consolidation of these six courts in January, 1983 will bring Baltimore City's court system in line with the other Circuit Courts of Maryland.

And, though only one Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City will be elected in November of this year, all of the six present Clerks of the Court will be "grandfathered" into the new system without losing their jobs and salaries whether they run for election in November or not.

The Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court provides invaluable service to the courts and the public through a variety of judicial and non-judicial functions.

Some of the judicial responsibilities are docketing court cases and court activities, recording deeds and other documents, and maintaining and preserving the records of the court including marriage licenses.

Deputy clerks are appointed by the Clerk of the Court to assist in performing the numerous duties of that office and must take an oath of office to act in the Clerk's place.

They have the authority to sign the Clerk's name to public and court documents, to administer oaths to several public officials including judges, the state's attorney, the mayor, and notaries public.

However, the Clerk assumes ultimate responsibility for the official actions of all employees, and is accountable to the judiciary and to the public for the accurate and productive performance of the office.

As a point of clarification, there is a significant difference between the Clerk of Court and the court clerks.

Court clerks are assigned to individual courts by the Clerk of Court in each circuit or by each of the Clerks of the Courts of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City to provide administrative assistance during the proper conduct of trials.

These courtroom clerks maintain the court dockets, which are lists of cases to be heard in the courts and related court activities, and swear in all witnesses, jurors and bailiffs, who are the law clerks or administrative assistants to the judges.

Among the other judicial functions of the Clerk's office are duties involving criminal, equity and law matters. A criminal case is brought before the Circuit Court when the State's Attorney files a formal accusation, when a 23 person grand jury determines the evidence pertaining to a crime is sufficient to return an indictment, or when a request for a jury trial or an appeal is received from the District Court.

The office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court prepares and maintains the criminal docket (a record of court proceedings), collects bail bonds, and issues summonses commanding witnesses to appear and testify in court and warrants for the arrests of persons named in criminal cases.

Equity cases involve impartial decisions by the Court in disputes pertaining to claims or rights by conflicting parties.

The areas of jurisdiction include divorce cases (also alimony and child custody), questions of title to real property (like land or houses), foreclosures (when a borrower does not meet the terms of a mortgage and misses the "house note"), mechanic's liens (to get paid for work performed or materials furnished), and injunctions (preventing persons from committing specific acts).

The Clerk's office is responsible for properly filing, recording and maintaining accurate information on the transactions of these cases.

Equity matters are civil proceedings; however, law cases also are included in civil actions.

Law cases consist of suits involving torts. Torts are civil wrongs which are independent of contract.

Essentially, the elements of a tort are the existence of a legal duty owed by one party to another, the failure of a person to perform an act previously agreed upon, or the cause of injury to one party by an act of another.

Motor torts simply are injuries involving a motor vehicle such as a car or truck.

Law cases also involve contracts and confessed judgments. An example of a confessed judgment is a situation where the buyer of certain goods on credit voluntarily agrees in a purchase contract that, if he fails to make payments on time, a judgment may be entered against him for the entire amount due, often plus court costs and attorney's fees.

It is important to note these procedures usually are regulated by legislative statutes because of their potentially abusive nature.

The law courts have exclusive jurisdiction in cases with damage claims of $5,000 or more and where jury trials are requested, and concurrent jurisdiction with the District Court in actions involving amounts between $2,500 and $5,000.

---

EDITOR'S NOTE: Patriscya E. Duncan is an independent management consultant in Baltimore and former Chief Deputy of a Surpreme Bench Court. At present, she is an official candidate for the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.