Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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The new Vegas?

Delegate John Douglass has a good habit of profering ideas aimed at helping Marylanders in general and Baltimore in particular improve the quality of their lives.

His latest proposal: That a Las Vegas or Atlantic City gambling casino cluster be fashioned using the new and old downtown hotels as its locus to generate income for Baltimore is at once thoughtful and provocative.

The tourism and gambling tax monies, the employment opportunities and the prospect of Baltimore being lifted from a branch-office town to mainline, the Douglass concept projects are beguiling.

There is no question that our city has a rich heart (make that rich white heart) in an undernourished black body and with a decline of industry, shipping and federal subsidies—we need all the funds we can get.

The question is how much are we willing to give in order to get?

The introduction of world-class gambling to Baltimore would bring with it a complete sub-set of problems that Delegate Douglass is cognizant of but leaves unsaid.

Baltimore as "Vegas" would bring in organized crime to a degree we have not previously known.

The moral questions surrounding gambling could divide our community in many painful ways.

The biggest question of all, morals to one side; is just who would make the money?

Each time something new and ostensibly exciting is suggested or developed in Baltimore - the proponents always are careful to point out said project's potential for entrepreneurship and employment.

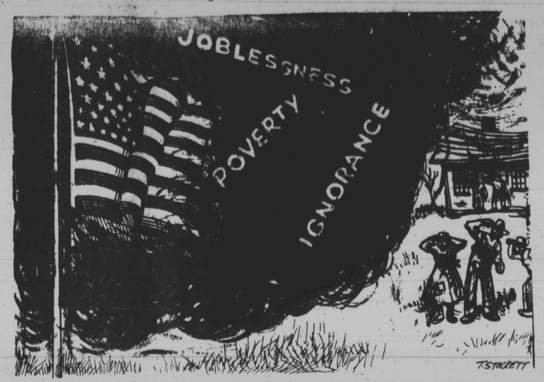
Our observation is that nothing has been implemented in Baltimore that has had more than the most minimal impact on denting our awful joblessness statistics.

The State Lottery into which we pour millions pumps little back.

Doudass is wise to wait for reaction from our religious community before proceeding.

He is also advised to design into his casino proposal some mechanics whereby we know up front what we get out of the deal.

Elsewise it could Vegas Strip East for a favored few, and sharecropper acres for everyone else.



MADELINE MURPHY

Class has its privilege

There is almost an eerie irony, perhaps poetic "justice" in the unfolding scenario of the attempted assassination of the President by John Hinckley and the final not guilty verdict by reason of insanity, by a majority black jury.

All of them had been unwittingly programmed through a lifetime of racist white supremacy. They had witnessed the tender protection of Hinckley's rights during his incarceration. They had read about and seen the distraught but very wealthy parents even before the lengthy trial unfolded.

All of this, subliminally, emphasized the privilege of class.

Afterward, their voluntary appearance before a senate committee as witness accentuated the kind of plantation syndrome indicative of this society, where blacks testify they are not too sure they did the right thing, although it definitely was the "white" thing to do!

The patronizing tone of the senators at the hearing can be summed up by what Senator Biden of Delaware said, "If I were in your "skin" (quotes mine) I wouldn't know what to do either."

On the other hand, the intended victim, President Ronald Reagan, a man of privilege, of money and arrogance, right after the assassination showed the prophetic nature of one who seemed to have been anointed — saved for loftier work on earth.

Rather than feel humility for being snatched from the jaws of death, he took it as a sign that his philosophy of protecting his class — the oil magnates, the arms merchants, the incestuous game of musical chairs between industry and government, Reaganomics, taxing the poor through cuts in social programs while relieving the rich with tax exemptions, all were foreordained to come to pass.

Charging in on his white steed like the Lone Ranger, transposing the make believe land of filmdom into the White House, he could finely tune this prophetic stance, strengthen his Big Brother power, use the charm of persuasion that would make his small world and the small world he protected, safe and secure.

On the other hand, John Hinckley, also a product of privilege, of indulgence, born into a world with skewed values, that made him believe he could kill and maim for his true love, reeks also of the fantasy world of fairy tales, where knights in shining white armour slay the dragon to win the fair maid, through sheer force of will without regard to right or wrong.

The two, Reagan and Hinckley, could really be brothers given the kind of individual values they both espouse. Insanity? Not so much that as the extraordinary privilege of class.

And so the indignation from the public about the verdict is also a part of the fiction of the American Way, reaffirming the dictum that there are two rules for them and one for us. Brainwash to believe that might and power make right, the working class jury established intact the different standard by which the wealthy are judged as compared to the ordinary citizen.

Lord knows we have never had such lenient interpretation for ourselves as was given John Hinckley, but black folks are fair if nothing else, even though history has taught us that fairness is not a two-way street.

Now we see the predominantly black jurors and the black judge becoming easy scapegoats for those who would love to say, and probably do say in their clubs and segregated social lives, that it is indeed a mistake to first of all have a jury and judge of blacks, unsophisticated, too simple-minded to understand that psychological jargon; but also to permit blacks to sit in judgment of whites, since they are somehow softer on crime.

But as the battle will rage in Congress, we can not forget the laws were made by predominantly white lawmakers. When Congress tries to bend laws to their own will, they are still confronted with the paradox of jurors who adhere to the letter of the law, interpret the instruction of reasonable doubt to mean acquittal.

Further, Reagan's raw arrogance of his class was all too evident in his visit to England, when he kept the queen waiting; had official food tasters, and practically overcrowded the castle with body guards and secret servicemen — one wonders if Nancy curtsied this time — a not too subtle but obvious tug of war over who is the "mightiest in the jungle."

Finally, to believe his own publicity as Reagan does, is the most dangerous of traps. To provide simplistic solutions that have even greater, more horrendous consequences to problems that deal with limited nuclear war — the eventual destruction of the earth; to rattle sabers in the face of conciliatory moves from the Soviet Union; to pamper a maniac like Menachem Begin, who will drive us deeper into global confrontation, all illustrate how much this man of privilege lives not unlike John Hinckley in his own fantasies.

And sad to say, some day, before a jury of his peers, might be adjudged as Hinckley was.

PARREN J. MITCHELL

Child care remains a challenge

It is continuously astounding and shameful that the United States remains among the very few industrialized countries without a national child care program. For all of our high technology, innovation, and massive sophistication, it is ironic that we have failed miserably to provide for the pre-school children of our labor force.

In fact, we rank quite low. For example, the Soviet Union has poured $1 billion into new day care centers in the past two years, and the system now serves some 13 million children. The French have an extensive creche or nursery system, a free kindergarten network for children over the age of three, state-licensed agencies that place children with volunteer sitters, and some 200,000 assistants maternelles or professional nannies.

The Swedish government not only provides day care for children through ninth grade; it also will pay 90 percent of the parent's salary for a year so that either parent can stay at home.

Proposals to authorize a new federal child care program have been before Congress for more than a decade; however, such initiatives have yet to reach enactment.

Unfortunately, the private sector is just as inadequate, with many businesses moving more expeditiously to ensure workers are afforded gymnasiums and saunas rather than adequate, or any, child care facilities on or near the worksite.

It is impossible to ignore this problem throughout the country, management and labor representatives are aware of the link between unsatisfactory child care arrangements and employee absenteeism. Additionally, the lack of adequate child care facilities is a variable in keeping many mothers, who receive public assistance, away from the workforce.

If we adequately addressed this problem, for the private sector, federal workers, and those who receive public assistance, we would be moving toward improved overall productivity, and toward the achievement of the much touted goal of overall economic stabilization.

The need for greater initiative in the provision of child care, on the part of the public and private sectors is blatantly critical.

Department of Labor statistics substantiate that 50 percent of children under 18 had mothers in the labor force in March 1978, up from 39 percent in 1970. Among preschool-age children, the proportion whose mothers worked or looked for work rose from 29 percent to 40 percent between 1970 and 1978. By 1979, labor force participation of mothers with preschool children had increased to 45 percent, with an estimated 7.2 million preschool children in need of child care services.

Despite these increases, the sponsorship of day care centers by hospitals and industries has decreased. Between 1968, when the Women's Bureau conducted a survey of hospital-sponsored centers, and a 1978 survey, the number of hospital-sponsored centers decreased by 23 percent. In 1970, the Women's Bureau identified 11 industry-sponsored centers, but there were nine in 1978.

The Urban Institute has also reported that, by 1990, the proportion of mothers in the labor force with preschool children will exceed 50 percent, and by decade's end, there may be 10.5 million preschoolers with employed mothers, up from 7.5 million in 1980.

Public sector response to these overwhelming facts has been particularly frightening for the working poor or for those parents of preschoolers who must rely on federally sponsored child care programs.

Child care services to low and middle income families as part of such social welfare programs as, Title XX, AFDC, WIN (work Incentive Program for AFDC Parents), and programs under state-federally assisted child welfare programs, are among those initiatives which continue to be victimized by budget reduc-

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Sickle Cell breakthrough

Scientists at Johns Hopkins Children's Center and Harvard University announced a simple prenatal test procedure whereby expectant mothers would learn whether their fetuses have sickle cell anemia.

The new test is reportedly safe and inexpensive.

Details are in the news story below:

Medical technology is with each new breakthrough, increasingly hopeful for man and womankind and at the same time, immensely chilling.

Sperm banks, test tube babies, scanning x-rays that define a human's degree of health or unhealth in one or two radiological photographs, cloning, transplants:

Many of these advances in the medical sciences must finally considered as political problems.

The sickle cell anemia prenatal test has enormous political implications for black women, indeed for all black families.

At the scientific level, the sickle cell breakthrough is insurance for healthier babies — at the political level it places information about who can live and who should never be born in many different hands.

We salute the science of this discovery as we shudder at the politics possible down the road.

Details of new sickle cell test

A new simple, safe and efficient prenatal test to diagnose women who could give birth to a baby with sickle cell anemia, a hereditary blood disease, primarily affecting blacks, will soon be available in major medical centers around the country.

The new technique was developed by scientists at Johns Hopkins Children's Center and Harvard University.

Hopkins geneticist Corrine D. Boehm speculates the new test may help doctors detect other dangerous hereditary illnesses before birth. Once a baby with anemia, or some other grave illness has been diagnosed, parents can make an informed decision to continue or terminate the pregnancy. Half those afflicted with sickle cell die before age 35.

Although sickle cell anemia sometimes affects Italians, Greeks and Saudi Arabians, one in 10 blacks is a carrier of the disease — unaffected by it, they can pass it on to their offspring.

Here in Baltimore, about 500 black couples are carriers according to Hopkins scientist.

The test is for pregnant women who are carriers of the disease and married to carriers. The test analyzes the fluid from the sac surrounding the baby in the pregnant mother.

Former methods of diagnosing the genetic disease required taking bits of blood or tissue from the unborn baby, which often ended in abortion.

Wishing survival

By Marion Banfield

The mass media is helping us to survive as creatures of this planet. We can be grateful for television, radio and the printed discussions and opinions which stimulate discussion about surviving a nuclear attack.

We have difficulty managing movement in times of natural stress, such as heavy rain or snowstorms. The idea of trekking to another city or state, of there being roads for the trek, is an insult to our understanding of nuclear devastation.

Throughout the world, citizens are saying to the super-powers, "You've got enough weapons to destroy this planet. We want a reduction of weapons and the end to destroying our sons and tax-supported properties for the benefit of the military-industrial complex."

Recently I heard two Japanese youths state the military-industrial complex of Japan was pressuring the omission of the tragedy of Hiroshima's atomic devastation from text books. The Japanese can not forget.

Our black sons must be taught to learn to cope with the brainwork of a technological society. They no longer can be allowed to relax in non-learning, defiant cultural ignorance.

The armed forces no longer can use their uneducated minds. The jails are bulging with them. Education is the black man's chief survival need.

Survival for all is in opposition to war, support for jobs that will benefit us as human beings. War industries need not be the major source of a community's employment.

Do not get fooled into planning a trek after the bomb. Work for a world of respect and grace.

Letters

The serious threat of nuclear war

Dear AFRO:

I was one of more than 1,000 Marylanders who marched in New York City on June 12, to demonstrate my support for a bilateral US-USSR nuclear weapons freeze as the best first step toward mutual reductions in the stockpiles.

Like many of my fellow marchers, I was politically complacent until this issue came along.

Indeed, due to a paralyzing apathy, I am embarrassed to admit that I have never voted in an election before.

But the price of apathy has become too high. I will vote this fall, and the freeze issue will make my choice of candidates clear — whether I am voting for county councilman or U.S. Senator.

There are Americans, who are still undecided. Everyone (even President Reagan) seems to agree now that nuclear war is not winnable. Where the controversy lies is in what strategy will best avoid the total destruction of our society.

Some skeptics of the freeze seem to base their views on a "gut feeling" rather than factual information. I have heard many times, "How can I, an average citizen, profess to know what is best on this complicated issue?"

President Reagan has the access to the secret information and to the experts. He is a sane and decent person.

He MUST know what is best for America." I usually hear a trace of desperation in the "must" — my God, how terrifying to think our destiny lies in the hands of one man who may NOT know best.

I will concede the people in the Administration and the President are sane and decent. Though, in so doing, I must disregard Secretary of State Haig's casual comment about nuclear "warning shots" into Russia, and President Reagan's comments about winning a "limited" nuclear war, and the civil defense planners telling us all we need to survive a nuclear war is eight days notice and a good shovel.

My explanation of the Administration's rejection of the freeze concept is that they are simply wrong.

Wrong like any intelligent and well-meaning individual or organization can be. If anyone has difficulty imagining that our government could be wrong — with all their experts, with all their top-secret information — just remember the Bay of pigs; better yet, remember Vietnam.

I urge all Marylanders to base their decision on how best to avoid a nuclear holocaust on the facts — not in blind faith in the status quo. For access to the facts, contact the Maryland campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze, P. O. Box 7241, Baltimore, MD 21218, 467-8500.

LINDA JONES

Better facilities needed for the handicapped

Dear AFRO:

I am a quadriplegic and am very active in working for the handicapped in Maryland.

I also continue to teach sailing and safe boating courses for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadron, as I have done for the past 18 years.

When I return from my activities for the community I cannot park in front of my own home because there is no reserved space.

Until recently, I was unable to continue my community work because I had a very serious skiing accident which left me confined to a wheelchair and unable to driye my own vehicle.

I now have a van, thanks to my many generous friends, with handicapped license which enables me to resume my community activities.

Although I do not and cannot drive the van, my wife, who is a nurse at Bon Secours Hospital and my personal care attendant, takes me wherever necessary.

As taxpayers of the city and workers in the community, it would seem appropriate to allow the handicapped reserved parking in front of their homes.

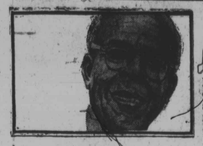
I respectfully request that you initiate the necessary handicapped parking in front of the homes of the handicapped.

I understand a bill number 1070 is before the City Council for action to change only two of the 10 requirements for reserved parking space for the disabled in Baltimore City.

If Baltimore County as well as several other counties have given this right to the handicapped, I do not see why the city of Baltimore will not do the same. We are taxpayers as well as those in the counties.

I hope you will consider my request and push to have the bill no. 1070 passed for the benefit of the handicapped.

RALPH C. BEHNING



G. JAMES FLEMING

It did not just happen

Parren Mitchell who first sued to enter the university's graduate school and, in another suit, if we remember correctly, to lower the barriers against his being able to live in a university dormitory.

It was the AFRO and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) which, together, left no stone unturned, to the end that black tax-paying citizens might also have their children trained as physicians, dentists, lawyers and so on.

That progress has been made can be seen, by contrasting the two black doctors who were graduated in 1955 with the 12 who received the M.D. degree in 1982.

Besides giving credit where credit is due, the U. of M. Medical School several years ago appointed an assistant dean to uncover and recruit young blacks who, regardless of their economic background, have the qualifications for pursuing a medical education. Assistant Dean Dr. Robert Harrell, a former professor of biology at Morgan State University, also works zealously with those students who need extra counseling and guidance.

The writing is easy, but opening the doors and keeping them open did not "just happen."

The "No-Negro-Need-Apply" practice at Maryland was true of medical and most professional schools throughout the South and in many institutions in the North, with the discriminatory pattern fiercest in medical schools.

Differential in pay for public school teachers, with blacks being underpaid; refusal to employ blacks as policemen and firemen; failure to provide adequate, much less equal, health care facilities for blacks; refusal of some hospitals (public and private) to admit blacks; jim-crow seating on trains and busses — all of these and more have changed in recent history only because of pressure and action (including the exercise of voting power) on the part of blacks and their friends.

Even the passage of the civil rights laws did not "just happen." It would take a book to tell what went into the issuance of the first federal fair employment practice measure, setting up the celebrated FEPC; more volumes to record the herculean strategies responsible for the later civil rights laws of the 1960s and 1970s.

There were friends, such as Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harold Ickes, who have always stood shoulder to shoulder with blacks to bring about a change for the better. Sometimes, however, it was difficult to identify friends from foes.

So, as we recognize the gains, and gains there are, let us remember that they do not "just happen."

Tony Brown's Comments

How 'Pretty Boy' gang was stopped

Did you know that Boley, Oklahoma was — and is — an all-Black town? That in 1903, when it was founded, whites were not allowed to live there?

Did you know that on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 23, 1932, "Pretty Boy" Floyd's notorious gang attempted to rob the Farmers and Merchants Bank at Boley?

And did you know that the Black people, whose hard-earned money was in that bank, blew "Pretty Boy's" gang into Kingdom Come?

No, you wouldn't know any of that unless you have read Leon E. Smith's exciting book, "High Noon at the Boley Corral." A Detroiter, and a friend of longstanding, Smith wonders about the white media's distortion by omission.

"Why did the New York Times write a three column story on the foiled bank robbery that destroyed the 'Pretty Boy' Floyd Gang, but failed to state that the dead or captured were Floyd's gang?"

I'm sure by now any Black or rational white person knows the answer to that question. We also understand why Smith had to scrape together $4,500 of his own money to publish his 92 - page book.

And like the other self - made Black publishers that I have been writing about, Smith has to sell his books from his home because the white - distribution monopoly will not touch a meaningful Black book. Smith has set - up Leeann Publications, 18635 Wesford Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48234 and sells his "spotlight on historical deception" for only $4.00 — (313) 862 - 3407.

The author grew up in Boley, the largest of several all - Black towns that sprang up around the turn of the century in what was still known as Indian Territory. Blacks were denied residency in White communities. However, their towns became landmarks of self - sufficiency.

Charles A. "Pretty Boy" Floyd would announce in advance what banks he would rob — and do so. But the movies about his heroics never reveal, as Smith's book does, that his gang was wiped out by Blacks in Boley, Oklahoma.

The book quotes "Pretty Boy" as he warned his gang: "Nigras ain't got but one bank in this state. That means they ain't gonna give it up without somebody dying." He was right.

"Pretty Boy" did not die at Boley, however. He kept his own advice. "Pretty Boy" Floyd didn't want to bother this little Black town. He used to hide out with Blacks. In fact, one Black man was said to have a silver dollar for every bank Floyd had robbed," Smith, who was turned down by 20 publishers, says.

Is there a demand for Black - Affairs information such as this? If my mail - response to our documentary on "The Black West" is a yardstick, there is. "Please continue with such programs as this. It benefits all of us, especially our children. We all need to know about Black contributions and your method is most impressive," wrote James Thomas of Torrance, California.

"Such programs as the one I saw Saturday should be shown weekly. We need to know the contributions we made to this country, especially our young Black boys and men, added Beverly A. Wilson of Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

"Boley Corral" records an example of authentic Black genius. Smith reveals how they pulled off their coup. "When activated, the bank's alarm alerted four other stores on Main St. The alarm was triggered by lifting the last dollar bills from the teller's cash box connecting the two electrodes wired there. The four other stores were electrically wired to the bank."

If Alex Haley's "Roots" turned the spotlight on truth in Afro - American history, "High Noon At The Boley Corral" finally turns the spotlight on deception, (by omission) about one covered up Black town that destroyed the nationally famous, bank robbing "Pretty Boy" Floyd gang.

The people you meet in this autobiographic documentary about Boley, Oklahoma, sprang from the most unique group of homesteading pioneers. The author's father was one of the Black eye witnesses to the saga of Oklahoma's pre - state years, the Boley boom years, and the "Pretty Boy" days.

Although there is a demand for this information, the Black entrepreneur must become a catalyst, as Smith has. He has "discovered" America's history for us. We must, in turn, "discover" Smith, if the circle is to be closed.

Next season on my television series, you'll see me telling Smith's story — at the Boley Corral.

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.

ELIZABETH M. OLIVER
City Editor

JULY NEWS NOTES

ENGAGEMENT TOLD

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McDonald, 3605 Dennlyn Rd., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Kim Ella, to Mr. Norman Arthur Patterson Jr., son of Mrs. Shirley Gorham and Norman Arthur Patterson Sr. The wedding is scheduled for August.

Mr. McDonald, a longtime public school teacher, was for many years an AFRO proof reader sooooo therefore we wish his daughter much happiness.

MISS KIM ELLA McDONALD
engagement told

TALENTED YOUNG MAN

LEONARD POOLE, son of Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Poole of Ebenezer Baptist Church, is the talented singer who was congratulated by Alex Haley at the banquet last December.

Young Poole appeared again last Sunday as the main speaker for the Missionary Society anniversary.

A brilliant Hopkins U student and government employee, Poole is indeed unusual in that he has in addition to all else, deep religious conviction.

He was introduced last week by a fellow-Hopkins engineering student, Leonard Mines. 'Twas good to see such youthful persons in church and dedicated to religious teachings.

AIRMAN GERMAN

AIRMAN ELMER W. GERMAN III, our grandson, is now stationed at a base in North Carolina. At age 17, he ranked highest in the U.S. Airforce national test when he was graduated from high school in his hometown Honolulu, Hawaii. Now he has all education assured, a salary and a choice of officers training or the Air Force Academy.

Young German is grandson of Baltimore's Mrs. Frances German whose family is listed among Founders of old Whatcoat Methodist Church.

Other relatives are great - grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Jacob B. (Rose Murphy) Oliver and great - great - grandparents, John

For all we know

St. and Martha Murphy Sr., AFRO founder. Elmer's parents, residents of Hawaii, are Marsha Rose German and Capt. Elmer W. German Jr.

I recall vividly how I wondered and marveled at Elmer's ability to read and count when he was barely three years old. He liked the newspaper and of course he'd read the AFRO, every line under the pictures.

All through childhood, riding in the supermarket cart, he'd read all labels and count up the prices in his head faster than a computer. Now, all this comes in handy and he's happy in the Air Force.

The Air Force and all U.S. Armed Forces give great advantages to young persons who qualify today.

I encourage all those high school grads to take the test, become eligible for the vast educational advantages and the really nice salary. It's a good deal with a fine future.

MT. AUBURN CEMETERY

AT LAST somebody is doing the right thing about historic old Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Young Bill Green has purchased it and straight-away has improved the gravesites.

In addition to the Howards, the Murphys, AFRO founder and his family, buried there are all of Baltimore's old families. In years past, Mt. Auburn was the only place our deceased ones were welcome.

Memorial Day each year we used to meet everyone we knew over generations at Mt. Auburn, clearing away the weeds and ecorating with flowers.

There is some real Baltimore history (Joe Gans, the famed boxer, is buried there) that someone can record. Meantime, thanks to Mr. Green who is doing a great job.

HALEY FAMILY REUNION

OUR PAL, Attorney George Haley of Silver Spring, MD, is the brother of Alex Haley of ROOTS fame.

George informs that the entire family will gather next week in Memphis and Henning, TN, coming from all parts of the nation for the reunion.

Among spots to be visited are Palmer House, Palmer Turner School, Will Palmer's Lumber Yard and Chicken George's grave

AIRMAN ELMER W. GERMAN III of Hawaii, Seymour Johnson AFC, NC.

LEONARD POOLE
main speaker

with a picnic in Alex Haley Park, a banquet and church at New Hope CME.

GET THIS — Many of the ROOTS movie stars will be present. We hope to be on the scene when this big event comes.

HERE'S SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

KHANGAS will be available at Sam Smith Market in Harbor Place July 7-13. Believe me, it's something beautiful.

Here's what the colorful Khanga is.

What's 1 x 2 equals 25? It's a Khanga " . . . a marvelous rectangle of fabric 1 yd. by 2 yds., that can be worn 25 different ways.

The Khanga, which means "a piece of material" in Swahali, was heretofore worn only by the women of Kenya, but is currently enjoying great popularity throughout Europe.

From skirt to dress to playsuit, beach cover, etc., the Khanga is totally versatile.

This versatility is further enhanced by the fact that one size fits all; no matter what shape you're in . . . you can have a Khanga body by merely modifying the wrapping and tying.

Constructed of the purest 100 percent cotton, Khangas come in a variety of dazzling colors and patterns. Harkening to their "dark continent" heritage, each has an African proverb imprinted on the fabric.

PENNY

The moving force behind the Khanga's introduction to the United States is Penny Al-Ibrahim, of Baltimore, who discovered them on a recent trip to Africa. After buying several Khangas as gifts, she decided that something this good deserved stateside recognition. The public seems to concur Khangas are creating excitement wherever they're shown.

Penny's background is as colorful as the Khangas she sells. She was born in London, and reared in the Falkland Islands, South America, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. It was on a visit to her physician - lawyer father and mother in Nairobi, Kenya, that Penny discovered the Khangas.

—Parren Mitchell

(Continued from Page 4)

tions. In fact, cuts by as much as 40 percent will be realized this year and next year with the adoption of the Reagan budget.

Working parents are also apprehensive about prevailing attacks by the current Administartion on such innovative approaches as flexitime. The use of flexitime has been among those initiatives which have helped to facilitate the greater participation of mothers in the workforce. The use of flexitime has also helped both parents in many families to maximize their work output, and still incorporate a daily schedule which will be conducive to greater family unity.

It is ironic that an Administration which purports to prioritize the work ethic would actually discourage those programs and initiatives which encourage more Americans to enter and' or continue to function in the workforce!

Admittedly, there are those who are responding to the call for increased child care facilities. Some entrepreneurs throughout the country have recognized the profitability in this area and haye turned the provision of such facilities into a flourishing business. Today, 10 major chains operate about 1,000 child care centers collecting $100 million annually from the mostly middle-class families whose children attend them.

For lower-income and other workers, child care centers sponsored by employers and labor unions are adding improvement to the child care dilemma. Such establishments as Wang Laboratories, Inc., Intermedics, Inc., Corning Glass Works, and Zale Corporation have opened child care centers for their workers' young children.

Help provided by such centers includes: allowances to pay for care; counseling and referral services; seminars in parenting; and, subsidies for small "family day care homes." These concepts should be praised and encouraged. Others must be encouraged to do more.

At the federal level, I have recently joined other Congresspersons in co-sponsoring H. R. 5965, a bill designed to provide a degreee of tax relief for parents who must deal with child care costs. The bill also provides incentives to businesses to provide day care facilities, for their employees, or as a business.

The dependent care tax credit contained in H. R. 5965 is refundable. This is most impottant for poor families who normally can not take full advantage of the current dependent care tax credit because such credit can only be applied against a liability.

The bill also addresses the supply problem by giving a bonus 10 percent tax credit for any investment currently eligible for the normal investment tax credit AND USED FOR A DEPENDENT CARE FACILITY. The measure would also establish a new five percent investment tax credit for structural expenses (not now eligible for any kind of such credit) associated with constructing a dependent care facility.

This is not just a haphazard tax Christmas present; it is targeted for specific use, and accordingly, could really help to address the child care problem for working parents.

I believe we must also applaud those of you who, as private citizens, have taken it upon yourselves to ensure that children in need of day care are provided for. Your joint efforts, and such neighborhood services as "baby-sitting exchange" contribute more than you can possibly know.

I pledge my continued fight in this area. We are working hard in Congress to establish a Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. Such issues as child care will certainly be among the priorities of such a Committee.

I also urge you all to continue to offer innovative approaches to this problem to your neighbors, and particularly, to management within the private sector.

Unless we hold the worksites more responsible, the issue of adequate child care will continue to haunt us. This is yet another area where we will have to literally force, once again, a public-private sector partnership if we are truly concerned about the future of our children.

Harbor Bank elects new officers

Harbor Bank of Maryland, the first minority-owned and controlled commercial bank in the city, and second new bank to open in Baltimore since 1933, has announced the election of their Board of Directors.

Comprised of business and civic leaders from the Baltimore community, the Board officers are George L. Russell, Jr., Chairman of the Board; William C. March, Vice Chairman; W. F. Carpenter, President; Allen Quille, Vice President; and Joseph Haskins, Jr., Secretary.

Russell, a prominent Baltimore attorney, was the first black to be appointed Associate Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City in 1966, and as City Solicitor of Baltimore in 1968.

He served as City Solicitor until 1974, when he returned to the private practice of law with the firm, Russell and Thompson P.A. Russell has been instrumental in organizing the bank and personally raised more than $1 million in stock subscriptions.

Carpenter, born in Huntington, W. Va., began his banking career in 1959. Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President of Century National Bank in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

During the past three-and-a half years, he has served as a consultant and helped organize the Harbor Bank of Maryland.

March serves as President of the William C. March Funeral Home. Quille is the President of Quille's Parking Center, and Haskins works as an account executive for Bache, Halsy, Stuart, Shields, Inc. in Baltimore.

The initial efforts to organize Baltimore's first full-service black-owned and controlled bank began almost 10 years ago. Russell brought the idea to fruition in only six months time.

The Harbor Bank of Maryland is scheduled to open during late August and is located at 21 West Fayette Street.

More letters

Walbrook family thanks AFRO

Dear AFRO:

Sincere thanks to you and your staff for the Walbrook coverage in your recent newspaper. The Walbrook Family thought it was very well done. We have received several calls and compliments because of the article.

The members of the Future Business Leaders of America were responsible for selling the paper around the school. It gave the students good practice in carrying out some of the goals of FBLA.

Again our sincere thanks for your continued support.

MARGARET FRIEND
FBLA Adviser