Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Warning to voters

On the page opposite we begin to define each of the city's newly reapportioned voting districts as part of what we hope you will agree is a valuable public service.

We are also beginning our push to see each citizen in our community eligible to vote registered so as to be able to cast ballots in the upcoming election.

Please clip this information and keep it handy!

It is important that you register. It is equally important to check with the Board of Election Supervisors to see if you are still a registered voter and assigned to your correct voter district.

Thousands of our votes have been squandered because many citizens assumed that they were on the voter books.

Changes of address, shifting political boundaries can all add up to your loss of voter status.

Be sure you do not lose your opportunity for political franchise.

Read the AFRO and keep the facts we provide handy come Election Day.

The issues

Some 752 citizens have filed to seek elective office in the state of Maryland in the soon-to-be election.

A surprising number of them are black, young and articulate challengers.

We like this.

What we do not like is that few incumbents or challengers have said much of anything about what they will do for our community, how they will do it, and this, after all, is the bottom line.

NAACP president Enolia McMillan at a candidates' night this week hit the nail on the head when she asked the assembled politicos and would-be politicos to tell the people what they intend to do and what their procedures might be.

To her, and our chagrin, all the candidates fed back was a lot of rhetoric.

We are looking for candidates who can get past the Vote For Me Because I am Lovable syndrome and tell our community how they intend to work on the many crucial problems besetting us.

Our community needs political problem-solvers, not "personalities," egomaniacs or political types activist Bobby Cheeks characterizes as "politicians who only vote their personal pocket book interests."

We do not mind politicians who improve their personal worth, so long as their performance improves the personal and communal wealth of all the voters.

Those men and women who aspire to political leadership in Maryland in the Eighties simply have to address the issues and deal with what must be dealt with.

We're listening closely, so far we have not heard much.

Youth in the streets -shocking?

By Al Sweeney
WASHINGTON

Like most of the readers of morning daily papers, I am not shocked but disturbed about the way that the city's Third District is handling the crime problems in northwest Washington.

Any person, who drives any afternoon in the neighborhood of 14th and V Streets, N.W., is awed by the crowd of young blacks crowding the streets. They wander like herds of animals, aimlessly, noisy without purpose.

Observers say that most of the youth who pack the sidewalks and streets are said to be on drugs. If the price of drugs is high as they are reportedly, how they obtain the money is speculative.

As long as they have a habit, that leads to stealing for funds to feed it.

So, who is responsible for the failure of the kids who are without hope and full of despair? So what are we going to do about them? Whose fault? It's not their fault?

Have the cops run up and down, beat heads and throw them into the wagon and cart them off to Lorton is not the answer.

The Nazis solved their youth problem. I am sure that a certain religious group doesn't agree with that Hitlerian approach. Put all of the youth into camps and have mass training. Certainly, the national socialism policy of forced work for all would solve the unemployment problem. Of course, if you left it up to some of the persons who are insensitive to the meandering youth would round them up like cattle and pull a Valentine slaughter.

So the youth are here. They are a problem. A big unemployment problem. Without skills. Many social groups, who wouldn't give a damn about the kids, siphon off the top money for non - existent training programs as administrative expenses.

A school system that is floundering. There is no question that many teachers are not teaching. And the kids are not learning. The teachers blame parents for the school failures. The parents blame the school teachers.

Yet, there is something that is wrong. Will bussing end the problem? Silly, of course.

Yet, there are many fine graduates coming out of our school system. Under the many handicaps that the graduates encounter in the classrooms, it is a wonder that a youngster who wants to learn and turn his or her back on the problem.

Our University of District of Columbia is an educational oasis for young people seeking to better their lot in the world. They are about to enter college this fall with a faculty and administration battling each other and have different values of learning.

It will end in more frustration, it seems.

Frankly, I don't have an answer. But, it is time for all of us who have real concern for the future of our race, we have a problem that must be solved.

Letters

Reagan is a good manipulator

Dear AFRO:

The Reagan administration holds a lot of significance to the everyday listener of the radio and television watchers.

President Reagan still thinks he is in Hollywood acting. Have you noticed when he is on television, the way he smiles and waves to everyone. He tells more jokes than anything else.

I realize inflation is going on and that the state of the economy is in a recession.

But if "Ron the Ripper" really wants to bring this country out of its recession, he can. He always can balance the budget and the public knows this.

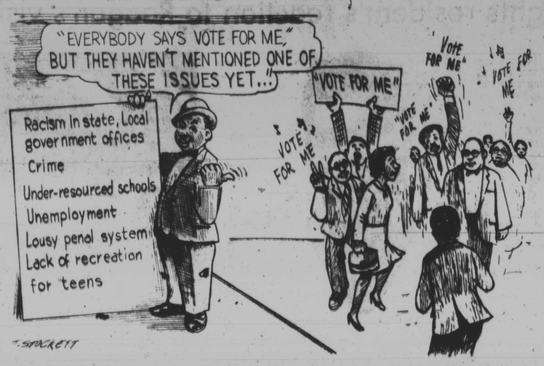
Reagan is a good manipulator. He also can manuever people very easily. The public will go along with anything he says.

I think he is the next best person to John Wayne. He is really good, but should not be over acting by now. It is time for action, not fun and games.

Haig was somewhat forced to leave office. I think Haig wanted to be the "shot-caller" in the White House, but Reagan would not stand for it.

Time is running out, Ron. Just what are you going to do?

ANDRE HUMPHREY



MADELINE MURPHY

Homosexuality

An exclusive report in a local magazine recounted the sad saga of young male street hustlers involved in an unreported crime wave.

Homicides, drugs, beatings, robberies all are part of this subculture, who peddle their bodies for money and prey upon closet gays, who out of desperation seek fugitive companionships to ease their loneliness through these ofttimes anonymous encounters.

Many of the lesser crimes of robbery and assault go unreported, because as one man explained, the police either will not do anything, or he feared public recognition.

This kind of violent prostitution that has gone on for a long time, especially in East Baltimore, highlights first of all the complicity of a system's unwillingness to cope with the problem; and secondly, the abherrent nature of this kind of behavior no one is able or willing to address forthrightly.

Moreover, the judgemental attitude the general public has indicated toward homosexuality, paralyzes the social service network, the criminal justice system, into an ostrich-like disavowal — to not acknowledge the problem will make it somehow go away or make it non-existent.

On the other hand, the street hustlers in some cases who come from a family tradition dating back to their grandfathers, are therefore not even ostracized by their peer group or family members.

The sub-culture then becomes an acceptable part of the cityscape juxtaposed against Harborplace, while duplicating a juvenile kind of Block.

Also the creeping acceptability of rape within the confines of the prison system, with overcrowding, triple celling, makes double jeopardy the ultimate penalty of incarceration — a continuum of the acceptance of sexual violence.

As a civilized community, however, we have not come to grips with this pervasive problem of differences in how men and women choose to express their sexuality. Perhaps this is because we have not yet even accepted heterosexuality as normal, and therefore can not express a public attitude, nor posture toward homosexuality.

The public disclosure of Congressman Robert Baumann's preferences; the impending Congressional investigation concerning alleged illicit relationships between Pages and Congressmen, has only afforded an opportunity for people to snicker and make crude jokes about an increasingly serious problem spawned by the public's refusal to deal with it.

Consequently, homosexuality is considered aberrant behavior and is used as the worst characterization toward men and women, who otherwise lead useful and productive lives; or as in the case of the women's movement, are vilified, not by what they preach, but by what is suspected of their private sexual preferences.

More ridiculous and in line with this mindset is the statement by a leading Baltimore heart surgeon who suggests that women who lead in the political and social issue areas have more than usual male hormones, and are in these leadership roles because of their hormonal imbalance.

Some scientists state a chemical imbalance in a person scripts him or her to choose his or her own sex as acceptable mates, from birth.

Others have proposed that single parent families where mothers have taken on both parental roles, has caused a male child to become homosexual.

No matter what the cause, homosexuality must be dealt with in the public arena; so that laws can be revised or repealed; so that predators can not be allowed to operate in this dangerous and violent sub-culture; so that prisons do not continue to be dens of horror.

While Mayor Schaefer has been named by the Boy Scouts as "Man of the Year," along with his concern for unemployment, rebuilding Baltimore, lauding the high principles of scouting, he must lend leadership to the fight against this other youthful criminal element that finds no other outlet for money or companionship.

Perhaps now at the end of the 20th century, we must acknowledge homosexuality is here to stay.

What we need to discover, however, is not only how it can be understood scientifically and accepted, but how we get rid of the predators it attracts because of the secrecy and jeopardy attached to it by archaic laws and attitudes.

Isn't it about time the Health Department, along with the Mayor named a Task Force on Homosexuality to consider all of its ramifications?

This might really make Baltimore Best, at least in its humanity by protecting the hope of our future — our children.

Budget and being

By Marion Banfield

At the rate Ronald Reagan pressures budget priorities, we are in danger of not even being around to worry about budgets. The President smilingly urges citizens to support his phobia on military paraphonalia, described as "defense."

Industries and institutions are crumbling, but he still is pressing Congressmen to believe in Reaganomics.

We do not have adequate health care. Our educational systems are in distress. As a matter of fact, our whole cultural system of values is changing and some changes are bad for human welfare.

Farmers need equipment. We all need housing. Yet, the White House message centers on the military-industrial demand for more of our natural and financial resources.

Just think what a change there would be if millions of citizens wrote to the President and Congressman demanding a 50 percent cut in the defense budget and putting a ceiling on military spending.

If citizens got serious about education of our children, teacher salaries would be high enough to compete with the industrial pull for their brainy people. Day care would be available and good for our children.

Politicians have been trained to scare us out of careful thinking for decades. All they have to utter is "Russia and atheistic communism." Millions of minds churn with hatred and fear.

I suppose the Russians describe America as the capitallistic exploiters of the masses. Meanwhile, citizens of both countries are deprived of basic, achievable human needs.

Citizens of both countries can stop being frightened into committing so much of their national budget into the military sphere.

We can stop being scared into the diabolic fervor for destruction and demand a budget for improving our being in this world.

An intolerable maritime situation

Dear AFRO:

There is a story unfolding currently which totally escapes the news media.

This story is about the merchant marine. Recently, Drew Lewis, secretary of transportation, suggested changes in subsidy policy, which will help to address the intolerable maritime situation from an economic angle.

From the defense angle, the Joint Chiefs of Staff are investigating the depletion in the numbers of merchant seaman, which will create a critical situation if an emergency arises.

The merchant marine always has come through for this country, even to the point of facing unseen dangers from U-boats in the North Atlantic during World War II.

These wolf packs decimated convoys of American merchant ships, but seamen never shrank from this awesome assignment.

Merchant seamen are willing to serve this nation again, but a condition exists which never has been investigated from a defense standpoint.

Economically, the shipping companies may be within their rights in building ships in Japan, and registering them in Panama or Liberia and using seamen from China and India or some other country with a low standard of living.

But what does this do for the defense capability of the United States? Should there not be some minimum requirements for shipping companies?

They are carrying most of the American shipping, so should they not be responsible for some of the defense of this country?

I think shipping companies should be held just as responsible as the rest of society for the defense of this nation.

I think there is a good story here, if it will investigate the long history of abuses which has caused a crisis in the merchant marine.

RONALD C. RIO

What is Afram?

Dear AFRO:

What is an AFRAM? And who are the Afram people?

I understand Italian, Korean, and Caribbean - American festivals, among others, which clearly spotlight by their title what people their festival honors.

But Afram? Come on, let's at least act like we are serious.

I have attended many Afram festivals and I have even participated in one, but this year like many people I will attend Afram in search of brogramming that clearly demonstrates "culture."

Are we going to get bubble gun African-American culture or the real stuff African-American culture is made of?

Next year, when we grow up or get rudely awakened, let us call it the NEGRAM festival, or who about the who are you? Festival, or the People Still in Identity Crisis (especially for those prone to forget.)

WILLIAM CURTIS

(Continued on Page 5)

PARREN J. MITCHELL

Supreme Court decisions

This week, the column was developed by Sheila Maith, an intern in my Washington office. Ms. Maith, a rising senior at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, is majoring in Political Science and Public Policy.

Last summer, she was among those students chosen to study in England at Oxford University. We are very proud of her continuing work with our office.

During the recent Congressional recess, we were able to monitor many significant activities in the other branches of government. The Supreme Court, in particular, wrapped up its 1981-1982 term with several decisions which are of extreme importance.

I must say I react to the news with mixed emotions. for our So many recent political developments have been bad omens for our people; for example; the passage of Republican budgets in both the House and the Senate; recently released June unemployment figures that show 53.6 percent of black teens as unemployed; and the insensitivity of the Reagan Administration to the plight of black businesses.

Accordingly, I search frantically for whatever positive news the Supreme Court decisions might bring.

At the same time, we should not be fooled by a wolf in sheep's clothing; events, such as those mentioned previously, combined with some of the Supreme Court's earlier decisions, demonstrated that we, as black people, must remain strong.

The gains that have been made can be as easily taken away.

Three recent Supreme Court decisions in particular have proven highly significant with respect to black people's rights to vote and protest peacefully.

By a 6-3 vote, the Court upheld two lower federal courts' decisions that the at-large electoral system used by Burke County, GA., to elect its Board of Governors is unconstitutional because it serves to discriminate against blacks.

The Justices maintained the county must change its election system to a single-member district system so the black vote might not be diluted.

In a second decision, the high court held the Mississippi Supreme Court acted improperly in permitting a county to elect new school board members under procedures that were as yet unapproved by the Justice Department.

This ruling reinforced the preclearance provision of the Voting Rights Act and renewed the responsibility of counties with a poor voting rights record to have election law changes cleared.

In the third decision relating to the right to peaceful protest, the Supreme Court ruled the NAACP is not liable for damages suffered by merchants in Port Gibson, MISS., as a result of a civil rights boycott of their businesses.

Lower court had ruled the NAACP must pay the merchants $1.25 million in retribution for loss of business resulting from the boycott, but the Justices overruled, effectively safeguarding peaceful protest as an extension of the First Amendment right to free speech.

Unfortunately, several of the Court's other end-of-term decisions suggest a negative trend in the area of civil rights.

A June 30 ruling limited the use of busing for school desegregation. The Justices upheld a 1979 voter-initiated amendment to the California state constitution that barred state courts from going further than federal courts in ordering busing for purposes of school desegregation.

In other words, a state can only achieve racial balance to the extent ordered by the Supreme Court; its own courts can not take the initiative to go farther when they feel it is necessary.

It seems those supporting the idea of states' rights only support this principle when in opposition to the federal judiciary, not when the state court feels that the

It only takes a few minutes to register to vote

It takes only about five minutes to register to vote. And there are several organizations in Baltimore City interested in registering voters, hoping to increase citizen's level of participation in the political process.

Recent low figures of black participation in elections has prompted several organizations to try to up the amount of registered black voters.

Those interested in registering can call the Board of Supervisors of Elections, the corner of Gay and Fayette Streets, to learn if they still are on the rolls, have been redistricted, or to notify the board of a change of address.

Several organizations have established special programs to increase the numbers of black voters. Volunteers for these groups canvas neighborhoods by foot, make telephone calls and can be seen in area shopping centers carrying out the simple task of registering.

For more information concerning local voter registration drives in Baltimore City, call the NAACP, at 366-3300; the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization, at 342-1878; radio station WEBB, at 566-9200 or the Board of Supervisors of Elections at 396-5550.

Baltimore's Eastside

The 45th — Is this your district?

All voting districts in the state of Maryland have been reapportioned according to new population statistics. This means your former precinct, legislative and councilmanic districts may have been changed.

Beginning this issue, we are taking the city's new districts and showing graphically the new boundaries, so the voters will know whether they are correctly registered and who the candidates of elected offices are in the new districts.

The 45th legislative district, located mostly in East Baltimore, is fielding a large number of candidates for the elections this fall.

Study the map on this page. If you live between these streets, this is your district and these are the people who are trying to become your elected representatives in Annapolis.

Candidates for the district's senatorial seat are incumbent state senator Robert Douglass, City Councilman Nathan Irby Jr. and Larry E. Brockington. These men have filed for the Democratic primary.

The Republican primary candidate for the 45th district's senatorial seat is James K. David.

The Democratic incumbent House of Delegates representatives for the 45th legislative district are Joseph A. Chester Sr., John Douglass, and Hattie N. Harrison.

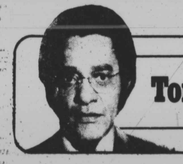
The six Democratic hopeful vying become delegates this fall, challenging the incumbents are Calvert Milburn, Clarence Davis, Edwin A. Johnson, Marion Bonaparte, Leonard E. Cannady and Titus Garnett Jr.

Four candidates running as Republicans for the House of Delegates are Robert Reuter, Leon A. Key, Leroy N. Key and Mary L. O'Brien.

The Central Committees of Maryland, Democratic and Republican, make policy for their respective parties in the state.

Candidates for the Democratic Central Committee are William LaMont Lewis IV, Paula D. Johnson, Leroy Kirkland Sr., Nathaniel McFadden, Archer Leon Stith, Oscar Williams Jr., Calvert Milburn Jr., Patricia D. Gray, Leonard E. Cannady and Titus Garnett Jr.

Candidates for the Republican Central Committee are Gloria A. Jones, Leroy N. Key, Margaret L. Dyer, Dallas B. Bennett, Ute U. Wooldridge, Frederick D. Chapple and James D. David.



Tony Brown's Comments

How blacks fought 'Birth of a Nation'

Although Richard Pryor has emerged as Hollywood's top-grossing star, the majority of Black performers today are unemployed and Black "stars" have had the movie-industry door shut in their face.

But did you know that between 1910 and 1950 there were more than 150 independent film companies organized to produce Black-cast movies, and that 34 percent were owned and operated by Afro-Americans?

Stepin' Fetchit wasn't the only Black movie star in Hollywood during the twenties. Black movie stars have been in Hollywood ever since movies began. But their past accomplishments in the American cinema go largely unrecognized. Because of a paucity of Black faces in movies today, you get the distinct impression that it has always been that way. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Since 1920, hundreds of Black-cast films have been produced — most of them obscured by history. Yesteryear's Hollywood featured Nina Mae McKinney, the silver screen's first Black love goddess. Between 1920 and 1950, over 150 pioneer companies produced films with all-Black casts.

As a matter of fact, a stylish, handsome Noble M. Johnson, born on April 18, 1881, appeared in over 13 major motion pictures, including Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (1921), The Ten Commandments (1923), Ben Hur (1926), King of Kings (1927) and King Kong (1933).

He made his film debut in 1915 as an Indian in The Eagle's Nest. He only played an Afro-American in fewer than 10 of his 130 motion pictures. This is not a statement of pride, but of his enduring popularity.

A stuntman and a make-up artist, Johnson went on to become the president and co-founder of Lincoln Motion Picture Company, which produced three of the pictures in which he portrayed a Black.

Then there was Madam Sul-Te-Wan, who started her career in the specious Birth of A Nation, originally entitled The Clansman. She eventually moved to Cincinnati and organized The Black Four Hundred and the Rair Black Minstrels.

Injustice, produced by the Democracy Film Corporation, was the Afro-American answer to The Clansman. Also called Loyal Hearts and finished in 1919, Injustice was a commercial failure because Whites would not go to see it.

But the fighting, survival spirit of Black America was there. In "A plea for the Loyal Colored Citizens of the United States," written and directed by Leslie T. Peacocke, the advertisement promised:

"It will be an occasion never to be forgotten as it will be the inauguration of the first BIG FILM FEATURE made by the Colored Race, and the starting of an Industry in the Colored Community of Los Angeles that will mean the disbursement of millions of dollars amongst our Colored Citizens and permanent employment for hundreds of capable people of both sexes, including children and old people." "long talked of and written about in the annals of the Colored Race." That part of the prophesy is still to be fulfilled.

With a consistent and cruel omission, American history has forced, acts such as these to fade into antiquity. Without a knowledge of "In Justice," one is implicitly taught that the Black creative community failed to respond to the racist Birth Of A Nation

Knowing the facts, however, gives a continuity to the Black struggle in Hollywood and America.

And speaking of knowing the facts, Sylvia Keys and Valerie Shaw, co-founders of the L.A.-D.C. Connection, Inc., have produced the first wall calendar, depicting scenes from Black movies during Hollywood's early years, that recovers our lost history.

The "Black Hollywood: Yesterday" 1983 calendar reproduces 12 original photographs that celebrate Black cinema. It is on sale now for $6.98 (plus tax) from the L.A.-D.C. Connection, Inc., P.O. Box 38815, Los Angeles, CA 90038, or L.A.-D.C. Connection, Inc., P.O. Box 60681, Washington, D.C. 20039.

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.

—Parren Mitchell

(Continued from Page 4)

Supreme Court has not gone far enough.

In another decision, the Justices upheld a handicapped student's right of accessibility to public education, but not the student's opportunity to maximize his or her potential.

In a 6-3 decision, the court ruled the 1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) did not extend to the provision of a sign language interpreter for a child who already is considered doing well in school.

The fourth-grader involved reads lips well, but misses a considerable portion of what is said in class. How permitting a child to attend class without guaranteeing her right to understand all that is spoken qualifies as an equal opportunity to learn is beyond my understanding.

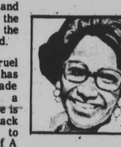
It seems this decision supports the right of a child to be in class physically, without guaranteeing equal access to learning The right to be in a classroom is not what we are fighting for; it is the opportunity to learn that is the principle.

It seems as if the conservative tide of the present is conflicting with some of the high standards of equality we have set for ourselves in the past, and the Supreme Court's end-of-term decisions reflect this conflict.

I do see a ray of hope in that some of the decisions do protect the rights of minorities to political participation; however, I am disappointed in the Court's inability to take positive steps in the direction of equal opportunity and access to education.

These conflicting signals should warn us to remain ready; gains towards equality require the same struggle to maintain as they did to achieve.

For all we know
A new kind of thrift store.



ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

NEED SOME EXTRA $$$'S? — Take your nice, clean winter and summer clothes to the SMART SHOPPER, 32 N. North Ave. and get money for them.

THE SMART SHOPPER, a new kind of thrift store, wants good things to sell to the needy for a small fee. GRAND OPENING is tonight - Friday - next to McDonalds with two clever housewives in charge. Motive — to help in these hard times and make available fall, winter and school clothes.

IT ISN'T EASY to put on a beauty pageant or any other type of extravaganza. Patience, ingenuity, resourcefullness and hours of hard work are required.

THIS IS WHY we congratulate Diana Kane who originated the Miniature Miss Pageant and this Sunday, July 18, will present the third annual fantastic attraction at 5:30 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel Downtown.

The 1982 group of little girls of all races are the dearest little children ever. All got notice of the pageant through their schools and they enrolled enthusiastically early this year.

The Stars of Tomorrow" show now has 25 attractive little ladies ages six through 12 years of age, who will present their talent, poise, and charm to capture the "Best title of Maryland's Miniature Miss.

Ken Philips, News Scene 2 weatherman, will co-host along with Amy Keys, "Miss Baltimore's Best 81"

Each year the pageant contributes to a favorite charity.

The top winners from each age group, 6-9 and 10-12, will receive a back-to-school wardrobe, trophy and other prizes.

DIANA KANE
creator of the Miniature Miss Pageant

Scholarship awards in the performing arts for which the pageant was founded, will be awarded from Animated Playhouses Corporation. Captain Andy will present the checks.

During recent weeks of preparation the youngsters were treated to several activities such as visiting Mayor Scahefer, the Baltimore Colts training camp.

The River Towne Restaurant, Putty Hill Plaza, gave the contestants, parents, sponsors and staff a fantastic party. They were also delighted with the presence of Mary Beth Harroth, Miss Baltimore's Best 82."

The 1981 reigning Miniature Misses are Juanita Thomas and Michelle Schwab.

Contestants for this year are: De Shauna Westray, Lynhurst Elem.; Rita Wells, Lakewood Elem.; Danielle and Martina Moore, James Moshier and Lafayette Elem.; Shauna Reely, Brehms Lane; Shatwan Graham, Monroe Saunders Center for Creative Learning; Beryl Taylor, Westowne;

Shaunetta Jennings, Northwood; Nekeeta Miliam, Duke Ellington; Tawanna Langley, Eutaw Marshburr; Terri Zielinski, Holabird Elem.; Ramona Holmes, Madison Square; Jacqueline Lewis, Rosa Parks; Yashica Brown, North Glen; Rica Bagley, Dallas F. Nicholas; Makeya Stewart, Furman L. Templeton; Stacey Fisher, Church Lane; Latarsa Jones, Madison Square; Heather Heddinger, Little Flower; Neferiti Harmon, Windsor Hills; Heather Lloyd, Bishop John Neumann; Mona Washington, Betsy Ross; DaJae Overton, Gardenville Elem.; Cherry Carter, St. Pauls Lutheran; Earlene Watson, Madison Square Elem.

Miniature Miss is produced and directed by Diana Kane, Vanessa Jackson Johnson, choreographer, Gail Hemphill is pageant coordinator and stage manager, Erlinda LaChica is the Musical Director.

50th ANNIVERSARY

CONGRATULATIONS to the AFRO's special friends, the John Thorntons.

To mark their 50th year of marraige, John and Elmira Thornton were honored with a celebration at the club house of the Vulcan Blazers.

Rev. Leonard Hicks, a long time friend of the family, officiated at the renewing of their vows.

Fifty years ago (July 5, 1932) John Thornton and Elmira Turner became man and wife. The young couple joined in holy matrimony by Rev. Theodore Young, a friend and co - worker of John.

The tribute to John and Elmira was provided by their four children: Mrs. Algarna Sampson, Mrs. Cecelia Estella Hartley, Alfonso and Charles Edward Thornton.

John and Elmira have 15 grandchildren and 15 great - grandchildren.