Baltimore Afro-American
PAGE 4 OCTOBER 23, 1982
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).

OPINION

Crime rate dips for now

The bottom line is, serious crime in Baltimore city decreased by 10 percent over the first nine months of 1982. There are varying reasons given for the decline.

The police department cites the concentrated crackdown on the drug traffic in the city, plus the involvement of community groups and city residents.

Although the decline in serious crimes is notable and extremely welcome, it is not necessarily a cause for overenthusiasm. It must be remembered that in 1980, crime reached an all-time high—a level which was retained in 1981.

Baltimoreans, however, can point with pride to the assistance various community groups have given to police efforts to reduce crime. Over 10,000 Block Watchers have been enrolled in the effort; volunteers serving as auxiliary police officers number over 100.

Oddly enough, crimes which are usually associated with high unemployment have also dropped. Armed robbery, ourglary and larceny show the greatest decreases.

Robberies are down by 19.5 percent, compared to the 1981 figures. Auto thefts, larcenies and burglaries are also down by 19, 7 and 14.2 percent respectively.

For whatever reason it is happening, the average citizen should feel pleased and inspired to keep up the efforts to reduce violent crimes.

The majority of crimes reported were committed by persons between the ages of 18 and 30, which is also the age of high unemployment among heads of families.

To show a reduction in crime statistics is a tribute to the tenor of the times, and the attention of police officials and concerned citizens.

They deserve an accolade, and we give it willingly, but hasten to add our hope that the downward spiral continues. There is enough problems with officialdom, let's not gouge each other.

That Register of Wills case

The case is underway brought by ousted Baltimore Register of Wills Patrick Duffy against the woman who beat him in the September primary election, Mrs. Mary Conaway.

In most elections, disgruntled losers have lashed out at circumstances surrounding their loss. A number of times, there have been calls for recounts. On many occasions, write-in campaigns have been mounted in an effort to put the defeated candidate's name on the ballot.

But in most of these types of cases, the margin of victory has been close—so close that recounts and the counting of absentee ballots have caused the results to change.

In the Duffy-Conaway battle, the final vote as certified by the board of elections indicates a 24,000 plurality for the winning candidate, Mrs. Mary Conaway. With such a huge margin of victory, it becomes laughable to suppose this mandate of the populace should be overturned.

The Duffy forces ran ads in the daily paper asking those who received smoke detectors, loaves of bread and sticks of butter, to come forward. The inference is that these were a form of influencing factors in the vote.

Attorney for Duffy, Paul Sandler, contends the Conaways gave away 50 smoke detectors, 500 loaves of bread and 1,000 sticks of margarine on Aug. 25, and 1,000 pounds of chicken on Sept. 9.

In essence, the claim is that the distribution of these items was designed to induce, influence or procure the recipients to cast their vote for the Conaways.

We make no attempt to prejudge the trial, and indeed, do adopt the role of innocent bystanders to the controversy. But we cannot resist a wistful smile as we mull over the circumstances and charges of influence of voters.

Frank Conaway lost the election.

Madeline MURPHY

Let's make history

History was made last Monday and Tuesday, when William H. Murphy, Jr., Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City and William H. Murphy, Sr., Judge of the District Court of Baltimore City, sat together each day in each other's courts on the occasion of the retirement of William H. Murphy Sr., Oct. 31.

It was through the insight of Chief Judge Robert Murphy of the Court of Appeals and Judge Robert Sweeney, Chief Judge of the District Court that this momentous occasion could have been recorded for posterity.

It was the first time that a father and son had sat together in a court room as judges in the history of this country — the first being black also gives added historical significance to the premise that we need not wait to be appointed to become judges, that we need not support the sitting judge principle which oftimes keeps us locked out, but that we should run for these high positions which mean much to the survival of black people.

But it would be history gone for nought if we do not continue to make significant gains in the court house. Out of 23, there are now only six black judges on the Supreme Bench.

We have two candidates who are swimming doggedly upstream, fighting the sitting judge principle, Georgia Goslee and Kenneth L. Johnson. We must still fight for the seats for them on the Supreme Bench on Nov. 2.

All who read this column therefore should make a special effort to get 10 people, who will also get 10 people to vote for them on Nov. 2, to pull their levers.

10D and 11E FIRST! Vote only for two. We must continue the momentum we gave Kurt Schmoke in the Primary election.

There are petitions now circulating by the Georgia Goslee and Kenneth L. Johnson committee that ask the signers to pledge to vote, and get out the vote for Georgia and Ken.

Contributions also are needed because running for office requires posters, mailings, literature, phones and without the public's support, we can not complain that we do not see posters, or literature or TV and radio advertising.

We must increase the quality of equal justice in the court house by increasing the number of blacks on the bench, for we need the sensitivity of judges who understand that alternative sentencing is not the private domain of whites only.

We need justice especially where there is disparity sentencing for blacks, who do not get the same consideration in the courts as whites, since we still live in a racist society.

Therefore, our only answer is to support our candidates, help them get out the vote as strongly as we can. We must not let newspaper endorsements divide us either, because they endorse one and not the other.

For they are only fulfilling their role to support not only the establishment, but to keep up fighting among ourselves.

We must be guided by our own needs, our own demands for equal justice in the court house.

On another front, we have a Republican candidate, a young black woman, Patricia Reed-Rowe, who from childhood has been involved in politics in Cherry Hill, who wants to be elected to the House of Delegates from Cherry Hill.

She is more than qualified for the seat in the 47th District, with a background in equal employment, and minority utilization both on the federal and state levels.

It is here that we must surmount party differences to get out the vote for her in Cherry Hill, Fairfield, Mount Winans, Westport, Curtis Bay, so that for the first time we shall have a candidate from Cherry Hill. Patricia Reed-Rowe, who will represent our particular interests that have been for too long ignored by the incumbents. Let us quench our thirst for first class citizenship by electing Patricia Reed-Rowe.

Also on the ballot is Referendum Question 1. This question gives a viable alternative to the "guns or butter" dilemma of Reaganomics.

It sets forth a petition proposing an amendment to the Charter of the City of Baltimore. It would add a section to the Charter requiring the Department of Finance to publish an appeal to the federal government to cut military spending so that tax dollars set aside for military spending would be diverted for jobs and peaceful programs.

We must vote for this Question 1 to begin to reverse budget cuts already too far reaching in despair and cruelty to our elderly, our desperately poor adults and children who must depend upon food stamps, medicare, school lunches, legal aid among other social programs that have been excised out of the Reagan budget.

It is time that the city fathers become aggressive and on the offensive making demands of the federal government, rather than skulking behind excuses like cowards.

It is our dollars that the government wastes on an obscene corrupt military budget.

Let us demand that they cease and desist and take care of the hungry, ill-clothed and ill-housed with additional aid to cities. Vote for Question 1.

It is the people's voice, if loud enough, that will make chagge.

Parren J. MITCHELL

Clandestine So. African support

This week's column was developed by Montee Wynn, my Legislative Assistant, who specializes in Foreign Policy issues. Montee is a graduate of Tufts University in Massachusetts and is currently completing his Master's thesis in the area of Foreign Policy. We are very proud to have him on our Washington staff.

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Secretly, through the International Monetary Loan (IMF), one of the world's primary multilateral loan institutions, the United States seeks to strengthen its deplorable ties with South Africa.

On Nov. 3, 1982 the IMF's executive board will consider a $1.1 billion South African loan request, which, if agreed to, will be the largest loan ever received by South Africa.

Although the IMF comprises 146 members, the United States, because it supplies 20 percent of the capital, has 19 percent of the votes on the IMF's executive board. Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan has indicated that the U.S. will support South Africa's loan application.

Consequently, since only a simple majority is needed to approve or reject a loan request, a voting block which consists of the United States and Western European countries could easily pass the loan over the vehement rejections of third world nations.

I believe this loan will be used by South Africa to subsidize its increase in defense spending. In 1976, for instance, South Africa received $464 million.

The pending $1.1 billion IMF loan will therefore be used to finance the military budget which increased by 30 percent between 1981 and 1982 to $3 billion.

Secretary Regan has stated the South African loan request will be judged solely on economic criteria. Such a statement, however, is a facade, since the United States has politicized loan considerations in the IMF in the past.

On July 27, 1981, for example, Richard Erb, the U.S., representative on the IMF's executive board, pressed the IMF to approve a $36 million loan to El Salvador although the IMF's staff had refused to recommend its adoption.

In addition, the U.S. has consistently opposed loans to countries with whom it has political differences, like Nicaragua, Grenada, and the Indochina countries.

An IMF loan to South Africa, even using economic criteria only, is unwise. The extreme repressive and exploitive nature of apartheid incites internal revolt and instability.

Apartheid's fascist laws strictly limit economic opportunities for the 75 percent of the South African population that is black. Blacks are assigned to an impoverished 13 percent of the land, restricted to separate and grossly inferior schools, and allowed only a very limited scope of independent enterprise.

Moreover, South Africa's recent illegal invasions into Angola have increased the possibility that full-scale war may erupt in the region. As a result, any loan approved for South Africa may not be repaid.

My Colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and I are outraged at this attempt by the Reagan Administration to subsidize apartheid through the IMF.

Accordingly, we are currently in the process of scheduling a hearing on this issue prior to Nov. 3, 1982.

Congressmen Bill Gray and Mervyn Dymally sit on the Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Foreign Operations which has jurisdiction over the annual U.S. contribution to the IMF.

They have been requested by the CBC to convene a hearing in order to publicize this affront to black people everywhere.

In addition to hearings, the CBC is contemplating the possibility of introducing legislation in the 98th Congress designed to prevent future IMF loans to South Africa.

Be assured that I will support the efforts of my Colleagues to prevent U.S. tax dollars from being used to financially support the heinous institution of apartheid.

Letters

AFRO readers support Charles Tildon, new CCB president

Faculty resolution depressing...

Dear AFRO:

The resolution of the Faculty Senate of the Community College of Baltimore and the subsequent press coverage of this issue is extremely depressing. Only a small percentage of this group voted against the resolution.

It is my understanding that less than 30 percent of the faculty was present. Nevertheless, this faction proceeded in a grossly unfair manner to create controversy at a critical period in the history of the college.

While it does not surprise me that self-interest groups exist at CCB, I am shocked at the arrogance, the deception, and the power grab, revealed in the resolution.

I do not quarrel with the proper discharge of responsibility by a Faculty Senate, expressing its opinion openly, and in such a way as to leave intact the prerogative of the governing board and the administration. This resolution appears to reject this principal in its entirety.

Without any intent to be hypercritical but rather in the interest of a clear understanding about lines of authority and responsibility, it is a fact that the Board of Trustees is the single authority for choosing the President and by state law can not abdicate that authority.

The resolution is inconsistent and misleading. The Board of Trustees of CCB acted properly, courageously, intelligently, and with disquisite judgment in placing G. Tildon as President of the college. I can only hope that the saner heads among the Faculty Senate emerge or we shall see a repeat of the fractionalization so evident in public education elsewhere.

A prerequisite to superior teaching performance must be a commitment to demonstrable integrity, openness, and the maintenance of strict and publicly known ethical standards. Unfortunately, this small group has failed to reflect these standards.

The actions of this small group will not go unnoticed in Baltimore City. The group continues to underestimate the innate intelligence of our citizens.

It is no secret that there is a high correlation between the growing disenchantment by the general public toward public school educators and the ascendancy of self-serving groups disguised as advocates of academic tradition.

I hope that increased attention to the building of positive relations will be undertaken by the Faculty Senate. Such a beginning can only lead to an improved student environment and a more productive experience for the overlooked clients.

JOHN S. WARD

.....stance divisive, undermines board

Dear AFRO:

We would like to address ourselves to the controversy centered around the appointment of Charles Tildon as president of CCB. We find the position of some of the faculty to be very affronting and unworthy of professionals in the field of education.

Their stance can not help but be devisive and works to undermine the Board of Directors, the total faculty, the students, and the general educational community of Baltimore City, not withstanding the image of CCB.

The offensive position of this small group clearly seems to originate out of self-interest without any consideration of the common good of CCB.

If the latter were true, this group of faculty members would recognize that Charles Tildon has the knowledge, the experience, and the leadership necessary at this time in history to steer the college in the direction of being a distinguished technological center of education for this decade and the next.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the process of election was well within the established power of the board as this same process had been effectively used by several other colleges in the surrounding counties.

That it should become such a source of contention here in the city clearly exhibits all kinds of overtones.

The members of the Church of St. Gregory the Great would like to go on record in full support of Charles Tildon, and strongly urge the ratification of his position as president by the entire faculty.

FR. DAMIEN NALEPA, Pastor
WARREN WATERS, President,
Parish Council

Angry student: Give Tildon a chance

Dear AFRO:

As a student at CCB — I'm angry. What is this white faculty senate trying to do?

We have a new President and they ain't giving the man a chance. Mr. Tildon deserves a chance to prove what he can do. The college is in a crisis. We do not need to search for some person who doesn't know the college to take two to three years to learn the system when we have Mr. Tildon who is qualified.

It is all a race issue. There are so many white administrators. I can't understand why the white faculty has to complain.

All I say is we have a President. Let's welcome him and give him our support. I do!

LEON JAMES

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Two judges, nothing less

Continued from page 1

Georgia Goslee has been practicing law since 1974, after graduating from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1973 and having passed the Maryland bar on the first try.

She was first associated with the firm of Howard, Brown and Williams and later had a varied and exciting workout with the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, enforcing the federal civil rights laws and regulations in different federal court districts.

She has recently returned to private practice, one result of the man in the White House.

Atty. Goslee has also worn another hat which brought her much to public view. Between 1977 and 1982 she was an outspoken panelist on channel 13's discussion programs, "Square Off" and "Sunday Live," the latter as host.

This aspirant for the Supreme Bench, who will bring the number of women on the bench from two (both white) to three, is a Marylander from Salisbury. She moved to Baltimore in 1967 and graduated from Coppin State College in 1970.

She is the mother of Thomas Goslee, 19, now a student at North Carolina Central University, and of Winston, 18, a student at Massanneowton Military Academy in Woodstock, Va.

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The next candidate to be sent to the Supreme Bench is Kenneth L. Johnson, who has been practicing law in Baltimore for 13 years, after four years in the Judge Advocate Corps of the Army and earlier years as a captain in the Army overseas.

Although "low key" personally, by his past involvements he could be called "Mr. Civil Rights." Paraphrasing his own words, he has dedicated himself to the eradication of legal discrimination whether based on race, color, religion, sex, age, or nationality.

Wherever, throughout the country, we find firemen, Policemen, men in the military, and black faculty in "integrated" schools who are faring better — much of the improvement and the credit is due to Atty. Johnson.

In Baltimore, while representing the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, in 1968, he knocked out the entry-level examination for firemen, as then structured — a victory which has resulted in an historic increase in the number of black firefighters (the most recent class graduating from the Fire Academy consisted of 56 percent black enlistees).

Another Johnson court victory, in 1972, against then Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau, directed that 51 black policemen be advanced to sergeants and five black sergeants be promoted to lieutenants. This upward mobility has continued.

Bethlehem Steel has also had to face the Johnson assault against racial discrimination. This action put an end to a Bethlehem Steel practice whereby, whenever blacks were promoted (often under pressure) they lost their seniority within the company.

When, as late as 1974, Prince George's County persisted in using busing to keep its schools segregated, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund called in Kenneth Johnson with his highly esteemed partner, Gerald A. Smith ("highly esteemed" in Johnson's words), to take the county to court.

Another victory, although in this case, distraught parents spat in Johnson's face and he had to call for the protection of U.S. marshals.

The credentials of each of the candidates treated here could continue for pages. These are the two this column recommends for election as Supreme Bench judges: Goslee (lever 10-E) and Johnson (lever 11-D).

Tony Brown's Comments

Black identity in dangerous hands

I'm inviting you to join a revolt and watch television. I mean really Watch TV.

During "Black TV Image Month," Americans are being asked to do their part in cleaning up the image of Black people on the tube. The focus will be writing letters to the networks, the local TV stations and the advertisers, complaining about unbalanced negative images of Blacks and congratulating them for doing the right thing. Why?

As sports announcers are now saying: "Let's go to the videotape." But if you're black, what do you see?

First, there is the perception of what TV is all about. An exclusive, nationwide TV GUIDE survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation found that Blacks, along with women, more so than other groups, had very strong preferences. This might suggest that these groups are more emotionally involved with TV than other groups.

And of that 56 percent of Americans who depend on TV as their chief source of information, the TV GUIDE survey found that Blacks are even more dependent than Whites.

Furthermore, the study showed that 65 percent of Blacks consider themselves as unfairly treated. But don't just take Blacks' word for it; a quarter of all Americans perceive ethnic or racial bias in TV reporting; and 40 percent of that group identifies Blacks as the most mistreated.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in a recent report warned that the roles of Black in television situation comedy largely fixes an image in the public mind as a ridiculous and non-serious people.

Speaking of some non-serious people: how about the movement of so-called "liberals" who are launching a TV media blitz to attack the Moral Majority for trying to "force their narrow doctrine on all of us."

The chief TV abuser and exploiter of the image of Black people, Norman Lear, has the gall to head a movement—based on morality of all things—to keep the airwaves free of philosophical pollution. How many young Black lives has his baneful situation comedy characters led into dead-end streets with enslaved mentalities?

Lear's comedies are credited with the re-birth of the old minstrel characters: the shuffling Uncle Toms, the rascally picaninnies, the fat mammies and the dim-witted coons. Instead of the old names like Buckwheat, Amos, Andy, Sapphire, Kingfish and Stepin Fetchit, Norman Lear's "social satire" produced names like J.J., Sanford, Aunt Esther and George Jefferson. "The names change, but the game's the same," as the saying goes.

Lear's produce is so rancid that an essay in Time magazine by Lance Morrow described the unbalanced negative Black images with razor-sharp sensitivity.

"George Jefferson: entrepreneur, Black bigot, a splenetic little whip of a man who bullies like a demented overseer, seldom speaks below a shriek and worships at the church of obstenation. J.J. on television's 'Good Times:' a bug-eyed young comic of the ghetto with spasms of supercool blowing through his nervous system, a kind of electraglide strut," and lastly, "Ray Ellis in 'Baby, I'm Back': a feckless Black creep who deserted his wife and two children seven years ago, one step ahead of his bookie's enforcers, and has now reappeared to make excuses and bedroom eyes at his wife."

That's why we have to start really watching TV. During the month of November, I'll be presenting on public television an examination of the treatment of Afro-Americans in the White-controlled commercial TV industry in a four-part mini-series.

Part I traces the image of Blacks from stereotypes of low-esteem to the strong Martin Luther King image of the civil rights revolt and back to (thanks to Norman Lear and Flip Wilson) the Black mammies, short on achievement, but long on fatty tissue, loose women (Geraldine), crooked preachers (Rev. Leroy) and indolent, but controllable Black males (not men). You might say, back where we started—in spades.

"Goodbye, Sgt. Ross?" is Part II. Sgt. Ross in "Private Benjamin" is portrayed by Hal Williams, a veteran of seven major series, including an excellent job in "Roots," but in real life Hal Williams has been demoted.

From the top male lead, Williams has dropped to a bit player. Some are openly claiming that the actor was too successful in creating a "real" Black man in charge. In a "Dear Television Viewer" letter, a Black media coalition charges that Williams is being shoved out of the series, just when so many Black actors have not worked in years.

The letter, asking you to write to CBS and Warner Brothers, says that Williams' problems stem from the fact that "strong Black male images are not appreciated, especially if those Black males happen to be starring with and, to some degree, controlling White females on screen."

The last two parts are "Black Soap," an analysis of the only real bright spot for Blacks on TV, ad "Is TV Off-Color,?" looking at the charges of "Black incompetence," misrepresentation of the Black image and underrepresentation of Blacks in media jobs.

This is a serious business—the perception of ourselves, think about it, is in the hands of people who only know us as objects of ridicule.

I believe that if Black people can change their image on television and in movies, Black people can change their condition in America.

Next week: "Blacks In White TV," the medium goes from color blind to colored.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL, the television series, can be seen on public television Friday, on channel 22 at 11 p.m. It can also be seen on channel 67, on Friday at 11 p.m. Please consult listings.

The threat of nuclear war-psychological child abuse

Childhood, a time in our lives that many a harried and hassled about frequently wishes could be repeated. We view the life of a five year old as being carefree, no worries, no concerns and most importantly, no serious responsibility. The passage of time has obscured our vision about the seriousness and complexities involved in the task of "growing up."

Given the most optimal of conditions, successful completion of the developmental tasks involved in the process of reaching chronological and emotional adulthood is difficult work, to put it mildly. Every day in a child's life is a critical work day.

In the course of one day, a child is actively engaged physically, socially and psychologically in establishing trusting relationships with parents, attempting to interpret the sometimes "double-messages" he may receive in his environment; establishing feelings of self-worth, self-image; figuring out where they fit in the hierarchy of their parents' lives, with siblings, peers, extended family members and society.

The struggles involved in getting through each stage of development, when viewed realistically, would be difficult for many adults. The situation is personified through the eyes of a child.

They are continuously struggling to construct concepts of their family, their community and the world through complex communications shoved at them from a variety of sources. Add this to the struggle of determining, maintaining and fostering multiple loyalty conflicts to a multitude of important people in their lives. By now, it should be coming back to you — "child's play" is anything but mere play.

And remember, we have not even addressed the issues of living up to multiple expectations in the area of behavior, speech, language and motor development, as well as the acclamation to an academic environment. Acquiring the necessary skills to master any one of these tasks is a tremendously difficult pursuit.

As parents, as concerned citizens, as human beings, maybe it should be us; (who have lost control over the direction of our governmental policy and in the direction of the allocation of our tax dollars) who should find it difficult to sleep, knowing that we have colluded, passively or actively, with the lunacy of contributing to sleepless nights and daydream terrors for our children and, worse yet, the financing of their eventual destruction as well as our own.

WILLIE T. HAMLIN,
M.D. Chairman Foundation of the Institute for Child and Family Psychiatry.

Elizabeth M. OLIVER

FOR ALL WE KNOW

Highlights of This Weeks News

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

CLIFTON HARRIS has been elected president of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees Local 202 (the Baltimore branch) for the 6th consequtive term.

As president of this 202 chapter of the world's largest and most powerful black organization, he received last Sunday the AFRO's 90th Year Award from City Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver.

Honored at the meeting at the headquarters on East North Avenue were the NAPFE's distinguished member, William B. Garrett and attorney Kenneth Johnson who aspires for a seat on the Supreme Bench.

Mr. Garrett and his vivacious wife, Mildred, a beautiful couple, have four children, Harriett, Sarah, Lewyn and Lewretta, all successful and committed as their parents to equal rights.

OTHERS ELECTED:

MRS. EVELYN O. BRAXTON was elected 1st Vice President; MRS. DELMUS SIMMONS elected 2nd vice president;

MRS. SHIRLEY MAPLE, elected financial secretary;

MRS CLARICE BASS, elected recording secretary; MRS. HELEN MAYERS elected assistant recording secretary; RICHARD BLACKWELL, elected treasurer; JOHN TUCKER, elected trustee.

Craft chairmen: MRS. BERNICE KIMBALL was elected G.S.A. chairperson for the installations where the Alliance has exclusive representation;

GEORGE GOODWIN, elected M.V.S. chairman; EDWARD McSWAIN, elected Mail Handler chairman; JOSEPH H. MILLS, elected Letter Carrier chairman.

All other positions are appointee: JAMES FORBES, social committee; MS. LAURA WILSON, local editor; MOSES CANADA, Educational chair.

DR. ARIS T. ALLEN and his wife, Dr. Faye W. Allen, both noted physicians of Annapolis, are going to retire soon. Honoring their many years of service will be many guests scheduled to attend a banquet NOV. 21 at the Bay Ridge Inn.

The event is sponsored by "Friends of Dr. Faye and Dr. Aris", with Mrs. Catherine Johnson, 1365 Linden Ave., Annapolis, chairlady.

I will do a special story on the two physicians and their family in a few weeks and what a delightful story it will be, including the children and the grandkids.

DR. LILLIE'S BANQUET SOMETHING SWELL to look forward to in a few weeks is the Lillie Carroll Jackson Awards Banquet always held this time of year and honoring the memory of that late Great Lady, the civil rights leader whose name is known across the land.

PUT THIS DATE on your calendar, SUNDAY DEC., 2 — 6 p.m. — Martins West. We'll tell you more later, however, the guest speaker is likely to be Bill Cosby. Yes, the famous Bill Cosby.

MINISTERS BREAKFAST IN DC WITH P.J.

Cong. Parren J. Mitchell (D-7th-MD), will host the Annual Ministers' Legislative Breakfast this Tuesday, Oct. 26, in Washington, DC at 8:30 a.m. in room B338 of the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

DURING BREAKFAST, the clergymen will be greeted by members of the House Leadership, the Maryland Congressional Delegation and the Congressional Black Caucus.

Following breakfast, the ministers will move to the House Small Business Committee Room, 2359 Rayburn House Office Building, at 10:30 a.m., for legislative discussions and briefings on areas such as housing, small business, education and employment.

The session will be capped at noon as the ministers assemble on the floor of the House of Representatives for a briefing on House procedures and, finally, move to the steps of The Capitol for prayers.

More than 300 Baltimore area ministers will be joined by Clergy from Cleveland, OH and Congressman Louis Stokes (D-21st-OH), who is co-sponsoring the program with Rep. Mitchell.

AT BETHEL SUNDAY

DR. LEONIDAS H. BERRY, world-famed physician, author, will speak Sunday, Oct. 24, 2 p.m. at Bethel AME Church and autograph his book, "I Wouldn't Take Nothin' for my Journey."

Stresla J. Jeffries is director, Dr. John R. Bryant, pastor.

Dr. Berry will also speak at the convention at the Hilton, 7:30 p.m. Friday on "The Physician Becomes An Historian."

AT ST. JOHN'S IN COLUMBIA A REAL TREAT will be the Oct. 31, 5 p.m. concert by the University of Maryland Gospel Choir sponsored by the Youth Ushers of St. John Baptist Church, Wild Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia.

Don't miss it. For info contact Rev. Herbert H. Eaton, 992-7180-7920.

STEEL ORCHESTRA

The Maryland Pacesetters Steel Orchestra will perform at the Lexington Market Grand Opening Oct. 24 at 12 noon. Nice music, Pasley Graham notes his group has many honors for outstanding service to entertainment these past nine years.

OCT. 30 AT BETHEL

Charles Watson and Company want you to come to Bethel AME Oct. 30, 7 p.m., admission free for their third anniversary and live recording session.

DR. ARIS T. ALLEN and his wife, a retirement banquet.

Dr. Faye W. Allen are honorees of

DR. LILLIE CARROLL JACKSON banquet Dec. 5 will honor this late great lady.

AFRO'S 90TH YEAR citation awarded to Clifton Harris last Sunday.

Calling it like it is

By James E. Nichols

I am neither a lexicographer, a linguist, nor a semanticist, but I am and always have been fascinated by words.

Words can evoke beautiful dreams, provoke knock-down-drag-em-out fights, conjure up vivid images of pleasure, bring peace and consolation, cause the heart to bubble over with joy, prompt the eyes to fill with tears, win a lady's love, and, if forceful and inspiring enough, can fill a 97 pound weakling with enough courage to charge a platoon of hostile machine-gunners with a pea shooter.

My idea of Saturday evening recreation is to watch "Agronsky and Company" on TV for the sole purpose of hearing what George Will is going to do with words. I disagree with 99 percent of what he says, but the man can spin a phrase as well as Odysseus' wife Penelope could spin a piece of thread. So can William Buckley.

They can really palaver because they are connoisseurs of the word. To them the issues are a nuisance and secondary. To them, the EXPRESSION of the issues is their raison d'etre (reason for being). And one beautiful thing I like about them is that they steer clear of such ridiculous utterings as "programmatic thrust," "strategizing," and "per se".

Martin Luther King, Jr., as you know, was very good with words. The good doctor didn't have to use the big, four syallable ones, either. He used the plain, simple, easy ones that even a child could understand. But he strung them together in a fashion that inspired folks and made them feel that they could move a mountain with a teaspoon and face wild dogs with a smile.

Mr. William Shakespeare was THE master of words. He could talk dirty and still make it sound nice. In his play "King Henry the Fifth," he had King Henry spouting words of courtship to Katherine that blew that young French lady's mind. In "Richard the Third," he put words in Richard's mouth that had Lady Anne going crazy about him even though he had just killed her husband. And in his "Saint Crispin's Day Speech," in Henry the Fifth, Shakespeare had Henry fire up his soldiers so highly that they were willing, against all odds, to give their lives for England.

Frederick Douglass was also a master of the word. He could (and did) tell some folks to "go to hell" so beautifully that instead of lynching I am they contributed money to his cause. To read one of the greatest speeches ever made on this earth, read Douglass' speech entitled "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro" which he made in Rochester, New York on July 5, 1852. Mr. Douglass really did his thing with words.

Words can inspire; words can deflate. Words can inflict wounds. Words can serve as a balm to all hurts.

Words can be ugly and the same words can be beautiful. It all depends upon the intent and the motive. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Adolph Hitler are examples of what I mean.

Another example is what we used to call the "dozens." When I was a boy, all someone had to say were the words "your momma." It was okay to say this if said by a running buddy. But if an outsider said "your momma," then, "put up your dukes and let's get it on."

Well, it's three o'clock now. Instead of watching "General Hospital" on TV, I think I'll pick up my Bible and read First Corinthians Thirteen. Words of beauty!

I have a thing about words.