Baltimore Afro-American

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)

The Battle of Philadelphia

During the Vietnam War an American officer pointed to the smoldering ruins of a rural village and said "We had to destroy that village in order to save it." It seems that the Philadelphia police were operating on that principle when they attempted to dislodge members of MOVE from their row house fortress this week.

The unfortunate results were 250 people left homeless, several members of MOVE dead including children, $5 million in property damage and the property of their methods in assaulting the fortified house.

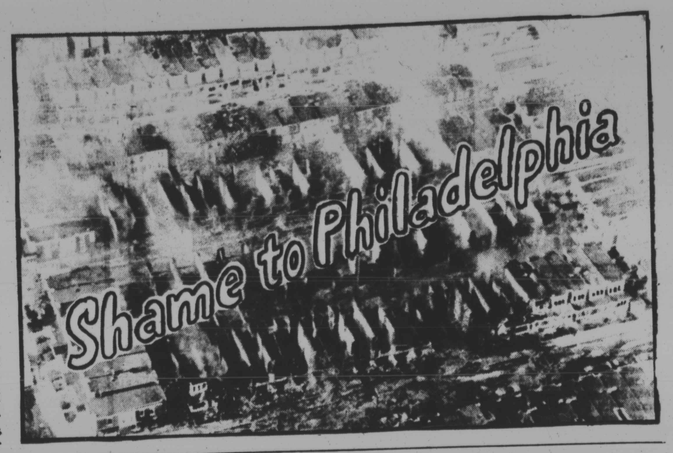
The police seem to have over-reacted to the siege. Mayor Goode has taken responsibility for the procedures used and the confrontation was brought about by neighbors' complaints about the group to the authorities, however the planting of a homemade bomb on the roof and the allowing of the houses to burn while fire personnel stayed back indicates a lack of cohesion and well planned action.

It is highly ironic that the police mounted the campaign to storm the house they believed intelligence sources who indicated that MOVE had set up a network and planned to blow up the block. The tragic reaction set off by the police bomb accomplished the very feat that law enforcement officers were trying to prevent.

Mayor Goode has also said that the destroyed houses will be replaced, Some before Christmas of this year. There is no doubt that the city will be able to come up with the money to replace the destroyed houses, but the question remains what will happen to the residents in the interim and what responsibility does the city government bear for the maintenance of the homeless while they are waiting for their homes to be rebuilt?

Another bitter irony of this saga was the use of water cannons to dislodge the MOVE members at a time when there is a severe water shortage in the city.

Some burned-out residents have made threats that if the city does not do something to rectify the present situation there will be a MOVE II. Hopefully, the city of Philadelphia will take action to see that the victims of the confrontation and subsequent fire receive compensation as equitable as humanly possible or their losses of property and irreplaceable artifacts of their lives.



Provident's new ER

This week, Provident Hosptial unveiled its new emergency room and introduced the firm that will be running the service. The company has a good reputation and hopefully the improvement of the emergency room service will be a first step toward restoring community confidence in the hospital's ability to provide quality patient care.

One concern that is paramount is the fate of the emergency room workers who were hired by the hospital. It is hoped that those staff persons who have contributed faithful and efficient service in support of the doctors in the emergency room will be retained.

Letters

About the Squeegee Kids

I work with kids. Some of the kids help their parents, buy their school clothes, save some of their money for a rainy day. Some of our kids do not have money for carfare to attend school.

The Squeegee project is a mini business to them. It teaches them you must work for a living. You know, and I know they can be doing other things, such as selling dope, snatching pocketbooks, breaking - in places and etc.

Just being a Squeegee kid builds up their morale. Why not set up a program and teach these kids their rights and the proper way to handle their project?

Set up certain streets or corners for their project. (wide streets, lighted corners and etc., car drivers can avoid those places if they do not wish to be bothered.

The squeegee kids cannot vote but their parents, friends and other interested persons can be influenced by them. Remember it is better for them to have a wooden rod in their hands than an iron rod doing business.

SARAH J. BUNDY

The HUB report and economics

Earl Koger, retired insurance company executive and self - help advocate for Afro - American business, has come up with still another way to pass on his message of "cooperative economics."

Koger states that one way for Baltimore Afro - Americans to prosper and become economically independent, as other ethnic groups have been able to do, is to cooperate economically. He understands that we have sufficient cash flow to start and we only need to exchange it among ourselves for mutual benefit.

"To make it work, we need to get together and learn as much as possible, and quickly," about the way business and community economics is wired together.

He cited his recent experience with the Baltimore Board of Education for economics courses in high school that was not acceptable here while Atlanta, D.C., and Durham, North Carolina learned of the effort and have put such courses in their schools. He claims we only teach "survival skills" in Baltimore schools.

His most intriguing idea was that since there are 400,000 Baltaframs in Baltimore, and if each person spent at least $400 with each other, (10 a week) in our own community, with each other, every year, we would immediately have floating in our neighborhoods, business amounting to $160 million.

What could we do with that much money? How about 80 grocery stores, 64 clothing stores, 4 new car dealers, 14 insurance agencies selling fire, life insurance and contract bonds.

Twenty - four furniture stores, 3 movie houses, 2 roller rinks, 5 taxicab companies, 8 branch banks, 8 savings and loans, 12 law firms with extensive libraries, 160 cafes and clubs, etc. I am not sure of the arithmetic but its a fine picture for jobs and wages.

To which we might add, that the national average for per - capita food consumption is $14 a week. In Baltimore that means 5.6 million a week spent for food by Baltimore blacks and 1.1 billion a year in Maryland - D.C. But dreams and goals do not include controlling even 50 percent of it. The HUB Organization's Annual Buy-In, Buy "US" project certainly speaks to it.

Koger says "blacks do not have to beg." It is ridiculous that our ministers, lawyers, school principals, politicians and contractors have not seen this. And with this comes respect as equals. To have said that you have arrived, means that you have brought all your people up with you. Think about it.

Parren J. Mitchell

'The Foundations of Sand' — typical

The anti - black attitudes resurfacing in America appear to take three separate but related forms.

The first, follows the typical, vicious racial stereotyping that has always been a part of America. It is an assumption of racial inferiority of blacks as presented in the old film "The Birth of a Nation."

This stereotype continued in dozens of Hollywood films in which black men and women were required to roll their eyes in fear of something that even the little white boy or girl did not fear. Blacks were required in these films to be absolutely subservient to whites.

Such stereotypes surfaced again in the book "Foundations of Sand" co - authored by Marian Mele Hall, who was forced to resign as head of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal because of her participation in the book.

In Chapter VII, entitled "The Minority Problem" the conclusions are four - fold. First, blacks cannot escape from 10,000 years of jungle freedom. Second, black males are sexually promiscuous. Third, black males shun responsibility. Fourth, black males ignore the work ethic. In short, we are, according to the book, savage, womanizing, irresponsible and lazy creatures.

You should not be shocked by this arrent nonsense, but you may well be shocked to learn how deeply and widely such attitudes are held. "Run, the squeegee kids will attack you." "I would hire them but they just don't want to work." "Don't let them in our schools, all they do is make babies."

The second anti - black attitude is more sophisticated, but equally as vicious. It holds that blacks must be saved from dependency on government. Far too many of our former white liberal friends are fervently embracing this dogma.

One such former friend recently said, "We are tired of wasting our money on these government programs, they don't work, we must try something new." Of course, as always, a few persons of color have climbed in, piously enunciating in cultivated tones, "Our dear white friends are right."

Of course they ignore the facts. Most of the federal programs have worked despite insufficient fundings. But the new "cuties" don't want to hear the real facts.

The third form of anti - black attitudes consists of a pattern in which real control of our lives is denied. In public administration, at all levels of government, a few blacks are appointed but they do not have the power (or do not use the power) to establish policy.

In the economic sector a few blacks get contracts from government, but their number is miniscule. It is bad enough for housing to be suggested, but it is evil to deny economic empowerment to black communities.

It is right to condemn black youth violence, but it is wrong to ignore the environment that spawns the violence. Will Baltimore pass an effective gun control law?

Don't be shocked by reading "The Foundations of Sand," but don't ignore the systemic, endemic, pervasive racism that dominates much of American life.

Anthony Armstrong

Risk and reward

If Benjamin Graham, the acknowledged father of intrinsic value investing, were working for one of the major brokerage houses today, chances are he'd be fired.

Luckily, for Mr. Graham, in death all his troubles should be over but; still, the man is probably turning over in his grave.

"Ben" Graham, as he was known for more than 40 years on Wall Street, is the man most credited with developing a series of test and analytical tools for determining the real, or intrinsic, value of a business enterprise — for the purpose of deciding if and when a specific company was "ripe" to wisely invest in it.

Graham clearly understood that investing was a highly complex process, that culminated in making decisions based on the future prospects of a particular business enterprise not, as is becoming the fashion today, on the history, even when successful, of the enterprise.

He also understood the dizzying array of investment instruments, ie; stocks, bonds, warrants, debentures, variable rate convertible notes etc., etc., to know that most such instruments are often not worth the paper they're written on.

Yet among all his skill and believing that if they can keep their heads buried in the sand long enough, the burying alone will make everything turn out all right.

The situation is no different than playing Russian roulette with one's own money and; the results are usually the same, with people blowing their brains out — if only figuratively.

The recent disclosures of trouble in the Maryland savings and loan industry is just the latest in a series of manifestations of the very dangerous dislocations that have, and will be, occurring throughout America's financial markets if this "something for nothing" mind set continues.

Ultimately you, the consumer, is in the drivers' seat, because none of America's financial institutions could do what they do (wise or otherwise) without the dollar deposits you place with them.

Everyone, from the little ole lady with her money tucked safely in her bra, to the couple saving for their first home purchase, to the rich baron living off of his interest and dividend payments, everyone, is a part of and is affected by the current rage of speculation — because it's your money the banks, savings and loans, brokerage houses, investment managers and other financial functionaries are spending.

These "money - men" tend to trail prevailing consumer attitudes. They become caught - up in the short term decease of even greater and greater returns on the invested dollar because, in large part, they are convinced that you, Mr. and Mrs. investor, want the biggest, quickest reward regardless of the risk required to obtain it.

So often, in your rush to "get rich quick" reward without risk is exactly the falsehood you have talked yourself into believing is possible.

And, you are saying more and more, "If it (whatever it is) was a good "investment" yesterday, it ought to still be a good one today."

This "heart" tugging the "brain" philosophy is now, increasingly, leaving those who can afford it least being heart broken the most.

Where will it all end? In 1929 it ended with hundreds of people jumping out of windows; if we don't get back to Ben Graham it'll be jumping out of speeding Benzes, Porsches and Volvos.

Black science projects

I am surprized and chagrined that in Tuesday's Baltimore edition of the AFRO (4-30-85) in your front page story on the lack of blacks in the fields of computer science and general science, your reporter interviewed representatives of all the white local institutions and did not interview a single black institution.

Morgan State University, for instance, has had a very flourishing computer science department for years and, so far as is known, has had much success in placing them, and in getting them admitted to graduate school. The same may be said for its much older science department.

Its engineering school has just started, but it has an enrollment of 104 students in the freshman class. The Morgan experience deserves a story, too.

G. JAMES FLEMING

Samuel L. Banks

Brown school decisions in retreat: 31 years later.

Three decades after the epochal and momentous Brown decisions of 1954 and 1955 called for an end to segregated public education and "all deliberate speed," the majority of the nine million black children enrolled in the 15,000 school districts serving (41 million students are in segregated schools; separate and unequal.

This situation prevails primarily because the larger white society, controlling the levers of power, has determined that the Brown school decisions will not be enforced.

Consequently, today, 31 years later most of the 9 million black children in our nation's public schools are in segregated schools providing separate and unequal education in spite of the law.

The point must be made at the outset that some black children and youths, before and after the Brown decisions achieved excellence in spite of inadequate monetary and human resources and institutional exclusion and racism.

Caring, imaginative and superior educators, black and white, made a significant difference. However, for the overwhelming number of black, Hispanic and poor children in our nation's network of public education, the quality of education is shoddy, marginal and a - prescription for programmed failure.

In a society accentuating high technology and cybernetics, these youngsters, for the most part, will not be competitive and effective in the work place.

The clear and painful reality is that demonstrable excellence will not be achieved through ceremonial rhetoric and educational gimmickry, but as a result of mobilizing the necessary human and monetary resources, attracting highly qualified, forthright and able educators and daring to do what is best for children and youths.

In this conjunction, beginning with the highly publicized, "A Nation At Risk," there have been nine major reports addressing the quality and quantity of public education.

The reports, however, to an overwhelming degree, ignored black children and youths or treated them as if they were an invisible component of the nation's public schools.

Black children and youths, as is indicative of their parents, are not taken seriously by most white policy makers and holders of power.

As a means of addressing the systemic and gross disregard for black children and youths in our nation's public schools, I have, in my capacity as the national president of the Association for the Study of Afro - American Life and History, appointed a national task force, "The Education of Black Children: A Black Perspective," to address the critical educational needs of black students.

The national task force is chaired by Dr. Herman Brown, distinguished and highly respected psychologist and administrator at the University of the District of Columbia. The highly awaited report will be released today (May 17) in a national press conference at the University of the District of Columbia.

I am confident that the recommendations and conclusions contained in the voluminous report will set a new direction of hope, excellence and stability for black children and youths in our nation's public schools.

Local members of the task force include Dr. Gwendolyn Cooke, principal of the Lemmel Middle School, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Edmonds, principal on - leave from Southwestern Senior High School and doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland and the writer.

We do not need the enforcement of the Brown decisions and subsequent Federal court decisions because black children are unable to learn or achieve demonstrable educational excellence in an all black school setting, but to have the requisite human and monetary resources and to prepare our children to live in an inclusive multicultural - multiracial society.

Moreover, where affluent white parents have their children enrolled in public education, adequate fiscal support will be forthcoming.

The blatant attack by the Reagan administration on affirmative action programs already in place and working, support of school districts such as Norfolk, Va.; Little Rock, Ark., Prince George's County, Md., among others, trying, 31 years later, to undo the intent and practical implementation of the Brown decisions and the proposals for tuition vouchers and tax credits signal a scandalous and lamentable national retreat on Brown and human and civil rights.

The recent decision of a Federal judge to vacate an affirmative action plan in San Diego is highly ominous, unsettling and perturbing.

It is even more troubling that the U.S. Justice Department through William Bradford Reynolds, Assistant Attorney General, was involved in this court action, amicus cruise (friend of court) for a return to separate and unequal treatment.

The United States Justice Department has notified 50 cities in the nation of its attempt to aid them in overcoming affirmative action programs designed to overcome past discriminatory actions.

We must continue to support the NAACP in legal actions designed to revive Brown and to protect our hard - earned civil and human rights. The racist and execrable behavior of Marianne Hall of the Copyright Office in talking about the "jungle - freedom" and avoidance of work and responsibility by black Americans, coupled with the hostility of the Reagan administration to affirmative action, school desegregation, and human and civil rights, provides tangible evidence of an emerging theme in the Reagan administration and nation that is inimicable to equal justice under the law and equality of opportunity. "It is most fitting that Ms. Hall has now resigned."

The situation dictates that we must come together and use whatever legitimate means that are available for our survival and renewal. We, too, must form partnerships and coalitions with concerned and fairminded citizens throughout our land, 31 years after the Brown decisions, to start anew to build a more caring, just, equal and humane America.

-AFRO SURVEY-

On celebration of Preakness Week

Richard Derick

Linwood Dave

James Clark

Bernadette Coleman

RICHARD DERICK — I go to the track. I try to win some money. Sometimes you win sometimes you lose. That's the name of the game.

LINWOOD DAVE — Work. I wish I could come, but I have to work. I usually go to the race.

JAMES CLARK — Stay home. I put my bet in on Friday and then watch the race on TV.

BERNADETTE COLEMAN — Working. Gotta work. I wish I could come to the Preakness but I can't.

VIOLET HOLLAND — I'll be in church. We're having our minister's session.

SHIRLEY GEE — I'll be at the races. I'll be there!

CALVIN TAYLOR — I don't miss the Preakness. I love that d ay, but I have to go to South Carolina. I'll be gone 2-3 days. I would have changed it if I could.

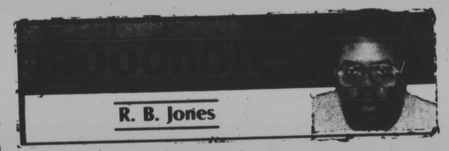
PENNY SYKES — I hope I'm at home. I don't come out to Preakness Day because it's too crowded. You don't get to enjoy the horses when it's crowded. They have the cream of the crop at the Preakness.

Violet Holland

Shirley Gee

Calvin Taylor

Penny Sykes



R. B. Jones

Malcolm X

This Sunday would have been Malcolm X's 60th birthday had he lived to see it. Sixty years of struggle and acquired wisdom would have been his, I surmise, and black America would be a much different place.

Malcolm X had all the talents necessary for playing a great role in history. A man of wit, oratorical eloquence, charisma, inquisitiveness and more important, great political instincts, Malcolm X embodied the best that black society could produce.

He was an incisive social critic because he had risen from drug addiction and a life of crime to the status of an international figure in the struggle for black liberation.

His rise, which was made in the face of adversity and incarceration, enabled him to inspire black people to organize and seek empowerment at the same time he relentlessly criticized the faults of black people.

Malcolm could verbally chastise his listeners for being corrupt because he readily admitted the corruption he engaged in during his days in the street life. He could criticize others for selling out for money because he had been a procurer for white society.

His words stung and healed at the same time because his criticism was made out of a desire to see black people regain their traditional greatness. Malcolm's sarcasm was bearable because he was not looking down his nose at people, but rather trying to get them to look up and then stand up.

A listener to his recorded speeches will sense the fire and the relentless logic of the man. The images he created by a simple phrase are lasting: "It's either the ballot or the bullet," by any means necessary," "Capitalism used to be like an Eagle, that could swoop down on anybody, but now it's like a vulture who can only attack the weak," Sitting at a table with nothing on your plate doesn't make you a diner; being in America doesn't make you an American."

Malcolm X was not only a great orator, but he was also a great debator. His mind worked rapidly and argued with unflinching dedication to logic. One of his famous debating points was scored at Harvard when he was debating a civil rights activist. Malcolm X asked his opponent" What do white people call a Negro with a PhD" His opponent couldn't tell him and Malcolm X replied "A nigger." His opponent lost the debate.

Had Malcolm X not been assassinated, his influence in the black movement would have forced many other socalled leaders to come up with a program for black liberation that could withstand Malcolm's scrutiny.

His courageous and dedicated example would have been an indictment to every activist who suddenly received the revelation that conservatism is the solution that black people need in the 1980s. Many who purport to be leaders nowadays would be dwarfed by a living Malcolm X. That is why some of his former associates have tried in both subtle and obvious ways to tarnish his image because they know they cannot measure up.

The enemies of freedom knew what Malcolm X would have said and done in the past 20 years had he been alive. They killed him because he was the first leader since Garvey to combine black nationalism with a charisma so amazing that people around the world would look to him as a symbol of revolutionary hope.

Perhaps the greatest gift that Malcolm X bestowed upon his people was a life that exemplified dedication to the cause of freedom regardless of the cost. Also Malcolm proved that the worst of us could become the best of us. His life at one point was the personification of self-hatred and self-destructiveness, yet through the help of an organizational structure that was nationalist, the Nation of Islam, he was able to complete the transformation he had begun in prison on his own.

Those who declare their great love and admiration for Malcolm should emulate his life and create structures and institutions that will perpetuate his legacy. That's what Malcolm would have wanted.

LIVING WITH ALLERGIES:

The sneezing season

F. L. Malveaux, M.D., Ph.D.

If you have noted that you have been sneezing a lot this spring, it is probably not due to a cold but to allergies. After a long and cold winter we look forward to Spring and the warm weather. However, for millions of Americans the coming of Spring is a mixed blessing.

For those who have the symptoms of hayfever such as sneezing, runny and itching nose, runny and itchy eyes as well as itching of the throat and possibly coughing, the Spring is not a very welcomed time.

This year, we have had a very heavy pollen season. You may have noted the very heavy coating of pollen grains on your automobile. For a while it seemed as though everyone was driving a light - green colored car.

Hayfever is obviously not due to hay and does not cause a fever. It is a very common problem shared by approximately 15 million people in this country. Many of your co - workers and neighbors and possibly even other members of your family have experienced similar symptoms within the last month.

This year the pollination of trees started relatively early, as early as late February. In April the pollen count for trees was extremely high.

This was due to uncharacteristically high temperatures in February and early Spring as well as lack of rain during April. In May, grasses will pollinate and will continue to do so until early July.

If one is allergic to these pollens, it is expected that you will have symptoms during these times. The pollen grains that cause allergy are tiny and are airborne.

Most plants that have decorative flowers have pollen that are too heavy to become airborne. These plants are pollinated by insects.

Thus, the "rosefever" that many people talk about is actually due to their sensitivity to grass pollen and not to roses. Coincidentally, grasses pollinate about the same time of the year that roses first appear.

It is also anticipated that more severe symptoms will occur on windy and sunny days when greater amounts of pollen are carried in the air and when the plants are stimulated to open and release their pollen. Since plants also tend to open in the early morning, symptoms are often worse at that time.

Rain washes pollen out of the air, and cloudy weather slows the opening of the plants. Patients who are allergic to pollens of weeds, grasses, and trees usually have a break in their symptoms during the month of July and early August.

However, in mid to late August ragweed which is very common in this area will begin to pollinate.

This becomes a significant problem since each ragweed plant releases a very large number of pollen grains in the air. Those who are allergic to ragweed will usually have problems until the first frost.

During the last 10 years much information has been gained concerning the allergic response, especially to pollens in the air. The immune response that is responsible for these symptoms is well understood and can be reproduced in the research laboratory.

While patients with relatively mild symptoms can self - medicate themselves with preparations found in the drugstore, those with moderate and severe symptoms should seek medical care.

Often complications such as otitis (inflammation of the inner ears) or sinusitis will occur and often require treatment with antibiotics.

In addition, the side effects of some of the medications that are even purchased in the drugstore without a prescription can be severe enough to interfere with one's ability to function in a normal manner.

In these cases, patients are advised to consult with their physicians concerning possible medications that do not have such side effects. Patients with severe symptoms should attempt to identify which pollens they are allergic to and seek appropriate care.

Problems such as allergic rhinitis (hayfever) may seem insignificant and minor to some: however, to those millions who are suffering from this disease they will attest that the symptoms do interfere with their ability to lead a normal life.

I often suggest to individuals without such symptoms to place a clothespin on the nose and walk around for an entire day. They too will attest that the inability to breathe through the nose is uncomfortable at best.

Patients with allergic rhinitis, in addition to not being able to breathe through the nose often have other irritating signs and symptoms that generally make them feel very miserable.