Baltimore Afro-American

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Provident Hospital

A meeting called Thursday evening to try to bring about a resolution of the dispute between the medical staff and Provident Hospital President Oakley Saunders, made no progress whatsoever according to AFRO sources. Dr. Saunders refuses to resign and the doctors are refusing to admit patients as long as Dr. Saunders remains in charge of the hospital.

The Thursday meeting which was called by Dr. Uthman Ray Jr. was an attempt, according to him, to come out of the session with a plan to save the hospital. Provident has filed for Chapter 11 protection from its creditors and the occupancy rate is reportedly around 35 percent, far from the figure needed to keep the 90 - old facility financially solvent.

The protracted impasse has had a devastating effect on the hospital and the black community at large. Many members of the community fear that the troubled medical institution will close soon.

The meeting Thursday was an attempt, according to the co-chairman Rev. Harold Dobson, to engage the two sides in a dialogue. The two sides did air their differences in the five and one half hour session and although there were no concrete proposals drafted or agreed upon, all sides did agree that the meeting was the most productive session in months.

Observers are still wondering however, just how much progress and how quickly will the progress come for the hospital that is on its last legs financially.

Despite the dialogue, the disputing sides are still far apart on the question of the continuance of Dr. Oakley Saunders as president of the hospital. In the final analysis that is the dispute that must be mediated.

At least the two sides are talking face to face, the question is have they waited too long?



The Squeegee Bill

Despite the outcries and outrage that accompanied the fierce debate over the Squeegie Bill the first time around, the recommendations of the mayor's special task force seemed to receive little if any opposition this week. The amendments offered by the task force reduce the penalties for violation of the ban on roadside selling of goods and services.

Offenders would receive citations with the possibility of receiving a $50.00 fine for adults and enrollment in a counseling program for juvenile offenders.

Despite the lightening of the penalties, the result is the same, the squeegee kids will be removed from the streets. That fact was a foregone conclusion because the task force named by the mayor to study the problem and come up with a solution was made up of Police Commissioner Robinson who from the very beginning wanted the kids out of business, City Solicitor Brown and Mary Ann Willin, head of the Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice.

No squeegee kids or their parents, or community leaders were placed on the task force, so in reality its study was a formality that delayed the inevitable and allowed tempers to cool in the city council.

The compensatory proposal by the Neighborhood Progress Administration to have community groups supervise squeegee kids who would ply their trade on vacant lots is a faint hope at best. The squeegee kids made their money through volume business on busy thoroughfares and the possibility of large numbers of cars leaving through streets to drive onto a vacant lot to get their windows or even their entire cars washed are remote.

The fact is that when the city council votes on the squeegee bill next week they will be putting these youngsters out of business.

Alarming facts about dropouts

About 25 percent of girls drop out when they become pregnant or bear a child. And it's estimated that about 80 percent of girls who drop out for this reason never return to the classroom. Without the academic requirements to get a job or the financial resources to pay for childcare, many end up dependent on welfare.

Prison is a fate waiting for many thousands of dropouts. In some states, fully 70 percent of prison inmates are dropouts. Dropouts who have no job skills or who can't read a job application often find the only way they can earn money is by resorting to crime.

There are grave economic consequences for the rest of society. It costs $90 a day to keep a juvenile offender in a maximum security facility — and $120 a day to hold an adult in prison (about $40,000 a year). When you add to these costs the productivity losses and the loss of potential tax revenues, the cost to society becomes staggering.

Many students drop out because of problems with language. Once on the street, their chances of gaining additional language skills become remote.

The adult illiteracy rate in America is disheartening. It has been estimated that among adult Americans, 16 percent of whites, 44 percent of blacks, and 56 percent of Hispanics are to some extent illiterate. Dropout rates parallel illiteracy rates in that blacks have higher dropout rates than whites, and Hispanics have an illiteracy rate higher still.

A geographic distribution of dropouts shows that the dropout rates are lowest in the suburbs, next highest in rural areas—and highest in urban areas, where the rate can rise to nearly 50 percent. Dropout rates are also higher in the West and South than in the Northeast.

Some dropout studies have demonstrated that there are certain key factors that help keep kids in school.

Schools with low student-to-teacher ratios and smaller classes are less likely to have dropout problems. Also, schools that have a low degree of teacher turnover are better able to retain their pupils.

Finally, small schools tend to have lower dropout rates than big ones. The anonymity of large, impersonalized education institutions has been indicated as one of the key factors in many students' decisions to drop out. A critical strategy in many dropout prevention programs is lots of one-on-one contact and personal counseling.

Research on dropouts has not produced decisive conclusions on whether the rates are rising or falling — they appear to be staying about even, with about a million students falling by the wayside each year.

But even if America is losing only a million students a year, there have been ten million empty seats at high school graduations since 1974. Thus, the deepest problem is of major importance, and deserves immediate attention.

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.



Parren J. Mitchell

House-Senate budget differences

On May 9 and May 23 respectively, the Senate and the House passed budget resolutions for the fiscal years (FY) 1986 through 1988. The Senate narrowly approved its budget resolution by a 50 to 49 vote. The House, on the other hand, overwhelmingly approved the House Budget Committee's proposal by a 258 to 170 vote. I voted in favor of this proposal.

Although the Senate and House spending plans produce almost identical deficit reductions of $56 billion in FY 86, the means by which they propose to accomplish this reduction vary significantly. Two of the most controversial elements on which the House and Senate differ widely are Social Security and defense spending.

The Senate-approved measure, on resolution proposes a one year freeze of the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), of which the president approves. The House - passed budget resolution, however, contains no cuts in the COLA for Social Security.

The House budget resolution recognizes a commitment to our nation's elderly who contributed to Social Security trust funds in good faith and are entitled by law to COLAs.

The Senate approved measure, on the other hand, is in essence taking money from a program that is running a surplus to help solve shortfalls arising in other parts of the budget.

In the area of defense, the House resolution freezes the FY 86 defense budget at $292.6 billion, whereas the Senate budget increases it to $302.5 billion.

Actual defense spending will increase under both budgets with the FY 86 outlays being $15 billion under the House plan as opposed to $21 billion under the Senate plan.

Both House and Senate budgets assume a 3 percent growth in the defense budget in FY 87 and FY 88 with the total FY 88 defense budget being $303.9 billion in the House budget and $313 billion in the Senate budget.

There are several other major differences between the House and Senate budget resolutions; a few are highlighted here. In accordance with the actions taken to ensure COLAs for Social Security recipients, the House proposal provides full COLAs for Railroad Retirement, federal civilian and military retirement programs, black lung disability benefits and, veteran's compensation and pension programs.

Further, it does not endorse the various cutbacks in the federal civil service retirement benefits, such as raising the retirement age, as proposed by the Reagan Administration.

The Senate budget will eliminate all of these COLAs in FY 86 and includes additional changes in the retirement systems, including an increase in the federal employees retirement contribution from 7 percent to 9 percent, beginning in FY 1987 for most federal employees and in FY 86 for postal employees.

Another major area of difference is Medicare. The House budget cuts the Medicare program $3.45 billion in FY 86 and $13.1 billion over three years.

The House resolution proposes this be done through freezing payments made to doctors, hospitals and other health providers and through other measures not to include increasing out - of - pocket costs to beneficiaries or reducing benefits.

Three final areas of note are student financial aid, the Job Corps and the Small Business Administration. The House resolution proposes that funding for student financial aid programs and the Job Corps programs be increased to compensate for inflation while it proposes the SBA be funded at $150 million below FY 85 levels in FY 86 and a budget cut of $600 million over 3 years.

The Senate resolution proposes a freeze at FY 85 levels for student financial aid programs a 30 percent cut in Job Corps funding below FY 85 levels and a $350 million cut below FY 85 levels for SBA and $5.2 billion over three years.

The Senate's proposed FY 86 budget would also reduce direct loans 70 percent and business assistance programs 50 percent below the FY 85 levels.

As I stated earlier, I did vote for the House - passed budget resolution, however I still firmly believe that the defense budget could be substantially reduced and that domestic programs could be more adequately funded.

On the whole, however, I believe the House budget resolution reflects a more humane and sympathetic approach to deficit reduction.

I will continue to support the direction that the House has taken to preserve the solemn commitments made to the elderly, and which addresses the other perplexing budgetary components in the most fair and just fashion when the House and Senate meet to negotiate a compromise budget proposal.



Anthony Armstrong

God bless the child

"Mother may have and father may have, but, God bless the child who has his own."

Years ago, when the American fur industry was desperately looking for ways to increase its share of the luxury fur coat market, a young executive of one of the premier New York furriers suggested an alliance with the Russians.

At the time the American fur industry was essentially a mink industry. The Russians produced the world's best sable and; up until that time they had been very protectionist about it, not wanting any other nation to share in their world wide sable market.

The Russians, however, had never been as successful with their mink farming operations and in this "if you'll help me, I'll help you" situation the young New York furrier saw an opportunity that could benefit both the Russians, as insular as they prefered to be, as well as his own company and the entire American luxury fur industry.

He proposed a swap.

The Americans would provide the Russians with a brood of the best available northern grown minks and, the Russians, likewise, would trade an equal number of their best sables. That way, the Americans could begin to build a sable industry and the Russians could create a better mink industry.

Negotiations were held over a long time period and finally an agreement was struck. Russian sable to America; American mink to Russia — everything seemed even Steven.

The Americans sent the Russians about three dozen of our best minks — one dozen males and two dozen females. The Russians kept their end of the bargain too, they sent to us three dozen of the best Russian Black Sable available — again, one dozen males and two dozen females.

With the arrival of the sables from the U.S.S.R. the American furriers, and their fur growing experts, were all ecstatic.

For the first time in the history of the American luxury fur industry, Americans themselves, without the headache of having to deal with any outsiders, could now produce an unlimited supply of ever better sable.

Only one hitch, however, occurred but, it was the only hitch that counted.

The female sables, everyone, were neuter; the Russians had pulled a dirty low-down trick. They had our minks, all healthy and raring to get on with making new little minks; we had nothing.

Besides not being able to trust the Russians, this little story says loads about something else. Again, "mother may have and father may have but, God bless the child that has his own."

Whether furry little expensive animals or a share of the nation's future, the person or group who does not have their own is in very sad shape.

We black Americans don't have our own. We are not able to make trades, for; what would we trade? What is it we have enough of, that is of any value to anyone else?

We have our sweat and blood but, American society doesn't have such a great need for sweat and blood anymore.

We have our families but, far too many of them have already been destroyed and; who wants an old broken and discarded family anyway? Do we trade our men-folk? No, because after hearing the current opinions about black men, who would want one?

Our ladies, now that's definitely something worth trading — isn't it? Under any other circumstances maybe so but, they seemingly have our women already and; nobody is going to pay again for something they already feel they own.

How 'bout our music? Wrong again they already have that too. Our rhythm and our soul; now those are commodities that have been most valued, but the other side; we'll trade those things.

Well, I don't know. Based on who is making so much of the money in the music business (and that certainly isn't blacks), it would appear that they have all the rhythm and soul they need.

"Then what," I ask you, "What do we trade?" There must be something we black Americans have that would place us in life's game; a game where, supposedly, every group has something and no group is completely devoid of value.

Could it be that we had everything and just didn't know it? Could it be that the other side, knowing our value, has attempted to make everything that we stand for into little more than trash?

Could it be that we, as a people, have bought so much of the propaganda about us, propaganda that only serves the other side, that we don't know what or who we have?

Again, for the third time, mother may have and father may have but, God bless the child . . . . .



Samuel L. Banks

Philadelphia bombing: an abomination

Mayor M. Wilson Goode of Philadelphia was dead wrong in approving the bombing of the MOVE house. No amount of pettifogging and ex post facto handwringing on Mayor Goode's part can obscure, attenuate or lessen this painful reality. There simply was no need to bomb the MOVE house and incinerate the MOVE members in the ensuing fire.

Appropriate, firm and swift legal and enforcement action should have been brought against the MOVE members in terms of glaring and unsanitary housing violations and allegations of obstreperous and threatening behavior, but, based upon what has been revealed, to date, by Mayor Goode and law enforcement officials, the situation did not warrant the use of a fragmentation grenade or bomb.

The approval of the bombing by Mayor Goode, about 17 minutes before it occurred, constituted a callous, intemperate and abominable disregard for the MOVE members.

The situation, too, begs the questions: what was the clear and present danger to resort to the use of a bomb (fragmentation or percussion device) in a residential area? What was the sense of urgency in view of the encirclement of the move house?

Why weren't additional negotiations attempted and more patience and restraint shown? Why, given the Philadelphia police departments own intelligence reports indicating explosives and combustible materials in the MOVE house was a bomb dropped on the house?

I am convinced that if the inhabitants of the MOVE house had been white, the bomb would not have been utilized to destroy the occupants. Moreover, if it had occurred, the protests would have been so severe and widespread that would have toppled the Goode administration.

All life is precious, however, the decision of Mayor Goode to destroy the MOVE house constituted a flagrant and unconscionable disregard for Black life, it represents a monumental wrong.

Mayor Goode's bellicose, insensitive and belligerent comments following the dreadful bombing have not helped the situation. He is reported to have said, even with the benefit of hindsight, that if he had to make such a decision again, he would do so.

"While the 60 houses that were destroyed can be rebuilt, the irretrievable, immedicable and gross loss of life cannot be recovered. Additionally, the psychic and emotional scars will endure to the detriment of the "City of Brotherly Love."

The Philadelphia tragedy, as one group of black Philadelphians and Congressman John Conyers of Detroit have requested, calls for a thorough, comprehensive and impartial investigation by an outside body or panel of citizens.

The Philadelphia officials, in view of the community distrust and acrimony, must not be permitted to investigate themselves. A group, independent of Mayor Goode and the law enforcement officials, must conduct an investigation if it is to have credence and community acceptance.

The Philadelphia debacle is a contemporary and shameful American tragedy. It should not have happened. Moreover, there must not be a conspiracy of silence by Black Americans when grievous and iirresponsible acts of violence are perpetrated against our own.

We as Black Americans, through it all, must endure and persevere until we can proclaim with assurance and conviction: "Thanks be to God, the morning light appeareth." In the meanwhile, continue strong in the faith and push forward.

—AFRO SURVEY—

Your reaction to the MOVE/Philadelphia situation?



Michael Blackwell



Eferem Moore



Dorin James



Morgan Hilton

Question: How do you feel about the dropping of the bomb on MOVE in Philadelphia?

Michael Blackwell—I heard about it but I haven't kept up. It was terrible for them to drop a bomb on those people. The fire was terrible. But they say that MOVE may have started it. The poor kids its a shame. They're dead and gone now.

Eferem Moore—They shouldn't have done it. Why would they do a thing like that? They used too much force. It wasn't necessary.

Dorin James—That was very wrong. What I want to know is who are these people? Couldn't the police have used some other force besides dropping a bomb? Police have to handle a situation in different ways. There must have been a better way. What they did was wrong.

Morgan Hilton—When the law tells you to surrender than that's what you're supposed to do. If you don't then you're supposed to accept the consequences of that action, and they (MOVE) are responsible for those kids' deaths. I don't think they care about them.

Alisa Smith—It's not the city's fault. They tried to get those people out of there years ago. They tried everything. I think the people need more information.

Benton Pace—I have mixed feelings. The neighborhood was in some danger You have to respect those homeowners. But MOVE, I can understand the MOVE group too. Everyone has certain beliefs. And no matter what they are they have to be respected. There are two sides to every story.

Clarence Bey—MOVE was a very radical group. With all radical movements you should use force. The man made the right decision.

Wendy Greene—I don't agree too much with violence. I believe like the Bible says . . . Be peaceful in all things. You can deal with anything in a preaceable way.



Alisa Smith



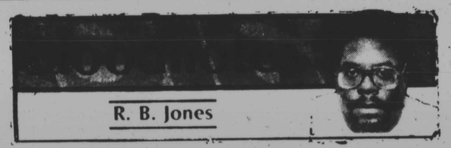
Benton Pace



Clarence Bey



Wendy Greene



R. B. Jones

Bombs away!

I have previously refrained from writing on the Battle of Philadelphia, otherwise known as the bombing of this country and its shameful propensity for violence against people of color and political and social outcasts.

The senseless violence either becomes numbing or becomes so sickening that the individual denies its existence and retreats from trying to understand it or stop it.

The aerial bombing of the MOVE house and the resulting inferno that engulfed a multitude of homes was not the first time that bombs had been dropped on American citizens by U.S. law enforcement officials.

During the Omaha Race Riot of 1921 there were numerous reports of aerial bombing of the black section of town by what was believed to be a National Guard airplane.

The riot began when a group of armed black men marched on the downtown area to rescue a man they believed was going to be lynched. They encountered armed resistance by whites and a round of violence began. When the smoke cleared a large portion of the black section of town was destroyed.

There was also reported use of aerial bombing in some of the coalfield wars between labor and management in West Virginia during the 1930s. Just as Americans use small arms against each other cavalierly, a precedent has previously been set for using aerial bombing as well.

Why settle into lengthy and irritating negotiations with criminals in surrounding buildings when one can escalate the fight and drop a bomb on them and incinerate the entire lot of them?

If a neighborhood is rowdy and full of lawbreakers why not drop leaflets warning residents to clear the area and then follow that effort with saturation bombing. Only criminals would disobey the leaflets telling them to leave the area, so there would be no innocent casualties.

Perhaps surgical air strikes could be employed on highrise housing projects near densely inhabited areas. The Philadelphia incident has shown once again that brute force is the American way rather than reason and reconciliation.

The next generation of helicopters purchased by the police should be heavily armored attack craft instead of the wimpish choppers they now utilize. The military ones would allow the cops to strafe fleeing felons and stop their escape vehicles with rockets.

The attack on the MOVE house in Philadelphia proved once and for all that firepower counts more than reason and law where black radicals are involved. This especially true when the radical group has bested the police in shootouts before. MOVE had killed and wounded some Philly cops in a confrontation several years ago and the police were determined in the latest showdown that MOVE would take the casualties this time around.

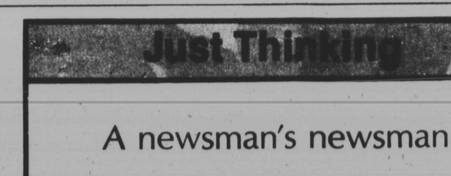
There was a vengeful quality to the MOVE bombing. The police claim they had reason to believe that the group was storing flammable material in the house, yet they used explosives on the building almost as if they were hoping to burn the group out.

Often people tell me that I see racial overtones where there are none and that I am always finding racism where it's nonexistent. Some of these same people tell me that the Philadelphia police did what they had to do when confronted with radical fringe groups such as MOVE that present a menace to society.

If I accept their premise, then I would also hear about the aerial bombardment of radical white supremacist encampments. They have engaged numerous state and federal officials in gunbattles, recently, using automatic weapons and some of them have been implicated in armed robberies and other crimes. They should receive the same treatment that MOVE got.

Since I don't hear of them receiving such rough handling, I can only conclude that MOVE was bombed because it was a group of black people with guns and possibly bizarre living patterns, in a black neighborhood.

It seems that the peasants in Vietnam who could not be bombed into submission are being replaced by blacks in this country. If you think I overstate my case, remember the air war in Vietnam began with selective bombing also.



Just Thinking

A newsman's newsman

By Al Sweeney

My mentor, confidant and very close friend Art Carter, publisher of the Washington AFRO, will be honored at the National Press Club on June 7.

No single individual in this business has made an impact more than Art. There are more than 60 former AFRO staffers who owe their development to Carter.

Every person associated with Carter unanimously agrees that he is a "newsman's newsman."

As managing editor of the AFRO's newspaper chain, when the paper was number one among black publications in circulation and advertising, Carter was a vital cog in the successful operation.

Many of the AFRO's top by - liners such as Jimmy Hicks, Ralph Matthews, Ollie Stewart, Vincent Tubbs, Sam Yette, Larry Still, Louis Lomax, among others became nationally - known reporters. The man who directed their efforts, edited and projected their articles was Carter.

The by - liners get the notoriety, while the persons behind — managing - editor, are buried in the meticulous day - to - day operations, supervising the copy desks and the editors of the branch newspapers and motivating the writers. This was Carter at the AFRO. It is an anonymous job.

While the AFRO's great surge as a national influence was due to the creative mind of Carl Murphy, equally as important was the ability of Carter to interpret and anticipate the famed journalist's moves.

Employees associated with Carter discovered that among his greatest assets was his ability to understand the changes of "Mr. Carl."

The outstanding papers whether it is the Washington Post with its Katherine Graham; the bizarre Hearst newspapers with Randolph Hearst; the patriotism fanned by Colonel McCormick's Chicago Tribune; the flash of Bob Vann's Pittsburgh Courier; the crusading of Robert Abbot's Chicago Defender; the escapism and success stories of the John Johnson's publications Ebony and Jet reflect the leadership and ideas of the publisher.

If you examine the organizations of each one of those publishing giants you'll find an Art Carter, a loyal, patient, competent, and above all, a person of integrity, carrying out the whims of the owners.

They might not agree with the policies of their Bosses, but they are professionals. They try to impart to their staffs the same qualities. You do not have to swallow the ideas, you must understand their objectives.

In his soft successful approach, many of the top journalists earned their initial career step to Carter's unique ability to motivate and inspire confidence.

Carl Murphy developed reporters by following Rudolph Flasch's philosophy of "Plain Talk." Flasch was the man who revolutionized newswriting by establishing the writer's manual for AP.

The use of graphic, one - syllable words and short sentences. In carrying out Murphy's adherence of the Flasch formula, Carter was ordered to insist that every reporter begin his feature story with a quote lead.

Carter, under the orders of Murphy, had a limit of 17 words in every sentence and short paragraphs.

While there, many persons were critical of the philosophy. The results were apparent. The AFRO became readable to the average reader. The average reader was not a Ph.D. or a person with an MBA, it was the average reader with a ninth - grade reading quotient.

Headlines like "Eat Anywhere" after the court banned segregation in D.C., restaurants; "It Was Him or Me" was the headline written by a quote from a key witness at a crime hearing who blew the whistle on her former suitor's illegal operations; "The Bride Wore Yellow," describing a widow's attire at a coroner's inquest into the death of her husband she stabbed while amorously embracing another woman in a car parked outside their apartment.

It was a formula that many tabloids selling in grocery stores are exploiting these days. It worked for the AFRO.

Carter is a helluva publisher.

He has done it all. He began in business with the old Washington Tribune as a sportswriter.

When he joined the AFRO, he was assigned to the sports and court beats. His column "From the Bench" was "must" reading for the sports fans back in the 1930's.

He was sports editor of the Washington AFRO in 1937, when he joined the organization. In 1939, Carter began commuting from D.C. to Baltimore to serve as sports editor of the AFRO chain.

He worked up in the operations as a war correspondent covering World War II in North Africa and Italy from October 1943 to December 1944, a special correspondent covering national assignments from 1945-'46, copy editor of the National AFRO, 1946 to 1951, and promoted assistant editor in 1951 and served until 1953 when he was promoted to managing editor of the National AFRO.

His 33 years of riding the Pennsylvania and Greyhound from D.C. to Baltimore every morning through all kinds of weather to meet an 8:30 reporting time and leaving sometimes late in the evening on the return route, ended 13 years ago when he returned to become publisher of the Washington AFRO.

With the passage of time, the AFRO, under Carter, does not carry as much crime news. The lurid headlines are past.

The days of a corps of newsboys gathering around the office on distribution day have died with the crime in the streets.

Carter recalls the exciting days. He had a front seat watching the exploits of Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, Wilt Chamberlain, Jim Brown, Jesse Owens, Thurgood Marshall, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was there.

At the same time, Carter has found time to become active as treasurer of the Simpson - Hamline United Methodist Church; chairman, Howard University Hospital Advisory Board; former president of the Capital Press Club, a member of the Kappas, the Shepherd Park Citizens Association; area committee, Boy Scouts of America and the National Press Club.

As a sports promoter, Carter handled the appearances of the Homestead Grays at the old Griffith Stadium.

Those games lured crowds from 20 to 30,000 fans at the Thursday night and Sunday afternoons.

JUN