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 New AFRO

The new AFRO was introduced this past Tuesday to the Baltimore community and we sincerely hope that our readers appreciate the new look and the sharper printing and clearer pictures.

This effort marks a new era in the proud history of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN. We will continue to be an advocate for the rights of Baltimore's black citizens. We will continue to provide a social record for births, deaths and accomplishments of black businesses.

We will continue to chronicle the important events of your lives. We will continue to give positive exposure to the activities of the little people of this city.

As unpleasant as it might be we will continue to cover crime stories and expose's of wrongdoing because they are news and they are part of the reality of life in this city. We can not print only the good news.

We will attempt to utilize our new printing capability to present more colorful and creative features for your reading pleasure.

With progress and improvement come increased costs and the AFRO has been forced to raise its price. We hope that this modest increase will not inconvenience our customers too much.

We think the new product is worth it.

Be sure you're registered

Voting is a privilege that the black community has purchased with blood. It is a right that has been denied to black people on countless occasions throughout their history in this country and there are elements that still try to interfere with black voters in different parts of this country.

Despite its value many people take the vote lightly. Many more people are eligible to vote than those who actually pull the lever. Voter apathy in this country is apallingly high and lags behind other democracies.

The elections coming up this year are very crucial to the black community. The offices of governor, senator and congressional representative, along with city state's attorney are up for grabs.

The races will generate huge amounts of interest, but one must be certain that one is eligible to vote. Approximately 27,000 persons have been purged from the voter rolls between January and Mid-March.

People can be purged from the vote rolls for not voting in five years or for moving without notifying the board of election supervisors. If a person moves and does not notify the board in 30 days after the move the individual will be purged.

This election is too crucial for an individual to miss out on it because of a simple failure to notify the election supervisors of a change of address.

This election will determine much of the political future of the black community in this city and it is imperative that all eligible voters register and vote.

Birth control clinics

The idea of expanding birth control clinics on a nationwide basis has drawn mixed reaction even though the centers have had positive results in reducing teen-age pregnancy in areas in which they have been established. The clinics also offer vast amounts of essential health information, such as family planning, health screening, physical examinations for jobs—all from competent and authorized personnel.

In other words, health information comes first-hand instead of from a second-hand or unofficial source. There are almost 50 such clinics throughout the nation and more are being planned.

William J. Bennett, Secretary of Education, recently criticized the idea as an "abdication of moral authority." Bennett conceded that birth-control clinics in schools may prevent some births, but he contends they encourage sexual intimacy on the minds of teen-agers.

At the very least this is a highly unusual position for the nation's top educator to take. Professional educators and other responsible adults, it would seem should encourage and advocate every possible measure that would prevent teen-age pregnancies, in addition to projecting a moral tone that would let young adults know that there is genuine concern about their health and welfare. Bennett's negative attitude coincides with that of pro-life groups responsible for the vicious bombings of abortion clinics under the guise of preserving life. Their unabashed actions not only destroy private property but injure and sometimes murder innocent victims.

In many instances students are far ahead of their adult peers on obtaining authentic information on birth control. Most students in our limited unscientific survey favor the idea of a birth control center in or near their schools. As much as adults preach abstaining from sexual activity, many youngsters indulge and before realizing their predicament they find themselves with a problem they cannot handle.

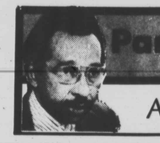
In many cases they feel constrained from parental discussion and they do not want a lecture. Thus, they often, panic or seek second-hand solutions from almost any source. Often the result is pregnancy and eventual dropping out of school and becoming dependent. On the other hand, if health clinics are available some security is offered and prevention is possible without cutting short a possible productive career.

The establishment of health clinics would also be far less expensive than having a teen-age mother on welfare or adding another mouth to a family already on a tight budget. The young mother would have no marketable skills for which to earn a viable living and could look forward to a bleak and often frustrated existence which would put her offspring at a disadvantage.

In the case of young females the baby of a "pot-smoking" mother usually arrives physically and mentally handicapped. Thus, a child is put at a disadvantage from birth precluding the possibility of leading a so-called normal life very slim.

Fortunately there are groups such as the embattled Planned Parenthood Federation that support the school center idea. Spokesman David Andrews said Bennett's view goes back to the old argument that ignorance is better than being informed. Andrews added that teen-age pregnancies in the United States are about one million a year higher than the rate of teen-age births in Canada, England and France. Several civic organizations have echoed support, but churches have been hesitant to endorse the idea.

In a number of instances most adults attempt to provide a more meaningful and productive life for their offspring. Parents, male or female, will often work several jobs to make ends meet to provide all materials they missed during their formative years. Home atmosphere is positive as parents can make it from all points of view, but in the practical and often callous world peer pressure or attempts to emulate others can be overwhelming.



Parren J. Mitchell

Anti-abortion defeated

The House Education and Labor Committee April 10 unanimously approved HR4421, a four-year reauthorization of Head Start, Follow Through, Dependent Care, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Community Food and Nutrition programs -- all of which are set to expire at the end of fiscal 1986 and several of which had been marked for termination by the Reagan administration.

During Committee action, a controversial amendment was defeated. The amendment would deny federal funds to organizations that provide abortion counseling or referrals. Sound familiar?

The amendment is quite similar to the Kemp-Hatch amendment offered and defeated in the first session of the 99th Congress as an amendment to the reauthorization of Title X of the Public Health Service Act.

Title X provides funding for the Nation's family planning programs and operates under Federal law which forbids any abortions from being paid for with Title X funds.

The amendment would have imposed further restrictions that family planning clinics receiving federal aid could not even inform a client about abortions.

This would have rendered family planning agencies, which include State and local health departments and hospitals as well as clinics run by nonprofit groups, ineligible to receive federal funds as doctors and other health professionals have an obligation to provide patients with all the information needed to make an informed choice.

The attempted amendment to HR4421 would require CSBG recipients to "provide assurances that none of the activities or services provided as a part of any program under this subtitle will include the performance of abortions:

Or the counseling of individuals to have an abortion or, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, the referral to another individual, agency or institution for the purpose of obtaining an abortion or counseling individuals to have an abortion."

Ironically, the CSBG programs have virtually nothing to do with abortions. The CSBG is a program with the specific objective or of poverty prevention and alleviation aimed at promoting economic self-sufficiency by providing block grants to states for services and activities and also provides a discretionary fund to support programs which address the needs of low-income persons with regard to rural housing, national youth sports, community economic development, migrant and seasonal farmworker assistance, and most recently, community food and nutrition programs.

The attempted amendment to the CSBG programs was offered by Dick Armey, Republican-Texas. "It's my hope that what we can do is give some definition in legislation to what a majority of the American public and a majority of the Congress feel is an appropriate place to draw the line and limit the funding of abortion or abortion advocacy," Arney said.

However, the sponsor of HR4421, Dale E. Kildee, Democrat- Michigan, (a frequent supporter of anti-abortion efforts) said, "Like Congressman Armey, I believe that life begins at conception, but I do not believe it ends at birth."

Kildee said the programs funded by CSBG have saved thousands of lives and expressed fears that the amendment, if adopted, "could be used somewhere in the legislative process to scuttle CSBG."

My feeling is that the adoption of this amendment would do just that. I have submitted and I submit to you again that this abortion debate is a smokescreen. A smokescreen to opposition of fundamental civil rights and programs designed to promote economic parity.

This is simply an attempt to bring up an unrelated controversy which will obstruct the passage of a bill. HR700, the Civil Rights Restoration Act, ran into this same stumbling block.

HR700 was designed to undo the damage done by a 1984 Supreme Court ruling, Grove City College v. Bell, which seriously weakened civil rights protection under four key civil rights statutes enacted to ensure that federal funds were not used to discriminate against women, minorities, disabled persons, and older Americans.

The amendment, which has stalled action on the Civil Rights Restoration Act since its attachment, would repeal longstanding regulations which protect students and employees against discrimination in education programs if they choose to have an abortion.

HR4421 is scheduled to go to the House for debate and vote this week. No doubt that after Congressman Armey lost his amendment in Committee, he will offer it on the floor of the House.

If this amendment which is contrary to the purpose of the bill is adopted, Representative Kildee's fears will come true.

Reauthorization of these important expiring programs will be stalled over the divisive issue of abortion.

Hopefully, the Congress will want to keep the debate focused on the issue at hand and we can reauthorize these programs aimed at increasing the ability of individuals and families to become self-sufficient without trading off one group's rights for the purpose of others.

Anthony Armstrong

Meltdown

When you and I were in school one of the most important questions in being a student was, what am I going to wear to school? The answer came in many forms but; regardless of the answer, the thoughts that went to making the decision were just as important, if not more so, to too many students, that "do I have my homework for tomorrow, or have I studied for the test we're having this Friday?

Clothes are a most important issue to the youth of today, to their parents and, apparently, to society in general. So, what else is new? Ever since there have been schools and young people, there has been the perennial question, "what do I wear?"

In modern narcissistic society, the question has become a major concern for younger and younger students.

All the way to elementary school, as far down as kindergarten, school kids seemed locked into this matter of looking, first, the same, and then, looking good.

I guess it's understandable, given all the hype about outward appearance, that seems to constantly come - at all of us, like never ending waves of attention getting water on a beach.

Have we allowed too much concern for what a student looks like, how he or she is dressed, rather than how that student is prepared for the real work of being a student, in our public schools?

If so, have we created a problem with proportions and effects that are too large and too negative for what we are really trying to do, which is educate our kids, to help to prepare them for life? The evidence is mounting that we have.

So much of the parade of crime, especially young people in Baltimore, has started because some kid wanted a jacket, or a pair of tennis shoes that he saw on another kid.

The taking of things from people certainly can't be excused. However, we may be unknowingly increasing the possibility of such acts, by our constant insistence that all our school age kids always look like they just stepped out of **Gentleman's Quarterly** or **Vogue** magazine.

The pressures of young, impressionistic kids to dress well is far greater than the pressure we place on them to perform well.

Just think of how much we could reduce our major problems like teen pregnancy and youthful drug abuse, if we placed the same stigma on them that we now place on not being "clean" (the term my generation used for being especially well attired), or "Yo" dressed, or "hot."

The time has come to seriously ask ourselves how much the issue of clothing is helping or hurting what we are trying to do, in our city shcools.

I think it is hurting, causing confusion, and placing too much importance on what's on the outside, opposed to what's going on inside our school kids.

This problem can be solved very effectively, What we should do is require all Baltimore City Public School students to wear uniforms to school.

The Catholic school leadership has long recognized the positive power of reducing the emphasis on clothes, on dressing-up for school, by mandating a common dressing pattern for all their students.

Contrary to what some people might think, little or no real opposition, from students or parents, has ever been voiced about this practice.

If asked, most Catholic school students; elementary school, junior, or senior high, would probably say that the uniforms are not glamorous but, nevertheless, they're alright.

We could begin the transformation of dress in our public schools by using a phased-in approach. In the first year all those students from kindergarten to fourth grade would be required to wear the uniforms.

The second year those students from the fifth to the eighth grade would begin wearing the common dress-for-school. In the third year those students from the ninth to the twelfth would be brought into the fold.

The only exception would be for graduating seniors, who could, as a mark of their status, wear regular "street" clothing. Even they, however would be restricted in the type of clothing that could be worn to school.

For sure, we'd get an initial outburst of opposition, from the kids and, I suspect from many parents, who want their little Johnnie and Mary to look better than everyone else.

Yet, the parents of so many of our school kids ask the schools to do everything for Johnnie and Mary; from blowing noses to teaching them about birth control, to paying their way to school and feeding them, that mother ought not scream too loud at the suggestion of another really good and needed thing.

The cost of dressing kids for school could be brought down. particularly when mother doesn't have to go out and spend money every time the style in tennis shoes or jeans changes.

For some, in fact, of our city school kids the ability to better control the cost of school clothes could do wonders for the family budget.

Just as important, this whole business of who has what, how much it cost, and what store it came from could be done away with and, in much of the pressure (peer pressure that is) placed on kids, to compete for the school title of "best dressed."

This lowering of the anxiety level of our school kids (that everyone dressed alike would bring about) would probably be matched by an increase in the level of calm in our schools.

School pride could be increased and personal self esteem would quickly rise. God knows something is needed to take the tension out of what to wear to school.

Cost, tension, anxiety, theft, misdirected energy, all these things could be reduced. What we'd have would be a positive meltdown.

Samuel L. Banks

Failure of public schools: a national disgrace

The historic and continuing failure of our nation's public schools to deliver high quality and challenging education for nine million black children in our nation's 16,000 school districts constitutes a national calamity.

This tragic and debilitating situation does not flow from an insufficiency of innate ability or talent on the part of black students, but from a deliberate and systematic unwillingness on the part of the holders and controllers of power to provide necessary funding and human resources to provide all children an equal educational footing.

Consequently, in the world's richest nation (i.e., United States), we are on the verge of losing another generation of black youngsters.

The failure of the Federal government, especially during the Reagan administration, and state and local governments to provide additional monetary resources, results in shoddy and uneven instruction and educational services.

As a result, 32 years after the momentous **Brown v. Topeka** school decision, black children, to an overwhelming degree, are the recipients of separate and unequal education.

This grievous and unconscionable situation is not just confined to sprawling urban communities, but exists for black students in rural and suburban communities.

The fundamental reason for this is an ancient institutional racism that embraces the noxious and untenable belief in the basic inferiority and uneducability of black children and youths.

The children of affluent and non-affluent blacks in urban, rural or suburban school systems tend on standardized and state-mandated functional tests, to score below white youngsters.

The reason for this does not flow, as I have indicated, from an insufficiency of intelligence or ability, but deflated expectations, egregiously inadequate resources (i.e., textbooks, supplies, etc.) and invidious environmental factors (vis., drugs, lack of job opportunities, disproportional level of poor housing and health care, etc.).

In this connection, two of the very troubling and unsettling issues here in Baltimore and the state at large deal with the proposed construction of two new penal facilities.

The penal facilities at Jessup and Baltimore are already over-crowded with young men and women, to a substantial degree, who either dropped out of school or were compelled to leave.

In the absence of a diversified and functional program of education because of severely limited resources, the inmates are largely the victims of human warehousing or custodial care.

Penal administrators, as is true of public schools, must have the human and monetary resources necessary to rehabilitate inmates rather than simply maintaining them in a holding pattern in jail until the completion of their sentences.

While it is true that institutional racism is a major impediment to equality of educational opportunity for black, Hispanic and poor children and youths, it too, should be understood that here in Baltimore the stultification and deadening silence of middle and upper income blacks, except for the leaders of few black churches, Cong. Parren Mitchell, fraternities and sororities and NAACP and Urban League, represents a critical part of the problem.

Unless the masses of the 450,000 blacks in this community have consistent and knowledgeable advocates, separate and unequal education will continue to the detriment of the total community.

If our educational and economic empowerment is not utilized to serve the dispossessed and impotent of our race, it is, in fact, of little value. The chief function of education is service and enhancing the quality of life for ourselves and others with whom we interact.

Now is the time that we must make our voices heard and to use our political muscle in order to avert the loss of another generation of black children and youths. We must muster the spirit and will to forego excessive conviviality and bread and circus activities. We must, too, dare to rekindle the passion for education nurtured by our forebears in slavery and freedom.

Lucian B. Watkins's poem, "A Prayer of the Race that God Made Black," provides a sobering and steadying challenge as we seek educational, economic and political justice:

"We would be peaceful, Father - but when we must,
Help us to thunder hard the blow that's just!
We would be prayerful: Lord, when we have prayed,
Let us arise courageous - unafraid!
We would be manly - proving well our worth,
Then would not cringe to any god on earth!
We would be loving and forgiving, thus
To love our neighbor as Thou lovest us!
We would be faithful, loyal to the Right-
Ne'er doubting that the Day will follow Night!
We would be all that Thou has meant for man,
Up through the ages, since the world began!
God! save us in Thy heaven, where all is well!
We come slow-struggling up the Hills of Hell!

Education remains the passport to success and vertical mobility in the American body politic. It is we, essentially, as the socio-economic and political storms rage, who must, as other ethnic, racial and religious groups have done, save our own children and youths.

JUST THINKING:

Demise of black farms

By Al Sweeney

On Sept. 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to go into effect on January, 1863. It freed slaves in those southern states that had seceded from the Union.

The act did not cover 800,000 other slaves who remained in bondage.

In 1865, after the Civil War ended, the Freedmen's Bureau was founded as an agency in the War Department. It was established to provide health and educational services for freed men, and to administer all land abandoned in the South.

This agency was organized to assist black refugees left wandering after they were lifted from slavery bondage. Institutions such as Howard University were founded by this agency.

Freed blacks were promised "forty acres and a mule" to earn a living in farming.

Civil rights orators over the years in the constant battle for racial equality accused the federal government and those who have run it over the years for reneging on the promise of "forty-acres-and-a-mule."

Some blacks acquired ownership of farm lands, especially in the South.

In 1920, there were some 920,000 black-operated farms in the United States, census statistics reveal. In 1986, today, there are fewer than 37,000 black-owned farms in the U.S.

It is forecast that by 1990, only four years away, there will be no Blacks owning farms in this nation.

One study reveals that up until the decline of black farms, ownership had dwindled to the present low. Blacks lost farmland, in the nation at a rate of 6,000 acres a day.

As Blacks left their rural farms to earn a living in the urban communities, their relatives left behind in Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina, where Blacks held substantial acres of farmlands, became targets of economic servitude.

Those who attempted to farm their land were forced to buy supplies from white merchants on a line of credit. The black farmers were charged 25 percent to 100 percent for the supplies.

As security for the credit, the Blacks mortgaged his share of the harvest as repayment of his debt and was reduced to a tenant status.

The holder of the note would weight and market the harvest and kept all sales and financial records at the expense of the borrower.

There was no appeal on their finding. Therefore, the Blacks became heavily indebted to the so-called general store or landowners, holders of the mortgages.

As tenant farmers and victims of the vicious economic slavery called "share cropping," Calvin Beale, a USDA career specialist describes the "sharecropping" system in his treatise on "The Blacks in Agriculture."

The legal system kept black tenant farmers and even independent landowners in the financial clutches of the money lenders.

Blacks were denied loans to produce anything on their farms but cotton. Any black who fought the system was a target of violence by the wealthy financiers who devised the system.

Protesting blacks were prime victims of lynchings. Some 3,659 Blacks were lynched between 1882 and 1939.

The decline of black farm ownership in this nation is a systematic result of the economic status of Blacks in the U.S.

The refusal of the Freedmen's Bureau official to provide Blacks an opportunity for a chance to make a living, bolstered the system of racism that kept Blacks impoverished crumbs, uneducated and dependent upon is the story of Blacks in the north and south.

The lofty aims of the Freedmen's Bureau was undercut by the dominant white racists who exploited legal slavery prior to the Civil War and the state laws of the post-Civil War years that established legal segregation.

Fighting for the equality of Blacks during the 1860's was Thaddeus Stevens, a white congressman from Pennsylvania, the architect of giving the newly freedmen "40-acres-and-a-mule."

After Lincoln was assassinated, Andrew Johnson assumed the presidency. He emasculated the Freedmen's Bureau, wrecking the whole project to aid Blacks.

To understand, why Blacks are in the financial bind today, you have to examine black history in the 1860's to the 1900's.

My thoughts focused upon the situation by a recent hearing scheduled by Congressman Glenn English, chairmanof an Agriculture Subcommittee on Government Operations in the House of Representatives.

Representative English called upon the Department of Agriculture's Vance Clark, administrator of the agency's Farmer's Home Administration, to explain the relationship of black farmers with his agency.

The congressman stated that a congressional staff study bore out the complaints of black farmers that FHA may be involved in the very kind of racial discrimination that it, by law, is required to correct."

The political leadership of the black community is caught between self - aggrandizement and a catalogue of impossibilities and the fact that very little can be done during this era of political and fiscal conservatism.

At the same time that the black community is filled with an all time high number of college graduates black youths are increasing illiterate and the gap between us is far too high. They have little or no knowledge about their people's history and traditional culture.

The attitude that many young blacks exhibit toward their heritage is exactly the same as the attitude of people of my generation (middle 30s) before the black consciousness movement of the 1960s. I have heard young people refer to Africa as uncivilized when that is exactly what was said about that continent when I was a child.

When I pointed out that civilized people don't shoot each other over tennis shoes they were caught off-guard. I also pointed out that civilized people don't allow starvation to exist when there is no famine.

The crisis of the black community worsens not because black people are uneducated, but rather because they are miseducated. Dr. Carter G. Woodson said it 56 years ago and none has refuted his contention that the education that black people receive serves the purposes of their oppressors not themselves. The history they learn reinforces notions of white supremacy and black inferiority.

I heard someone speaking on WEAA, Morgan's radio station once saying that the reason that blacks belong to Greek organizations is that the Greeks originated scholarship.

It is a documented fact that Africans were scholars and librarians long before the Greeks were able to adapt some African information and then claim to have originated it.

Cheik Anta Diop, Chancellor Williams, John Henrik Clark, James Jackson, Ivan Van Sertima, G. Gordon James and other Afro-centric scholars have documented that Africans are the world's oldest scholars.

Yet, our so-called educated members of the black community seem to have little inking of this information. Greeks are thought to be the father of scholarship and democracy because of widespread miseducation among the college trained members of the black community.

I am still waiting for one of them to explain to me how the fathers of democracy could have been slaveholders at the same time.

Miseducation's primary characteristic is that it makes the victim incapable of seeing the world in the context of his or her own interest.

The black community graduates political scientists each year but the black community's political power does not begin to equal its percentage of the population. With an increasing number of black political scientists and more and more black elected officials there is scant improvement.

No greater message could have been given to the black community by the Democratic Party, which blacks have been the most loyal segment over the past few years, than the total rejection of Jesse Jackson's platform proposals at the Democratic National Convention in 1984.

Everyone knows that platforms mean little or nothing and they are primarily symbolic, but the white folks in the Democratic Party could not even make a symbolic concession to Jackson who remained loyal to their party when others urged him to run as an independent.

In this city black politicians and so-called black power brokers are treated with contempt by the white political power structure. These people for the most part are supposed to be educated and their advisors are supposed to educate, but nothing much gets accomplished for the larger black community.

The school system which has been under the stewardship of black people for the last decade and a half has deteriorated. It has for the most part failed to prepare its pupils for success.

This problem has not been restricted to the black controlled school systems. Educational standards have been reduced generally because most of the jobs available in this society do not require highly educated critically thinking individuals.

Educated people make cross references and do not acept what they are told without analyzing it. They tend to synthesize academic knowledge and common sense which is based on observation. Since educated people tend to question authority and want to assert their personhood, employers who want docile, interchangeable employees tend to want people who are not trained.

Trained individuals absorb information and act accordingly. Without a demand for creative thinkers educational systems produce trained persons.

Trained persons have limited knowledge needs and they have limited participatory needs. They can vote the straight ticket without bothering to analyze each candidate on merit.

Nothing is more indicative of the malaise of miseducation that black people suffer from than the fact that the two black colleges in this city do not have regularly functioning newspapers.

Without an organ of information controlled by students working in the interest of students they are at the mercy of the administration. When a state such as this is allowed to exist then one must wonder how active the students are in preserving the rights of the black community in general?

Unless the black community takes the task of educating itself into its own hands we will continue to have more and more graduates and fewer and fewer educated people.

The hearing heard testimony that Farmer's Home Administration, was established during the FDR years to assist the small farm owners with federally - assisted loans at low rates to escape the clutches of greedy sharecropper lenders.

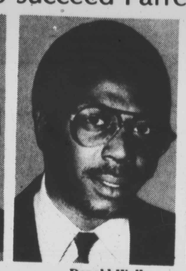
Because Blacks were denied loans from the agency and other services, their lands were gobbled up by white auctions. The agency serviced whites to the exclusion of Blacks, the English - hearing witnesses testified.

-AFRO SURVEY-

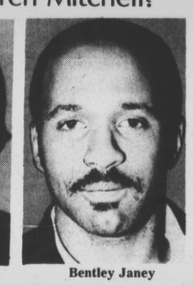
Who would you vote to succeed Parren Mitchell?

Jack Reynolds

Paul Carver



Donald Walls



Bentley Janey

'This week the question to the man and woman in the street is, "Of the candidates running to succeed Parren Mitchell, for whom would you vote?"

Jack Reynolds, 56, barber, "I am not familiar with everyone running, but I know my choice is not running and that is Kurt Schmoke. Maybe I'll vote for Dwight Pettit."

Paul Carver, 47, barber, "We really don't have a choice. But, I think Rev. Wendell Phillips will probably be my choice. Anyway, that is the way that things are heading."

Donald Walls, 26, recruiter, "I would go for the short guy, Gus Adair. Gus has a lot of sense, plus he's down. He also knows his way around."

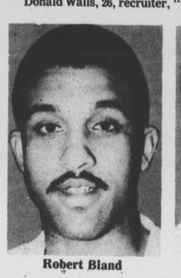
Bentley Janey, 24, unemployed, "I don't really keep up with politics. I'm not familiar with anyone running."

Robert Bland, 22, retail sales, "Right now, I'm not familiar with anyone running, but I know that there is a very large shoe to fill. I read that Rep. Mitchell is one of the 100 most influential people in America."

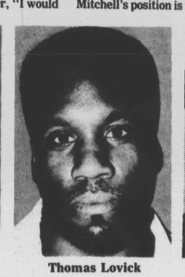
Thomas Lovick, 30, singal man, "I think I would vote Gus Adair. Parren Mitchell's position is very hard to fill. So far Gus Adair is the only one I know of at this point. But, I don't really know until I study the candidates."

Linda Carroll, 30, reception clerk, "I'm not familiar with those who are running. I really only pay attention when it's close to the elections. Other than that I don't have time. I work two jobs. I barely have time to read my name."

Brenda Walls, 38, general clerk, "I am not familiar with most of those who are running. But, the person who is running that I know is Kweisi Mfume. I keep up with him. I listen to his radio show and I like his philosophy."



Robert Bland



Thomas Lovick

Linda Carroll

Brenda Walls

Bloodnotes

R. B. Jones

MAY 1986