# The AFRO Stand

Equal justice, not only in theory, but in fact before the courts of the city and state.

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Adequate black representation on all public boards and commissions of Maryland cities, counties and the state itself, including colleges and universities.

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Extensive and untrammeled black political power.

* * *

Equal job opportunities in fact as well as theory.

* * *

Equal housing opportunities in fact as well as theory.

* * *

Black judges on all benches of the city county and state court systems, except those constitionally authorized.

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A black owned and operated taxicab company.

* * *

A black owned and operated bank.

* * *

A black majority on Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

# 'The Young Child'

*St. Matthew 2:1-10*

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and we are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judnea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoined with exceeding great joy."

# Do The Angels Sing For You?

(From the Papers of Carl Murphy, Dec. 1941).

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord . . .

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of hate and bitterness." — MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Baltimore Afro-American

*May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful, and magnify our Father which is in heaven. May we stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism and prejudice.—Carl Murphy, Editor-Publisher—1889-1967*

4 DECEMBER 26, 1970

## 'Right On To Merry Christmas'

# LETTERS

*Readers are invited to submit letters for publication. All letters must be signed, but signature will be omitted if requested. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length. Address them to "Our Readers Say," Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.*

## Damages Blacks

For that former elected official to make a statement that Judge Howard doesn't have the guts to run for Mayor of Baltimore City is a real insult to the Judge as well as the many thousands of Black and White people who support him and know the statement is without basis of fact.

The Black community should demand that this former public official make a public apology to Judge Howard.

JAMES M. GRIFFIN
Special Assistant for
Equal Opportunity

## Notes On Re-districting

One of the city's governmental operations which gives us great hope for the in-coming year is the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on re-districting.

Sometime ago, City Council passed a resolution which called upon Mayor Thomas J. D'Alesandro, III to suggest a re-districting plan for Baltimore.

Occasion of the resolution was the anticipated shifts in population to be revealed in the 1970 census, whose figures have not been released in detail as yet on the local level.

Also, Council was eager to put the city's voting districts into a condition where they would meet the mandates of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions requiring that one man have a balanced one vote, unabridged by state and local procedures and structures which tend to defeat this.

Having received the resolution, Mayor D'Alesandro appointed the committee headed by Community College President Harry Bard, and, having as members such proven community leaders as: Dr. Margaret Hyde, Johns Hopkins University, Atty. Eugene Feinblatt, and representatives of a cross-section of community organizations.

Councilman Dr. Emerson R. Julian, D-4th, Marshall Jones, Marshall Bright, Dr. G. James Fleming and Dr. Calvin Burnett, Coppin College president, are black members of the committee.

The Council resolution does not attempt to alter the provisions of Section 2 of the City Charter which provides that there must be six voting districts in the city.

What the committee may do under the resolution is alter the boundaries of the districts, but these alterations in themselves must be natural and not suspect of gerrymandering to accomplish any unlawful purpose, i.e. the diminution of the value of every man's one vote.

While black citizens are understandably jealous of our newly realized voting power, and sensitive about any mechanisms which could possibly undermine it, there is reason to believe that the potential of the work of this committee will be more protective of voting rights than destructive.

The main problem faced by members at this time is that of time. The mayor's report is scheduled to be in the hands of City Council by Feb. 1, but the latest census figures have not been released so that the committee can work with them.

Several suggestions have been made: work with old figures, submit a skeleton plan to be amended when the figures become available; petition Council for an extension (believe by some to be outside the power of Council to grant) and just be late.

We think a good method of resolving this quandary would be to submit the matter to the City Solicitor for his guidance.

The practical and legal fact is that it will do Baltimoreans very little good to vote in the up-coming elections in districts that are unbalanced population-wise and objectional under constitutional principles.

## Guns No Answer

Thinkers say this generation runs the risk of becoming slaves to the computer — that mysterious mechanical devil which produces knowing from a configuration of unknowns.

A good indication of the fallability of our potential slavemaster is to be found in the results of a computer-inspired survey recently taken among 800 Cherry Hill residents.

The smart machine decided that they approve of armed guards in schools.

And computer-like, the only alternatives supplied them was to answer "yes" or "more."

The result was that the majority of persons said they favored armed guards.

We believe the question of whether one does or does not want armed guards in public schools is too simple and direct to adequately explore the true attitudes of people on this complex subject.

Had there been full and frank discussion of the pros and cons among the people asked prior to the questionnaire?

Was the realistic possibility of an armed guard being provoked into shooting one of the parents' own children presented?

Were alternatives to armed guards presented in the questionnaire, or were the residents required, like computer-controlled robots, simply to make an X?

Guns, we think, not withstanding a definitely restrictive survey, are not the answer.

## AFRO Credo

A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself—

Whether it has kept the faith with the common people;

Whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured;

Whether it is fighting to get rid of slums to provide jobs for everybody;

Whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustices and prejudice, or it should be asked whether or not it should.

— Carl Murphy, Sr.—1920

## Against Arms In Schools

Dear AFRO:

The Park Heights Community Corporation executive board has voted against the carrying and use of fire arms in Public Schools. The reasons are the following:

(1) If there is widespread violence in the schools: where will it stop? Will guns solve the problem? It is our opinion that guns never solved different human traits only destroy the offender and the innocence of our children.

(2) The school PTA and concerned parents are given false impressions as to the need for guns without proper explanations to the dangers. It could be your child, not someone else's. Most school principals are encouraging their use. (guns)

(3) This move is encouraging a Police state, education under the gun, another Vietnam in the states.

(4) Most school guards are rejects of the Police Dept. or retirees, who feel a badge without a gun makes them less of a man.

(5) The problem does not lie within the schools, it is society's failure to provide all benefits forthcoming.

(6) Many parents aren't doing their job as Mothers and Fathers; some reasons are beyond their control and many don't give a darn.

(7) No Liaison between the police and security guards with the school principal having priority into calling for outside help — their discretion.

(8) No gainful training program for the security guards in human relations and the art of self defense isn't being pursued.

(9) The faults lie in overcrowded classrooms causing split school shifts half a day.

(10) There isn't real effort to keep drugs out of the reach of our children.

(11) Most of all, certain politicians are trying to build a future upon the miseries of our youths. Blowing out of proportion the youth problems instead of introducing bills for progress.

Therefore, we strongly recommend no guns, tho we will concede to the use of unarmed but well trained security guards.

Yours for Peace and
Progress
Prime Minister
Norman Carroll
Chairman
Mrs. Elsie Bumbry
Education Chairman
Co-Chairman, Pk. Heights
Community Inc.

### Solon's Note

Dear AFRO:

It is impossible to express the depth of my gratitude to you, and all the people like you, who made my election possible. Your efforts, your time, your generous support, your belief — all these buoyed me through the hard months of campaigning, and were in large part responsible for our victory on November 3.

That victory was a milestone in Maryland political history, marking us as a long way down two major roads to progress. First, it marked the development of a genuine coalition between black and white liberal political forces, which brought us the largest black vote in the district's history, together with 37 per cent of the Jewish vote, and 24 per cent of the southern county white vote.

Second, the heavy black voter turnout marked the political maturation of the black community in the 7th District. For the first time, 65 per cent of the black registered voters came to the polls, indicative of the pattern of minority groups in America who have achieved equity in our pluralistic society through strong electoral units.

It is my belief that these are two developments indicative of the health of our system of government, which offer a positive answer to those who take refuge in political cynicism.

As I now prepare myself for the legislative work of the Congress, a prospect which I find both exhilarating and sobering, I want to restate to you my pledge of strong advocacy for the cause of peace and of the reordering of our nation's priorities, to redirect our wealth toward the solution of our crisis-proportion domestic problems which we have so long neglected.

As I develop more fully my specific legislative programs, I will keep you informed. Of course, I invite your counsel and commentary on matters where you have special interest or expertise, now and throughout the coming years. I urge you to call or write at any time with whatever suggestions you might have.

Parren J. Mitchell

### Girl Scouts

Dear AFRO:

As 1970 draws to a close, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland look back on it as a good year, a year in which we made substantial strides toward meeting the challenges of a new and formidable decade.

There is still much to be considered, much to be done, to keep up with a society in which the needs of our young people are so drastically changing. In the spirit of our commitment to "Action in the 70s," we face the New Year with even greater dedication and resolve.

For your support during 1970, we are deeply grateful. You have helped make our task a little easier. In the year 1971, we hope to continue to merit your friendship as we work toward bringing high quality Girl Scout program to more and more Central Maryland girls.

Warmest wishes to you for the coming year.

Girl Scouts of America

## Political Notebook

# Time Is Now

By MAX JOHNSON

It would generally appear that the Christmas Holiday season is hardly an apt period for a political columnist to jump serious about any issues — for this is the brotherly love time of year.

But, then again — almost everybody knows there is very little brotherly love in practical politics.

Almost everybody, that is, except the newcomers.

There are outward love and kisses at times, not so facile marriages of conveniences at others — but downright brotherly love, no.

Basically — because politics is big business in which emotions wholly as such must of necessity for survival be minimized.

This is not to suggest that this holy period of the year is really minimized in the political arena — for it isn't at all.

If anything — the opposite is more often quite the case.

For the very nature of the season opens the door for some of the more flagrant moves toward phony deals that can't possibly materialize, all kinds of silliness — and some of the biggest lying imaginable.

In short — this is the wary period of the year, politically.

* * *

It's even more so this year where in Baltimore and some other cities municipal elections are shaping — on the heels of recently passed state elections.

The picture in such cases is one of a lot of newcomers having been elected to office — and more newcomers likely to be elected in the coming municipal elections.

Everybody who successfully runs for public office is not necessarily to be called a politician—and more often they are not, in the true sense of the word.

* * *

A lot of newcomers, for example, have yet to determine where the rest rooms are in the State House at Annapolis — among a host of other things they must discover.

Some of the oldsters are not too much more knowledgeable, for that matter — despite pronouncements to the contrary to their constituents.

At point here is what could be a brotherly love gesture — if not advanced to our new officeholders, particularly the lawmakers.

Don't force them into a lot of ridiculous lying this holy season.

Nobody, for example, is going down to the General Assembly when it convenes for a 90-day session Jan. 13 and work any wonders.

They ought not to be forced into the silly position of trying to contend that they are.

Introducing bills is a very simple procedure — but getting meaningful ones passed is something else again.

It boils down to being one of those "you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours" type of things.

* * *

Maryland's incoming General Assembly will have four black senators among its authorized 43-seat upper chamber — a hike of two over the outgoing body.

The House of Delegates will have 14 black delegates among its authorized 142 seats — an increase of five over the nine serving in the outgoing body.

The increased black representation is certainly noteworthy, desirable and possibly speaks of further increases in the next Assembly four years hence.

To believe, however, that this poses some sort of revolutionary threat in the new Assembly is to indulge in some silly, time-wasting daydreaming.

Desirable accomplishments must come through mutual cooperation with progressive thinking white lawmakers.

* * *

Time to start whatever possible brotherly love thinking in this respect is now — right smack dab in the midst of this holy season.

Practicability may quite often appear colorless in the political arena — but it's a proven big boom toward desirable aims.

This is the period to be wary that this point is not overshadowed by grandiosiness — as opposed by fact.

In addition to the General Assembly convening in mid-January — Baltimore has fast-approaching municipal elections next year.

Winning elections is one desirable thing — but more desirable is getting wanted necessary accomplishments.

## Perspective

# A Right On Yule To You

By DAVID E. SLOAN

Dear Santa Claus:

I am 10 years old and for the last five years — until this year — I have been what people call a good, little Negro child.

Also, for the last five years you have been very good to me.

The thing that causes me to write this special letter is that this year I changed from a Negro child to a Black child.

It was sort of interesting, the way it happened.

A boy in my class at school told me about this Saturday meeting at which kids studied black history and physical fitness.

I went to several meetings and before long I became a member.

Since I became a member, I have felt a lot different about many things.

Don't misunderstand, Santa, I have not become a bad person.

But I have assumed a different outlook on many things.

I no longer believe I have to be better than everyone else — especially whites — before I have the right to be treated in everything the system has to offer.

Also, I am no longer as meticulous about being polite and observing all the social graces I used to think were necessary for "nice" people.

In fact, Santa Claus, I am not so sure that it is necessary or desirable in our world to be "nice" anymore.

Since going to those Saturday classes, I no longer look upon such people as Booker T. Washington, Ralph Bunche and Whitney Young as among the great black men.

I tend to think of Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King and Stokely Carmichael as more representative of what black manhood ought to be.

The thing is, Santa Claus, I want to know how you feel about me now.

Do you still think the new, Black me should get the Christmas gifts and the encouragement you have always given the old Negro me?

Sincerely,
J. W. Johnson

Dear J. W. —

I read your letter with great interest.

Be assured that even though Santa Claus has few firm political views, he does know quite a lot about freedom.

I interpret what you have written to mean that you have discovered a new level of freedom in being able now to accept yourself for whatever you are.

I understand that youngsters like you have some favorite expressions such as "Black is beautiful," "Right on!" and "We want to determine our own destiny."

And, J. W., I understnad all of these to be proof that you and other youngsters like you have learned the valuable lesson that freedom begins inside the individual person — even though he may be only 10 years old.

You may rest assured that Santa Claus will continue to bring you all the good things he has for you whether or not you are meek or militant.

Santa Claus wants you to be your most natural self — free and comfortable in knowing whom you are.

Incidentally, you seem to assume that I am other than Negro or Black.

Let me close with this goodbye:

Right on! brother
Ho-Ho-Ho!

## POET'S NOOK

### Where Can Santa Be?

Where can Santa be?
Did he forget about me?
Of all the time I spent
And the letter that I sent?
Where can Santa be?
I've such a lovely tree:
I'll look my temper, I fear
I was nice guy all the year.
Where can Santa be?
Already it's half past three.
I sang some carols and baked a pie;
I'm beginning to doubt that reindeers can fly.
Where can Can Santa be?
He owes me an apology.
For him I had my chimney cleaned;
Perhaps some child has him detained.
Where can Santa be?
This is my last determined plea,
For I realize he's a busy man,
Who moves as swiftly as he can.
But in spite of his great task
A mere visit is all that I ask.
I'll put another log on the fireplace
And keep the coffee hot just in case.

By PAUL D. McALLISTER

# Kurt Schmoke

The AFRO recognized in 1966 that there was something rare and special about Kurt Schmoke, chosen last week to receive a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University where he will pursue a college course in African Studies.

At the time, young Mr. Schmoke had just excelled as a high school athlete and had done so while maintaining high grades in academic subjects across the board.

Benedict Spinoza only observed that "All things excellent are as difficult as they are rare."

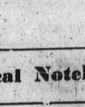
Mr. Schmoke has not been afraid to tackle the difficult in the past as is revealed by his excellent scholastic accomplishment.

As a hard worker, as an accomplished athlete and as a persistent student, Mr. Schmoke has been excellent and rare.

We expect that as future undergraduate Rhodes scholar, his performance will be in keeping with his past record.

## If You Ask Me

BY BETTYE MOSS



MISS MOSS

### A prayer for this week

(Ed. Note: This is the fifth in a series of original prayers, inspired by a father who wrote poetr anyd prayyear.

At this Christmas time, O Lord, we come to Thee humble and thankful for the blessings of this week, this year

We ask Thy special blessings on all those who are sick in body and mind, for the shut-ins, the depressed, the lonely and the needy.

Give them strength, O Lord, to meet whatever comes, courage to face the future without despair

And, thank you, Lord for those who give so generously of their time and themselves to help others less fortunate like the anonymous giver who sent our Mrs. Santa $100, "because the Lord has been good to me and I want to help."

"Like the Regent Theatre employee, Mrs. Cora Thomas, who was up early Saturday to assist at the Baltimor Breakout movie party for children on Mrs. Santa's list . . .

And, Thy special blessings, too, upon those among us who practice goodwill all the year long

Like Philip Macht, the retiring School Board member who has been a tower of strength in helping to make things better for all public school children in Baltimore.

And, finally, Lord, help us all to be mindful of the needs and concerns of others . . . strengthen us to practice the Christmas message of peace on earth, good will to all men. AMEN

### Christmas card is happiness

Christmas happiness is an unexpected greeting from a long lost friend . . .

**Christmas happiness is when Mary Carter Smith's annual Yule card arrives. You know there will be a message you'll enjoy.**

**"I stand opposed to the idea that all of any group act in the same manner.**

"I believe in the acceptance or rejection of each person as an individual.

"I stand dedicated to the waging of peace, to the showering of the love agape.

"This I do, realizing that some believe violent and radical change is the only answer. I believe there is another.

"As a disciple of the Prince of Peace, I make this declaration."

* * *

Christmastime is family reunion time for many . . . like the Fountain sisters, for example.

**They are daughters of tre late and beloved AME Bishop and Mrs. W. A. Fountain of Atlanta.**

They gather this Christmastime in Baltimore at the home of Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Perrin (Lou), and with the Perrins' daughters, Mrs. James Griffin (Cardrienne) and Mrs. Julia Davidson.

Here from Atlanta are Mrs. Sue F. Crank and Dr. Julia F. Davidson.

Many know Dr. Jackson as the chairman of the humanities department at Morris Brown College.

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Cuff note: She is the widow of Hubert Minort Jackson, the Lincoln U. grad who was federal and state housing and urban development executive before his death in September.

And, Mrs. Crank is well known as former executive director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority: In Atlanta, she is in a top post with the Community Action Agency.

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More cuff note: Mrs. Perrin's daughter, Mrs. Davidson mentioned above, has a fascinating story. We'll tell about her in a forthcoming issue.

She is presently working on her doctorate at the U. of Md., where she is director of the Intercultural Development program.

### More about people and things

If you stayed away from the "Great White Hope" premiere Wednesday evening this is to report you didn't miss a thing.

Starring James Earl Jones, the movie was based on the fighter Jack Johnson. It opened here at the Crest and Hippodrome under auspices of Prince Hall Mason.

They could have picked a better benefit vehicle "Great White Hope" promotes racism and is not good entertainment.

The sponsors imported heavy weight champ Joe Frazier to make a personal appearance Wednesday but he couldn't save the evening for us.

One movie goer behind us put it best "this is the worst I have ever seen."

As for me, Amen.

* * *

At Wayland Baptist Church last Wednesday, youngsters from Training school (No. 310 (Fernhill Ave.), performed beautifully.

In attendance were teachers, parents and pupils from that own school and from schools 302, 303, 305 and 309.

**Highlight of the program: Solo by Cynthia Conaway, a graduate of the school. She sang, "White Christmas."**

Music teacher in charge of the program was Mrs. Audrey Barksdale. Mrs. Jamie Duncan, the math teacher and William Anderson, industrial arts teacher, helped arrange the program.

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Election note: Avon C. Ware is the new president of Baltimore Local 23 of the United Telegraphy Workers, AFL-CIO, a first.

* * *

Pleasant AFRO visitors a week back were sixth graders from Malcolm X Elementary School.

Standing out in the group because of their questions about how a newspaper operates were 11-year-old Susan Dukes, 11-year-old Towanda Jones and 12-year-old Dwayne Cougart.

Very interesting children.

* * *

Maryland legislators were among lawmakers from all over the U.S. attending that black caucus called by Illinois State Senator Richard I. Newhouse in Chicago over the weekend.

There were workshops and bus sessions which kept the delegates busy as best, but they were not too busy to relax.

One of the relaxing attractions was the weekend dinner at the mansion of Hugh Hefner (Playboy).

The dream house is saying something to the effect that Hefner is popular with his friends who attended.

Interest Spinoza only observed

# PAGE OPPOSITE



## AFRO LINE

**AFRO LINE is an AFRO community service to help you solve problems, whatever they may be. All you have to do is write a postcard to AFRO LINE, AFRO, 628 N. Eutaw St., P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. In addition to stating the question you want answered, include your name, address and phone number. Then watch for the answer in the AFRO LINE each week because that is where the Action can be found.**

QUESTION: I haven't heard anything about Miss Lena Horne recently. Is she still making public appearances and is so scheduled to appear on television soon?—M.E.

ANSWER: Miss Lena Horne is to appear on Channel 67's "Black Journal," Monday, Dec. 23, at 9 p.m. You and other viewers may find this show especially interesting since she won't appear as a singer, but rather as a black woman.

She will be interviewed by poetess Nikki Giovanni and they will discuss the role of the black woman in today's society. Miss Horne's comments will include a candid evaluation of her several marriages and her thoughts on the recent arrest of black revolutionary Angela Davis.

LENA HORNE

## A Good Proposal

Newly-elected Del. John W. Douglass (D., 2nd D., Balto) is on the right track in proposing legislation to impose an earnings tax on suburbanites who work in Baltimore City.

For a short time during the last administration of Mayor Theodore McKeldin tre city had such a tax, percent on earnings of suburbanites and one-half per cent on city residents. The city gave it up when the Cooper-Hughes reform was brought on the scene in 1967.

City residents should not be further taxed under this new plan and the AFRO hopes Delegates Douglass will see that they are exempted.

The first-term legislator plans to have a study made to determine the costs of city services used by suburbanites who earn their living here but spend their money and pay their taxes elsewhere.

It is, as he suggests, a novel approach to the issue. But whether or not such a study will help win passage for the legislation, which definitely is needed, is not so certain.

To be sure, there will be opposition to this proposal, particularly from the big counties nearby. This should not deter Del. Douglass. The value of his proposal is worth any fight necessary.

Likewise, Del. Douglass should not be persuaded by those who will be quick to warn that his proposal stands no chance of passage in Annapolis.

He should line up as many Baltimore City Legislators as possible. They understand the problems and the need for additional taxes.

Then he should get out to win over legislators from counties who can be expected to take a more balanced view of the problem that he will get from, say Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County or Howard County.

Sooner or later, Baltimore City, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties are going to find themselves voting in like manner on many key state or local issues.

This is a good one on which to start building a working relationship. Baltimore legislators should be willing to back important local questions in other counties in return for this needed taxing power.

If John Douglass can bring this off he will win the plaudits of most of Baltimore City's residents.

## So Let Us Fantacize

By BUTCH FRANKLIN

We need Christmas. It is the one time of year that two of the elements most vital to man as a human being come back: celebration and festivity.

Christmas may not be the storybook charm of yesteryear: there may not be snow, and asphalt streets make a bad landing field for Santa and his sled. But Christmas, a celebration and festival, brings into play all the notions that our rationalistic culture seems to leave out — feeling, fantasy, and dream.

Festivals give us the chance TO PLAY, and RE-CREATE. It reunites what we say with what we think and do, unreason with reason, feeling with thought, mind with body, us with ourselves and each other.

Celebrations entone the magic and mystery of life, allowing us the opportunity once again to experience the universe.

In the novel, The Outsider, Richard Wright tries to project what the society would be like as blacks gained entrance into it.

In the novel, a white District Attorney says to Cross Damon, "Negroes, as they enter our culture, are going to inherit the problems we have had with a difference. They are outsiders and they are going to know that they have these problems . . .

"They are going to be gifted with a great vision. Being Negroes, they are going to be both inside, and outside the culture at the same time.

* * *

Celebration, writes Harvey Cox, a theologian, "requires a set of common memories and collective hopes." And if one can agree with Cox, there are very few celebrations that Black people can share, if one ingredient is "common memories."

Columbus day, usually found the city Italians in Italian neighborhoods speaking about the great contribution Italians have made. What about George Washington, father of the eve and sisters just take the opportunity to rest from that job.

* * *

But Christmas is the one holiday that transcends the institutional racism, the tribal prejudices and the national boundaries.

The collective effect of such a celebration, Christmas — or other seasons starting glimpses into the nature of man, the animal. The Christmas truces that are annually arranged in every full-scale war offer an example of reason finally prevailing over non-reason.

And the spirit that prevails is so strong and universal, that we can think of a St. Valentine's Day Massacre, and an Easter riot, but a Christmas massacre?! Even the ruling generals would call it barbarian.

Christmas also personifies the events of the natural year. Technically, and by the almanac, winter begins. That date marks the nadir of the year in terms of daylight and darkness.

We are not (as is usually thought) plunging headlong into darkness; the earth begins the long, slow climb toward the vernal equinox and Spring.

* * *

So it is natural even in Pagan observances that the events symbolize the birth of hope and belief after the progression of dark events. Incidentally, many of the pagan practices have been incorporated into the celebration of the nativity and the new year.

A society without celebration has lost the magic of seeing itself and the world. Its citizens will be content to turn on the festivities, and adjust the controls to get that "almost red," "almost green," or "almost purple" color of the occasion.

Life eventually loses the magic, mystery and meaning, before it drops into spiritual death.

So we celebrate, by the sun, the moon, the stars, by the holly bush and fig tree, by the story of the baby in Bethlehem and the pleasant interlude of civilization in the savagery of war.

We also celebrate by the scraping sound of groups of children trying out those new skates on crowded, cool streets.

So let us feel, fantasize and dream the beauty of living if everyday could be a great world-wide festival. Or have enough sanity left to keep the Christmas spirit throughout the year.

### Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

# NOW And THEN

## Merry Yule To Politicians

with G. JAMES FLEMING

DR. FLEMING

Merry, Joyous Christmas to all the readers of "Now and Then," and especially to the politicians whose strivings and doings are the "meat" of what appears here.

But, more. What are some of the Christmas gifts some of Baltimore's politicians as politicians — would like to find under their Christmas tree? You make your list. This is ours:

**Mayor Thomas J. D'Alessandro:** Sure success in whatever he does from here on, whether he runs for a second term or decides to move on to some high administrative position, in state government or in business.

**Representative-Elect Parren Mitchell:** A good year as Maryland's first black Congressman, even if he does not make a single speech or introduce a single bill — so long as he learns and supports the right legislation and programs.

**Senator Verda Welcome:** A tremendous year as the veteran state legislator she is, with (1) a new bill or two geared to meeting the needs of her constituency, and (2) the coming true of her dream of unity in the Fourth Legislative District.

**City Solicitor George L. Russell:** A threesome of gifts, that (1) Mayor D'Alesandro will soon make an absolute statement as to whether or not he will run for a second term; (2) that, if the mayor retires, two or more non-black candidates will enter the primary for mayor, and (3) that Senator Clarence Mitchell and William E. Roberts will volunteer to bow out and support, rather, than oppose him.

**Senator Carence Mitchell III:** What Russell would like of C. Mitchell is exactly what Mitchell is looking for under his Christmas tree — that the city solicitor will forget becoming mayor and, instead, accept appointment to the Maryland Court of Appeals, thus leaving the mayoralty spot open for C. Mitchell.

**Robert C. Embry and William Donald Schaefer:** Assurance that each will get out of the other's way as each aims towards the top spot at City Hall, and that they won't lose any support because of their race or religion.

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**City Councilwoman Victorine Adams:** A bigger, stronger Woman Power, Inc., with vital branches in each of the six councilmanic districts, and more black city councilmen to support her programs in City Council.

**Delegate Lena King Lee:** Such a spectacular term in the House of Delegates that, four years hence, or before, she may move up to the State Senate or a judgeship.

**Delegates Hildy Boswell, Frank Conway and Walter Dean:** First terms of such solid achievement that they will win reelection in 1974.

**Senator Clarence Blount:** Guaranty of a good start as a state senator, then being tapped for the presidency of the Baltimore City Council by one of the firm candidates for mayor.

**City Councilman Emerson Julian:** Surety of reelection to City Council or an invitation to run for President of said Council.

**Marshall W. Jones:** Signs that there is still hope for him capable as he is, of winning election to high office, even though he must run on the Republican ticket. Ditto for Thomas Mickle of the Fifth District.

**John L. Douglass,** recent candidate for House of Delegates from Third District: Ways and means of recouping the savings he spent in the race he did not win, and the blueprint that will make him do better next time.

* * *

There are still others who will be looking under their Christmas tree:

**Walter Orlinsky:** For some hint that he will be chosen for President of City Council on the ticket of some black candidate for mayor (even though he is talking as if he wants to be mayor himself).

**Madeline Murphy of Cherry Hill:** A rabbit foot, giving her better luck next time she runs for the State Legislature or City Council. Ditto for her son, William, Jr., of the Second District.

**Paul Chester:** Certification that he will have many terms as clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, with many marriages to fill the coffers of his marriage bureau.

**Elmer O. Harris:** Assurance that, in his race for clerk of Circuit Court, he will have his day in 1974.

**Solomon Redditk:** Appointment, before long, to People's Court and if not, the support of his next and successful try in 1974.

**Milton Allen Pledge** from the gods that they will guide and protect him, in order that his historic opportunity as state's attorney will redound to his personal credit, open many doors to his people, and reduce the backlog of untried and unsolved cases.

member these people of politics, semember these people of politics, according to their wishes, and in keeping with what is best for all the people.

Merry Christmas!

## In the Spotlight

O. ST. CLAIR JR. PAUL EVANS FRANKLIN JR.

John W. White was recently appointed presidential aide to Robert L. White, national president of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, in Washington.

In accepting the position, Mr. White resigned after 17 years as president of the Baltimore local union and resigned as president of District Two, NAPFE.

When Mr. White became local union president, the membership numbered 250 and monthly dues was $75. Now, 17 years later, 2,000 federal employees belong and monthly dues is $4.

Mr. White leaves the local presidency with a full and active record. His accomplishments include:

* * *

On becoming local president he found only four black post office supervisors, none higher than grade seven. Since that time Mr. White and the Alliance have helped secure 50 black supervisors, up to level 15.

Mr. White later led the fight against the white supervisors' union, resulting in the admittance of blacks in 1961.

He also fought for equal employment opportunities for females, leading to the passage of public law 836 in 1956 and the issuance of an executive order in 1963 banning sex discrimination in federal government hiring.

Mr. White was instrumental in organizing the local Veterans Administration headquarters employees and the General Services Administration laborers and elevator operators.

* * *

He has also been active outside the Alliance and has been continuously recognized by the AFRO. He has received awards from the local NAACP for community service.

He was one of nine black delegates elected to the Maryland Constitutional Convention in 1967. He was nominated by Delegate Juanita Mitchell as the second vice-president of the convention.

Mr. White and his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Julian White, a Douglass High School teacher, reside in the 2300 block of Braddish Ave. and attend St. made: work with old figures; submit a skeleton plan to be amended when Janes Episcopal Church. They have one daughter, Mrs. Betty Jean Stuckey, a counselor in the Chicago Public School System.

JOHN W. WHITE

## Threshold

This THRESHOLD resident will have been carefully screened and chosen for attitude, motivation, and past employment record. She will be participating in a compulsory program of education and therapy to assist her in finding a more constructive and independent way of life.

She will be under constant supervision of the THRESHOLD staff while she is a resident.

(MRS.) NORMAN BOWMAKER
EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
THRESHOLD, INC.

### O Little Town Of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.

### Christmas Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

—HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW